



April 2025

A word from the Board President...

Oh my gosh it's so close... the spring, the lake, the boats... but *still not quite here*. Maine, your "spring" is nothing but a cruel mirage! (Here you may imagine the author staring out the window at snowflakes in mid-April, weeping quietly...)

No seriously, we are making progress, and when the weather does finally allow us to float the docks from their winter storage to our Barrett's Cove boat forest, we will be ready to go. Bos'n Meredith Currier has already organized our members to assemble the boat racks, clean up the area, and even install one lonely quad in its summer home. Next weekend -- April 26th -- we will float the dang docks into place even if there are tornadoes, so help me. We have waited long enough! I will note once again that if you enjoy coffee, donuts, and the fellowship of thrashing around knee-deep in freezing cold water while trying to bolt together recalcitrant floats, you absolutely must join us. See our **events calendar** for all the details. We're going to get our junior teams back on the lake April 28th if it kills us. Weather permitting, of course...

Now speaking of our junior teams, I have been working out with them and our all-volunteer coaching staff, and I am telling you they are going to be fantastic. It's a great group of rowers, substantially larger than last year, and I'm super excited to see the boys and girls competing on the water. We may even be able to field two 8s. The true test of course will be at the season finale event, our very own Dirigo Sprints on May 24, where we compete with other Maine and Massachusetts schools for seasonal bragging rights until the fall. Want to help us make it happen? Email row@megunticookrowing.org and we'll let you know when and how.

Unlike many of our local youth sports teams, our junior rowing program is not school-subsidized in any way. Our annual Row The Coast fundraiser, underway now, benefits our scholarship fund to reduce or eliminate program fees for those who need it. For this year's challenge we are trying to erg a massive 5,597,000 meters, the length of the coast of Maine, before May 3rd. To help make our event a success, make our erg teams (juniors and masters both!) sweat by challenging them at \$1 per 1000 meters. When we meet our goal we will have funded eight full scholarships to the program, helping us ensure that everyone can have a seat in the boat regardless of means. You can **donate to support us here**.

Before I go, I have to mention one last thing. We came to all of you at the end of last year, asking for help funding a full time coach so we can ensure this program keeps growing like it should. Well, we haven't closed our search yet, but we have talked to some impressive people in the last few weeks, and I am confident we'll be able to bring at least one of them aboard by the start of our summer season. This will mean not only an assured staff for our summer teams and Learn-To-Row classes, but also a path to continued growth and the realization of all the potential we see on our beautiful lake. Our juniors, our masters volunteers, and our hard-working board members all deserve this, and we're going to be able to make it happen thanks to your generosity. Thank you, donors, sponsors, and friends.

Now, does anyone have any ice melt handy? I've used all mine up. In April. Arrgh.

See you on the water,
--Hugh

Row the Coast 2025!

**All Dollars Raised to Support Our Junior Scholarship Fund
Because Everyone Gets a Seat in the Boat!**



Let the erging begin!

Maine has the 4th longest coastline of all 50 states, 5,597,000 meters from Kittery to Calais. We are attempting to "row" that coastline to raise money for the Megunticook Rowing scholarship fund which supports participation in our Junior program.

Our five teams are competing for meters rowed and funds raised, with the top team earning bragging rights for the whole season. Your donation dollars will challenge a team to row more, because more dollars for the scholarship fund equals more meters rowed.

Support our effort to get everyone who wants to row the opportunity regardless of their ability to pay.

At Megunticook Rowing Everyone Gets a Seat in the Boat!

Want to join the effort?

Make a donation to help a team hit their goal. Each dollar represents 1000 meters.

Help us sprint to our \$5,597 goal!

Want to join a team? Email row@megunticookrowing.org and let us know which team you would like to join. If you are on Megunticook Rowing's Slack channel, go to the #row-the-coast's channel and Slack message your chosen captain.

**Ready All,
ROW**

**Donate and Join Us
Today**



Megunticook Rowing and Swim Test Schedule at the Penobscot Bay YMCA

We are now happily established at the Penobscot Bay Y. It is great to have all the amenities the Y offers - showers, changing rooms, a bright big space. All is well.

Erging at the Y

Below is the schedule of when you can come erg. If you are a member of the Y just register at front desk as per usual. If you are not a member, no problem, you will just need to sign a waiver at the front desk the first time you visit the Y.

Schedule:

Monday-Friday 5:30-8:30am (junior teams in the space 5:30-7:30)

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 5:30-7:30pm

Swim Test

All members of Megunticook Rowing are required to pass a swim test or present paperwork attesting to your ability. This will be required every five years.

The Y is available to give tests throughout the day and week. Call the Y at **207-236-3375** to inquire when you could come in to take the swim test. Or you can **email Connor Howland**, one of our board members who is also a lifeguard to set up a mutually convenient time for a test.

Next, **download this form** and bring it with you for signature. Wear your rowing workout clothes - not a bathing suit. The test is a swim of 100 yards (four lengths), treading water for 5 minutes, and putting on a life jacket while in the water.

When test and form is completed take a picture of it and email it to:
row@megunticookrowing.org

Questions? row@megunticookrowing.org



Docks and Boats Move in April 26th and 27th!
Rigging and More Fun!
Calling All Hands!

Mother Nature stopped us twice in our attempts to get the docks in due to rain, sleet and then wind.

We will have a full weekend April 26th and 27th. It is imperative that we get a big strong group to help with this. Please plan on joining your teammates and club members to help Saturday, April 26th at 9am at Barrett's Cove. Many hands make light work! Work gloves and boots are a good idea to bring. We will meet again on

Sunday, April 27th, 9am. Please use the sign up sheet below to confirm your participation. Work gloves and boots are a good idea.

As an all volunteer organization, these work weekends are essential to ready the club for the on-the-water season which we all love to participate in. The best way you can show your appreciation is by showing up.

We'll have coffee and donuts to start and refreshments afterwards, so please plan on joining us!

Sign Here Up Please!



Junior Competition Starts with Erg-a-thon in Portland

Our first competition was held on April 6 indoors at Waynflete's gym. This event included a 2k meter erg race for each boy's and girl's teams; a relay event.

In Novice Boys Cameron Pinchbeck finished 4th out of 11. In Novice Girls, in a really tight heat, Raya Luehman finished 9th. Jake Roux finished 7th, Connor Howland in 14th and Jack Heller in 17th in the Boys Varsity group of 19. Laura Riordan took 3rd place, Tucker Beynart in 5th, Leona Bournival in 9th, Ireland Heller in 15th and Grace Doolen in 16th out of 17 Varsity Girls competitors.



In the mixed relay, The Meg team of Jack Heller, Tucker Beynart, Cameron Pinchbeck and Leona Bournival nabbed 3rd place. The Meg Monsters team of Raya Luehman, Ireland Heller, Connor Howland and Jack Heller finished 8th out of 10 teams.

Great Job!



Below: Thirteen of the 20+ members of the spring team with coaches Will and Kelly Schaezke



Looking for Housing for Summer Head Coach

Yes, it's a problem for most organizations in our area and Megunticook Rowing is no exception. We are looking for a place for our head coach to live May-October. It's a bit of a chicken-and-egg situation. If we have housing, we have more choices in terms of applicants since most live beyond the Camden commuting perimeter.

If you could host a coach for even a few weeks this summer or you know of an apartment owner looking for a tenant, please contact us at row@megunticookrowing.org.

In Other News:



Coach Sam Abbott holding a bear cub north of Ashland. Sam's fiancée is the Maine Bear Biologist, he was invited to help take care of the cubs while Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife put a radio collar on the mom bear. He said those claws were very sharp!



Huge shout out to one of our junior rowers, Adella Brainerd third from left, and standing next to Olympian Rhyan White. She and her 200-meter medley relay team of London Nicolet, Sally Vannini and Marguerite Worner qualified for YMCA Nationals. Adella also qualified for YMCA Nationals in her 100-meter breaststroke.

Way to go Adella!

Ways to Support Megunticook Rowing

Recycle! Every Nickel Counts!

Donate your bottles and cans to Megunticook Rowing through Clynk! You can purchase Clynk bags at Hannaford and get stickers from [Sarah Kuhn!](#)

Make a Donation

Become a Sponsor

As a 501(c)3 organization, donations are essential to our viability. Sponsorships range from \$12,000 to \$300 and give you a wide range of visibility throughout the year. Won't you join these fabulous sponsors?

Contact marnie@megunticookrowing.org for more information.



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