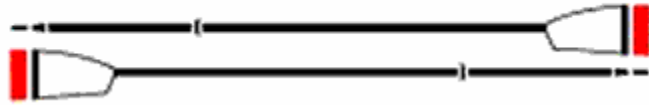




INDIANAPOLIS ROWING CENTER



The Catch

An electronic
newsletter for
the Indy
Rowing
community

Volume I, Issue 1

April 3, 2006

Presidents Message - Simon Hillier

Welcome to "The Catch", the newly resurrected Indy Rowing newsletter. Many thanks are due to Deborah Stoll who kindly volunteered to be our director of communications and to put together this newsletter. One of the aims of this bi-monthly publication is to improve communication within Indy Rowing and to allow our members to keep up to date with developments at the boathouse.

As I write this message I recall that this time last year I got my single out before the end of March. A repeat performance seems unlikely this year as we are under a winter storm advisory on March 21st. My three-year term as president is coming to an end and the nominating committee has begun the search for a willing (or gullible?) replacement. The board has been busy recently and I would like to tell you about some of the things we have been up to.

First we had to replace a couple of board members that were no longer able to serve. We were very lucky and were able to persuade two very capable members Dave Carter and Paula Baldwin to serve on the board. No sooner had we confirmed Paula as a new board member than we made her the director of Indy Rowing fund raising efforts! I am certain you will be hearing from Paula in the near future. Both Paula and Dave bring a wealth of non-for-profit experience to our organization. One of the board members we replaced was Sheila Cornelius who left town when her husband was posted to Georgia with the army. No sooner had we replaced Sheila than I got an email from her to say that she will be returning to Indy in June!

The board is determined to improve the facilities and to develop the programs and membership at Indy Rowing. To that end we will be working with the Executive Service Corps over the summer on board development and training and ultimately developing a strategic plan for Indy Rowing. This will allow us to target our fundraising goals more effectively and to generate revenue from other sources that will allow us to develop the facility. If you would like to have some input to the strategic planning process or have any other brilliant ideas please get in touch with me or any of the board members. A list of all the current board members is included below and will be posted on our website.

We are also working in conjunction with Mark Wilson of All American Rowing Camps LLC to develop several junior rowing camps at the boathouse over this summer. We will need your help to get the message out to the public and I will be getting back to you with more information soon.

All the best, hope to see you on the water in the not too distant future.

Indy Rowing Board of Directors

Simon Hillier (President)

Courtney Chan (Treasurer)

Deborah Stoll (Communications)

Paula Baldwin

Don Beaman

Dave Carter

Leslie Gaudreau

Eric Johnson

Alan Loble

John Thornburgh

Andy White

Backsplash - Update from the Executive Director

Welcome to the first Issue of "The Catch" our new Indy Rowing newsletter. As winter recedes I would like to acknowledge the cooperation we received from the folks at Monon Fitness. We moved our ergs there in November and had winter training for juniors and masters, Butler and IUPUI. Monon extended a special membership plan to Indy Rowing members and their families - one year for \$100, less than one third their normal membership fee. We hope this will be the beginning of a long term relationship.

While we were busy at Monon, the boathouse and waterfront were getting prepared for spring. When you get to the boathouse, you will notice that we have done a little remodeling. Those of you who have been rowing regularly for the past couple of years have had to weave in between at least two eights on slings in the middle of the boathouse in order to get your boat out. Thanks to junior parent Bob Zeronik we have reconfigured to racks to help alleviate the problem. The recreational/learn-to-row shells will now be racked outdoors during the summer and fours and quads now occupy the space where they were. We now have racks for eights on both walls. These changes will certainly help, but as Butler and hopefully we add boats to our inventory, there are still likely to be boats on slings occasionally.

As you head to the water you will see additions to the docks. IndyParks was busy over the winter building more wooden docks. The preliminary plan is to push our floating docks out farther and add more wooden docks on either side of the floating docks. This will allow us to keep our coaching launches between wooden docks and shore (more protected from wind and waves) and give more room for people to launch. Some of the new docking can also be used for regattas as launch/retrieval or awards docks. IndyParks is also continuing to improve our regatta infrastructure by building replacement components to the start platform.

As far as rowing goes, the junior program has been on the water since early March (about the time the weather began to get really nasty). Beginning this spring, the International School of Indiana has officially joined with Indy Rowing by folding their program in with ours. We welcome them to the junior program. This spring the juniors have races in Cincinnati, Columbus and home at Eagle Creek. Our home race this spring is Sunday, May 7 versus Culver Academies and Greater Dayton Rowing Association.

Regatta season begins on April 8th & 9th with a series of races involving Purdue, Indiana University, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, Univ. of Louisville and University of California. The Indianapolis Collegiate Invitational takes place April 22nd. This is an important collegiate race that serves as a seeding event for the Dad Vail Regatta.

USRowing may have moved from Indianapolis but the USRowing National Championships will once again make their home at Eagle Creek this July. This is the third and final race of our current commitment and we determined to make this the best Nationals yet. In order to succeed, we need our members help. Key volunteers from the first 2 years are unavailable and we won't have the local presence of USRowing staff to help us out before the racing. The dates for the regatta are July 19-23. If you can volunteer during or before please Stay tuned for more news.

2006 Events at Eagle Creek

April 8	IU, Purdue, Notre Dame Races
April 22	Indianapolis Collegiate Invitational
May 7	Indiana High School Championships
May 29	Memorial Day Holiday Row
July 4	Independence Day Holiday Row
July 19-24	USRowing National Championships
August 5	Midwest Masters Championships
September 3	Labor Day Holiday Row
October 21	Head of the Eagle

Greetings from the Junior Boosters

First of all, we want to thank you for the wonderful turnout to our first parent meeting of the season. It was tremendous. We are looking forward to a great spring season, and accomplishing many things for our rowers.

One of the items on our list is getting new shoes for the boats. Many of the shoes our kids use for rowing are in such bad shape they need to be taped together. At the meeting, we requested donations for new shoes and had several parents sign up. However, we still need more. The cost is \$50.00 per pair and the Booster Club will match all donations up to \$1000.00. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to IRC, earmarked shoe fund and give to Eric Stoll. Remember, this is tax deductible. ***Challenge to the masters we need your help too, please consider contributing, you row in those old shoes too!***

The Booster Club is also collecting money for our coaches' gifts for the season. We are requesting \$10.00 per rower. Our coaches spend many hours a week giving to our children. Let's show them that we appreciate all they do. Please make your check payable to IRC Booster Club. Checks can be sent to practice and given to Meredith or Tori Figg.

Our first regatta is approaching and I need to know which parents will need a room held. The deadline is April 6th. We are staying at the Comfort Inn in Cincinnati. You can e-mail me with your request. And last but not least, there are several volunteer opportunities available for any parents who would like to help out. We had parents sign up at the meeting, but of course we can never have enough help. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact one of us. See you all soon.

The Booster Executive Committee

President	Brownie Hirschauer
Vice President	Deb Gale
Treasurer	Francine Figg
Secretary	Mary Ellen Carter
Communications	Colleen Desrosiers

Junior Spring 2006 Racing Schedule

April 15	Cincinnati High School Invitational
April 29	Governor's Cup - Columbus
May 7	Indiana High School Championships - Eagle Creek
May 20-21	Midwest Junior Rowing Association Championships - Cincinnati

Clothing Orders

Get ready for the racing season with new Indy Rowing apparel. Forms can be found on the website. Check out our new polar fleece tights in addition to the polos, fleeces and race wear.

Spring Cleaning (4/6) and Beautification (4/23) Days

The Juniors have been back on the water for about three weeks, and the water has finally been turned on at the boathouse. As you might imagine, the locker rooms and the tower are a bit dirty from the winter weather. We will be doing a "Spring Cleaning" on Thursday April 4 at noon to spiff the facilities up before the weekend races. The Junior Boosters will host our second "Beautification Day" on April 23, to plant flowers and complete other projects before the Junior home race May 7.

Welcome to the Catch - Deborah Stoll

I am excited to be editing the latest in our evolving communications from Indy Rowing. We have relied on e-mail and the Indy Rowing website for communications for the last several years, and we hope that this newsletter will be a helpful addition. I will be starting off simply and hope you will notice subtle improvements as my technical skills improve. We will publish the Catch bi-monthly during rowing season. The Juniors and their parents will also receive weekly updates for in the off weeks during their race season. We are planning a special Junior Alumni edition in May, prior to the college students returning.

The Catch will include regular communication from the Board, Executive Director, Coaches and the Junior Booster Club. Features will include the Indy Rowing calendar (with Regatta information, Board meetings and other events), race results, profiles of our members, workout plans, regatta recipes and offers from our sponsors. A new mailing database is also under development oriented toward tracking rowers, friends and supporters over their lifetimes. Please send any ideas for The Catch, nominations for profiles that you would find interesting, or additions for the database.

Indy Rowing Website - Look for these updates!

Juniors - Handbook, Regatta Information,

Junior Boosters - By-laws, Minutes,

Wish List, Volunteer Forms

Clothing Orders

Coaches - Bios, Work-outs

Board - Bios, By-laws, Minutes

Summer Learn-to-Row Registration

Links to our Sponsors

Members Profile Each issue of the Catch will include a profile or one of our members. It could be a junior or master rower, a coach, or a volunteer.



Whitney Meyer - Novice Coach & Master Rower

I started rowing in 1998/99 for Staffordshire University, Stoke-Upon-Trent, UK. It was a small club sport, with six boys and six girls. I rowed stroke for the women's four. We placed 3rd of 20-something in our very first head race. That was neat. At the BUSA regatta in Nottingham, the boys completely swept the competition under the carpet. Due to the success of the boys boat the program tripled the next year.

I returned to the US in May of 1999 - and my parents had moved from Baltimore to Zionsville. My dad told me that USRowing was headquartered here and so I went for a visit and collected some materials on how to start my own club - cause honestly, I didn't know how I was going to live without rowing for the next four years! Also, I made several trips out to Eagle Creek and met Eric. I remember he laughed at me because I used the word ergo instead of erg. Then I returned to the University of South Dakota and started my own team. It was hard, but really cool. We spent LOADS of time fundraising, and our boat had to be stored in someone's back yard 30 miles from the University.

After getting into medical school, I had to give up USD Rowing. I moved to Indy in May of 2005 with my husband Jared for his residency. And once again, one of the first places I went was the boathouse. I am currently in a gap year for medical school and will be returning to school in June here in Indianapolis. I would like to go into sports medicine and hopefully only work part time so that I can return to the water and continue coaching. Ultimately, I would like to pay off all my loans and then just do rowing stuff!