



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #19
April 10, 2024

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Your Quick Takes

- **Ted Phoenix Regatta:** Sat. Apr. 13. Parking is at the Commuter Lot, 1325 Old Bridge Road, Woodbridge. See you at the Grandstands!
- **Membership Meeting (Virtual):** Thurs. Apr. 11, 7:30 PM. See SLACK for Google Meet information.
- **Stotesbury Planning Meeting:** Tues. Apr. 16. If interested, send a SLACK to Jim Martinez.
- **Five Guys Fundraiser,** Tues. May 7.
- **Board Elections @ next Membership Meeting (In Person/Recital Hall):** Wed. May 08, 7:30 PM.
- 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. Remind your rower to check in with the carpool coordinators before they join a car.
- Shout out to all our rowers that braved some tough conditions last week at the Darrell Winslow Regatta. We know it is disappointing to train and not race, but safety is number one. Fingers crossed for calm conditions for the remainder of the season!

From the Desk of the RCBC President ...

As we saw with the Darrell Winslow Regatta this past Saturday, the best laid plans are no match for an unfavorable weather forecast. As I was walking from Lot C to the grandstand, I worried the wind would be a problem for the rowers. Still, it wasn't until I saw two shells in the Women's 1V race floating parallel to the dock when they should have been perpendicular to it that I realized how much of a challenge the wind was proving to be. I heard from my daughter in the 1V how the combination of the wind and the waves it generated made it difficult to make any progress while rowing. Video on the Occoquan River Rats' Facebook page shows the condition of the river. Ultimately, the regatta officials canceled the race due to conditions they deemed unsafe. It is an unfortunate reality of any outdoor sport that competitors are at the mercy of the weather. I share in your disappointment and hope for better weather for the remainder of the season.

On a brighter note, donations from the Letter Writing Campaign have continued to come in over the past few days with the total amount received now totaling a little over \$16,000. Thank you to all the rowers who sent emails to relatives and family friends. The success of the Letter Writing Campaign ensures our ability to meet our financial obligations through the end of the season. Also, on the topic of fundraising, by the time you read this I hope we have had a successful restaurant benefit night at George's Steaks and Things on April 9. George's is my pick for the best cheesesteak in the area. We appreciate this family-owned business' support. If you are reading this, please take a moment and message me in Slack. This will help me gauge whether people are reading my weekly notes 😊.

Speaking of support, I want to take this opportunity to thank a few people whose support of the teams often goes unnoticed by those of us who aren't near the boathouse before or after regattas. We are fortunate to have two Vice Presidents for Operations, Brian Hanley and Rob Graveline. Regatta days start early for Brian and Rob as they move the launch boats we are contributing to the regatta to the appropriate dock. When there are problems with the boats, Brian and Rob "get" to troubleshoot them. Phil Kay also has an important but often overlooked role as it is Phil who takes several 5-gallon jugs to a local gas station to fill them for each regatta. If you see Brian, Rob or Phil, please let them know how much you appreciate the time and energy they put into keeping our launch boats running. If you have any interest in supporting RCBC's operational needs, please consider serving as our VP for Operations #2 next year. Brian will be moving on as his son, Brendan, is graduating.

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

As we prepare to celebrate our seniors, returning members also need to begin planning for next year's RCBC board of directors. The Nominating Committee will be posting general information about all board positions and accepting nominations (including self-nominations) for the next couple of weeks. We need your support at the in-person May 8 general membership meeting where we will elect next year's board. A quorum of members is required per RCBC bylaws.

I hope to "see" all of you at our virtual general membership meeting starting at 7:30pm this Thursday evening. The meeting was moved from Wednesday evening due to the holiday. We will have the usual updates as well as some new information. Please see Slack for the Google Meet link or call-in numbers.

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#/
 - Opening for 2 Trained Launch Drivers April 13 from 11:30-end. Send a SLACK to Brian Hanley to volunteer.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A4AA22A7F8CF8-48027802-robinson#/)

VASRA

- **Regatta Volunteers:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA9AC2AA46-47986203-vasra>
 - Ted Phoenix, Apr. 13, 6-8 AM, Set-up (0.5 points)
 - VASRA Championship, May 11, 7-11 AM, Finish line concessions (1 point)
 - Navy Invitational Regatta, Sun., Apr. 14 (2 hr. shift/0.5 points):
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA4AA2BA7F85-48966685-navy>

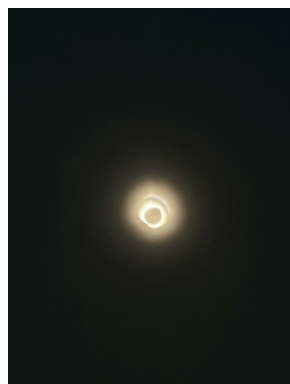
Food Tent Support

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

Darrell Winslow Regatta Results

Regatta cancelled due to weather. See you this Saturday at the Ted Phoenix.

Follow real time Regatta Results on X @VASRA_SRRP



No Regatta shots to share this week due to the Darrell Winslow cancellation, so sharing a few pics from Monday's Total Solar Eclipse from the viewpoint of Lake Champlain in Northern Vermont. Hope that everyone had a chance to catch a glimpse of this amazing phenomenon!

Letter Writing was a Success!

The 2024 Letter Writing Campaign has come to a close. Our goal was to raise at least \$10,000 through this fundraising effort, and so far *we have raised a whopping \$16,000!* We have exceeded our goal, with donations continuing to arrive.

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)

If you still need to raise money to achieve your \$200 fundraising obligation, you have until this Sunday, April 14, to buy gift cards from RaiseRight. RaiseRight (Scrip) gift cards help to raise money for the team and it is a simple process with high impact. Final fundraising numbers will be posted on Friday, April 12, so be sure to consult the 10 & 2 Spreadsheet (pinned to the General SLACK channel) to determine whether you have a deficit.

See <https://www.robinsoncrew.org/scrip> & <https://www.raiseright.com/> for more information, or send a SLACK to Paige Wroble with any questions.

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 vadministration@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.

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 ...

Where and when did the Sport of Rowing originate? Was it one of the original Olympic games from Greece?

No, although rowing is one of the most popular sports of the modern Olympics, the sport did not originate from the original Greek games. The sport of rowing unofficially began in the 1700s when watermen would race in long barges on the river Thames in England. The sport began its modern incarnation when the first Oxford-Cambridge Race took place in 1829. The Oxford-Cambridge Race, more commonly known as "The Boat Race," still occurs annually today. The first Women's Boat Race occurred in 1927.

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 CAPTAINS

Morgan Stiller

Year in school? **Junior**

Seat/Boat rowing lately? **Cox for Women's**

How long rowing? **3 seasons**

Favorite Book? **The Water Cure, for anyone who loves a revenge story**

Favorite Movie? **Any Monty Python movie or Rocky Horror Picture show ... they remind me of great memories with my Dad**

Favorite Food? **Can't go wrong with Pho**

Favorite Rowing Memory? **During my novice year when we jumped out of our boats into the river**

Loves other than rowing? **Crocheting, watercolor**

Fun Fact: **I'm great at handstands and love spicy food more than anything (but not at the same time)**



ROBINSON CREW



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR RCBC COACHES



Coach Phil Vargas

How many years coaching rowing? **8 years**

Did you row in high school or college? **I rowed at Lake Braddock and then UVA during my first year**

Favorite Book? **Billy Summers by Stephen King**

Favorite Movie? **Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring**

Favorite Food? **General Tso's chicken with fried rice**

Favorite Place to Travel? **The grandstand**

Favorite Rowing Memory? **My friend Tyler and I had a dance that we came up with and we filmed a music video while we were at SRAAs our junior year**

Other hobbies/loves? **I love playing guitar and building Lego models**

Fun Fact: **I almost never miss an episode of Jeopardy**

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

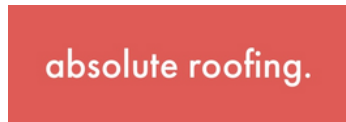


2024 SEASON

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
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.