

GREEN LAKE CREW

SINCE 1948

volume 3, number 1

February, 2002

Rebuilt Boathouse, New Shells to be Dedicated March 9



Mid-January view of Massart Shellhouse from the end of the central dock. Reconstruction left the roof and supporting columns intact, but just about everything underneath had to go. The tiles are the interior of the public restrooms. Pilings driven 40-60' will anchor the new concrete pad for the structure, which will be wider and much brighter than the pre-quake building.

Busy Month Beckons, with Auction and Spring Regatta to Follow

Completed or not, the Green Lake Boathouse will host a five-boat christening ceremony in early March, as 2002 gets underway with a bang. GLC's annual "Raisin' of the Green" fundraising auction follows on March 15, and the Spring Regatta on the lake caps off a hectic month on March 23. With so much GLSCC activity affected by the 2001 earthquake, though, no one is complaining about such a frenetic pace (too loudly, anyway!).

Please plan to join us at the lake for the dedication ceremony at noon on March 9: two new eights, two new fours, and a quad will be christened.

Tickets for the auction can be purchased by calling the office at 206-684-4074. And regatta volunteers can apply for duty at that same number.

Our March 9th celebration, where we will be joined by Mayor **Greg Nickels**, will honor a range of good friends, past and present. One of our two new Vespoli M2s will honor **Jean Lafromboise**—and will replace an older shell of that same name. Jean first donated a boat to GLC eleven years ago and has been an exceptional supporter of local and national rowing for decades. New to the boathouse will be the **Lester Rhoads**, the second M2 in the fleet. Junior rowers will be represented at the ceremony by a new four, the **Kari Green**, while the role of junior parents will be commemorated by what we hope will be a surprise christening. Rounding out the event will be the row-away of the **Gerry Heffernan**, our new quad that honors a long-time GL masters coach (and a founding father of Green Lake Adult Crew).

What's Next? Beyond the Rebuilt Boathouse...

As you may recall, in a case of truly incredible timing our February 2001 newsletter announced an exciting campaign to build a new Green Lake boathouse just as the Nisqually Earthquake virtually destroyed the existing Massart Shellhouse. The unstable soils at the site dropped several inches and moved towards the lake, distorting the structure and damaging the floor and apron areas. Luckily, no one was injured and no equipment was damaged. Among the other buildings on the site, the office building sustained damage but remains usable. The venerable Aqua Theatre, of course, was undamaged.

After evaluating the damage, our initial reaction was that the renovation plan could continue, but on a greatly accelerated schedule. The Rowing Advisory Council immediately began discussions with the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department Superintendent, Ken Bounds, Aquatics Manager Kathy Whitman and Parks staff about options for using City earthquake insurance and Federal Emergency Management Agency funds for renovations. The City quickly responded to immediate boat storage needs by converting the open area under the Aqua Theater into storage for eights and fours. After many meetings and course changes over the next several months, however, it became apparent that initial hopes about using earthquake funds for our planned capital campaign would not be fulfilled. Instead, the City's insurer insisted that the funds be used solely to rebuild the destroyed shellhouse.

The City negotiated for several improvements in the structure, and demolition began. Excitement is running high as the rebuilt facility is moving swiftly towards completion in time for the March 9 dedication.

So, what is left of last year's facility renovation plans? With a rebuilt shellhouse and new storage under the Aqua Theater, our foreseeable boat storage needs have been addressed. What remain unaddressed are participant needs, such as changing rooms, sheltered workout areas, adequate meeting and office space and expanded launch storage. As a result of generous grant support, we have funds available to begin a design phase for a substantial facility renovation. New plans will incorporate the rebuilt shellhouse and will focus on the large area between the shellhouse and Aqua Theater, currently occupied by the office building. The design remains uncertain, but will address participant comfort and safety. We also believe we can capture an opportunity to upgrade the boathouse site into a distinctive landmark in the City's most-used park.

As most of you know, the Green Lake boating program is an incomparable community asset. For more than 50 years, it has served the City's youth by providing high quality boating experiences on the Lake. Most visible is the rowing program, which provides recreational and competitive rowing instruction to Seattle junior high and high school students. We hear from many parents every year that the Green Lake tradition of success and personal responsibility has been a powerful and positive influence on the lives of their young athletes. Less well known are the community outreach boating, recreational sailing and

competitive paddling programs. The outreach program brings to the lake hundreds of young people from City community centers. They receive basic instruction in water safety and small boat handling, but mainly they have summertime fun at the Lake. Our sailing programs take advantage of the lake's protected waters to provide basic sailing instruction to hundreds of Seattle residents. The competitive paddling program has produced nationally prominent kayak and canoe racers.

Despite the setback delivered by the Nisqually Earthquake, we remain optimistic about accomplishing major facility improvements that will match the quality and value of the Green Lake programs. Watch this space and the website for updates on those efforts. If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the design effort or otherwise are interested in assisting with the facility renovation project, please contact Erin Christie, our Boathouse Committee Chair at ehchristie@aol.com.

--Jim Beaulaurier, President
Rowing Advisory Council

Staff Looks Forward to a More Stable New Year

2002! It has to be an improvement....

As I look back over 2001, I am still trying to figure out how we made it as well as we did. Shuffling boats back and forth to Sand Point; figuring out how to get kids in boats when your boat storage facility has been destroyed: It hasn't been an easy road to get where we are today. But looking back, we *did* make it, not only in winning races, but seeing the program come together with a new pride and spirit that words can't describe.



Jason Frisk and Becky Smith at the 2001 Auction-Banquet-Fundraiser. This year's event is March 15, at the Edmonds Floral Center. Easy parking, a great dinner, and a very good cause....

One of the many reasons that this facility is so special is a coaching staff that spends endless hours working with great participants, determined to bring out their best. For this I say **thank you**, to both the coaching staff *and* the participants, who together make Green Lake what it is. So, as we move into 2002 we look forward to having our boathouse back, keeping the temporary boat storage facility, and christening **five** new shells! The future is bright; and all of us in the office are excited for the new

season to start--and not having to answer the dreaded question, "What's happening with the boathouse?" Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you on the water.

--Jason Frisk, Sr Recreation Programmer
Green Lake Small Craft Center

Masters Sweep Team Felt It All in 2001

Well before the earthquake struck, 2001 started as a hard year for the Green Lake Masters Sweep team.

On January 1, 2001, **Steve Austin** and his girlfriend **Marilyn** were seriously injured in a car accident while returning from a skiing trip. Steve started rowing at Green Lake just a few years ago, and in that time had become the living embodiment of the masters rower and a cornerstone of the team--the kind of teammate who inspires others to work harder and go faster. He managed to pull through a series of life-saving operations and procedures, but both he and Marilyn had long and challenging roads to recovery.

Shortly after the first of the year the program took delivery of two new Vespoli 8+'s, the **Amen** and the **Smith**, which were to be the competitive boats for the Masters program and for the Juniors JV crews. This was an incredible boon to the masters, as we had the perfect boats for our racing seasons and they helped reduce the chance of equipment conflicts with the Juniors at away regattas. Everyone was excited to put them to use.

Then, Black Wednesday! While we were lucky enough to have all the equipment come through the ordeal largely undamaged, the closure of the shellhouse required the masters to migrate to both Mount Baker and the Lake Washington Rowing Club in search of facilities, equipment, and good water. This exercise in how to "improvise, adapt, overcome"--in addition to our very limited available water time--drained the squad of much of the momentum gathered from the fall 2000 season.

Spring came and went, and the Masters Northwest Regional Championships at Vancouver Lake were largely disappointing for GLC. With the exception of a few memorable moments at the hotel pool, 2001 Regionals spurred the team to surmount the challenge of limited water-time and make the most of what was available.

After regrouping from the disappointments of Vancouver Lake, the team decided to commit to head-race training and targeted the Head of the Charles and Head of the Lake regattas. From mid-July to mid-November the team dedicated itself to extra practices and erg workouts to regain the ground lost during the spring and bounce back with a successful fall season.

As fall's fading sunlight limited on-water workouts on Green Lake, boats heading to Boston began holding morning practices on Lake Washington. Using LWRC equipment and a launch borrowed from the Interlaaken Rowing Club, this extra water-time provided the opportunity to develop the rhythm and make the technical progress that was so elusive in the spring.

For the second year running Boston offered perfect racing weather. Low winds, clear skies, and temperatures in the mid 70s--and all that fall foliage! The masters team

had three entries in the regatta: Women's Club 4+, Women's Lightweight 4+, and Men's Club 8+. The **women's club 4+** was having a good race and was poised to finish in the top ten before not one, but two competitors rammed them, leaving all three boats dead in the water for more than a minute. Although no damage was done to boats or rowers, the delay had the predictable effect. A new entry for Green Lake, the **women's lightweight 4+** had a great experience, and the race will doubtless be a stepping stone towards more lightweight entries in the future. Still, the field was very competitive and the crew finished beyond the top ten. Finally, the **men's 8+** faced a similarly competitive field, and though they finished more than ten seconds faster than their 2000 mark, still they fell short of expectations in terms of order of finish.



GL Masters plotting strategy at Magazine Beach during the 2001 Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston.

The overall "Charles experience" compensated for much of the racing disappointment, and the program was reinvigorated for the season-ending Head of the Lake/Frostbite weekend in November. The Head of the Lake had the most entries in the race's history, which made the team's performance that much more satisfying: The men's 8+ took first place, the **men's 4+** took second place, and the **women's 8+** also captured silver. The Frostbite also proved successful with many accomplishments, perhaps the most remarkable being the Masters men's 8+ performance. They posted the third fastest time on the water, behind only the Green Lake and the O.R.U. Varsity boys. The masters **lightweight women's 8+** matched that feat, taking third in a full field of juniors.

Still, the greatest triumph of the season was surely the improbable return of Steve Austin. Racing in a second GL entry, Steve's boat placed second (behind the winning GL entry) in the final race of the year, the Frostbite Mixed Masters 8+. In the final analysis, the year seemed to have the tragedies and triumphs of a great drama, and the general sentiment of the team was one of pride and success when we met for the year-end State of the Union meeting and 2nd Annual Bowling Festival.

--Coby Stites, Head Coach
GLC Masters Sweep Team

*Masters Scullers Keep
Up the Pace in '01*

Like other programs at Green Lake, the competitive scullers faced the challenge of training for all regattas with a dearth of available equipment due to scarce storage space. We are used to fluid situations on the water, but we had never encountered anything like the aftermath of February's earthquake. It took some creative approaches to afford everyone the opportunity to participate. Thanks to the patience and hard work of our coaches, the office staff, and the Parks Department, we were able to salvage the competitive rowing season.

Despite the equipment shortage throughout the summer months, GLAC scullers participated in the usual local regattas. For the first time in four years, we were privileged to participate in Opening Day, racing a mixed quad powered by **Stephanie Duncan, Steve Hopley, Patrice Jackson, and Mike Stanley**. At the northwest regional championships, GLAC scullers captured numerous medals. In August, Stephanie Duncan and Steve Hopley traveled to Indianapolis to represent us. They narrowly missed bronze in their double, but Stephanie came home with three golds and a silver for her women's events. The fall head races provided the perfect finish to a fragmented season, and we are all looking forward to a normal 2002 season.

GLAC scullers were heartened by the acquisition of a new Pocock racing quad in late November. This boat will allow us to utilize our full complement of rowers at future regattas. It performs well and should prove a valuable asset both to the training program and to races. Thanks to all those who worked toward making this happen!

Finally, a sincere thank-you to our fine coaches, **DeWitt Whitman** and **Gerry Heffernan**, who are always there for us.

--Rowberta Scholz, Masters Sculler

Spring Regatta Schedule

Green Lake Spring Regatta, March 23
Husky Invitational, April 6
San Diego Crew Classic, April 6-7
Covered Bridge Regatta, April 13
Commencement Bay Spring Regatta, April 14
Seattle Sprints, April 20
Brentwood Regatta, April 25
Cascade Sprints, April 27
Opening Day Regatta, May 4
Spring Tuneup Regatta, May 5
Junior Regional Championship, May 17
Youth Invitational Championships, June 8
Masters Regional Championships, June 21

Junior Girls Return to Crew Classic in '02

It's spring newsletter time. As tempting as it is to jump right into the fun stuff like the sprint racing season, we'll recap the autumn season first.

The past two years saw the girls team send their best to race in Boston at the Head of the Charles Regatta. This year the varsity squad decided to shift our focus away from the early autumn boat selections necessitated by Boston. We decided to postpone major travel events till the spring season. Instead, autumn 2001 was devoted to development--of new talent, rowing skill, and a sense of unity.

Racing still occurred, mind you. The veteran crews started things off at the Tail of the Lake Regatta. Racing continued at the Tri-mountain with a full complement of Green Lake women. And autumn's "full complement" of athletes totaled almost 80!

Racing wound down in mid November at the Frostbite regatta, with the **Varsity, Lightweight, JV, and 3V 8's** all claiming gold.

Looking ahead to the spring, we start with the novice team. **Missy Collins** leads the novice program with her combination of enthusiasm and patience. She has another full group of novice athletes, with many returnees from her autumn team. In her third spring coaching the novice women, Missy knows how to teach, motivate, and inspire. The novice women are in good hands.



Junior coaches Missy Collins, David Blake, and Lawrence Zellner (l-r) at last year's Raisin' of the Green. Invitations for this year's event go into the mail soon. If you don't receive yours, call us at 206-684-4074.

Amber Kyle leads the lightweight and 3rd/4th varsity crews this spring. Amber's job requires her to meet the needs of a diverse range of age, experience, and skill level. She will meet the challenge with her remarkable energy and drive. With Amber at the helm, the lightweights are contenders for a national medal.

The Varsity boat hopes to move into the elite level of Junior rowing this spring. With a deep, talented, and experienced pool of athletes, boat selection promises to be difficult. The first major test of the spring season is the San

Diego Crew Classic. The Junior Varsity and Lightweight crews will race-off to see who will join the Varsity on Mission Bay. We hope to reclaim varsity and JV trophies won only a few years ago by Green Lake women's crews. Additionally, I have set a goal of reclaiming the Varsity 8 title at Regionals, which hasn't been held by Green Lake since '94.

The entire coaching staff and collection of athletes look forward to the spring season. We hope to make ourselves--and the entire Green Lake family--proud of our accomplishments.

--Brent Rubey, Head Coach
GLC Junior Women



Parks Department Superintendent Ken Bounds joined the crew for last fall's trip to Boston.

Boston Behind Them, Junior Boys Gear Up for Northwest Spring Competition

The first order of business in fall 2001 was to replace the six people who had graduated out of the varsity heavyweight boat in June. Things got started very quickly with seat racing for the boat beginning within two weeks of the start of crew. When the spray finally settled, the new heavy boat had three rowers from last spring's varsity lightweight boat and two guys from the JV. It looked like we would have a good but small crew, averaging just under 170 pounds.

Nobody knew quite what to expect with so many people in the boat new to the varsity program. Everyone seemed to step up to the new challenge though, and we won the open men's races at the Tail of the Lake and at the Tri-mountain Regatta. Things looked good, but we would be facing much better competition at the Head of the Charles in Boston in October.

This year's trip to the Boston was great. We were hosted in royal fashion by the folks at the **Buckingham, Brown and Nichols School**. They have an incredible facility right on the banks of the Charles River, about a quarter of a mile from the Harvard boathouse. The adults sleeping in the gym almost outnumbered the athletes (not

that some of the adults weren't athletes), and everyone agreed that the accommodations were great. As usual, we were rowing out of the Harvard boathouse and had a great setup. During practices on the river, every parent got a chance to go out in the launch to observe a practice. Spirits were high, and people were optimistic about the upcoming race.

At the last minute, the folks at **Vespoli** offered the use of their new Millennium 2 boat. After a little soul-searching, we decided to use the boat in the race. It turned out to be a good decision. We started the race in third spot, and ended up chasing the Yale freshman for the whole race. In the last 200 meters we managed to pass them. When all the times were tabulated, we finished in 4th place, just ahead of the Brown freshman crew stroked by **Henry Burden**, a Green Lake alum--but also just behind ORU, our nemesis from Portland.

One of the by-products of our row in the new Vespoli boat was a tremendous enthusiasm to get a new boat for the varsity boys and girls. As a result, we will have new Millennium 2 boats for both the boys and girls for the spring.

The make-up of the varsity heavyweight boat meant that there was a large turnover in the other boats in the program. Hardest hit was the Lightweight Varsity 8. Of the nine people in the boat for the spring season, only one remained for the fall. The highlight of the fall for the lightweights was the weekend trip to Brentwood. They raced very well, perhaps even better than last year. They were able to beat the Brentwood lights in most of the pieces they did, and also beat Brentwood's heavies in some of the pieces. This weekend of strong racing has left them really looking forward to the spring season.



Lining up the junior men's eight during a practice row in Boston on the Charles River.

People have been working hard in the off-season in preparation for the start of crew this month. We all hope to improve on the results from last year. Anyone who would like to come down and take a launch ride once we start is more than welcome. Just contact either lightweight coach **Lawrence Zellner** or me to set it up.

--Ed Maxwell, Head Coach
GLC Junior Men



Join us for the 2002 "Raisin' of the Green" fundraiser on Friday evening, March 15. Silent and live auctions—and a great meal with good friends. To buy tickets or donate an item, call us at 206-684-4074.