General Membership Meeting

Robinson Crew Booster Club

March 15, 2023

Called to order 7:32 PM

**President, Mark Davis**

Please remember to post you rower’s name in the chat so you receive service hours for attending.

**Program Director Stefan Koch is unable to join us; sharing his updates:**

* Thank you to the parents who have been at practice to supervise land training. You are very much appreciated by the coaching staff.
* When dropping off rowers, please be sure to stay in the upper C and D lots. Just a reminder – RSS parents are following park guidance.
* Regatta Results: In the past, VASRA has posted results via Twitter for tracking. Twitter has changed and a new platform is being used this year (see post in Slack general). Be aware that cell service is terrible at Sandy Run; updates may be delayed due to overload.

If you have any questions regarding practice, training and regattas, reach out to coaches directly via DM on Slack.

**Treasurer, Kim Metzger**

* Recent deposits include over $14K for TAG Day (after expenses). Envelopes are still coming in.
* Late Registration fees – we need dues paid. Please make sure you’re up to date. Check your email for invoices. Reach out to Kim if you need a new invoice. NOTE: if you have not paid, others are paying for your kid to row. Fees cover coaches salaries, gas, etc. – not just regatta entries)

**President, Mark Davis**

* Sponsorship banner is done. Shirt is being finalized and will be available for purchase.
* Service hours tallied. Cut off date was end of February. Notifications will be sent to families who did not meet the requirement.
* Service hours: Board is discussing the service hour requirement and trying to find a way to meet it that’s not as daunting. Nothing is final; ideas are being tossed around. The current system has been in place for years. Team needs to balance raising money to support the program and providing volunteers to make the program work (regattas, carpool, work days, etc.). Feel free to give the Board input on Service Hours; any ideas for restructuring are welcome.

**Ways and Means, Judy Lieberman**

* Thank You to all TAG Day chairs and volunteers, Sherry Noud for organizing NBC and the last restaurant night. Thank you to all who participated.
* Letter Writing Campaign is next, asking friends and families for donations. This is done via email. Your rower will receive an email from Ryan Novotny with all the information regarding the campaign, including a pre-formatted letter. All your rower has to do is enter 10 email addresses. Program will run for 2 weeks. Payment is online via Swipe and goes directly to our bank. All rowers required to send 10 emails; extra point for each extra email. Service hours awarded regardless if donation received or not. All the details will be with the email. Need 100% participation. Questions? Reach out to Ryan and Betsy Novotny via Slack. **Swipe**: traditional online payment method used by many vendors, restaurants, etc. Information is secure; we don’t see cc numbers, just the total amount at the end of the campaign.
* Sandi Fairfield is working on two more restaurant nights, one over spring break and one in May.

**Operations, Marc Gelfand**

* Initial launch boat driver shifts have been sent out for this weekend.
* If you missed training and want to drive, reach out to Marc via Slack. Launch boat drivers are an on-water shuttle service, moving volunteers and coaches up and down the course and drive the referees during events

**Polar Bear Regatta, Regatta Q&A**

The season’s first regatta is this Saturday AM. Only Varsity boats compete. RSS has 5 boats entered. This is less busier than other regattas. Come support the team regardless if you’re rowing or not. Look for RSS at the grand stands. Board members will be available for any questions.

* **NOTE**: No parents at the boathouse. Coaches and VASRA don’t want spectators there; our spot is the grandstands.
* Parking: If you are volunteering for VASRA, you CAN park for free at Sandy Run.
* Off-site shuttles start running at 7AM. Cost is $15 round trip.
  + You can drop spectators at the park and only have one person pay to ride the shuttle. Budget at least an hour, if not more, for travel from off-site parking to the park and then to the grandstands. You may need to drive around to find the shuttle site at South County; it’s usually near the soccer and football fields. People standing around is a good indicator of the pick up/drop off spot.
* Handicap parking is free on-site.
* Shuttle to the grandstands is $5 one way.
* Hike to grand stands is approximately ¾ mile, up and down, uneven terrain and may be slick. Choose appropriate footwear.
* Commuter lot in Woodbridge is new site this year; you should probably budget additional travel time for the regattas using that as off-site parking.
* Rowers can park in the Loisdale Lot, no charge.
* Rowers in uniform can ride the shuttle, no charge.
* Rowers can be dropped at the park; parents can park and return on the shuttle.
* T-shirts and concessions will be available for purchase on-site. T-shirts can go fast and are cash only. Reasonable amount to send is $30 for shirt and food (shirts are $15/$20).
* Heat sheets are posted Thursday PM or Friday AM on the VASRA website. We will try to post links on Slack as well.
* Sit with RSS in the stands. Bring your noisemakers (the kids can hear us as they row to the start), extra clothes, rain jackets, binoculars, good camera, stadium seat.
* Regatta durations vary with number of entries, flights vs. heats and finals, etc. Hard to plan for how long you will be there. Kids also like to hang out and cheer. Event usually ends by 3 or 4PM. Anticipate a long line for the return shuttle.
* Pick up your rower in the C or D lot; coordinate timing with them.
* There will be people directing traffic.

Volunteer Opportunity: need someone to organize food for the rowers during regattas at the boat house. It’s nice to have snacks available for the kids after they race. Contact Mark or any other Board member if you’re interested. You MAY NOT park on site.

Make sure you put your rower’s name in the chat so you receive service hours for attending. Next meeting will be prior to States and Stotes (away regatta).

If you have any feed back on activities, fundraising, zoom meetings, please give feedback to Mark. We’re trying to make it the best season possible for our rowers.

With daylight savings and more daylight, practices will be going longer. No specifics – ask your rower; they will know.

Adjourned 8:14 PM