

## HARRY'S INTRODUCTION AND EMCEE

Good morning! Welcome to the Burnt Hills Rowing Association's 30th anniversary. We welcome those directors, officers, coaches, current and alumni rowers, parents, past and present, and special guests!

For those of you who were affiliated with the club in the early years, please take time today to tour the boathouse and the Patrick C. Breslin gym. There are a few copies of our detailed club history around thanks to Dan Anderson. Take a look. We will have lunch available immediately following the program.

So, the year was 1993. Your child, and a dozen others, having completed a Learn to Row course, hosted by Niskayuna Crew, comes home and says they want to have a rowing club!!!! I had been rowing with Aqueduct Rowing Club for ten years at that point, but start a rowing club?

I am not sure what was said to the Union College coach, but they saved the day and hosted rowing for the twelve or so Burnt Hills students plus one from South Colonie and Mohansen for that fall season. The following spring, the club grew two to three fold and became a bit much for Union Crew to host. By the end of the spring season, it became apparent that we had to formally start our own club.

START A CLUB????!!!! What would we call it? Where would it be located? Where do we get coaches? Where do we get rowing shells, a launch? How do you write Articles of Incorporation? What? We have to apply to the NYS State Department? That sounds scary. How do you fill out an IRS Tax Exempt Form? And a NYS Tax Exempt Form also! How do you write your club constitution and bylaws? Where is the money going to come from? Dues - how much? Transportation? Uniforms? Directors and Officers? We only had a couple of months until the fall season!!!

AND THEN A BOATHOUSE!!!! We were rowing down by the marina. Our boathouse at the time is now the gas shed down by the river. Our ramp to docks were three picnic tables. The change room was an Army tent. What should the boathouse look like? How big? Where are we going to find land to build it on? How much is it going to cost? A mortgage? Who is going to build it? Parents??? Yikes! It all worked out. And later, a beautiful heated gym with flush toilets thanks to a very generous donation from Turner Construction and the Breslin Family.

And then there is the question, what are our objectives, what do we have to offer? What do we want this new club to be and how might it be different from other sports clubs?

Some things we settled on: we would take middle school through high school students be they tall, short, over weight, skinny, no experience, there would be no cuts from the team, no tryouts, no one would sit on the bench (or dock, in this case), everyone would get to participate in races, we would not have parents on the sidelines

counseling their kids on what they should or should not be doing out on the river, there would be no arguing with the coaches, and of course, no cursing, smoking, drugs, or alcohol. You will never see a rower named as Most Valuable Player - success is a team effort by all in the boat!

What was our reward? Today, we have had great rowers, great equipment, a beautiful boathouse, first class gym, great coaches, and a program that has survived and been very competitive all these years. I might add that we are located on one of the finest spots on the Mohawk River. Consider how many marriages have been originated through the rowing community and how many youngsters rowing today are the children of our early rowers. But most importantly, our club has thrived all these 30 years by our very dedicated volunteers.

An observations I had once - I was talking to a mother and father standing out on the apron here watching the boats being put away after practice and this young very petite female coxswain was barking commands to a varsity boys boat staffed with a bunch of big guys and they were all listening. The mother says "that's not my daughter, she is so quiet and shy!"

This morning we have a few speakers who will talk about our middle years from a president's and parents perspective, followed by an alumni rower who is now a director, and finally our current president who will talk about the future of the club. After the 30th festivities, we will follow with the boat dedication.

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Our first speaker is Martha Flacke. Martha's talk is titled "What Chris Stockton got me into: my life as a BHRA mom and club president with a teacher's voice"

Martha's Bio:

I'm currently a very semi-retired Speech-Language Pathologist. I have lived in the BH-BL school district since since 1986, was an active PTA and BHBL junior baseball mom, (baseball until both kids traded their bats for oars).  
Started out at a LTR, then BHRA Masters 2001- 2012,  
Mom of BHRA rowers James 2003 - 2008, Ian 2006 - 2012)  
BHRA Board member and then BHRA president for 8 years.

Please welcome Martha Flacke!

Please see attached file "Martha-30th Anniversary Speech.pdf"

Thank you Martha

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Next we have Steve Ives. Steve's talk is titled "How rowing steered my life"

Steve Bio:

Dr. Stephen (Steve) Ives is an Associate Professor in the Health and Human Physiological Sciences Department at Skidmore College. Dr. Ives is an American College of Sports Medicine Certified Exercise Physiologist, and National Strength and Conditioning Association, Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. Professor Ives' research interests surround the mechanisms underlying the integrative physiological responses to exercise and how challenges to health (e.g. aging or disease) may alter our physiology. While Steve has published nearly 100 scientific papers, true to his roots Steve has conducted studies on rowing, publishing 7 papers so far on youth to Collegiate to Elite Development Athletes.

Please welcome Steve Ives!

Please see attached file "Steve-30th Anniversary Speech.pdf"

Thank you Steve

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Our last speaker, Brandon Cheely, is our current president. Brandon's talk is titled "30 and beyond"

Brandon Bio:

I'm new to rowing. Had no exposure to it until our son went to a "bring a friend" day in 2019 and decided it was the sport for him. Since then I've been involved in boathouse maintenance, docks in and out, I've been in the President role for 2 years and I've rowed with the masters!

Please welcome Brandon Cheely

Please see attached file "Brandon-30th Anniversary Speech.pdf"

Thank you Brandon

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Many thanks to Brandon, Willow, Andy and their helpers for setting up and the food today. That concludes our 30th celebration, but we are not quite finished. A traditional formality in the rowing community to recognize service and dedication to the club above and beyond the call of duty is the dedication to name a rowing shell for that person. Following the dedication, please join us for lunch.

Our introduction to the dedication will be conducted by Paul Rouis. Paul will talk about the contributions by Dan and Donica Anderson. He will be assisted by Andy Sayles, Director of Rowing.

Paul's Bio:

Paul was the President from 2012 - 2017, president emeritus from 2018 - 2021, and a current director. His son, Tyler, was a rower from 2010 - 2017, and coached from 2018 - 2022.

Please welcome Paul Rouis and Andy Sayles

Please see attached file "Paul-30th Anniversary-Dedication Speech.pdf"