



GHRC Newsletter – January 2018

We Have a Winner!

Last year a “miles rowed” column was added to the Log Book. A tally of miles rowed has been completed and the winner is Eugene Janssen – 830.9 miles. Eugene will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to the GHRC store – CafePress (more information about CafePress below). Congratulations Eugene. Worth mentioning are Rishi Singh who rowed 399.7 miles and Peter Day who rowed 336.5 miles.

January 13, 2018 Board Meeting Results

Storage Fees

A decision was made to increase boat storage fee effective January 1, 2019. The fees will be:

- 1X \$150.00 per year
- 2X \$260.00 per year
- 4X \$400.00 per year

Regatta Fees

At the January Board Meeting, it was decided that the club would no longer fund races with one notable exception: GHRC will cover our novice’s first regatta fee, limited to 2 races for that regatta. A novice is defined as someone who is completely new to racing (not someone who has taken several years off of competitive rowing and wishes to return). Also, GHRC is covering all trailer costs associated with regattas. Novices do not often choose to compete in singles for their first race, so with that in mind, the board further decided that the club will continue to cover whichever team boat a novice participates in.

We decided this course of action for several reasons among those the need to re-allocate money towards making essential improvements in club equipment, strengthening the programs the club currently offers, and taking future measures on facilities/safety to improve our club. We love and encourage racing at our club at all levels. Regatta

participation is what “gives us a name” locally and nationally. Our racers, past and present, are a bragging point among the greater rowing community. We feel that the monetary support for a novice’s first race allows that member to see if they’d like to make the commitment to train and compete. Whether that novice would like to continue or not, our members with years of competitive experience are committed to helping you improve and grow whatever your goals are.

GHRC Launch

The club is actively pursuing a launch with an electric motor capable of keeping up with all our boats. The launch will be a great teaching tool, assist with coaching and most important safety. Micki, Jere and Paul MacPherson are looking at options. More to come.

Club T-Shirts

- 1) Kate and Micki have been working with CafePress to develop a web based GHRC store. T-shirts, water bottles, backpacks, and many more items can be ordered with the GHRC logo on all items. The club also benefits from the sale of items. This was created to give all of you the convenience of getting gear whenever you chose. Please check it out – <https://www.cafepress.com/greaterhoustonrowingclub1988> . This store will also appear on our website this next month (so you don’t have to find this newsletter again to remember the link).
- 2) Also, Kerry Whitehead is an amazing graphic designer. She has created a lovely 2018 specific GHRC t-shirt. This is separate from the team store mentioned. This is a one-time order, and we hope to get these t-shirt made and distributed sometime in February. Please check your emails in the next couple of weeks to place your t-shirt order. Here is a front and back image of the 2018 t-shirt design:





We also encourage all interested to submit a t-shirt design for 2019. You can submit these designs to the board any time between now and the start of summer. Once all designs have been collected, we'd like to create a survey to vote for the winner of which design you like best.

Identification of Club Boats

We are working on magnet signs to put on the racks housing club boats. The magnets will also show the weight range that is appropriate for each boat. This will help everyone identify GHRC boats.

Family Membership Fees

GHRC will offer family membership fees. Family membership fee:

1st member of the family full price

- Paid Annually \$300
- Paid Twice a Year \$360

Addition member of the family

- Paid Annually \$220
- Paid Twice a year \$240

If one of the members is a student, then the student fee will apply.

Message from Micki Immanivong – Treasurer

Hello members, as your new Treasurer I am looking forward to helping our board manage GHRC's finances and strengthen its balance sheet. My background in finance and entrepreneurship are experiences I have to offer as treasurer for a club and sport I love. No doubt this role is a natural fit for me.

As we have time to absorb the recent increase in membership dues and changes in club regatta sponsorship policy, I am excited the board can finally allocate funds towards the purchase of a launch. We hope to finalize the purchase in the next few months.

As many of you know, and for those who do not, GHRC is fortunate to have so many generous members (past and present) who have given so much to our club. The list is long and we thank you. For this year, I would like to quickly thank Cindy Rippel for the donation of her lightweight Levator and Paul McPhearson for his donation of the Coffey Rowing Simulator erg. This erg will be instrumental for teaching and practicing proper and safe rowing technique. You can't miss it!

I look forward to many more great changes planned for the club. Cheers to a New Year and to change!

GHRC Financial Summary as of January 18, 2018

Cash Balance: \$33,863

Working Capital Reserve: \$15,000 (set by the current board)

Boathouse equipment and discretionary funds: \$18,863

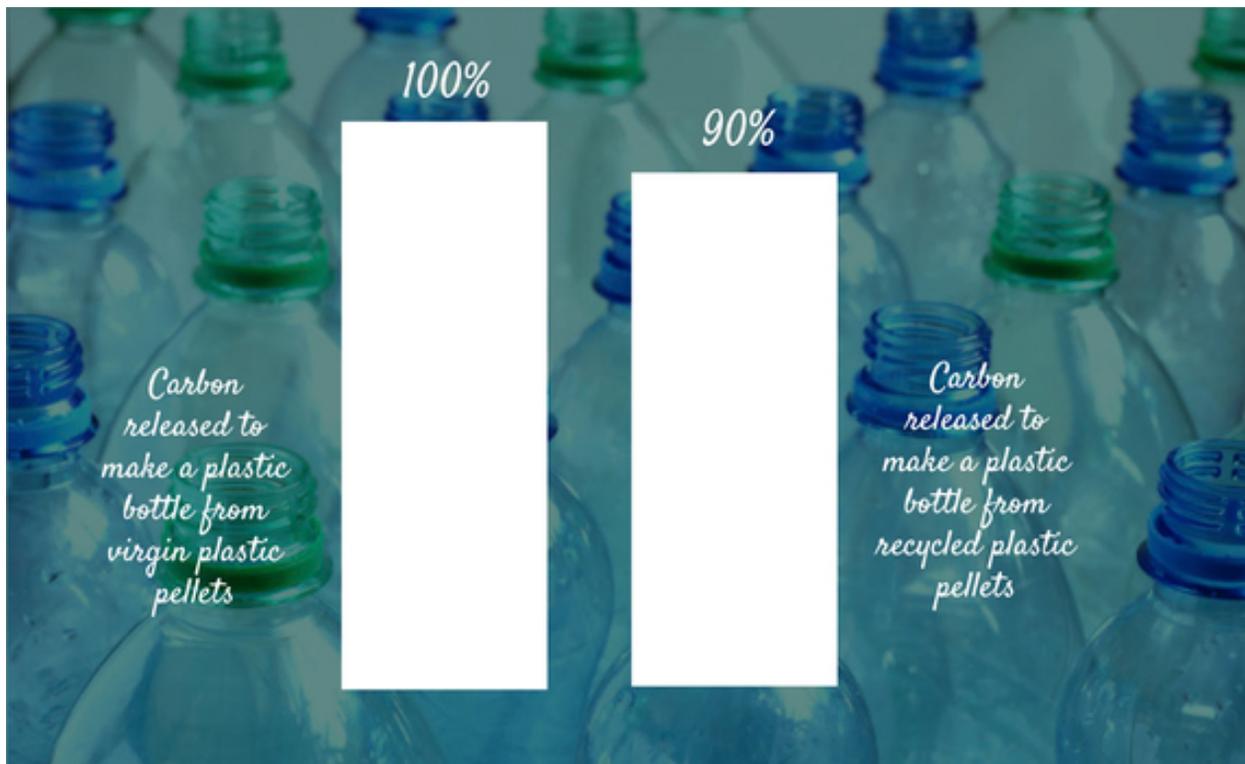
Attached is 2016 through 1/18/18 financial statement. Numbers in blue column are only estimates for budgeting purpose and do not reflect actual numbers.

GHRC		Financial Statement: Collections and Disbursements			
		2016	2017	2018(E)	As of 1/18/18
Checking Balance January 1		\$22,287.00	\$42,683.98	\$23,738.33	\$23,738.33
Collections:					
	Dues	\$14,835.00	\$13,540.00	22,508.00	\$8,970.00
	Storage	\$3,060.00	\$2,600.00	\$3,650.00	\$2,650.00
	Classes	\$4,265.00	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	\$0.00
	Equipment Sale	\$325.00	\$2,100.00		\$100.00
	Donations	\$835.00	\$360.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
	Decal/Shirt Sales	\$0.00	\$60.00	0	\$0.00
	Misc	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
	Boat Fund	\$24,356.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Total Collections		\$47,676.00	\$21,560.00	\$29,308.00	\$11,970.00
Disbursements:					
Nondiscretionary:					
	Insurance on Boats	\$2,484.00	\$3,166.00	\$3,166.00	\$0.00
	Boathouse payment	\$5,259.00	\$5,242.95	\$5,242.95	\$0.00
	Boat Repairs and Maintenance	\$3,774.00	\$1,474.61	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
	Membership in US Rowing with Liab. Ins.	\$1,350.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
	D & O Insurance	\$380.00	\$380.00	\$380.00	\$0.00
	Website	\$400.00	\$750.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
	Trailer storage				
Total Nondiscretionary		\$13,647.00	\$12,713.56	\$12,388.95	\$1,700.00
Discretionary:					
	Equipment and Supplies	\$740.00	\$1,323.87	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Operating Expense	\$250.00	\$382.03	\$382.03	\$0.00
	Aquired Assets	\$7,650.00	\$21,064.30		\$0.00
	Regatta Fees (Incl. reimbursed \$45.50)	\$3,480.00	\$4,322.50	\$1,500.00	\$105.00
	Events/Awards/Gifts	\$75.00	\$592.39	\$592.39	\$0.00
	Decal/Shirt Sales	\$0.00	\$107.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Misc & Transport	\$487.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
	Attorney Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Discretionary		\$12,682.00	\$27,792.09	\$2,474.42	\$145.00
Total Disbursements		\$26,494.00	\$40,505.65	\$14,863.37	\$1,845.00
Net Cash Inflow - Outflow		\$15,463.00	(\$18,945.65)	\$14,444.63	\$10,125.00
Cash Balance (checking acct)		\$20,460.00	\$23,738.33	\$38,182.96	\$33,863.33
Savings Account Balance		\$673.00	\$672.68	\$672.68	\$672.68
Total Funds		\$21,133.00	\$24,411.01	\$38,855.64	\$34,536.01
Available funds for equipment purchase and discretionary funds				\$23,182.96	\$18,863.33

Message from Mary Maxwell – Secretary

Utilizing re-useable water bottles filled with water from home

Even though GHRC recycles all the water bottles that are generously donated by fellow club members, I wanted to write a quick note on why we should reduce or discontinue this practice. Reading through a study done in California, it was found that 80% of the energy and environmental impact occurs during the manufacturing process even if this is done using recycled polymers. According to the study, it takes so much “energy” to collect, shred and wash bottles, and then remake them that recycling can only remove 10% of the carbon impact from the bottle’s life. We can do our part by purchasing our own re-useable bottles and filling up before we leave our homes for the boathouse.



Message from Jere – Athletic Director

First of all I want to thank everyone for participating in club row sessions. Also MANY THANKS to those who helped with the classes. Last year due to my travels, we had fewer classes than normal. This cut the revenue from classes by at least \$1,000. However, our retention rate was up to 20%, over the normal 10%.

For 2018, I would appreciate more participation in club row sessions by the more experienced oarsmen in the club. Many of the new rowers have improved as BOW/COX.

Learn To Row Classes

Beginners Classes are a source of revenue and potential members to the club. You don't have to know how to coach. For the ON WATER Sessions, I need some experienced coach types but also experienced rowers to fill seats. For example in a quad we would have an experienced BOW seat (coaching) and experienced STROKE seat (who doesn't have to coach) and two students.

I typically need 10 volunteers for the on water sessions. So it's almost a one to one ratio.

Log Book

I admit I am not always the best, but we need to log boat (private and club) usage in the logbook. There is a column for crew names and to note any damage or needed repairs. As to damage, please send an email to me on it since I am not there every day.

Regattas Scheduled in the next few months

March 3 and 4 2018

Heart of Texas_ Austin TX 1K Sprints

Coordinator is Tjitske van Schelven

She has sent a broadcast email to the members Mon Jan 15

April 14 2018

Space City Sprints _ Kemah TX 1K sprints plus the ever popular 8+ HAT RACE

Coordinator is OPEN

April 21 and 22 2018

Texas Rowing Championship_ Austin TX 1K sprint

Coordinator is OPEN

Weigh enuf!

Message from Kate Moran – Vice President

I'm excited and motivated to serve as your Vice President for my second year. I learned a lot last year, particularly through my mentorship with former president, Dave Anthony. Apparently my "to-do" list can look a little scary (I blame this on being a nurse), so I learned to prioritize better with what I want to accomplish for this club.

Some of you know my background. But for those who don't, I'll share a little tidbit. I'm not a former college rower, but I've been a rower for 12 years; competitive rower for 10. Technically my intro into rowing for those first 2 years was as a coastal rower (using landmarks and other navigation tools to row in ocean waves). I've since become a little spoiled with wanting to row only on flat water these days. Once I started "real rowing", I immediately decided I wanted to be competitive. My first Masters Nationals (the same year I decided to become competitive), I came home with a couple of medals and ever since then, I was hooked. I've been "fighting the current" ever since. But, I see that spark in some of you who are experimenting with whether to decide to row in your first regatta. I'm not the person who is good at coaching (at least not at that level—I like to coach novices), but I'll cheer you on from every practice to race day encouraging you.

Several moves later, several rowing clubs later, I find myself in Houston. I have board experience from other clubs, and I admit I like to incorporate what worked at former clubs into our system. The tricky part is in finding that balance between what is unique about this club with wanting to change things. But I'm a hard worker and try to do my best for everyone. I like to hear from all of you, strengthen my current friendships, and look forward to making new friends with those of you I still don't know well. I'm a week-end warrior (for the most part) due to my son's schedule during the week. But, don't hesitate to get in touch with me this year!

Message from Dee Connors - President

Happy New Year. As I take office as the president of GHRC, I am both honored to serve and reflective on all the changes in the club since I joined over 20 years ago. Many of you may know the story of how I came to be a member. Short version – I saw a movie of a woman rowing a single, bought a single, and spent time on Oyster Creek teaching myself to row. One Saturday morning I see the 8 coming toward me with only 7 rowers. We stopped, they asked if I wanted to row with them, I gave them my phone number and the rest is history.

Back then and for quite a while, the club could not fill an 8 during club row. Today we have mornings when we are exploring the use of many boats to accommodate rowers. Trust me this is a good thing. Growing our club, providing good equipment, a great boathouse and friendly teaching environment is important.

At the end of 2017, we had 112 members on the roster (some of which just want to follow the club as they have moved away, actual number a most likely close 90). I also want to clarify a number put out in one of me emails. Thanks to Kerry Whitehead who sent me a list of regatta participants for 2017 – 39. So based on the guess of 90 members that is 43% of the club participating in a regatta last year.

A special thanks goes to Jere Crean and the volunteers who teach the classes. Not only is this a great way to introduce people to rowing it is also a good source of income for the club. In 2017, Jere’s classes brought almost \$3000.00 to the GHRC bank account. I would ask that each of you answer the call when Jere reaches out for volunteers to assist in the class. It doesn’t take a huge commitment of time and has a great deal of benefits – new members get exposure to a variety of current members, you get to know the new members, your expertise is passed on and it shows your commitment to grow the club.

Volunteer Opportunities

I recently looked at the Membership Application that each of you completed. If you remember the application had a section “Want to get involved? What club activities interest you?” Below is a chart of what people said they wanted to do.

Coaching	Boat Repair	Boathouse Maintenance	Learn to Row Day	Social Functions	Regatta Planning	Website Maintenance	Charity/ Fundraising
13	23	38	28	25	16	4	18

During 2018 it would be great if people would step up and get more involved in making GHRC run smoothly. So many of you have experience coaching, working on boats, raising money, etc. etc. etc. The board also welcomes your ideas on how to get involved. Tell us what you want to do in person or by email [-ghrcboard@greaterhouston-rowingclub.com](mailto:ghrcboard@greaterhouston-rowingclub.com)

Board Meetings

Board Meetings are open to all. The meetings will be posted in the boathouse at least two weeks in advance of the meeting and an email notice sent to members. If you have an agenda item, you should email the item to any board member at least a week in advance. The January board meeting had several members who attended an offered great input. The next board meeting will be February 10, 2018 at 9:30 am (following club row) at 3034 Fairway Drive, Sugar Land, TX. We value your input.