



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #21
April 23, 2024

RCBC Board Officers

Sherry Noud, President
president@robinsoncrew.org

Jim Martinez, VP, Membership
vpmembership@robinsoncrew.org

Paige Wroble, VP, Ways & Means
vpwaysandmeans@robinsoncrew.org

Ellen Valentine, VP, Administration
vpadministration@robinsoncrew.org

Rob Graveline, VP, Operations #1
vperations@robinsoncrew.org

Brian Hanley, VP, Operations #2
vperations_2@robinsoncrew.org

Karrie Kay, Secretary
secretary@robinsoncrew.org

Brandon Booher, Treasurer
treasurer@robinsoncrew.org

Evelyn Remaley Hasch, At Large
at-large@robinsoncrew.org

Jeanette Sonner, At Large - Finance
at-large-finance@robinsoncrew.org

Head Coaches

Phil Vargas, Program Director & Women's Head Coach
pavargas@fcps.edu

Matthew Petty, Men's Head Coach
matthewpetty12@gmail.com



Your Quick Takes

- **Al Urquia/Charlie Butt Regatta:** Sat. Apr. 27. Parking is at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton. See you at the Grandstands!
- **Senior Night:** To be rescheduled.
- **Board Elections @ next Membership Meeting and Stotesbury Regatta Information Session (In Person/Recital Hall):** Wed. May 01, 7:30 PM. See nomination information on p.4/5.
- **Fundraising Shortfalls.** If you didn't manage to raise \$200 through RCBC fundraising activities and received an invoice, please note that payments were due **April 20**. Please send a SLACK to Brandon Booher with any questions.
- Help feed the rowers at regattas! We need your cash, purchases, or sweat equity. See p.7 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.
- Great rowing by all boats at the Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta last weekend. Congrats to all!

From the Desk of the RCBC President ...

Hello,

I breathed a sigh of relief when the forecast for last Saturday brought sunny skies and mild breezes. It was great to see the teams back on the water for several exciting sprints and finishes at the Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta. You can read about Mr. Obuchowitz's contributions to scholastic rowing here: [Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta \(regattacentral.com\)](http://regattacentral.com).

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who have volunteered in VASRA roles this season. Carla Bissonnette, our VASRA rep, serves as our primary point of contact with VASRA. She ensures our share of the regatta volunteer jobs are covered. Karena Carlson is one of two RCBC Local Organizing Committee (LOC) representatives. Karena manages the grandstands concession stand, a role which requires her to be on-site for every regatta. Troy Orwan and Christopher Anello share duties as our second LOC representative by providing support at the finish line. Thank you, Carla, Karena, Troy and Christopher.

I also want to thank the many parents who have volunteered for VASRA (through this Saturday) in roles as varied as launch drivers, concessions staff, finish line timer helper and River Rats, to name a few. Thank you, David Bretney, LaShawn Brown, Mary Beth Bruggeman, Kelly Conroy, Kristi Donovan, Brooke Edwards, Ally Field, Shanyyn Fitzgerald, Lorie Gudmundson, David Huber, Michelle Huber, Julie Krafchick, Ned Krafchick, Sylvia Luther, Merideth Manella, Mike Meehan, Shannon Meehan, Alan Niblock, Aleece Rothandler, Justin Salvia, David Schmitt, Rachael Schmitt, Ryan Seckinger, Keith Talbot, Regina Tripoli, and Micaela/Jay Williamson. Also a shout out to Donna Sisson for her carpool coordination efforts!

Please note we have rescheduled the May general membership meeting from May 8 to May 1. We made the change in order to combine the in-person membership meeting with a Stotesbury informational meeting. Please join us in the Recital Hall on 5/1 if you can. We need at least a quorum in order to elect the board for next year. Speaking of the board for next year, there is still time to express your interest in a position by reaching out to Micaela Williamson, Frank Stuyvesant or Karen Gentry. Board members receive 10 points for their participation and attend at least two meetings each month, a board meeting and a general membership meeting. Come join us as we plan for next year.

Carpool continues to be a daily roller coaster. Thanks to Jeanette for keeping track of all the changes that happen each day and putting out appeals for more drivers. Please let Jeanette know as soon as you know if your athlete doesn't need carpool for any reason. As a reminder, all families with an athlete participating in carpool are asked to support carpool, if at all possible.

I hope to see you at the grandstands this Saturday for the Al Urquia Regatta, our last regular regatta of the season.

*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>

Food Tent Support

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

Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta Results

- M-1-4: 1st Place
- W-Jr-4: 4th Place
- M-2-4: 1st Place
- W-1-8: 6th Place
- M-Jr-8: 3rd Place
- W-2-8: 5th Place
- M-N-4: 3rd Place
- W-N-4: 1st Place
- W-Fr-8: 1st Place
- M-Fr-8: 3rd Place

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 1

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 1, 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. 3 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 ...

Have you heard your rower talking about the Cox calling for a "power 10" during the regatta?

A "Power 10" is a command by the Cox to take 10 strokes with intensity and focus. It is used for passing and moving in a race. Sometimes a Cox may call for a Power 5, a Power 20 ... or even a Power 30! Wow!



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.

Please note that due to the heat we ran out of drinks last week ... drinks, food and cash donations are greatly appreciated for the Regatta this week.

- **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/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. 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!

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

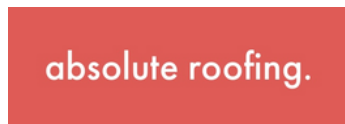


2024 SEASON

| 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!

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.