Greetings South Enders and in particular, Rowers,

We are now successfully into the first month of 2020. Happy New Year! May all of your expectations for the rowing community be met! Please read on for information on regattas, boat night, rowing clinic, and other initiatives.

Our principal objective in 2020 is to honor our rich history and continue to enhance SERC’s rich historical reputation. The overview of the rowing program is on the updated SERC website http://serc.com/rowing/. The full spectrum of rowing activities is on the SERC calendar http://serc.com/about/club-calendar/.

Our first regatta, The Norm Petersen Regatta, which honors the late revered rower, swimmer and all-around SERC member Norm Petersen is set for February 8. Reserve the boat or sign up to volunteer on this spreadsheet, https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wR5LEvKnqnEPtuGwl_5hZhnLyT8GXYWWBnpOvXXXzew/edit#gid=0, and either bring cash / check to pay the $35 on the day of the Regatta, or pay online at https://serc.sportngin.com/register/form/629223434.

We are planning three more regattas this year,
- Tom & Jerry’s Three Buoy on Sat Apr 25th
- Wooden Boat Classic on Sat Jul 11th
- Bridge to Bridge on Sun Sep 13th

With BIAC, we will also co-host a coastal regatta on Sat Oct 31th – Sun Nov 1st, and
We will lead the SERC and DC Tri on Sat Oct 3rd

Regatta volunteers are always needed. Each regatta has a Regatta Director who ensures the many details are attended to and covered. The additional tasks include check-in, dock management, racing starts, race time keeping for each racer, launch and retrieval assistance, meal preparation and cleanup.

Additionally, Allan Calder has designed the new rower’s program, and the first weekend of activities is planned for Fri 1/31 and Sat 2/1. Allan is leading the effort to ensure that those who wish to row - whether new would be rowers, those with some experience, and those who have extensive experience - have the opportunity to be on the water with our club fleet of boats and shells. This handout will be used during the clinic http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SOUTH-END-ROWING-CLINIC_2020_01_26.pdf, and it’s available on our website. I encourage all rowers to refresh their knowledge of the Bay water, launching, maneuvering, and retrieval procedures by reading this document.

An important feature of the rowing program is member participation on Thursday evenings at the Boat Night 6pm to maintaining our fleet. Our Boat House Captain Tom Wurm is charged with the health of our fleet. Many of our boats are irreplaceable classics, which require close attention to ensure that they are appropriate for use on the water. This effort is vital, and we invite you to attend and help regularly.

Among other initiatives for the year, we are considering fundraising opportunities, enhanced security on the water, continued education of all rowers, improved use of technology, regular erg nights, and assessment of our craft.

To stay up-to-date with announcements and connect with other rowers, please join the South End Rowing Club Rowers Google Group at https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/south-end-rowing-club-rowers.

I accepted the Rowing Commissioner role based on the support of a team and volunteers. Allan Calder and Jules Marenkova were elected by the rowers’ membership to assist with the commissioner’s responsibilities. I am grateful to the many volunteers who already stepped up eagerly – Vanessa Blyth, Gail Brownell, Virginia Waik, William Newby, Oliver Gato, Alex Porter, Janie Bryant, Diane Davis, Elena Keamy, Cy Lo, Tom Lundgren, and more – to assist with knowledge transfer and lead various activities throughout the year. The South End rowing program is built and operated by volunteers, and I encourage everyone to consider a way to give back, to apply your talents to the benefit of our community.

In line with our SERC tradition, I encourage all members to treasure the diversity of our rowing preferences, to join in the spirit of camaraderie, and to volunteer with passion, with appreciation for the opportunity to row in the waters of the San Francisco Bay.

Jerry Purmal
Rowing Commissioner

We were founded in 1873 with early facilities on the mid-eastern shore of San Francisco at the foot of Townsend Street. If you have read the book, “The Boys in the Boat”, several of the wooden shell you will see suspended from the ceiling through the boathouse are from the same era and design. That history is foundational to what our club is and represents today, 147 years later!!