



Andover Crew 2015

Hi,

Wow! What a season, what an ending.

Andover Crew as a rowing program has had some trauma in the last 5 years. For the longest time our successful programs had been orchestrated by our much loved coaches Kathryn Green and Peter Washburn. When we lost Kathryn in 2010 we did not do a good job at securing an equivalent replacement. As a result the program suffered in morale and results until Dale Hurley agreed to move over from the boys to the girls. One term after this move we lost Peter Washburn. We needed at least 2 senior coaches in short order. We reached out to the extended Andover Crew family and Stewart MacDonald and Bob Moss answered the call. Stewart, a national team coxswain and experienced coach at school, college and national team level had recently retired from business and Bob had retired after 24 years at Andover but missed the call of the Merrimack.

Dale decided the path forward with least disruption for the athletes required him to stay with the girls and with Bob's help rebuild the program to a competitive level. Dale asked Stewart to lead the coaching for the boys. The results have been impressive. The boys bounced back to win Interschols in 2014 and win silver this year. The girls improved from 9th in 2013 to 5th last year and this year came in 1st to win the championship at Interschols.

The true measure of the success has been the energy and happiness that you can feel in the boathouse every practice. The numbers of athletes has grown to just under 140 this year and we hope next year to field 8 boats of boys and girls. We have changed the racing schedule to add more races for the lower boats and more competition for the top boats. We will continue in this direction next year.

Richard Kennelly P'13 also joined our coaching staff this year. Richard is an Olympic medal winner. He also has a huge warm personality that fills the boathouse, not that our other coaches are shrinking violets. Even if you only discuss the weather with Richard you walk away happier.

This year, with the help of some parents we organized a pre-season trip to Oak Ridge, Tennessee for some early warm rowing. The trip was a great success but sadly we returned to a frozen Merrimack. Our early practices were curtailed and our first race day with Essex rowing club was terminated when the Essex coaches decided the river was too aggressive for their boats.

Our first full race day was against Kent on their river. Our girls lost by 8 seconds and our boys by 2 seconds. We knew we had a long climb to the top. Over the season we gradual moved up the path to racing speed. We did better at Lake Quinsigamond, lost to Salisbury by 2 seconds but beat BC high. As the season progressed our boats improved beating SPS and Exeter although our girls lost to Hingham the week before Interschols.

Our B1 and G1 were both seeded 3rd in the heat selection. In addition to the long time stalwarts of New England rowing such as Kent and Exeter the newer programs at BC high and Hingham are growing and improving very fast with strong support from their schools and parent organization.

And so to Interschols, although both seeded 3rd our boats rose to the occasion and surpassed other people's expectations and finished first for the girls and second by the boys but only ¼ second off the winner.

As a result of the amazing results and the spirit of the team, the coaches have decided to take a girls boat to the Henley Women's Regatta (HWR) and a boys' boat to the Henley Royal Regatta (HRR). We can only do this with enormous support from parents and alumni.

We last took a boys' boat in 2006 and a girls' boat in 2007. I was lucky enough to join the 2006 boys' boat in Henley as my daughter the coxswain. There is no better experience for a young rower than racing at Henley. You can see a video of a 2006 Henley race at http://www.andovercrew.com/Abingdon-Andover_Henley06_Movie.wmv

Earlier this year Einar Westerlund sent me pictures and a story of the Interschols races of the late 50s. This reminded me of a story told to me by Arthur Burnham, '59 of being entertained by the grandmother of Patrick Cary-Barnard '59 who had traveled from Ireland to support the Andover team at Henley. So 56 years later we are going again. Also this year Reuben Perin '89 sent me photographs of the 1989 trip to Henley.

The expedition to race at Henley can only be achieved with enormous support from parents and alumni. If you are willing and able to help please email me at andovercrew@andovercrew.com or by phone on 978-494-2382 or Becca Brewster, Director of Parent Development at Phillips Academy at rbrewster@andover.edu or by phone at 978-749-4286.

Our first donation commitment to Becca has already arrived from Kit Wise '66. A good rower is fast off the start.

We are also doing a little research to find all the Andover boats that raced at Henley and to find which event they entered. We have received some information from Henley and they do not show 1960s boats in the Princess Elizabeth event although I know these boats went to Henley. So if you raced at Henley for Andover please sent us the year and event raced. St. Paul's, Kent and Tabor seem to have raced there more often than Andover. Something we would like to change.

Also this year we honored Kathryn Green. She now coaches for St. Paul's. We have a boat named for Kathryn. Actually the boat the girls rowed across the finish line to victory this past weekend. We gathered up a number of alumni from over the years of Kathryn's time at Andover and Martha Beattie joined us as well. Martha coached with Bill Brown in the late 70s and her two daughters were coached by Kathryn. Somehow we managed to keep all this secret from Kathryn and we surprised her with the presentation when St. Paul's came to race Andover. Stewart MacDonald also regaled her St. Paul's rowers with stories and pictures of Kathryn when he coached her at BU.

Jigger Herman '81 has been coaching with us for the past few years and recorded his experiences in an article in Rowing Magazine. You can read the article at <http://www.andovercrew.com/aaEmail/JiggerStoryRowingSept2014.pdf> . It is a surprisingly interesting, insightful and humorous article for a graduate of MIT. ☺

On Saturday June 13th at 7 am we will have our annual alumni rowing as part of Reunion Weekend. Jigger will be in charge. Also as usual this is open to any alumni who can drag themselves out of bed that early in the morning. Adam Rosenthal '76 joined us at Lake Quinsigamond for the Interschols fun and he will also join the Alumni row even though his reunion is not for a couple of years. It is a rare opportunity for you to relive your teenage memories of the Merrimack. Come on down, taste the passion and tour the new boathouse. Please email us at andovercrew@andovercrew.com so we have an idea of rough numbers.

We have many young alumni rowing at colleges around the country; we wish them well in the coming IRAs and NCAAs. Ian Accomando '08 is now an assistant coach with the Harvard lightweight and Caroline Lind is again training with the National team. Another gold medal would be an incredible achievement.

Last year we entered an alumni boat in the Head of the Charles. If anyone is thinking of a repeat performance now is the time to start training. We are happy to help people get together.

We have started a few new traditions if new and tradition are allowed together. At every home race we organize a choir of rowers to sing the national anthem and invite the visiting team to contribute singers. Also we have the students vote at the end of the season for their team captains and for the person to be awarded the William Brown Trophy. Rowing is not a sport that allows for individual recognition so it is fitting that the team select the boy and girl that has been more inspirational over the year.

One last little technology note. This year for the first time we broadcast video of some of the home races and Interschols thanks to a new iPhone application. We hope to do this again next year so watch for announcements on the website if you fancy watching a race from the launch on the Merrimack.

There is one last thing that we need to do to finish the boathouse. That is to complete the wall of team pictures. We are missing the girls for 1980 and the boys for 1955 (if there was a team picture), 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965 and 1966. We have a picture labeled 1961 that we think is actually 1962. We would be very happy if anyone can send us a scan or would loan us an original to scan so that we can complete the wall. Everyone from new young rowers to not so young rowers are enthralled by the wall of photographs with now 60 years of rowing

So if any of you are ever anywhere near the Merrimack let us know and we will arrange for you to have a tour of the boathouse and if we are on the water you could join in watching a practice. The Henley boats will be rowing on the Merrimack for the next two weeks.

If any of you are anywhere near the Thames River between June 13th and July 5th we would love to see you especially if you will line the river on race day and yell GO BLUE!!

So a huge a thank you to our coaching team and student athletes for a fantastic racing season. The students will remember this day for their lifetimes. Thank to all the parents and alumni whose support created the new boathouse and keeps this program going with donations of equipment. This year we dedicated four new boats.

So last but not least if any of you are willing and able to help with the Henley expedition please join us in making this experience a reality for our young rowers.

Go Blue!!

Sam & Rosy

Sam & Rosy Darby P'07

Parents, Friends & Alumni of Andover Crew

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If you wish to be removed from the Crew email list or wish to be added, please email andovercrew@andovercrew.net