



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #14
March 04, 2024



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Your Quick Takes

- 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.
- Purchase your 2024 Robinson Crew T-shirt before March 12 (see link p.4 below).
- 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!!



From the Desk of the RCBC President ...

Robinson Crew Booster Club Celebrates the Christening of Two New Boats

While Saturday's christening of the new boats wasn't the big family event we had planned, we still were able to take some time to celebrate the occasion with several rowers. I was joined at Sandy Run by Brandon Booher, Treasurer; Brian Hanley, Vice President for Operations; Karrie Kay, Secretary; Rob Graveline, Vice President for Ways and Means; Kim Metzger, former Treasurer; and Mark Davis, former President. Coaches Vargas, Petty, Cath and Corcoran were also on hand for the christening in front of the boat house.

I welcomed the group and shared my favorite quote from, "The Boys in the Boat." Mr. Pocock, while trying to impress upon Joe the importance of everyone in the boat working together (as instruments in an orchestra), encouraged Joe to think beyond himself and to want every athlete in the boat to excel. He ended with, "[i]t has to matter to you whether he wins the race, not just whether you do." This spirit of collaboration and support for one another represents the essence of a successful crew. I recognized former President of Robinson Crew Booster Club, Mark Davis, for demonstrating the spirit of collaboration and also looking out for others through his leadership of RCBC. Following the ceremony, board members presented Mark with a framed gift consisting of pictures of last year's boys and girls teams as well as a small replica of a Robinson oar and an engraved plate thanking him for his leadership and service to RCBC. And now, onto the christening.

Standing behind the four, Captains Ethan Talbot and Anders Carlson spoke about the recent success Robinson rowers have had racing fours and expressed their hope the successes will continue with the new boat. The captains shared the top three names from the recent vote. They were (in no particular order) ROwBOat, Battering Ram and Iceman. Following a group drumroll, the towel covering the name was removed to reveal Battering Ram as the winning name. Coach Petty and the boys then christened the shell by pouring sparkling apple cider on it.

Standing behind the eight, Captain Grace Bruggeman spoke about the boat being named the Goldfinch in honor of former Robinson Crew coach and program director, Kevin Murphy. Coach Murphy appreciated the ever-present wildlife he observed along the river. She recalled Coach Murphy naming the birds the girls saw during practice and, in some cases, relating what the girls observed in nature to the lessons he was teaching them about Crew.

From the Desk of the RCBC President, con't ...

Kim Metzger shared her appreciation for Kevin Murphy and the role he played in encouraging her daughter, Sydney. It wasn't until Coach Murphy told Sydney he could see her rowing in college that she decided to do it. Sydney rows for Old Dominion University. Kim then read a statement prepared by Karrie Kay and Coach Murphy expressing how much Coach Murphy cherished his years as a Varsity Girls' Coach at Robinson. One of his favorite hobbies is birdwatching. While on the water, Coach Murphy would often point out the birds with the hope the girls would grow to appreciate nature. The name of the women's eight, the Goldfinch, is in homage of Coach Murphy's love of birds. Coach Vargas and the girls christened the shell by pouring sparkling cider on it.

It is a rare occasion for a crew booster club to have one boat to christen, much less two. The Battering Ram and Goldfinch represent the contributions of many former and current rowers and their families. It takes a lot of membership fees, sponsors, restaurant benefit nights, Nothing Bundt Cake sales, Tag Days and letter writing campaigns to raise the kind of money needed to build a strong Crew program. Just as this year's team benefits from the support of rowers who have gone before them, the team also leaves behind a legacy of support for future rowers. We recently had two successful Tag Days thanks to rowers who went door to door to ask for donations and parents who organized the activity, drove the rowers to neighborhoods near and far, counted donations and ensured the rowers were well-fed. Our sponsorship program has benefited from recent contributions from local companies. We sold 1,010 cakes and crewpons in yet another successful NBC sale. We'll close out this year's fundraising with a strong letter writing campaign this month. I encourage you to tell your relatives and family friends about the new boats. Tell them what you have learned and done so far this season and your hopes for the remainder of it. Share with them the vision Mr. Pocock described and the one you are striving for, rowers moving as one with each person in the boat giving their all in support of the others and in pursuit of the collective goal of overcoming your opponents and whatever obstacles nature sends your way to row your best race.



*Let's have a great season!
Sherry Noud*

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>

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**.

2024 Team T-shirts

Order your 2024 Robinson Crew Team T-shirts by March 12th. Payment is online direct to Custom Ink. Shirts can be delivered to you or we'll hand them out at a Regatta.

The team is offering unisex sizing cotton long and short-sleeve shirts, men's and women's sizing technical short sleeve shirts, and unisex cotton/poly hoodies - click on the link to place your order: <https://www.customink.com/g/tcy0-00cu-jem1>

Please feel free to buy extras for your family members to show their team spirit!



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.

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).

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.

Congratulations to all on Tag Day '24 Success

A big thank you for the effort by all to make both Tag Days a success. To date, we have raised ~\$22,000 for the team through these efforts!

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, Property Sisters, and Third Degree Leverage!



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.
- **PHOTOGRAPHERS - OPEN.** Take photos of the rowers during the regattas for the end of year slide show and QC.

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).



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
ROBINSON CREW BOOSTERS

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH | 4-8PM
5747 BURKE CENTRE PKWY, BURKE, VA, 22015

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **RWQ3LLE**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

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 ...

Why is a rowing competition called a "regatta," and not simply a "race"?

The origins of the word "regatta" can be traced back to 15th century Venice and the gondola races of that era. "Regatta" has been the accepted name for boat competitions since the 18th century. Regattas nowadays include rowing, canoeing, windsurfing and sailing.

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

ROBINSON CREW REGATTA SCHEDULE



Sandy Run Regional Park

10450 Van Thompson Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Regatta	Date	Parking
Polar Bear	March 16	South County HS
Regional Park	March 23	Commuter Lot
Walter Mess	March 30	South County HS
Darrell Winslow	April 6	South County HS
Ted Phoenix	April 13	Commuter Lot
Ryz Obuchowicz	April 20	South County HS
Al Urquia/Charlie Butt	April 27	South County HS
VSRC Day 1	May 4	South County HS
VSRC Day 2	May 11	South County HS

South County High School	8501 Silverbrook Rd, Lorton, VA
Commuter Lot	1325 Old Bridge Rd, Woodbridge, VA

ROBINSON CREW CALENDAR

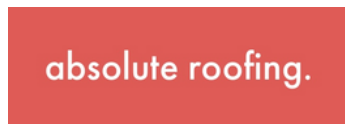


2024 SEASON

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!

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



FRIEND SPONSORS



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.