

# Newsletter

November 2024



## President’s Message

Another incredible South Bend Community Rowing season has come and gone. It seems like we were just rowing on a summer evening, and in the blink of an eye, we’ve now closed the boathouse until next spring. The 2024 season—our eighth—was successful on several levels, thanks to every South Bend Community Rowing member. Without your support, encouragement, and participation, none of our success would be possible.

In addition to the pleasure of the time we spent together on the beautiful St. Joe River, we were competitive in all the regattas we attended with several first-place finishes. We continued to upgrade equipment with the purchase of an 8+ from the University of Tennessee. In addition, our membership continues to grow, and thanks to Terri’s dedication and skill, the organization is financially stable.

Our popular Learn to Row program once again

introduced more community members to rowing, and this year’s Novice class holds great promise as they move to Master’s rowing.

I also want to thank our talented coaching staff, Jill, Andrea, Kelly, and Kevin. Their commitment, patience, and rowing expertise made us all better rowers – and got us through some rainy days (and Mondays)! Thanks also to the executive committee, Mary Alice, Jill, Terri, and Sarah. Through their leadership, our organization has grown and flourished.

I have been fortunate to have a front seat as the club has grown, both in number and competitive standing. I’m sure this upward trajectory will continue in the years to come. As we move into hibernation for a few months, please stay safe and hope to see you in the spring.

Dan

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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## A History of the South Bend Boathouse

Notre Dame Rowing Club ( NDRC ) was founded in 1964-1965 by about twenty ND students, led by Andrew Monaghan and Jay Radovich. They worked with a local contractor to build a very basic one bay boathouse in Mishawaka. That original boathouse, built in 1966, was located in Margaret Prickett Park Mishawaka and was shared with a waterskiing group, the Michiana Spray Riders.

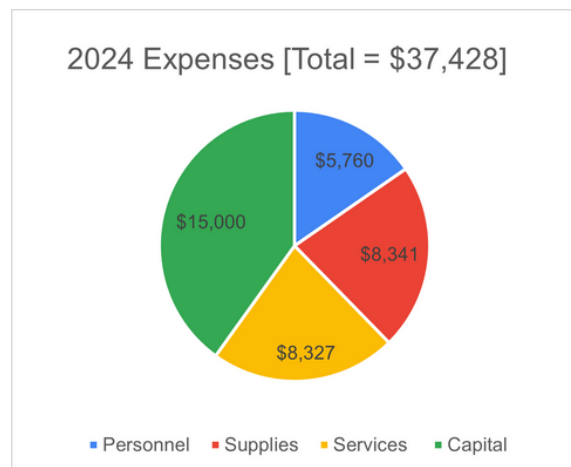
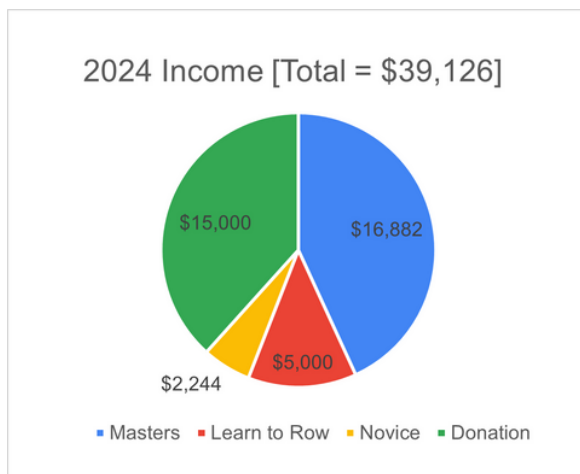
In 1982, NDRC recognized a need to move closer to campus and engaged both ND and the City of South Bend to utilize what was then called Viewing Park, along Northside Boulevard. Club President and Men's Captain Jim Feider at the time worked hard to ensure that the Club had a sustainable location near campus. A local architect and part time rowing coach, Chris Nye, donated architectural work to design a new two bay boathouse to handle the NDRC growth and future stability. In 1983, NDRC moved to Viewing Park. Jim Fieder died tragically within months of his

graduation and NDRC named the boathouse in his honor. In 1997, Notre Dame elevated Women's Rowing to varsity status and retained usage of the boathouse in Viewing Park, together with the Men's Rowing Team. By 2012, ND realized that the boathouse was much too small to house the rowing programs. So in 2016, ND worked with South Bend to complete construction of the McConnell Family Boathouse.

The former ND boathouse was left vacant in 2016, and local water sport enthusiasts seized the opportunity to repurpose the structure as a community asset to support the growing interest in the St Joseph River. The boathouse was renamed the South Bend Boathouse in 2016, and Viewing Park was renamed Gov. Joe Kernan Park in 2020 to honor longtime resident, Mayor, Governor and rowing enthusiast.

## Financial Report

We had an excellent year financially ending with a net of \$1,697 over the year and a year end projection of \$10,133.



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# Dear Coach

## How do you seat a boat for practice (Jill)?

My first step is always to pair people who are of similar size because they typically are also of similar stroke length. Once I have my pairs, I set the stern pair as the pair that has the best overall stroke. The reason for this is that stern pair blades are visible to the entire boat. Thus, easiest to follow. Then it depends upon the relative size of the remaining people. If there are some bigger people, I usually put them in the middle of the boat. Why ? To ensure that the shell is generally level as it sits in the water. Lastly, the bow pair needs to be able to effect the steering of the shell. Why? Because coxswains depend on enough power in the bow pair to land the shell and to maneuver down a course.

Have a question for a coach? Send it to Sarah Nerenberg (snerenberg1@gmail.com)



### Upcoming Social Activities

Month	Activity
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	All club meeting
December	Stay tuned for Holiday Party date announcement
January	Ideas?
February	<a href="#">Attend Girls in the Boat at SB Civic Theater 1/31-2/9/25</a>
March	Ideas?

## Member Spotlight: Dan Pawelski



Dan grew up in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago and attended Weber High School, an all-boys Catholic School, which at the time was one of only two high schools in Chicago with a rowing program (Lane Tech had the other one). He rowed in high school because his friend freshman year joined and he followed him there. He ended up rowing in an eight all four years (at stroke) and rowing with a club in Lincoln Park in the summer. He had to take a city bus after school to get to practices. At Weber, he got to travel to regattas including to the Schuylkill for the School Boy Regatta in 1968. His boat came in second by a tenth of a second in the heat. Besides the excitement of flying for his first time, he got to meet Mayor Richard Daley with his teammates because of that trip.

He entered the Air Force after high school and was trained as an air traffic controller and was based in Oklahoma (where he met his wife) and one year in Thailand. He then went to college at Oklahoma State and rowed as stroke in their first varsity eight his Freshman year. After graduating with an agronomy degree, he worked first at the USDA in Chicago and then as an air traffic controller in various cities but landed in South Bend for most of his career. He retired in 2016 and was looking for something to do and saw an article about rowing in South Bend in the paper, contacted Jill, did a learn-to-row with Notre Dame that summer and the rest is history!

Dan is married to Geri and has two sons, Jamie who lives in South Bend and is getting married next year, and Matt who lives in Seattle with his wife Kamila and 2-year old grandson Sam. Dan has led the club as president and jack of all trades since its inception and is amazed by its growth which exceeded all his expectations.

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# Regatta Update

Full information available on the web site soon.

Indy Summer Sprints (6/15/24)	Indianapolis, IN
Women's Masters 8+	9th place/10
Mixed Rec Masters 8+	1st place
Women's Masters 4+	8th Place/13
Womens Masters 2x	11th place/13
Men's Masters 1x	25th place/29

Michigan Club Invitational (MCI) Regatta (7/20/24)	Ann Arbor, MI
Womens Masters 2x	6th place/10
Women's Masters 4+	2nd Place/9
Mixed Novice/Rec 8+	3rd Place/5
Mens Masters 4+	5th Place/8
Womens Masters 8+	5th Place/7
Mixed Masters 4+	1st Place/5

Beer City Sprints (8/2/24)	Grand Rapids, MI
Mixed Masters 8+	1st Place
Mens Masters 4+	1st Place
Womens Masters 4+	2nd Place
Womens Masters 8+	1st Place
Mixed Novice/Rec 8+	2nd Place

Head of the St. Joe (8/17/24)	South Bend, IN
Intersquad scrimmage with mixed boats (no official results)	

Head of the Cuyahoga (9/21/24)	Cleveland, OH
Womens Rec 8+	1st Place/7
Mens Masters 4+	8th Place/9

Head of the Schuylkill (10/26-10/27/24)	Philadelphia, PA
Mixed Masters 4+	4th Place/11



Contact Sarah Nerenberg (snerenberg1@gmail.com or 574-261-0504) with ideas for future newsletters.

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