

FRIENDS OF UNH ROWING NEWSLETTER

2011 HEAD OF THE CHARLES!

Bidding is now open to row
in the men's and women's
alumni boats at the 2011

Head of the Charles,
Saturday, October 22.

Minimum bid is \$150.

To bid, visit

www.unhrowing.org

REGISTER NOW!

FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL
FRIENDS OF UNH ROWING DINNER

Last year's event was a success! More than 120 friends and alumni from four decades of UNH rowing joined us for a night of pizza, dancing and meeting new friends. Help make this year even bigger!



**WHEN: SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2011
5:30 TO 9 P.M.**

**WHERE: PORTSMOUTH
GAS LIGHT CO.**

**COST: \$35 FOR ADULTS
\$5 FOR KIDS UNDER 10**

REGISTER AT WWW.UNHROWING.ORG

HOW DID UNH DO AT THE 2010 HEAD OF THE CHARLES?

A first-person report by Chris Wilson '92



Amelia Friday Kuhn '85 rows at HOTC

We got on the water, rowed away from the dock and brought it up to all eight for about 20 strokes when coxswain Lori Johnson Ashooh '87 called out, "Way enough!" We sat with our hands away in a balanced boat for 8...9...10 seconds. That's when I knew it was going to be a good race.

We rowed up to the start line and turned into the queue. So many boats - and they all looked so young! As soon as we crossed the line, we were gunning for the boat in front of us. Lori called for us to pass them by the bridge - and we had them! We passed several more boats. A couple passed us as well, but we made them work for it. In the end, we came in 14th out of 32 boats and were the first of the 'old ladies,' those boats old enough to qualify for an age handicap.

Everyone was really happy with how the boat felt and how the race went. We spent the next two hours de-rigging, loading the boat, eating bagels and laughing about everything! It was so much fun being part of that UNH crew community all over again! It didn't matter how old or young we were or what years we raced. We all had that common bond that was, and is, UNH crew.

A RECAP OF THE FALL 2010 MEN'S SEASON

BY JON DWYER '12

The largest returning varsity team the men have seen in a few years spent the fall focused on technical awareness. The majority of the varsity rowers are juniors, and the dynamic of the sixteen-person team evolved this fall as leaders developed, seriousness was found and the group sought to strike balance. We watched many spectacular sunrises in pairs and fours in order to achieve the technical prowess required for success. Once we returned to the eight, the technical concentration continued with focus on releases and length to achieve more boat run. Some of the hard work paid off with a bronze medal earned by the varsity eight in the Textile River Regatta in Lowell, Massachusetts, on October 3.

Still, the early season was not without its own drama. The treacherous combination of pairs, dense fog on Mendums Pond, bends of the Oyster River and ever-moving stakes in the straight away, made us miss our coxswains more than ever (though only a few boats found themselves upside down). Stroke ratings and steering also became an issue -- but such are the hazards of small boats training. It was quite challenging -- thus very rewarding when mastered!. We used the small boats to develop technical feel, and our ability to maintain it will define our season. The team got down to work with hopes to prepare to race an increasingly faster field in the spring. We now head indoors for our beloved winter training!

A RECAP OF THE FALL 2010 WOMEN'S SEASON

BY KELLY SENNOTT '11

The women had a spectacular fall season! The first few weeks in September were spent getting used to being back on the water. After a long summer of no rowing, there were a few "crabs" and few "air strokes," but there were also some great improvements. We practiced with particular focus on catch connection, handle acceleration and rowing with "power per stroke."

The racing season began at the Textile River Regatta in Lowell, Massachusetts, on October 3. The varsity team put together three mixed eights and two mixed fours for the race. The weather was cold and windy. The UNH women, however, are trained to deal with it! The club eights finished seventh and ninth, the open eight finished eighth and the fours finished seventh and twelfth.

The Snake Regatta in Worcester was held on October 9. The weather was beautiful but the water was choppy. The women's eight finished third behind Bates and Wellesley. The women's fours finished tenth and eleventh in a race of eighteen.

Our first-year rowers look promising and feisty; the team is very tight, and they started their season out with a bang at the Quinsigamond Novice Challenge in Worcester on October 24.

The novice A and B boats finished third and fourth, and the novice C boat finished ninth out of thirteen.

And then there was the Head of the Charles on October 24. It was cold that day, but we were lucky: the rain held up. The water was smooth, and the women's eight hammered down the twisty course at a 31 stroke rating and at what felt like a 200 heart rate. We finished sixth, not too far behind Williams, Ithaca, Bates, Wellesley, and Brock University.

We are planning our revenge for this spring.

The grand finale of our season was the Head of the Oyster, an annual UNH rowing tradition. The men's and women's varsity and novice rowers mixed into eights and raced down the Oyster River. The women's team decided to dress up for the event. Pooh Bear, M&M's, hunters, deer, Harry Potter, and skiers all made appearances at the race.

The coaches failed to place a judge at the finish line, so naturally, the first and second place boats fought over who won. As bow seat of one of those boats, however, I am certain that that the team named "Dumbledore's Army" won.

Now the women are training indoors, counting the days until they are back on the water!



WHAT DOES UNH ROWING MEAN TO YOU?

WE'D LIKE TO PUBLISH REMEMBRANCES. SEND YOURS TO
NEWSLETTER@UNHROWING.ORG



THE NINE-SIX CREW BY JARLATH O'NEIL-DUNNE '96

We were refugees from other sports lured to the crew informational meeting by Chris Allsopp, the outgoing head coach. We later realized he had approached every young man at freshman orientation who appeared to be anywhere close to six feet tall, telling him that he looked athletic and that he just might want to consider taking up rowing. Our first races were marginal at best. The SportsGraphics photo from that year's Head of the Connecticut, in which I stroked, shows me at the catch, the man in bow at the finish, and seats seven through two at various stages of the drive.



The Nine-Six Crew as freshmen in 1993.

We returned to campus from winter break a week early to train, piling in to a borrowed apartment. Wake – erg – breakfast – nap – erg – dinner – sleep – repeat. By the second day of our winter training camp, it was an effort just to walk up the stairs to the old erg room in the Field House. As the weeks progressed, we wondered privately to ourselves how much longer we could take it, everything hurt so much. Seventy-six men were at the first practice back in September. By February, less than one-third remained.

No sooner had we made it to Occoquan, Virginia, for spring training, than a massive snowstorm hit. In lieu of rowing, the coaches had us push vans in the parking lot and do body circuits in the hotel hallway. When the snow finally cleared, air-water temperature regulations at Occoquan prevented us from getting on the water for another day. A severe stomach bug then made its way through most of the team and the chicken pox sent one guy home.

The Oyster was frozen solid when we returned to Durham, so it was back to the ergs. We only rowed once prior to our first race against Conn College. The day of the race, our warm-up was rough. We lacked confidence and were rowing scared. "Ready all – row!" Three strokes into the race, one guy fell off his seat; we crashed to one side, then the other, nearly coming to a complete stop. Conn College jumped to a full-length lead. It was a nightmare, but it was also the slap in the face we needed. Doubt was replaced with anger. We had sacrificed everything for this; nobody trained harder. Bit by bit, seat by seat, we ate away at their lead until we had open water. The winter training was worth it -- every miserable second.

Years later, after we graduated, I carried my father, frail and dying from cancer, into my parents' back yard and placed him on a lounge chair. He was a stalwart UNH crew fan who rarely missed a race. It was a sunny fall afternoon, perfect head racing weather. The men of the Nine-Six Crew came from all over to see him that day. We sat in the warm sun, sharing old rowing stories that had been told dozens of times before. My father relished the moment. It would be the last time I would see him laugh.

It is those friends with whom you shared the dark and cold winter practices in Durham that you can count on for life. Never hesitate to lean on them during life's darkest moments. They won't let you down.



**UNH CREW DEDICATES NEW
LAUNCH IN THE NAME OF
GORDON BARKER ('80)**

At the annual Alumni Day gathering on October 9, UNH rowing dedicated a new launch in the name of Gordon "The Hammer" Barker, who passed away last year. The launch is called **The Spirit of Gordon Barker**. It was purchased with generous alumni donations.

**Friends of UNH Rowing
Men's and Women's Program
Whittemore Center
128 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824**

800560

The (alumni!) men and women of the
2010 Head of the Charles, L to R:
Mike Poreba '08, Dave Olson '08, Scott Murray
'05, Scott Johnson '86, Ian MacDonald '08,
Kirsta Schmitt Davey '87, Phil Trzcinski '08,
M. Nolan '09, Marc Lessard '83, Chris Wilson
'92, Celina Grandchamp Heyliger '87,
Amelia Friday Kuhn '85, Keith Gilkey '85,
Dawn Lippold Johnson '87, Lori Johnson Ashooh
'87, Rich Ashooh '86, Jan Bolland Tanner '88,
Anna Petrella '83



Gordon Barker