

# The Blade

JULY, 2001 ISSUE



## Club Rowing Moves to New Level With Arrival of Summer Season Coach

With the arrival of Veronika Platzer, our Summer rowing coach, DRC members finally have their first and finest opportunity to receive top level coaching from a veteran of the racing world and a professional teacher/coach for all levels of rowers.

Until now, the only instruction provided our members was the Learn To Row program for beginners, and following completion of those classes there was no further formal coaching available at the DRC. How to advance your rowing skills from beginner to elite level and perhaps even to try racing was a mystery with no solution. The solution is here. If you have always wanted to improve but lacked the leadership of a good instructor, Veronika is your answer.

Veronika's coaching schedule is shown on a detailed, daily calendar in the boathouse. It basically includes morning instruction from 7-9 am and afternoons from 5-8 pm, Wednesday through Sunday for the morning sessions and Wednesday through Friday for the afternoon sessions which address Youth, Level 45, and then Level 3. Wednesday's at 8 PM she does an ERG Class. She has also scheduled Learn To Row classes every weekend (Sat/Sun) from 12:30-3:00 pm. Veronika is off on Monday and Tuesday. If you are a current DRC member there is no charge for the coaching clinics. However, if you wish private lessons she is available, and you can make those arrangements directly with Veronika. You aren't required to call her and reserve a time as she handles her coaching from a



Veronika Platzer and her ever present tools... Launch, hat, dark glasses and bull horn

launch and can handle multiple rowers. Beginning in July, she will manage a schedule for those DRC rowers planning to row in the Master's National Championship in Indianapolis this August and also the FISA World Championships scheduled for Canada in August. These classes will involve multiple seat racing technique (2X & 4X).

The DRC has converted the old storage closet upstairs into an air conditioned office complete with desk, computer and printer for Veronika to handle her administrative duties. Thanks to Tony Palms and his lovely wife, Diana, for putting in the insulation and air conditioner along with Nessim Rafael who helped Veronika with the furniture moving chore.

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# PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS...

Former board member and club secretary Susan Yip is regrettably leaving Dallas and the DRC. She and her physician husband are moving to Phoenix. Call us, Susan, when you get a rowing club started. Might be fun in the desert.

Board member Nelson Spencer completed the Vancouver International Marathon on May 6th. Nelson is an international athlete and a busy one. (See story, page 3)



The DRC's Social Chairman, Herman Bockelman, has a fun radio show airing each Friday evening from 6-10 PM. Herman can be found at 770 on your AM dial at Station KAAM. Herman offers European music interspersed with his sage comments. Listen in!

Blade editor Dan Ellinor completed his 22nd marathon April 29th at the Big Sur International Marathon in Carmel, CA. Dan's daughter, Danya, ran the race with him as she did in 2000.



Dan was also selected to attend the TCU/Cliburn Piano Institute, June 6-17th in Fort Worth. He attended piano master classes every day, received piano lessons from the visiting Masters, and performed in two recital events in the Pepsico Hall at TCU.

Dan's participation enabled him to hear both Cliburn Gold Medalists in their Saturday evening performances

prior to being announced as winners on Sunday evening, June 10th.

Board member Nancy Moran has a new Summer home adjacent to the Craftsbury Rowing School in Vermont. Nancy will spend a good bit of the summer rowing season there. The "new" home was built in 1850. Nancy invites DRC rowers to visit her in those cool Vermont hills.

Greenhill coach and DRC board member Kristen Resor will be leaving her position at the school after 6 seasons as head coach. Kristen will enter UT Austin's graduate business school in August in pursuit of her MBA. Kristen is a 1991 graduate of Colby College in Maine, and prior to her teaching assignment at Greenhill taught school in Chile. Would you guess she is fluent in Spanish and teaches it? Best of luck Kristen, and we hope to see you at the Austin RC events these next 2 years.



Board member, away regatta chairman, truck driver, trailer repairman, medal winning sculler and four time grandfather, Bob Houston, received his 5th grandchild on June 7th. The new arrival is a boy named Daniel. He weighed in at 10lb, 12 ounces (ouch). Bob's daughter,



Hope Hirshorn, and husband reside in W. Harrison, N.Y. The older 3 grandchildren are girls with the final two as, you guessed it, boys. Congratulations to Bob and his lovely wife, Diane.

ESD rowing coach, Troy Howell, will be spending a few weeks in North Carolina in July on a personal project. He will be at the Nantahala Outdoor Center near Bryson City, NC., and on his return will prepare for the national races in August.

The Parks Department finally removed the mud island adjacent to the East dock. In the process, the lake bank was damaged with deep tire ruts from the backhoe. DRC's Volunteer of the Year, J. D. Werle, picked up his soul tools, a rake and shovel, and over several hours of hot work restored the bank's contours. Thanks, J.D.

Last year's ESD rower, Jamie Alexis Fowler, has been elected captain of the 2002 rowing team of Vassar College. This is an outstanding honor for a first year rower to achieve. Congratulations, Jamie!

DO YOU HAVE SOME PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT YOURSELF OR OTHER DRC MEMBERS? WE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE A PAGE IN EACH NEWSLETTER THAT HAS STORIES OF INTEREST ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND THAT ARE NOT SIMPLY ROWING RELATED. IF YOU DO PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AT 214-358-2036 OR Email me at elldan @ earthlink.net.

## NELSON SPENCER FINDS INTERNATIONAL VENUE

With his participation in the Golden Oldies World Rugby Festival in Toulouse, France last month, DRC board member Nelson Spencer firmly established his new found reputation as an international athlete. (In May, Nelson completed the Vancouver International Marathon.)

Some 3000 rugby players attended the event which is limited to those players over 35 years of age. Nelson, 62, and another teammate, Bob McNab of Irving, participated as members of the TEXAS XXXXs rugby team from Houston. The event, and Nelson are featured in the Dallas Morning News edition of June 15, 2001, and DRC members can read the article which is posted on the bulletin board at the sign in desk. Of particular note is the lovely color photograph of our conservative Nelson wearing a 30 gallon cowboy hat when he participated in the opening ceremonial parade known as the Parade of the Horribles.

Nelson regularly participates in rugby with the Dallas Harlequins which he founded in 1971. The Harlequins have some 100 members in several categories, ie: Social (non-jocks?), Gentlemen (over 35 years of age), and Quentessentials (founding members).

Nelson began playing the sport while in college at Cornell and retained his interest to form the Harlequins. The Dallas club has 3 individual teams and competes in the Western Conference of the National Rugby Association. The team won the national championship in 1984 and has made it to the final four on four previous occasions and is consistently ranked in the top 10 American teams.

DRC members may feel a kinship with this group of "older" rugby players when you hear the philosophy of the

## HELPED BY AN ANGLE By Bob Houston

Editor's Note: This wonderful story was too long to print in the Blade so with Bob's permission this is a shortened version.

On our return trip to Dallas after the Tulsa Sprints on June 9, about 40 miles south of Tulsa in Henryetta, OK, on Rt 75 at about 5:30 p.m. Fritz and I experienced a problem with our trailer. We thought we had a blown tire and were riding on the rim of one of our four wheels because of the sound of the metal on the road.

We stopped on the side of the road and on inspection discovered the A frame, which houses the ball attachment, brake line and electrical wiring, was severely damaged. The problem was how to get the trailer off the highway.

Within 5 minutes of the mishap a man with his wife and two children passed our trailer and circled back around on a dirt road to inspect the damage. After a brief inspection he said he would help us as he was a "welder" and would return in fifteen minutes with equipment and supplies to help us get back on the road to Dallas. With his help we got the trailer off Highway 75.

He returned with welding equipment in a truck accompanied by his father and family, all in separate vehicles. He managed to make sufficient temporary repairs to enable us to move the trailer to his shop for permanent welding. His shop was about one mile from our mishap. His shop was located on his parents property, so we drove our rig on their manicured lawn, around trees, to the rear of the property where the welding shop was located. We unhitched the trailer, unloaded a number of boats, oars and slings and jacked the trailer up. During the welding the grass was hosed down and Fritz held



up a heavy duty cloth to prevent damage to the boats. After much work the rig was pronounced ready to travel and we left to begin the remaining 230 miles to Dallas.

We did not have any brakes and trailer lights so we looked to purchase battery powered lights. At the next truck stop we purchased reflectors but no battery lights were available. After being warned by truck stop personnel about police surveillance in the coming town of Atoka we decided to use the flashing truck emergency lights. We passed several police vehicles giving speeding tickets, but none passed us on the balance of the trip.

Finally, at 4:00 a.m., we arrived at the DRC and a Water Department employee opened the gate for us so we could reach our normal storage spot and the trip was over. Fritz and I both agreed we were absolutely lucky to find a welder on a Saturday evening. We thanked the welder and his family for the gift of restoring our trailer to operating condition. We were, in fact, "Helped by an Angle".

## SMU GIRLS ROWING SEASON? COME SEE..... COME SIGH

After a wonderful beginning in the Fall of 2000's head races, the SMU womens rowing team suffered serious personnel setbacks with a string of season ending illnesses to several of the varsity rowers, and that made the Spring sprint season an uphill task.

Head coach Doug Wright's girls medalled at the Head of the Hooch in Lake Lanier, Ga., and the Austin RCs Head of the Colorado on Town lake and were looking forward to the Spring racing season. In January, four members of the varsity eight experienced serious illnesses and were not available for the balance of the season, thus casting beginning rowers into starting roles.

Several bright spots, however, give real enthusiasm for next year. The SMU Petite crew (freshmen rowers) won Gold in the

San Diego Crew Classic's Cal Cup Petite event in April. Additionally this Fall, Coach Wright has four top athletes joining his program as freshmen, and this is a real positive according to Doug. He explained that a two year program such as SMU's has difficulty attracting top athletes initially as most of them prefer to attend schools with a successful national winning program. With a good portion of his current varsity crew returning in the Fall he expects a much improved 2001-02 season.

Doug will have 6-8 of his athletes on campus this summer, and with the addition of two new doubles to SMU's inventory of boats the girls will be working out often at White Rock Lake. Doug invites DRC members to bring their boats to White Rock on occasion and enjoy the larger venue. The SMU launching dock is located at the Bath House on East Lawther Drive.

The hoped for SMU boathouse at White Rock is still in process with City of Dallas approval received and tentative drawings

## BACHMAN DREDGING UPDATE

Lloys Denman, project director for the City of Dallas's Bachman Lake dredging project, reports the following:

July 16th..... Approval from city of Farmers Branch to allow placement of sediment on private property in that city expected.

Following the Farmers Branch approval, advertisements for bidders will be published with expected award, etc., by early Fall.

Preparation will begin in October and Lloyd expects us to see equipment on the lake in November. He reiterated that the project is expected to take 9-12 months to complete. This places the completion date somewhere between July and September, 2002.

## CURRENT MEMBERS

Eric Albright  
Annette Muga  
Frances Atwood  
David Bernstein  
Herman Bockelman  
Paul Bonanno  
Milosh Boroyevich  
Kelem Butts  
Chip Chase  
Penny Chen  
Pat Claggett  
Elizabeth Collins  
Jamir Correa  
Steve Crosson  
Kadri Cumur  
Chris Davidson  
Michiel deHaan  
Susan Demorsky  
Tim Drake  
Jennifer El Sherif  
Dan Ellinor  
Jonathan Erwin

Earl Fairbanks  
Rico Fehr  
Charles Ford  
Jaime Alexis Fowler  
Sted Garber  
Ruben Garcia  
Jane Goransson  
Lillian & Cody Hansen  
Donna Harris  
Kathleen Hayden  
Foster Hays  
Jamie Helwig  
David Hirsch  
Karen Hixon  
Bob Houston  
Troy Howell  
Edward Hurst  
Mark Jeffrey  
N. Bruce Jennevein  
Patrick Jennevein  
Phillip Jones  
Kristen Karlisch  
Eric Klintmalm  
Hank Lammens  
Richard LaVoy

Caroline Lee  
C. Bruton Lynch  
David Margolis  
John Martin  
Linda Masson  
Emilie Mennel  
Richard Misdrom  
Jason Mitura  
Amy Molenaar  
Nancy Moran  
John Morgan  
Mike Morschauser  
John Mullen  
Marie Mulligan  
Charles Nearburg  
James Northrup  
Dan O'Connell  
Nancy O'Neal  
Tony Palms  
Laura Pastor  
Phillip Prendergast  
Alisa Prendergast  
Rene Prieto  
Nessim Rafael  
Helen Reynolds

Ron, Ira & Eli Schachar  
David Schmidt  
Kathryn Seel  
Liz Shepherd  
Jake Smith  
Michael Smith  
Mark & Laura Smith  
Nelson Spencer  
David Sperry  
Steven Terry  
Mary Thompson  
Hugo Velez  
John Vorhies  
Tammara Walsh  
Jon Werner  
Jennifer Williams  
Nancy Williams  
John Wilson  
Joe Wintz  
Fritz Woeste  
Capt. Dan Wolfe  
Teri Worley  
Keith Young  
Keith Young, Jr.  
Clay Ziegler

# Stuff You Need to Know....

## May Board of Directors Meeting

With 16 directors present for the May meeting the following actions were taken:

1. March minutes were approved with these corrections: Bob Houston will continue to be the official driver for away regattas. Amy Molenaar will be the Loading Director for regattas and will handle collection of seat fees.
2. Treasurer Nessim Rafael provided the board with an updated asset schedule and will update the current boat inventory to match the list in use for our insurance policy. Assets will be adjusted to reflect current depreciation.
3. Boathouse clean-up day was designated as May 26th and will include the Bockelman bratwurst extravaganza.
4. Due to the inability to specifically establish dates for the dredging of Bachman Lake, the board decided the club will not plan club events around that eventuality.
5. The Facilities and Expansion Committee reports that the Water Department expects to be using the entire fenced in parking area for an ionization facility. The dept. has recommended the area southeast of the spillway as a location for another boathouse. The board was dubious of that location.
6. New equipment committee was appointed to include Amy Molenaar, Nessim Rafael, Troy Howell, Fritz Woeste, and Jon Werner.
7. A Bungle Bucket Award committee was formed consisting of former winners Jon Werner, John Vorhies and David Hirsch.

8. In addition to the boathouse clean-up party, the social committee scheduled a June 6th party to welcome Veronika Platzer and bid farewell to former Secretary, Susan Yip and set December 8th as the Christmas/Holiday party.
10. The club will take several boats to the Masters regatta to be a part of a rental pool.
11. Unanimously approved a change to the guest policy dictating that a member and his/her guest or guests may occupy only one shell.
12. A proposal was made to elect Marie Mulligan to the board. Accepted without opposition.
13. Mary Thompson was directed to contact the Athletic Director, Highland Park HS, to determine who, if anyone, is directing any nascent rowing program they might have.



## June Board of Directors Meeting

With 14 directors present the following actions were taken

1. Pat Humm, representing Jesuit Students interested in rowing made a presentation to begin a program at DRC. A subcommittee of Troy Howell, Veronika Platzer, Mary Thomson and Chuck Ford were appointed to study the matter and make recommendations.
2. There will be a scrimmage, June 30th in Austin. Veronika Platzer will handle details.
3. The equipment committee recommended the following new purchases: a. New Trailer b. 10 sets of hatchet oars c. 4 Peinert Singles d. 1 Sykes HW 2x e. 1 Sykes HW 4x
4. Unanimously approved purchase of a new Hudson trailer at \$7800 plus delivery fees, purchase of 10 pairs of hatchet sculls, est \$400 p/pr., expenditure of \$10000. priority is a Peinert HW 1x.
5. A motion to sell several boats as presented by the New Equipment Committee was tabled for further review.
6. A boathouse clean-up day was scheduled for July 21st.
7. David Margolis committed to help with member check-outs.
8. The purchase of a seat for the coaching launch was approved
9. Kristen Resor will be resigning from the board when she enters UT Austin's graduate school at the end of summer.
10. Nessim Rafael will handle all registration and hotel details for the FISA Regatta. If you wish to participate you must fill out your own forms and coordinate with Nessim.
11. Next board meeting was scheduled for July 14th
12. There will be no August meeting of the Board.

# RACING .....

## DRC Jrs Whoop It up in Waco, But When It Counted....OOPS.

Texas junior teams from Dallas, Woodlands and Austin met in Waco on the Brazos on April 21st for an informal scrimmage before their official state championship the following weekend at the ARC/Town Lake course.



Parents know how to make spectating fun.



Getting Race Ready



Nancy Williams Coffman, husband Steve and Nancy's daughter, Maggie

A fabulous time racing, eating and cheering the home teams made the Waco event fun to watch with ESD coach Troy Howell heading up the race management of start and finish lines. A strong wind made the 1000 meter course tough, but it was a great day for all.



The Ursuline Girls



## STATE CHAMPIONSHIP YIELDS FEW MEDALS FOR DRC JUNIORS

For the first time in several years, the DRC Junior School Teams didn't lead the Gold medal parade at the state championship on Austin's Town Lake.

The day wasn't a total loss, however, as DRC's David Hirsch, coach of the St. Mark's team, saw his guys bring home Gold in the prestige boy's events, the Varsity 4X

and the Junior Varsity 4X, plus a Bronze in the Boy's Novice 4X and Novice 2X. Troy Howell's ESD group managed Silver in the Girl's Novice 4X, and Bronze in the Boy's Varsity 4X. Cistercian garnered a Bronze in the Boy's Varsity 2X, and Hockaday took Silver in the Girl's Junior Varsity 4X and Greenhill the Bronze. The Austin junior contingent managed 7 Gold medals.

## WOODLANDS PROVES A DRC GOLD MINE

The DRC's grownups make a killing at the Woodlands annual Dragon's Breath regatta bringing home 5 Gold and 1 Silver in the events they entered. Here they are: **Gold — Amy Molenaar, W 1x, A-H, Lgwt, Amy and Dave Sperry, MXd 2x, Houston, Sperry, Hirsch & Ziegler, M4x, A-H, and Sperry, Amy, Rich LaVoy & Mathis (BARC), MXd 4x. Dave Hirsch & Bob Houston took Silver in the M2x, A-H. Good job**

## TULSA SPRINTS YIELD SECOND GOLD MINE

In the final regatta of the Summer, Dallas rowers made an impressive showing in the Tulsa Sprints with 6 Golds, 4 Silvers and 2 Bronzes. Here they are: **MM1x, 50+, John Vorhies, 1st, Mike Morschauser, 2nd, & Dave Sperry, 3rd., WM1x, Amy, 1st., MM2x, 40+, John/Mike, 1st, Sperry/LaVoy, 2nd, Houston/ Woeste, 3rd. WM2x, Amy & Nicky O'Neal, 1st. MxM2x, Amy/ Sperry, 2nd. MM4X, Houston/Woeste/Club/Club, 2nd. MxM4x, Amy/Sperry/LaVoy/O'Neal, 1st. MxM2x, Amy/LaVoy, 1st.**

# CLEANUP PARTY AND BRATWURST SOCIAL.... IS THIS NORMAL?



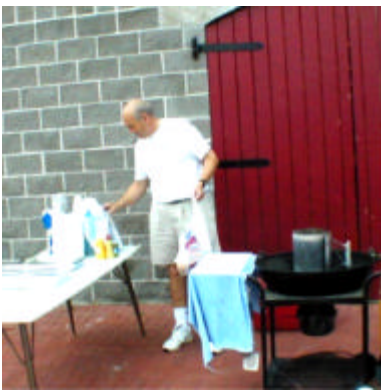
A proper beginning, hosing the dock

Herman Bockelman and Marie Mulligan, the savvy entertainment committee of the DRC, decided to combine their planned Bratwurst cookout with the previously scheduled Boathouse Cleanup Party on Saturday, May 26th, and 30 odd (no pun intended) DRC members were on hand to spruce up the boat-house and did they ever do a great job.

A memorial service was held for the soft drink machine before loading it up and hauling it to the city dump for its final disposal site. It was so noble and deserving an effort that it is pictured in sequence on this page. Thanks so much, guys.



Nancy Moran, et al, repairing the bank



Herman in the Preparation Stage

Herman did a fine job of demonstrating his native cooking skills (vee liked zee bratwurst) and hugging various and sundry females standing by to observe.

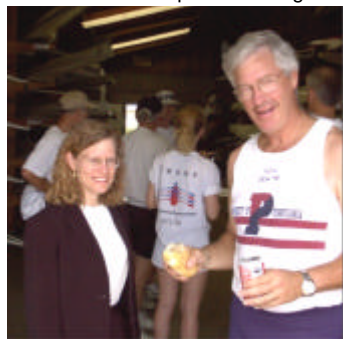
Thanks to everyone for a great job!



Marie Mulligan and Jon Werner enjoy some friendly supervision of Herman



Herman enjoying Mary Thomson who is doing the "high kick" she learned before she got "saved."



Nicky O'Neal, new/old/new member of DRC, enjoys the morning with Tony Palms.



The engineering group that planned the mounting of the coke box for transfer to the dump.



Clay Zeigler, Tony Palms and Nessim do the honors in final burial of the coke box.



Cokebox Pallbearers assembling for duty

## DRC HOSTS WELCOME PARTY FOR VERONIKA PLATZER

Some thirty DRC rowers attended the Welcome Veronika party at the venerable ClubSchmitz on Wednesday, June 6th. After a happy bout of hamburgers and beer the Club's new Summer coach addressed the group informally to acquaint everyone with some of her coaching philosophies and what we might look forward to this summer.

- "I would like to be thought of as a teacher rather than a coach"**
- "You need to be on time and do what you say you will do"**
- "Be nice to each other and encourage fellowship"**
- "I work for every member of the Dallas Rowing Club"**
- "I don't believe in coaching every stroke"**
- "Trust me when I tell you what to do in rowing"**

### Dallas Rowing Club Membership Schedule, 2001



#### **THE BLADE STAFF**

- EDITOR**  
**Dan Ellinor**
- BOARD LIASON**  
**Herman Bockelman**
- REPORTERS**  
**Bob Houston**

Membership Type	Description	Paid Trimes-ter Dues	Paid Annual Dues
YOUTH	14-17 years of age, use of club equipment with adult supervision	\$65.00	\$150.00
JUNIOR	18 to 26 years of age; use of club Equipment; voting privileges	\$75.00	\$190.00
REGULAR	27 years of age or older; use of club equipment; voting privileges	\$100.00	\$250.00
FAMILY	Entire family, regardless of age; use of club equipment; voting privilege of one	\$150.00	\$375.00

Members: Veronika Platzer is running one of the best programs ever presented by the DRC. If you truly want to improve your rowing, regardless of your level of expertise, she is your answer. Get out of the house, come to the boathouse, look at her calendar and get ready to row! There are daily programs (5-8pm) for each level of expertise, with each level lasting for an hour.