

# Friends of Nebraska Rowing Summer Newsletter 2023



## [Reunion Weekend 2023 – Celebrate 50 years of Nebraska Women’s Crew](#)

(Registration Deadline Sunday 8/27)



**FRIDAY, September 8<sup>th</sup>** 5-9pm.

### **BOATHOUSE BASH at NU Campus Training Center / Boathouse**

Free Parking available in Lot A next to Boathouse

“Meet & Greet” -- Come as you are, whenever you can!

Socialize with old and new friends and student athletes

*Valentino’s Pizza, hotdogs, non-alcoholic beverages, Dairy Store Ice Cream, Root Beer Floats*

Sign up for Saturday’s Alumni “Fun Row!” , Purchase merchandise , Raffles on the Hour

**SATURDAY, September 9<sup>TH</sup>**

### **FUN ROW 8:00-11:00 am @ Pawnee Lake Rowing Facility**

Alumni “Fun Row

Coffee and Breakfast Items

Food Truck BBQ hosted by Chuck Clifford

Tour UNL Rowing Center Facility Equipment + plant Alumni tree!!

### **SOCIAL & AUCTION (aka Alumni Banquet) 5-8pm**

#### **East Campus Student Union Great Plains Room**

5-6:30pm Cocktails and Banquet Buffet

SILENT Auction / Raffle Selection Time!

6:30-7:15pm Photo & Video Highlights

Updates from: NU Campus Rec Representative- Amy Lanham

2022 Crew Captains & Coaches

FONR President – Mark Stormberg

Keeper of the Cob Presentation




50<sup>th</sup> Year of NU Women’s Crew – first coach Pete Zandbergen

7:15-8:00pm LIVE Auction

8:00pm Please Stay Around & Visit

## [Learn more about the reunion’s schedule and register for the weekend.](#)

**Lodging:** A block of hotel rooms are available at the Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Lincoln Airport. Call 402-474-2080 and ask for the Friends of Nebraska Rowing (or UNL Crew) room block. For reunion specific questions, please contact [Hanna Peterson](#). And don’t forget to [register](#) before 8/27 !

<p>Please Consider Donating to one of our targeted University Foundation Accounts :</p>				<p><b>Rooting for our Alumni!</b></p> <p>FONR has a history of planting a tree to honor its members. This year's Tree will honor : Pete Zandbergen and be held at Pawnee Lake.</p>
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**FONR Committees, We are in need of new members, please consider volunteering!**

**LIAISON / MASTERPLAN** (collaborate with Athletes & Campus Rec, program direction)

Chair : Mark Stormberg : [markstormberg@gmail.com](mailto:markstormberg@gmail.com) , Pete Zandbergen, Bill Brush

**RECRUITING** (work on outreach in attracting Competitive Athletes)

Chair : Chuck Clifford [chuckclifford56@gmail.com](mailto:chuckclifford56@gmail.com) , Lisa Rhode, Eric Jensen

**FACILITIES** - (Develop & Maintain Pawnee Rowing Center, NU Rowing Campus Boathouse)

Chair : Mark Stormberg : [markstormberg@gmail.com](mailto:markstormberg@gmail.com) , Amy Lanham, Brian Stelzer

**EQUIPMENT** (Inventory, maintain, recommend purchases of rowing & training equipment)

Chair : Frank Dolezal [frankdolezal@gmail.com](mailto:frankdolezal@gmail.com) Brian Stelzer, Kevin Fierro, Eric Jensen

**COMMUNICATION** (develop & implement marketing program, program history and archives)

Chair Joel Merriman [joelmerriman@hotmail.com](mailto:joelmerriman@hotmail.com) Brad Kuhn, Gary Dostal - historian, Frank Dolezal, Brandi- web lead, Billy Coghill

**EVENTS** - (plans & coordinates events to support the Crew, Alumni, Reunion, Fundraising)

Chair Jerry Huber [jhuber@investorsomaha.com](mailto:jhuber@investorsomaha.com), Justin Miller, Carol Bryan Easley, Ellen Havlovic Jirovsky, Chuck Clifford, Sarah Wooten Rider, Diane Hastings Lewis, Dustin Lewis, Mary Portz Beardslee, Joel Merriman, Drew Van Heuveln, Allan Maybee.

**FINANCE** - (develop & maintain coordinated budget (Crew, REC, FONR) & Fundraising activities)

Chair : Tim Jensen [tjomaha@gmail.com](mailto:tjomaha@gmail.com), Dave Volkman, Joye Feringer, Mark Joekel,

**TARGETED GIFTING** - (Major gifts - specific donors, deferred giving, trusts, endowments) \*

Chair : Bill Brush, Lisa Rohde, Pete Zandbergen





### Reconstruct-Revamp-Refinish

A key project this summer was to refurbish and repaint the shell trailer. Campus Rec replaced an axel, FONR purchased new padding and Duncan Aviation donated a professional paint-job. We hope to showcase our 'Big-Red-Boat-Trailer' in the October Homecoming parade. The trailer looks fantastic and reflects the renewl of Nebraska Rowing Crew!

← Our original “boat hauler “



^---- Nebraska's newly refurbished shell trailer -----^

**Campus Boathouse & Training Center.** The university has completed an underground project on the West side of the Boathouse, a new sidewalk was poured and they are adding landscaping. The boathouse roof was waterproofed, new Audio system and an 80" TV were installed, walls near the back were insulated/walled and the parking lot was repaved. Special thanks to Campus Recreation and FONR donors for the improvements.





## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

We have a lot to be grateful for as the official support group of University of Nebraska Rowing. Since 2017 tremendous accomplishments have been realized. Accomplishments include: Relocating to Pawnee Lake, construction of secure shell storage and a building for warmups, workouts and equipment storage. Shell trailer rehabbed and a new paint job by Duncan Aviation, new dock installed by Camus Rec. Team size has grown to 20 athletes with a goal of about 40 for 2024. Team racing included regional regattas and national championships.

We have financially supported a Head Coach and Assistant Coach that continues to grow the program in a competitive and safe manner. The Committees of Friends of Nebraska Rowing are setting up a sustainable future by establishing long term templates. The biggest priority for 2024 is to grow the Coaching Salary Fund. The next goal will be to grow the Coaching Endowment for long term future salaries. Our challenge is to generate approximately \$70,000 in this next year for current Coaching Salaries and to prepare for the next year. The University of Nebraska Foundation continues to provide guidance and tax free donation assistance and accounts. Keep Growing with Rowing...for a lifetime. All the Best, *Mark (Stormy) Stormberg*, President Friends of Nebraska Rowing

## **FONR Board Update :**

Tim Jensen has been elected as Treasurer replacing David Volkman, the founding FONR Treasurer. Tim rowed from 1980-1982 and is a longtime supporter of the program. Tim brings a wealth of knowledge from his financial experience at Union Pacific and OPS. He and his wife, Caroline, reside in Omaha. We still have two openings on the FONR board, please contact Mark Stormberg or Jerry Huber if you are interested in serving.

## **Coach's Corner**



Summer is a short and highly needed break for college rowing coaches. We made an unexpected stop in Philadelphia on our family vacation this summer. As I walked the required boathouse row and thought about long histories of rowing clubs, it felt good that I was a part of a program that continues to build its own long story.

The growth of a rowing program can be slow in the moment, the way a novice rower gradually gets better before making it to varsity. But if one stops thinks back, the change is there. The FONR members at our first regatta last fall would be surprised to see how well our crew was rowing by Spring.

Recruiting has already produced early success and it looks like we will hit the water with momentum. I really want to thank the athlete leaders and alumni who have put in so much time and resources in 2023. To succeed in Rowing it requires people who champion the sport. More than anything else, the people who are willing to be there through both the thick and the thin are the ones who make the difference.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on the water this fall. - *Coach Eric Jensen*



## Athlete Updates :



The Nebraska Crew rowed through another great semester this 2023 Spring Season. Before the boats hit the water, our crew trained rigorously this winter and added several indoor Races in Creighton, NE and Wichita, KS. After the ice melted, our team had two weeks before hosting K-State Rowing and Colorado State University here at Pawnee Lake. We enjoyed the scrimmage between the teams and seeing the enthusiasm for Rowing as the team connected with spectators. After hosting the scrimmage, our team raced at the Illinois Collegiate Rowing Invitational and the Plains Regional Regatta. Our Varsity Women's four continued training and competed at ACRA National Championships. The boat included Eleanor Dunning, Abigail Henderson, Abby Steffen, Katie Orr, and Kiara Pavlik. We took pride in representing Nebraska at this event and placed 18th out of 27 teams. Kiara Pavlik was recognized as the 1st Alternate for the MidWest Regional Boat. We said goodbye to three graduates: Jonathan Kelly, Katie Orr, and Regis Yizerwe. We are thankful for their contribution to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Rowing program and wish them well in their next pursuits. Our goal is to increase our crew membership through heavy recruitment and strategies for effective practices that increase our competitiveness. The first competition on our calendar is the Head of the Mississippi in Minneapolis, MN. We will attend several more competitions before closing our outdoor season with Frostbite in Wichita, KS. The Nebraska Crew is focused and excited for our next steps this fall!

## Summer 2023 High School Learned to Row

UNL hosted a learn-to-row event this summer for high school students. The clinic for high school students in Lincoln and surrounding areas included a two-day rowing clinic designed as an introduction to rowing.

Perspective oarsmen and women were provided a crash course on the parts of the boat and spend some time working on technique and developing power when rowing. They spent most of the morning rowing on the water with current and former crew members guiding them as they develop their rowing form.





## Corn Rows – Chapter 40

During 2023 Husker home opener at Pawnee Lake on April 1, several family members of NU Crew athletes attended, Alumni, crew, coaches, and spectators met with Colorado State athletes, coaches and CSU parents that flew in from Denver and Illinois along with the Kansas State team who boat up its team and boat from Manhattan. NU novice women 8 easily beat CSU. K-State varsity men' 4 beat CSU. A novice women's 4 went K-state, NU, CSU. Lots of corn toss by all teams. One novice parent starting a Facebook page for parents to share photos, info. Offers of support. A nice boat christening ceremony for Robin and Randy Ruhl's-Bill Coghill parents. Overall a pleasant day at Pawnee!



Billy Coghill rowed at Nebraska 2010-2013 and has been part of Omaha Rowing Association since 2013 coaching at ORA since 2014 to include adults 2014-2021, juniors 2022 – Present. Billy's role with FONR includes serving as a member of the Communications Committee, where I primarily helps by copy-editing the newsletter and coordinating projects with the other committee members. During his three years at Nebraska, his parents, Robin and Randy Ruhl, traveled to every regatta with a car full of snacks for the team, and even sent boxes of snacks with us for Spring break training. They started doing so after attending the 2010 Head of the Des Moines and seeing that we had nothing to eat between races and became a regular fixture at regattas from the next race (Quad Cities Classic). Somewhere along the way, Billy realized there had to be a way to honor them besides the varsity jackets with "Crew Mom" and "Crew Dad" the team gave them, nice as those were. When Frank Dolezal mentioned there was going to be an influx of new equipment, Billy jumped at the chance to buy the naming rights for one of the boats. After saving up some money, he sent in the donation and met with Frank to finalize the design of the name decal. During the 2023 home regatta on Pawnee Lake, a ceremony was held to dedicate the newly christened Robin & Randy Ruhl 8+, with Billy's parents in attendance to see it. "I hope to see photos of that shell crossing the finish line for many years to come and that honoring my parents this way helps increase the parent support of current crew members. I always joked that my parents were more valuable to the team than I was. Now they'll keep helping out Nebraska Rowing in one of the best ways I could think of," Billy commented.

## Nebraska Rowing Coaches List – Info Wanted

A list of coaches and other information is being gathered to help archive the history of Nebraska Rowing back to its beginning. E-mail information to Gary Dostal at [dostal4@gmail.com](mailto:dostal4@gmail.com). Please help fill the gaps if you can provide information missing for the following school years:

**Need : Men's Coach** for 1987-88 through 1991-92, 1994-95 through 1995-96, 2011-12, and 2020-21

**Women's Coach** for 1978-79, 1985-86 through 1996-97, 2001-02, 2003-04, 2011-12 to 2012-13, and 2020-21

School	Year	Mens		Womens	
		Varsity Hwt/Lwt	Freshman/Novice	Varsity	Freshman/Novice
1970	1971	Bill Brush	Bill Brush	-	-
1971	1972	Bill Brush	Bill Brush	-	-
1972	1973	Al Maybee	Al Maybee	Pete Z	Pete Zandbergen
1973	1974	Al Maybee / Pete Z	Al Maybee / Pete Z	Pete Z	Pete Zandbergen
1974	1975	Ron Rustoven	Jerry Huber	Jim Elstun	Jim Elstun
1975	1976	Bob Spousta	Tim Erickson	Mark Stormberg	
1976	1977	Frank Sands	Mark Potadle	Ron Korpi	
1977	1978	Frank Sands		Ron Korpi	
1978	1979	Frank Sands			
1979	1980	Matt Kush	LWT - Wes Hubka	Pam Shotkoski	
1980	1981	Matt Kush	Wes Hubka	Pam Shotkoski	
1981	1982	Joel Merriman	Wes Hubka	Pam Shotkoski	
1982	1983	Ashton Richards	Ashton Richards	Pam Shotkoski	
1983	1984	Chip Perdum		Pam Shotkoski	
1984	1985	Chip Perdum		Pam Shotkoski	
1985	1986	Steve Knapp			
1986	1987	Steve Knapp			
1987	1988				
1988	1989				
1989	1990				
1990	1991		Paul Thygesen		Jon Paladino
1991	1992				
1992	1993	Ron Volcun			
1993	1994	Charles Richardson	Mike Menker		Fred Polvica
1994	1995		Mike Menker		
1995	1996		Nate Kress / Ken St. Germain		Omer Cimen / Brian W
1996	1997	Omer Cimen			Heather Jamison
1997	1998	Omer Cimen		Jeff Tejral	Heather Jamison
1998	1999	Omer Cimen		Jeff Tejral	Andrea Fiste-St. Germain
1999	2000	Jeff Tejral	Frank Dolezal	Jeff Tejral	Tara Woerner
2000	2001	Frank Dolezal	Frank Dolezal	Jeff Tejral	

2001	2002	Frank Dolezal	Christine Jaber		Jenn Coleman-Roller
2002	2003	Frank Dolezal		Sarah Volkman	Michelle Gortemaker-Milanuk
2003	2004	Jeff Roller			Virginia Fugman
2004	2005	Jeff Roller		Jeff Roller	Sidney Pokorny
2005	2006	Jacob Carnes		Calab Pokorny	
2006	2007	Jacob Carnes	Caleb Sweetser	Justin Miller	Lindsey Oltjenbruns-Moore
2007	2008	Josh Vapenik		Justin Miller	Lindsey Oltjenbruns-Moore
2008	2009	Josh Vapenik		Dian Lewis (Hastings)	Lindsey Oltjenbruns-Moore
2009	2010	Josh Vapenik		Dian Lewis (Hastings)	
2010	2011	Josh Vapenik /	Ethan Shaw/ Patrick Klingforth	Lauren Keough	Jessie Rose Winter /
2011	2012				
2012	2013	Paul Smith	Jose Morales		
2013	2014	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler
2014	2015	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler
2015	2016	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler	Meryl Engler
2016	2017	Amanda Kolman		Amanda Kolman	
2017	2018	Drew Van Heuveln	Drew Van Heuveln	Drew Van Heuveln	Drew Van Heuveln
2018	2019	John Jameson	John Jameson	John Jameson	John Jameson
2019	2020	Eben Kotoz	Eben Kotoz	Eben Kotoz	Eben Kotoz
2020	2021				
2021	2022	Eric Jensen		Eric Jensen	
2022	2023	Eric Jensen		Eric Jensen / Libby Bick	Katie Morland

### Friends of Nebraska Rowing Organization Directors \* denotes Officers

*President – Mark Stormberg	At large Member – Ellen Jirovsky
*Vice President – Jerry Huber	At large Member – Chuck Clifford
*Treasurer – Tim Jensen	Of Counsel/Honorary Member –
*Secretary – Frank Dolezal	Of Counsel/Honorary Member - Pete Zandbergen
*Communications– Joel Merriman	Student Athlete - Men's Rep. – Johnathan Kelly
Campus Rec- Amy Lanham	Student Athlete - Women's Rep. – Kyrsten Munoz
NU Foundation - Joye Fehringer	Immediate Past-President Ex-Officio –
At Large - Lisa Rohde	Coaching Representative – Eric Jensen
At large– Allen Maybee	At large Member – Chuck Clifford

### FONR Links –

<https://www.nebraskacrew.com/wp/> <https://www.nebraskacrew.com/fonr/index.html>

<https://crec.unl.edu/crew/home>

[University of Nebraska – Lincoln Crew Club Development Fund](#)

[Friends of Nebraska Rowing Annual Coaching Salary Fund](#)

[Friends of Nebraska Rowing Coaching Endowment – Mark & Lisa Stormberg Fund](#)