



Friends of Nebraska Rowing Summer Newsletter 2022

2022 ROW-Union Weekend

BOATHOUSE BASH at NU Campus Training Center / Boathouse

FRIDAY, OCT. 7TH 5-9pm. [Free Parking next to Boathouse]

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

Socialize with old friends

Valentino’s Pizza, Hot dogs, Non-alcoholic beverage, Root Beer Floats

Sign up for Saturday’s Alumni “Fun Row!”

Purchase merchandise

“Show Off” recent Boathouse renovations

Raffles on the Hour

FUN ROW Pawnee Lake Rowing Facility

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH 7:45-11:00 am.

Alumni “Fun Row” – Drone aerial photos/video

Coffee and Breakfast Items / Food Truck TBD

Tour 2022 Facility, upgrades, improvements + plant Al’s tree!!

SOCIAL & AUCTION (aka Alumni Banquet) Saturday October 8th 5-8pm

East Campus Student Union Great Plains Room

[Parking available in Lot A, north of East Campus Union]

5-6:30pm Cocktails and Heavy Hors D’oeuvres SILENT Auction & Raffle

6:30-7:15pm 2022 Photo & Video Highlights, Updates from : Campus Rec
Crew Captains, Coaches and, FONR President – Mark Stormberg
Keeper of the Cob Presentation

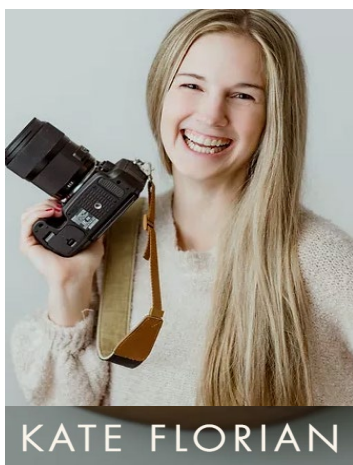
7:15-8:00pm LIVE Auction – Auctioneer Jeff Merriman

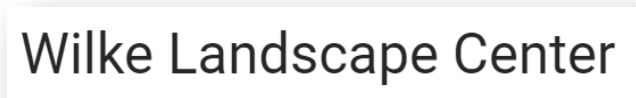
8:00pm Please Stay Around & Visit

Link to registration : [NAA- 2022 Row Big Red Alumni Weekend – Registration\(imodules.com\)](https://www.imodules.com/Registration/2022-Row-Big-Red-Alumni-Weekend)



A huge Thank You goes out to this year's donors so far including those providing items for the live and silent auctions. Please provide your patronage to them and get ready to bid!





INDIVIDUAL DONORS

- ▶ Allan & Cher Maybee
- ▶ Jerry & Jeanne Huber
- ▶ Carol (Bryan) Easley
- ▶ Ellen (Havlovic) Jirovsky
- ▶ Galen Wilke
- ▶ Pete Zandbergen
- ▶ Eric Jensen
- ▶ Diane (Hastings) Lewis

- ▶ Mary (Portz) Beardslee
- ▶ Frank Dolezal
- ▶ Dan 'Slim' Hergert
- ▶ Don Winslow



FONR Board of Directors

Chuck Clifford Named to Friend's Board

At the FONR Annual Meeting on June 13th, 2022, Chuck Clifford, Class of 1978, was elected to serve a 3-year term* on the Friend's Board of Directors. Chuck was a coxswain during his time on the NU Crew and enjoyed many highlights including racing at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. Chuck will be leading the FONR student-athlete Recruiting Committee. He is also an active member of the Events Committee. Chuck lives in Lincoln and has been a State Farm agent for many years.

Welcome

Chuck!

*The Friends of Nebraska Rowing By-Laws state that Board Members are elected to serve 3-year terms. Registered Members of FONR are eligible and encouraged to nominate and vote on new Board members. The Annual meeting is to be held on the 2nd Monday in June and are typically held on Zoom. All Registered Members are welcome to attend!



Tree Planting

Each fall during the Reunion Event, FONR will plant a tree (with permission) in honor of one of its members. This year's Tree Planting will honor Allen Maybee and be held at Pawnee Lake.



New Equipment: Shells added to the fleet!

UNL Rowing Club with coordination and funding assistance from FONR was able to several new shells including three 8+'s, Pairs and a racing 1x. We are still seeking sponsorship to help name these new shells. Please contact frankdolezal@gmail.com if you are interested in sponsorship.

Boats in the pen at Pawnee Lake.



(Bottom Left) - Campus Boathouse repainted (Bottom Right) Pawnee Lake building construction almost complete





Coach's Corner

Summer is always a welcome break from coaching for me. There is still coaching work to do, but the time available and the work itself leads to a slower and more deliberate process. For example, I get to clean out my coaching bag and consider each item there and its effectiveness. The process is relaxing and results in more efficient tools for next year. It also can reveal a lot about transitions the team has made. There might be fewer spare parts needed as the team's equipment has improved. A smaller flashlight might suffice as work and practice schedules improve.

In the same way, the summer break can highlight the status of the crew itself. It is encouraging that I have heard or seen almost every rower this summer. Most of them have been reporting work they have done to get the team ready for the fall. Many report on how well they are maintaining their fitness. There have even been a couple old faces from the past showing up to pitch in and are excited to come back to us in the fall. More surprising has been donations from members of the community as well as possible recruits reaching out to us for information. These are signs of both successful culture building from last season, and good harbingers of what is to come next season.

What has been most rewarding for me this summer is that a few of the team have regularly come out to join me for my personal morning sculling. I can't think of a better way to enjoy the summer as well as to remember the perspective the team has. Why we get on the water every day.

Many thanks to you, the alumni, for providing these opportunities to the UNL Rowing Club. We look forward to having you be a part of all these experiences this next year.

- Eric Jensen



Tentative Fall 2022 Regatta Schedule::

Head of the Des Moines - Saturday, 9/24/2022

The Iowa Chase - Saturday, 10/15/2022 (tentative)

North Star Regatta - 10/29/2022

Wichita Frostbite Regatta - 11/6/2022

Our Student Athletes are also considering an erg sprint in late November in Topeka, KS to kick off our winter training. The Team is excited for this upcoming season and would welcome NU Crew alumni at every event!



Summer High-School Rowing Camp : The Team hosted a learn-to-row event this summer for high school students. The perspective oarsmen and women were provided a crash course on the parts of the boat and developing power when rowing. They spent most of the morning on the water with current and former crew members guiding them. <https://crec.unl.edu/crew/learn-row>

(Below: High School Rowers on the water)



Corn Rows – Chapter 10

Like many who join the University of Nebraska Rowing team, we responded to the social media of the day - posters placed around campus inviting us to a meeting at the campus Boathouse. The second week of my freshman year, I and some guys on my dorm floor at Harper Hall attended a presentation at the boathouse regarding rowing with the NU Crew. Men and women alike were met by an impassioned crew alum and one of the founders of Nebraska Rowing – Matt Kush. He and others explained what rowing was with such dedication and commitment to the sport that by the time he was done, we knew we were bound for the Olympics!

The attendee mix represented many states and included first-time athletes, cross-country runners, former football players, and body builders – “it’s not steroids, it’s just eggs, bud.” The smallest weighted between 95-115 pounds (who knew the team needed a few good coxswains, let alone what a coxswain was). An oarsman needs strength, endurance, stamina and technique. A coxswain should be small, smart, and can intimidate 8 oarsmen simultaneously, who are each twice his or her size.

Over the years we ran around the campus and “the mushroom garden” under the stadium, ran snakes on all the steps inside Memorial Stadium, Oldfather Hall, or through city from the boathouse around Holmes Lakes and back. At Nebraska, we had a great group of men and women who informally and formally coached us novice who rowed in sweep fours and eights. We absorbed many lessons about the art, science, and athletics while steaming in the training tank at the boathouse in the winter, on “break the ice with your oars” mornings at Capital Beach Lake to or rowing during hot “volcano ash” two-a-days, fahrt-lek running at Pioneer’s Park.

On land, in the boat, or watching from the launch, we learned classic crew phrases like:

- et vous pret, parte - a French phrase used to start a race which means “ready, go”
- “half, half, three quarters, full, full” – a stroke sequence to get the boat quickly moving
- or “power ten” - a series of full power strokes selective applied throughout mid-course and toward the end of a close race
- or “who caught crabs” which has multiple meanings
- or my second favorite phrase – “you’re a bunch of mental midgets” which is self-explanatory.

The real take away however was experiencing mentorship by our near peers whose one or two years on crew made them relative authorities. No Cornhusker comes to UNL knowing how to row. During the season Paul Koerner, Wes Hubka, Gary Dostal, Mack and Matt and other alumni would track our progress. The same was happening on the women’s team coached by Pam Shotkoski. Seniors and alums with three- or four-years’ experience were rowing legends and still are today. As a novice, basically in your first year of rowing, when a legend talked to you, the heavens would open and varsity sweat would anoint your brow. A solid foundation was established by the male and female legends, mentors and coaches, who trained us and pushed us, which resulted in many of us still being race-ready. Then before the big events Pete Zandbergen and Mark Stormberg would check in on us. Probably wanted to make sure everything was in working order and not embarrass the legacy established by the crews of the 1970s. These mentors were hands on, unpretentious, and genuine in teaching and sharing their lessons and their passion. The mentors and the proteges all had the same goal – make Nebraska Crew better - and together, we did and we still do.

How did you do on the guess who? The answer to the “guess who these ladies are” photo from the Spring 2022 Newsletter are the Four original 1973 Women’s Crew:

Joyce Backstrom Hansen, Ellen Havlovic Jirovsky, Jane Anderson Carr, Carol Bryan Easley

Now do you where and when this photo was taken?



How to donate and participate

Step In – Step Up – Step Out. Like so many who support the UNLRC and FONR we participate together as a unique cadre of friends and family. If you are interested volunteering for upcoming events and being part of the committees’ activities, please contact the committee chair and we’ll get you connected.

Two major fundraising events that directly support the FONR and UNLRC: Row Big Red Alumni Weekend (Fall) is specific to FONR; Glow Big Red 24 Hours of Giving each February is sponsored by the NU Foundation allows direct contributions and matches to support the UNLRC through Campus Recreation. [University of Nebraska – Lincoln Crew Club Development Fund](#)

FONR also established [Friends of Nebraska Rowing Coaching Endowment – Mark & Lisa Stormberg Fund](#) to build and maintain a coaching staff. In addition to the [Friends of Nebraska Rowing Annual Coaching Salary Fund](#) that can be used for immediate needs.

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 outlined in this newsletter or add additional topics and space and time allow. Remember this is another way you participate to this great rowing community.

On the Web : <https://www.nebraskacrew.com>



Friends of Nebraska Rowing Organization

Directors * denotes Officers

*President – Mark Stormberg	
*Vice President – Jerry Huber	Of Counsel/Honorary – Bill Brush
*Treasurer – Dave Volkman	Of Counsel/Honorary - Pete Zandbergen
*Secretary – Frank Dolezal	Student Athlete-Men's – Johnathan Kelly
*Communications Director – Joel Merriman	Student Athlete-Women's–Kyrsten Munoz
Sponsoring Department Ex-Officio - Amy Lanham	Ex-Officio – Stan Campbell
Nebraska Foundation Ex-Officio - Joye Fehringer	Coaching Representative – Eric Jensen
At Large Member - Lisa Rohde	At large Member – Ellen Jirovsky
At large Member – Allen Maybee	At large Member – Chuck Clifford



FONR Committees * denotes Chair & email contact.

Please consider joining one or more committee.

LIAISON / MASTERPLAN (collaborate with Students, REC, Foundation. program direction)
*Mark Stormberg (mstormberg@tectonicdesignbuild.com), Pete Zandbergen, Bill Brush
RECRUITING (work with Crew, Rec on outreach in attracting Competitive Athletes)
*Chuck Clifford, Lisa Rhode
FACILITIES (develop & maintain Pawnee Rowing Center, Campus Boathouse)
*Mark Stormberg, Amy Lanham, Brian Stelzer
EQUIPMENT (Inventory, maintain, purchase of rowing & training equipment)
*Frank Dolezal (fdolezal@nebraska.edu), Brian Stelzer, Kevin Fierro, Eric Jensen
COMMUNICATION (develop & market FONR, program history and archives)
*Joel Merriman (joelmerriman@hotmail.com), Brad Kuhn, Gary Dostal, Frank D.
EVENTS (plan & coordinate events : Alumni, Reunion, Fundraising)
*Jerry Huber (jhuber@investorsomaha.com), 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, Stan Campbell
FINANCE (develop & maintain budget (Crew, REC, FONR) & Fundraising activities)
*Dave Volkman (dvolkman@unomaha.edu), Joye Fehringer, Mark Joekel,
TARGETED GIFTING (Major gifts - donors, deferred giving, trusts, endowments)
*Bill Brush (billbrushnebraska@gmail.com) Lisa Rohde