



STROKEWATCH

The Official Newsletter of the Bay Area Rowing Club of Houston

P.O. Box 580374, Houston, Texas 77258-0374

May, 1994

Space City Sprints IV: "Windy, but worth it!!!"

Space City Sprints IV

By: Carl Smith

On Saturday, April 9th, BARCers were wondering where the goddess of weather was...because, once again, she had surely gone on vacation! BARC's guests from the Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, New Orleans, Woodlands, and Greater Houston Rowing Clubs were greeted with overcast skies and occasionally gusty winds from the south. Even though we had plenty of water (unlike last year), at times its choppy condition made for some difficult rowing.

There were several changes made to the schedule in response to the water conditions; however, we were able to run 28 of 36 events. Because of wind conditions and an

increase of wind surfers, the Regatta Director and Officials ended the program early. At one point during a race, it appeared the Austin Juniors were "driving" a submarine! The boat swamped with water, yet continued to float as members of the crew were bailing water with their hands. A tough way to lose first place!

In spite of the weather, everyone had a real good time and, generally, every one had at least a crack at rowing in waters that really challenged their abilities at survival!

We did score two "big hits" during the day. The Hendersons once again did a bang-up job on a Texas-style barbecue. A lot of our guests offered comments of praise on the tasty treats--and those Austin Juniors demonstrated their

appreciation in the way they just grazed down the table! Also, it was the first time that our good friends from the other rowing clubs were able to visit our boathouse. They were impressed with its sturdiness and pleased for us in our accomplishment.

In retrospect, this was an eleventh hour regatta for which the actual planning and preparation started about a month before the event. In true Club fashion, members made themselves available to accomplish all the required tasks that resulted in a very successful regatta. A BIG THANK YOU goes out to them and our Tom Lotz, who served as Head Referee.

P.S. We need a Director for Space City Sprints V.

Space City Sprints V

by: Bill Dixon

We NEED YOU to make Space City Sprints V happen!

We now have 4 years experience in hosting regattas. Some have been more successful than others. While we can still count the number of regattas we've hosted on one hand, we have learned that we need lead time to plan and implement before we hold a regatta. With a bit of lead time, we can get next year's event underwritten so every entry fee can be dedicated to club programming and equipment.

If you are even vaguely interested in helping with the coordination of Space City Sprints V, please talk to a board member. No one has to carry it all by themselves. It would benefit BARC greatly to set a date for next year's regatta in the next 2 months.

The Masochists Are At It Again!

By: Carl Smith

No, we're not talking about coxswains--we're talking about Bruce Meltzer and Ben Newcomb.

They didn't get their fill of distance rowing at the Natchitoches Rowing Marathon of 26 miles last November.

This year, they went after the Second Annual Great Colorado

Challenge--a 115-mile race. Bruce and Ben took on the portion of the race classified as the "professional portion" --a stretch of 41 miles. (They gotta be the best of friends! It took about 7 hours to row their shell from LaGrange to Columbus.)

Sweep Class Starts May 11

The next sweep rowing class starts on Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the boathouse. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings and will last for eight sessions. The cost of the class is \$65.00. The class is filling up quickly, so if you know of anyone who might like to take the class, let 'em know soon. Anyone interested in signing up for the class should call Jim Potter at 326-3718.

New Boats for BARC

By: Fran Lantz

We may not have the best of timing with weather for our regattas, but BARC's timing for obtaining equipment has been exceptional here lately.

Most of the active membership is aware that we are gaining a second 4+, but not everybody is aware of the details. The acquisition came about through ol' wheeler-dealer Bruce Meltzer's contacts at Villanova and the shell was paid for with proceeds from the sale of the Miss Personality and with dollars from the BARC Sweep Fund. A valuable addition, this Vespoli was given to Villanova as a gift but was little used as the school preferred Kaschper shells. BARC's personal astronaut, Wendy Lawrence, orbited up to Philadelphia to inspect, and give a thumbs-up to, the mid-weight boat that is designed to carry people of medium weight. (Our current 4+ is considered a heavy-weight shell.) With tight weekday schedules, filling an 8+ is not always easy, so, a second 4+ is going to be well-received.

And, that's not all! BARC is also in some negotiations for buying a long hoped-for quad! A quad would give our sculling program a real shot in the arm. More than a few old-time BARCers have bemoaned the fact that often new scullers seem to fall through the cracks because, unlike the post-

sweep-class potential for an instant novice crew, there hasn't been a vehicle for creating and maintaining camaraderie among novice scullers. In addition, a quad would be a gathering point for experienced scullers new to the Club to hook up with old BARCers.

Wait! There's more! Six sweeps oars are coming from Villanova so we won't experience a shortage when all our boats are on the water.

All of this is set to arrive in mid May, thanks to the generosity of the University of Texas crew. They tore up the water at Topeka recently, bringing home the overall points trophy, and consequently, are headed to Philly for the Dad Vail Regatta, a premier collegiate race. We wish them GREAT SUCCESS and thank them for their assistance to us as they bring our goodies home to us.

BARCmail

by: Jeff Tave

For all who have access to electronic mail, Jim Potter and Jeff Tave are maintaining an e-mail address list. If you would like to be on distribution for late-breaking news and up-to-date status on various topics, please send us your e-mail address and we'll put you on the BARCmail distribution list.

SCS IV Shirts

by: Jeff Tave

Support the BARC SCS IV Balanced Budget Amendment by purchasing an SCS IV t-shirt and/or tank. Currently, we are in the red by approximately \$300, however we have 100 shirts left to sell. T-shirts are priced at \$14 and tanks at \$13. It's never too early to begin working on that Christmas/Hanukkah gift list. Listed below is our inventory of SCS IV shirts:

T-shirts

M: 6
L: 20
XL: 25

Tanks

S: 2
M: 4
L: 23
XL: 20

BARC Night Out

by: Jeff Tave

The bi-monthly BARC Night Out will be held on Friday, May 20th, 6:30 PM at Tortillas Cantina located on NASA Road One. Come out, socialize with your fellow BARCers, and discuss the Meaning of Life (Remember, the answer is 42!). If you need directions, please contact me. Space City Sprints IV shirts will be available at this outing for sale!

Sculling Maintenance

by: Jeff Tave

It has come to my attention that the club recreational singles are not in the greatest condition. Since we currently do not have a Director of Sculling Equipment, just noting damage or items for repair in the Sculling Log Book is not sufficient. In addition, please notify a club officer or member of the Board of Directors.

Recently, Desiree Brint has volunteered to monitor the Sculling Log Book and provide feedback to the Board. Remember, it's up to all of us to keep our equipment in good, rowing condition. If you'd like to volunteer to be Director of Sculling Equipment or on a sculling maintenance committee, please notify a club officer or member of the Board of Directors.

Rice Crew Finds Success in Kansas

The Rice Crew took home several medals from the Great Plains Rowing Championships in Topeka on April 17. Over 34 teams participated. The mixed eight took the silver medal, just 0.8 seconds behind Washington University. The women's open varsity four took the bronze medal, only a second behind UT. Bronze medals were also won in the men's novice lightweight four and men's novice lightweight eight.

The Rice Crew is coached by none other than our own Hannes Hofer.