



March 2007

BAIR-Picayune

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Letter from the President

Hello All-
Here's my first letter as president. Well...happy to be here! It's a big jump from morning sculler to all BIAC programs. We have the most 'human-powered' boating programs of any club in the Bay Area- if you want to be on the water, BIAC is the place to be! (tell your friends)

I'm very impressed by the collective talent and experience of the combined BIAC membership- short of breaking major laws of physics, there's not much we can't do!

FIRST OF ALL - Many thanks to Fiona Ashley, my predecessor, and the Board for a great two years. Usually the year end holidays are relatively quiet for many clubs, but BIAC keeps going strong! We had the 15th Fall Regatta (thank you Fiona and team), Head of the Corkscrew (Maryhelen and team), Holiday party (Jenny and team), Workday and cleanup (Lauren and team)

RACING- Go Bair! Paddlers have already started their season, Dragon Boaters start in April, Rowers and Scullers- Women's, Men's, Norcal and Serra juniors kick off their season in San Diego at the end of March. Kayakers are getting ready too.

SAVE THE DATE - there will be a very special event at the boathouse April 28. We'll need everyone's help to prepare and execute...stay tuned! If you haven't already signed up with the biac_ac group on Yahoo, do it today!

Thanks for all your help so far and thanks for your help in the months to come. BIAC runs, and runs well, through the efforts of many volunteers- how can you help?

Let me know what you think. Any questions and comments are welcome- use pres@gobair.com e-mail never sleeps. Or, contact any of the Board members- Dan Alexander, Peter Allen, Maryhelen Greaves and Mike Martinez. Read on- there's more in the rest of the Newsletter.

See you on the water...

Doug Karlson

BIAC President / Chair



BIAC has been selected as the recipient of Webcor's 2007 Rebuilding Day. On April 28 several hundred volunteers will descend upon BIAC for the day to work their magic. BIAC members are needed to clear and prepare our site in advance so that Webcor can do their best work. Find out more about how you can help at

www.gobair.org/news

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 18, 2007

Spring Regatta Long Beach Marine Stadium. Master - Open - Collegiate Men - Collegiate Women - Collegiate Men & Women - HS - Adaptive - Junior - Novice. c: James Litzinger , 3399 E 19th St Signal Hill, CA 90755 , ph: 310-466-5814 , f: 562-961-0105 , email: jim@intercat.com c: A.C. duPont ph: 562-773-5516. Host: Long Beach Rowing Association. Entry Deadline: March 9, 2007.
www.longbeachrowing.org

March 31-April 1, 2007

San Diego Crew Classic Mission Bay Park, San Diego. Master - Open - Collegiate - HS - Junior - Novice. c: Martha Shumaker , 1875 Quivira Way C-6 San Diego, CA 92109 , ph: 619 225-0300 f: 619 225-0301 , email: Martha@CrewClassic.org Host: San Diego Crew Classic, Inc.. Entry Deadline: February 2, 2007.
www.CrewClassic.org

Sunday, April 15, 2007

Open Ocean Regatta Richardson Bay. Master - Open - Open Water. c: Shirwin Smith/ Sunny Blende email: OpenOceanRegatta@comcast.net Host: Open Water Rowing Center. Entry Deadline: April 9, 2007.
www.owrc.com

May 19-20, 2007

USRowing SW Junior Championship Lake Natoma, Rancho Cordova, CA. HS - Junior. c: Paul Wilkins , USRowing SW 9315 N Marina Pacifica Dr. Long Beach, CA 90803 , ph: (562)493-5593 email: swrowing@cs.com Host: USRowing, CSUS Aquatic Center. Entry Deadline: May 1, 2007.
usrowing.org

Saturday, June 16, 2007

North Tahoe Rowing Regatta Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, California. Master - Open - Other - open water. c: Shirwin Smith, email: TahoeRegatta@comcast.net Host: Tahoe Yacht Club. Entry Deadline: June 6, 2007.
www.tahoeyc.com

Sunday, October 7, 2007

Wine Country Rowing Classic Petaluma, CA. Master - Collegiate - Invite - Junior - International - Head. c: Colene Mace , Colene Mace 609 Searles Way Petaluma CA 94954 , ph: 707-769-9180 , f: 707-769-9293, email: colenemace@aol.com c: [Ned Orrett](mailto:Ned.Orrett). Host: North Bay Rowing Club.
<http://www.northbayrowing.org>

BIAC's Second Annual Holiday Party and Auction

submitted by Gary Wong

With rowing shells cleaned and oars put aside, the Saints came rowing in on January 20, 2007, as BIAC held its Second Annual Dinner Party and Auction at the Sequoia Yacht Club in Redwood City. The Mardi Gras theme, conceived and decorated by Marsha Atkinson (Novice –Women's Masters), transported everyone to the Big Easy, as members and guests shed their warm-ups for the evening and came dressed to party. Since most of us don't get an opportunity to talk to one another while on the water, the evening gave everyone an opportunity to mingle, share stories and laughter. For a second year, a fabulous meal was catered by Mom's Home Cooking. Healthy, yummy appetizers were followed by a panko-crusted baked chicken, mixed grilled vegetables and a zesty rice pilaf.



Following dinner, our very own Rex (Mardi Gras Carnival King) Doug Karlson, (BIAC President) shared remarks about some of the accomplishments in 2006 and plans for 2007. Following Doug were representatives from the Advanced Women, Advance Men and Novice Masters who shared their respective results and highlights in 2006.

However, the best was yet to come. The highlight of the evening was the not-so-silent, boisterous auction as members competed for such items as a day long sail on San Francisco Bay, "special services" by Wild Women Party Planners, vintage wines, works of art, personalized coaching and personally prepared meals and sweets. The auction was masterfully conducted by Peter Allen (BIAC Secretary), who coaxed or is it coxed the crowd into spending generously for many one-of-a-

kind items. Like a spring regatta, bidders kept besting one another until the winner prevailed. Whether scripted or not, Peter's humorous comments and auctioneering activities were interrupted several times by urgent calls from home from a sick child. Peter prescribed him to take two furry canines to bed coupled with two aspirins tablets and to get some rest.

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BIAC's Second Annual Holiday Party and Auction (cont. from page 3)

For the evening, over \$6,370 was raised at the BIAC auction, a new record high. Proceeds will be used to help support BIAC's operations and programs.

Dreams of carbon fiber sculls and titanium oar locks swirled in our minds until we were jolted back to reality with thumping music that got everyone on the dance floor. The tireless fitness among the group was on display as they boogied throughout the evening. The spotlight dance of the

evening was given by Luis and Gina Yanez, demonstrating an impassioned Cha Cha, with Luis showing more movement than a novice 8 on its first row.



The successful event was a great team effort and a heartfelt BIAC thanks goes out to all involved. Special thanks go to the ubiquitous and inspiring Jenny Antons (BIAC Coach) who organized the event for a second consecutive year 😊.

WANTED:

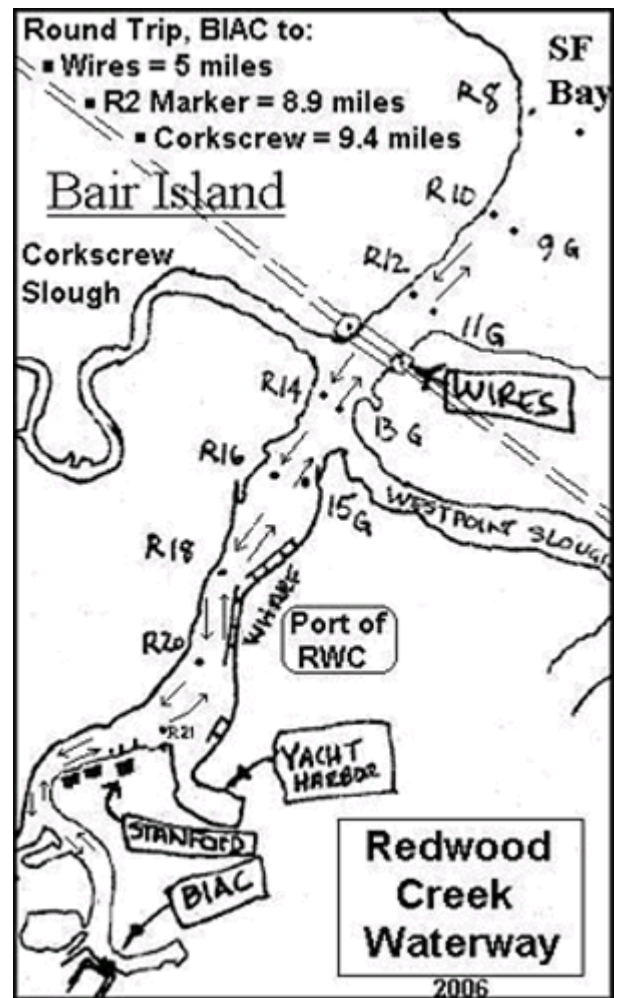
wooden shell or long wooden boat
For decorative purposes,
prefer approximately 12' long,
need not be seaworthy or complete.
Contact Janet Moody at 415-602-5180
or email:
john_mcm@pacbell.net

Coaching Launches Report

submitted by Rhett Smith

BIAC #2, the center console launch - the one that was in the yard for ever, the poor little no-name launch - whatever you called it, is finally back in service and will be the new primary coaching launch.

Thanks go out to several members who made it happen. Bruce Atkinson and Len Cadone can take the credit for installing the rubrail. Doug Karlson did some woodworking for our new storage/seat. Marsha Atkinson and Alexandra Ohlson grabbed hold of the painting and did a great job applying the many coats required on six bulky two-side pieces. Dave Clarke installed the wiring, tracked down parts and then installed an upgraded bilge pump system. Julie King put energy into calling to find out where we could go when the engine would not start after we had the boat ready to go back into the water. She also teamed up with Adrienne Moore and her pickup to use the scary trailer to get it to the boat shop and back. Mike Martinez scoured eBay for materials and answered many questions about the process. In addition to the above improvements the boat was pressure washed and two coats of antifouling paint applied that should be good for a year of service. Others supported the cause; I hope I did not leave anyone out.



The boat is in the water, nameless except for the BIAC emblem. If you have an idea for a name, please send your suggestion to:

rhett.smith@sbcglobal.net

Names will be compiled and perhaps used for a poll. Those names not selected will be considered for our other coaching launch whose rebirth as a close double is being formulated by the launch committee. The goal is to eventually have three serviceable launches to allow for rotating out for routine service without impacting the programs.

If you see any of the folks who made this happen, please give them a big thank you. This was truly a combined effort of many members contributing to make a huge result. If you are interested in learning more about the launches or boating safety in general, feel free to contact me. I will be holding a launch operations class early this spring.

Cajun Pete - Backwater Stories and Uncommon Sense

Lessons on Walking Bair Island

One of our junior graduates, Kirk, now rowing at Berkeley had the unfortunate pleasure of walking nearly the entire length of Bair Island – with his oars and damaged Hudson scull – in December of 2006. Here is an account of his journey and some first hand advice from a new inductee into the “Bair Island Swim Club”.

“I hit channel marker fourteen, which is closest to the wires. While in the boat I seldom looked around because no one was in sight. Everything was going great, until unexpectedly I was thrown out of the boat. This first thing I did was get back into the boat, which was slowly starting to sink.

The boat was sill afloat because it was trapping its own air. I reached land (which was only about fifty meters away) and emptied the boat. My path was along the edge marsh land, all the way down to the Stanford boat-house.”



“Luckily Jeff <a Masters BIAC member> saw me and then proceeded to get help from Stanford. The whole mess could have been avoided if I simply was more aware of my surroundings. The idea of having a mirror on the side of your head is really quite smart. Luckily the day was quite warm so I really didn’t have to worry about hypothermia. However the idea of having an extra layer is also a good idea as long as it is kept dry.”

“When walking on the island, <an> extra pair of socks did provide some sort of protection from the ground. I’m quite lucky that while stepping around junk wood that no nails went through my feet. Quite a lot of the island was muddy, but most of the time I was ankle deep in water. Also, there were these little canyons, where <tidal water flows in/out>, which were about fifteen feet across that were really challenging to cross. I carried the boat on one shoulder and the oars in the other arm. The adventure back took over forty-five minutes.”

Cajun Pete thanks Kirk for his humble candor. While I have personally hit just about every possible ‘target’ in the channel, it is good for the rest of us to have the opportunity to learn from others.

This is also a reminder that paddlers and rowers alike should sign out and in using the Log Shed, because we can come looking for you should a kind soul like Jeff not be around to rally help. We wish Kirk the best of luck in the upcoming Sprint season!

Presidents' Weekend WaveChaser Race Report

submitted by Dave Jensen

Wisconsin surfski paddler Erik Borgnes has been a regular at the WaveChaser Presidents' Day weekend double-header of races. When Erik missed the 2006 edition, it seemed like he sent his cold Wisconsin weather instead. Erik was back for the 2007 edition, but he left the cold weather back in the dairy state. Instead the large contingent of Southern California paddlers in attendance brought their warm weather with them. We had temperatures that topped 70 degrees on both days of races. As expected, we had the largest and most competitive races of our 2006-2007 winter WaveChaser season. There were a total 262 entries amongst the two days of races.



There were forecasts for high winds on Sunday. There were high winds on Sunday, but not over our racecourse. The winds were blowing around 30 mph all day at the offshore buoys. Central San Francisco Bay had winds around 15-20 mph all day. But in the Treasure Island and Alcatraz area the winds were light. With the flooding tide nearing its end during the long course race, the conditions were about as mild as it gets for this area.



There was a time when the protected waters race on Saturday in Redwood City had double the entries of the potentially more challenging Treasure Island race (or its predecessor Fort Baker-Angel Island course). Over the years, the number of entries at the TI race is going up, where the number of entries at the Redwood City race is staying stable. This year the number of entries between the two races was near equal. I suspect that paddling in the waters near the Golden Gate used to scare some people away. But now, with OC1 and surfski racing well past its

infancy here in Northern California, more and more paddlers want to race in increasingly challenging conditions.

As is becoming customary at WaveChaser races, during the awards ceremony on both Saturday and Sunday we raffled off to the racers and volunteers a bunch of swag. There were WaveChaser T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and fleece jackets; Ocean Paddle Sports paddling jerseys; an I-Tunes gift card; and a Starbucks gift card. The final drawing was for an I-pod Nano. Congratulations to all of the raffle winners, especially Dan Coupland, the winner of the I-pod.



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Presidents' Weekend WaveChaser Race Report

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With back-to-back Saturday/Sunday races, we offer overall awards for the fastest combined times for the two days. These awards are given out in the OC1, surfski, and waterman divisions...with the waterman division being a paddler who races OC1 one day and surfski the other day. Over the years these awards have been won by some very accomplished paddlers including Mike Eisert and New Zealand's Lance O'Connor (OC1 male); Kathy Jensen and Cheance Adair (OC1 female); Rich Long, Mike Shea and Danny Ching (waterman), Patrick Hemmens and Dorian Wolter (surfski male); and Sally Mason and DeAnne Hemmens (surfski female). This year's overall awards went to:

Charlie Banfield (waterman)
Patrick Hemmens (male surfski)
Linda Banfield (female surfski)
Danny Ching (male OC1)
Eva Mauck (female OC1)

Danny Ching has now won both the waterman overall award (in 2006) and the OC1 overall award (in 2007).

Thanks to all of our paddlers, sponsors, and volunteers. Our events depend on all of you. Hope to see everyone again at our always challenging Fort Baker race on March 17.



Dragon Boats 101

Submitted by Chris Jasper

Wow! What is that super long canoe? Why are there scales on its sides? Are these boats fast? These are all questions you may have asked when looking over at one of the dragon boats at BIAC. Dragon boating has a long, rich history in China and the California Dragon Boat Association has brought dragon boating to Northern California. The dragon boats hold up to twenty paddlers, a drummer, and a steersperson. It is quite a challenge to get all 20 people to do their paddle stroke together! These boats are not as fast as some boats but with 20 paddlers, we create a lot of torque! A good crew can pull a water skier!

The CDBA has a youth/High School program, a college program and an adult program and thus there are many teams that paddle as CDBA teams.

We have our first race of the season on April 21 for the High School program at Lake Merced. Our adult program has its first race of the season on May 12 at Paragon Point. On July 14, the CDBA joins up with the Northern California Outrigger Canoe Association at Fremont Quarry Lakes for sprint racing (250 meters instead of 500 meters). On the weekend of September 22 and 23, the CDBA puts on its International Dragon Boat Festival at Treasure Island in San Francisco. This is the end of season race for the adults! In October, the CDBA puts on a college cup race.

If you have any questions or want to give dragon boating a try, please feel free to ask one of the dragon boat paddlers or go to www.cdba.org!

Thanks,
cj

BIAC French Connection



Here's a picture of the BIAC contingent here in France. After over a year I finally picked up my single this morning. It came from California via the UK, and then on a truck to France. Next week I will officially open the BIAC venue on the Lac du Salague here in the Languedoc. It will be a club of one, so I can claim title for the smallest BIAC spawned offshoot, no longer Mr Sullivan at Clear Lake. As you can see, the Kaschper is a wee bit longer than my Renault Clio, so it makes an eyefull for the Gendarmes. I do avoid them.

As always, glad to see so much progress at BIAC.

Continued success to all,
Georges Willett