



March 3, 2009

Dear ICC Parents:

Winter training is fast drawing to a close and the Spring season awaits. You have heard so frequently from me over the past months that I can keep this letter short enough to read in one evening. Here's the headline:

Mandatory Spring Meeting. There is a MANDATORY meeting for all athletes and at least one parent or guardian of each athlete at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 16, 2009 in the McLaughlin Room at SICP. **All athletes who are participating in the Spring 2009 season are required to attend.**

Now, a few more details:

Dues. The total dues for the Spring 2009 season are \$895 for new rowers, which includes the cost of an ICC polo shirt for regatta travel. For returning rowers who have an ICC polo, the dues are \$875.

The dues for the Spring season are the same as last Fall. In these hard times, we wish that we could reduce them, but we simply cannot. As always, we are watching every penny, and every penny counts. As you know, ICC is a completely self-funded club sport – SICP provides no financial support whatsoever. Our fundraiser at the Bush-Josephs last Fall was a big success, and we will have a brand new four in the water this Spring to prove it. (More on that below.) The rest of our funds are devoted to essential equipment, coaching stipends, rent and the cost of regatta travel. We maintain virtually no reserves.

Dues are due in full by March 23rd for returning athletes and March 30th for new athletes.

St. Ignatius College Prep draws students from diverse economic backgrounds, and ICC is committed to being an inclusive club that furthers the values taught by SICP. Therefore, it is club policy to make limited scholarship monies available on a needs-basis, as well as to extend payment plans to those families who require it. The club's treasurer, David Skelding, is responsible for administering these two programs fairly and equitably. If any family is in need of either the scholarship or payment plan option, please contact David directly via email at k.deighan@comcast.net by NO LATER THAN March 22nd for returning athletes or NO LATER THAN March 29th for new athletes. I encourage those families interested in taking advantage of these two options to contact David as soon as possible, as these programs are limited in nature and are funded within our budget limits on a first-come/first-considered basis. Families who miss these two deadlines unfortunately cannot be considered. David keeps this information strictly confidential and will share it only with a coach if an athlete does not meet the club deadlines.

Forms. All waiver forms, as well as physicals for new athletes, must be submitted to Susan Rajkovich via US Postal Service or overnight courier by March 23rd for returning athletes and March 30th for new athletes. No athlete will be allowed to start practicing until these forms are in and dues have been paid in full or other arrangements have been made with David Skelding. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please send your forms and dues to:

Ms. Susan Rajkovich
817 Judson
Evanston, IL 60202
(847) 869-6902

Once you have sent in your forms and dues, Susan will notify you and your coach via website that you have been cleared to participate in future practices and otherwise be on the water. All necessary forms are included in this registration package.

Spring Break Training. The registration package for returning rowers includes one sheet entitled, Spring Break Training Registration. If you are planning to attend Spring Break training in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, please sign it and return it with your other registration materials. The cost of Spring Break training is \$500 and is not included in the dues for the Spring season. Therefore, you will need to send a check in this amount to Susan Rajkovich prior to our departure for Tennessee. (Of course, you may write one check for the combined amount of \$1375 if you prefer.) A limited amount of scholarship funding is available here as well; please contact David Skelding for more details. Absent other arrangements agreed with David, no athlete will be allowed to depart for Spring Break training unless this payment has been made. **AGAIN, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

A new coach and practice schedule for novices. We are pleased to have lured our old coach, Ryan Weis, back to coach the novice men's team in the afternoons this Spring. Ryan has been working with the novices already at Winter training and plans to attend Spring Break training as well. He has shaved his head and grown out his beard to get psyched for the coming weeks. You will love him. Coach Jenn Gibbons, an experienced novice coach herself, has kindly agreed to take over the novice women's team this Spring. This practice will be moved to the mornings to better coordinate with the varsity and JV women. Please keep this change in mind as you are planning car pools for the Spring.

The "Coach Sims." Our new four is a Vespoli bow-coxed four with wing riggers. It proudly carries its name on the bow, "Coach Sims." Stay tuned for news about the christening celebration!

Regatta Schedule. Our Spring schedule is posted on our website, <http://www.ignatiuschicagocrew.org/Spring%20RegattaInfo%202009.htm>. The Hoover Invitational is for our athletes who attend Spring Break training. The remainder of the schedule is for the entire team. The focus of the season, and actually of the entire year, is the Midwest Scholastic Championship in Cincinnati on May 9-10. I hope you can come. It is a fine venue for watching rowing, and our athletes have worked very hard to do well there. I am proud of them, and grateful to all of you, for all we have done together these past few months. Now let's get out there, row hard and have some fun.

Here's to a great season!

Bob Wootton

Robert R. Wootton
ICC President