



CREW NEWS

If you have not read the “Name the Boat” info below, take a look and submit your choices for names. You have until March 5 but don’t wait. We are counting on a some creative minds out there..... and if you have a suggestion for a “female dignitary” to christen one of the boats, please let me know now so we can get it going. Thanks.

Name a boat **AND** Win one of the first GHRC decals!!!

We have four club boats (excluding singles and the old 8) that have no name. Like BB King’s guitar “Lucille,” every boat needs a name. Now is the time to make this happen! Enough anonymous rowing! Currently, our “big boat” fleet consists of:

November 7	DbI/2x
Blew By U	DbI/2x
John H. Brewer	Quad+/4x+
Hobgoblin	Quad/4x
Pearl of the Oyster	Quad
Banana Sunday	Quad

This leaves (for want of less pathetic names):

1. the red Hudson
2. the new 8
3. Paul’s silver double
4. the new Filippi 4x (arrived)

Picking a boat name has few rules but lots of legend and superstition (...or are they true...?) to bring good fortune to every boat. A boat's name should match its character, feeling, sense of being or history. The name will affect all club members and should make them proud, whether in the boathouse or on the water. Boats and ships have always been referred to as "female" and "her" throughout history. Strangely, a boat can have a male or female name, however.

Boat lore tells us that the name of every boat or ship that exists or has ever existed is written in a tome called the "Ledger of the Deep" and is therefore known to Neptune, God of the deep. The good fortune of all boats rely on Neptune's favor and a proper naming is important. This is why changing the name of a boat without the essential actions and ceremony to erase the old name and add the new one to the "Ledger of the Deep" can result in an unlucky future for the boat. The same fate may await a boat with a name signifying hubris (overwhelming pride or self-confidence, arrogance) such as "Hurricane" or "Storm" that might challenge the power Neptune wields.

A boat name can be nautical, clever, humorous, unique, or be a pun or double entendre. It can be part of local lore. There are few rules, but the GHRC Board of Directors will choose the two best names submitted for each boat. The club members will have the final vote. The person who submits the winning name for each of the four boats will win one of our brand new GHRC decals.

To submit your entry for any or all of the nameless boats, just indicate clearly the boat(s) and the specific name(s) you are entering for each boat in an e-mail to Kate Moran's personal e-mail, kate.gardner6@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is **March 5, 2017**. If there are multiple entries of a winning name, the winners will have to determine who gets the winner's coveted decal.

An impressive ceremony to christen a boat is a requirement. Smashing (or pouring) wine or champagne (GHRC's traditional choice) over the bow by a female dignitary will bring the vessel good luck throughout its lifetime. Part of the naming ceremony involves the remaining champagne being used by those in attendance to celebrate the christening. Tradition will be upheld to appease Neptune and bring good luck to each boat of the GHRC fleet.

Honorary Mention to a couple of the “Boathouse Elves:”

Jose Rodriguez patched up a few of our oars that had delaminated, and they look like new. Bill Lind did some neighborly fiberglass repair on the Rice 4 at their boathouse. Remember to treat any club equipment better than you would treat your own. Thanks to Jose and Bill.

The Filippi quad is rigged and ready in the boathouse!

We got the rigging and use instructions from the two Filippi USA reps who delivered it 2/21/17. We thank Micki for all of her work in the fundraising and determining what we needed. We thank all of those who contributed toward this club purchase, as well.

There are a few things that are a little different on the new boat. It’s metric (those Italians!) so no standard tools now. We should be able to “Americanize” it, though. We will be explaining details as people row it, and Micki and a few others can help you with any questions (like the trick to easily move the foot stretchers!). We are fortunate to have this beautiful new boat and expect everyone to take special care with it. A little swagger at the starting line is expected, as well (Oh yeah, we’re fast). It is a lightweight boat and designed for an average crew weight of 135 lb. with the heaviest rower up to 155 lb. ‘Nuff said for now. Enjoy!

A full Spring Schedule for Everyone

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| March 4, 5 | Regatta | Heart of Texas at Austin. 1,000 m. sprint. See Caitlin McDonnell |
| Early April | Event | Clean the Creek. Our community service. Free food! See Ellen Tarver. |
| April 8 | Regatta | Space City Sprints at Bay Area. See Jere Crean. |
| April 22, 23 | Regatta | Texas Rowing Championship at Austin |

Early May	Class	Rowing “Boot Camp” weekend coached by Tjitske Van Schelven and others depending on class size. Rowers of all levels. Lots more to come.
To be set	Flip Test	1x demonstration and practice in the River Bend CC swimming pool. Dee Connors (days from retirement) will let us know the date.
May 21	Regatta	Woodlands (Tentative) at Lake Woodlands
June 3	Event	National Learn to Row Day at home, see Jacquie Spencer. Better weather than last year! Lots more to come.
Aug.	Regatta	Masters Nationals at Oak Ridge, TN

We are still trying to find a weekend when Chef Randy Fournier will not be travelling the world and will put on the “Boats and Breakfast” club row. Not to be missed.

New tee shirts are on the way. Kate Moran has a new design and final decisions are due soon. The fabric will breathe to make it easier for you to.

Our new decal is simple and classy based on our oar blade. It is also on the way. There should be high demand. Impress your friends!

More to come. Thanks to all of our members for all you do. Enjoy the cool morning air and keep your socks dry.

Dave Anthony

President