

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Another rowing season is almost upon us and I'd like to welcome everyone back to the river. The winter once again was a harsh one from many points of view. Rowing was brought to a standstill not only by the ice and constant low temperatures, but also by an unusual heavy rain and quick thaw. The storm brought the Schuylkill and many other rivers to flood stage. As a large chunk of ice broke loose from in front of our boat house, it carried our floats with it and over the dam.

The cost of replacing the floats and repairing our ramps (approximately \$5,000), added to roof repairs (which I wrote about last year) brought your Executive Committee to propose raising our dues. We held a special general membership meeting on March 18 and brought before the 26 members assembled a modest, across-the-board increase for all five membership classifications. This will be the first increase in dues in about ten years and I believe that ours are still the lowest on Boathouse Row.

The increase must be ratified at our Annual Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, April 19, so please plan to be present. We will vote on the dues increase, the election of officers for the coming year and anything else that might be brought before the membership.

Coxswain Sam White and Boathouse Chairman Bruce Lalonde have been working on a classification system for both members and equipment. We have had similar systems in the past, but somehow they have seemed to go the way of our floats. . . . Let's really work at this one and we should all be rewarded with better equipment and better availability.

In closing I would like to draw your attention to this newsletter. It is a positive symbol of the hard work and support of so many of you who are sincerely and deeply interested in the well-being of our club. Thank you all for your support of UBC for another and better year.

Let's all row 300 miles this year.

— J. N. Pattison

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sixty-two members and guests, one of the largest groups on record, attended the club's annual Christmas dinner on December 14. Honored guests were Shirley McCall and his wife and the citation presented to him on his 80th birthday several weeks earlier was read.

As announced in the last issue of the Newsletter, Jeff Walker won the President's Cup for 1977 for the most mileage rowed (877). He also was the winner of the Charles R. Nalle Trophy for the best record in competition for the year. Mike Hogue was presented with the Founder's Cup, both for his competitive enterprise and for his time-consuming review and revision of the club's insurance coverage.

ANNUAL MEETING — APRIL 19

The 124th Annual Meeting of the club will be held in the Lilacs Room at the boat house on Wednesday, April 19. Announcement cards will be sent out shortly.

CLUB EVENTS — 1978

Saturday, 15 April	Workday at the Boathouse
Wednesday, 19 April	Annual Meeting
Saturday, 3 June	Head of the Wye Regatta, Langshaws, Maryland
Saturday, late September	UBC/Union Regatta, Boston
Saturday, 28 October	Thomas Eakins Head of the Schuylkill Regatta

EAKINS REGATTA SET FOR OCTOBER 28

Although the 28th of October may seem a long time away, there will not be another edition of the Newsletter until the end of November and so we are taking this opportunity to encourage members to save that day to help run the regatta. (It's the last Saturday in October). The Thomas Eakins Head of the Schuylkill Regatta is not a bush league event any more -- it's one of the three biggest held on the river and we need all the help we can get. Members will receive full details in the mail in the early fall, but for now, reserve the date if you can. Thanks!



Ravages of winter -- the UBC ramps lie alone after ice and high water carried our float over the dam. Plans for the new float construction include filling in the gap between the old ramps and replacing the floatation at the lower end. The use of pressure-treated lumber is expected to vastly increase the life of the new float. The club is indebted to David Rawle for his efforts in obtaining and expediting delivery of the wood.