

# GO Rowing!

*2016 End of the Season Issue*



*Grateful Oars Rowing Club, Norwood, NY*

## **Annual Meeting October 18 at the Lobster House, 6 PM**

### **Gwen's Message** – Gwen Cunningham, President

I'm looking forward to and hoping to see lots of you at the Annual Meeting in October so we can celebrate another successful rowing season together! Although, as you'll read in the "Rowing Report", there weren't records broken for time on the water, it certainly felt like there were a lot of successful and productive rows this year. The Development Boat in particular had a very successful season and kudos also to those who raced. I'm looking forward to another great season next year and hope you are all planning to return. As always, if you're interested in forming a new crew next year or need help doing so, don't hesitate to ask anyone on the board for assistance.



### **2016 Annual Meeting**

We will hold our 2016 Annual Dinner Meeting on October 18 in Norwood at the Lobster House on SH 56, beginning at 6 PM with a short social period as we gather. Our business meeting will begin as soon as a quorum is present in the side room near the bar. Business will pause as we order individual dinners from the menu.

The important items on the agenda will be the report of the nominating committee, and annual election of officers and directors, and the presentation of the club's budget for 2017. There will also be brief reports by the coordinators for boat repair, boathouse maintenance, Learn to Row and Strategic Planning. Members are encouraged to speak up as items of interest are discussed.

The election process began when alternate and regular members received an email request for nominations. Be sure to return your nominations soon. Every office is up this year!

There are important differences this year of which members need to be aware. The bylaws amendment of 2015 reduced the board to eight members and imposed term limits for the president and staggered terms for all board members starting with this election. Members may nominate one person for each post: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and four directors at large. A nominating committee of three members, chaired by Peter McCoy with participation by two non-director members yet to be named, will use the nomination results to formulate an on-line ballot.

Staggered terms will begin with initial one-year terms for president, treasurer and two of the four directors at large. These positions will serve two-year terms starting with the 2017 election. The vice president, secretary and the other two director positions will be voted on again in 2018. Only the president's terms are limited, the limit being two consecutive two-year terms.



## The 2016 Rowing Report – Dick

**Racing.** Several members enter age-grouped competitions. Ron Johnson and Rich Rubsamens won a bronze medal in the US Masters Nationals M2- 60-69 in Worcester, Mass. in July and also were third in a M2x over 60 at the Head of the Rideau on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Other regattas entered this fall are: Tail of the Fish (Saratoga Springs) on 9/24 (Mary, Brooks, Joe, Peter and Mike were second), Head of the Rideau (Ottawa) on 9/25 (Dick-4<sup>th</sup> in M1x over 60), Head of the Genesee (Rochester) on 10/8 (Dick M Veteran 1x) and Head of the Fish (Saratoga Springs) on 10/29 (Dick-M Veteran 1x). *[The editor, as one of those who race in these grand celebrations of rowing, thinks it curious that every single GORC member rows in a racing shell, and yet only about 1/3 of us race in or even attend one of these events. In every regatta you will see skills from novice to superb and ages from young to quite old. Regattas are fun to watch and even more fun to do, and they give the rower a great incentive to develop skills and fitness!]*

**Rowing.** [This report is compiled as of 9/25]. Compared with other years going back to the start of detailed records, 2016 has been the second-most active year. The year's rowing started in March, which never happened before. Seasonally, weather and crew situations forced the Thursday 8 to use a 4+ and Alden singles on several occasions, and personal circumstances reduced the amount of sculling in both private and club singles. The newly available Dirigo 4+, now named *North Star*, gave Joe's Wednesday crew a new option for head racing once it was finally fit enough to row hard. It's a different boat from when it was pulled from the woods beside the Raquette above Potsdam, a cast-off hulk. This is a boat with a past but a great future thanks to recent work (see following article). *For Pete's Sake* stayed a popular choice for many crews even though it has developed a major leak that makes taking it out of the water a challenge at the end of a session. *Jimmy Row* and *State of Mind* had the least utilization. GORC members, especially Rich and Ron, benefitted from our reciprocal agreement with Clarkson Crew Club on the use of certain boats, especially the Clarkson pair and double scull.

**Boat Utilization.** The following club boat use was logged as of September 25, 2016: *By George*-8 (4 times); *For Pete's Sake*-4+ (62); *North Star*-4+ (27); *Jimmy Row*-4+ (5); *State of Mind*-4+ (5); Vespoli 2- (17); Alden 1x (54). Clarkson boats used by GORC were: 2- (7); 2x (10); and 1x (1). GORC member 1x's were logged out 146 times. The original club 4+ *Jimmy Row* was used by LTR crews when *North Star* was out of service. There were 146 outings in private sculls. Further rowing is anticipated into October and November.

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## ***“The Boys of ‘36”* Special Showing Sponsored by GORC a Success**

Grateful Oars, in cooperation with St. Lawrence University and PBS, held a public, advanced showing of the *American Experience* program, *The Boys of '36*, the gold medal winning American men's 8 at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin in July. At least 50 club members and community members attended, including Gwen's father, who coxed for the University of Washington varsity men's crew when in college. The "Boys" in the film were from this university. If you'd rather read the book, look for "Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown. There usually is one on the bookshelf in the boathouse. The club owns a DVD of this program, which may be borrowed from Gwen. Our thanks to PBS for making this presentation by the club possible.

Our great thanks to St. Lawrence University and its student center staff for the venue.



*Photo by Cindy Edwards*

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## 2016 Learn to Row – Peter McCoy, Coordinator

The 2016 Learn to Row season got a great start with Caroline, Candace, Sola, Alex, and Ashley rowing with Joe and Peter on Saturday mornings. As the season progressed, we lost two due to schedule and a preexisting knee condition, but were fortunate to add Stephanie, Xander, Ann, Greg, Scarlett, and Connor, requiring a second session,. A unique aspect of this summer's crews has been the mix of experienced and novice rowers in the LTR program; everyone has improved and the beginners have really benefitted from rowing with the more experienced rowers. We anticipate taking out the 8 with members of the Devo Crew before the season ends and look forward to another great season of rowing next summer! Special thanks to Joe for all the great coaching! Pat and Dick helped as well.



## Treasurer’s Comments---Ray Toland, Treasurer

The check book balance as of this writing is \$3,532.77 and the savings account balance stands at \$1,500.75. These balances reflect a healthy year-end condition. Operating revenues and expenses to date are in line with budgeted figures. The club did invest in one capital item, our launch and motor. The total cost for this was \$1,955, which includes launch, motor, locks, gas tank, and gas storage box. The Club sets aside \$500 yearly to insure future stability for the payment of our debt to Clarkson (the remaining balance on the note is \$18,000) as annual memberships rise and fall. At this time we should have sufficient funds to do so again come spring. Outlays yet to be made this year include additional boat repair reimbursements and race partial reimbursements per the budget. A detailed report will be made at the annual meeting when the budget is proposed for 2017.

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## Boat Reservations Are Important

The popularity of two of the club’s 4+ shells, the Vespoli *For Pete’s Sake* and the Dirigo 4+ *North Star* brought close calls this season to a couple of crews who customarily use the same boat. There is a system in place to anticipate and plan around that. All crews and Learn to Row are expected to use the on-line scheduling system. Crew captains and qualified Alden scullers have access to the system and all members have reading access, so there is reason to hope that no two crews will expect to use the same boat at the same time.

Before scheduling an impromptu outing, check to see what boats are available. Scheduled outings have preference. In scheduling boats, remember that *North Star* and *Jimmy Row* are best for heavy crew weights, *For Pete’s Sake* is best for mid-weight crews, and *State of Mind* is best for light crews. The pair, *For Pete’s Sake* and the Aldens can accommodate a wide range of crew weights.



## Fleet Maintenance and Utilization

Major repairs and upgrades were made this season to the Clarkson-donated Dirigo 4+. Boat Maintenance Coordinators Joe Vitale and Pat Luppens repaired and strengthened the wooden inner frame, replaced worn old shoes with adjustable new ones, and began upgrading some parts to the foot stretchers. Further work is planned for the foot stretchers before the busy period of next season. The once derelict Dirigo 4+ is considered to be a fast boat and is popular with crews that race. *By George* is also a Dirigo product. That builder has not been in business for some years, so considerable ingenuity and talent are required to repair the Dirigos. Pat upgraded tracks and made other repairs on *For Pete's Sake*. Hats off to Joe and Pat!



## Boathouse Dedication and Regatta

Clarkson President Tony Collins and members of the Lewis family spoke meaningfully to an enthusiastic audience of Clarkson, St. Lawrence, and several GORC rowers and guests in a rain-shortened ceremony on September 10<sup>th</sup> as they officially opened the **Gregory Lewis Boathouse**. Clarkson hosted St. Lawrence in a six-boat, four kilometer head race for M4+, each university entering three crews. St. Lawrence came in first, Clarkson taking second and third. GORC members staffed the start line. CU provided an elegant spread of canapés and beverages under a bevy of pure white tents. Many of the guests toured the GORC boathouse bay as well as Clarkson's side of the house.



## Milfoil Update

On September 13<sup>th</sup> the Norwood Lake Association's annual meeting received an update from consultant Lee Harper on the status of the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil and Variable Leaf Water Milfoil in the lake. Both are non-native aquatic plants that can form mats thick enough to stop a motor boat or a rowing shell, unless we keep it in check, especially the Eurasian. About 50 plants of Eurasian species is established in shallow water near the southwest corner of the lake. Variable Leaf is more widespread, and is particularly dense just west and north of the island among the rocks. Variable Leaf is shown on a map recently sent to all members with an earlier NLA report. Please familiarize yourself with what it looks like, referring to one of the cards on invasive species at the boathouse. Please report the location of suspected milfoil plants to Dick or Ron, who are members of the NLA milfoil control team. Refer to the lake map that is on the bulletin board. Want to help the Norwood Lake Association deal with it? Ron or Dick can tell you how you can. There is a particular need for certified divers and those willing to be trained, but non-divers can help, too.



## Volunteer Assignments to Return to GORC in 2017

For many years in GORC's earlier period every member was required to contribute two hours to club work each season. Difficulties with the boathouse cleaning schedule and the Learn to Row schedule have taken the board back to that former practice, which is actually an unexercised current policy. The Spring 2017 issue of *GO Rowing* will include a list of sweeping assignments for the season, starting with the usual early rowers and, it is hoped, including all members in one or another work capacity.



**Remember the Annual Meeting on October 18.  
Lobster House, 6 PM**

**Grateful Oars RC is on the web: <http://gratefuloars.weebly.com>  
and**

**On Facebook: check often at <https://www.facebook.com/grateful.oars/>**

*Introduce a friend to rowing and sculling next season with GORC.  
Word of mouth is the best publicity!*