Rowing Commissioner’s Letter by Jerry Purmal, February 2020

THE PETERSEN REGATTA: held on February 8 was a success! 42 rowers rowed 19 boats. We had 9 guest participants from the Dolphin and Lake Merritt clubs. Both the South Ender and the Hurley barges were on the water, as well as 8 SERC shells, 4 SERC woodens and the double coastal. The results can be accessed from the Regattas page.

ERG NIGHTS: Friday evenings beginning at 5:30pm there are volunteer-led erg sessions preparing participants for the rigors of the SERC (or Dolphin) Happy Hour at 6:30pm, and the waters of the Bay.

BOAT NIGHTS: Every Thursday at 6:00 pm, with rare exceptions, volunteers attend Boat Night to repair and maintain of our boat fleet. You will become acquainted with our fleet of over 30 boats, how they are cared for and perhaps learn woodworking, joinery, painting, varnishing and multiple other related skill required to keep our fleet afloat. Dinner for the Boat Night attendees follows at 8:00 pm.

NEW ROWER TRAINING: The new rower program has had a fabulous kick-off. With the steps to get into rowing outlined and the support from many volunteer mentors, the new rowers are learning the essentials, and practicing on the water. The first rowing clinic has taken place on February 1. A group of rowers-in-training and mentors has started rowing regularly on Monday mornings. The rowing clinics are open to all members, to all who wish to learn or fine tune their knowledge of the water and rowing skills.

BOAT USAGE ANALYSIS: All the pencilled 2019 entries in the Log Book have been counted, and the data analyzed. Last year, SERC members rowed on 1575 occasions, or over 4 times per day, on average. Nearly 48% of all rows were in a wooden boat, 40% in a shell, and 12% in a coastal. We had three coastal boats in operation in 2019, and the coastals had the highest usage rate of 66 times per boat. The operational woodens were used 58 times per boat, and the shells at 36 times per boat. Valkyrie was used the most followed by Savigliano and Lynch.

COMING UP - CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER: Last year, the Crab Feed event was a spectacular success. This year’s Crab Feed with fun games and raffle will be on March 28 commencing at 3:00pm. Your two participatory requirements are your hunger for crab and $70. Save the date - more details to come.

COMING UP - THE TOM & JERRY REGATTA: The regatta is scheduled for April 25. We are looking for a volunteer to direct the regatta. If you are interested, please contact rowing@serc.com.

COMING UP - ARTICLES FOR THE SOUTH ENDER: Please consider writing a rowing-focused article to be included in the next issue of the club-wide magazine The South Ender. The magazine is published three-to-four times a year. Submit your piece to newsletter@serc.com.

COMING UP - BRICK ENGRAVING FUNDRAISER: Another fundraising initiative benefiting the rowing program is being planned out - to engrave the bricks displayed in our patios. Stay tuned for more details.

Check the Club Calendar regularly for the upcoming events: regattas, Crab Feed, rowing clinics, Erg Nights, and Boat Nights.

Your participation in the Rowing Program - as a rower, mentor, volunteer - is invaluable. Thanks for bringing your energy, talent, and dedication to our community, connecting the past and the present, treasuring the South End Rowing Club experience.