



Official Newsletter of Narragansett Boat Club



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WINTER WRAP UP

Hardy souls are on the Seekonk as their teammates crank out the last kilometers of erg training indoors. Time for the winter update on all things Narragansett, plus a look ahead to spring.

An opening salute to the Governance Committee is in order. By a unanimous vote of those present (or Zooming) at January's annual membership meeting, Narragansett Boat Club now has its first modern set of by-laws. Replacing a constitution last revised in 2004, the by-laws will protect the club's not-for-profit status by outlining its broad mission; the composition, roles and duties of the Board of Governors; and the responsibilities of membership at large.

President **Kristi Wharton** commissioned the panel early in 2023 to bring our governing documents into compliance with applicable law. **Chanika Phornphutkul** chaired a committee that brought a wealth of skills and experience to bear on the enterprise: **Rick Richards, Eric Goetz, Matt Eriksen, Anne Fleet** and **Eva Goodman**.

Winter Wrap Up cont.

Members are encouraged to examine the new by-laws on the NBC website. Chanika has emphasized that the by-laws constitute a living document that can be revised as needed.

AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS

Bruce Ackman and **Lynn Iler** hosted the club's annual awards dinner on January 26 at their home in Cranston, with **Dan Gorriaran** serving as master of ceremonies.

Amy Abbot won the 2023 mileage championship, with 2,517 kilometers on the water. **Matt Eriksen** (2,340) took the plaque for second place and **Susan Faasse** (2,240) for third. Dan suggested the headline: "Basically, this is becoming a female club," with women accounting for seven of the top ten slots for mileage. (The other leaders, in ascending order from tenth place: **Virginia Hopkins, Carol Browning, Q Kellogg, Phornphutkul, Gorriaran, Bjorn Sandstede and Jean Lambert.**)

Also recognized were the captains of the club's successful youth program: **Maude Smith-Montross, Zoe Ritter** and **Cassin Smith-Edgar**, all high school seniors.

Sculling champions (with the best time in the open division singles sprint at the Sweeps & Sculls Regatta) were **Brigid Kennedy** and **Misha Kiselev**.



Awards & Celebrations Cont.

Sierra Ferreira won the Maggie Chadwick Award for the outstanding masters sweep oarswoman. Among Sierra's citations from teammates: On and off the water, she was the "driving force" behind the "Barbie Eight" that competed with distinction in the Head of the Charles Regatta

Meaghan Delaney won the C.P. Williamson Sculling Award, for a Head of the Charles competitor who embodies the club's ideal of good sportsmanship. Meaghan stood out last year, in Gorriaran's words, for "how incredibly hard she works to improve her own sculling – and to improve the sculling of others" on the team.

The club's top prize, the Albin Moser Meritorious Service Award, went to **Treasurer Michael Hamilton** to recognize his extensive work behind the scenes for the betterment of the Narragansett community. "Michael is like the M.V.P.," said Gorriaran. "He is so calm. He is gentle. He is kind. And he is really persistent."

President Wharton wrapped up the annual presentation by dedicating a new mentorship award – for devoting "time and effort to inspire rowers at NBC through encouragement, instruction and example." The first winner of his namesake award was a thoroughly surprised **Francis "Rick" Richards**. "I'm not prepared!" Rick said over prolonged applause.



Awards & Celebrations Cont.

An arduous ritual of winter training featured “another great effort by the oldest club in the littlest state,” Captain Eric Watne reported on the January Virtual Team Challenge. Narragansett finished eighth out of 734 teams that entered the Concept2 competition. Highlights of Eric’s recap:

We held tough in seventh place until PNRA/Mercer leapfrogged to sixth place over Age Without Limits (which should be John Middendorf’s nickname, Eric noted, as he logged 50 kilometers on the way to his 100th birthday).

As a team, Narragansett posted these marks

- **25,188,907 meters** -- or **15,651 miles**
- Fourth-highest total for an “on-water” (aka ‘real’) boat club
- Fourth-highest among the top ten teams in average mileage per member **193,761 m.**

Individual Efforts:

- **Twenty-two** members with observed the club’s 185th anniversary with the digits “1838” in their a final-day tally
- Once again, **Albin Moser** and **Charles Tansey** led the way by breaking the million-meter barrier.
- Ten members cracked the **half-million** meter mark. **Brigid Kennedy, Cassin Edgar-Smith, Bari Harlam, Virginia Hopkins, Dan Gorriaran, Allison Arndt, Scott Whitney** and **Matthew Eriksen** rounded out the top ten.
- Joining NBC remotely were **Peter Plimpton** from Washington State and **Curt McDowell** from California.
- Fantastic effort by the Youth Team. They really showed some great efforts and we’re glad they are a part of NBC.

Speaking of erg season, Bruce Ackman has spruced up the second-floor training room with a fresh paint job (including snazzy Narragansett-blue racing stripes) and new light fixtures.

New window frames are on Bruce’s to-do list.



UPCOMING REGATTAS

Scott Whitney and Wes Kerns have been hard at work on racing venues for the summer of '24. They have flagged a promising spring contest in New York's **Rockland Sprint Regatta on June 15.**

Narragansett's own **Sweeps & Sculls Regatta will take place on July 27.**

And back for the first time since the 2020 cancellation: a rejuvenated **Mayor's Cup on August 17.** The organizers aim to make this a signature contest that will draw competitors from around the Northeast to sprint into the head-racing season. It will be an Amsterdam-style regatta – a 4,850-meter head race, followed by a 250-meter sprint. Narragansett's guest of honor will be Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, who has agreed to present the Mayor's Cup Team Trophy.

Amsterdam, incidentally, was the destination on March 16 and 17 for a group of NBC rowers who joined forces each year with members of Cambridge Boat Club.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

During the January meeting, membership elected a full slate of officers for 2024:

President - Kristi Wharton

Vice President - Matthew Eriksen

Captain - Eric Watne

Lieutenant - John Ryan

Treasurer - Michael Hamilton

Secretary - Q Kellogg

Members At-Large - Susan Burgoyne, Meaghan Delaney, John Mulligan, Chanika Phornphutkul, Bradley Werntz.

A "Second-Century Plan" for the future of our aging boathouse is high on President Wharton's list of the club's top goals for this year. To that end, an ad hoc committee of **Bruce Ackman, George Calise** and **Kit Wise** has begun to explore short and long-term options for the structure – and report on them to the board. Members are encouraged to attend to this vital and challenging enterprise.



Operations & Governance Cont.

Effective this year, all members must give at least five hours of service to the club. **Captain Watne** will keep track of hours – or alternatively, the \$50 donation to the Scholarship Fund that members may pay in lieu of service.

As spring approaches, members are reminded that a new, electronic key fob system will replace the old mechanical keys. Members will be issued their fobs upon payment of annual dues.

SAFETY

Members who wish to row on the Seekonk during these first cold weeks of the season are urged to review **Captain Watne's** frequent emails on proper safety procedures, including **Coach Gregg Seiz'** schedule with the safety launch. NBC Policies & Procedures are in force – and easy to find on the new website (retooled by **Dan Gorriaran et al.**)

PASSAGES

Members celebrated the life of Ricki Brightman on Saturday, January 27 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Greenwich.

Ricki was a long-time member, who served with great humor and spirit as registrar and as a valuable resource at the boathouse.

