



## Andover Crew 2015

Hi,

First the details for this coming race weekend away from home.

**When:** Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting 12.00 pm to 4 pm. The first race will start at 1.00 pm.

**Who:** We will race B1 to B4 and G1 to G4.

**Where:** Donahue Rowing Center 237 North Quinsigamond Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545. Click here for [Google map](#)

The boats will launch from the Donahue Rowing center and the start is at this end of the lake but the finish is at the other end by the Regatta Point Park, Worcester, MA. Google map of [Regatta Point Park](#). For directions from Donahue to the Regatta Point Park, a distance of 1.9 miles and time of 4 minutes click [directions](#).

**Food Table:** It is so easy to become used to the facilities at the boathouse that we forget what it takes to provide the same food on the road. The 8 boats of rowers will be hungry by the time they are off the river. Please go to the link below to select what food you can bring.

Link: [-http://www.andovercrew.com/nutrition/2015/3crew\\_wora15.htm](http://www.andovercrew.com/nutrition/2015/3crew_wora15.htm)

**GO BLUE!!** See you by the lake. When you park look for the Andover Crew sign on the tent.

The race schedule will be:

		Lane_6	Lane_5	Lane_4	Lane_3	Lane_2	Lane_1	Lane_0
B4V	1:00pm			Shrews	SJ	Brookline	Exeter	Andover
G4V	1:10pm					Shrews	Exeter	Andover
B3V	1:20pm		Shrews	Sims	SJ	Brookline	Exeter	Andover
G3V	1:30pm		NMH	Sims	Brookline	Shrews	Exeter	Andover
B2V	1:40pm	NMH	Shrews	Sims	Brookline	SJ	Exeter	Andover
G2V	1:50pm	BL	Brook	Shrews	NMH	Sims	Andover	Exeter
B1V	2:00pm	Shrews	NMH	Sims	SJ	Brook	Andover	Exeter
G1V	2:10pm	Shrews	NMH	BL	Sims	Brook	Andover	Exeter

Now for the rest of the story.....

First the thanks. Thank you to the volunteers that collect and serve the Commons dinners at the Boathouse and the volunteers who provided and served the food at the races. Rowers are really just very efficient energy converters. Calories in equals calories out and even more important for the races calories out equal calories that have to be replaced. We the supporters just help provide the raw energy input.

The food tent volunteers at Kent had to handle the extra challenge of winds so strong that the tent was bent and broken by the wind even though it had been securely staked into the ground. Luckily there was no rain as the tent had to be abandoned and the tables move to the lee side of the Kent building.

The volunteers swift recovery action keep the food coming without interruption.

The aforementioned wind was very unusual. Changing directions as fast as the gusts rose and fell. This wind, swilling like a dervish, combined with the rushing river made rowing an extra challenge especially later in the day. We expected to see a few crabs being caught but the boats rowed well in the circumstances. For rowing terminology please see <http://andovercrew.com/glossary.htm>

The ultimate race for our top boats of Andover crew is the New England Championships at the end of the season. All other races are preparation. Some you win, some you lose but you always must seek to improve.

Our races started with G4 and B4. I stood by the finish line waiting for the first distant sign of the oars. The river was driving them down fast. Our G4 girl were out in front and won by open water. The B4 boys followed this with a closer race but their bow crossed the line first. Our G3 kept the pattern going with another win by almost 8 seconds or multiple boat lengths. We were waiting for the B3 but they did not arrive because the wind had knocked their boat out of the storage slings and the boat needed some onsite repair. The race was moved to the end of the schedule.

The races continued after a short break but now the racing gods turned in favor of Kent. The Kent G2 and B2 boats stretched out to open water ahead of the Andover boats. In both the races Kent had a 5 seconds advantage.

The G1 raced for the Hart Perry Trophy and the B1 raced for the Dent Oars. The Kent G1 delivered an impressive race looking very strong in the fast river and winning by about 8 seconds. The B1 race was much closer and a steady battle down the river but with Kent squeezing out a half boat length win.

After a hard week of training it is tough to race and come in second. But this will be a weekly cycle every week and win or lose you can only dwell on the result for 24 hours. The it is back to training again so that we can win the next race.

The last race of the day was the B3 boys race in the repaired boat. We needed our spirits lifted. The boys delivered and lifted ours spirits to the sky. As we stood at the finish line looking up river we first saw only the Andover boat slicing through the water. They flew past us to the finish line 11 seconds ahead of Kent.

All the boats were rowing very well today. We expect them to get faster and faster as the season progresses.

Now we have to think about next week at Lake Quinsigamond where the rowers will have a taste of what it is like to race at Interschols with up to 6 other boats across on a large lake. Lake Quinsigamond is

about 50 minutes from Andover to the west of Boston. We hope to see a big crowd of supporters at the lake.

We are also starting to think about Interschols at the end of May. If you are traveling to Massachusetts for this race you should start to think about your travel plans. We have already booked a hotel conference room for the rowers to rest between races thanks to Cathy and Dimitri. We used to bring our own tent and find a quiet corner for our boats but over the last couple of years the growing number of competitors has meant there are no good places to put our tent these days. So this year we have finally decided to rent one of the official tents. We will have tent #9 on the attached tent map. This tent will cost us a \$500 rental. If anyone is willing to help with this cost please email [andovercrew@andovercrew.com](mailto:andovercrew@andovercrew.com).

For new parents who are hearing strange words and even stranger stories from their new rowers and coxswains here are a few links that might help:

<http://andovercrew.com/glossary.htm>

[http://andovercrew.com/How\\_To\\_Take\\_a\\_Stroke.htm](http://andovercrew.com/How_To_Take_a_Stroke.htm)

[http://andovercrew.com/Different\\_Strokes.htm](http://andovercrew.com/Different_Strokes.htm)

Again a big thank you to everyone who has been supporting the rowers. We hope everyone can make the effort to join us for a race. Everyone is welcome.

Go Blue!

Rosy and Sam

***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](mailto:andovercrew@andovercrew.net)