



July 8, 2008

Dear Members,

As July is upon us, I would like to update you on some of the wonderful initiatives at the Indianapolis Rowing Center, as well as on the various club activities.

Initiatives

IRC is currently researching the cost of the much-needed course and tower renovations. These facility upgrades are essential for IRC to continue hosting national events. Also included in this vision is a boathouse expansion and bathroom upgrade. This would allow IRC to continue our outreach initiatives, while providing room needed to expand our current programming. This initiative requires time and planning, as well as multiple meetings with contractors, city leaders, and potential donors in the sports community. This week, Precision Racing, a racecourse specialty company, will assess our underwater course structure. Once the information and numbers are gathered, I will pass them on to you.

The major outreach programs this summer are Rhodius Rows and OASIS. Rhodius Rows is a fitness program through Indy Park's Rhodius Center on the Westside. Youth ages 10-16 row indoors on the ergs for 4 weeks, then row one week on the water at IRC. This program is funded through a grant from Eli Lilly, and hopefully, will be a pilot for a bigger program next summer and fall.

OASIS is a rowing class for adults 55+ offered in June and July through Clarian Health. This is the first year we have offered a course in partnership with them, and while the enrollment has been lower than we hoped, the people who have taken the course have requested a second session! Budd Glassberg, the instructor, has done a great job with this recreational group. Per Budd's suggestion, IRC will be offering a scenic row open to all members and the public this September. The learn to row singles would be taken to a starting point north of Indianapolis, the trailer would then meet the rowers at the end of the row. We are currently scouting sites. Please check the website in September for more information.

www.indyrowing.org is up and growing! The site was down for two days last week as we switched to a larger site so that we can accommodate message boards, photos and videos. We will be adding the media as they are available. Thank you to Dennis Huff, our web developer, who is largely volunteering his time in this effort.

Club Reports

Currently, our Masters membership is at 87 including Private Boat Owners and collegiate summer rowers. We have 22 new members who have joined us so far this year. There



are several other individuals who have joined us as Learn to Row or Sculling Class participants. Welcome! Approximately 10-20 members attend the Tuesday and Thursday coached session with new Masters coach and accomplished sculler Katie Lesko. The Masters follow the training plan posted in the boathouse and are boated in 8+, 4+, 2x or 1x as numbers and the training allows.

The Masters will scrimmage July 12 at 8AM, as Midwest Master has been cancelled (see below). If you would like to volunteer to help me time, start or marshal, please email me (exec_dir@indyrowing.org). IRC will also compete July 26th in the Michigan Club Invitational, please plan to attend!

Several members of the juniors program have joined the Collegiate Sculling group that meets Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. We have 10-16 rowers training on a daily basis. Congratulations to summer member Emma Prueschel for making the 2008 Paralympic 4+ that will compete in Beijing this August!

Best wishes to the IRC class of 2008 who will be heading to college this fall: Sam Gonzalez (Indiana), Stephen Hamori (Purdue), Vince Neirste (Purdue), Alina Richardson (Spring Hill), Megan Bowman (MIT), Katelin Carter (Ball State), Caroline Hoyniak (St. Louis University), Kelsey Jeffs (Xavier), Mallory Jones (Michigan), Stephanie Young (Purdue).

The junior season kicks off August 18 with a call out meeting at Brebeuf. Interested families are encouraged to join us at 6pm. Families of returning rowers will meet at 7pm. We will provide an overview of the season at that time.

Fund Development

IRC has applied for multiple grants to offset our programming costs. We have received a grant from Eli Lilly, as I mentioned, and we are approaching the Finish Line, Subaru of America, the Indianapolis Foundation, Sam's Club, Marsh, and The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. If you have any suggestions on grants that IRC would qualify for, please email me.

In terms of events, we have signed a significant yearlong sponsorship with the Courtyard by Marriott on 71st Street. Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn will be regatta sponsors for the Head of the Eagle.

IRC is bidding for the 2009 US National Regatta, this is a US Rowing Regatta which IRC would contract to host in exchange for revenue. While being a host limits IRC's financial risk, the club must work together to achieve revenue goals (USRowing covers expenses out of and above the entry fee, we are not guaranteed revenue: US Rowing pays for the expenses, and the host receives revenue from T-shirts, food, etc).

The Midwest Masters Regatta has been cancelled this summer. USRowing made this decision due to the low number of entries from MidWest clubs. Regattas are a business



for them, and while it would be nice for us to race in it, USRowing did make a sound business decision. IRC will host its own scrimmage on July 12th at 8AM. Other clubs are invited to attend, as well as any college teams training in the area.

Equipment

In general, it has been a good summer. On July 19th, Matt Leblanc is coming from Michigan to run a rigging class for members and to repair our boats. At that time he will also bring down our new trailer that can hold 12 boats, allowing the juniors and masters to travel together this fall to regattas.

I have received one inquiry on the *Community Rowing* 8+ that we are selling—keep your fingers crossed! We are on the lookout for a used 4+ and several sculling boats (Hwt 2x and Hwt 1x). We are also selling our current trailer, as it is too small for our growing membership.

If you use club boats please use the rack number when signing them out—this allows me to see which boats are getting the most use and what we need to replace. Thank you to summer rower and Notre Dame junior, Steven Cumberworth, for his assistance in the constant boat repairs at the Center. If you see him working on the LTR singles, please say hi!

Course and Docks

The course was torn out during the storms in late June. Lanes 1-4 are back up and lane 5 will be back in for the July 12th scrimmage. Until each lane is strung and the course is tightened, you will notice a bend in the lane lines.

The geese are having a good summer---as a rule, please just put up the goose fence when you leave no matter what time of day it is. Thank you to Wynter, Beryl, Chris and others who have sprayed off the dock in the early morning after a fenceless night. Unfortunately, geese are a problem at absolutely every club I have ever been to—part of the sport. Please work together to mitigate their influence.

We did experience a very temporary water loss in the BH due to the park maintenance hitting a pipe. The park has temporarily repaired the plumbing, and will make a full repair when the appropriate parts have arrived.

I have enjoyed meeting you over these past few months. I am happy to be here and excited about the energy at IRC.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Teeley
Executive Director