



December 22, 2007

Seasons greetings! We had a small but gregarious turnout for our annual membership meeting at the beginning of the month. Here's a quick re-cap if you were unable to attend.

We elected two new board members, Liz Marshall and Deb Smith, and returned Elizabeth Glenshaw to the board. The 2008 UVRF board of directors includes continuing members Buzz Congram, Peter Davenport, Jen Friend, Dick Grossman, Bob Haynes, Peter Kermond, Kristen Laine, Win Piper, and a seat shared by the Dartmouth rowing coaches. At the December 11 board meeting, the new board elected four officers: Jen Friend, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Peter Kermond, and Win Piper. Specific positions will be determined at the January meeting.

A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing board members: Chip Davis, Julie Stevenson, and Phil Harrison. All three have served the UVRF community for a number of years, and we are immensely grateful for the time and energy they've given to the club.

2008 will be our inaugural year as an all-volunteer organization. At the January board meeting, the directors will sign on to oversee various aspects of the club's functioning. Our website will post contact information shortly thereafter so you know who to contact with specific questions or issues. We also hope that you'll find ways to contribute your skills and energy!

The new year will also bring a web-based sign-up for membership and classes, which will greatly enhance the ease and effectiveness of our operations. We expect to be up and running in the next few weeks; look for an email by mid-January to guide you through the 2008 membership sign-up process.

2008 also ushers in a new era of financial stability and accountability. We ended 2007 in the black. We completed a full financial review and eradicated the remainder of our debt. To reduce club overhead, we eliminated our paid executive director position and replaced it with an all-volunteer structure common to many rowing clubs of our size. This change now allows us to focus your donations on repairing and replacing equipment rather than on supporting operating costs.

As a first step, we've doubled the size of our fleet of club boats by acquiring 6 singles and doubles from Dartmouth. The boats are in "as is" condition, but with the addition of riggers and a few other bits and pieces, they should be ready to enjoy next summer.

Donors contributed a total of almost \$15,000 in 2007, with nearly \$6,000 in targeted donations to help buy replacement parts for boats and safety equipment. These donations also allowed us to take advantage of Dartmouth's generous offer to sell us the used singles and doubles. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Our fundraising goals for 2008 continue the focus on equipment:

- Our top priority is to purchase 2 new motors to run our coaching launches at \$2500 each (we no longer have the option to rent motors, as we have done in the past). These are essential purchases before any boat gets on the water next spring. We have pledges for \$1700.
- Finish repair work on existing equipment:
 - riggers and seats for the newly purchased singles and doubles (\$3,000-\$4,000)
 - refurbish our three existing (learner) 8s, including overdue hull repair
 - (We still have some research to do here, but we estimate the repairs at about \$2,500 per hull).
- Raise money for a new (or new to us) competitive eight. Look for more information early in the year!

And of course we are happy to accept your end-of-year donation to the Upper Valley Rowing Foundation. (Remember, it's tax deductible!) Our address is P.O. Box 419, Hanover, NH 03755. Fundraising chair Kristen Laine is also happy to answer your questions and field your suggestions about our fundraising efforts as we move forward. Contact her at kristenlaine@earthlink.net.

In January, we hope to begin rowing tank sessions (we are still awaiting Dartmouth approval). To help us make preliminary plans, if you are interested in rowing tanks this winter (Jan – March), please email debensmith@gmail.com with the following information:

Your name

Your ability level

Your preference for early morning (6-7:15 am) vs noon slots (3 xs/week)

Also, if you are an experienced rower, and especially if you have ever been a rowing instructor, please email if you have any interest in coaching tank sessions. We have one instructor already, but depending on response, we may need a second coach.

We think 2008 is going to be an exciting year for the club. We look forward to seeing you at board and committee meetings, in the tanks and training sessions, and—sooner than seems possible now—on the water!

Best wishes for the holidays.

Deb Smith, on behalf of the 2007 and 2008 Board of Directors