

## Boulder Sprints

Will be held April 19<sup>th</sup>. *Friends of* will be hosting a number of events during the weekend to raise money for the team and bring alumni together. Below you will find a list of events being held.

**Friday Night** (all are welcome): Dinner at the Gondolier Restaurant

**Saturday** (all are welcome): Extended practice and BBQ hosted by *Friends of*. Look for special events including Learn To Row sessions, and boat dedication ceremony. Alumni races might also be a possibility if there is enough interest.

**Saturday Night:** (alumni) Pub crawl – we will be meeting up at the Rio Grande restaurant and bar and make the rounds.

We will keep you up to date as more information is available.

## Fall Fundraiser brings in \$2500

Fall Fundraiser October 21st – Participants in the first annual Clay Pigeon Target Shoot Off braved cold weather, wind, and snow to show off their shooting skills and support the University of Colorado Rowing Team. Shooters were separated into groups of four, shooting a total of 25 targets at 5 different locations. Due to the high potential for cheating and relentless, albeit good-natured, heckling by participants, Colorado Crew rowers Rane Shuab, Sara Gawick and Tyler Dewitt helped throw the targets and keep score at each of the stations. Shooters were competing for a number of prizes donated by Barry Sinkey, Dicks Sporting Goods and Superior Liquor. Congratulations to Terry Mueller for his keen shooting ability. He hit 19 of 25 targets.

After the main event some shooters participated in the Braggers Challenge. In this event each shooter paid \$10 into the pool, 50% of which was donated to the

*Friends of* organization. Participants had to repeat the 5 stations of the Shoot Off, but were only allowed one shot per target. Congratulations to Eric Kufeldt for scoring 21 hits on 25 targets.

To conclude the event, *Friends of* held a drawing for prizes while participants enjoyed a choice of homemade steak, turkey, and delicious Rio Grande Restaurant green chili. Overall the event was a great success raising over \$2,500 for the team. Next year the event will be held on the weekend of September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to all the participants, Dick's Sporting Goods, The Rio Grande Restaurant of Boulder, Superior Liquor and the Sinkey family for making this event such a success.



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ *Salcido* coffee tables for sale
- ◆ Phil Corbet and Jenni Swenson, what is up?
- ◆ Save the date: **Boulder Sprints April 19th**
- ◆ New website Up and Running - Register now!!

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### *Women's Team Fall Results by Odette Mitchell Servillo*

Despite having their first race in Iowa cancelled due to flooding, the women's team was able to have an exemplary showing at the Frostbite Regatta in Wichita. After a very internally successful fall, the women were able to bring home several medals to show for their hard work. The novice women medaled in both the 1st and 2nd Novice boats, and the Varsity

Women's A 4+ brought home a third place medal. The results are particularly impressive among the Varsity 4+ and 8+ events.

The Varsity competed against Tulsa who is entering this season with a roster of 47 girls - many of which were high school recruits. A well respected and extremely well funded program, Tulsa has had a very competitive fall, including their 6th place finish in the 4+ at the Charles. It's exciting to know that we can even think about competing with a school like Tulsa. In the Varsity 4+ they had six entries,

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### *Formation of the American Collegiate Rowing Association*

In the last few months there has been some really large goings on in the rowing world. Most importantly, for club teams like ours there is now a club national championship race, the American Collegiate Rowing Association Championship (ACRA's).

The association was a result of some upheaval in the men's world but, the end result has been a benefit for both genders. On November 28<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting of all the IRA coaches. The goal of the meeting was to make recommendations to the stewards, 5 athletic directors from Ivy Universities that currently control the race, on the future of the regatta. Without delving too much into that process, it's fair to say that club programs were outsiders. The desires of the stewards in addition to the recommendation by varsity

coaches made it clear that clubs probably won't be eligible for the 2009 race. Immediately following the meeting the coaches of a few club programs including Colorado, Michigan, Virginia, Texas, and Minnesota started putting together a club national championship to provide our athletes with an opportunity to compete against the best in the nation and see where we rank out. In 3 short months this idea has become the ACRA. To date, the race has drawn interest from over 50 club programs throughout the nation and promises to be a real boon for rowing throughout the nation. The best part for CU may be the location: Oklahoma City. Stay tuned for more about the first ACRA's in the next newsletter!

## *Women's Team Fall Results by Odette Mitchell Servillo*



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and our top 4+ was able to beat 5 of them. In addition, when you look at the results there were only three schools that were able to even break the top 5 against a dominant Varsity program like Tulsa. Those three schools were Washington University, Kansas University and University of Colorado. Plus, out of those three schools, we were the

only ones to be able to do it in both events. What that shows me is this women's team has accomplished the next goal in our progress - be able to dominate the programs that are comparable to us. Now that we have done that - our 8+ beat every other women's team that was out there - it's time to turn our heads towards programs like Tulsa and start reaching higher.



## *Pancake Breakfast!! - Row Around the Rockies - Recap*

Friends of Colorado Crew successfully hosted the second annual pancake breakfast for rowers, family members and supporters at this year's "Row the Rockies" race.

This year's race featured two main races; a men's and women's team race. In each of the 4000 meter races, varsity and novice boats battled it out. Because both the novice and varsity teams enter multiple boats in each race, rowers find themselves competing for position amongst all of the boats in the field and not just position within their squad. To make the race as exciting and competitive as possible crews are started in reverse seed order (slowest boat going first). This allows crews with less experience and speed to get a head start and have a chance at holding off faster and more experienced crews at the finish line.

This year the event kicked off with a slight delay due to moderate winds from the west which are not uncommon in Colorado. After extended stretching and team meetings, the wind finally died down and crews took to the water for a quick warm up and gathered at Sunrise point for the start of the race. The first race featured the men's teams. The varsity men were split into 3 equal boats of 4 rowers and novice men were split into 3 boats of 8 rowers each. The novice rowers got a good start but were passed by the more experience and technically sound varsity rowers. The women's teams were up next and battled it out in all 8's. Again the more experienced varsity crew caught the novice boats and finished first. In the last race of the morning the Varsity women again took to the water, this time in 4's. The team raced 3 boats giving all the rowers a chance to participate in the event.

With board members Michael Sinkey and Todd Freedman in attendance, *Friends of* managed to feed over 125 rowers, parents and supporters, cooking up 16 lbs of bacon, over 300 pancakes and 7 gallons of coffee! Next year we will be putting on a short "meet and greet" for the coaches and parents as well as a Rowing 101 for all the new parents and supporters. Special thanks go to Sallie Hill, Megan VanWieren and Barry and Judy Sinkey for their help preparing and cooking breakfast.

It was great event for the organization and we thank everyone for coming out. We look forward to making the event even bigger and better next year!

## Men's Team Results *by Alex Berlin*

For the second time in as many races every member of the University of Colorado Men's Rowing Team returned to Boulder with at least one medal! Due to flooding in Iowa City



the Frostbite Regatta in Wichita, Kansas was the only traveling fall regatta for the team. This meant that our freshman would go into head racing very wet behind the ears so I tasked the varsity with trying to share as much knowledge as possible.

The men began the day with the second freshman 8+ event. This boat had some really good horse power but some technical mistakes lost them time down the course. They ended up placing 2<sup>nd</sup> just 2 seconds out of first, a solid result.

The next race to come down the course was the men's pair event. As a coach I wanted to have the varsity strive to perform out of their comfort zone. We own only one pair and rarely row it so this seemed like the perfect opportunity. The boat requires the rowers to steer as there is no coxswain. It also demands very good rowing as the boat, due to its size, is by nature very unstable. I let the guys choose their partners (we entered 3 boats) with the only requirement being that they had to practice the boat 3 times before the race. CU ended up finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Special note goes to the 5<sup>th</sup> place boat of Joe Destino and Tyler Dewitt. Those two practiced 3 times the week before the race in our team pair. When we arrived in Wichita I sent them over to the Tulsa trailer to practice in the boat we were borrowing. They came back to me to report that unlike our port rigged pair the one we were borrowing was starboard rigged. This meant that Joe would have to learn to steer the day before the race. Despite this, the two only incurred one 10" penalty for crossing a buoy that just knocked them out of 4<sup>th</sup>.



Next for the men was the varsity 4 and again we entered 3 boats in the race. Due to a hand infection we pulled Matt Bruckner up from the freshman squad to fill out our lineups. We ended up 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> in this race. Our speed should have placed us 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> but entering the no passing zone (400m zone put in place because of a narrow bridge) the B entry got stuck behind the slowest boat in the race and there wasn't enough room to make up the time. The C entry suffered a breakage due to some unmarked shallows severely hampering their performance.

The first event after the lunch break was the men's first freshman 8. We owned this event last year and this year was no different. CU was 17 seconds ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place boat. This boat had a lot of horsepower and it showed.

The last race of the day was the men's varsity 8 and yet again we entered 3 boats into this event. Our A and B entry were mixed boats with mostly varsity and a few freshmen while the C entry was an all freshman crew. This year, a much improved Wash U. team came to the Frostbite. We knew going into the race that it wouldn't be

a pushover event like last year but I still felt confident that we could win it with mixed boats. As expected this was a very hot race. CU ended up 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>. Our B entry (3<sup>rd</sup> place) finished the course in a time that would have won the event last year. The A entry (1<sup>st</sup> place) was 1:21 faster than last years winning time just edging out Wash U's 1<sup>st</sup> varsity 8, the same lineup they took to the Charles.



### 2008 IMPORTANT DATES

#### SAN DIEGO CREW CLASSIC

APRIL 4 AND 5TH

#### BOULDER SPRINTS

APRIL 19TH

#### WIRA CHAMPIONSHIP

MAY 2ND -4TH

#### ACRA CHAMPIONSHPS

MAY 24TH AND 25TH

*New boats honor those of Colorado Crew's past. by Alex Berlin*

**Kurt F. Najork and the R. Frederich Najork (purchased 09/06)**

Upon my arrival to CU in 2006 it became apparent that we required more boats to handle the large numbers of people a team needs to be successful. In addition, we needed to upgrade the quality of our fleet. Being friends with the University of Michigan men's head coach and the U of M Women's boatman, we were able to negotiate a very good price for both a men's and women's 8+. As a bonus, the U of M Women's boatman repaired and upgraded them before we took delivery. The shells came to us in fantastic condition.

The '97 Vespoli Performer 8+ was named after Kurt F. Najork. Kurt was a men's coach at CU from 1999-2003. He came to CU for grad school but ended up staying for the team. Coach Najork spent his years here working less than satisfying jobs so he could coach the team. His sacrifice paid off; he was responsible for starting the men's program onto the path of success. Under him the team size doubled and we began to produce our first results.



On a personal note Kurt was and probably still is the largest influence in both how and why I coach. I can't think of a better role model for the men of CU and we were blessed to have him for as long as we did. I couldn't be happier to see his name on the side of our boat!

The 1997 Vespoli Racer 8+, is named after Kurt's father R. Frederich Najork who passed away in 2005 after losing a tough battle with illness. Both Kurt and the Najork family were very generous in helping the Friends of Colorado Crew purchases these boats.



**Lyra (donated summer 2007)**

The Lyra (2002 Vespoli matrix 33 2-/x) was donated by Thomas Ryerson (more on Tom below). Due to Tom's large heart, this boat had been on loan to the team almost as soon as he bought it for himself. After getting married and having a baby Tom decided that he really didn't have time to use it and decided to officially donate it to the team. Friends of Colorado Crew named the boat after his new baby girl, Lyra.



**Bryan J. Catalani (purchased 09/07)**

The Bryan J. Catalani is a 1999 Vespoli Millennium 8+. Bryan was a team member during the '02-'06 seasons and made a great donation when we needed it in order to secure this boat. The shell was one of 3 racing 8's owned by the University of Michigan Men's team. In the spring of 2006 it was on a trailer that rolled over on the way to a race. Due to some generous insurance adjustment on the part of the UM Women's boatman it was declared a total loss (the boat won a race hours after it rolled). As a result UM wasn't allowed to race, use, or sell the boat. After a lot of phone calls, help from UM Men's Head coach, and careful navigation of UM's salvage process this boat was purchased by Friends of Colorado Crew.

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*New boats honor those of Colorado Crew's past. by Alex Berlin cont.*

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While the lead up to the boats purchase was very lengthy the actual procurement had to happen in less than two weeks. Bryan Catalani ('05) stepped in when the team needed it most by donating the majority of the funds necessary for the purchase of this boat. I think this boat is a testament to Bryan's generosity and exemplary service both as a team member and alum and, a strong example of giving back to a program that gives so much to CU students.



**Michael J. Sinkey and Thomas B. Ryerson (purchased 09/07)**

The Michael J. Sinkey and Thomas B. Ryerson were purchased to fill the last remaining void in the CU fleet: heavy-weight men's four man boats. Up until the arrival of these boats the men were rowing in boats made for either heavy or lightweight women. The Vespoli Ultralight 4+'s were the first boats purchased new from the maker since 2005.

Thomas B. Ryerson has been involved with the Boulder rowing community and the team for years. I first met him as a freshman when he came to the rec center to erg. Being a fellow rowing fan we developed a friendship. During the '02-'03 season Tom agreed to help Kurt coach the varsity men. When Kurt left at the end of the season Tom stepped up to be the head Men's coach.

During his 3 year tenure with the team, it was affectionately joked that, for better or worse, the men were Tom's children. Unfortunately the joke also went that if he found a wife, we would be out of a coach. Sure enough Tom found a lovely wife and the team did lose a great coach. Tom has continued to support the team and its staff at every possible opportunity since his departure though. He gave both his time, effort, and even a generous portion of money to make sure that the athletes had every opportunity to succeed. For all of this we are proud to name one of our new boats after him.

Michael J. Sinkey joined the team as a senior in 2002. He enjoyed his novice season so much that he decided to take a 5<sup>th</sup> year of school so he could row out his eligibility with the varsity squad. Fortunately for the team Michael



caught the CU rowing bug. After graduating, Michael applied for and was hired as the program director. This challenging and time consuming job was piled on top of his hefty duties running the family business.

Michael made inroads with the University that seemed impossible only a few years before. He is responsible for the CU truck we use to pull the trailer, a permanent erg facility, and most importantly, financial stability. On top of all that, Michael's tenure as program director ('04-'06) included the best ever performance by the men: an invitation to the IRA national championship.

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## *Thank You for your Help and Support*

### **Supporters:**

The DeWitt's,  
 Phil Hill,  
 Matt Hynes-Grace,  
 Todd Freedman,  
 Sinkey Family,  
 Tom Ryerson,  
 The Carmody Family,  
 Jim Hill,  
 Bryan Catalani,  
 Todd Freedman,  
 The Savage Family,  
 Sallie Hill,  
 Dawn Jacobs,  
 Tessie Tracey,  
 Jocelyn Mullis,  
 Erick Kufeldt,  
 Joel Kufelt,  
 Wendall Borchert,  
 John Baxter,  
 Jerry Cury,  
 Dekieffer Family,  
 Tom Garvin,  
 Larry Scripster,



Gary Nesmith,  
 Don & Merri Rice,  
 Tom Lyons,  
 Gary Lewien,  
 Ben Lewien,  
 Robert Haas,  
 Terry Mueller,  
 Jeff Pastore,  
 Jake Puzio

### **Business Supporters:**

**Collection Bureau Hudson Valley** - Kurt Najork  
**SparkFun Electronics** - Nate Siedle  
**Advantage Bank** - Eric, Hanna, Bill  
**Dick's Sporting Goods** - Gary Lewein  
**Rio Grand Restaurant and Bar** - Brian Cross  
**Colorado Capital Bank of Boulder** - Jake, Robert and Ben Lewine  
**Boulder Creek Builders** - David G, David S, Steve, Carolyn

## *New boats honor those of Colorado Crew's past. by Alex Berlin cont.*

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Michael helped found Friends of Colorado Crew, our not for profit corporation that helps support the team through a number of projects including the purchasing of equipment. He is without a doubt the teams' number one cheerleader attending many of the races each year; often times helping to drive the trailer. If you can name something good that happened to the team in the last 4-6 years I guarantee that Michael had something to do with it. I can think of no one more deserving of the honor of having a new boat named after them than my dear friend Michael Sinkey.

### **Philip "Grit" Hill (Purchased 10/07 Delivery Spring of 08)**

Phil Hill has been involved with the team since his daughter joined in 2002. He immediately became one of the team's biggest boosters, a role that continues to this day. It is not uncommon to see Phil at WIRA's despite the fact that his daughter has exhausted her eligibility. Throughout Phil's involvement with the University of Colorado Rowing Team he has been the man behind the green curtain making the lives of the rowers easier. Mr. Hill has also been a great sounding board and source of advice for the program directors. He is deeply committed to the success of the team and because of this commitment, we have chosen to name the most recent addition to our fleet, the women's new 2001 Vespoli Racer 8+ after Phil Hill.

**A dedication ceremony will take place during boulder Sprints to officially bring these boats into the Colorado Crew Family**

*Alumni Spotlight***Alumni Update: Phil Corbet and Jenni Swenson Get Married!!!**

Phil and Jenni met while rowing and started dating a few years later while Jenni was living in Boulder and Phil was living in Winter Park. This match up features two different rowing personalities, stroke (Phil) and bow (Jenni), but one happy union.

As parts of the team, Phil rowed for four and a half years, stroking the men's fours and eights most of the time. His biggest collegiate races were Midwest Rowing Championships, Dad Vails, and all the trips to the Head of the Charles.

Jenni rowed with Colorado Crew for three years, having started her third year at CU, and rowed bow for both the open and lightweight womens boats. She attended the lightweight women's summer camp at the University of Wisconsin in 1999. Her biggest collegiate races were Midwest Rowing Championships and Pacific Coast Rowing Championships.

The pair left Boulder for Seattle for two years while Phil finished a Master's degree at the University of Washington where they both sculled at a Lake Washington Rowing Club. They now live in Portsmouth, NH with their dog Tasman. Phil works as a Civil Engineer and Jenni is a Designer. They were married in Portsmouth on September 14th, 2007 in front of close friends and family. A reception followed on Saturday in Sunapee, NH which was attended by many Colorado Crew alums.

**Congratulations Phil and Jenni!!!!**