



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #15
March 11, 2024

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Your Quick Takes

- **Membership Meeting (In-Person):** Wed. Mar. 13 [7 PM (potluck), 8 PM (meeting)] in the Robinson Gold Cafeteria. Please attend to learn all you need to know about Regatta Season. ***We will be gathering prior to the meeting for a potluck dinner*** - see p.3 of the QC for the sign up genius.
- Purchase your 2024 Robinson Crew T-shirt before March 12 (see link p.3 below).
- Polar Bear Regatta: Sat. Mar. 16 (Experienced Rowers Only). Parking is at South County HS. Look forward to seeing you there to cheer on the Varsity rowers!
- Regional Park Regatta: Sat. Mar. 23 (Novice & Experienced Rowers). Parking is at the Commuter Lot.
- 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!!
 - Women: 8 - 11 AM
 - Men: 3 - 7 PM

From the Desk of the RCBC President ...

Dear Families,

I hope you can join us for the potluck dinner and membership meeting in the Gold Cafeteria at Robinson this Wednesday evening. Please see the signup to RSVP (see p.3 of the QC) and to indicate what you can contribute. The team captains will share a presentation they put together about what to expect at regattas. We'll also discuss the Letterwriting Campaign, our last fundraiser of the season other than restaurant benefit nights.

You won't want to miss the team's first regatta of the season, Polar Bear, this Saturday. I hope to see many of you there. Even if your daughter or son isn't racing, I encourage you to make the trip so you know what to expect at future regattas and to cheer for our varsity rowers. Give yourself plenty of time to take the shuttle from South County High School and to follow the meandering walk to the grandstands. Don't forget to wear Robinson gear (if you have it), dress in layers. and bring the heat sheet (race schedule) and binoculars.

Thank you to the numerous parents who have signed up to volunteer at regattas this season. Each participating team has an obligation to fill a specified number of volunteer positions. Having these positions filled is critical. Please post in the General channel if you aren't able to fulfill your commitment for any reason. We will need to identify someone else to cover the job.

Please reach out to me or any board member with any questions, suggestions or constructive feedback you may have. We welcome your participation and your input.

TAKE CARE,
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>

Membership Meeting Pot Luck (Mar. 13)

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D44A5A92F4-48375750-crew>

Launch Boat Drivers for Regattas

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A4AA22A7F8CF8-48027802-robinson#/>

VASRA

- **Regatta Volunteers:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA9AC2AA46-47986203-vasra>
- **Work Days:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4AA4AA2BA7F85-47425582-2024>

VASRA Work Day & Regatta Volunteers

Help the team fulfill its VASRA volunteer requirements for the 2024 regatta season.

- 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 **ASAP**.

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!



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.

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 in these areas.

Congratulations to all on Tag Day '24 Success

A big thank you for the effort by all to make both Tag Days a success. ...and the numbers just keep growing! To date, we have raised **~\$23,000** for the team through these efforts!

A Little Rowing Trivia ...

Which terms are used to describe the two sides of a rowing boat?

STARBOARD (right) and PORT (left)

Don't forget to ask your rower which side of the boat they prefer ... and which side they view as their stronger stroke side. This may change as they progress in the sport.

Scullers, of course, row both sides!

Help us Feed our Rowers on Regatta Days ...

As we gear up for the regatta season to kickoff this Saturday, March 16, we are reaching out to our fantastic community for your invaluable support. We invite you to contribute snacks and/or money to support the rowers' snack tent which is available all day during competitions. In addition, we need your assistance setting up the snack area early in the morning and taking it down after the last race of our team. This sign up is until **April 4th**. We will do another for the races after that date. We fully rely on your support to ensure that rowers have enough snacks on competition days, so please be generous!

- **Snack Food Donation:** The following items were determined based on the feedback from returning rowers and from prior year experience. (We are no longer offering hot foods due to difficulty keeping the items warm and clean up.) This year we are asking for 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/1hah0HITbMg_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. We have 75 rowers who will need items weekly. Thus, one item may not be enough for the full 8 events to keep them well fed! So 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 us at the lower parking lot to load snacks and drinks into wagons, deliver them to the boathouse, and set up for the day. We aim to exit the parking lot by 7 AM. Your commitment of just one hour will earn you 0.5 service point!
 - **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 point.

Important Note for Pack-up: Please be aware that the times on the sign-up are approximate. Monitoring the races and estimating the time of the last race is crucial. 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.

How to Sign Up: Your dedication to our cause is greatly appreciated, and your involvement will contribute to the success of the team. **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!

Registration Fees: **Fourth Installment Due March 10**

The fourth installment of the 2023-2024 registration fee was due on March 10. Thanks for your timely response!

- 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.

Letter Writing is Underway through Mar 24!

The 2024 Letter Writing Campaign is LIVE! Letter Writing Campaign is different from Tag Day - it provides our rowers an opportunity to reach potential donors that do not live in our neighborhoods. Our goal is to raise money through donations, large and small, from our friends and family of Robinson Crew. Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 through this fundraising effort.

Get started by having your rower go to: <https://forms.gle/wj8dsQqo9uGQXyncA>

You'll need people's names and their email addresses - that's it!

This counts towards your rower's \$200 obligation. **Please send email requests to potential donors by March 24, 2024.**

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!

- **BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE - OPEN.** Identify and recommend RCBC Members interested in serving on the 2024/25 Board.
- **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).

Board Updates

At our last RCBC Board Meeting on March 6, 2024, the Board voted on several updates to the Board Roster. Please help me in welcoming and congratulating the following newly appointed officers:

- Paige Wroble, VP, Ways & Means
- Rob Graveline, VP, Operations #1
- Jeanette Sonner, At-Large-Finance

Thank you, Mark Davis!

A big thank you to our outgoing RCBC President, Mark Davis! Mark set the bar for dedication to Rams Rowing through his tremendous commitment and unflappable demeanor. We will miss Mark and his star rower, Julie, but look forward to having them back at future events as VIP Alumni!



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

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

ROBINSON CREW CALENDAR

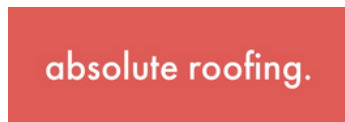


2024 SEASON

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!

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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.