

STROKEWATCH

BARC • P.O. Box 580374 • Houston, TX • 77258-0374

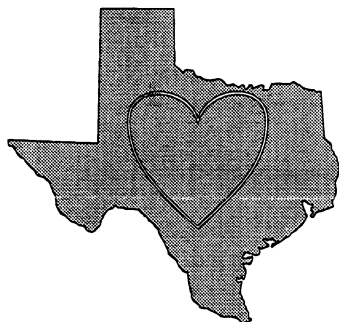


FEBRUARY 1995

1995 HEART OF TEXAS REGATTA SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 25 & 26 TOWN LAKE, AUSTIN, TEXAS SPONSORS: AUSTIN ROWING CLUB & CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Join us for two days of early-season racing on beautiful Town Lake in friendly Austin. Spring will have arrived in Austin: late-March temperatures normally reach well into the 70's, the chance of rain on any given day is less than 1 in 4, and the fruit trees in Town Lake Park should be in full bloom.

Open and Junior events will be held on Saturday, Club and Masters' events on Sunday. Again this year we'll have two courses in operation. The first nine races on Saturday morning will use the 2000-meter course, and all the others will use the fully buoyed 1000-meter course whose finish line is overlooked



by the Four Seasons and Radisson hotels.

Entry deadline: To avoid late fees and possible rejection, all entries must be received (not merely postmarked) by March 10.

Entry fees:

\$30 for 8s
\$20 for 4s & 4x's
\$15 for 2s & 2x's
\$10 for 1x's

For your entry packet, contact

Marc Bonin has registration forms for BARC members.

He has put the forms in the boathouse, and will be helping to coordinate BARC's entries.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

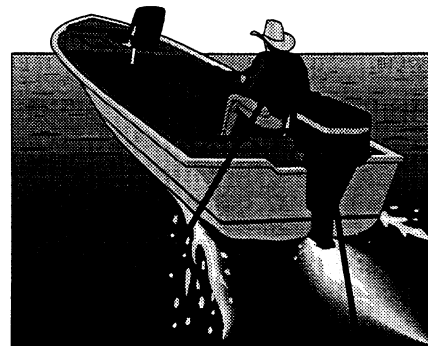
Sad, SOOOooo sad - to come so close to a dream only to see it row away. Sighhhhhhhhh.

Yes, it's true. BARC was within days of having a Kaschper double for the club. The BOD approved it, dues were rolling in, and several members had even pledged donations to assist with the cost. When, alas, another club came through with the cash quicker than we, and **KABLOOIE** the double was gone. Guess we know why Stevie Ray Vaughn named his band "Double Trouble". (Well, maybe not).

But don't despair, Sports Fans! BARC is still in the market for some new equipment (probably an 8+ or a double). So if you run across any deals, please alert Bruce Meltzer or a Board member and we'll make every attempt to pursue it.

BARC GETS A NEW LAUNCH MOTOR

by Marc Bonin



Not Marc

Not BARC's Motor (but close)

We are now the proud owners of a brand new 9.9 horsepower 2 stroke Mercury outboard motor. It's now available to members for coaching, Space City Sprints, and so on.

A few tips for keeping it in good working order:

[1] If you haven't driven a launch recently, see Rich Laurance or Don Erwin for "driving lessons".

[2] Fuel: Our motor runs on a gas/oil mix. Use a 50 to 1 ratio of regular unleaded gas to oil. Use only oil that meets the TCW3 specification. You can find this type of oil at the VIP Boat Superstore at Kirby and NASA 1 (where we bought the motor). Starting with empty 3 gallon BARC gas tank, add 8 oz=1 cup of oil. Then fill with gas. It's that easy.

IMPORTANT: To break in the motor, we need to use twice the usual amount of oil for the first 2 tanks (so use 2 cups). This may cause hard starting and more smoke than usual - this is normal.

[3] After use, the cooling system

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MASTERS ROWING

by Tom Lotz

Last month we discussed the various age and weight classifications for rowing competitors. This article contains more information and background on Masters competition.

I have had the good fortune to serve as a Judge-Referee at the Austin (1991) and Augusta, Georgia (1994) United States Rowing Association Masters Championships, and to attend the Vancouver, Washington Masters (1993) as a spectator.

BARC was well represented in 1991, with Cory Logan winning the Masters A category 1x gold medal, as well as other BARC medal winners. We also had members compete in 1992 in Camden, New Jersey. Time and distance precluded our participation in 1993, and Dave Gill's unfortunate accident kept him from his scheduled competition in Augusta.

The Austin, Dallas, Woodlands,

and Fort Worth Clubs were represented at Augusta, and the same clubs competed in Vancouver, as well as previous Masters championships. *So, it can be done.* For clubs, crews and individuals unable to transport their shells to the championship site, rental equipment is available. For regattas a long distance from Houston, the Dallas and Austin clubs have, in the past, transported BARC equipment.

Austin and Dallas Rowing Club competitors won medals at the Augusta Masters (rowing, not golf) this past year. The oldest male competitor was 84 in the 1x and 2x events, and a female single sculler age 77 competed. I had the pleasure of officiating her race. The Nov/Dec 1994 issue of American Rowing has an excellent article on the Augusta regatta and Masters rowing in general.

The regatta started at noon on Thursday and ended on Sunday after-

noon. Races were conducted from first light until late each day. Rowers are limited to five events. All Masters competition is over a 1000 meter course. Competitors from over ninety clubs were at Augusta.

But you don't have to wait for the national championships to compete as a Master. Nearly all area regattas (Austin, Dallas, Topeka, Oak Ridge, etc.) have Masters events as a regular part of their regattas. Masters events tend to be a bit more relaxed than Open racing, although the competition is keen.

So, the next time your four, eight or quad is on the water, have the rowers pull out their driver's license to verify (some may fudge) their age, figure out your category, and GO FOR IT!!!

The 1995 USRA Masters Championships will be held in St. Paul/Minneapolis on Labor Day weekend. See ya there.

GROWING THE CLUB...THIS WORKED FOR US!

Guest article by Jim Locke, Montgomery Rowing Club, jlocke@wsnet.com
posted to the Internet, rowing.rec

Living in an area with no history of rowing our small, new club is always looking for ways to gain exposure to those who may be serious about membership. Here's something that seems to be working:

I noticed that at a couple of local gyms folks would try rowing (yes, they have Concept II's) for their CV exercise. I talked to the gym's management and offered to come in and give a "rowing clinic" to show proper technique, talk about erg races, etc. One gym accepted—another is thinking about it.

I made up some announcements, including a USRowing brochure, for the gym to put up around their facility to get the word out. The clinic was held yesterday and WOW! — what a response! It was held during lunch and some people made it a point to come by and talk on a day when they weren't working out!

We now have several GOOD, SOLID prospects for membership. All those interested are in quite good shape, love rowing the ergs, and can't wait for a row on the water. One guy had, one day

about two weeks ago, rowed over 8,200 meters in thirty minutes. He described his piece this way:

"My goal was to go over 8,000m in thirty minutes. I felt like I could do it without too much problem. So I rowed hard for five minutes, easy for five minutes, and so on. I reached 8,000m in 28 minutes so I just coasted the last two minutes."

What a find! He's excited about being invited to join us in the boat. He's a dynamo and knows nothing about rowing — refers to a coxswain as a "coxman" and sculling as "sculting" — but a really neat, enthusiastic guy. He competes with another fellow on the ergs and he, too, is thrilled about getting in the shell. (Geez...I've got a lot of working out to do...)

Needless to say, we're gonna' continue these rowing clinics. I've printed up a seven-page handout for everyone who comes to the clinic. If you think a clinic like this might benefit your club, I'll be happy to send you a copy via either e-mail (it's a MS Word document) or snail mail.

BARC MOTOR

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should be flushed with fresh water and allowed to run itself out of gas to prevent varnish deposits from clogging the carburetor. Follow the same procedure posted in the boathouse for Rice's Mariner motor.

[4] Small outboard motors are easy to steal. **Be a paranoid fanatic about locking the boathouse; recall that tools have been stolen from the boatyard in the past.**

If you want to help BARC raise a little money by selling off our 3 clunker motors as parts, boat anchors, lawn ornaments, etc please give me a call.



WHERE'S WALTER?

Everyone's heard of "Where's Waldo", but now there's a new brain-teaser. It's called "Where's Walter?" This is how you play:

1. Have a friend find a job in a new city, and make plans to move away.
2. Plan a party with your other friends to wish your departing friend farewell and good luck in his new endeavour.
3. Gather the group at your favorite watering hole, restaurant, beer joint, dive, pool hall, etc.
4. Make sure the guest of honor does not appear. (Tie him up and make him watch re-runs of "The Patty Duke Show", superglue his shoes to the floor of his house, have a roving band of door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesmen accost him as he's about to leave, forget to invite him, whatever works for you.)
5. Get the rest of the group to while away the hours trying to locate the missing guest and wondering about his whereabouts.

It's a scream!! BARC tried it on Friday, February 10, at What's Cookin'. The party was planned for Walter Madden, and just like the rules say -- HE NEVER SHOWED UP!! Due to no fault of Walter's he never made it to his own "Bon Voyage" dinner.

Well, Walter, since we couldn't tell you Friday: We're really going to miss you. You've made a big difference to BARC, and we wish you the best in your new business. Stay warm up there in the great white North!

FYI - If you have any questions about how "Where's Walter" is played, please contact Brenda Jamison Claire.

STARTING COMMANDS CHANGE

by Tom Lotz

The USRA Judge-Referee Committee has announced a change in the race starting commands effective January 1, 1995. The new commands, given after the crews are polled are: SET ... GO! The command is to be given with "no variable pause".

The old command was "Are you Ready? ... GO!"

The USRA rules update is to be forwarded in March. The newsletter will carry any other significant changes.

LOOKING FOR TWO GOOD MEN

Mixed 8 needs 2 more experienced men to row in Austin's Heart of Texas regatta, March 26, 1995.

If you're ready, willing and able to row, please call Eloise Stager at 474-7653.

You must be able to practice Tuesday and Saturday at 6 p.m.

SPACE CITY SPRINTS V UPDATE

The date of Space City Sprints V is nearing ever closer (April 29, 1995), and so far a few "committee chairs" have stepped forward, but we still need volunteers to help with the preparations. If you think you may be interested in helping with "The Big Event" please contact ANY of the following committee chairpeople:

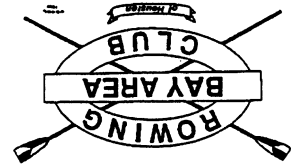
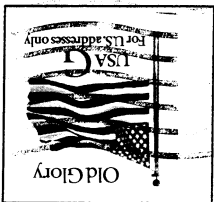
Steph Scherger & Paul Lanoux -
Regatta Chairpersons

Cliff Dasco - Dockmaster

Kathy Dixon - Food, T-Shirts

Brenda Jamison Claire-Scheduling

HOUSTON, TX 77258-0374
P.O. BOX 580374
BAY AREA ROWING CLUB



BARC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1995

February 18 Sculling TIYLI - 9 a.m.
February 27 General Membership Meeting and Elections Clear Lake
Park Building 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 1995

March 5 Board Meeting at Jim Potter's 7:30 p.m.
March 8 Newsletter Articles Due
March 18 Sculling TIYLI - 9 a.m.
March 25 & 26 Heart of Texas Regatta - Austin, TX
March 31 BARC night out 6:30 p.m. at restaurant TBD

APRIL 1995

April 29 Space City Sprints V - Volunteers Needed!!

MAY 1995

May 5 Dallas Sculling Regatta
May 6 Sculling Class - Instructors Needed!!

NOVEMBER 1995

November 11 Bill Dixon's Birthday (and the Natchitoches Rowing
Marathon)

COACHING CLINIC

FYI

Just in case you showed up at the boathouse and no one was there - the Coaching Clinic, which was scheduled for the weekend of February 11, 1995, was cancelled.