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Quick Takes

- Happy 35th Birthday Robinson Crew
- Please return your Standards of Conduct
- Registration Fees
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Erg-A-Thon Success!
- Buy a Hoodie!
- Join Slack (don't make me repeat myself)
- Regatta Schedule and Season Calendar
- Membership Obligations



The Robinson Crew Boosters Club Turns 35!

- The RCBC was established February 27, 1990
- For 35 years, the RCBC has been supporting our rowers
- Happy Birthday RCBC!

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

February 27, 1990

The State Corporation Commission has found the accompanying articles submitted on behalf of

ROBINSON CREW BOOSTERS CLUB, INC.

to comply with the requirements of law, and confirms payment of all related fees.

Therefore, it is ORDERED that this

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

be issued and admitted to record with the articles of incorporation in the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, effective February 27, 1990.

The corporation is granted the authority conferred on it by law in accordance with the articles, subject to the conditions and restrictions imposed by law.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

By 
Commissioner

TEAMWORK
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OUR TEAM
PULLS FOR YOU



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www.PropertySistersHome.com
Long & Foster Real Estate
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Burke, VA 22015
TheMaryandCathyTeam@LNF.com

The Mary & Cathy Team has been serving the Robinson feeder neighborhoods for decades. A majority of our team members are actually Robinson families!

With expertise in home pricing, marketing strategies, and preparation advice, our clients consistently experience fast sales at higher prices.

Please Return Your Signed Standards of Conduct

- Each rower and their parent/guardian must submit a signed Standards of Conduct as soon as possible
- It is very important that we have full compliance! (I underlined this sentence so you could understand the importance.)
- The form is attached to the email with this newsletter
- Please return a scanned copy of the signed form to Sherry Noud at president@robinsoncrew.org

Registration Fees

- Registration fees for the 2025 season are \$1,250. Thank you to everyone who has paid their first three installments on time. The final payment is due on March 7th. Please keep a look out for invoices from our treasurer, Brandon Booher, and contact him via email (treasurer@robinsoncrew.org) or Slack if you have any questions.



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**REVEAL YOUR
SPECIAL OFFER***

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for volunteer opportunities to get your points?

- **Stotesbury Planning Committee**

- We are looking for a committee of parents to help plan our trip to Stotesbury. Committee members will plan out transportation, lodging, food, chaperones, and volunteer responsibilities. The planning needs to start soon, so please contact Ellen Valentine or Sherry Noud with questions or if interested. Committee members will earn 2 points each.

- **Nominating Committee**

- The Nominating Committee will be composed of at least three members who are not seeking a board position. The committee will be responsible for reaching out to members, creating a slate of nominees for the 2025-2026 crew season, and running the elections at the May general membership meeting. This committee starts in March, please reach out to Ellen Valentine or Sherry Noud with questions or interest. Committee members will earn 1 point each.

- **Drive a launch boat**

- Don't let that fancy NorthFace jacket sit in the closet with nothing to do! DM either Frank Stuyvesant Rob Graveline on SLACK about driving a launch boat at regattas.

- **Be a VASRA Volunteer**

- There are several different ways you can help.
- Message Carla Bissonnette on SLACK for more info.
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA9AC2AA46-55039514-vasra>

Erg-A-Thon Success!

- The Erg-A-Thon raised \$22,498 from a total of 317 Supporters!
- A big thanks to the rowers who participated and our volunteers.
- And a very big thank you to Anh Nguyen for organizing the event!

**absolute
roofing.**



THIRD
DEGREE
LEVERAGE



Buy a Robinson Crew Hoodie

- Don't be fooled by the warmer weather - you still need a plush new hoodie for spring
- <https://www.customink.com/g/tcy0-00cx-vqm4>
- Orders close this weekend - buy now!
- See the message from Kate Mattice on SLACK for more info

Speaking of Slack, If You Haven't Joined Slack Yet, You Are Really Missing Out

- Robinson Crew Boosters Club and our coaches use an app called Slack for time-sensitive communication and important announcements.
 - **It is important for you to have access to these messages as water season approaches.**
- After downloading the app, or setting up on online account, click on this link to accept an invitation to join the Robinson Crew Team workspace on Slack:
https://join.slack.com/t/robinsoncrewteam/shared_invite/zt-2y9g4d4up-Cn~u6SQGXcEy5BYLMGN9PA

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Quick Questions

It's time to talk about coxswains! if you have a question you would like us to try and answer, please send it to at-large@robinsoncrew.org.

What is a coxswain?

The coxswain is the only member of the crew who faces the bow. They do not row, they communicate with the rowers.

So you just sit there and yell at people? Seems like a job I'd like.

Actually, the coxswain has many jobs. It is a role that takes years to master. They steer the boat, which other people think they can do but it actually takes a lot of practice to do well. They manage the race strategy, coordinating stroke rate and power. They encourage and coach the rowers. They manage all movements of the boat, both on water while the boat is being carried to and from the boathouse.

Does a coxswain have to be loud?

The boats are equipped with a cox box, which is a speaker system throughout the boat to help the rowers hear calls from the coxswain. Good qualities in a coxswain are confidence, planning skills, organization and leadership. It doesn't hurt to be able to be little bossy sometimes as well.

Who is someone famous that used to be a coxswain?

Steven Hawking was a coxswain for the Oxford University Boat Club.

Is it true that, under ancient Maritime Law, the coxswain is considered "Master of the Vessel," meaning that the coxswain is the person legally responsible for the behavior of the boat on the open water?

Wow, that's a really specific question. Yes, this is true.

If a coxswain gets a little big-headed about this whole "Master of the Vessel" thing, is there anything I can remind them?

Yes, you can politely remind them that the origins of the term coxswain in Old English literally mean "boat servant."

ROBINSON CREW REGATTA SCHEDULE



Sandy Run Regional Park

10450 Van Thompson Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

3/22/25	Polar Bear
3/29/25	Walter Mess
4/5/25	Darrell Winslow
4/12/25	Ted Phoenix
4/19/25	Ryz Obuchowicz
4/26/25	Al Urquia
5/3/25	VA Scholastic Rowing Championships (States) Day 1
5/10/25	VA Scholastic Rowing Championships (States) Day 2
5/16-5/17/25	Stotesbury Cup (“Stotes”) Regatta
5/23-5/24/25	Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) (Nationals)

PARKING NOTE FOR THIS YEAR: Parking will be at South County High School for every regatta EXCEPT the Ted Phoenix on April 12.

Parking for the Ted Phoenix will be at the Commuter Lot (addresses below).

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

ROBINSON CREW CALENDAR



February 2025

2/1 Erg Sprints @ Alexandria City High School

2/7 Third Installment of Registration Fees Due (\$300)

2/8 Tag Day 2 – start at Robinson SS, NBC Pick-Up

2/8 VASRA Coxswain Clinic @ 9AM-2PM at Yorktown High School.

2/12 General Membership Meeting @7:30-RSS Recital Hall

2/15 Novice Swim Test 10-11am @ Audrey Moore CC

2/17 Ergathon @ Robinson SS

2/22 VASRA Work Day #1 – course installation – check Slack for the SignUpGenius

2/24 First Practice on the Water

March 2025

3/1 VASRA Work Day #2 – course installation – check Slack for the SignUpGenius

3/1 VASRA Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Meeting – see VASRA website

3/2 VASRA Launch Driver Orientation for Regattas – see VASRA website

3/4 Board Meeting @7:30

3/7 Final Installment of Registration Fees Due (\$275)

3/8 VASRA Work Day #3 – course installation – check Slack for the SignUpGenius

3/8 VASRA Launch Driver Orientation for Regattas – see VASRA website

3/12 General Membership Meeting @7:30-virtual

3/15 VASRA Work Day #4 – course installation – check Slack for the SignUpGenius

3/22 Polar Bear Regatta

3/29 Walter Mess Regatta

(Continued)

ROBINSON CREW CALENDAR



April 2025

- 4/1 Board Meeting @7:30
- 4/5 Darrell Winslow Regatta
- 4/9 General Membership Meeting @7:30-RSS Recital Hall
- 4/12 Ted Phoenix Regatta
- 4/15 Rosters due for SRAA Nationals
- 4/19 Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta
- 4/26 Al Urquia Regatta
- 4/29 May Board Meeting @7:30

May 2025

- 5/2 General Membership Meeting (board elections) @7:30
in conjunction with pasta party-RSS
- 5/3 Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championships (VSRC) aka States - Day 1
- 5/6 Board Meeting @7:30pm
- 5/10 Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championships (VSRC) aka States - Day 2
- 5/15-5/17 Stotesbury Regatta, Philadelphia, PA (post-season)
- 5/23-5/24 Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) for qualifying boats

June 2025

- 6/3-Board Meeting 7:30
- TBD - Spring Sports Banquet

Thank you to our 2024-2025 Sponsors!

Our Platinum and Gold Sponsors have ads/logos on the pages above

PLATINUM SPONSORS

- ITC Federal
- Property Sisters - The Mary & Cathy Team
- Fitness Together

GOLD SPONSORS

- Pat Fales & Pam Morgan Associates at REMAX
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Robinson Crew Membership Obligation

To keep Robinson Crew an elite Virginia Scholastic Rowing organization, we need every team member to:

Earn 7 Volunteer Points + Raise \$200 in Fundraising

1. Volunteer your time to accumulate 7 points.

Sample volunteer opportunities:

- RCBC Board Member - 7 points
- Tag Day Driver - 2 points
- Regatta Food Tent - 1 point (per set up or take down)
- Regatta Concessions Stand - 1 point (per regatta)
- Regatta Launch Boat Driver - 2 points(per regatta)
- Swim Test Proctor - 1 point



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. Families with more than one rower are only required to earn half points for the second rower.

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

- Erg-a-thon fundraiser
- Raise Right scrip
- Corporate sponsorships
- 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.

The fundraising requirement applies to every rower. Families with more than one rower are required to fundraise \$200 for each rower in the program.

Please help us keep our proud tradition of Ram Rowing thriving by completing your share of the 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 Membership 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: How did the RCBC determine that 7 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 membership obligation 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: The RCBC “membership season” runs from July to June.

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: Points reset at the end of the membership season in June. Points will not carry over to the next season. 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 January/February. Tag Day is the single largest fundraising event of the season, bringing in over \$20,000 of donations annually. All rowers are required to participate fully in both Tag Days.

Q: What is the erg-a-thon?

A: For the 2024-2025 season, the erg-a-thon will replace our previous Letter Writing Campaign fundraiser. This year, our athletes will row for donations at Robinson Crew’s first ever erg-a-thon. Our rowers will work together to row on indoor rowing machines called “ergs.” Our Erg-A-Thon is tentatively scheduled to take place in February.