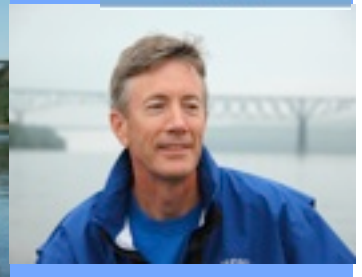
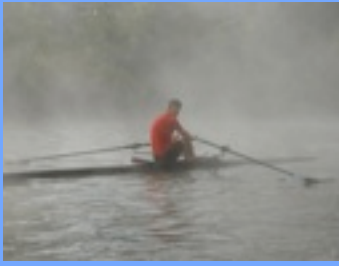


Blue Blades



The Mid-Hudson Rowing Association Newsletter

April 19, 2012 Volume 1, No. 3



Bill Davies in his Hudson

Harwood Award Dinner June 10

Award to be presented To Bill Davies

Put Sunday, June 10, on your calendar. We have planned an award dinner to present Bill Davies with the Harwood Service Award. The dinner will be held starting at 5:00 PM at the Italian Center, 227 Mill Street in Poughkeepsie, across from the city police station.

The Harwood Service Award was established by MHRA in 2008 in memory of Randy Harwood who died that year after spending his years tirelessly serving MHRA and other community organizations and being a friend to all who picked up an oar or sat in a shell. Randy is still missed by those who knew him but his legacy remains with us in the service award that bears his name. Previous recipients are Candy Davies and John Mylod.

Everyone agrees that Bill Davies has richly earned this award during twenty years in MHRA, much of that time serving on the board

of directors and ten years a president. Bill's service to MHRA, however, is characterized by much more than years. Through his leadership and hard work, MHRA has become a thriving community fostering the rowing enthusiasm of its members with a variety of rowing programs, regular improvements in equipment and an atmosphere that encourages technical development in the sport with emphasis on recreation and fun.

We have a very special evening planned with an award ceremony and video presentation showing highlights of Bill Davies through the years and a memorial sequence featuring Randy. All MHRA members, spouses and other family members are invited. Invitations are being sent to friends of MHRA and to people who have known and rowed with Bill in the past. MHRA does not have a lot of purely social events but those we do have are always a lot of fun. This evening will be an opportunity to get to know new friends better and renew acquaintance with some old ones.

The cost of the dinner is \$26 per person and includes dinner choices of Chicken Marsala or Broiled Filet of Salmon both served with salad, vegetable, pasta and a special desert. There will hors d'oeuvres before the meal is served and a cash bar throughout the evening.

Reservations can be made by emailing Dotty Martinez at dotmar0@yahoo.com or calling her at 845-471-5936. Please make your reservations early but no later than June 1.



Italian Center, Poughkeepsie

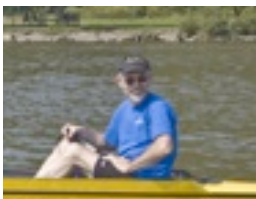
RANDY HARWOOD



Randy Harwood Remembered

By John Mylod

The Randy Harwood Memorial Service Award, first presented in 2008, was created to honor the memory of Randy Harwood, a member of the Mid- Hudson Rowing Association for many years, who so readily represented the core values of the Association and who died of cancer.



Randy was exceptional. He was a born volunteer. He was ready to help at the slightest flicker of need.

In fact, Randy was a volunteer at the Springside National Historic Landmark in Poughkeepsie when he learned about the Learn-to- Row program at MHRA. After that, he was hooked on crew. Among his many other interests Randy loved Adirondack

camping, canoeing, tennis, volleyball, hiking, and hacking away with axe and machete at the brush and underbrush at Springside.



Not surprisingly, Randy promoted MHRA at every turn. He was there at sun-up to help with stake boats, or after work to make repairs to the boathouse roof at the Psychiatric Center (now Quiet Cove State Park) which was then home for MHRA.

Whether building floats and ramps, installing them every year, sweeping out the boathouse, loading the shell carrier, or jumping into a shell to make a full boat even after already having rowed ten miles, Randy was there for his fellow club members.

Perhaps one of his greatest contributions was the initiative and willingness to encourage new members by taking them out to row in the old,

green, heavy, but stable, double and instilling in them an eagerness to become more involved. No matter what the job or need, Randy was ready and willing to help. From sweeping the boathouse to sweep rowing at the Head of the Fish and leading the cheers at the post-race dinner at the end of the day. He was a promoter of the annual "Island Row,"

later the Mills Row, and many other opportunities to include food in MHRA events or work days.

That was Randy. Friendly, funny, enthusiastic, passionate, caring, accomplished, self-effacing, fun-loving and sorely missed.

“Hear the Boat Sing” A blog about all things rowing

HTBS is self described as follows: “This blog covers all aspects of the rich history of rowing, as a sport, cultural phenomenon, a life style and a necessary element to keep your wit and stay sane.” Edited, posted and often written by Göran Buckhorn, this blog is not just about the history of rowing but about nearly everything happening in the rowing world. Göran is an oarsman himself, editor of the Mystic Seaport Magazine, member of the Friends of Rowing History and volunteer for the Rowing Hall of Fame and the National Rowing Foundation.



This blog is recommended by the editorial staff of Blue Blades. Check it out at <http://hear-the-boat-sing.blogspot.com/>

LTR Classes Starting May, June and July

Tell your friends, neighbors and coworkers about MHRA’s Learn-to-Row classes in May, June and July. This season we are offering our Early Bird LTR class once again in May. The Early Bird starts on May 17 and runs for four sessions on Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday. Mid-week sessions start at 5:30 PM and weekend sessions start at 7:00 AM. It is ideal for those who are interested in not missing out on any of the rowing season. The Early Bird class fee is \$85.

Two eight-session LTR classes are being offered in June and July. Classes start June 12 and July 17 and will run on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30



PM and Saturday and Sunday at 7:00 AM for two weeks. The fee for these classes is \$150 with a \$75 discount on membership for those who decide to join MHRA at the end of the LTR class.



Adopt a Sign

Do you know where your sign is?

MHRA will be posting road signs to let people know about our Learn-to-Row sessions in May, June and July. On your drive to work or just around town look for good “high visibility” locations to place a sign getting the word out about our Learn-to-Row programs. Choose a few places you can keep an eye on and straighten the sign out if it gets knocked down or blown over.

Ask a member of the board for a few signs at the boathouse the next time you come to row. The signs are reusable from year to year. At the end of the LTR season in mid-July the signs that survive can be retrieved for use next year.

Coal Tar Clean-up Planned

Dredging planned for 2015

Representatives from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of Health and Central Hudson gave an informational presentation on April 5 at the boathouse to representatives of HRRA as well as MHRA and other tenant organizations.

Most of us who have been rowing during the summer have noticed an oily sheen on water south of our docks along the east shore. As reported by the DEC, there is a large area of coal tar residue from gas manufacturing operations which took place on shore near that area during the first half of the twentieth century. The coal tar is sitting on the bottom of the river spread unevenly over about 5 acres extending from north of the Mid-Hudson Bridge, under the Walkway, to roughly the southern extent of the Dutton property. It extends off the eastern shore line to about the first Walkway bridge pier.

The thickness of the coal tar on the river bottom ranges from a few inches to roughly two feet. The DEC has been studying this pollution concentration since 2001. The coal tar is heavier than water and is pretty much staying where it is on the river bottom. According to the DEC representative, the oily sheen appears seasonally during the time when the water is warmest - from sometime in the latter half of July through September. The warm water causes

organic matter sitting under the coal tar to further decay and bubble up through the coal tar bringing with it the oily substance. When that occurs it can travel on the surface north or south with the current until it dissipates by either evaporating or falling again to the bottom.



Northern Extreme of Polluted Area

Generally, the oily substance does not drift to the west and is not found west of the first bridge pier.

Now that most of the data needed has been collected, the remediation project is now in the design phase. Polluted matter will be pumped off the river bottom into barges and removed to a processing area near Fort Edward for drying and burning off the harmful substances. There is a gas pipe line and an underwater electrical transmission cable crossing through the polluted area. In these regions the pollutants will be capped. The Central Hudson representative said they expect dredging to begin in 2015. Before dredging begins there will be a number of public informational meetings to allow for public comment.

The dredging operation will cover a large area but will only be operating in small patches at any given time. It is not expected to come further north than the southern extent of the Dutton property. Rowing shells and launches will have to stay clear of the dredging but it will not impede access to the HRRR docks. Also, dredging operations will not be occurring during time when it may be harmful to endangered fish populations - in particular sturgeon. There may be no dredging occurring at all during much of the rowing season.

Use common sense

Common sense prevails when it comes to limiting exposure of rowers to coal tar pollutants. During months when the water is cooler and there

is no sheen appearing on the surface, there is no increased exposure in the area of polluted river bottom, according to the Department of Health representative. When the sheen does appear, exposure can be limited by avoiding the area where it can be seen. This is done by staying to the west of the first Walkway bridge pier for some distance north or south, depending on the direction of the current. For times of greatest concern, it may be best to stay north of the HRRR docks altogether.

Oily residue should be wiped off boats soon after they are removed from the water taking care to avoid contact with skin or clothing. Wash hands after rowing and cleaning boats - a good idea whether or not coal tar pollution is present. Clean clothes after rowing especially if you suspect contact with pollutants. Wash towels used to clean boats frequently and always wash them separately. It is a good idea to keep a towel, soap and a change of clothes in the car for cases where a boat may be flipped or swamped whether or not you feel it may have occasioned contact with pollutants.

The representative from the Department of Health stated that coal tar pollutants almost certainly contain carcinogens, but are no more dangerous than gasoline or similar petroleum products. It takes regular exposure over long periods of time to significantly increase the risk of cancer. Using common sense to limit exposure is the most effective way to keep the risk of harm from these pollutants very small.

Swim Test Successful

Eleven complete test

Eleven recent members and potential members completed the swim test requirements on March 31 at the Jewish Community Center Pool. Thanks to Mike Griffin and Brian Prasky for

getting everything together to make this test a success. Those of you who have not yet certified completion of the swim test requirements may still do so at your local fitness center or swim club. Download a form from the Member page of the MHRRA web site and have it signed by a certified life guard. Completed forms should be given to Candy Davies.

Registration Reminder

USRowing Roster now on-line



Many thanks to the members who have already completed their USRowing registration and waiver on-line and completed the HRRR Waiver (paper version) and sent it in with the

MHRA Member Information and Safety Certification Form.

This year we tried something new to save a little money by sending out member registration information by email instead of through the US Postal Service. This may have caught some of you off guard.

The original email was sent March 6 and may still be in your inbox.

The HRRR Waiver and MHRA Member Information and Safety Certification Form can both be downloaded from our Member Page on the MHRA web site. These should be sent in by mail along with your membership check to our PO box or turned in at a club practice. Nobody is permitted on the water or in the tanks without having signed both the USRowing and HRRR waivers.

For those who have yet to visit the USRowing Roster site (rosters.usrowing.org), follow the instructions you should have already received by email from Bill Washburn or Candy Davies. You will need to have the MHRA club code from the original email or ask for it again. If you are unsure or have problems contact either Candy Davies or Bill Washburn.

Hoffman Street Bridge

Check out the renewed activity

Those of you who have not visited the boathouse yet this season will find new rubber necking opportunities as workers make regular progress in finishing up work on the replacement road bridge across the railroad tracks. The span superstructure is in place and decking is well under way. Work continues on the west side approach and guard rails.

Question: What is the plan for the old bridge? Walkway Over the Tracks?



Newsletter Naming

"Blue Blades" stays for a while

We received a few responses for proposed names from exactly one valued reader. (I hope that wasn't everybody!) In the end "Blue Blades" won the approval of the Creativity Jury with "Whatever" placing a close second. Many thanks to the contest participant whom I hope will continue to offer ideas and suggestions. My modesty prevents me from accepting the prize.

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Photos are by Rick Longworth; Photos taken from Walkway and of Italian Center - Bill Washburn;
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Editor: Bill Washburn - Acting (Your name could be here.)
