

TEAM SARA Update

Alumni Compete at the Head of the Cuyahoga

Over a dozen alumni made the trip to Cleveland on September 20 to participate in the Head of the Cuyahoga and the first annual SARA Alumni Row.

Natalie Bolt '97 and Cindy Ching '96 are both USRowing referees and lent their services to the regatta.

Rachel Liu '02 came all the way from Ireland and her medical studies at Trinity College Dublin to race the mixed double with Fraser Hewson G'02

Fraser also hooked up with Doug Rathburn '97 G'00 to race in the men's double.

Scott Atkinson '96 also competed a couple times in a 4+ and 2x with his squad from Three Rivers. The men's open 8+ race provided the highlight of the day. The 8+ consisted of Evan Halprin '03,

Mike Krofcheck '04, Dan Bachmann '97 MED '02, Eric Matyac '94 G'97, Atkinson, Rathburn, Hewson, Aaron Marcovy, and Erynn Rathburn '99.

Aaron and Erynn were last minute subs for Nate Anderson '00 and June Whittaker '96 who suffered from last minute back ailments.

Bachmann was on leave from the Navy and made the trip from Florida. Neither Bachmann nor Matyac had touched an oar in almost five years, but the alumni 8+ put in a valiant effort. Suffering from a broken cox box and a dash to make it to the starting line in time, the crew finished third overall in a time of 15:10.28.



SARA 8+ launching for 1st annual Alumni Row.

The alumni crew bested the undergrads from Case by over a minute and finished just behind Cleveland State and Greater Columbus with only a 13 second margin over 2.5 miles to 1st place.

Mark your calendar for next year's Alumni Row on September 18, 2004!

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Marcovy Roasted at First SARA Fundraiser



Dan Bachmann '97 MED '02, Tim Marcovy LAW '77, Cindy Ching '96, Natalie Bolt '97, and Doug Rathburn '97 G'00 at Tim's Roast after racing.

After 6 months of keeping the idea secret, Chris Sheridan and Mary Marcovy organized a wonderful event to honor Tim "Mad Dog" Marcovy for contribution that he has made to Cleveland rowing

over the many years. The guest of honor and 'target', escorted by his wife Mary, arrived promptly at 8:00 pm for a dinner with a few friends, and was greeted with the enthusiastic applause of 50+ members of the Cleveland rowing community.

To kick off the evening, Tim was escorted to the 'hot seat', while Chris Sheridan explained to him what was going on and why he was there. The festivities began with slide show that chronicled the history of rowing in Cleveland, and the impact that Tim has had over the years. It was apparent that WRRRA, Case Crew and the Marcovy family would not be what they are today without Tim.

Following the slideshow, a tasty dinner organized by the current varsity team of Case Crew was served.

For the next hour, friends from Tim's past and present, including his children, stood up to explain in delicious detail just how Tim managed to accomplish so much over the years. When it was all said and done, it was clear that the secret to Tim's success was due entirely to repeated empirical experimentation and constant prayer and exultation to 'Sweet Jesus'.

At the end of the event, a room full of rowers, tired and sunburned from a day of racing at the Head of the Cuyahoga, left for home knowing that the man who has made such a difference to the sport now knew how much he is appreciated.

SARA Officers:**President:**

Doug Rathburn '97, G'00
doug@rathburn.net

Vice President:

June Whittaker (Lee) '96
june@case.edu

Secretary:

Eric Matyac '94, G'97
ejm4@alumni.case.edu

Treasurer:

Fraser Hewson G'02
fraser@case.edu

Please contact us for donations or to lend a hand.

A Coach's Perspective: Fall 2003

By Tim Marcov
Head Men's Coach

Late August, 2003: After a great summer trying to soak up new coaching techniques imported over two oceans from the UK and New Zealand, I was ready and raring to get started on a new season with Case Crew. Seven returning varsity men, two former "fall novices" coming back for another try, two frosh with high school experience, and three (yes, THREE) experienced coxswains (two returnees from past years and Jeff Mann, a transfer from Purdue) all spelled out prospects for an improved year for the squad.

My two resolutions for the fall were to improve techniques so that the men would get more speed out of every stroke, and to have a lot less profanity issue forth through the megaphone from the coach's launch. I'm glad to report a 50% success rate on those resolutions. With eight returning varsity women, Chris Sheridan as Women's Coach, and Fraser Hewson as Men's Novice Coach, the crew looked set to go.

Through extremely active recruiting by varsity members, novice squads of 9 women and 14 men were formed shortly after Labor Day, for a total club strength of 41, a high since Fall '94, I believe. Practices of 3 times per week for the novices and 5 times per week for the varsity were held, with results at all of our Fall regattas demonstrating improvement over 2002 in almost all categories.

In the first week of September we were awarded Case Crew's first-ever sweep boat bid at the Head of the Charles, in the Men's Club 4+. This led to several weeks of intensive seat racing to pick the boat. And, no, for those of you who may remember the namby-pamby 700m seat races I put you through in old days, these were REAL seat races for a

head race: 2000m per race. It was great fun (from the coach's launch, anyway). The result was a 4+ of Pete Whittaker (Sr), Chris Bowley (Soph), Ian Henderson (Soph), Brian Chorney (Soph) and Amanda Muskus (Sr; cox).

The boat turned in a very respectable time of 19:09.172 in Boston, being 30th out of 41, and 11.52% off of the winning time. As can be seen from the lineup for the Charles boat, the varsity is very heavy with sophomores and juniors, which bodes well indeed for 2004 and 2005.

In other racing, Case crews turned in the following results:

Head of the Cuyahoga

(9/20/03, Cleveland, OH)

- MO4+: 6th and 13th of 13 (4th of 9 collegiate)
- WO4+: 3rd & 9th of 11 (2nd of 10 collegiate)
- WO2-: 1st of 2
- MO8+: 6th of 6

Head of the Ohio

(10/4/03, Pittsburgh, PA)

- M Club 4+: 12th & 20th of 25 (10th of 22 collegiate)
- W Club 4+: 10th of 29 (9th of 25 collegiate)
- M Club 8+: 18th of 24
- W Club 8+: 26th of 29 (24th of 27 collegiate)

Speakmon Regatta

(10/25/03, Columbus, OH)

- Men's open 4+: 8th & 12th of 14
- Men's Nov 8+: 6th of 10
- W 2-: 9th of 11 (1st through 5th were from Div. I Ohio State)
- W Novice 8+: 10th of 13
- M Novice 4+: 4th & 5th of 7
- WO4+: 5th of 15 (4th of 13 collegiate)

Full results can be found at:
<http://crew.cwru.edu/>

All squads have been hard at winter training since the beginning of November, with their eyes on the prize of bringing home the JCU/Case Hammer Ergatta trophy

for the first time since 1996. Along with the grinding hours on the erg and in the weight room; studying (Rower: "What? We have to study, too? No way!" Coach [reluctantly]: "Way."); and, keeping up with that frenetic social whirl you all remember from your days at the University Circle campus (its a joke, darnit!), the crew has been extremely hard at work fundraising.

The highest hurdle for the Club to overcome has been the lack of a rowable 8+. The great generosity of the WRRRA in loaning Case Crew equipment to race in has helped us to temporarily fill the gap. This is, however, an area in which we need improvement.

You should know that the University is taking what is perhaps the greatest interest in Case Crew since President Pytte gave us the wherewithal for our first 8+; University President Edward Hundert (a rower during his graduate study days at Oxford), actually came down to the boathouse and attended a joint practice, thanks to the efforts of the Club's president, Hillary Emer. He voiced his concern for the lack of equipment for the Club. However, this has not yet translated into any dollars beyond what the club members have raised for themselves. Which is why they, and their coaches, are immensely grateful to you, the members of SARA, for your efforts on their behalf.

I'm looking forward to a very successful Spring season, with the first all-UAA regatta in the planning stages. Keep an eye on the Case Crew website for the Spring schedule. Should you be in the neighborhood for any of our races, please come on down, and cheer on the crews, and say "Hi."

Tim can be reached at:
tmarcovy@sbcglobal.net

Got Results?

Send your race results to doug@rathburn.net for inclusion in our next newsletter. See some current alumni results on page 4.

SARA Organization Update

We just wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the organization's progress to date.

At this moment, we are an officially recognized entity in the State of Ohio and are working on finalizing paperwork with the IRS to become a charitable entity.

We had our first annual alumni row this past September at the Head of the Cuyahoga and are making plans for the next one at next year's race on September 18, 2004. Please

mark your calendars!

We'll be holding the annual meeting and elections for new officers after next year's Alumni Row, so here's your chance to give something back to the team. If you can't wait that long then contact one of the officers and we'll be glad to work with you.

Our first fundraising event, the roasting of our favorite coach, exceeded everyone's expectations. The event generated almost \$250

for SARA and provided much-needed initial funding.

Here are some of our goals for the upcoming year:

- ◆ Help the students fundraise for a much needed 8+
- ◆ Build a working capital base for SARA
- ◆ Keep getting the word out and updating the alumni database
- ◆ Organize the 2004 Alumni Row & Annual Meeting
- ◆ Become an organizational member of USRowing

Alumni Spotlight: Scott Atkinson

Graduated: 1996, B.A. Computer Science & English

Home: Pittsburgh, PA (at least for a little while longer)

Nickname: Twinkie

Job: Recovering corporate slug looking for a new life at culinary school.

Rowing Club: Three Rivers RA

Best 2k: 7:04

Years Rowing: 11

Why He Started Rowing: Burned out on soccer and wanted something new.

Best Race Result: 6th at the 2002 Masters Nationals in the A single.

Most Memorable Rowing Moment: "Back it faster! Back it faster!!!" Thanks Jen.

Favorite Thing About Crew: Its delicate balance between chaos and sedate beauty.

What Keeps Him Coming Back: It can't be perfected: The Challenge

Most Embarrassing Crew Moment: Tore the bottom off a 2x running into a tree this past summer.

Hobbies: Cooking, rowing

Favorite Quote: "We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." - E. M. Forster

Email: swa@alumni.cwru.edu



Alumnus Scott Atkinson

Student Spotlight: Shannon Armstrong

Year: Sophomore

Major: Polymer Engineering

Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK

Nickname: Beast

Years Rowing: 1½

Best 2k: 8:11.6

Why She Started Rowing: Athletic in high school and just wanted to try

Best race result: 2002 Speakmon Regatta: 2nd Place Women's Novice 4+

Hobbies: Sports, Reading

Most Memorable Crew Moment: When her novice four almost flipped at the finish line of the 2002 Frogtown Races in Toledo.

Favorite Thing About Crew: Feeling a crew swinging and moving together

Favorite Quote: Always behave like a duck: keep calm and unruffled on the surface but paddle like the devil underneath.

Rowing Goals for Upcoming Season: Work on technique

Where She Sees Herself in Ten

Years: Good job and family

Email: sra10@po.cwru.edu



Undergraduate Shannon Armstrong

Spartan Alumni Rowing Association
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We're on the Web
www.SpartanAlumniRowing.org

Agnar Pytte is Dead! (No, not really...)

No, our beloved ex-university president is not dead, but rather the shell named in his honor. The *Agnar Pytte* is the first and only eight-person shell Case Crew has ever owned and it was already seven years old when the team bought it in 1995.

Many alumni and rowers have had Coach Marcovy drum it into our heads that there are no fast boats-only fast crews. But Tim is finally at the point where he'll admit that his crews are not performing to their potential due to the lack of a decent racing eight.

Many of you may or may not remember that the schools at the Western Reserve Rowing Foundation were able to share the larger club's equipment. Well, that agreement has since passed and Case Crew either rows the

Pytte exclusively or begs, borrows or steals another team's boat when needed. As we all know, this isn't optimal for building fast crews.

Therefore, the students have been working hard to raise the necessary funds to buy a newer 8+ that will serve them for the next few years. The team has raised almost \$7000, but are looking for another \$6000 in order to buy a decent used 8+ and oars.

If you've ever wanted your name on the bow of a proud Case boat, then here's your chance. Just remember those cold mornings when you dreamed of having rich alumni to buy you a new boat. Well now we're the rich alumni (at least some of us have steady jobs) and the students need our help.

Please contact fraser@case.edu if you'd like to discuss a donation.

Head-to-head at the Charles

Amy Kozlowski '96, competing for Alexandria Community Rowing (a.k.a. Charles Campbell) took 15th out of 47 in the Women's Club 8+. Her crew was only 6.5% off the winning time, just missing re-qualification. Cindy Ching '96 forgot she was an umpire for a day and picked up an oar to compete against Amy. Cindy's crew from Baltimore Rowing Club finished 32nd.

Doug Rathburn '97, G'00 garnered the last medal on offer from the Men's Club 4+ event by finishing 5th out of 41 crews. He rows for the University of Chicago as a grad student at the business school. The finish was the best-ever for the program and guarantees automatic re-qualification next year. Doug competed against the entry from Case that finished 30th.