

Orcas Island Rowing Club Newsletter

Greetings

Greetings from OIRA! The coaches, rowers, and the board of directors would like to wish you the very best for 2011. We hope to see you at some of our events this year.

Help Us Cover Our Bottom Line!

There is always something at the top of the OIRA "wish list" and right now it's the basics. So let's get it over with. We need approximately \$5000 over what we take in in dues and fees to run the club the way we do using 100% volunteer labor. That's not buying any boats, oars or other infrastructure.

Our wish list is longer of course. But we know times are hard and we will just be glad to cover our bottom line this year. Please consider helping us out. See further on for contact info.

News

We had a very fun fall season

Our own Headless Head regatta fell on the day before Halloween this year. It was a fun affair, providing an opportunity for Orcas Islanders to see what rowing is all about. We even took out a quad-full of people who had never rowed before.

We wrapped up the season with the Head of the Lake regatta in Seattle on Sunday November 7th.

We finally finished building a second boat launch dock and extending our old dock. This is a major improvement and means we can get on and off the water twice as fast. That culminates a

year of planning, prop and building. Thanks to Mike Reid for planning the construction and helping us buy the materials at incredible prices. We brought that project to completion well under budget. Thanks also to the massive team of parents, coaches, crew and friends who turned out for construction days.

Another major improvement in our facilities was the acquisition of the second room at the boathouse as a workout room. That room had been used by the ELC program run by the state park. The program is no more and the park service has allowed OIRA to use that room. It has since been transformed into a work out room full of ergs, weights and a sound system to help the workout go more easily. The crew team spent a day helping the park service move and build bunks to facilitate the move. We are blessed to have such a good relationship with the local state park service employees. Thanks guys we appreciate all you do.

We have some great additions to our coaching staff. We have Dave Noneman working with us regularly specializing in giving the crew a painful but fun hardcore land workout. "Just Dave" as the juniors call him was a member of our junior crew himself just a few years ago. Sam Blackadar has become a regular at the club. He only learned to row himself over the summer of 2010. But he is a regular at the junior practices helping out any way he can. Finally we have Sylvia Yang who is a great addition to our coaching staff. She is an experienced rower at the college and masters level. She brought a fresh perspective and a smiling face to every practice in the Fall. She is busy working on her Phd. now and expects to finish her dissertation soon before moving on to post doctoral work in California. So we will not have the pleasure of

her company after this Spring.

We held our fourth annual IMIRF (Island Madness Indoor Rowing Fest) erg race at the Odd Fellows Hall on February 5th. We had a few non OIRA adults participating. Making for a particularly hot competition for the over 60 mens mallet.

Spring is Here!?

Crewfeast 2011

It is time to prepare for CrewFeast our annual dinner. This year it will be even more fun.

This year's dinner will be held at Camp Orkila on Saturday, April 2nd It's a great location, and this year we're emphasizing fun over fund-raising even more. Orcas own star musicians Gene Nery and Martin Lund will be entertaining us along with a few of our own talented musicians. There will be space to dance or just to lounge around and enjoy it.

We NEED you to come to our dinner and bring your friends. We have room for twice as many people as usual, up to 140! So PLEASE come and help us celebrate. Tickets are a bargain at \$35 each.

- [Go to our web site orcasislandrowing.org](http://orcasislandrowing.org)
- Call Martin at 360-376-6935
- email martin@ednagallery.com
- send checks to:
OIRA c/o Martin Taylor
455 Eastsound Shores Road
Eastsound, WA, 98245

Please consider making a donation by one of the above means if you cannot join us for Crewfeast.

We'll hold an "Alumni Regatta" the same day at 10:00 p.m. At our boathouse on Cascade Lake in Moran State Park. It's open to all rowers. Come

and see what it's all about. Put it on your calendar!

We Have a Small But Strong Junior Team for Spring Season

This Spring Season we have a very strong crew with a lot of potential. But it's smaller than usual; only 14 rowers. We typically have 10 more than that in the spring season. That's just the way it goes on Orcas. Every year it's a surprise how many rowers we have and who they are and how much potential they have. Watch out for some very strong regatta results in doubles and singles over the next two years.

Masters Rowers: We Want You!

Our list of adult members is growing, slowly, but we want it to grow faster. It complements the junior program and we want more adults to share in the healthy fun! Contact martin@ednagallery.com if you are interested in joining the club and/or signing up for a "learn to row" program in the spring. We will keep you informed as plans develop.

Any open water rowers out there?

We have a couple of avid adult open water rowers who are on the coaching staff : Craig Canine and Martin Taylor. If there are any other open water rowers on Orcas we'd like to hear from you. It is good to have company on some of those long open water crossings. Contact martin@ednagallery.com.

Captain's Corner

On behalf of the whole Orcas Island crew team, we invite the community to our annual dinner: CrewFeast. We think it is a fun way to bring the extended rowing family together for a night of dining, entertainment, and inevitably some laughs. We love rowing, and hope to keep our club alive and thriving with the help of strong attendance at our dinner. The crew team is largely supported through donations, so we feel it is important to connect with our generous community members and demonstrate our appreciation.

Where is your support going to go? The greatest expense for our crew team, is the cost of getting our trailer, which is long enough to carry 40 foot boats, back on to the island via the ferry. This has to happen after every "off-Island" regatta, of which we have four coming up this spring. Beginning this upcoming weekend, the 12th and the 13th of March, our exciting series of spring regattas begins. This first in the series of five is the All-Island Regatta, held at Winslow on Bainbridge Island. This regatta is very quaint and homey. Our crew team and two others, from Bainbridge and Vashon islands, come together for a morning of great rowing. We are very fortunate to be able to stay with host families because of our team's small size which helps to keep the cost down.

At the end of March, on the 25th, 26th, and the 27th, a small group of aspiring rowers will travel to Seattle for a chance to prove their abilities to officials who scout and recruit for the Junior World Rowing Championship. If selected, participants could go on from this weekend "High Performance" camp to a select summer training camp and gain the opportunity to row for the U.S. Junior World team. This is a very exciting opportunity.

On April the second we have our Alumni Regatta, which we hope you will come to view out on Cascade Lake. That same evening we have CrewFeast the annual OIRA dinner, which we hope you will come to support us at. On the third weekend of April, we have a regatta at Lake Stevens. The last weekend in April, we have a three day long regatta at Brentwood Academy in Canada. This regatta is where your support is really needed to help finance our team. After Brentwood Academy regatta we have slight break from regattas which we fill with the 24-hour row fundraiser, which many of you are probably familiar with. In case you aren't, for this event we spend 24 hours, from 3:30 on Friday the 6th to 3:30 on Saturday 7th of May, out in front of the Island Market keeping a single rowing machine going for 24 hours as an effort of the entire team, even our coaches. Our final regatta of the season takes place on the 20th, 21st and the 22nd of May at Vancouver Lake, Washington. This is the regional competition that decides if any combination of rowers on our team will advance to the post-season U.S. national regatta where crews compete for the title of best in America. This is another regatta for which we need support from you our generous community.

Thank you for taking time to read about our season. Remember CrewFeast will be on April second at Camp Orkila. We hope to see you there!

-Captains Max Blackadar and Jacquelyn Zier

Spring 2011 Schedule

- **2/26/11 Official beginning of Spring Season 2011 !!!!!!!!!!!**
- **3/13/11 All Island Regatta** on Bainbridge Island
- **3/25 - 3/27/11 West Coast High Performance Sculling Camp in Seattle**
- **4/2/11 - OIRA Alumni Regatta** at our boathouse on Cascade Lake. Come and see what it's all about. Open to all experienced rowers.
- **4/2/11 - CrewFeast** at Camp Orkila. www.orcasislandrowing.org , martin@ednagallery.com or 376.6935. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS VERY FUN EVENT!
- **4/16/11 - NW Sculling Regatta** at Lake Stevens
- **4/18 - 4/22/11 Spring Break** at Orcas schools
- **4/29 - 5/1/11 Brentwood Regatta** at Brentwood College in Mill Bay, Canada
- **5/6 - 5/7/11 - 24 Hour Row** at Island Market (Friday 3:30 PM to Saturday 3:30 PM)
- **5/20 - 5/22/11 - NW Junior Regionals** at Vancouver Lake, Vancouver, WA
- **6/11-13/11 - Youth Championships** Melton Hill Lake Oak Ridge , Tenn.

Visit our web site at www.orcasislandrowing.org to stay up to date. Email martin@ednagallery.com to request information or to request regular email updates on any news.

Junior rowing information: contact Tina Brown at tinabrown@rockisland.com or 376.7677

Adult rowers or for information about the club dinner or adult rowing classes: contact Martin Taylor at martin@ednagallery.com or 376.6935.

[Dinner reservations and donations are gratefully accepted at our web site: www.orcasislandrowing.org](http://www.orcasislandrowing.org), by phone at 360-376-6935 or with a check to OIRA at:

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