

The Blade

November, 2001

SPECIAL RACE EDITION



DRC'S RACING "TEN" COMBINE FOR BEST RESULTS IN CLUB'S HISTORY

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With the back to back combination of the National Masters Regatta in Indianapolis and the FISA World Masters Championship in Montreal, the Dallas Rowing Club's "racing ten" took full advantage of the timely hookup to capture more medals than in any other year of the Club's racing history.

The DRC's brand new trailer with the flashy DALLAS ROWING CLUB letters departed the Club's parking lot on Sunday, August 18th, under the steady hand of Bob Houston, who was accompanied by Fritz Woeste and Nessim Rafael, both of whom shared driving duties. First stop for racing was the Zurich Scudder Investments Masters National Championship Regatta at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis, IN. The event officially began on Wednesday, August 22, with qualifying heats for Friday's event finals while Thursday's qualifying heats were for Saturday's event finals. Since inclement weather cancelled the last day of finals in earlier years, Sunday is now left open as a weather day if needed.

As in previous years, DRC rowers combined with former members Eric O'Banion and Greg Forrester to create a mixed 4X. In a number of other events our rowers were added to another club's 4x or 8+ to round out their crews. Phil Cushing of the Woodlands Rowing Club filled a seat on one of our 4Xs and Lee Smith of the Fort Worth Rowing Club paired up with DRC's Evelyn Ireland in the mixed doubles event. Lee's daughter Amy, a former DRC board



The world's longest tenured boat hauler, Bob Houston, gets ready to saddle up for the long drive to Indianapolis and Montreal with the DRC's new trailer loaded up.

member, also helped in filling out DRC boats. All in all, DRC rowers produced 13 medal winning performances in this regatta. For official race results, crew member names and actual medal counts see Race Results, Page 6.

THE DRC'S NEW TRAILER

After 10 or so years of fixing and sweating, the old DRC boat trailer was retired in a moving ceremony with Lee Smith of the Fort Worth Rowing Club which purchased it for their archives. Our new trailer is a beauty and performed fabulously on the trip to Indianapolis and Montreal. Hooray for progress!!!

PERSONAL NOTES 'BOUT YOUR FRIENDS...

MAN BENOTIGT DREI DURCHSCHNITTLICHE RUDERER, UM EINEN DEUTSCHEN RUDERER ZU ERZEUGEN



Translation: "IT TAKES THREE AVERAGE ROWERS TO MAKE ONE GOOD GERMAN ROWER"

With that said, the DRC is living proof that it not only has at least nine average rowers, but, more importantly, it has three excellent German rowers whose rowing lives crossed while growing up in Germany and neither knew it until they met at the DRC 30 or more years later. Their backgrounds read a bit like a travel brochure or a geography lesson as each has moved about the world working, raising a family and continually searching for a rowing club with no success until Dallas and the Dallas Rowing Club. Let's meet our wonderful German contingent, Fritz Woeste, J. D. Werle and Herman Bockelman.

FRITZ WOESTE

Vital Statistics:

Born November 10, 1934, in Lingen, Germany

Wife, Karin; Two grown sons, Frank and Oliver

Work Status: Retired

Came to United States: 1981

For younger men who want a role model for looking great in their senior years, this dapper, athletic rower is your answer. He has been involved in soccer, track and field, tennis and, of course, rowing. Born in Lingen, Germany, Fritz began his work career with the Salzgitter Group, a German conglomerate engaged in shipbuilding, steel production, coal and energy. Fritz spent his entire working life with the oil drilling division of this company. He met wife Karin in 1957 when she moved to Lingen from Berlin and became a student of Fritz who was then the junior coach for his rowing club, LRG.



Karin and Fritz began a world traveled career in 1963 with stints in Saudi, Arabia (63-66), Libya (66-70), Johannesburg, South Africa (70-72 & 75-76), Hanover, Germany (72-75) and Aberdeen, Scotland (77-81). The Woeste's moved to Dallas in December, 1981 and still occupy the same North Dallas home they acquired then. Fritz's company returned him to Germany in 1995, but the family remained in America where Fritz would often visit, row at the DRC, and return to work which took him to Siberia, Russia, Algeria, Norway, England, Madagascar, the Khyber Pass, Borneo, Pakistan, Yemen, Nigeria, and a host of other countries. Upon returning to Dallas in 1998, he commuted to Houston weekly for his company until his retirement in May, 2000. Now he finally had plenty of time to row at DRC.

This remarkable athlete and businessman learned to row at age 21, and his fondest rowing memories were the 10 mile rows up the Ems River, a great lunch with plenty of good German beer, and a fun return row to LRG where he rowed both sweeps and sculls. He proudly describes his club's facilities, which included a bar and dance floor, and the site of many wonderful social events. One of his fond-

est hopes is for our club to have a room where rowers could socialize after rowing.

Fritz found the DRC in 1990 just after the new boathouse was occupied and spent 8 months in a heavy training boat until that great Irishman, Jim Moran, rescued him by demanding the club advance an already skilled rower. Then he became a rowing stalwart in the DRC's finest quad crew of Fritz, J.D. Werle, Joe Wintz and Bob Houston. Together they won a host of regional gold medals and a national bronze. When Joe Wintz had to drop out of rowing temporarily his place was taken by Herman Bockelman so the DRC finally had all three Germans in one boat.

In the mid 80s Fritz competed in the 50 and 100 meter dashes, the 300 meter hurdles, the long jump, discus and shotput in the Texas Senior Games. He takes senior athletics to a new level. A weakened knee ended his track career, but he still found time for tennis which he learned to play in Saudi, Arabia.

HERMANN BOCKELMAN

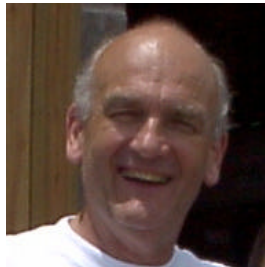
Vital Statistics

Born: Bremen, Germany,
Dec. 6, 1959

Wife: Linda; daughter Ingrid,
35, (prior marriage)

Work Status: Mfg. Rep. Fine
silver products

Came to United States: 1959



If you are a fan of "Clark Kent, mild mannered reporter" chances are you never met Hermann Bockelman, a giant sized, ebullient and gregarious DRC member who is always the life of the party and numbers everyone as a friend.

Hermann, the club's social chairman and a board member, learned to row as a 17 year old in Bremen and after an apprenticeship in international trade moved at the age of 20 to Dallas where friends of his family lived. After a stint as the mail boy at American Petrofina he found himself drafted into the Air Force in 1961. He returned to Dallas in 1964. After a short stay with Graybar Electric and the Sunbeam Corp., he found a home in 1965 with Fisher-Bruce, a Philadelphia based import company with a showroom at the Trade Mart and a line of fine crystal and china. To this date Hermann still calls the Trade Mart home but now has a seven state territory and a product line of the finest silver products.

Fritz likes rowing at the DRC because Bachman Lake is a single sports venue and there are no ships to interfere with your route as in his German club. Remarkably he prefers multiple seat boats to singles as he has only one eye which he good naturedly says makes steering difficult unless in a marked lane.

What he feels is missing at the DRC is a strong organizational structure for advancing beginning rowers to the highest level and exposing them to the fun of racing. He feels our current setup leaves the new rower in a void for advancement which accounts for so few DRC rowers becoming involved in racing. "Veronica Platket's term was a positive step, but her stay was too short to make a difference in the problem", says Fritz. So, if you would like to race at the DRC give this wonderful "German turned American" a visit when you are next at the boathouse.

Hermann's German rowing club, the Hansa Bremen R.C., was also the home club of close friend J.D. Werle (see separate story) but they were active at different times so did not meet until both joined DRC. After his initial three years rowing in Bremen it would be 31 years before Hermann would row again.

During his early adult years in Dallas Hermann was active in Toastmasters International and with a great win in the Texas Toastmasters Humorous Speech contest he found a happy new career to accompany his successful sales efforts. His win gained him the job of doing German voice over commercials for the North Texas Commission which had a campaign to attract European companies to Dallas. This exposure led to a seven year stint at KERA, 90.1 radio where he teamed with a female partner in a show offering European music and social comment each Sunday afternoon. Hermann, of course, offered the social comment. Successive shows followed at various Dallas radio outlets, and Hermann currently has a Friday evening program from 6-10 p.m. on 770 AM, KAAM, where he also offers European music and social commentary. He says it requires from 4-6 hours of preparation for the show which is original, not canned, and his comments are unrehearsed.

He readily admits that if he were to find a radio career that was full time he would jump at the chance to do something which makes him so happy. He credits his love of humor and satire to his mother

Affable Germans Continued.....

“who was a joy to the world to know”, he says. Wife Linda, is his biggest fan and a popular volunteer at DRC events.

After joining the DRC in 1990 and going through the Learn to Row class Hermann found himself anchored in a quad occupied by his fellow Germans, Fritz Woeste and J.D. Werle along with Bob Houston. He proudly proclaims he won his first national medal, a bronze, at the Masters Nationals in 1993. He also rowed to the bronze medal in a DRC 8 at the Masters Nationals at Minneapolis in 1995.

Hermann says he rows to get in touch with himself, but loves the discipline and camaraderie of doubles and quads. The only change he would welcome for the DRC is to limit rowing participants, particularly the schools; always put the rowing needs of the club’s members first; and generate a more social atmosphere for the club.

So, if you members want your spirits picked up, just turn to this gentle giant and go home happy after a good row and coffee with Hermann at La Madelaine.

activities until 1973 when he entered the food brokerage business where he continues to work today. His work took him to many areas over the next few years including Fresno, CA, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Japan, New York and Philadelphia. Unfortunately, his rowing activity was seldom if ever.

His fondest memory of those times, however, was discovering the San Diego Rowing Club where he met Kearney Johnson. Kearney, now 90 years old and an annual visitor to the DRC, chose J. D. to row a double with him on Mission Bay in celebration of his 90th birthday, an event covered by the Independent Rowing News and USRowing. J. D. also recalls meeting a fellow rower, John Kelley, Jr. (Princess Grace’s brother) in an 8 of the Vesper Rowing Club in Philadelphia. Finding the DRC ended a 25 year search for a rowing home. It also became the rowing home for his son, Andreas, an astute rower at DRC, musician and scholar. Daughter Claudia has never taken up the sport, however.

J. D. beams with pride when he tells you about Andreas who was the valedictorian of the Lakewood Gifted and Talented School and a cellist with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra before entering Rice University for undergraduate studies. Then followed medical school in Galveston where he also played cello in the Galveston Symphony. Andreas will complete a 5 year residency in Kansas City next spring and will then undertake a two year fellowship with Children’s Hospital in Houston. Andreas has also done a running marathon, skydiving, solo mountain hiking and snorkeling. He needed the latter sport so he could enjoy his trip to the 2000 Olympics in Australia with its Outer Reef.

J. D. prefers doubles and quads for rowing as it fosters teamwork and camaraderie. He loves the DRC boathouse and says “You can’t imagine the pride I take in it, Dan; particularly when I hear our many visitors comment that you can literally eat off the floor its so clean. Just watch how many times I bend over, Dan, when I’m cleaning up and, you will also agree that it is great exercise”, J. D. proudly remarks.

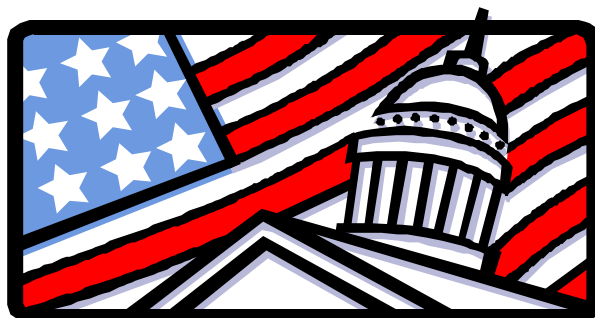
Asked what he would change about DRC he quickly responds “Minimize the bureaucracy of so many by-laws because they create more DONTs than CAN DOS; place the emphasis on using plain common sense.” This hard working DRC member longs for others to join him in his volunteer activities and learn some “good ole common sense.” Thanks, J. D.

J. D. WERLE
Vital Statistics
Born in Luebeck, Germany,
1938
Wife Annegret,
Son, Andreas, 31; Daughter
Claudia, 28
Came to U.S. in 1964



It may come as a surprise to new DRC members that the stocky, well built gentleman who is constantly mowing the boathouse lawn, sweeping the boathouse, cleaning the docks, emptying the trashcans, manicuring the lake bank and hauling debris to the Shorecrest curb is actually an active rower. Meet J. D. Werle, DRC Volunteer of the Year in 2000, a highly competitive rower and the third member of our German contingent.

J.D. learned to row in 1959 in Bremen at the Bremen Ruder Club Hansa, but also participated in track and field and weightlifting. He fondly remembers his first rowing year with what he calls the “first encounter” where two or three fours would row 20 miles up river, camp overnight and party, and row back to the club the next day. After a 2 year tour of duty in the German Air Force he returned to Bremen and entered the cotton brokerage business, an activity which was to occupy him for the next 21 years. From 1962-64 J. D. trained in sweep fours and raced all over Germany. “I yearned for a new adventure about that time and decided to move to Dallas” says J. D. He continued his cotton brokerage



Stuff You Need to Know....

Board of Directors Meeting/July

Fourteen board members present with the following items discussed and/or approved:

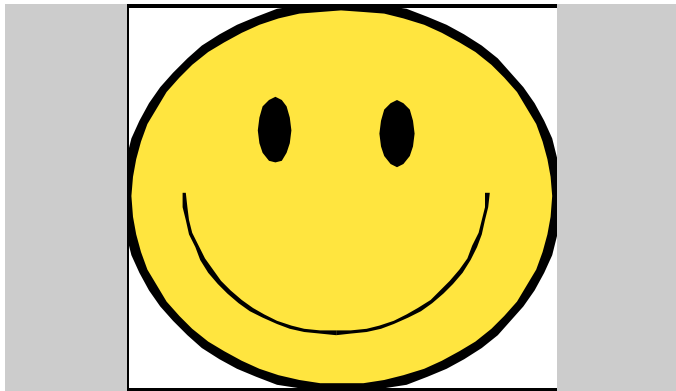
- (1) Restrictions on the 2000 Hudson racing shells were eliminated and those shells are now open to all level 5 rowers. Priority for the shells will go to crews preparing for races within a month.
- (2) Junior Program: TCRC 2001 contracts are limited to the number of boats on the water and the number of students left in the boathouse. A High School must approve any program that allows its students to row under the auspices of the TCRC. The secretary will establish and keep a waiting list for High Schools that wish to start programs at the DRC. Family membership is required for youth rowers not associated with a DRC high school program. A parent must be present at the boathouse when their youth child is rowing outside of the normal HS practices.
- (3) The DRC would like to start a DRC Youth program in the future that would address both unaffiliated high school students desiring to row as well as youths from the Boys and Girls Club.
- (4) The Bay 24, level 3 shell was sold. \$100 was approved for purchase of a Hobie Cat for conversion into a coaching launch.
- (5) There will be no August board meeting

Porterhouse. Scheduled the DRC annual meeting for November 17th at the Bachman Lake Recreational Center, 9AM to Noon.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Dave Sperry, Chairman

Members: Nelson Spencer, Jon Werner, Mike Morchauser, Bob Houston, Bruton Lynch, John Mullen, Evelyn Ireland, and Karen Hixon.



Board of Directors Meeting/September

Twelve board members in attendance with the following actions taken:

- (1) Approved purchase of Dan Ellinor's Hudson double
- (2) Approved member Clayton Roderick's proposal to pay \$300 for damage to the club's Owen 2x
- (3) Mandated that board member Mary Thomson approach HS parents and students interested in rowing and encourage them to start a junior program under DRC auspices. Parents would pay the coach who must be approved by DRC. Juniors in this program will be Youth Members but will have to have their coach present when rowing.
- (4) City of Dallas' Water Department officially rejected DRC request to use land North of the boathouse for future expansion.
- (5) Appointed a nominating committee for 2002 officer and board member elections. Dave Sperry, Chairman. Scheduled Xmas party for December 15th at Paul's

Board of Directors Meeting/October

Fourteen board members in attendance with the following actions taken:

- (1) Approved \$100 in annual dues to the Bachman Lake Foundation.
- (2) Approved a change to the level 5 timed lap to 13 minutes for men and 14 minutes for women.
- (3) Approved additional check out procedure. Three members, board approved, can accompany an advancement candidate on water and certify the advancement.
- (4) Donated \$100 to Children's Medical Center in name of John Mullen's mother. Donated \$100 to Hockaday and St. Marks Schools in name of Nelson Spencer's father who recently passed away.
- (5) Defeated a motion to abolish the DRC Juniors program by a vote of 6 to 4. Appointed a committee to solidify rules and requirements for DRC Juniors program.

STEVE CROSSON, a study in contrast.....

Handsome, quiet, softspoken.....such people are involved in gentle things...right? Maybe, but in the case of DRC's Steve Crosson, it "ain't necessarily so".

Steve's upright profession of property appraisals is in stark contrast with his 35 year involvement with the sport of boxing. First, as an amateur and Golden Gloves competition referee onward to a globe spanning career including over 30 world championship bouts in 15 countries. Even though he no longer actively referees bouts his resume includes service as Treasurer, World Boxing Council, America (1994-2000), International secretary of the WBC (1992-2000), Treasurer, WBC (1983-1990), U.S. spokesman for WBC (1983-1990), and currently Special Advisor to the president of the WBC. Additionally, Steve has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on boxing safety and reform. Among his trusted laurels are: Trustee, WBC Sports Medicine Foundation; Trustee, WBC Retirement Plan for Boxers; and Trustee, WBC Friendly Hand Foundation.

All of the above have occurred for Steve while he created and managed his firm, Crosson-Dannis, to wondrous heights as the premier appraisal & property consulting firm in Dallas. The Crosson-Dannis Racing Series is the premier competition series in Dallas road racing circles, but Steve gladly hands the headlines for Crosson-Dannis Racing to his partner, Chuck Dannis, a former SMU footballer and the creator of the racing series. Chuck was Steve's first employee when he created the firm in 1977.

Steve, a native Dallasite, graduated from Richardson High School in 1963 and received his BBA from North Texas State University. Graduate work at SMU preceded his entry into the real estate appraisal profession.

While all of this education business was going on Steve had begun his fight referee career as an amateur bout referee. His father was a boxer and then the boxing coach at the Dallas Athletic Club so Steve grew up in the sport. Beginning in 1966 he did amateur bouts but joined the professional ranks in 1973. The following 17 wonderful years of refereeing and rising in the ranks of the World Boxing Council came to an end in 1990 with the Tyson-Douglas heavyweight bout in Japan where Tyson was knocked out by an opponent who many claimed received a favorable "long count" during the

bout allowing him to ultimately be victorious. Steve, who was in the U.S. at the time, had his phone ring off the hook with calls from ESPN, CBS, NBC and ABC wanting to know "everything." The fight was on a Friday evening and on Monday morning

Steve decided he had had enough of the fight game. He says simply, "I just looked at the whole mess and decided I could no longer maintain my enthusiasm for the sport and my active role with the WBC." Enough said.



A lot of his enthusiasm was revived in 1999 when he discovered a struggling boxing activity in Oak Cliff appropriately named the Oak Cliff Boxing Club. The group takes struggling youths, age 8-18, and puts them in an after school program that offers a daily home-

work completion period and a computer training class after which they can begin boxing training or a general workout program, followed by an evening meal before they are



bussed home. The club has received excellent underwriting from donors, and Steve serves on the board of directors of the club and finds great delight in the club's progress.

On the rowing front, Steve entered the Learn to Row classes in 1999 and currently is a fine level 5 rower. He and his gorgeous wife Mary are antique enthusiasts so it was completely logical that Steve purchase a 40 year old, newly refinished wooden Stemfli single, and it is a piece of work. After several months of dutiful tracking, Steve located the boat's original owner, Nick Birkmyre, in England and has a collector's item handwritten letter from Mr. Birkmyre who advised Steve he let a rowing colleague, Steve Cromwell, borrow the boat for the 1962 Henley Royal Regatta, and Mr. Cromwell won the Henley Diamond Sculls, the world's most prestigious singles title.

Rowing seems sort of tame and inconspicuous when compared with the exciting and prominent vicissitudes of the world of boxing, but then Steve represents both values well.



RACING

US NATIONAL MASTERS AND FISA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

DALLAS ROWING CLUB MAGNIFICENT "TEN" PRODUCE RECORD NUMBER OF MEDALS IN BACK TO BACK EVENTS

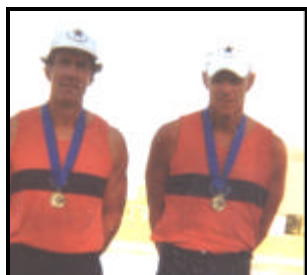
Everything worked for the DRC's racing group as they turned in dynamic performances in a variety of events. Club President Amy Molenaar led the club with our only Gold medal in the singles events. Amy won her second national title in the WLwt A 1X at the Scudder National Masters in Indianapolis. Both Mike Morschauser and David Sperry provided the most single medals in the combined national and world events with 6 medals each. They were closely followed by John Vorhies, 5 total, and Rich LaVoy, 4

total. Amy collected a total of 4 medals followed by rowing teammate Nikki O'Neal with 3. The venerable Bob Houston and quad teammate Fritz Woeste garnered 2 each. Evelyn Ireland claimed one.

Specific championships, events, crew members and respective medals won are displayed below. Many thanks to DRC's Rich LaVoy for providing a host of photos which are included in this issue.

GOLD

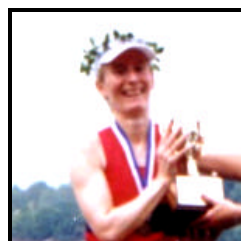
Scudder Investments National Masters
Indianapolis, Indiana August 22-25, 2001



John and Mike MME2-



Rich and John MMD2-



Amy WMLwt A 1X



Amy, Forrester, O'Banion
and O'Neal Mx MA 4X.

SILVER



Morschauser /Brixey
MMD2-



Houston/Woeste/Cushing/Sperry
MM4X, F-H

BRONZE

MM2X F Sperry/Woeste
MxM4X C LaVoy/Sperry/O'Neal/Amy
MxM4X B LaVoy/Sperry/O'Neal/Amy
Mx M4X, E-J Woeste/Houston/Ireland/
K. Kempe
MM2X D Vorhies/Morschauser
MM2- A Vorhies/Morschauser

F.I.S.A. World Masters Championships Montreal Canada August 31-Sept. 2, 2001

The FISA World Championships has an unusual format for competition when compared with our standard US events. In this international event the rower is placed in a heat for his/her/their age class and that heat is the only time they will race. The heat winner is awarded the Gold medal, but all others go without. As you can imagine, the luck of the draw works very strongly in this championship as the rower has no choice of competitors to row against. The heats are run on a 3 minute interval so the racers seem to be continuous for the spectator. The 2001 championship was staged on a former Olympic site and drew a host of compliments from DRC racers.

DRC GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

MM 2X E	Vorhies/Morschauser
MM 2X D	LaVoy/Sperry
MM 2- D	Vorhies/Morschauser
MM 4X F	Houston/Sperry Woeste/Cushing
MxM 4X B	Molenaar/Sperry/Lavoy/O'Neal

Additionally, Mike Morschauser and Rich LaVoy joined the Occoquan Men's E 8+ crew and won Gold.



NEWLY ELECTED 2002 OFFICERS OF DRC

The Dallas Rowing Club's annual meeting for 2001 was held November 17 th at the Bachman Lake Recreational Center and the following were elected as officers of the club for the year 2002. At large directors will be determined in January, 2002.

President	Tony Palms
Vice President	Marie Mulligan
Treasurer	Nessim Rafael
Secretary	Chuck Ford
Boathouse Captain	Clay Ziegler