
IRC Boathouse Bulletin August 2026

1 message

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IRC BOATHOUSE BULLETIN

August 2026

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!

OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ROWING



Coach Andre Kleijn

We are thrilled to announce that Andre Kleijn has joined the Indianapolis Rowing Center team as our new Director of Youth Rowing.

Andre brings a rare combination of elite athletic experience, hands-on coaching, and executive program leadership to IRC. A Pittsburgh native, he discovered rowing at Steel City Rowing Club and quickly distinguished himself as a competitive sculler, earning top finishes at the Head of the Charles, Club Nationals, and Youth Nationals before competing on a full athletic and academic scholarship at Jacksonville University. Most recently, he served as Executive Director of Rowing at Pacific Rowing Club in San Francisco, where he led all aspects of club operations, coaching, and program development, generating over \$76,000 in fundraising in his first year while expanding youth and masters programming. Andre has coached at every level of the sport, working with juniors, masters, and novice athletes at Pittsburgh Rowing Club, Upper St. Clair High School, and Sewickley Academy, and is a USRowing Level 3 certification candidate. He holds degrees from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Cornell University.

What drew Andre to IRC was the opportunity to do what he loves most: build something meaningful with young athletes. We're excited to have him bring that energy and experience to our junior program.

Please join us in welcoming Coach Andre to the IRC community.



We are excited to welcome Andre Kleijn to our team. Please help us give him a warm welcome. He started here on July 8th and is excited to get the youth Fall Seasons underway

UPCOMING DATES

August

- 20th - First Day Juniors Fall Rowing

September

- **8th**- First Day Middle School Fall Rowing
- **14th** - Board Meeting 6pm*
- **26th**- Juniors and Masters compete at Head of the Cuyahoga

October

- **12th** - Board Meeting 6pm*
- **17-18th** - Select Juniors and Masters compete at Head of the Charles
- **23rd** - Middle School team and Juniors compete at Blake Haxton Regatta
- **24th** - Masters compete at Speakmon Regatta

November

- **7th** - Purdue hosts Bald Eagle Regatta at IRC
- **7-8th** - Juniors and Masters compete at Head of the Hooch
- **9th** - Board Meeting 6pm*

*Board Meetings are held monthly, and all are welcome to attend. Location isn't provided here, as it changes on occasion, and sometimes the door is locked. Please email [here](#) if you'd like to attend a meeting so we can get you info! We'd love to see you at these meetings, it's a good way to learn more about IRC.



Congratulations to all our youth rowers who raced at RowFest. What a great showing for IRC!



Youth Rowing

Our IRC juniors put in a strong showing at RowFest this summer — two golds, three silvers, and two bronze across the junior fields.

Women's Youth 1x (2k) - 1st place and 3rd place
Women's Youth 1x - 2nd place
Women's Youth 2-1st place
Women's Youth 2x - 3rd place
Women's Youth 4x - 2nd place
Women's U23 Lightweight 1x - 2nd place

Congratulations to all our rowers on a great close to the summer season!

New Middle School Team Structure

Our middle school program now has a clear, two-tier pathway that meets athletes where they are and prepares them for the next step:

- MS Development Team (Grades 6–7, \$465) — a fun, supportive introduction to rowing for new athletes. Rowers learn to row safely while building strength, balance, and flexibility on land. Mondays & Saturdays.
- MS Development — Intro to IRC Junior Team (Grade 8, \$535) — our new team where 8th graders build on the fundamentals and train with intention. Rowers train with the middle school group and, on Wednesdays, alongside the High School Development team in preparation for the next step in their rowing journey. The Intro to IRC Junior Team bridges middle and high school rowing, giving 8th graders a preview of competitive training before they move up.

New High School Team Structure

We're excited to introduce a refreshed structure for our high school program. What was formerly the Novice, Red, and Black teams is now a clear, three-tier pathway that lets every athlete join at the right level and progress with purpose:

- Development Team (\$950) — for new and novice rowers learning the sport. Monday–Friday, no Saturdays.
- Club Team (\$950) — for developing rowers advancing their technique and training. Monday–Friday, no Saturdays.
- Competitive Team (\$1,100) — for performance-focused athletes pursuing competitive racing six days a week, including Saturday mornings and Wednesdays at Brebeuf.

Every tier builds toward the next, giving athletes a defined path from their first stroke to racing some of the best clubs in the country.

Fall Rowing Season Update

The fall season is taking shape and registration is now open. Be sure to [grab your spot today!](#)

Key Dates to Mark Down

- 8/19 — HS Parent Meeting 5:30 – 6:30pm at Carmel Library Community Room B
- 8/22 — "Fuel Your 6k/2k" Presentation
- 8/29 — Coxswain Clinic
- 9/5 — "How to Be a Rowing Parent" Meeting
- 9/10 — MS Parent Meeting 5:30 – 6:30pm at Carmel Library Community Room B



Welcome, First Strokes Rowers!

This July, 150 adults learned to row through our four-week First Strokes program!

We're excited to welcome many of these new rowers to our Foundations Team as they continue building their skills. If you see a new face around the boathouse, be sure to say hello and help us make them feel at home.



Adult Rowing

Join Us in Welcoming Coach Jack to His New Role!

We're excited to officially announce that Coach Jack has been named **Head Coach of our Adult Foundations and Performance Teams!**

Many of you have already had the opportunity to work with Jack over the past several months, and we're thrilled to have him stepping into this leadership role. As Head Coach, Jack will oversee our Foundations and Performance programs, helping athletes continue to build confidence, improve technique, and reach their individual goals on the water.

Jack will continue coaching across a variety of IRC programs, so you'll still see him around the boathouse. Please join us in congratulating him on this well-deserved role!

From Coach Jack:

We had an awesome Summer on the Foundations and Performance squads! In June, we had Indy Summer Sprints, in which we were able to field women's 4x, mixed 8+, and men's

4x and 8+. It was a great first racing experience for our newer masters rowers, some of whom started in the April learn-to-row just a couple months before!

While the Foundations team continues to develop their technique this Fall, the Performance team has a new training plan to prepare them for 5k fitness and an opportunity to race at the Head of the Cuyahoga in September. All of this work is being done with the help of assistant coaches, some of whom are masters rowers themselves, and some who are going off to college very soon. The Foundations and Performance teams are made better by all of their time, effort, and expertise.



Hosted Regatta Success:

In 2026, IRC hosted a total of 4 Regattas over 7 days of racing.

- MACRA - Midwest Club College Championship - 1 days
- Indy Junior Sprints - Midwest Youth Teams - 2 days
- BigTen Women's Rowing Championship - 3 days
- Indy Summer Sprints - Midwest Adult teams. - 1 Day

We are incredibly grateful for the volunteers that filled hundreds of hours of volunteer rolls to make these events an incredible success. Members from all parts of our community displayed hospitality, professionalism, dedication, and flexibility in hosting athletes, coaches, and referees from all over the county at the Indianapolis Rowing Center.

Along with many pieces of glowing feedback I received on how great our volunteers were, and how wonderful our venue, course, and docks were, we also now have visibility to the great financial success these regattas had.

In 2026, all regattas combined produced a **Net Profit of \$136,747 with a 54.7% profit margin.** These additional funds benefit every athlete at IRC as we reinvest in the equipment we use every day, like new docks, new wakeless launches and engines, new rowing shells, and oars. In addition to the day to day investments, we are also able to reinvest those funds into the venue and regatta capabilities of IRC so that we can continue to host major and profitable events at IRC.

Thank you to all our volunteers that made this such a fantastic regatta season!



Coach Marr sues up to make sure all our boats and equipment are in tip-top shape. If you'd like to volunteer around the boathouse, please contact Coach Marr. As always, please make sure you are logging all equipment damage in iCrew.

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Coach Marr's Corner

Bumpity - Bump- Bump:

If you are like me, and you drive a small car over the obstacle course of potholes and ruts on the drive and parking lot of the boathouse 6-10 times per day, you might be wondering...when the heck is this going to get fixed?!? Well, I want to share some context and some good news!

Indy Parks, has owned, and will continue to own, the responsibility of maintaining the land that the boathouse sits on, including the gravel drive and parking lot. Indy Parks relies on DPW to do most of this maintenance work. While we are in the middle of negotiating a multi decade formal lease with Indy Parks for the Boathouse Property, we have included language to address the many areas of extreme deferred maintenance. As a dual path to getting many of these issues addressed, including the gravel, I have been continually submitting service tickets and Request Indy maintenance tickets, and have weekly face to face meetings with our parks managers and DPW managers.

Good News, the DPW manager confirmed last week that DPW has ordered and have approval to spread massive amounts of gravel on our site and other sites of Eagle Creek Park, with an ECD of November.

I know it's frustrating to not always have complete control over our environment, but please know I have been advocating for our site as a way to hold the city financially responsible for their property and to make sure IRC funds and resources are not spent maintaining city owned property.

Wild Goose Chase:

You may have seen all sorts of attempts at controlling geese over the last year. We have tried everything from lasers, dogs, decoys, pyrotechnics, lines, snow fences, bungees, horns, chasing them with a Honda Civic, and flocks of teenagers running at them. The fact of the matter is, we are breaking generations of goose breeding habits, and we are trying to do it resourcefully, consistently, and without impacting the daily experience of our athletes who use the boathouse from dawn to dusk 6 days a week.

The pyrotechnic method was by far the most effective and cost effective. If you hear the occasional pops and bangs from down by the docks, there is no need to be alarmed.

Since no method is 100% effective, I would like to thank our coaches and staff who have committed with me to making sure the docks are hosed down every morning before the first program launches Monday - Saturday. Please take a moment to say thank you to these coaches with a hose and a brush when you see them in the morning. They are arriving 30-40 minutes before their normal practice time to scrub poop to ensure no rower steps in it!

New Shells:

As we continue to modernize our fleet of rowing shells, We are getting some new shells this August and October. Each Year IRC sells our oldest, most worn out shells, and replaces them with fast new shells. In the last few years, we have made some significant progress on getting our fleet to a much higher, functional and fast standard with shells that fit the wide variety of size and ability of athletes that row at IRC.

As you can see on the chart below, we have made significant strides in reducing the age of the oldest shell in the boathouse (from 30 years old to 20), and the average age of all the shells (from 24 years old to 8). My goal is to continue to invest until no shell is older than 10-12 years old, and the average age of our fleet in 4-6 years old, with an appropriate distribution of Small, Medium, and Large Shells for each boat class. By maintaining a more modern fleet, we ensure athletes benefit from fast functional shells, we improve and standardise the athlete experience,

we spend less time and money on maintenance, and we settle into a rhythm of a predictable annual spend on the equipment we use every day.

This year I am thrilled to announce that we will be adding the following boats to our fleet:

[2026 Large Pocock Hypercarbon 4x/-](#)

[2026 Small Pocock Hypercarbon 2x/-](#)

[2026 Small Pocock Hypercarbon 2x/-](#)

[2021 Large Pocock Hypercarbon 4+](#)

Purchasing and now owning the [Small Hypercarbon 4x/-](#) formally named "the Demo."

Interested in naming a boat or a seat in our fleet?

Look forward to the Fall Capital Fundraising Campaign coming soon!



We love hosting classes and clinics for the community. This Summer we had the chance to host Wabash College for a day. Do you have a need for corporate team building or other group lessons? Contact [Coach Marr](#) today to learn more!

Boathouse Bulletin Contributions

We'd love to hear your stories and share your photos! If you have something you'd like included in a future Boathouse Bulletin or Social Media post, [please send us a message](#) so we can see how to best utilize your contributions.

Interested in getting your company name prominently

placed at our venue?

We have team and venue sponsorships opportunities available. Send an [email](#) to learn more about this great investment in our community! Sponsorships are a great way to get your business in front of thousands of people. We have a variety of levels. Contact us today!

Don't want to miss a thing? Be sure to give us a follow on all our social media accounts by hitting the buttons below.



Our Contact Information

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