



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #20
April 16, 2024

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Your Quick Takes

- **Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta:** Sat. Apr. 20. Parking is at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton. See you at the Grandstands!
- **Stotesbury Planning Meeting:** Tues. Apr. 16. If interested, send a SLACK to Jim Martinez.
- **Senior Night:** Tues., Apr. 24, 4 PM @ Sandy Run.
- **Board Elections @ next Membership Meeting (In Person/Recital Hall):** Wed. May 08, 7:30 PM. See nomination information on p.5/6.
- Help feed the rowers at regattas! We need your cash, purchases, or sweat equity. See p.8 for more info.
- Don't forget to sign your rower up for Carpool each Sunday by 5 PM. Post to the Carpool SLACK channel if you need to cancel. Remind your rower to check in with the carpool coordinators. **PRO TIP:** Sign your rower up for the whole season at once.
- We know the rowers were disappointed not to race last week, but we were glad that all remained safe. Hopefully a rest week was just what we needed to come back strong!! The weather for Ryz Obuchowicz looks perfect so far. Let's go!!!

From the Desk of the RCBC President ...

I share your disappointment about the Ted Phoenix Regatta being canceled this past Saturday. I understand why the decision was made, but it doesn't make the whole situation any less disappointing. Unfortunately, VASRA isn't able to schedule makeup regattas due to a short season and limited availability at Sandy Run. Let's hope the next few Saturdays bring sunny skies and minimal wind. I hope to see you at the grandstand on Saturday!

As I think about what to write each week, I consider what's been on my mind. This week it's carpool. Our Carpool Coordinators, Jeanette Sonner and Donna Sisson, did a great job of getting the system up and running very quickly in February and spend several hours each week making adjustments and pleas on Slack to ensure all goes smoothly. It's a moving target as any given day brings cancelations for a variety of reasons. I greatly appreciate Jeanette and Donna's efforts. I also appreciate the many parents who have taken turns bringing groups of rowers to Sandy Run. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in the part of the season where the number of seats available on a given day is dwarfed by the number of rowers who need rides. The simple math of carpool is that we cannot transport more rowers than the number of seats available in carpool volunteers' cars. I am asking every family with a rower in carpool - regardless of whether your family has met the minimum requirement of 10 points - to help ensure we have enough volunteer support for carpool from now until the end of the season. Anyone who hasn't met the minimum obligation of 10 points is strongly encouraged to sign up to help with carpool. Please talk with Jeanette first to ensure you are on the approved drivers list. If we continue to have a shortfall in drivers, we will have to limit the number of rowers who can benefit from carpool each day. Please help if you can.

As we move into the second half of the season, we begin preparations to ensure a smooth transition from the current board of directors to the next. The Nominating Committee, Micaela Williamson, Frank Stuyvesant and Karen Gentry, are preparing the ballot we will use for elections at the May 8 in-person meeting in the Recital Hall at Robinson. Please plan to attend this meeting. Nominations are being accepted through April 24. As of this writing, we have candidates for most positions. We are in need of interested candidates for the Vice President, Operations 2 and the At Large - Finance positions. The ideal candidate for the VP of Ops 2 role will have experience with small engines (ideally, boat engines) or related experience and a willingness to learn. Please reach out to Brian Hanley or Rob Graveline with any questions about the VP of Ops 2 role. For the At-Large - Finance position, we are hoping to have someone who can shadow Brandon in his Treasurer role next year and take over as Treasurer for the 2025-2026 year. We think this will help ensure continuity in this important role. Please reach out to Brandon with any questions about the At Large - Finance role. Contact any member of the Nominating Committee to nominate yourself or another returning member for a board position.

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

Last, but definitely not least, stay tuned for more information about the teams' participation in the Stotesbury Cup, the world's largest high school regatta, taking place May 17-18, 2024 on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. Special thanks to our VP for Membership, Jim Martinez and our At-Large Finance member, Jeanette Sonner, for heading up our Stotes Planning Committee. The committee consists of most board members, Karen Gentry, and Troy Orwan. The committee will be planning a parent meeting soon to discuss plans for a busy weekend in Philly so keep an eye out for updates.

Let's have a great week!
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>
 - [Ryz Obuchowicz, Apr. 20, 8-4 PM, Stakeboat Holder \(1 Point\)](#)

Food Tent Support

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

Ted Phoenix Regatta Results

Regatta cancelled due to weather. See you this Saturday at the Ryz Obuchowicz.

Follow real time Regatta Results on X @VASRA_SRRP

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.

Join the RCBC Board: Nominations Underway, Elections

May 8

It's that time of year again, Robinson Crew Nominating Committee begins the process to select members for the 2024/25 Board of Directors. The nominating committee would like all interested parties to contact them via Slack by **April 24, 2024**. Please refer to the by laws on the website for job descriptions. In addition to the job responsibilities, board members are required to attend one monthly board meeting, currently held on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to Frank Stuyvesant, Karen Gentry or Micaela Williamson via Slack.

Link to board member descriptions on pages 6-8:

https://www.robinsoncrew.org/_files/ugd/0e168c_8fa440c8a770491f913ef8b8880eb7e9.pdf

Board member descriptions:

- **The President** shall preside at all meetings and shall serve as the Chairman of the Board. They shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the RCBC. They shall be the RCBC principal representative to the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association (VASRA). The President may delegate or appoint a member to be the VASRA representative for the RCBC.
- **The Vice President-Administration** shall oversee the administrative activities of the RCBC. They shall assist the President in the discharge of their duties, and in the absence of the President, may officiate at RCBC Board meetings and membership meetings in their stead. They shall perform such other functions as assigned by the President.
- **The Vice President-Membership** shall be responsible for conducting membership recruitment drives, managing membership forms, and providing monthly reports to the Board and General Membership on current membership numbers. The Vice President - Membership shall maintain an accurate roster of the membership of the RCBC, including all applicable contact information, and share the roster with the VP-Administration, Secretary and Treasurer. The Vice President - Membership, in conjunction with the Treasurer, shall be responsible for collecting all dues and fees. They shall perform such other functions as assigned by the President.
- **The Vice President-Ways and Means** shall be responsible for all fundraising activities of the RCBC and shall provide monthly reports on upcoming fundraisers to the Board and General Membership. Dues and fees, although part of the RCBC total income, are not considered part of fundraising in this context. They promote and locate new opportunities for fundraising events and ensure major efforts (e.g., Tag Day, Sponsorship Program) each have a coordinator. They shall perform such other functions as assigned by the President.

Join the RCBC Board: Nominations Underway, Elections May 8, con't ...

- **The Vice President-Operations 1 and Vice President-Operations 2** shall equally and together be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of the equipment owned or leased and operated by the RCBC. They shall identify equipment needed by the club either for maintenance or to support club growth. VPs of Operations shall maintain a record of all equipment owned and operated by the Club, and make the list available to the paying membership upon request. They shall perform such other functions as assigned by the President. Experience with small boat engines is very helpful.
- **The Secretary**, or their designee in the event the Secretary is unable to attend, shall be present at every meeting of the Board and shall keep minutes of all proceedings. They shall be responsible for notifying all members of regular and special meetings. The Secretary, in conjunction with the Treasurer, is also responsible for maintaining all employee records. They shall perform such other functions as assigned by the President.
- **The Treasurer** shall be responsible for preparing a budget to be presented to and approved by the RCBC Board of Directors after the close of the Fiscal Year. The budget shall be presented at the October General Membership Meeting of the next Membership Year. The Treasurer shall also present a current financial overview at the RCBC Annual Membership Meeting held in May. The Treasurer shall receive all monies from RCBC fundraising activities, shall collect all monies due, and shall maintain accounts of all receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer shall prepare written reports of the financial condition of the RCBC and shall prepare such other reports as the President or Board deem necessary. Financial reports shall be presented by the Treasurer at all Board meetings and scheduled General Membership meetings. The Treasurer prepares tax filings, insurance policies, and other documents as required to maintain compliance with laws governing regulations. They or their designee should ensure that the current Board, rowers, and coaches are covered by the appropriate insurance policies covering injury and civil liability. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Vice President-Membership shall be responsible for collecting all dues and fees. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Secretary, is also responsible for maintaining all employee records. They shall perform such other functions as assigned by the President.
- **At Large-Finance**: assists the treasurer and other board members. We are specifically looking for someone who can shadow the Treasurer next year and then take over for the Treasurer position. We would like someone who would be around for two or three years.
- **At Large**: handles special projects, specifically the weekly Quick Catch newsletter

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 ...

The QC is back to increase your knowledge of obscure rowing terminology. Today's word of the week: "skeg."

Hmm, is that the water left swirling around in the bottom of the shell after a race? The scent left wafting from a bunch of old, wet rowing socks? Nope. The "skeg" is actually the short fin on the bottom of the boat that helps maintain a straight course.

...And, yes, feel free to use this knowledge at a party to impress your non-rowing friends.



Regatta 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 grab a snack 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!

ROBINSON CREW



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR RCBC COACHES

Coach Cath

How many years coaching rowing? **2 years**

Favorite Book? **Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte**

Favorite Movie? **Love/Hate = Green Mile**

Favorite Food? **Seafood**

Favorite Place to Travel? **Anywhere and everywhere.**

What do you like most about rowing? **Commitment, discipline, teamwork, successes, continuous effort, continuous learning, and growing as an individual within a team.**

Other hobbies/loves? **Rugby, one day cricket, tennis, reading, and travel.**

Fun Fact: **Not British ... South African!**



ROBINSON CREW



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR RCBC COACHES

Coach Matthew Petty

How many years coaching rowing? **20 years, 7 with Robinson**

Did you row in high school or college? **I rowed at West Springfield (1999-2003) where I was all VA my junior and senior year, and all met my senior year, with a 6:21 2k PR.**



What do you like most about rowing? **There is no better office than getting to be outside and in the water boating every afternoon.**

Other hobbies/loves? **I have been married since 2015 and have 2 daughters who are almost 5 and 2. We also have a 9 year old Portuguese Water Dog.**

Fun Fact: **I started and ran my own landscaping company for 10 years.**

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.
- **RaiseRight (SCRIP).** RaiseRight gift cards help to raise money for the team and it is a simple process with high impact. See <https://www.robinsoncrew.org/scrip> & <https://www.raiseright.com/> for more information, or send a SLACK to Paige Wroble with any questions.

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

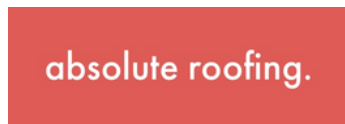


2024 SEASON

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
Robinson Crew Senior Night	Tues., Apr. 23
Al Urquia Regatta/Charlie Butt Regatta	Sat., Apr. 27
VSRC Day 1	Sat., May 4
Five Guys Fundraiser	Tues., May 7
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.