



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR) Winter 2023 Newsletter

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[Crew Development](#)

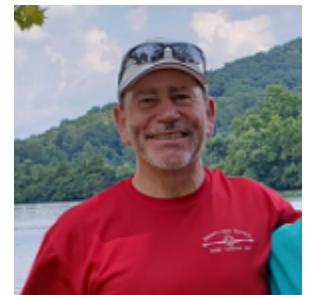


[Annual Coaching Salary](#)



[Coaching Endowment](#)

President's Note : We have a vision to provide student-athletes with an opportunity to participate in a consistent, organized program. We want Nebraska Rowing to enhance competitive opportunities, support educational experience, promote positive life values and fosters life-long friendships. The transition of the Crew to Pawnee Lake is now complete! The facilities, dock, coaching equipment, launches, ergometers, oars and shells have all been upgraded. A professional coach has been hired and assistant coaches have been added. The team size has now grown to 18 athletes. We expect to grow the Crew to between 32 to 48 athletes in 2023.



Providing an appropriately sized paid coaching staff is critical to accomplish our mission. In just their second year, Coach Eric Jensen and Coach Libby Bicak have drastically increased the training time of the student-athletes. The athletes are now competing as skilled and conditioned rowers. We are proud of the Crew representing Nebraska in nine races over the past year. Thanks to your generous support, the program is on the move. It is now time to get on the water and pickup speed! Thank you to everyone who supported our "Grow Big Red" campaign that supports our coaching team and student athletes. - **Mark Stormberg** FONR President

**** Donate to Glow-Big-Red on 2/15 for \$3,500 in matching donations ****



Glow Big Red

Glow Big Red is a competitive fundraising drive where matching funds and challenges can double or triple the impact of your donation. The University Nebraska has also added bonus dollars when placing in the top tier of several categories. We are asking the Alumni of Nebraska Rowing to encourage everyone capable of making a \$5 or larger gift to donate to our cause. These donations need to happen between Noon on Feb. 15, and Noon, Feb.16. Our goal is to surpass 200 individual donations! Use your phone list, text chains and social media to motivate your old boat mates and spread the word!

Funds from Glow-Big-Red Will benefit four categories:

- A new set of Coxboxes
- A Women's bow-coxed 4 +
- Upgraded Shoes and Seats in our 8+'s.

If there is specific intention or area for your Glow-Big-Red donation, please contact Jerry Huber or Joye Fehringer and we will work to direct it to the proper area! Search for 'Crew Club' at <https://glowbigred.unl.edu/campaigns/sports-club-crew-club>



Coach's Corner In my second-year coaching at UNL, the excitement of coaching a new group is being replaced with the satisfaction of strong growth as this team transitions into a competitive crew. Strokes settling into great rhythm, everyone started to lengthen. Not long after, it was the thrill of having to gun the launch engine to keep up! These improvements were made possible with improvements to facilities by FONR and UNL Rec. Whether it is the time saved launching off of our new dock or being able to erg at the lake while waiting for the wind to fade, our team practices with the expectation of training their bodies rather than coping with their circumstances.



UNL athletes competed solidly during our Fall regattas. Their confidence, knowledge and skill set examples for other crews. To my thrill, experience in the fall translated into winter training. Our ergs are full, everyone is pushing themselves at practice and expectations are high for training at home during the holidays. It is going to be a great Spring.
- Coach Jensen



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Your Donations and Support have helped make these 'Dream Projects' a Reality!

For the past 3 years we have witnessed continuous improvement in the Nebraska Rowing Equipment and Facilities. Please continue your support so we can continue the momentum in 2023! A Video of the Boat-Yard and New Shells can be found here : <https://nebraskacrew.com/boatyard2022.mp4>

"Year 1" - Old Dilapidated Marina



"Year 2" - Under Construction



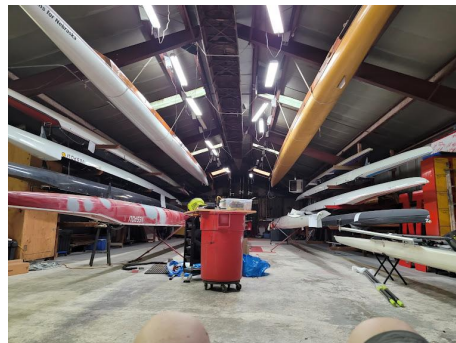
"Year 3" 'Huddle' Bldg Exterior finished



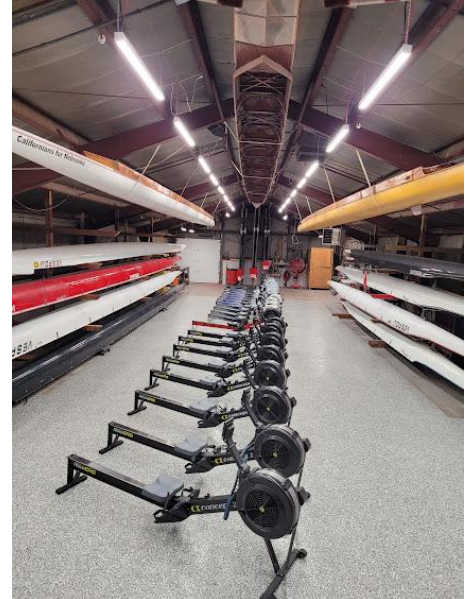
"Year 1" Boathouse Cleanout



"Year 2" - Floor Epoxy Applied, New Ergs Purchased, New LED Lighting installed, Insulation added, boat-racks adjusted and all Shells repaired.



"Year 3" - Ready for Winter Conditioning.



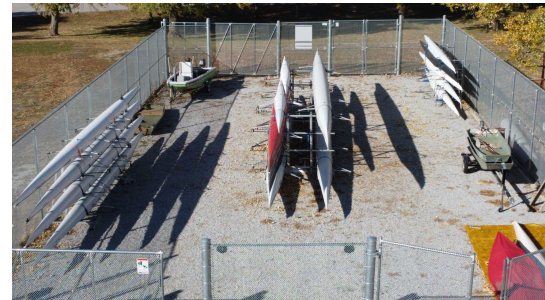
"Year 1" - Empty lot at Pawnee Lake



"Year 2" - Fencing Installed and shells moved inside 'boat pen'



"Year 3" - Racks Installed and Equipment added to Boat-Yard



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Funding UNL Rowing

FONR in conjunction with the NU Foundation, Campus Recreation and Student Athletes use several fundraising strategies including: crowd sourcing, contribution events, planned monthly donations, endowments, and property, trusts, deferred gifts and estates. As a 501(c)3 entity FONR’s primary purpose is to provide financial, organizational, technical and inspirational support to our Student Athletes. Crowd Sourcing including Grow Nebraska Rowing and Glow Big Red are used for short-term fund raising and immediate needs. Alumni Reunions and Contribution events facilitate many donation opportunities. Planned Monthly Donations and Larger one-time contributions are targeted to long term funding typically funneled to Endowments. FONR uses three accounts to concentrate on areas critical to the success of Rowing at Nebraska. You may also designate all or part of your gift to a specific purpose within any of these funds.

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Rowing Club Development Fund. *This is a general fund for equipment and other needs of Nebraska Rowing Club. Note: “Fund # 01015580 University of Nebraska – Lincoln Crew Club Development Fund” or donate directly online at: <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01015580/>*

Friends of Nebraska Rowing Coaching Endowment - Mark & Lisa Stormberg Fund. *This fund has a long-term goal of growing to a level where the annual endowed income will cover most of the coaching salary. note: “Fund # 01101440 Friends of Nebraska Rowing Coaching Endowment-Mark & Lisa Stormberg Fund” or donate directly online at: <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01101440/>*

Friends of Nebraska Rowing Annual Coaching Salary Fund. This fund meets short to mid-term coaching salaries until the self-fund coaching endowment reaches its target and is able to fund or supplement coaching salaries. Note: “Fund # 01156770 Friends of Nebraska Rowing Annual Coaching Salary Fund” or donate directly online at: <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01156770/>

You may mail your gift directly to the University of Nebraska Foundation 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508. Make checks payable to “University of Nebraska Foundation” and add in the desired fund to the memo line and/or an accompanying note.



Row Big Red Alumni Weekend 2022

Approximately 70 Alums, family and friends came together for root beer floats, pizza, raffles, auctions and “old friends” to support Husker rowing. Approximately \$12,000.00 was raised for the Annual Coaching and Coaching Endowment Funds.



2022 Alumni “Fun Row”

Five 8’s of current and past Husker rowers joined this year’s “fun row” at the NU Pawnee Lake Rowing Center. This crew of alums prepares to push off from the new “state of the art” dock. They enjoyed water conditions “as calm as glass”.

Targeted Giving Many of our Alumni are in a position to commit larger gifts, endowments and pledges which makes the next five years critical to the legacy of Nebraska Crew. The University of Nebraska Foundation has outlined guidance on various ways major donors can contribute through planned giving. Deepen giving – what is most meaningful (passion and timing – right fit for you). This could be a pledge to help build our coaching endowment or general support. ask Joye Fehringer at NU Foundation joye.fehringer@nufoundation.org for document/forms to designate FONR

- 1) Outright gifts or pledges
 - i. Cash/check, Appreciated Stock, Gift of Property
 - ii. Qualified Charitable Distribution from IRA as all or part of Required Minimum Distribution (age 70 1/2+)
 - iii. Gift/grant from donor advised fund
- 2) Estate gifts
 - i. Bequest through will/trust – non-binding and revocable (most donors)
 - ii. Beneficiary of retirement assets or life insurance policies
 - iii. Retained life estate – irrevocable gift of property now, tax benefit, and keep home/vacation home/land through lifetime.
- 3) Life Income gifts
 - i. Make an irrevocable gift now, receive charitable receipt for taxes, receive annual income during lifetime, support rowing after lifetime

Questions and Contacts : If you are considering a major gift and have questions or need guidance, or just want to know where your pledge can best satisfy goals, please contact the following:

- Joye Fehringer, University of Nebraska Foundation, email: phone: joye.fehringer@nufoundation.org
- Bill Brush, FONR, Targeted Giving Committee, email: billbrushnebraska@gmail.com
- Lisa Rohde, Friends of Nebraska Rowing, Targeted Giving Committee, email: lisarohde@aol.com



<p>Photos, Photos, Photos. We have a place to display our collection of Alumni Photos: https://www.nebraskacrew.com/wp/alumni-photos/ . Additions to the collection of memories can be easily uploaded here: Please include context information to help our Historian Gary Dostal classify and identify them : https://www.nebraskacrew.com/wp/alumni-photos/upload-alumni-photos/.</p>	<p>Contact Information Needed:</p> <p>FONR needs to grow its own contact list. Please send any information you have to Rachelle (Luft) Brown (rowed '75-79) at rachexpo@gmail.com. Please include as much information as you want as shown: first and Last name, years with NU Crew/Rowing. Email address, phone number, mailing address. .</p>
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Student Athlete Update : Each of our teammates brings something new to the table. Regardless of background, there is room for everyone. The Infrastructure improvements made this fall were a game change to new rowers and made possible by Friends of Nebraska Rowing Alumni and Campus Recreation. We hit the ground running, worked hard, and finished the fall season as a team. I feel lucky to be the coxswain for this team, because my seat (literally and figuratively) is different from my teammates. I appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow, even after classes are done each day. As a five-foot-tall woman, I wish I had found this sport sooner! Rowing makes room for everyone, and our UNL team embodies that idea. Thank you to Coach Eric and Libby, the leadership team, and Frank. These folks work tirelessly to support our team to ensure we have the best rowing experience possible. -Eleanor Dunning, coxswain, class of 2024.



Corn Rows – Chapter 1 (excerpts from a 1980 recording of Al Maybee – Founder of NU Rowing)

Allen Maybee began thinking about forming a Crew team at the University of Nebraska in 1965. Unfortunately, the people of the Great Plains, particularly the flatlands, didn't seem particularly familiar working with water. So he decided to introduce competitive canoeing throughout the Midwest. This would allow people to become comfortable on the water and when they moved to the University we would develop a rowing team. The competitive canoe program throughout the Midwest had several hundred members. Because of its success people continued in their own direction and did not move to rowing. So in 1970 Al gave up on the idea of transitioning canoers to rowers and decided to start a separate rowing program.



Crew was totally foreign to the people of the Plains. Not knowing where to start, Al contacted Don Rose at Kansas State (K-State) University. Don responded with a letter of encouragement, which if you know Al, means he went full-bore into developing a rowing program. The dilemma was which came first, recruiting athletes to form a crew or getting shells and oars. Al's approach was to form the crew team first then asked organizations and universities around the country for boats, oars, and equipment, stating he had a team! He figured it would be more of a selling point to say we had a team but no boats.

"In November of 1970, posters were put up around the Student Union inviting students to meet at a certain place. We had about 20-30 candidates show up mostly out of curiosity wondering what a rowing team was, because they were the kind of people who would try anything. So we sold them a bill of goods knowing nothing about what we were talking about telling them that if they worked out during the Winter we would have boats ready when the ice thawed in late March or April." (Al had no idea where he was going to get boats, oars, or anything else that went with it.) We had no money and Al was attending graduate school. Al fell in cahoots with a fella named Art Thompson, from the Student Union, and was able to manipulate him to several tight corners which Art then helped Al to get out of them.

Corn Rows – Chapter 1 (Continued)

In January 1971, letters were sent to 54 rowing organizations across the country asking for equipment, stating, “I don’t care where you are, if you have one oar and don’t want to mail it, we will come get it.” Much to Al’s surprise the team began to get a lot of offers. For example, “Brown University offered four oars, the Ohio Valley Rowing Association offered several oars. So he came with the offers. So it became apparent to live up to what we said, I would have to hit the road. Purdue University sent a letter which said they had two beat-up four-oared shells they were going to junk out, but if we wanted to haul them out of the old boathouse, we could have them.” Al called Purdue and said, “For God’s sake, don’t touch those boats and we’ll be there to get them.” We borrowed someone’s 1954 Pontiac, headed for Purdue (Lafayette, IN), and picked up parts starting west of Chicago, in Michigan, and West Virginia. Avery Brundage of the U.S. Olympic Committee caught wind of us and was so impressed with our willingness to try something that we didn’t know what we were doing, so instead of offering us several oars, he gave us 12 oars. Plus, he gave us a lot of encouragement. Also, on our way we stopped at Purdue University and the coach, with tongue in cheek, showed us the old boats he was willing to give us. To us they were the most beautiful things in the world.”

“There was an odd-looking boat Purdue wanted to get rid of. It was a four that had been an eight. While crossing the highway from the Purdue boathouse to the water, a car crashed through the shell. Purdue cut it and put it together as a four-man boat. Another was a four without coxswain. So we took them all and brought them back to Lincoln. Along the way with many stops where Nebraska folks would ask where we got the 35 foot long canoes. In the end, the Pontiac with racks on top would be the first boathouse. We never returned the Pontiac to the guy who loaned it to us.”

To get things off to a slight start, Al went to K-State and met with Don Rose who was a great help. He sold the Nebraska team the “Northerner” which was the first eight-oared shell in the Midwest. This boat had been given to K-State by a program in Winnipeg, that had come from England on the deck of a luxury liner around 1930. Though old and fragile, Nebraska was delighted to have it and the \$250 to pay for it was donated by Marv Copple, who was the developer at Capitol Beach (lake).

“After we got the eight, we had two fours and forty anxious crewmen that had never been in a boat. We invited Don Rose to come up to give a rowing exhibition at Capitol Beach. (Don knew what was good for rowing in Nebraska was good for Kansas.) We had a good turn out with lots of curious people.” Al had never been in one of the boats and needed someone who could coach. He looked around and saw Bill Brush who had gone to prep school back East and had crew experience. Bill decided to help with the team and just happened to be a good friend of Art Thompson. Bill agreed to be first coach of the University of Nebraska Crew. “We had boats, oars, equipment, coaches, and crew. We got a flat bottom boat from Sears and borrowed a small motor. We began rowing out at Branched Oak Lake. We had our eye on Capitol Beach Lake. Branched Oak Lake was beautiful for rowing but just too far away.”



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Alumni Highlight

Nancy Marie Wood one of the early NU Crew members was highlighted in the Nebraska Educational Television Title IX series.

<https://nebraskapublicmedia.org/en/series-media/non-series-video/title-ix-nancy-wood-50018811/>

Check it out! -Thanks, Nancy, for the positive words!

Newsletter Input Wanted – if you have any information, insights, or photos you'd like to contribute to future Friends of Nebraska Rowing newsletters, please include your contact info and send them to joelmerriman@hotmail.com. We will try to match them up with the topics outlines in this newsletter or add additional topics and space and time allow. Remember this is another way you participate to this great rowing community.

Webmaster Wanted. If you have basic, intermediate or advanced website skills and can spend an hour a month updating our website then we want you. We want to ensure essential and current information on the site and lines are up to date. Plus, as this role and site evolves, you will bring you best ideas to making the FONR website a better tool.

<https://www.nebraskacrew.com/wp/>. Let Joel Merriman joelmerriman@hotmail.com know if this is something you can do.



Friends of Nebraska Rowing Board (* denotes Officers)

*President – Mark Stormberg

*Vice President – Jerry Huber

*Treasurer – Dave Volkman

*Secretary – Frank Dolezal

*Communications Director – Joel Merriman

Sponsoring Department Ex-Officio - Amy Lanham

Nebraska Foundation Ex-Officio - Joye Fehringer

At Large Member - Lisa Rohde

At large Member – Allen Maybee

At large Member – Ellen Jirovsky

At large Member – Chuck Clifford

Of Counsel/Honorary Member – Bill Brush

Of Counsel/Honorary Member - Pete Zandbergen

Student Athlete - Men's Team Rep. – Johnathan Kelly

Student Athlete - Women's Team Rep. – Eleanor Dunning

Immediate Past-President Ex-Officio – Stan Campbell

Coaching Representative – Eric Jensen

FONR Committees* denotes Chair; members. Please consider joining one or more committee.

LIAISON / MASTERPLAN: *Mark Stormberg <mstormberg@tectonicdesignbuild.com>, Pete Zandbergen, Bill Brush

RECRUITING : *Chuck Clifford <chuckclifford56@gmail.com>, Lisa Rhode.

FACILITIES : *Mark Stormberg <mstormberg@tectonicdesignbuild.com>, Amy Lanham, Brian Stelzer

EQUIPMENT : *Frank Dolezal <frankdolezal@gmail.com>, Brian Stelzer, Kevin Fierro, Eric Jensen

COMMUNICATION : *Joel Merriman <joelmerriman@hotmail.com>, Brad Kuhn, Gary Dostal, Rachelle Brown, Frank

FINANCE : *Dave Volkman <dvolkman@unomaha.edu>, Joye Fehringer, Mark Joekel

TARGETED GIFTING : *Bill Brush <billbrushnebraska@gmail.com>, Lisa Rohde (Major gifts, deferred giving, trusts)

EVENTS : *Jerry Huber <jhuber@investorsomaha.com>, Carol Bryan Easley, Ellen Havlovic Jirovsky, Chuck Clifford, Sarah Wooten Rider, Diane&Dustin Lewis, Mary Beardslee, Joel Merriman, Drew Van Heuveln, Allan Maybee, Stan Campbell

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SPRING '23 SCHEDULE

NEBRASKA CREW

28
JAN

**CREIGHTON'S 8th ANNUAL
2K COMPETITION**
OMAHA, NE

11
FEB

SHOCKER SPRINTS
WICHITA, KS

01
APRIL

UNL CREW REGATTA
PAWNEE LAKE, LINCOLN, NE

16
APRIL

**ILLINOIS COLLEGIATE ROWING
INVITATIONAL**
FARMER CITY, IL

**19-
21**
MAY

**ACRA NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**
OAK RIDGE TN



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