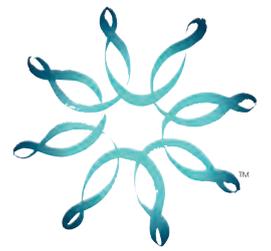




Meridian South Island Rowing Inc. Newsletter



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January 2015

Principal Sponsor

The first month of the year has gone and no doubt many celebrated the dawning of another new year in the traditional way. For many it has been a time of chilling out with friends and family. We trust you all had a relaxing time and have returned ready to face the rigors of another year. At the lake, things have been very busy and life becomes a challenge when non-powered and powered vessels are both vying for lake time. It is unfortunate the lake becomes like a washing machine with all the powerboat traffic.

Course Preparation

Few people appreciate the work required to prepare the course. We are grateful to the volunteers who give so much of their time to this activity.

The picture below shows the start to course preparation for the South Island Championships. While it is good to have such volunteers able to assist we are also looking for those from a younger age group who can learn the processes and eventually take over.



The Future of Umpiring

Umpiring can be a bit of a mission especially when covering 10 lanes with crews of widely differing speeds. On top of this there can be issues with gear breakages and individual crew member problems.

While at the car show a drone (pictured below) was demonstrated. The pictures it took and the control displayed suggested it could be used for umpiring.

Further research revealed there are six rotor fully stabilised droves that can be dynamically programmed to track a given boat from a fixed distance. It can be equipped with a speaker and camera with a better than 120 degree view. With some of these following a race, the only on-water people would be for safety purposes. Food for thought eh?



Commentary

A good race commentary is an essential part of our regatta and our commentators have put in an excellent effort over the years. However some are now not available and we require more people who can undertake this activity.

We have heard a number telling us what the commentators should say, do and sound like so now is your opportunity. It would be great if we could get a number of people to volunteer and this would then allow shorter shifts and the load shared.

The Canterbury Championships

This regatta was held on 17-18 January. As can be seen from the picture (on right) taken mid-Saturday morning everything looked really good for a great regatta. But the wind arrived as predicted around 1100hrs and so ended the days racing. The following day was no better and so another regatta succumbed to the elements.



Bankstream NZ ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

LAKE RUATANIWHA | 17 - 22 FEBRUARY

We are now in the preparation phase for this regatta. As usual there are some items that need to be made known. Anyone who has a trophy should make sure it has been updated, cleaned and returned to the Secretary's Office.

Lake Ruataniwha is in the alpine region of New Zealand around 500 meters above MSL. Met Service advise that for the general area, air temperatures in January have varied from 35°C down to 1°C, and the wind velocity varies from 0 kph to 74 kph. You should bring appropriate clothing.

Lake Ruataniwha is a man-made hydro lake that is snow fed. Hypothermia is possibly the most serious risk so be aware that getting out of the water as quickly as possible is a very important action for anyone having the misfortune of falling in.

South Island Rowing (SIR) owns the Meridian Rowing Complex. This means everything on the site has to be operated and maintained by SIR. While there is a volume usage rate for most facilities the cost has a direct effect on entry fees. We ask that everyone considers the impact of their actions when using the facilities.

Volunteers

We are finding it increasingly difficult to find enough personnel to help run regattas. Not only do we need Licensed Race Officials but also capable people who can assist with the many functions that make regattas possible.

Training is available in some disciplines and there is some travel and accommodation assistance available. If you are interested in having a part in New Zealand's most successful Olympic sport please contact the Secretary.

First Aid

The first aid area is essential for securing the health and safety of those visiting the complex. We have a few very loyal and helpful first aiders but we need more. Please let us know if you are able to assist in this area.

There are usually a number of health professionals including Doctors and Nurses at our regattas. If you are attending a regatta and are available "on call" please advise the Regatta Secretary, (Office under the Control Building) and leave us your details.

Race Sponsors: SISS Regatta

We have a few groups including some schools that are sponsoring races at the South Island Secondary Schools Regatta. The cost is \$200 + GST per race. As many will know, we are raising money for the wastewater project that is urgent and we would like more sponsors. ***Please contact the Secretary if you wish to sponsor a race.***

Rubbish Removal

It is an interesting fact that virtually all the rubbish found on the SIR site is brought in. What is not understood is that by being rural, we are not given a council pick up service. Consequently, SIR has to pay for the collection and its transport to Timaru some 160km away for its disposal.

The pictures on the right were taken just after one of the regattas and they show the rubbish that was left behind from the supporter's tents. It is quite obvious that most of this rubbish was brought here and it is great to see that some people are sufficiently tidy that it is collected in the one place.

To give some idea of the costs, our accounts show that approximately \$1100 was spent on rubbish removal during the November/ December period. At present this comes from entry fees and there is a constant pressure to keep them low. Therefore apart from asking everyone to remove their own rubbish, we welcome suggestions on how to fund this activity. *Please email the Secretary with your ideas.*



Gate Fee

We have had a number of inquiries about having a gate fee and as many will have noticed, we have set up the capability to do just this.

However, to date we have resisted doing this for all regattas except the National Championships and the Maadi Cup Regattas and even then it has been for cars only.

It has been observed that in these times of user pays, almost every significant sporting venue charges an entry fee for spectators and supporters sometimes per person, sometime per car and sometimes for both. Unfortunately the mechanics of doing this are also costly and this adds to the reason for not doing a full implementation.

For all other regattas we are accepting donations in lieu of a gate fee. Donations can be made at the Secretary's Office. The Secretary can give a receipt should that be required.

Amenity Fee

The SIR facility is aimed at providing the best facility for rowing and the training of rowers' crews in New Zealand. Recently, there has been a significant increase in the number of people using the facilities but stay and eat off site.

However, the facilities need continual work to keep them operational and this is becoming increasingly expensive. The rubbish generation is mentioned above and we also need to consider the toilet facilities which require regular servicing, the potable water consumption, which is charged to SIR, and the general facility charges (rates, power, insurance etc.).

The Board has decided that an amenity charge will be levied on those using the facilities in this way. The details and implementation date will be advertised in a later newsletter.

Classic Car Show

A Classic Car Show was held at the rowing complex on Saturday January 10. While the purpose was to raise funds for the Early Learning Centre in Twizel, it was an excellent opportunity for those getting on in years to reminisce about the cars of their youth.

The cars in the first picture below are: Ferrari F360, Citroen 2CV, 1966 E-Type Jaguar, 3500 Rover V8, Pontiac, 1917 Model T ford, 1951 Ford Prefect (modified), Jaguar XK5. All immaculately presented.

There were some rather exotic vehicles such as a BMW M3 convertible, a Dodge Challenger and Russell Armstrong's vintage truck.

The second picture below shows how time has influenced the Fords from the 1917 Model T to the 2015 Ford F150.

South Island Rowing was pleased to make the facilities available for this activity.





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Any contributions, comments or correspondence for this newsletter or website should be forwarded to the Secretary. (secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz)

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