



Alexandria Community Rowing

ACR Sliding Seat

October 2005

www.rowalexandria.com

Last Full Month to Race— Transitions from Fall into Winter

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October is always a hard month, I think. It's darker for rowing in the morning, and every weekend features a head race. But, it's bittersweet because I also know these days mark the last practices and races of the 2005 season. As things end, however, there's still *plenty* going on inside the ACR club world—so check out this newsletter for some scoop.

Notes from the September 13th Steering Committee meeting include the following highlights.

1) The **Nominating Committee** wants to fill these positions: safety representative, dock master for administration, women's sweep rep, assistant accountant, a racing coordinator, and secretary. These committee members are Bill Yeingst, Annette Sandburg, Jim Rutherford, Bob Callahan, Barbara Moore, and Betsy Mead. The slate will be submitted at the next steering committee meeting.

- 2) In terms of **fundraising**, the Del Mari Grill fundraiser netted \$150. We're also considering an October event at the Little Theater of Alexandria. Also, perhaps we could do concessions (beer sales) at Redskins games? The fundraising policy proposal will be reviewed by Tracy Hollingsworth, and her suggestions will be presented at the next meeting.
- 3) **Head of Charles Regatta:** Women's 5-day and 4-day and men's 5-day program will be going, as well as a women's open double, 2 women's open singles, and a women's master's single.
- 4) There will be an **Alexandria Crew Boosters** general membership meeting on Wednesday, October 19, at 7:00pm at the boathouse. All ACB members are invited to attend. The focus of the meeting will be the FY06 ACB budget.

Looking forward to a good October of ACR rowing with you all!

Note from the Editor: Send me news, kathryn_mullan@hotmail.com ☺ **Thx, Kathryn**

Memos & Postings...

Change of Season... Winter Training

Registration for winter conditioning this year became available on October 3, 2005, at www.roninracing.com. There will be three sessions again: one on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, led by Steve Weir; one on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, led by Celia Merzbacher; and one on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, led by Kat Gonyea. Among the three sessions, we can accommodate up to 150 participants. Fees are \$130 for members or \$190 for non-members (includes ACB fee). There should be plenty of room for all interested ACR members. On October 10, registration opens for non-members. Claim your space now!

Also This Winter Around the Country

All-American Rowing Camp, LLC, is proud to announce **TWO 5-day Florida Sculling Camps in early January 2006**. The first camp will be for beginning and intermediate scullers, January 2-6, 2006. The second one, January 6-10, 2006, will be for advanced masters looking for more miles in conjunction with video, training tips, lots of technique, and coaching to become more efficient and effective rowers. World team and former Olympic Coach Jim Dietz is the master coach, with help from Mark Wilson and Alex Binowski. Boat transport for those with singles or doubles can be arranged from the Midwest and East Coast, and shells will be provided, too. Each camp is limited to a total of 12, so please visit <http://www.allamericanrowingcamp.com/> today to learn more details, or contact Mark at director@allamericanrowingcamp.com or call 812/331-0940.

Fun News from our Members!



[NOTE FROM BECKY HOLLINS]

"I had the pleasure of attending Stephanie Doyal's marriage to Alessandro Boscaino in Todi, Italy, on Saturday, September 3, 2005. It was truly a picture-perfect wedding, held in a little hillside village in the Umbria region. Stephanie was absolutely stunning—an extremely beautiful bride!! Here is a photo of me, Stephanie, and Tim Elliot at the joyous festivities."

What's up with Fundraising?

BY MICHELLE ST. GEORGE

Thank You, Rubini Jewelers!

ACR's fundraising efforts got a boost on Sunday, September 18, from our very own Rubini Family Jewelers and lots of helping hands from ACR members. What better way to pamper yourself after a grueling day at Wye Island then buying "bling?" ☺ Thank you to the Rubinis for generously opening their store and raising \$500 for ACR. Thank you also to the ACR membership and patrons who contributed to making this day a great success!

End of Season Party...

Just a reminder, the **End of Season Party** is just around the corner, and I hope I can count on everyone to lend a hand to make it a fun and wonderful night! If you've always wanted to be a party planner drop me a note, I'm looking for a co-chair... ☺ I also need volunteers to undertake key functions for the party such as ticket sales, set up/clean up, food prep (finger food & desserts), supplies, beverages, etc.

DJ John Vassallo will be spinning your favorites all night and getting that "groove thang" going [*Editor's note: Kat Mullan and Hilary Eichelsdorfer will be his assistants or techies or groupies*]. If you've got favorites you'd like to hear, send John an e-mail at jvassall@gmu.edu, or bring CDs that night to add to the play list.

Arrangements are being made for a **party bus** to ferry celebrants from the boathouse to party central and home again. **The cost will be approximately \$15/person in advance.**

Tickets are available **NOW, \$10 per person** and don't forget—your ticket automatically enters you in a 50/50 raffle. Additional entries can be had at 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10. E-mail me at mestgeorge@yahoo.com for details—I'll also have tickets at the boathouse.

Party Specs

Date: Saturday, November 12, 2005
Time: 7-11pm
Hosts: Nancy & Gary Faigen
Address: 7121 Natelli Woods Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817

ACR "History" Column

Rowers' Proud Part in American Independence

BY GEORGE BERGMANN



*Little did I know that when I began rowing a little more than a year ago, I was rekindling a family rowing tradition—albeit that of my wife's family. Last Labor Day at a family reunion, I found out that she is related to **Joshua Bentley**. What follows is an article written by Jack Sholl, an avid master rower, published in the spring 2003 newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution.*

Many Americans know that George Washington traveled from his Mount Vernon, VA, homestead to New York to be sworn in as president of the United States in 1789. Fewer know that Washington was aided by uniformed sweep oarsman on the final leg of his journey across water. Yes, uniformed sweep oarsman rowed the then soon-to-be legendary president from Elizabeth, New Jersey, to Manhattan. Even fewer I suspect are aware of a more critical mission carried out by two brave oarsmen in 1775—a mission so critical, that had it failed, the “shot heard round the world” might not have been fired, and colonial aspirations of independence would have been deflated.

History professor David Hacett Fisher reminds us of the well-known ride of Paul Revere from Boston to Lexington on a harrowing night in April 1775. Revere's role was to warn John Hancock and Sam Adams of their impending capture by British forces ready to depart Boston for Concord and Lexington. Revere was in Boston on that night, and the critical component of his itinerary to Concord and Lexington was a segment over water. It began on the evening of April 18, 1775, when two lanterns hanging in the steeple of Old North Church in Boston signaled that the British were preparing to leave by boat across the back bay to Cambridge. Alerted, Revere moved swiftly to North Boston and the Charles River waterfront. Two stalwart experienced (presumably master) oarsmen were waiting to row him to Charleston. Their names were **Joshua Bentley** and Thomas Richardson; Bentley was a boat builder. As Paul Revere was about to position himself in their wherry moored at the river's edge, they realized that their detection by a British warship anchored

close by was highly probable, due to noise generated by their oarlocks.

In desperation, they searched for a piece of cloth to wrap around the oarlocks. They had none, and by then near panic stage, they noticed row houses across the street. Trying to make as little noise as possible, they awakened the occupants of the nearest house. Glancing up, they saw a woman's head appear from a second story window. In the name of liberty, they pleaded with her for a piece of cloth that could be used to muffle the oarlocks. Her head disappeared. The group nervously waited. Then with no warning, a woman's woolen undergarment floated ever so gently to the pavement below, still warm. Grasping it, Bentley and Richardson, with swiftly fashioned oarlock wraps and Revere aboard, then glided quietly into the Charles River. Rowing silently but dangerously near the HMS Somerset, the scullers made it to the Charleston side of the river undetected. There, Whig supporters, alerted by the “two if by water” signal from Old North Church steeple lanterns, provided Revere with a fast horse for the continuation of his urgent journey to Concord and Lexington.

It is not unreasonable to conclude that had it not been for two master scullers and the ingenuity of a woman, Paul Revere's ride might not have taken place. America's struggle for independence would have suffered a major setback. Rowing today can proudly point to their role in the cause of American freedom.

*I would also like to report that my niece, a direct descendant of **Joshua Bentley** and now a freshman at Mt. Holyoke College, is taking up crew this fall— the tradition continues for another generation...*