



# The St. Louis Rowing Club Newsletter

St. Louis Rowing Club

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## Head Coach Report

Well, what can one say but simply excellent for all programs. The Junior and Master groups had excellent performances this fall in preparation for the Spring and Summer sprint season. I can't say how proud I am to be a part of this Club at this time in its history.

The start came at Des Moines when Varsity Juniors and Masters placed us 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the standings. The Varsity Men's 8+ took gold as well as Varsity Women's 8+ & 2x. The Masters in singles and 8's and 4's had great performances as well.

Next came Indianapolis with solid performances from our Juniors and at the same time Masters and Juniors competed in Boston at the Head of the Charles. Steve and Ron finished with solid times, the Men's Master 4 placed in the middle and the Junior Women's 8 placed 14<sup>th</sup> just 4.8 seconds from a guaranteed entry for next year.

Then came the goal for the club, the Head of the Hooch. This year it was accomplished by winning the Club title. A direct result of the numerous top finishes and medals from Juniors and Masters combined.

Simply put, FANTASTIC PEOPLE!!!! It is a great accomplishment with golds, silvers, and bronze medal performances. I've had numerous congrats from my peers about our club's performance at Atlanta and it is nice to hear.

So, congrats to all on the successful Fall and get ready for winter ergs and fast racing for the spring and summer. I am looking forward to the warm weather and practices with great anticipation.

Yours in Rowing,  
Gene Jeffords

## Important Year of the Boat Update

One of the major goals of the Boosters Club this year is to acquire two new boats. These boats will assist all of our teams in competing to their full potential by allowing us to place more boats on the water and reducing the incidences of equipment failures.

VESPOLI, manufacturer of the "worlds fastest racing shells" currently has an extremely attractive offer on their highly successful 2002 M2 Eights. M2 shells won both the NCAA Women's Championships and the US Junior National Varsity Championships in 2002. VESPOLI discovered a slight design flaw in the 2002 M2's and has offered owners full purchase credits on these boats. VESPOLI has fixed the design flaw and reconditioned any of the 2002 boats that were returned. VESPOLI is currently offering these slightly used and fully reconditioned and

corrected \$27,000 shells for the incredible price of \$17,000.

The Boosters Club will put \$4,250 towards one of these 2002 VESPOLI M2's and four SLRC families have generously donated another \$10,500 towards the boat and a set of oars. Another \$3,250 will allow us to purchase one of these outstanding boats at an outstanding price. The Boosters Club would greatly appreciate any additional donations that will help purchase this boat. All donations are tax deductible.

For additional information, please contact Greg Goodman at 314-962-6577.

Roy Cleveland

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## Winter Learn-to-Row

Last January we experimented with an indoor version of Learn to Row. It proved to be quite successful, so we plan to repeat it in January 2003. The classes will begin in mid-January. The participants will receive instruction (4 classes/week for two weeks) on the proper use of an erg.

Once the lessons are complete, they will participate in the regular indoor practices of the Intermediate group until the weather is warm enough to get on the water. A weekend introduction to sweep rowing at the lake will cap off the program.

The cost of the Winter LTR program is \$200. If you have family members or friends who want to give rowing a try, please let them know about Winter Learn to Row.

For more information or to register they should contact Scott Allison by phone (314) 965-9456 or by email at [swallison@alum.mit.edu](mailto:swallison@alum.mit.edu)

## Indoor Erg Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Juniors</b>							
Varsity Men		4:30 - 5:30 PM	4:30 - 5:30 PM	4:30 - 5:30 PM	4:30 - 5:30 PM	4:30 - 5:30 PM	7:00 - 8:30 AM
Varsity Women		3:30 - 4:30 PM	3:30 - 4:30 PM	3:30 - 4:30 PM	3:30 - 4:30 PM	3:30 - 4:30 PM	8:30 - 10:00 AM
Novice Men	10:00 - 11:30 AM		5:30 - 6:30 PM		5:30 - 6:30 PM	5:30 - 6:30 PM	
Novice Women	8:30 - 10:00 AM	5:30 - 6:30 PM		5:30 - 6:30 PM			11:00 - 12:30 PM
<b>SLU</b>		6:00 - 7:30 AM		6:00 - 7:30 AM		6:00 - 7:30 AM	
<b>Masters</b>							
Competitive	7:00 - 8:30 AM		6:30 - 7:30 PM		6:30 - 7:30 PM		10:00 - 11:00 AM
Intermediates	11:30 - 1:00 PM	6:30 - 7:30 PM		6:30 - 7:30 PM			

## SLU Crew Fall Wrap-Up

### Calendar

#### Annual Meeting

6:00 PM, December 7  
 First Congregational Church  
 6501 Wydown Blvd.  
 Food and friends. Silent auction.  
 Election of officers.

#### Learn to Row

Mid-January  
 Instruction on the proper use of  
 the erg. More next spring.

### Silent Auction

As a result of the club's participation in National Learn to Row Day, we won a "two-for-the-price-of-one" deal at Calm Waters Rowing. We will hold an auction at the Annual Meeting on 12/7 so that somebody in the club can take advantage of the opportunity to go to Calm Waters at a substantially reduced cost.

For those of you unfamiliar with it, Calm Waters Rowing combines the amenities of a first class bed and breakfast with high quality sculling instruction. It's located in Lancaster, VA, which is about 130 miles south of Washington DC. The hosts/coaches, Charlotte Hollings and John Dunn, are both former National Team rowers with lots of world-class medals to prove it. They both have extensive experience coaching at the college level. Their B&B is in an

You've all seen their blue, white and black oars in the pen. A few of you have met and even rowed with the members of the St. Louis University Crew. But have you heard about the success of the SLU Crew, which got its start only eighteen months ago, in the fall head race season?

SLU competed at the Head of the Des Moines, the Head of the Rock and the Head of the Hooch, as well as in a home regatta against Wash U., the University of Missouri and Rhodes College. SLU boats medaled in every one of these regattas, routinely beating crews from schools with well-established rowing programs. Perhaps its most impres-

sive performances were at the Rock where SLU entered two events (Mixed 4+ and Mixed 8) winning both and at the Hooch where the SLU Mixed 4+ captured the bronze medal, only sixteen seconds behind the gold medal boat from Duke and well ahead of ten other crews..

Rowing is a club sport at SLU. That means that the SLU Crew receives only minimal financial assistance from the university. Its success would not be possible without the continuing support provided by the SLRC. The members of the SLU Crew truly appreciate the club's help.

ante-bellum mansion that was once the center of a 1,200 acre plantation. You can learn more about Calm Waters by going to their website at [www.calmwatersrowing.com](http://www.calmwatersrowing.com).

So here's the deal....the club will pay for a 3 day, weekend stay for two people in one of Calm Waters most expensive rooms. The cost for this weekend package would normally be \$840/person (that includes room, meals and instruction). The minimum acceptable bid for the package is \$1,000. Sealed written bids should be submitted at the Annual Meeting and the winner will be named there. If you can't be at the meeting, but want to submit a bid, it must be mailed so as to arrive by noon on 12/7. Bids should be mailed to me at 801 Hawbrook Rd. 63122.

#### The fine print...

1) The visit to Calm Waters must take place in the period from March-August 2003. 2) It will be up to the winning bidders and Calm Waters Rowing to find a mutually agreeable date for the visit. 3) If the winning bidders wish to enjoy a more expensive four day (weekday) stay at Calm Waters, the extra cost will be their responsibility. 4) The whole deal is premised on two people sharing a room. 5) Calm Waters' program is designed for Masters-age rowers, so parent/child combinations are probably inappropriate.

Several club members have been to Calm Waters and were delighted with the experience. So make a bid, save some money and have a terrific rowing experience.

Scott

## President's Report

Dear Club Members:

The Fall Rowing Season is past. For the competitive rowers among us, we did pretty well. Contingents of Junior and Master rowers represented the club at the Head of the Des Moines, The Head of the Eagle, The Head of the Iowa, The Head of the Charles, and the Head of the Hooch. We had individual representatives go to Quad Cities and the Marathon Rowing Championships in Natchitoches (NAK a teesh), Louisiana. The results are listed elsewhere, but the great thing is the club's overall performance and level of participation. We were second in the Club Points Trophy at the Head of the Des Moines and won the Club Points Trophy at the Head of the Hooch. Way to go - club.

John Wetzstein is going to increase the amount of time and expand his coaching activities for the club. John will

become the Associate Head Coach and will be in charge of Novice Recruitment and Development and Sculling Programs, in addition to coaching the Junior Men.

For me, the best news of the fall is that the Community Rowing Center project is active again. Washington University has committed to partner with us in erecting a Community Rowing Center in Creve Coeur Park. Our best estimate is that the facility will cost \$1,000,000.

We have almost half the funds we need to support this project in the bank. These funds were mostly given only on the only on our promise that we would carry the project forward, without a construction schedule, without a completion date. We are now on much firmer ground. Between Washington University and the club, the project is three quarters funded.

Our major remaining hurdle is raise the 275,000 additional dollars we need to fund our half of the project. This is a harsh economic environment. We will need a major commitment from everyone in our rowing community to meet this goal. We will soon be sending out a letter soliciting donations from you all.

While we will be suggesting a certain median donation, we realize that not everyone will be able to contribute equally. We believe that most important thing we can do among ourselves is to demonstrate universal support among our membership. We will be asking everyone to give something. This is most important when looking for help from others, showing we are willing to help ourselves by 100% participation. We also need volunteers to help in the fund raising effort. If you want to help, please call, email or write:

Steve Giddings

## The Board

President: Steve Giddings  
 Vice President: Jan Adams  
 Secretary: Barbara Dite  
 Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Scott Allison  
 Captain: Rein Zeidler  
 Lieutenant: Jay Lyons  
 Head Coach: Gene Jeffords  
 Associate Coach: John Wetzstein  
 Assistant Coaches:  
 James Scalzo  
 Samantha Essary  
 Learn-to-row: Scott Allison  
 Raw Nucks : Ron Suermann  
 Regatta Chair: Scott Allison  
 Boosters President: Joan Bialzak

Elections are coming up soon. Be ready to cast your vote at the SLRC Annual Meeting.

## Fall Race Results

The St. Louis Rowing Club raced well this fall.

October 19 – 20, 2002 several boats rowed at the XXXVIII Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. Race results are at [www.hocr.org](http://www.hocr.org).

November 2, 2002, SLRC raced at the Head of the Chattahoochee, winning the most number of club points (520). Race results are at [www.atlantarow.org](http://www.atlantarow.org).

## About the Newsletter

Thank you for contributing to the SLRC newsletter. Articles are published as submitted.

To submit an article for the February/ March SLRC newsletter, attach a file to an email message. Send to [VogelKellyA@msn.com](mailto:VogelKellyA@msn.com)

## Treasurer's Report

The club's account balance at the middle of November was approximately \$9,000. We continue to more-or-less hold our own (expenses = income) from month to month.

Our cash balance hit a low point in late-October... dropping to less than \$2,000...but has rebounded since then with the influx of Fall/Winter dues payments from the Juniors.

on or before January 17. Please be certain submissions are in final form.

Allow me to extend a special thanks to Dale Vogel who donated the software, Microsoft Publisher Deluxe.

Thank you, Dale.