



The Backsplash

William & Mary Rowing Club Newsletter
November 2013



The Head of the Charles

By Scott Klein, '15

Attracting over 9,000 athletes, the world over, and an even more astonishing 300,000 spectators, the Charles this year continued to perpetuate the sport in the apex of style and magnitude. Throngs of people crowded the shores and bridges that span the river, which snakes through the outskirts of Boston separating the inner city from Cambridge, building a city of tents and trailers that spanned the length of the five thousand meter course. They cheered on participants as their boats carved through the water and created a canvas of white noise, accented by the staccato notes of coxswains driving their crews to exceed their physical and mental limitations. The excitement of the event never dropped below fever-pitch and the opportunity to be a part of it, in any capacity was a gratifying experience.

Leaving behind the tropical weather of Williamsburg, the creeping winter chill that accompanied our northward progression was counterbalanced by the rising flame of excitement and tension. A tide of red leaves paved our welcome into the city of Boston on Friday, an omen for the battles that we would fight over the next two days. The wind whipped through the air that day and made for a weary warm-up as the water churned on the course and made us dream of more favorable conditions. Our collective hopes were met

when we awoke to a brisk morning accompanied by a light breeze.

The program met the competition with great success in its two events, the men and women's varsity fours. The men launched first in the Mary Mitchell, which was participating in its inaugural event. Coxed by Katie, and rowed by, from stern to bow, Bryan Monroe, Scott Klein, Danny Otto, and Marshall Irby, the four placed 22nd out of 49. Finishing with a time of 17:48:93 they received an automatic bid for next fall season allowing the program to return next year. The women launched soon thereafter in the Beth Covin. Coxed by Mairin Haley and rowed by Erin Brown, Jessie Viss, Jessica Beckett, Camila Fishtahler, they placed 25th out of 47 with a time of 20:13:42. The team was pleased with its results and looks forward to coming back to the Charles next year.



The men's 4+ makes its way through the last leg of the race. Photo by Emily Flam



The women's 4+ prepares to pass a boat in the last 1,000 m. Photo by Emily Flam

Homecoming 2013: A Boat Naming Ceremony and a Tailgate

By Erin Brown, '15

Homecoming is always an exciting time—campus becomes filled with enthusiastic alums sporting green and gold buttons stating their graduation years, the Tribe gears up for a thrilling football game, and we welcome older friends back to campus. This year, the William & Mary Rowing Club had a remarkable Homecoming, marked especially by the boat naming ceremony of the team's new Vespoli 4+, the Mary Mitchell '85.

The weekend officially kicked off on Friday afternoon for the annual Homecoming parade. As usually, rowers climbed aboard the boat trailer, cheering and waving signs at the crowd, never losing enthusiasm throughout the duration of the procession.

Saturday morning, with spring-like weather, began with the boat naming ceremony. Current and past team members, generous donors, and W&M alumni gathered on Fraternity Field to officially dedicate the Mary Mitchell. During the ceremony, words by the WMRC coaches and captains were shared, with Campus Recreation director Linda Knight speaking as well. But perhaps the most powerful moment of the ceremony was delivered by donors Beth Covin and Karen Pollok as they remembered their friend Mary Mitchell, who past away after a battle with cancer.

Covin and Pollok shared their favorite memories of Mitchell and even read a letter that Mitchell had written to her loved ones as she was nearing the end of

her life. As the champagne was poured over the bow of the boat, Mary's memory was honored in a new way; and it will continue to be honored each day the Mary Mitchell '85 is rowed.

Following the naming ceremony, the team gathered in the afternoon for a tailgate prior to the football game, where the Tribe triumphed over James Madison University. Team members, friends, and alums relaxed, grilled, and ate – a welcome change from the early mornings and grueling workouts over which the team usually bonds. All in all, it is true that Homecoming weekend is always a blast. However, it's safe to say that this year's festivities set the bar high for next year's.



Covin and Pollock embrace after the christening of the boat. Photo by WMRC



Novice Men's Coach Mike Bayersdorfer mans the grill at the WMRC tailgate. Photo by WMRC

Family Weekend's Green and Gold Regatta

By Emma Cleary, '16

When it comes to the members of the William and Mary Rowing Club, it's safe to say that a good number of our parents know little to nothing about the sport of rowing itself. As such, Parent's Weekend is one of the best opportunities to really show our families what it is that we actually do, apart from getting up when it's still dark outside. This was also the first-ever rowing competition for many of our new Novices, and what's better than a little friendly, intra-team competition to get the year rolling?

With a plethora of mixed eights ready for the fight that Sunday morning and eager parents ready for an exhibition of skill, power, and poise, the coaches called for the boats to launch. As the boats lined up 500 meters away from the dock, friendly smack talk and banter ensued as expected, which reminded us all that even when we race against each other, we are one team, always sharing the desire to win.

So races were raced, upsets occurred, and boats were beaten until only two remained. They were the stroked by David Barnisin ('14) and Scott Klein ('15), and both boats had been dominating the competition all morning.

...plethora of mixed rights ready for the fight that Sunday morning

While the rowers and their families were as equally enamored by the complimentary coffee and bagels provided for the event as they were with the racing, most spectators gathered on the docks to watch as the eight led by Barnisin and coxed by Mairin Haley ('16) clawed and powered its way to a well-earned victory.

This exhibition was a great opportunity to show family members

our love and skill in the sport of rowing, our great facilities and equipment, and the fun we have together as a team. Although the competition during the Green and Gold Regatta may not have been as stiff as Boston's Head of the Charles, it turned out to be a fun experience and a great way to spend Parents Weekend with our team.



The winning boat celebrates their victory. Photo by WMRC



Two mixed eights battle to the finish

William & Mary Rowing Camp 2013

By Cathy Merritt, '15

Mid-way through the fall season, we begin to embrace the cold weather while occasionally reminiscing about long summer days, which were especially enjoyable for those of us that organized and staffed William & Mary's Summer Rowing Camp in July. We are proud to have hosted another successful year of camp, thereby contributing to the team's growth and longevity. Although had an entirely new staff of coaches, RAs, and counselor this year, each staff member put in heroic efforts to ensure the camp's smooth operation and make it a positive experience for all those involved.

Camp ran for three weeks and hosted up to 40 female and male campers per week. Campers stayed in W&M housing, ate at W&M dining facilities, explored the campus and surrounding area, and practiced out of WMRC's boathouse. The first two weeks were "intermediate" weeks, so the coaches assisted with enhancing the technical ability of the less experienced rowers while challenging the older rowers to serve as examples. The third week was the "advanced" week, which gave coaches and rowers the chance to focus on more specific parts of the stroke. Rowers and coxswains came from a diverse range of programs, but we noticed improvements from everyone throughout the week. The staff and coaches created a balance between fun and focused work. Since many practices were on the water in 90-100 degree weather, more difficult workouts involved a quick break for campers to jump out of their shells and into the Chickahominy. Outside of practice, activities included a tour of campus, games on the Sunken Gardens, movies and frozen yogurt in New Town, a trip to the Jamestown Beach, and a night in Colonial Williamsburg. In addition, campers created and performed skits, which were incredibly amusing and memorable.

At the end of each week, parents met us at the boathouse and had the opportunity to watch campers race each other. We answered campers' and parents' questions regarding the College, collegiate rowing, and W&M's rowing program specifically. We also played a slideshow of photos and footage from the week and offered DVD copies as souvenirs. Thanks again to our campers and their parents, our varsity coaches, and our staff members (WMRC rowers Arielle Galston, Matt Everett, Serena Saffarini, Kiara Earle, and Connor Kee) for participating in such a critical effort to sustain our program. Aside from generating revenues to support the team throughout the year, camp provides high school rowers with exposure that will hopefully influence them to join the Tribe and WMRC. (Several of WMRC's current rowers attended camp in high school, and two of these camp alumni, Matt and Connor, served on our camp staff this year!) We have heard overwhelmingly positive feedback from this year's campers and parents, and we expect to see many of these talented and dedicated campers return to our boathouse.

Camp dates for next summer are already set for July 6-11, 13-18, and 20-25. Please encourage high school rowers and their parents and coaches to make summer plans with these dates in mind and to stay tuned for registration to open up in November or December.



Rowers gearing up for practice. Photo by WMRC



Members of the camp staff at the boathouse. Photo by Connor Kee

Getting to Know our Rowers

David Barnisin, Varsity Men's Squad

Majors: English and Government

Graduation Year: 2014

Hometown: Herndon, VA

What does rowing mean to you? Rowing has defined my college life and life in general. Rowing is the ultimate team sport where nobody can sit out on the bench. Our devotion and our identity runs deep, and that's what rowing is; it's an identity.



David Barnisin, '14

Jessica Beckett, Varsity Women's Squad

Majors: Accounting

Graduation Year: 2015

Hometown: Fairfax, VA

What does rowing mean to you? Rowing is about who can ignore the pain long enough to cross the finish line first. But the reason you endure that pain is because the other 8 people in that boat are pulling just as hard, for you. Rowing to me is about those teammates, who you know will still be pulling for you 50 years from now in a Masters race at the Charles. But most important, rowing is about getting to body prep together.



Jessica Beckett, '15

What to Look for in the Next Backsplash

A Recap of our Novice squads' first regatta: Head of the Lafayette (October 27th)

A Recap of our remaining Fall season races:

Head of the Hooch (November 2-3) and Head of the South (November 9)

Our Coaches' Reflections on the Fall season

Our Captains' Goals for Winter training and the Spring season

Stay up to date on WMRC News by liking our Facebook page (William & Mary Rowing Club) and checking out our newly designed website, <http://www.wmrowing.org/>.



Photo by WMRC

Team Photos





Surge!!

Friends of Williamsburg Rowing Newsletter
November 2013



Fantasy Football

FWR hosted its first Fantasy Football Fundraiser this year and we are very excited with the turnout! At the end of the season, the league winner will receive seat naming rights and most importantly, bragging rights.

Twelve alumni and friends are currently competing, with 7 weeks left in the regular season. We will be sure to announce the winner on our website!

If you're interested in being a part of these types of fundraisers in the future, or have fundraising ideas of your own, check out our website at williamsburgrowing.org or contact us at friends@williamsburgrowing.org



Financial Dashboard

Endowment fund balance:	\$5,700
Donations so far in 2013:	\$9,300
Disbursements so far in 2013:	\$2,900
Number of monthly subscribers:	16
Donations of monthly subscribers:	\$238

Biking from Canada to Mexico

By Liesl Voges

While most of the country has been busy watching the leaves change and enjoying Sunday Night Football, our very own Jaime Latcham ('08) has been on the journey of a lifetime, biking by herself from Canada to Mexico!

Jaime started her trek in Vanier Park, Vancouver on August 29th. Her approximate journey is outlined in the photo on the right and she documented her whole trip on Instagram for her fans back home!

Staying in everything from a tent to hostels, she saw some of the most beautiful scenery our country has to offer. Her journey finally ended on October 26th in Mexico after riding approximately 2,500 miles in 3 countries and through 10 states.

FWR and WMRC is so proud of Jaime and so excited for her accomplishment! Welcome home and congratulations!!



*Left: Jaime on Day 1 in Vancouver.
Below: Jaime's planned route
Bottom Left: Top of Hurrah Pass
Bottom Right: Last Day of her journey in Tijuana*



Financial Update

By Travis Moore

The few months since our last update have continued to be good months financially. FWR has maintained its subscriber count since our last update, but the amount donated by our subscribers has slightly decreased. Subscriptions give us confidence in our future level of donations and allow FWR to make and follow through on commitments to WMRC which would not be possible if we were relying on one-time donations.

Our long-term goal continues to be monthly donations of over \$300 per month from our subscribers, so consider a subscription if you're looking to get involved. One of the best features of subscriptions is that they do not need to be for some astronomical amount of money (but they can be, if you're interested). Recurring donations of as low as \$5 per month (or approximately the cost of one Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Latte) accumulate when added together with other subscribers on a monthly basis or looked at over the long-term impact. To consider your impact over the long-term a subscription can be likened to our endowment funds. A \$5 subscription provides the equivalent monthly spending power of a \$1,200 one-time donation to our endowment fund would generate assuming a 5% rate of return. Powerful!

The WMRC Endowment Fund continues to grow through donations and surpassed the \$5,000 mark since our last update. This puts us over 10% of the way towards our phase 1 goal of \$50,000. At a current balance of \$5,700 we are hoping to surpass the \$6,000 mark before the end of the year.

FWR's most recent fundraiser was the fantasy football contest. The contest is still on-going, but has been very successful, raising over \$500 from our 12 entrants. Keep a look out online for who wins the grand prize of seat naming rights.

One-time donations have continued to arrive intermittently with a few multi-hundred dollar donations arriving over the past few months for both WMRC and WBC. Just wanted to reiterate our thanks to these donors who have been long-time supporters.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, donations to FWR are tax deductible. Donations to FWR which are made before December 31 are tax deductible for this year's taxes! If you have any questions about our finances or making your donations to FWR, please contact us at treasurer@williamsburgrowing.org.

Surge!!

*Newsletter of the Friends of Williamsburg Rowing
a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation, organized for charitable purposes*

Levels:

Benefactor \$500

Patron \$300

Sponsor \$150

Member \$50

Contribution Amount:

Designation:

_____ % FWR General Fund

_____ % William and Mary Endowment Fund

_____ % William and Mary Rowing Club

_____ % Williamsburg Boat Club

_____ % Other _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like more information about the Williamsburg Boat Club? Yes NoWould you like more information about the William and Mary Rowing Club? Yes NoAre you a W&M Graduate? Yes No Graduation year: _____Former crew member? Yes No Years _____Are you a parent/relative of crew member? Yes No

Student _____ Graduation _____

The name/address or other information above is new or corrected: Yes NoI / we wish to remain anonymous: Yes No

Return this form and check payable to "Friends of Williamsburg Rowing" to:

**Friends of Williamsburg Rowing
PO Box 2276
Springfield, VA 22153-2276**

Or donate online at: <http://williamsburgrowing.org/for-donors/donate-online/>. You can choose to pay by credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

Friends of Williamsburg Rowing is a non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donors may deduct contributions as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.