

Please help us meet our fund raising goal for 2004!

The men's crew at Virginia continues to exist by the grace of your generous contributions and the tenacity of our rowers.



A gift to the VRA is tax-deductible under IRS guidelines and is recorded in the same manner as a gift to the University of Virginia. Gifts may be made by check, credit card or stock, payable to the VIRGINIA ROWING ASSOCIATION.

To make a gift of stock, please call Bonnie Ford at 434 243-9008.

Please fill in the relevant sections of the form below, tear it along the dotted line and mail it (with your gift, if appropriate) to:

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Head Racing Roundup

Fall 2003

The Virginia men's crew capped a successful season of fall racing with a strong showing at the Princeton Chase, on October 26. The varsity boat finished 6th, ahead of Temple, Rutgers, Syracuse, Georgetown and others. Encouragingly, the Virginia crew was only ten seconds behind second place Cornell, seven seconds behind Navy and two seconds behind Yale. Virginia's second boat placed 14th in the same race, ahead of Georgetown's and Trinity's varsity boats, and ahead of second boats from Syracuse, Rutgers, Georgetown and Trinity.



Virginia's Varsity 8 races in the 2003 Head of the Charles.

The previous weekend, at the Head of the Charles, Virginia finished 25th in the Championship 8's race, up eleven places from the previous year's performance. The crew had a strong race, marred only

by a collision with the Columbia 8 under the Weeks Footbridge. Virginia finished ahead of varsity crews from such Eastern Sprints schools as Dartmouth, Penn, Columbia, Rutgers and Georgetown.

Virginia kicked off its 2003-2004 campaign at the Occoquan Chase, where the varsity finished first and the JV second in the Open 8 race. Virginia's 4 also raced well, finishing 3rd in the Open 4 event. The Virginia 4 was hampered by equipment failure, which caused a boat-stopping crab in the first mile.

Virginia's fall season will conclude with the Rivanna Romp on November 16, at which their competition will be North Carolina.

At all of their fall races, the Virginia men were well fed by their parents' committee, led by Kitty and David Wildes, parents of varsity coxswain David Wildes. Thank you, Mrs. and Mr. Wildes and all the other parents who helped.

Thanks also to Garrett Bockenek's parents for housing and feeding the Head of the Charles crew at their home in Concord, Massachusetts.



Virginia's Varsity 8 shows off their racing socks before competing in the Championship 8's race at the Head of the Charles.

HOOS' SPRING 2004 RACING SCHEDULE

Come and support the Virginia men's crew at its spring '04 regattas:

COLUMBIA VARSITY LIGHTWEIGHTS

Date TBD

On the Rivanna

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

March 20

On the Rivanna

MARIETTA, DOWLING,

GRAND VALLEY AND MARIST

April 3-4

Muskingham River

Marietta, OH

GEORGE WASHINGTON

INVITATIONAL

April 10

Potomac River

Washington, DC

SIRA CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 17-18

Oak Ridge, TN

ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 8-9

Worcester, MA

IRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 3-5

Cooper River,

Cherry Hill, NJ

GIFT LEDGER FISCAL YEAR 2004

The VRA gratefully acknowledges these recent contributors to the VRA funds. We also thank those who gave less than \$100, whose names have not been included due to space considerations.

Thanks again—and please continue to support us throughout the year!

GOLD CLUB

\$1,001 - 10,000

Carlos A. Cordiero
James and Mary Forsyth
Bill and Elizabeth Oliver
Christopher John Whelan

CHAMPION CLUB

\$501 - 1,000

Michael J. Hazelrig
Tamira H. Keshen

FRIENDS LIST

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Gia DeAngelis
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Brendan R. Richardson
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SEVEN SOCIETY RECOGNIZES MEN'S CREW THROUGH MYSTERIOUS DONATION



One morning in late fall the rowers arrived at the boathouse in the pre-dawn darkness to find a glowing "7" composed of candles on the floor of the men's bay. Above the "7" were crossed black sculling oars, with the number seven and mysterious symbols painted in white on the blades. Beneath the "7" was an envelope, containing the following letter:

Dear Members of the Virginia Rowing Association:

The Seven Society would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the men's rowing team. The commitment that each of you shows to your sport in addition to your many other commitments serves as a model for others in the University community to follow. It is extraordinary that in spite of your lack of official Varsity status, your team consistently competes with, and often beats, the best crews in the country.

The Seven Society is also aware of how hard each member of the team works to finance the basic needs of the team and...is pledging \$7,777.77 to help the team focus on rowing with its budget assured....

The Seven Society trusts that you will continue to represent the high ideals of what the University expects out of all its students. We wish you the best of luck in this year and all those that follow.

Sincerely,

The Seven Society

Thank you, mysterious Seven Society!

Fall 2003 / A SUMMARY

Jon Friar '04 and David Gardner '05, Varsity Captains

Having added a strong novice squad to an experienced group of varsity rowers, the 2003-2004 version of Virginia Crew was decidedly optimistic heading into the fall racing season. After failing an early fall test against the Virginia alumni, the crew got its act together and headed for the Lorton, Virginia, site of the Occoquan Chase

Using their embarrassing defeat as motivation to push them forward, the crew raced well at the Occoquan. UVA 8's finished first and second, with the Varsity 8 breaking the UVA course record by 18 seconds. The second boat showed good speed by finishing second overall, and ahead of several varsity boats, including an entry from the Potomac Boat Club. Virginia's 4 also did well, overcoming an equipment failure to finish third overall.

The following week the top 8 traveled to Boston to row in the 39th Annual Head of the Charles Regatta. Having gained confidence from racing well at the Occoquan, the crew was anxious to go out and redeem themselves after last year's poor showing at the Charles. Despite an incident with Columbia at Weeks Footbridge, the crew put in a strong showing, finishing 16th among college crews. After rowing well on a difficult course in Boston, the crew was excited to carry their momentum to Princeton the following week.

ALUMNI DAY 2003

T-Mac Beats Varsity Crew on Home Turf

On September 28 the VRA welcomed its alumni back to the boathouse for its annual alumni day luncheon and boat race. The alumni admired the new erg room on the second floor of the boathouse and the three Quantum 8's (all less than a year old), gleaming on the racks. The crew



used the occasion to dedicate one of these new boats to Tom McIntosh, VRA president, leading donor, boathouse landscaper and all around good guy. Coach Kilbridge expressed the team's gratitude to Tom for his assistance, large and small: among other things, Tom and his wife Carol have donated boats, hosted parties and employed poor rowers. Tom and his son Bart

traveled to England last summer to support the team at the Henley Royal Regatta. During the team's stay in Henley, Tom took each of the crews out to dinner. The coaches attended several of these dinners to supervise the rowers' table manners.

After a catered lunch was served, Tom took the rudder of his new boat and coxed the alumni crew to a shocking upset of the current varsity team in a 500 meter race. Coach Kilbridge tried to act like a genial host, while fuming internally and **plotting punishment** for his team's lackluster performance.



Lurching into the fall 2004 head race season is the newly organized Halloween Head of the Horseman, an intra-squad head race for novice men's and women's crews held on Friday, October 31. And yes, these ARE their uniforms.

Facing a stiff headwind and a challenging field, all Virginia boats performed well in Princeton. The Varsity 8 finished sixth overall, fifth among varsity crews. In the process they defeated a series of historically strong programs (including Rutgers, Syracuse, and Temple), and came within six seconds of Navy. On the Junior Varsity level, the JV 8 defeated many of these same schools, but their most impressive accomplishment was defeating Georgetown's first varsity boat. Facing the challenge of rowing against many schools' top rowers, the 4 entered their race undaunted, and managed to improve significantly upon last year's finish. At the end of the day, Wyatt Allen, Olympic hopeful and UVA Crew graduate, talked to the team about turning this fall's positive momentum into spring success. It was an appropriate message, and following the final race of the fall, the Rivanna Romp, the crew will spend the next few months on the erg laying the groundwork for ECAC gold.

A NOTE FROM COACH KILBRIDGE

Our 2003-2004 season has gotten off to an encouraging start, with impressive performances by all Virginia boats at the Occoquan Chase, Head of the Charles and Princeton Chase. In particular, at the Princeton Chase, the Virginia varsity boat finished in the leading pack, just behind Yale, Navy and Cornell, and ahead of Syracuse, Temple and Georgetown. I hope that these results presage the arrival of our program in the top echelon of college rowing, and that we will race successfully against these schools in the spring. To make that happen, our rowers must **knuckle down for the long grind of winter training**, while the coaches and VRA board must find the money to make the spring season possible. Our pleas for donations last summer met with remarkable generosity, as evidenced by the length of the donor list in this issue. However, we still have a long way to go to balance our budget, and to pay for the trips that will allow our crews to race in Marietta, Oak Ridge, Worcester and Cherry Hill this spring. The rowers are doing all they can to succeed. Please do your part and send us a generous, tax-deductible donation. Thank you very much, and I hope to see you at our spring regattas.