



Washington-Lee Rowing Reporter

Washington-Lee High School, Arlington VA

December 2013

Crew Schedule 2014

March

15 - Scrimmage w/Wilson & Whitman on Potomac River
22 - Scrimmage w/TC Williams; site TBD
29 - Regatta at St. Andrews, Middletown, DE

April

5 - Arlington Cup Regatta w/Yorktown & O'Connell on Potomac River
12 - Darrell Winslow Regatta at Occoquan
19 - Smokey Jacobs Regatta at Occoquan
26 - Charlie Butt Regatta on the Potomac

May

3 - Ted Phoenix Regatta at Occoquan (lower boats only)
10 - Virginia State Rowing Championship at Occoquan (upper boats only)
15-17 - Stotesbury Cup Regatta, Philadelphia
22-24 - SRAA Championships ("Nationals"), Camden NJ

Congratulations to the W-L Crew Class of 2013!

Colton Hust is attending VCU, Dustin Reynolds and Colleen Aiken are at Virginia Tech. Nathan Heinzman and Taylor Leonard are rowing at UVA. Raymond Dulman is studying at Drexel, Noah King decided on Mary Washington University. Zoe Van Grack is attending JMU,

2013 Rowing Recap

The 2013 season kicked off with huge interest within the school. The men's team fielded more than five 8's of young rowers with enthusiasm building off the fantastic results of the men's V8 and 2V from the year before. Despite graduating almost an entire 8, the team showed the talent it had in the up-and-coming sophomore class and the junior and seniors ready to make their mark. The team was lucky to have captains Nathan Heinzman (now rowing for UVA) and Dustin Reynolds as well as stalwart coaches Derek Parsons '87, Jim Owen '62, Wilson DeSouza '96, and Rob Shaw '01.

The women's side showed a new face with almost an entirely new coaching staff and fairly young team in terms of experience. Long-time local coach Gwen Sully joined returning frosh coach Jess Ward '05, and new head coach, George Kirschbaum '87 (switching over from the men's side) for 2013. A strong senior class lead by captains Taylor Leonard (rowing for UVA) and Emma Sheehy (rowing for Bucknell) worked to show the many 8th-11th graders the way. With all the changes, the women's team was working to establish new traditions along with the old.

After months of winter training and erg competitions, the team hit the water at the end of February and was immediately faced with some of the worst weather the area had seen in years. Conditions didn't hold the team back as they showed their competitive spirit early against Whitman and Wilson High Schools at the Chadwicks Cup. The team then threw down against perennial rivals TC Williams. The men dominated TC and the women put in close finishes against TC's impressive V8. The following weekend took the team to St. Andrews, which is always an eye-opener in terms of speed. The men's V8 showed they were capable racing St. Andrews to the line, only being nipped for first by 0.5 seconds. The men won the V4 and the Frosh 8, and placed third or better in every race. Outstanding! The women's V8 showed their potential, placing a respectable 4th against some powerful crews. The team kept the momentum going with the boys winning the Arlington (Conroy) Cup in the V8, and the women placing a solid 2nd to rival Yorktown. Not to be outdone, both Frosh 8's took home gold as well.

The next two weekends were routine trips to the Occoquan where the V8 men and Frosh 8's continued to shine. The weekend everyone was waiting for finally arrived and the team gave it their all at the Charlie Butt Regatta. It was great day of racing against some of the top teams in the area, followed by much celebration on the dock. The dedication of the brand new "Tom Chisnell" and "Charlie Butt" Vespoli 8's was the highlight of the day, with Butt family members Sarah and Nancy, as well as Tom Chisnell '69 with his wife Maria pouring the ceremonial champagne over the bows. Team members, parents, alumni, and friends marked this great day with much fanfare! These two boats and the men they are named for represent the family that is W-L Crew.

The Ted Phoenix Regatta the next weekend showcased the up-and-coming

Emma Sheehy is rowing at Bucknell. Rachel Kamvar is at Madison College and Madeleine Humm chose UVA. We also wish Ashley Hadley and Sarah Zielinsky the best of luck in their endeavors!

2012 Charlie Butt Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating crew member who best exemplifies integrity and honesty, work ethic and dedication, and contributes to the crew on and off the water. The 2013 recipients were captains Dustin Reynolds and Taylor Leonard.

It's Back - Mulch Madness 2014!

For 6 weeks beginning in January, rowers canvas neighborhoods to obtain orders for mulch or direct donations. The Boosters also mail almost 1,000 mulch order/donation forms.

Rowers will deliver the mulch, in 50 lb bags, on Saturday, March 1. Mulch Madness is the most significant team fundraiser, and the best opportunity for each rower to satisfy his or her fundraising requirement.

Email Peter Grevatt at wmulch@gmail.com to place an order and/or make a donation (please name the rower who should receive credit). Or place an order directly with your favorite rower. W-L Crew thanks you for your tremendous and longstanding support!

talent for all the area's novice crews and marked the end of their season. Our athletes represented well, with the Men's Frosh 8 and Novice 4 placing second, and the Women's Frosh 8 and Novice 4 racing solidly in the finals.

Next up was the VASRA Championships. Five boats turned into three trips to the finals and one petite final. The men's JV4 led off, placing 6th in a strong race, followed by the men's 2V placing 5th with a solid race. Next up was the women's V8—after a long season they found their groove, winning the petite final in a time that would have placed them 4th in the final, and beating several crews they'd been chasing all season! The men's V8 came down to the wire with several boats neck-and-neck. In the end, our men took 3rd behind Jefferson and St. Albans (who placed 2nd at Stotes), placing for the second time in two years. Bravo! The post-season of Stotesbury and Nationals showcased a depth of talent at the junior level unseen even five years ago. Stotes now hosts 5,000 competitors and hundreds of teams. With the depth of talent, it's a feat to make it out of the time trials. Our athletes represented well but came up short of making any finals this year. Nationals was a miserable rainy mess, but it didn't dampen our team efforts. Again, the level of competition was intense, but it just helped to focus the team on what had to be done to be on the water next season.

In the end, it was a solid season with good results. We said goodbye to our seniors, put our equipment away, and started taking the next steps towards spring 2014! See you soon, go W-L!

Supporting W-L Crew

Crew is an expensive sport. W-L Crew has prided itself on providing top-quality equipment to help our crews reach their full potential. Arlington County provides valuable but limited support to the program (mostly transportation services), but the Boosters and parents fund all equipment purchases, maintenance, uniforms, regatta expenses, financial aid and other significant costs. These needs are increasing, as school enrollment increases and participation in the crew program surges in popularity.

To support the growing program and our need for speed, we purchased two new 8's last year - the "Charlie Butt" and "Tom Chisnell" and will purchase oars, cox boxes and other important equipment for the 2014 season. Without support from alumni and friends of W-L Crew, fewer students would have the opportunity to row and W-L would not be able to compete at the high level that is our tradition. The team needs your help! The financial support of alumni and friends is the lifeblood of the program and keeps us competitive. We encourage you to make donations through our website: www.w-lcrewboosters.org, or send a check made payable to W-L Crew Boosters, addressed to W-L Crew Boosters, Washington-Lee High School, 1301 North Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22201. Contributions are tax deductible. For more information, contact Booster president Fieke Janson at fjanson04@verizon.net.

