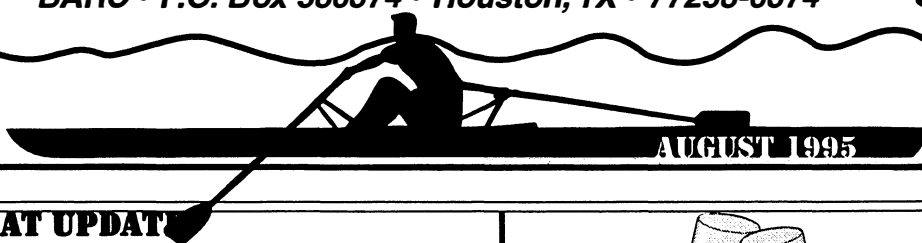


STROKEWATCH

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

ROWING
BAY AREA
CLUB

of Houston



AUGUST 1995

NEW BOAT UPDATE

by Marc Bonin

THE SHORT STORY:

We have enough money for a used quad and a used double/pair.

[1] BARC has put a deposit on a 1988 Vespoli carbon/glass laminate quad, to be refurbished by Vespoli. Delivery is expected sometime in the fall, perhaps in September.

[2] A BARC member is having a nice used double delivered at about the same time. BARC may have the option to purchase this double, but neither BARC nor the member are as yet under any obligation to sell/purchase.

THE LONG STORY:

At the June general membership meeting, we took a poll on what types of equipment BARC should buy next. We had fairly decent participation for a general membership meeting - about 15 or so people, along with several comments sent to board members before the meeting by folks who couldn't make it.

Based on the available cash on hand, the board decided that we could afford good quality used versions of the top two vote getters, which were a double/pair and a second quad. Once these 2 shells have been acquired and the equipment funds are rebuilt, we can think about what else we want and conduct another poll.

By the way, if you are feeling generous and would like to underwrite a pair of Concept II sculling oars for the new boats, talk to a board member.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PHILOSOPHY:

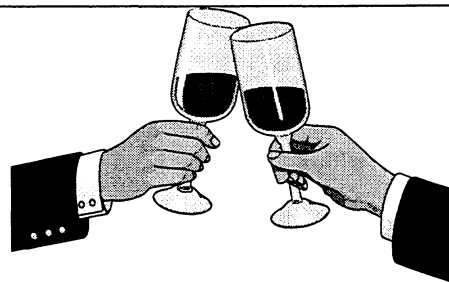
New shells are like new cars; they depreciate a lot in the first minute of ownership, which is a good argument for buying used equipment. Well funded rowing programs often trade in rather nice equipment on a regular basis; so good deals on used boats sometimes

-- continued on page 4 --

FUTURE HOPES OF RAISING \$2000 FOR THE EQUIPMENT FUND WILL BE A REALITY

... when each member sells two Entertainment Books. That's right! The members attending the BARC General Meeting in June, decided to ask each club member to sell two entertainment books. We will have the books available for pick-up at the General Meeting on August (I can't find my newsletter to get the date). Additional books will be available to be sold up until January 31, 1996 (they make great Christmas presents).

-- continued on page 2 --



FAREWELL FRIENDS

Once again BARC is saying, "Good Bye" to some more of its members. This time around the list is fairly long. Marc & Michelle Bonin, Niels Hvidtfeldt, Richard Laurance and Shari McCormick are all saying, "Later, Y'all" to Houston and heading off for new destinations and careers (hopefully with better climates!).

Marc & Michelle Bonin will be blowing into the Windy City (Chicago) where Marc will be employed by Case Industries, and Michelle will be eagerly awaiting her next profession - Motherhood. As most of you know, Marc has dutifully and unwaveringly served BARC in several capacities over the years; most recently as the club's Vice President. He held the unselfish (and often unappreciated) role of Equipment Manager for quite awhile. Marc's talents and dedication will be sorely missed by BARC.

Niels departed Houston (his home of seven years) on July 21, 1995 to return to his beloved home town of Copenhagen, Denmark. He will be getting acquainted with his new employer (and his new rowing buddies) there until sometime later this fall. He will then be transferred back to the States (Manhattan Beach (Los Angeles), California to be exact) as the General Manager - North America, of Roving International, a Danish soft-

-- continued on page 2 --

Dear BARCers
Just want to say "Thanks"
for all your generous support
after my accident. I miss you
all and especially the wicked
crabs. I'll be back soon, save me
a seat.

Thanks again.

Love,

Gay

FUNDS

-- continued from page 1 --

The Entertainment book is packed with hundreds of two-for-one and up to 50% off discounts at local restaurants and merchants. Lots of travel savings, too. Ask your friends and coworkers to purchase a book, today.

The cost of the entertainment book is \$30.00, \$6.00 of which will go to the club. So, let's see lots of members with their checks in hand at the August meeting.

Remember:

\$30.00 per book

Check payable to BARC

Specify edition by area: Houston Edition, North Edition, or Southeast/Bay Area Edition.

Call me, Jo Kaye Highstrete, at 713-798-4598 if you have any questions.

THE MONSTER EMERGES AT 6 A.M.!!

Can you imagine?!!! Scheduling a sculling class at 6 in the morning on Saturday AND Sunday!!! Yep!!!

Our good old Mr. Laurance!! It was HELLLLL getting up!!! But the classes were great....(in spite of the teacher having a pet)!! (Huh, Alaine?!)

Now there were those long time rowers in the class like the Dixons and the lovebirds (Carl and Fran of course) who we thought should CERTAINLY be in an advanced class!! But hey... it's 6 in the morning... **WHO CARES?!!!!!!** Heck, our "catchy bartalk" creator, Ann Shoemaker, had to get up in the middle of the night to get there on time!! And then she had the nerve to catch the water better than any of us!!!!

And then, of course, that perky Denise Cooper (YEP! She was perky even then!) had to be there BEFORE 6:00 on BOTH mornings to make us ALL look bad!!!! But it was *tres cool* the way she plowed us through those floating hydrillis islands!!! We have a new yell for that. (Well...at least I do!) And then of course we had Alaine Hutson...the teacher's pet!!!! "Oh Alaine, you do those drills perfectly!!!!"

-- continued on page 4 --

READY ALL, STAMP!

(OR WHAT IT TOOK TO GET THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOU...)

by Don Erwin

I hope you enjoy receiving and reading your newsletter. It has been a tradition of our club pretty much from the beginning. Nothing keeps members of a club up to date better than a newsletter. Even in the early days when we had no boats, we had a newsletter to keep everyone informed of the progress toward buying our first shells and securing our agreement with the county for the use of the land where our boathouse now sits. The newsletter is a great way to inform everyone about policies and procedures, upcoming events and stories that other members have to share.

No small feat. Here's a little summary of what's involved.

1. The editor sets a deadline for new entries for each month. (Look in the calendar of events!) This date is after the Board of Director's meeting to allow any noteworthy stuff from that meeting to be included. The editor, Stephanie Scherger these days, compiles all the articles and formats the newsletter to make it look good. Steph does an excellent job in this. She drops the newsletters off and lets me know they are at the printer's shop.

2. While the newsletter is being prepared, invoices are prepared by Shari McCormick, the treasurer, for the first month of every quarter. I prepare the mailing labels and phone list as the official keeper of such things. The

phone list also goes to the printer for copying. Jeff Tave obtains postage stamps at a discounted rate somehow or another.

3. Once all of these materials have been prepared or obtained, a "lick & stick" lunch is scheduled, usually among the same few of us who happen to work in the same vicinity. You can always count on me, Jeff and Marc Bonin to be there folding, stuffing, stapling, labeling and stamping newsletters.

If you would like to get a little more involved in your club, there are lots of opportunities with the newsletter. Each of the people involved spend a lot of time with it and could probably use a hand, even with something as simple as picking up the newsletters from the printer's. If you get a call or e-mail about a lick & stick lunch, please don't be so quick to say you don't have time. Those who do it today find the time somehow.

Since we put so much effort into putting out the newsletter, we might as well have something good in it to read. Don't be bashful. Write an article. Don't think you have to be some sort of rowing god or goddess to write an article. Share an experience you enjoyed or even one you did not. Thank someone or call for rowing partners. In other words you can use the newsletter to spread information as well as to get it.

FAREWELL

-- continued from page 1 --

ware and satellite communications firm. Til Lykke, Buddy! We'll miss seeing you on the water.

Richard is pursuing every BARC'er's dream job as the varsity rowing coach at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During Richard's short stay with us here in Houston he made many significant contributions to BARC, including helping to finance the new Kaschper Quad (the only Brand new boat BARC has ever owned!), coaching the Aggie crew, coaching many BARC members and serving on the board of directors. Best

of luck, Coach Laurance, and best of luck to your new crew as well! We hope to row into you sometime!

Shari McCormick is leaving Houston for Aggieland (College Station) to pursue her master's degree in Finance. Shari also contributed a lot in a short period of time, including giving Jeff Tave a break from as Club Treasurer. (Want your job back, Jeff?)

Congratulations and Good Luck to all of you. Your contributions, your talents and your smiling faces will be missed around the boathouse!

WOOL AND WATER THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

by Lewis Carroll
submitted by Gay Meaux

Setting: Alice is in a shop where a sheep is in charge. The sheep is knitting with a great many pairs of needles.

"Can you row?" the Sheep asked, handing her a pair of knitting-needles as she spoke.

"Yes, a little, but not on land, and not with needles—" Alice was beginning to say, when suddenly the needles turned into oars in her hands, and she found they were in a little boat, gliding along between banks; so there was nothing for it but to do her best.

"Feather!" cried the sheep, as she took up another pair of needles.

This didn't sound like a remark that needed any answer, so Alice said nothing, but pulled away. There was something very queer about the water, she thought, as every now and then the oars go fast in it, and would hardly come out again.

"Feather! feather!" the Sheep cried again, taking more needles. "You'll be catching a crab directly."

"A dear little crab!" thought Alice. "I should like that."

"Didn't you hear me say 'Feather'?" the Sheep cried angrily, taking up a bunch of needles.

"Indeed I did!" said Alice "you've said it very often— and very loud. Please, where are the crabs?"

"In the water, of course!" said the Sheep, sticking some of the needles into her hair, as her hands were full. "Feather, I say!"

"Why do you say 'feather' so often?" Alice asked at last, rather vexed. "I'm not a bird!"

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you submitted an article that did not appear in this month's Stroke-watch, have no fear. I did not crumple, spindle, mutilate, vegetate, dilapidate, or exfoliate it. It will appear in the September issue. It's a rare occasion, but this month we had more articles than one newsletter could hold. Since I'm normally scrounging for material, I held back a little for next month!!

BARC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AUGUST 1995

August 19 TIYLI 9:00 a.m.
August 28 General Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m. Clear Lake Park

SEPTEMBER 1995

September 10 BOD meeting 7:30 p.m. (Jeff Tave's)
September 13 Strokewatch Article Deadline
September 16 TIYLI 9:00 a.m.
September 22 BARC Night Out - 6:30 p.m. at Mario's on NASA Rd.1

OCTOBER 1995

October 1 BOD meeting 7:30 p.m. (Dixon's)
October 4 Strokewatch Article Deadline
October 21 TIYLI 9:00 a.m.
October 23 General Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m. Clear Lake Park
October 28 Pumpkin Head Regatta - Austin

NOVEMBER 1995

November 5 BOD meeting 7:30 p.m.
November 8 Strokewatch Article Deadline
November 11 Natchitoches Rowing Marathon
November 18 TIYLI 9:00 a.m.
November 25 BARC Night Out - 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 1995

December 3 BOD meeting 7:30 p.m.
December 6 Strokewatch Article Deadline
December 16 TIYLI 9:00 a.m.
December 17 Membership Meeting & Christmas Party - 4:30 p.m.

OWN A PIECE OF ROWING HISTORY

by Marc Bonin

Have you ever looked at an old classic wooden sweep oar and said "Man, that would look really cool hanging on my living room wall". Well if you act now you too can own a genuine piece of rowing history. BARC has a limited number of antique wooden sweep oars for sale at a price of \$ 100 each.

If you would like to own one, give Marc Bonin a call at 713-326-5657. Inquiries from members of other clubs who may be reading this are also welcome.

LATE FEES UPDATE

As you no doubt noticed, invoices for the 3rd quarter which should have gone out in late June didn't make it out until late July, just before the July 31 deadline for late-fee-free payment. Don't panic, we have enough common sense to enforce the new \$5/per month late fee as the more lenient of:

[a] 30 days past due date

[b] 30 days plus a "in the mail days" past the date the invoices were mailed out.

The newsletter normally hits the street towards the end of the month. Please remember that the newsletter staff and the Treasurer have to squeeze this work in between jobs, classes, houses, families and so on so it's more or less inevitable that it won't always get out at the regularly scheduled date.

NEW BOAT UPDATE

-- continued from page 1 --

come up. Demand for these is high, so if a good deal comes up you had better think fast and pounce on it, or someone else will. This means you need to be flexible about the top 2 or 3 items on your shopping list since good deals will probably not appear on the market in the exact order you want. To help things go faster, the board decided to allow the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer to approve purchase of a suitable good quality used double/pair and quad.

We've contacted the major manufacturers and are monitoring the American Rowing classified ads along with the rec.sports.rowing Usenet group.

HERE'S THE PROGRESS TO DATE:

[1] We may have an option to purchase a double from a BARC member. Said boat is currently in the Washington DC area and when it arrives here, we can look at it and make a decision.

[2] We have made a \$ 1000 down payment on a 1988 Vespoli midweight quad being traded in to Vespoli. Total cost is about \$ 5000. The boat will be refurbished at the Vespoli factory and shipped in September.

The hull construction is carbon/glass laminate, which is the same as the Raj. However, it will be given a factory spray paint job. This is a well designed and built boat, and should be a pleasure to row. Yes, it will be insured prior to starting its journey to Texas. Don Erwin is handling the details.

[3] There are 2 Julian race trainer

singles that have been offered for sale by members. We are interested, but have put these on hold until September when we will have better knowledge of how well we did with summer classes and 3rd quarter dues receipts.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP:

Marc, Bill, Don, and Rich are working on chasing down used equipment. These deals require a number of phone calls and e-mail to accomplish. If you'd like to help out - just let one of us know.

TROY....HERO OR SABOTEUR?!

Isn't it great to play on the lake after a stressful day of work? USUALLY!!! Well, like every Thursday night I made my way to the boathouse. My sculling bud Troy and I each took out a single. He went out in the very tippy race trainer first and I jumped in a very stable rec boat. Well we did a lap...back to the dock...leisurely switched boats and off again!!

Suddenly!! NOOOOOOOO....it CAN'T be happening to MEEEE! My oar comes flying out of the oarlock and the next thing I know I am submerged in murky disease-carrying parasite-filled brackish slimy water with an overturned boat and an oar floating away. EGAD!!! All in the flash of an oar I am standing in ankle deep gross disgusting oozing ikky yukky mud! HELPPPPP!!!!

Splashity Splashity Splashity Splash....Here come manly man Troy to the rescue! Help me! Help me! I am a drowning damsel in distress!!! (south-

ern drawl added) I do NOT have on shoes!!!! This mud is grossssssssss!!!! Troy oh Troy...what if I can't get my fat butte back in the boat!!! I will die!!!! I've gotta get back up.....helppppppppp! And manly man says "But you need to be on the other side of the boat!" Okay...okay....I can do this. What's one more dunk... so I swam under the boat to the other side. Okay manly man! I'm gonna turn the boat over. PLOP!! upright again...but I can't get the oar back in!!!! I'll NEVER balance it!!!! Ohmygod we gotta hurry before the world watches!!! Hold the boat Troy...HOLD IT!!!!!!!!!!!! JUMPPP!!!! I fling my body across the shell.....BUT I CAN'T GET IN!!!! It starts tumping again!!!!!! Troy....move to the other side of the riggers...hold it...hold the rigger DOWN....leverage the weight or I'll have to walk in slimy sloshy sludge to the dock!!!!!!!!!! Okay... one more time...JUMP!!!!!! I'm laying on my stomach on the boat...okay manly man...Keep holding it!!!! Don't let go... I can do this!!!! Smoothly....brilliantly...I pull myself to a sitting position....SCORE!!!!!! Lets get to the dock....NOW!!!!!!!!!!

At last we make it to the dock only to discover the screw on the oarlock had been moved.

Remember....we switched boats at the dock. Manly man took his time sauntering to the other side of the dock. So I ask you.....HERO or SABOTEUR?!!!!!!

THE MONSTER EMERGES

-- continued from page 2 --

Ooooooh la laaaaa!! Hit her pleeease!!!!!!

And we hated the classes so much we have asked Richard if he'll coach us again!! But we strongly recommend you not sign up for the next class. That way we can take it AGAIN!!!!!!

Thanks Richard!!!!!! You are a VERY patient man!!

