

HI ERDBA DIRECTORS/CLUB REPRESENTATIVES!!!

Hoping everyone had a Happy New Year! Here's an update of ERDBA stuff and other happenings for you to digest. I hope to send these to you every 1-2 months or so. I started this in April/May, but got caught up with the season and never followed up. Now that the winter is starting to grab hold - I thought this would be nice to start up again and hopefully get folks excited about the 2017 season!

ERDBA STUFF

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- Remember to renew your membership. 2017 season started Jan 1. Form and instructions on erdba.net website under membership and "how to join". Fee is \$300/year for clubs and festivals.
- RSVP if your club can host the Spring AGM. Budget = \$600. (March/April). Need a room that can seat 20+. Land line preferable, but not required.

POSITIONS seeking volunteers

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As with any organization volunteers are needed to serve. We several positions to fill over the next couple months in both ERDBA and USDBF.

USDBF - info listed on ERDBA.net

- TEAM USA Manager - send applications to vp@usdbf.org (Connie) by Jan 15, 2017, term expires 2018
- USDBF Officer positions - USDBF has not officially set the application period. Info posted on ERDBA as soon as USDBF sets the dates.
 - USDBF President - term expires 2019 (application period TBD), election 2/25/17
 - USDBF Treasurer - term expires 2018 (application period TBD), election 2/25/17
 - USDBF Secretary - term expires 2019 (application period TBD), election 2/25/17
- ERDBA - info listed on ERDBA.net home page
 - ERDBA Secretary - send applications to bobmina@gmail.com (Bob Mina) by 1/6/17, 11:59PM, Election: 1/9-1/10/17, term expires 2018
 - ERDBA Vice President - send email with resume to bobmina@gmail.com (Bob Mina) by midnight March 3, 2017 - election: 3/6-3/10, term expires 2019
 - ERDBA Treasurer - send email with resume to bobmina@gmail.com (Bob Mina) by midnight March 3, 2017 - election: 3/6-3/10, term expires 2019
 - Chair Ethics committee

- The BOD requested ERDBA create an ethics committee to support the creation of the USDBF Ethics committee.
- USDBF recently started the Ethics committee. Their goals will include developing code of conduct, procedures and tools for individuals to file complaints. The chair suggests that if ERDBA wanted to start it's own Ethics committee to do so within the framework of local event racing rules. Anything that is severe enough should be directed upward to the national level.

Other REGIONAL UPDATES

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- ERDBA DIRECTORS on USDBF BOARD
 - Prevailing selection process for Directors on USDBF Board to represent ERDBA. Presidential nominees approved by the executive committee serve 2 year terms. All current directors received unanimous approval from ERDBA executive officers. Jeff Kuhn (DC Dragons), Natalie Thomas (Pittsburgh Paddlefish). The exception is myself, as President traditionally serves. There is no requirement that directors are drawn from the Executive Officer committee. Currently Paula Humphries serves as our alternate should any of the directors not be able to attend a meeting.
- Pan AM race scheduled for March... is open to all ERDBA teams. These are 10 paddler racing dragon boats. I submitted a request to the USDBF race committee in early November, suggesting that the winner of the Pan Am races earn a bid into the 10 paddler race category at the 2018 World Club Crews. I am still waiting for a response. Pan Am representatives assured me, they will extend their entry window for a few more weeks. Check it out! Puerto Rico! The event is keeping registrations open until the end of January.
- BUDGETING - for the first time we have a budget for the year! YEY! Of course other wants / needs will come up during the year. Therefore will create 2 supplemental budget periods (last week in February and last week of May) for directors to consider additional project proposals. These will done by email ballot, and will therefore require a simple majority. Currently with 51 members, 4 officers - requires a 28 YESES to pass.
- The ERDBA Executive officers voted unanimously to use the 2017 Executive Committee "special projects / officer expense" budget to fund the ERDBA NYC indoor paddling regatta. The event and site has been a traditional season startup for ERDBA and been a free event for ERDBA members for 16 years. ERDBA has historically funded the event because site prohibits charging any fee to attendees as the school is made available for free. Info on the ERDBA.net website. Coupled with the 2 Boston events and one potential startup in PA, we now have a nice regatta series!

- March 25 - ERDBA NYC regatta (9-3PM), (contact: ibenlau@optonline.net)
- Feb 11 - Boston, Living Root: \$10/person, Boston Indoor Erg Race (BIER), (contact: dfitzparker@gmail.com)
- Feb 25 - Boston, Ohana: \$25/person, Beasts from the East (contact: admin@ohananewengland.org)
- TBD: Pottstown : \$10?/person, construction continues...
- Other projects in the works
 - November 12 Board meeting created 2 committees:
 - BCS-Supporter committee - tasked with setting up some guidelines and reaching out to festivals to support this new category
 - Youth scholarship fund - BOD approved \$3000 for distribution \$500 to 6 youth racing at the TEAM USA worlds.
- Nov 12 and Nov 19 ERDBA BOD meeting minutes
 - They are going through their final updates and should be posted on the ERDBA.net shortly.

PREZ' WISH LIST

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- These are a list of programs I plan to initiate this upcoming season. Contact me directly if you or your club want to help develop/participate/host any of these.
- ALL STAR RACING PROGRAM - I hope to get the "All Star" program off the ground for the 2017 season. This failed to pass the budgeting process, So I will work to make this a ZERO cost to ERDBA. Request for festivals, coaches and racers will be sent out over the next two months with guidelines.
- Committee to research ideas towards supporting festival club teams.
- STEERING CLINICS - This proposal also failed to pass the budgeting process due to the vagueness and cost to ERDBA. So I will work to develop another program that will make this a ZERO cost to ERDBA.
- SCRIMMAGES - teams hosting informal races. free to teams committed to share in hosting them, small fee to those who just want to race them. Member club teams with equipment should expect to hear from me about the program/interest.
- ???? - if you have one you would like me to consider, let me know!

Wishing everyone a successful upcoming season!!!

Ellen Law
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 NJ Dragon Boat Club
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