

Surge!!

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

Fall 2007 Edition

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Welcome to Surge!!

Welcome to the Fall 2007 edition of *Surge!!* the bi-yearly newsletter of the Friends of Williamsburg Rowing (FWR), a qualified 501(c)(3) organization. FWR was formed as a booster organization for the William and Mary Rowing Club (WMRC). Since its inception, the mission of FWR has grown to include furthering the sport of rowing in the Williamsburg, James City County area by supporting both WMRC and the Williamsburg Boat Club (WBC), which was established in 2003. This issue of *Surge!!* contains fall season summaries and the spring season schedules of both WMRC and WBC.

Treasurer's Report

While 2007 has been a slower year for the Friends of Williamsburg Rowing, it has not been without its progress. Actual donations to FWR are down to just under \$1,000 which is disappointing, but this only means we need your support more than ever because while sources of money may dry up, we never run out of a use for your donations between WBC and WMRC.

We are not only concerned with donations to our own organization, but will also facilitate donations directly to WMRC and WBC. This can be particularly beneficial in the case of WMRC since many corporations will make matching contributions up to 100% of your charitable contributions to academic institutions where they would not for a 501(c)3 corporation. This was the case this fall as 5 WMRC alumni worked together to organize the naming of WMRC's most recent boat, the "Robert J. Montague," in honor of the team's previous head coach and a \$4,000 total donation after a matching contribution. This money will go into WMRC's Development Fund with the Department of Rec Sports at the College which they can use for a wide range of products such as another new boat or an improved floating dock.

Another major transaction this year was the sale of the wakeless launches that were owned by FWR and had been unused at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park. They have been sold and the money will be used to purchase a replacement aluminum launch for one of the two that WMRC & WBC had been using regularly. These lighter, more maneuverable launches are more suitable for the Chickahominy. The rest of the funds will be put into the boathouse fund for future use.

I would like to encourage everyone to take a look into our new online donations through www.williamsburgrowing.org/. Specifically look into signing up for a monthly subscription which makes regular donations a breeze for you (do nothing but get a receipt via email) and provides us with regular income.

Thanks for reading and as always feel free to contact me with any questions you have about making a donation and how it can benefit you on your taxes or us in our endeavors.

Travis Moore, Treasurer

FWR Web Site

Be sure to check the Friends of Williamsburg Rowing Website as it progresses during construction. There is a new way to donate to FWR: Use the new button on the donate page to give money via credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

<http://www.williamsburgrowing.org/>

Online Alumni Group

Now there is an easier way to stay in touch with old teammates and keep up with W&M Crew news. W&M Rowing Alumni now have a group on the social networking site Facebook (www.facebook.com). The group ("William & Mary Rowing Club Alumni") offers a place for alumni to upload photos, videos, post links, have discussions, and share news about FWR and WMRC. Everyone is invited to join this group and please invite other WMRC alumni and friends.

FWR Annual General Meeting

FWR will hold its annual meeting on December 8, 2007 – an opportunity for friends of the team to come together. The meeting will take place on the W&M Rec Center Conference room from 1-3pm. Members of WBC, WMRC alumni, FWR members, and current WMRC rowers are all encouraged to attend. We will hold yearly elections and make plans for the coming year. Hope to see you all there.

Officers and Directors

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Vice President – Beth Magill '06

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Spring 2007 Edition

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William & Mary Rowing Club Fall Update

Greetings from Williamsburg!

As the fall water season draws to a close, it is time to reflect and reminisce on the time that has passed! We have had a cram-packed season with a lot of wonderful results, a few setbacks, and many opportunities for growth and development.

Our season started off with the Occoquan Challenge; rightfully named as it has a 180° turn right in the middle of the race! As it was our first race, we came out with a slow rating and still managed to place extremely well. Both Varsity 8+'s placed second and the Women's V4+ finished 3rd. No medals were awarded for this race. Instead, everyone received t-shirts. So the Tribe came back with a new wardrobe!

The second race took us back up to Northern Virginia for the Occoquan Chase. For this race, varsity boats were prioritized for the Head of the Charles, so we rowed three varsity 4+'s (men's, women's, LTW men's), women's V8+ and men's and women's Novice 8+'s. This was also the women's team's first taste of Division I action. Along with George Mason, the University of North Carolina participated. We had a fantastic showing with the WN8+ taking first along with the ML4+, who beat Mason by 19 seconds. The WV4+ also did extremely well, placing 4th behind George Mason, UNC and a very competitive Thompson Boat Club.

The following weekend we packed our bags (some newer rowers learning that large suit cases are not the best for crew road trips) and headed up to Boston for the world's largest two-day regatta, The Head of the Charles! This year we had three boats entered: ML4+, MC4+, WC4+ (the latter two qualified from last year). Always a race where you see the best of the best, this year was no exception.

Saturday was the first day of competition, with both the Collegiate 4+'s going down the historic Charles River. Though the men's boat put forth a valid effort, they did not manage to re-qualify. However, the women's boat took 11th out of 32 with less than a minute's time difference between the first boat and themselves. This was good enough to re-qualify, so the women will definitely be back next year!

Sunday saw our ML4+ race in an extremely difficult race. With teams like Yale, New York Athletic Club, and Undine Barge Club of Philadelphia we knew we were in for a tough row! Also this year, the HOCCR decided to bump up the max weight requirement for lightweights from 165lbs to 170lbs. This added just one more hurdle for the men to overcome, as the average boat weight for our team was 160lbs. It was an amazing race for the men and they finished 14th out of 23. Not good enough to re-qualify, but an awesome effort none-the-less!

The next week was a tough one for The William and Mary Rowing Club. Our rowing site was robbed. The thieves managed to take off with about \$6000 worth of "goodies" including two motors, a launch, coxswain box and tools. Fortunately, no rowing equipment was harmed. We also headed up to Philadelphia that weekend

for the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta. To add insult to injury, we drove the entire way (six hours) only to show up to the regatta and have it cancelled due to rain and unsafe conditions! For the second year in a row!! The team agreed that it was fun to play in the rain, but we could have done it in Williamsburg.

Picking ourselves up by our bootstraps, we headed into our last week of water practice and prepared for the Head of the Occoquan in Northern Virginia. The team was ready to get out all of their frustrations on the water, and this race gave them great opportunity! The team took that opportunity with both hands and ran with it!

The Women's Varsity 8+ finished 5th behind three US Navy boats and one George Mason boat. They also finished before other DI programs including West Virginia, Duquesne (pronounced Doo-Cane), and yet another George Mason boat. It was a great showing for the women and a good motivation for spring season!

The Novice boats also did amazingly well! The men placed 7th out of 18 and the women placed 7th out of 21. Again, the women's race was full of DI competition, including Bucknell, WV, Mason and Navy. Seven turned out to be the novice lucky number for more reasons than one! Many times this season, the teams would row with only seven rowers. We are hoping to field a bigger novice group this spring!

The icing on the top of the cake was the Men's Varsity 8+ placing 2nd in their event! With only one rower in our boat a true heavyweight, all were impressed with their finish only 20 seconds behind a very large George Mason squad! Again, it was a great motivation for the men heading into a tough winter training schedule.

For the remainder of this semester and the beginning of Spring Semester we are in the erg and weight rooms training hard to capitalize on our late season success. Medaling at the Dad Vail Regatta last year has really motivated the team to push themselves harder than ever. Now that they know that even the smallest of teams can compete and win at that high of a level, they are ready to take on the rigors of winter training and come out in the spring better than ever!

The team wants to thank the WBC and FWR for all their continued support and donations! Without the great community that the friends, family, and alumni of W&M Rowing create, this team would not be what it is! Thank you!

Best wishes for a happy holiday season!

Cheers!

Lisa Milne

The College of William and Mary

Head Coach, Men's and Women's Rowing

<http://www.wm.edu/so/wmrc/>

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Williamsburg Boat Club Fall Update

In late May, the Williamsburg Boat Club ran a trial program with the Williamsburg-James City County Schools, in which indoor rowing was taught as a weeklong segment in the schools Fitness for Life program. At the end of the week the kids were taken out to Chickahominy Park and had a chance to experience rowing in a boat. It was quite a successful program, the kids seemed to enjoy it and we hope to repeat it in the future.

We began our summer season by hosting National Learn to Row day and holding a boat naming ceremony for our 4+, now named the *Mary Lewis* in recognition of her efforts in getting the club started and introducing so many of us to rowing, and our double, now named the *Stan Lewis* in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Williamsburg Rowing. Over the course of the summer we have introduced about 45 people to rowing. Some have become quite passionate about erging while others enjoy being on the water and have become enthusiastic new members of the club. This year, the Club has also begun to offer a Learn to Scull program. Alice Noyes has been tirelessly teaching sculling lessons and we now have a number of new scullers and as well as some competitive ones.

We have competed in a number of races this summer, including Rocket's Landing Sprints, the Norfolk Botanical Gardens Sprints, the Head of the James and the Head of the Lafayette, with good results. At the Head of the Lafayette we fielded our first scholastic boat, a mixed 4+, which won first place.

We are looking forward to our winter season and to a number of new initiatives, such as partnering with the Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT) to teach proper indoor rowing technique.

For information about Williamsburg Boat Club, contact Emily Williams at ewilliams2@yahoo.com or call 757-259-2005.

<http://www.williamsburgboatclub.org/>

Send Us Your E-mail Address

We are continually updating our database to keep all past, current, and future "Friends" informed on the happenings of rowing in the Williamsburg area. If you would like to receive future issues of *Surge!!* as well as other periodic updates by e-mail, please send an e-mail to vidyer@gmail.com.

Friends of Williamsburg Rowing A letter from the President

Greetings Friends,

I would like to start by thanking Christie Ashton for her many years of service to the Friends of Williamsburg Rowing. As Christie steps down from her position as Officer and Director, we want to express our gratitude for her leadership and guidance to the organization over the years. Christie has tirelessly served as an Officer and Director for seven years and is certainly a wonderful Friend to the rowing community in Williamsburg. We wish Christie and her family the best.

Let me also say it was great to see so many of you at Homecoming this year. It is always fun when former team members from various graduating classes and geographical regions are able to share memories and reconnect. I hope the weekend of the Annual General Meeting will provide us with a chance to connect with even more Friends.

For those W&M Alumni unable to attend the Homecoming and the Annual General Meeting, staying connected with Friends just became a little easier. W&M Rowing Alumni now have a group on the social networking site Facebook (www.facebook.com). The group ("William & Mary Rowing Club Alumni") offers a place for alumni to upload photos, videos, links, have discussions, and share news from FWR and WMRC. We invite everyone to join and invite other WMRC alumni.

Just as connecting with Friends has become easier with the internet, giving to FWR is now just a click away. FWR has established a PayPal account (<http://www.williamsburgrowing.org/donate>), allowing Friends to pay their dues or make donations electronically. It's never been faster or easier to contribute to the Friends. Thankfully this technology does not detract from the warm and fuzzy feeling that comes from contributing to the Williamsburg rowing community.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Surge!!* and look forward to seeing many of you at the Meeting. Go Tribe!

Will Cornock '05
President, FWR

A New Way to Donate

FWR now has a PayPal account allowing us to accept donations online. Use the new button on the donate page to give money via credit card, debit card, or PayPal. As always you can designate where you'd like your donation to go: WMRC, WBC, FWR General Fund, Boathouse Fund, etc.

<http://www.williamsburgrowing.org/donate>

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Levels:	Contribution Amount	Designation:
Benefactor	\$500 _____	_____% FWR General Fund
Patron	\$300 _____	_____% William and Mary Rowing Club
Sponsor	\$150 _____	_____% Williamsburg Boat Club
Member	\$50 _____	_____% Boathouse Fund
		_____% FWR Endowment

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Are you a resident of Williamsburg or James City County? Yes No

Would you like more information about the Williamsburg Boat Club? Yes No

Are 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 No

I/we wish to remain anonymous.

Please contact me regarding a major gift to William & Mary Crew.

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

Friends of Williamsburg Rowing
PO Box 303
Williamsburg, VA 23187-0303

Or donate online at: <http://www.williamsburgrowing.org/donate>. 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.