

## To the family of Rocket City Rowing Club-

**CONGRATULATIONS** on successfully hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Hobb's Island Regatta! It was a wonderful event for rowers and spectators and it couldn't have happened without the efforts of all the volunteers!

Let me tell you a little about what we accomplished this year: We hosted approximately 275 athletes from 15 organizations, spanning 5 states and 18 cities. We had rowers from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. Our race had 97 entries in 35 events. Our oldest rower was 76!

This year was a record for college attendance with Auburn, Murray State, Georgia Tech, Sewanee, University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, and Rutgers represented! I was especially pleased that Murray State Women's and Men's crews joined us this year – thanks to RCRC alum, Erin Sargent. Auburn's attendance was influenced by RCRC alumni rowers Kevin and Daniel (and the free pasta dinner sealed the deal for Auburn). It's good to see that RCRC rowers are pursuing crew in college, and that they're bringing their crews back to our regatta! Another highlight of college attendance was the participation of the Georgia Tech Crew's freshman team. Georgia Tech has never attended our race before.



We also had more high school rowing programs than we've ever had, with entries from Chattanooga Juniors, Baylor, and the Darlington School. The Darlington School, from Rome, Georgia, has a new rowing team, and they came to our race for a low-key, friendly race for their novices. They were very happy with the treatment they got here- they loved the free pasta dinner, and thanks to a strong tail wind and fast current, their novice crews had some very fast times!

And, finally, we had three masters' organizations: Atlanta Rowing Club, Lookout Rowing, and Montgomery Rowing Club. We lent boats to the Atlanta and Montgomery clubs so they could race, with the promise that next year they'll bring their own boats and more club members. Thanks to the Rocket City Masters Women's four, particularly to Diane, for making that 'deal' work out! A single rower from Lookout Rowing was here, and we also had two unaffiliated masters men's singles – one from Tuscaloosa, the other from Palm City, Florida.

*A BIG BIG BIG thanks to ALL the volunteers that pitched in to make this regatta a tremendous success! It couldn't have happened without each of you!*

Special thanks go to Bob Kubichan for taking charge of all the site preparations. Bob led the dock installation, creating 128 feet of continuous dock accessible from two ramps. To do this, he coordinated the installation of our wooden dock sections with Ditto and with RCRC volunteers, and got permission from Ditto to adjust their ramps so they lined up nice and



straight for our rowing docks. Bob also helped with buoy inflation & installation, tent construction, parking, and on race day he helped out at the dock and even carried baskets during the race!

Susan Wilson did a fantastic job with the food & concessions. We had a lovely pasta dinner at Ditto on Friday night, setting the bar high for future regattas! The camper's pavilion looked beautiful, the big roaring fire kept us warm, and food was terrific. Thanks to Isabel for helping make that event memorable for all that attended. Concessions on race day exceeded all expectations – breakfast, snacks, drinks, and a delicious BBQ plate lunch. Rowers and spectators alike were treated to a fantastic spread on Saturday. Many thanks to Susan and to everyone who pitched in to provide wonderful concessions for the race!



Bruce DeVault deserves special thanks for making and donating signs and bow markers (that was a real life saver) and making such great BBQ for us!

Our referees- Colleen and Ginny, and our chief ref Kevin DiPetrillo, did a fantastic job keeping things moving along safely. Also the timers, boat owners and boat drivers, and all the course observers were vital to providing a safe race for all the participants. Diana was there snapping pictures all day (which we'll see soon – these are a few pics my husband took). Thanks to the finish line volunteers, Ted and Richard, for professional quality handling of the results, and thanks to the Hahnmans for allowing use of their RV as the 'official' headquarters. Jeanette worked publicity for us, and Dan did a great job as our announcer...thank you! And thanks to JP, Tina, Gail and Van (from Chattanooga) for keeping the launch and recovery docks running smoothly. There were also volunteers involved in pre-race activities – Ellen with registration, accommodations, and packet preparation, Peggy bagged the medals for distribution, Cami rented the radios, Mike coordinated with HEMSI...the list goes on...



There were so many that helped out...it just couldn't have happened without the tremendous response from Rocket City club; the masters, the juniors, the parents of the juniors, as well as the grandparents, aunts & uncles, friends and neighbors! Everyone worked together to make it happen.

In addition to those in and around our club, we had great support from Ditto Landing, who provided the site, furnished the pavilion with tables & chairs, lent us tables for race day, let us adjust the docks for our use, and provided a really long extension cord for extra power!



And we also owe thanks to Jerry Craig, District Three County Commissioner, for having all the brush along the riverbank mowed down at Bob's request, giving us a great viewing area. For the first time, we had a clear of the rowers as they came from the end of the island all the way to the finish line.

And of course, we have to remember that the effort that goes into the Hobb's Island Regatta results in a fund raising activity as well as a fun activity. So, thanks to all the members for selling ads and making contributions, and thanks to our major sponsors for their generous donations. And thanks to Peggy and Jennifer for putting all the ads into a fabulous program booklet. Our net result will be announced very soon.

*So thank you, thank you, and thank you to everyone involved in the 2006 Hobb's Island Regatta!* It was a great success. I hope you all had fun being involved, I had a great time being the director. There are areas for improvement, as always, but overall the event went swimmingly. Even the weather cooperated! Thanks again to you all – and if I left out anyone, please forgive me and know that ALL efforts were important and very much appreciated.

Yours truly,

*Janna*