



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #18
April 02, 2024



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Your Quick Takes

- **Darrell Winslow Regatta:** Sat. Apr. 06. Parking is at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Rd. See you at the Grandstands!
- **Stotesbury Planning Meeting:** Tues. Apr. 2. If interested in details, send a SLACK to Jim Martinez.
- **George's Steaks & Things Fundraiser,** Tues. Apr. 9.
- **Membership Meeting (Virtual):** Thurs. Apr. 11, 7:30 PM. Watch SLACK for Google Meet details.
- Help feed the rowers at regattas! We need your cash, purchases, or sweat equity. See p. 6 for more info.
- 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.
- Congrats to all our boats that rowed hard at the Walter Mess Regatta!!!



From the Desk of the RCBC President ...

Robinson Crew had another strong showing at the Walter Mess Regatta this past Saturday with all 7 boats posting promising times. The warm, dry weather was a nice change from the previous Saturday. From week to week, I see improvements in the way rowers and coxswains work together to power the boats to the finish line. A few boats dealt with challenges on Saturday including having to restart the race and having results changed following another team's complaint about interference. All of these experiences work together to help our rowers improve and show increased confidence on the water. I hope to see you at the grandstands on Saturday for the Darrell Winslow Regatta.

Many of you debuted our new team shirts at the grandstands on Saturday. Special thanks to Kate Mattice for being our Sponsorships Chairperson this year. Kate led the charge to secure business sponsors for the team, served as the primary contact for the sponsors, designed the team banner and worked with Custom Ink to design the shirts and set up the sale and, finally, sorted orders for pickup. While we did not meet our goal for sponsorships (\$9,000/\$12,000), it wasn't for lack of trying by a small but hopeful group of members. This Fall, we will need more help to identify potential sponsors. History tells us the most likely sponsors are businesses with whom an RCBC member has a personal connection. I believe sponsorships are a mutually beneficial opportunity. As I mentioned at the March membership meeting, if you need a service offered by one of our sponsors, please give them the opportunity to earn your business and thank them for being an RCBC sponsor.

We are starting April with the end of our formal fundraisers (other than restaurant benefit nights). Our Letter Writing Campaign is coming to a close with more than \$8,500 raised so far in response to close to 350 emails sent by the team. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Letter Writing Campaign this year. I know it's always a busy time leading up to Spring Break, but hopefully the extended deadline for the LWC made it possible for everyone who wanted to participate to do so. Thank you to Micaela Williamson for serving as our Letter Writing Campaign Coordinator this year. Thank you also to Paige Wroble for supporting the LWC effort as our VP for Ways and Means, and to Brandon Booher for his instrumental support as Treasurer. Brandon took the initiative to reach out to the former RCBC member who helped develop the online LWC process to ensure the system could be used this year and in the future. Last, but not least, thank you to our gold sponsor, Third Degree Leverage, for developing and maintaining the system we use for the LWC.

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

Our Nominating Committee will be sharing information about opportunities to serve on the RCBC Board of Directors. I hope you will consider nominating returning members (including yourself) for board positions. RCBC's unique structure depends upon a strong, reliable board to ensure our finances are managed prudently, our membership has ample opportunities to support the success of the team through volunteerism, our communication to and among the membership is effective and timely, our equipment is well-maintained, and our fundraising efforts bridge the gap between our anticipated revenue needs and what we receive in membership fees. Please reach out to any board member if you are interested in learning more about their role in supporting RCBC.

Let's go Rams!!
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

- **Regatta Volunteers:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA9AC2AA46-47986203-vasra>
 - **Opening for **VASRA Finish Line Concessions April 27 @ 12 PM**. Use the link above to volunteer!**

Food Tent Support

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0448A8AC2AA5FF2-48476458-snack>

Walter Mess Regatta Results

Congrats to the great showing by all the Robinson Crew boats at the Walter Mess Regatta:

- **1st Mens 4:** First Place
- **2nd Mens 4:** First Place
- **Womens Jr 8:** (No Time)
- **1st Womens 8:** Fourth Place
- **Mens Jr 8:** Second Place (tie)
- **2nd Womens 8:** Fourth Place
- **Mens Jr 8:** Second Place
- **Mens N 8:** Fourth Place

Follow real time Regatta Results on X @VASRA_SRRP

Carpool

Do not forget to use the sign up genius to register your athlete for carpool. 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 p. 4 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.

The RCBC will continuously track and report point totals and will **assess 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!

* * *

A Little Rowing Trivia ...

**OK, this week let's talk about the use of the word "blade" in rowing.
[And no, there will not be a quiz at the end of the season, I promise!]**

In rowing, the word "blade" can mean an entire oar but usually means the wide, flat end of the oar that the rower places in the water.

Why "blade" you ask? Is it meant to conjure up an image of a knife or a sword cutting through the water? No, the usage of the term in rowing actually stems from the ancient meaning of the word ... i.e., something "flat and wide," like a leaf or a blade of grass.

Snack Tent Support

Please contribute snacks and/or money to support the rowers' snack tent. We also require assistance setting up the snack area early in the morning and taking it down after the last race.

- **Snack Food Donation:** Prepackaged snacks or fresh whole fruits such as bananas, oranges, tangerines, grapes, and apples. Please select an item to donate from this list: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hah0HlTbMg_PJC4i06zDeZHxoojdmySyPceJQcfHivs/edit?usp=sharing.
- Donations can be dropped off at the home of Ayan Noor, 10211 Glen Chase Ct., up to the Friday before the regatta. Please donate as large a quantity as you can.
- **Monetary Support:** For those who prefer to make a monetary donation, we are asking for \$25.00 per rower to support buying items in bulk. Any extra money will be used for the end of the season celebration. Send to the Robinson Crew Venmo at: @RobinsonCrewBoosterClub
- **Service Opportunities:**
 - **Pre-Regatta Snack Set-up:** Join at the lower parking lot to load snacks and drinks into wagons, deliver them to the boathouse, and set up for the day. The goal is to exit the parking lot by 7 AM. Your commitment of just one hour will earn you 0.5 service points!
 - **Post-Regatta Snack Pack-up:** At the end of the day help pack, load, and deliver remaining supplies. This involves organizing and reboxing snacks and drinks, cleaning up tables under the boathouse tent, and delivering leftover snacks to Ayan's house. This commitment won't take more than an hour and will earn you 0.5 service points.

Important Note for Pack-up: Please be aware that the times on the sign-up are approximate. We cannot clean up until the regatta is over and all our rowers have had a chance to eat after their last race. If your rower is racing late in the day, please consider volunteering to pack up the snacks.

SIGN UP GENIUS: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0448A8AC2AA5FF2-48476458-snack>

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Ayan Noor on SLACK. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Letter Writing is Coming to a Close!

The 2024 Letter Writing Campaign is coming to a close. Thanks to all who participated. Our goal was to raise at least \$10,000 through this fundraising effort, and so far we have raised \$9000! Once donation checks are received, we expect to be close to our goal.

For the convenience of our generous donors, the donation link will remain open through April 7. We encourage rowers to follow up with any friends and family members that promised to donate but haven't done so yet.

Thank you to everyone for your participation in the Letter Writing Campaign. Your support helps make our team a success. If there are any remaining questions, please reach out to Micaela Williamson via SLACK.

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! Plus, you'll raise funds for your \$200 fundraising commitment.

<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).

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!

- **PHOTOGRAPHERS - OPEN**. Take photos of the rowers during the regattas for the website, end of year slide show, and QC.
- **STOTESBURY PLANNING COMMITTEE - OPEN**. Help plan one of our biggest Regattas of the year taking place in Philadelphia in May.

ROBINSON CREW



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR RCBC CAPTAINS

Paige Donovan

Year in school? **Senior**

Seat/Boat rowing lately? **5 Seat/2V**

How long rowing? **4 seasons**

Favorite Book? **Any book of Emily Dickinson poems**

Favorite Movie? **Any movie musical, like the new Mean Girls, West Side Story, Hamilton**

Favorite Food? **Mac and Cheese (not Kraft!)**

Favorite Rowing Memory? **Winning States in the Women's Novice 8 in 2022.**

Loves other than rowing? **History, theatre, kayaking**

Fun Fact: **I worked at an overnight girl's summer camp in West Virginia last year for 8 weeks. It was so much fun!**

Where might we find you next year? **I haven't committed to anywhere yet, but hopefully rowing!**



ROBINSON CREW



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR RCBC CAPTAINS

Nick Luther

Year in school? **Senior**

Seat/Boat you often row? **Coxs/W 1V**

How long rowing? **3 years**

Favorite Book? **The Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson**

Favorite Movie? **1917**

Favorite Food: **Rice**

Favorite Rowing Memory? **Driving down to the Head of the Charles Regatta, and hanging with my friends.**

Other hobbies/loves? **Programming**

Fun Fact: **I've been in every part of the boat: Cox, port, starboard, and sculling.**

Where might we find you next year? **I'll be attending George Mason University.**



The “In Case You Missed It” Archive ...

- **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!
- **Helpful Resources for New Rowing Families:**
 - <https://www.robinsoncrew.org/newrowerinfo>
 - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yEFEymmWTl2McH_VfwiNYQORlq5LhsuEediKRancwVI/edit?usp=sharing
- **REMINDER: US 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
- **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.
- **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 6:45 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.



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

Shuttle to Sandy Run is \$15 roundtrip
\$CASH ONLY\$

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

ROBINSON CREW CALENDAR

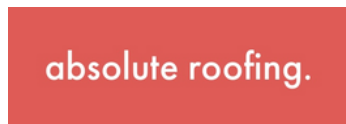


2024 SEASON

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.