



# The Whitemarsh Wake

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## TRAGEDY IN CONSHOHOCKEN

Firefighters from all across the Pennsylvania suburbs raced to Conshohocken on August 13 to attempt to stop a massive eight-alarm fire that erupted in the late afternoon within blocks of Whitemarsh Boat Club.

The fire broke out at 4:30 p.m. at the RiverWalk at Millennium complex on the Schuylkill, between the Fayette Street bridge and WBC. The high-end development, a catalyst in the revival of the once-blighted Conshohocken riverfront, was built by developer Brian O'Neill.

Firefighters called the emergency an "unusually large fire," and one of the largest seen in the county in recent years.

Ten fire companies from as far away as North Penn and Flourtown responded to the call, although the Philadelphia Fire Department was not called to the scene.

Two WBC members had first-hand experience of the tragedy.

**Steve Kossuth**, who lives in the complex, was fortunate to sustain only smoke damage in his residence. Speaking by email to our members, Steve said "Thank you all for the kind notes of support. On behalf of my buildings, I would like to thank any and all of you that donated items at

the firehouse. I was able to look at my apartment [on the afternoon of Thursday August 14] and was able to see that I suffered only smoke damage; needless to say I was very lucky to both get out and not have everything destroyed. Most of my neighbors were not as lucky. Please continue to support the operations at the Spring Mill Fire Company."

**Pat DiCicco**, WBC Lieutenant of the House, put in several hours of fire-fighting assistance throughout the ordeal. Pat, we are all very proud of your service to the community, especially in this time of need!



## *The President's Post*

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If you have been to WBC lately you know it is abuzz with activity. Masters and Juniors rowing, sometimes even together in the same shell. We have had a number of camps calling WBC home this summer. In addition WBC conducted three Learn-To-Row sessions; two sweep classes and one sculling class. These Learn-To-Row sessions have been the launching pad for introducing a number of new members to our club here on the upper Schuylkill River. The club was active in regattas in the spring and summer seasons and now WBC members are hard at work preparing for the fall head race season. However, in addition to rowing, a lot of other activities have been happening at WBC ...

- In May we said thank you to a number of WBC original Officers/Chairs for the work they have done. These women helped to make WBC what it is today:
  - Mary Frawley - *Vice President*
  - Linda Chisholm - *Treasurer*
  - Alicia Elliott - *Financial Secretary*
  - Linda Hrycko - *Captain*
  - Carol Kleiner - *Fund Raising Chair*
- The following individual assumed their current role this past May:
  - Mary McKenna - *President*
  - Bill Scher - *Vice President*
  - Jane Voss - *Secretary*
  - Kathy McCusker - *Treasurer*
  - Judi Welch - *Financial Secretary*
  - Bob Smith - *Captain*
  - Theresa Kiernan - *Coxswain*
  - Pat DiCicco - *Lt. of the House*
  - Meg Thompson - *Lt. of Rowing*

- Helene O'Neill - *Membership Chair*
- Barb Kelly - *Fund Raising Co-chair*
- Bonnie Mueller - *Fund Raising Co-chair*
- Beth Reilly - *Fund Raising Co-chair*
- Merri Williams - *Fund Raising Co-chair*

- WBC purchased two shells from LaSalle this spring, an 8+ and a double. WBC is currently looking into the possibility of purchasing additional shells before the end of the year.
- June found us on one very sunny and very hot Saturday afternoon at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual WBC Row-B-Q. This is a club sponsored activity opened to all members and their families free of charge.
- Next on the calendar will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Crab Fest on September 13th.

At the request of some members, the WBC Board of Directors initiated a process of reviewing and revising the WBC By-Laws. Comments/suggestions regarding the By-Laws were solicited from members by Bill Scher on behalf of the Board and will, where appropriate, be incorporated into the revised By-Laws.

Speaking of Bill Scher, we all wish him a speedy recovery from his recent stay in the hospital. We look forward to seeing Bill back rowing very soon.

By now I am sure all of the WBC members are aware of the tragedy that took place at the Apartments at RiverWalk on Wednesday, August 13th. The fire was devastating to so many people. I am proud of the support shown by WBC members to help our local community in their time of need. WBC has demonstrated that we are good neighbors in the Conshohocken community.

*Mary McKenna  
President*

## Captain's Log



The Boat budget request has been submitted and we await the OK to proceed.

A list of all 2008 future races is at the log table for all members to sign up for any and all races in which they wish to partake. Once we have the names, we will make up boats for each contest.

A Vespoli quad is on hand for trial, use and comment. Lauren LeHane and a men's 4 have been submitted for the Head of the Charles, and we will be advised of acceptance in early September.

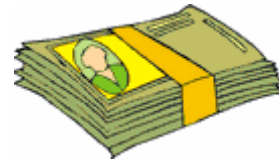
Thanks to Ally and Ward for their participation in the Quaker City Regatta, where Whitemarsh made a splash and posted several close finishes and a win.

The river is extremely shallow .... Stay away from the banks and be safe.

Last reminder: LOG IN and LOG OUT.

Bob Smith  
WBC Captain

## Notes From the Treasurer



Our membership continues to grow. The additional income has enabled us to add more rowing equipment and refurbish existing equipment.

We all need to pitch in to take extra care with the boats while on and off the water. Keep in mind that equipment repair expenses really cut into our budget. Savings in the repair department means more money available to purchase additional boats and equipment.

Thanks to everyone for paying your dues on time.

We have been able to manage the electricity costs much better this year. Please be conscious to save on energy by not leaving doors and windows open during the upcoming winter months.

Year-to-date financial information was provided to members as part of the General Membership Meeting minutes that were distributed via email on July 10. Please contact me if you have any related questions.

Kathy McCusker  
Treasurer



# Rack & Camp Report

Welcome to our newest  
WBC members:

- ~ Stanley Bielen ~
- ~ Leon Chain ~
- ~ Patrice Cipressi ~
- ~ Steve Kossuth ~
- ~ Mark Jones ~
- ~ William Long ~
- ~ Thomas Meehan ~
- ~ John Mullaney ~
- ~ Linda Raichle ~
- ~ Janine Smith ~
- ~ Michele Tacconelli ~
- ~ Jennifer Fasy ~
- ~ Jake Goldblum ~
- ~ Robin Kaney ~
- ~ Ben Madera ~
- ~ Ken Madera ~
- ~ Caitlin Meehan ~
- ~ Alex Plache ~

## Rack Space

WBC is open for business ... we have room for boats of all sizes, including 8 space for another team. We are in the process of bidding additional indoor racks for 8's as well as outdoor racks for smaller boats.

## Camps



WBC was host to several camps this year! Mount and Radnor successfully combined their Learn to Row Camp for 12-14 year old girls. In June and July roughly 40 girls passed through the programs lead by Radnor Head Coach Travis Schilling and GA Head Coach Susan Seybolt, and aided by coaches from Drexel and Radnor as well as many high school rowers. The program also benefitted from the additional on-land certified first aid assistance of Mount AD Janet Columbro. Many of these

Helene O'Neill  
Membership Chair

girls will return to row for their respective high schools.

LaSalle and Mount have been rowing all summer on their reduced schedule format to keep the rowers oars in the water over summer months. Beginning just after Nationals in June the camps began to row evenings and weekends. Some of these rowers represented WBC in our summer Regattas.

For the first time this year JD Bridges, Radnor head coach, assisted by Radnor Girls Head Coach Sheila Dyer, ran an Advanced Sculling camp for High School boys from the east coast. This camp trained twice a-day and produced some first and second place finishes at the Club Nationals in July.

The last camp of the summer is the Incoming Freshman Camp for Mount and Radnor. This is always a high turn out camp with prospective high school rowers showing up for a taste of the sport. The camp is aided by many current and former rowers making it quite an event on the property.

A great summer of rowing at WBC netting \$10,000 plus to our bottom line, was well worth it for all.

Meg Thompson  
Lieutenant of Rowing

## Upcoming Events



All work and no fun makes for terribly long rows on the water, so the Events Committee is happy to report an exciting variety of upcoming events to help the Whitemarsh Crew relax with old friends and welcome new members to the Club.

Following a successful summer Row-B-Q in which the newest Learn to Row participants had the chance to meet their fellow members, we're ready to say goodbye to summer and hello to fall with Whitemarsh's largest event of the year, the second annual Crab Fest, a/k/a Catch a Crab. Last year, the event attracted more than 70 WBC members and their guests for an evening of crabs, beer, fun, and general craziness (especially when the mini-McKenna family reunion began to step things up!). This year's event will be

held on Saturday, September 13 (6:00 pm - ???), and we expect even bigger numbers so PLEASE get your RSVPs in early! Tickets are \$35/person BEFORE the Sept 8 cut-off and \$45/person after Sept 8, so take advantage of the early-bird discount and hold your spot by responding to Bonnie at [bonnie.mueller@haygroup.com](mailto:bonnie.mueller@haygroup.com) or mailing payment to Bonnie Mueller, 81 Brownstone Drive, East Norriton, PA, 19401. Additional details regarding the evening were emailed and hard-copy mailed to all members (and are also available in the boathouse). In addition to being one of the most fun nights of the year, the Catch a Crab proceeds will all benefit WBC, providing an extra incentive to haul together all of your friends and family and bring them down for the night.

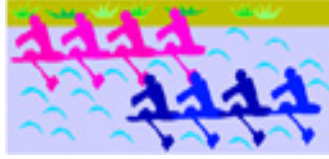
Following the Catch a Crab, additional '08-'09 activities will include the annual student "Head of the Pumpkin" as well as the WBC Holiday Party. We're also planning to add a Guest Bartending evening at a local restaurant, a "Quizzo" evening in early spring, and a Stotesbury Finish Line celebration. Stay tuned

for more details regarding these events, and feel free to bring additional ideas to the Events Committee Chairs (Barb Kelly, Merri Williams, Beth Reilly, and Bonnie Mueller).

On a final note, Merri Williams continues to have WBC merchandise available for purchase. Anyone needing traditional racing shirts, hats, etc. can contact Merri at [willime@mail.hhcainc.com](mailto:willime@mail.hhcainc.com). We are also exploring the potential to add new merchandise to the "WBC Collection," including potential new technical long-sleeve racing shirts for the colder weather. If you have needs, thoughts, or ideas, please reach out to Merri !

<p>Barb, Bonnie, Beth and Merri Events Committee Co-chairs</p>
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## Racing Results and Upcoming Races



### Racing Results

#### Catch the Cooper Regatta

Men's 1x - 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Men's 8+ - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

#### Schuylkill Navy Regatta

Men's 1x - 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Mixed 2x - 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Men's 2x - 1<sup>st</sup> place

#### Independence Day Regatta

Junior 4+ \*\* - 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Women's 2x - 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Junior 4+ \*\* - 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> place

#### Youth Regatta

Junior 1x \*\* - 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Junior 1x Dash \*\* - 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Petite 8+ Final Dash \*\* - 2<sup>nd</sup> place

\*\* Mount rowed as WBC in the Junior events

#### Diamond Regatta

Women's 2x - 6<sup>th</sup> place  
Mixed 2x -

#### Quaker City Regatta

Men's 1x - 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Men's 8+ - 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Mixed 2x - 5<sup>th</sup> place

Mixed 4+ - 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Men's 4+ - 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Men's 2x - 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Mixed 8+ - 2<sup>nd</sup> place

### Upcoming Races

Rookie Regatta 9-21-08 – Philadelphia

Hutchinson Cup 9-27-08 – Philadelphia

Kingshead 9-28-08 – Upper Merion

Head of the Christiana 10-5-08 – Delaware

Navy Day 10-11-08 – Philadelphia

HOC 10-16, 17, 18 – Boston

HOSR 10-26-08 – Philadelphia

Braxton 11-8-08 – Philadelphia

Frostbite 11-9-08 -- Philadelphia

So far WBC will have the following participants at Head of the Charles:

Mount Junior 8+  
Lauren Lehane 1x

WBC also plans on registering a Mens 4+ and will advise the membership if this is entry is accepted.

**Theresa Kiernan**

**WBC Coxswain**