

Welcome to Edgewater Crew 2016.

Since taking over the President position I have been thinking a lot about what I could do to make a difference with Orlando Rowing Association/Edgewater Crew. This is an intimidating proposition heading up a club that has already been in existence for over 53 years.

As I am thinking about this I am constantly reminded of all the emails sent from Coach Brad reminding us that rowing is not an individual sport. That attendance, working your hardest, challenging your teammates, giving your all for the good of the team, matters. It takes a team, not an individual, to move a boat swiftly to victory. It also takes a team to run a club. So my thoughts have changed from what can I do to what can WE do to make a difference.

Everyone involved in Edgewater Crew is part of this team. I want to start by recognizing the 2015-2016 Board of Directors. They have been tirelessly working their real jobs and their crew jobs to make this club run smoothly. We are still a work in progress but I feel we have made great strides forward.

Before I go any further we all owe a HUGE Thank You to Bill Palmer, a Former Captain of Edgewater Crew, a Master rower, a father of rowers and the owner of Palmer Feed Store. Bill donated money to the club for us to purchase a new 8. Both boys and girls teams raced the boat at the Head of the Hooch. The boys are looking forward to rowing it in competition this spring. Don't worry ladies, the next boat will be for you!

Our crew team is fortunate to have three coaches working with our rowers. Coach Brad Arnold is back again as Head Coach and works with the boy's team. We welcome Brandon Horak and Linae Parkinson this year. Brandon has been training the girl's team and Linae is directing land training for all rowers. Our coaches have been working hard with our rowers. Can't wait until race day!

Next I want to recognize all the parents of the Edgewater Crew team, past and present. Everyone is so willing to step-up when there is a need. Not only does everyone pitch in at regattas and fundraising events, but they help with all the little and big things that really keep this club operating. Parents volunteer to drive the rowers to practice so they can have extra conditioning time. Parents stay late with the last rower at the boathouse, so no one is left alone. Parents volunteer to tow the boats to and from the regattas. Parents volunteer to help with renovations to the boathouse. They donate money, time, equipment, food, and manpower. We have parents whose children have graduated who still step up to help with their time and donations.

I also want to recognize the Masters and the Junior Eagles. The Masters rowers have given so much to Edgewater Crew. They are the silent partners we never thank enough. Junior Eagles are the future of Edgewater Crew and crew in general. This is our chance to introduce kids to the sport of crew. These two programs set us apart from other clubs, and we are very fortunate to have them as part of our team.

Thanks to all of you we are well on our way to making a difference with Edgewater Crew now and for years to come.

I look forward to seeing you at the Boathouse!!

Tracey Gray