



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #13
February 25, 2024



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Your Quick Takes

- Boat Christening/Chili Cook off: Sat. Mar. 2, 11 AM. See page 2 of the QC for sign up opportunities. Join us for the big reveal of the name for the new Men's Four, and the christening of the Women's 8, "Goldfinch," named in recognition of former Coach Murphy.
- Chipotle Fundraiser: Tues. Mar. 5.
- Launch boat training Mar. 9. SLACK Brian Hanley for more info.
- **Membership Meeting (In-Person):** Wed. Mar. 13, 7:30 PM in the Robinson Recital Hall. Please attend to learn all you need to know about Regatta Season.
- Spirit Wear Store is back open. Check SLACK for details. (Closes today, Feb. 25!)
- Polar Bear Regatta: Sat. Mar. 16 (Experienced Rowers Only)
- Regional Park Regatta: Sat. Mar. 23 (Novice & Experienced Rowers)
- Don't forget to sign your rower up for Carpool for the week each Sunday by 5 PM. Post to the Carpool SLACK channel as early as possible if you need to cancel for the day.
- Note: Robinson Crew practices through Spring Break!!

Active Sign-Up Geniuses

Carpool

- **Driver Sign Up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0945A5A72AA2FD0-47909662-crew>
- **Rower Sign Up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0945A5A72AA2FD0-47909670-rower>

Chili CookOff/Boat Christening

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D44A5A92F4-48060328-robinson>

Launch Boat Drivers for Regattas

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A4AA22A7F8CF8-48027802-robinson>

VASRA

- **Work Days:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA4AA2BA7F85-47425582-2024>
- **Regatta Volunteers:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA9AC2AA46-47986203-vasra>

VASRA Work Day & Regatta Volunteers

Help the team fulfill its VASRA volunteer requirements for the 2024 regatta season.

- For VASRA work days, the team must fill at least one spot per shift. Both parents and rowers are welcome to volunteer for work days.
- For Regatta volunteers, please note that you will be able to park at Sandy Run AND see you rower row.

Please see the sign-up genius above for opportunities and job descriptions. All Regatta job sign ups must be completed by **March 8**.

Chili Cook-off/Boat Christening

The Boat Christening and Chili Cook-Off will be held on Saturday, March 2. This will be a fun team building event to celebrate the team's hard work as we move into Regatta Season. We will also christen the new Women's Eight, "Goldfinch," in recognition of former Coach Murphy and reveal the name for the new Men's Four. Use the sign up genius above to sign up for volunteer opportunities and to enter your award winning chili. For any questions, email Jim Martinez at vpmembership@robinsoncrew.org or send a DM on SLACK.

Launch Drivers

If you are interested in driving a launch for the 2024 season, send a SLACK to Brian Hanley and join the Launch-Drivers channel on SLACK. If you are new to regatta launch driving or have not driven a launch at Sandy Run for a regatta, please let Brian know. Robinson Crew will be responsible for between 2 or 3 drivers for each regatta.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

All launch drivers will need to attend a VASRA info session on either Feb 25 - 3:00 - 5:00 or March 2 - 1:00 - 3:00 at Sandy Run. Robinson Crew will hold on-the-water training on March 9. If you are a returning driver and interested in helping train the new launch drivers please contact Brian Hanley. He is hoping to run 3 boats during the sessions.

Carpool

Do not forget to use the sign up genius to register your athlete for carpool. Please note that carpool is only one way; families must provide transportation home from Sandy Run. Many families arrange a neighborhood carpool for the return ride home. Please SLACK Jeanette Sonner with any questions regarding carpool. Remember to cancel the sign up if your rower will not need carpool for the day.

Parents wishing to earn .5 points for driving carpool should also sign-up using the driver sign-up genius (see above).

RCBC Board Changes

Welcome to Ellen Valentine, our new VP for Administration. Ellen will be tracking the Ten and Two participation so please reach out to her @ vpadministration@robinsoncrew.org if you have any questions related to that process.

REMINDER: "Ten and Two"

Don't forget to consistently check your points and dollar count after each volunteer and fundraising opportunity. The Ten and Two points/fundraising tracker is pinned to the general SLACK channel. Send an email to vpadministration@robinsoncrew.org or DM @Ellen Valentine if you discover any discrepancies.

Registration Fees: **Fourth Installment Due March 10**

The fourth installment of the 2023-2024 registration fee is coming due. The payment schedule is as follows:

- Dec 10th - 1st Installment \$ 375
- Jan 10th - 2nd Installment \$ 300
- Feb 10th - 3rd Installment \$ 300
- Mar 10th - 4th Installment \$ 275
- Total Registration Fees \$ 1,250

All payments are made through the secure Quickbooks server. Watch for an email from our treasurer for payment instructions.

Robinson Crew Sponsorship Campaign

With the help of a handful of fantastic families, we raised \$7,500 towards our \$12,500 goal. Huge thanks to our Gold Sponsors - ITC Federal, Fitness Together, Navy Mutual, and Property Sisters - for setting the bar high! All of this additional sponsorship money makes it possible for our girls and boys crews to get new equipment without impacting our dues. Thanks for your participation!!

2023-2024 Volunteer Positions

For more information about any of the following open volunteer positions, **or if you would like to volunteer**, please contact vpadministration@robinsoncrew.org or any member of the RCBC Board. Each of these positions is absolutely essential for our crew team to operate and thrive. Please volunteer and help our rowers to succeed all season long!

- **VP OPERATIONS #2 - OPEN**. Co-Lead Team Operations during Regatta Season.
- **WEBMASTER - OPEN**. Seeking a web expert to help the Board with the website.
- **PHOTOGRAPHERS - OPEN**. Take photos of the rowers during the regattas for the end of year slide show and QC.

Congratulations to all on Tag Day '24 Success

A big thank you for the outsized effort by all to make both Tag Days a success. Special thanks to Diane DiPietro and Carla Anello for great communication and a seamless operation! You made it look easy and we know it is not!!!

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and our Rowers made it happen in big ways:

- **Tag Day #1 raised over \$12,000**
- **Tag Day #2 raised over \$7,000**

...and we expect more to arrive through venmo/mail-in.

That's close to **\$20,000** for the team. Woot Woot!!!

If you have ideas about how to make Tag Days even better please send DM @Diane DiPietro through SLACK. Thank you!

Raise Right (Scrip)

Sign up for RaiseRight (Scrip) gift cards and help us to raise money for the team. This is a simple process with high impact!

<https://www.robinsoncrew.org/scrip> *** <https://www.raiseright.com/>

Scrip Gift Card Fundraising for Organizations • RaiseRight

Fundraising for organizations has never been easier. Join 50,000+ fundraisers who have exceeded their goals through gift card fundraising (aka scrip).



SLACK COMMUNICATIONS

Join SLACK and keep up to date on all team announcements. **SLACK IS THE PRIMARY WAY THE TEAM COMMUNICATES!** Join all RCBC SLACK Channels, but especially General & Fundraising!

Reminder: U.S. Rowing Membership

If you haven't yet, please be sure to sign up your rower for U.S. Rowing. This is required for ALL rowers. The membership portal can be found here: <https://membership.usrowing.org/>. Use Club Code: 499QC

Sandy Run Reminders

A reminder that the speed limit is 25 MPH as you make your way down to Sandy Run on Van Thompson Road.

Water practice ends at 6:30 PM. Athlete parking is Lot D. Athlete drop off and pick up at the end of practice is in Lot C. Lot C is on your left once you pass the yellow gate, while Lot D is on your right. Do not drive past these two lots. Lot C should allow you to loop around and exit at the gate placing you back onto the main road.

A Little Rowing Trivia ...

What does "the catch" mean in rowing?

The term 'catch' in rowing comes from the Old English word 'ceorfan,' which means 'to cut off.' In rowing, the catch is when the oar is inserted into the water. Synchronizing the catch is critical, and you may hear you rower talking about being "early on the catch" or "late on the catch." Synchronizing the catch is something all crews work to perfect.

New Approach to RCBC Volunteer Hours

At the June 2023 RCBC Membership Board Meeting, members voted on a new approach to earning volunteer hours for the team called, "Ten and Two for Our Crew." Please see the last two pages of the Quick Catch for a summary of the improved approach.

New Rower Information

If you are a new family to Robinson Crew, we would like to extend a warm welcome and also point you to the following website: <https://www.robinsoncrew.org/newrowerinfo>. This site includes a wealth of helpful information for new rowers.

The Crew Captains have also created a short presentation for new rowers which you can access here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yEFEymmWTl2McH_VfwiNYQORlq5LhsuEediKRancwVI/edit?usp=sharing

2024 Season: Regatta Schedule

Saturday, March 16, 2024: **Polar Bear Regatta**

Saturday, March 23, 2024: **Regional Park Regatta**

Saturday, March 30, 2024: **Walter Mess Regatta**

Saturday, April 6, 2024: **Darrell Winslow Regatta**

Saturday, April 13, 2024: **Ted Phoenix Regatta**

Saturday, April 20, 2024: **Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta**

Saturday, April 27, 2024: **Al Urquia Regatta/Charlie Butt Regatta**

Saturday, May 4, 2024: **VSRC Day 1**

Saturday, May 11, 2024: **USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships Mercer NJ, VSRC Day 2**

Sunday, May 12, 2024: **USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships Mercer NJ**

Fri.-Sat., May 17-18, 2024: **Stotesbury Cup Regatta**

Fri.-Sat., May 24-25, 2024: **SRAA Championships - Cooper NJ**

Thur.-Sun., Jun 6-9, 2024: **USRowing Youth Nationals - Sarasota FL**

ROBINSON CREW CALENDAR



2024 SEASON

Event	Date
Nothing Bundt Cakes (NBC) Fundraiser	Sales: Mon., Jan. 8 – Mon., Jan. 29 Cake Deliveries: Sat., Feb. 10 (Tag Day #1)
Five Guys Fundraiser	Tues., Jan. 9
Membership Meeting	Wed., Jan. 10 (virtual)
Swim Test	Sat., Jan. 13
Wedding Experience at GMU (aka “Bridal Show”)	Sun., Jan. 21
ERG Sprints	Sat., Feb. 3
Membership Meeting	Thurs., Feb. 15 (virtual)
Tag Days	Tag Day # 1: Sat., Feb. 10 (mandatory) Tag Day # 2: Sat., Feb. 24 (mandatory)
OASIS - Robinson Basketball Tournament	Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 22-23
Boat Christening/Chili Cook-Off	Sat., Mar. 2
Chipotle Fundraiser	Tues., Mar. 5
Membership Meeting	Wed., Mar. 13 (in person)
Polar Bear Regatta	Sat., Mar. 16
Regional Park Regatta	Sat., Mar. 23
Walter Mess Regatta	Sat., Mar. 30
Darrell Winslow Regatta	Sat., Apr. 6
George’s Steaks & Things Fundraiser	Tues., Apr. 9
Membership Meeting	Thurs., Apr. 11 (virtual)
Ted Phoenix Regatta	Sat., Apr. 13
Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta	Sat., Apr. 20
Al Urquia Regatta/Charlie Butt Regatta	Sat., Apr. 27
VSRC Day 1	Sat., May 4
Membership Meeting	Wed., May 8 (in person – Board Elections)
USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships (Mercer, NJ) & VSRC Day 2	Sat., May 11
USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships (Mercer, NJ)	Sun., May 12
Stotesbury Cup Regatta	Fri.-Sat., May 17-18
SRAA Championships (Cooper, NJ)	Fri.-Sat., May 24-25
USRowing Youth Nationals (Sarasota, FL)	Thur.-Sun., Jun 6-9

Thank you to our 2023-2024 Sponsors!

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Robinson Crew Team Member Obligation

To keep Robinson Crew an elite Virginia Scholastic Rowing organization, we need every team member to contribute the following each season:

Accumulate 10 Volunteer Points
Raise \$200 In Fundraising

“Ten & Two for Our Crew”

1. Volunteer your time to accumulate 10 points.

Sample volunteer opportunities:

- Carpool Driver - 0.5 points (per trip)
- Tag Day Cashier - 1 point
- Regatta Food Tent - 1 point (per set up or take down)
- Regatta Launch Boat Driver - 2 points (per regatta)
- Regatta Concessions Stand - 2 points (per regatta)
- Carpool Coordinator - 5 points each (two coordinators)



The Robinson Crew Booster Club (RCBC) assigns point values to each volunteer position based on expected level of effort and time commitment.

The RCBC will continuously track and report point totals and will assess team members a fee of \$50 per point for any shortfall at the end of the season to ensure every rower's membership remains "in good standing."

There is no "buy out" option for volunteering, as our team needs your time in these areas.

2. Raise at least \$200 profit through these two events:

- Letter Writing Campaign
- Bundt Cake Sales

If you are unable to participate, reach \$200, or prefer not to fundraise, you have the option to "buy out" and pay the remainder of the fundraising obligation. Team members can buy out, fundraise, or use a combination of both methods to reach the \$200 fundraising obligation. These fundraisers are necessary for our program to operate and to keep our registration fees relatively low.

Tag Day is a mandatory fundraising event (all rowers) and is not included in this \$200 individual goal. We also need your help finding and engaging corporate sponsors (more in the FAQs).

Please help us keep our proud tradition of Ram Rowing thriving by completing your share of the team member obligation.

Rowing is a team sport – the strength of a boat is the combination of our individual efforts.

We need each of you to row hard for our program.

Robinson Crew Team Member Obligation FAQs

Q: Why is rowing so expensive?

A: Robinson Crew is completely self-funded and receives no money from Robinson Secondary School or Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The RCBC has been able to keep registration fees relatively low compared to other local high school programs because of strong volunteering and generous contributions by our community and families like you.

Q: Why has the RCBC decided to change the current service hour structure?

A: The RCBC listened to feedback from members past and present and decided change was necessary. The RCBC had three goals when changing the structure: 1) That the requirement be less daunting, 2) That the requirement be transparent, and 3) That the requirement still meet the team needs.

Q: How did the RCBC determine that 10 points and \$200 is the right amount?

A: The RCBC used an average of both volunteer and fundraising needs over the past several seasons (considering inconsistencies during COVID) to keep the program operating at its highest levels and still keep registration fees relatively low. The RCBC feels that the resulting "Ten & Two for Our Crew" satisfies those needs and will continue to re-evaluate program needs each season.

Q: When does the season for accumulating points begin and end?

A: Beginning with the 2023-2024 season, the RCBC "membership season" will run from July to June.

Q: Will the hours I've accumulated this season carry over next year under this new point structure?

A: Yes – every 15 hours accumulated since February 2023 will count as 1 point toward the 2023-2024 season. Example: if you have accumulated 40 hours in the 2022-2023 season, you will start the 2023-2024 season with 3 points; 20 hours will count as 1.5 points (rounded up to the nearest half point).

Q: If I find a corporate sponsor, does that contribute to my fundraising requirement?

A: Yes – 10% of corporate sponsorships secured go towards a rower's \$200 requirement. Example: a single \$250 sponsor would equate to \$25 off your requirement, \$1000 would be \$100 off, \$2000 would be \$200, etc.

Q: What happens to any extra points I have at the end of next season?

A: Beginning with the 2023-2024 Season, points will not carry over to the next season. Points will reset each year in November. In addition, members cannot "gift" any extra points to other members.

Q: What does it mean to be a member "in good standing?"

A: Membership in good standing is defined in the RCBC Bylaws found [here](#).

Q: What is Tag Day? Why is my rower required to participate?

A: Tag Day (door to door soliciting) is a two-day event occurring annually in February. All rowers are required to participate in Tag Day. Tag Day is the single largest fundraising event of the season, averaging over \$15,000 of contributions annually.

Q: What is Letter Writing Campaign?

A: Letter Writing Campaign consists of team members sending letters to friends and family members soliciting donations. This is our second largest fundraising event of the season. Specific details regarding the letter writing fundraiser will be provided in the winter.