

IT'S TIME!

THE 2008 OLD MAN CHALLENGE IS ONLY WEEKS AWAY!



NEW YEAR GREETINGS FELLOW CREW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS!

Once again, the invitation you've all been waiting for has arrived! Time for you Old rowing gods and goddesses to dust off your rowing togs, oil your ergs, and get it in gear. The OFFICIAL 5th annual 10k Old Man erg challenge is scheduled for **Friday February 15, 2008**.

At our age the years begin to blur together. Past challenges are delineated by vague recollections of who graduated when, how fast the young alumni were when they were undergrads, which year I forgot my ass-pad (better left forgotten), who showed up when to kick varsity butt....but just because we're old doesn't mean we forgot how to row hard. Our Old Man ranks are growing, and it's definitely a challenge --- a real challenge to look like you're flexing your guns when there's a generous layer of flab now covering your muscles -- like the shiny pelt of a bear entering hibernation. But let's not focus on the wonders of fat and withering mitochondria -- Bake and I already know that Fat Rules. Instead let's focus on this year's Challenge highlights and unanswered questions:

- Once again, will Tex Gary break into the 34's? Will he garner a third nameplate on the coveted trophy? And a third shirt?

- Speaking of Texas, will Mighty Dan Reed submit a score? Or will he pansy out on us with that infamous and oft used excuse "...but I have a family and a house now...?"
- Last year we set some landmarks such as the post challenge festivities at Jillians and women (good heavens!) competing at the OMC. No more rowing naked for those so inclined (I can hear the collective sigh of relief). People just never stop surprising you.....
- Which alumnus will play the best game of drunken pool this year, and who will suck down the most hot wings (or celery sticks for you Ian)?
- How many of the varsity will let one-lung Noble kick their butts? Doesn't look good when your old, lard butt coach beats up on you boys.
- Can we goad Dolphin Boy Steele into competing this year? He may have recovered from last year's torturous performance by now.
- Will we have an Old Man ringer in the crowd? Mark "Skinman" Skinner '85, or Greg "Muscles" Snoddy perhaps? How about Tubby Iantosca '83? Or maybe a girl will kick all your butts – the winner of the Club Single at HOCHR perhaps? She's fast and wants to race. And she's on the Old Man team!
- Vitale, are you in shape or what?
- Will Big Bryan's time slow due to weak legs (new girlfriend) and allow old One-Lung Noble to crush his still-young physique into oblivion?
- Better still, will Bryan invite his new girlfriend so she can witness the carnage and decide she wants to hang out with the *real* rowing gods at Jillians instead of him? Come on Bry, we *promise* we won't corrupt the young lady.
- Will Scott Leslie, the Marathon Man, show? What? Are us rowers too low class for you runner folk?
- Tony D! Come rock and roll big guy!
- Katie, please let Joel come out this year and play with us.
- A true engineering question -- will the C2 Model D I-beam slide support Bake for an entire piece while subjected to the fury of massive power that will be unleashed on the hapless machine by this incredibly manly and finely aged specimen?
- What handicap system, exactly, will Pat decide for the women? Come and find out. I was generous last year.
- Is the class of '07 ready to swallow their rightful dose of humility, or will they uphold their youthful image of perceived fitness?
- Come see the new dolphin mural in the erg room created by the Women's team for Coach Steele.



And no matter what the results, I can promise all of you alumni who show up, you WILL have a great time. You will smile 'till your jaw aches. You WILL part with some of your hard earned cash and much sweat. And just a reminder for the undergrads, some days you eat the bear....and some days, well....



What do you think the 2 man is saying here? Dude, you SUCK at steering! Hey wait a minute! Is that Kate Pilotte's younger brother?

For those of you unfamiliar with (or wanting to forget) this annual landmark event, we collectively challenge the WPI Varsity men's crew to compete against us in a grueling 10k erg piece. I will donate to the team a yet to be determined dollar figure for each person beating my score (I did \$20 per guy last year and am inclined to do the same this year), to be used towards the Crew's spring training trip to Florida. Last year's participation was just incredible. We had three sessions of competitors with many alumni in attendance and several mail-in alumni entries as well. The continued generosity of our alums astounds me.

I have no predictions this year concerning my own or anyone else's performance. We're all out for a Personal Best. FYI, Class of 2007, your turn to bring the Advil.

Who will be the 10k Champion? Come and find out! Embrace the pain! Smell the testosterone (and estrogen this year)! Laugh at the young alumni and gawk in amazed wonder that Old Guys can actually row that fast, it's FUN! Remember – Old Guys Rule!

WHEN – FEBRUARY 15, 2008. FIRST GROUP GOES OFF AT 4:15 PM. WARMUPS BEGIN WHENEVER YOU GET THERE. WE’LL LIKELY NEED A SECOND GROUP, THEY’LL START AROUND 5:10 PM.

WHERE – WPI ALUMNI GYM 3RD FLOOR, INSTITUTE ROAD, NORTH SIDE OF THE QUAD, WORCESTER, MA, USA, PLANET EARTH.

WHO – ANY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO WANT TO PRETEND THEY’RE YOUNG AND IN-SHAPE AND HAVE SOME SERIOUS FUN. WE’LL MIX UP THE ALUMS AND THE VARSITY SQUAD. EMAIL ME IF YOU PLAN ON ROWING WITH US SO WE CAN PLAN THE GROUPS.

We do have a plan again for an informal get together afterwards for food and drink for any alumni and undergrads that would like to join us at Jillians on Grove Street.

HERE’S A RECAP OF THE OFFICIAL “RULES”

1. Compete with me by rowing a 10k erg piece, either on Feb 15 at WPI (about 4PM – see above) or elsewhere and send me (or phone in) your score no later than noon on Feb 15. Alumni need to row the piece between Feb 1 and Feb 15. Before you begin, you decide how much \$\$ you will donate per rower that beats your score and communicate that to me. The crew all rows on the 15th. I can tell you that last year the team rowed between 42 minutes and 35 minutes for their 10k’s. I lost to 14 out of 28 last year, but I only pulled a 38:31. No predictions this year. There are approximately 30 undergrads competing this year. You do the math. Any donation is appreciated. Many Friends donate fixed amounts not tied to how fast anyone rows, and many figure \$xx per rower up to a dollar amount cap of their choice. The goal is to have fun and help out the crew at the same time (and to top last year’s donations if we can). Don’t sweat it. Donate if you can and if you feel like it. Just help me keep track by privately emailing me a pledge. I love it when I get checks at the challenge.
2. If you are out-of-shape, unable to erg, are a girly-man (did someone say McGee?), are just plain lazy, or all of the above, but you still want to contribute, you can gamble on my performance instead. As always, one never knows until the fat lady (or fat old guy in this case) sings. And I guarantee I WILL be singing. Once again, my goal is to break into the thirty sevens this year with a PB. Anything is possible.
3. I am the master of the Old Man 10k Challenge. All rules, decisions, arguments, protests, et al concerning fair (or unfair) play, scores, official times, etc. are mine and mine alone to rule on. In short, I am THE god of the OMC. Bribes of all types gladly accepted. Don’t expect much.....unless it’s a really spectacular bribe.....use your imagination.....

FYI, and I repeat this every year, although you don’t hear much from them, ALL of the members of the Crew very much appreciate our generous and continued support. Contributions of any amount are welcome. All contributions can be as confidential between you and me as you would like to make them. Mostly, people make checks out to WPI Crew, but if you desire confidentiality, you can make it out to me, or Paypal me, and I will write an anonymous check for you. As usual, I don’t really have a specific goal in mind as I’m no professional fund raiser, nor do I want to sound like one. Last year’s donations were extremely generous. They ranged from \$20 to \$500. Let’s do it again. It’s cool!

Please check the distribution on this email and if you are in regular contact with other crew alums (both men and women) not listed, please forward to them if you think they’d be interested. This is intentionally a relatively small-dollar and private fundraising event not associated with the WPI alumni office, so I haven’t asked them for any assistance. All donations are tax deductible and I can provide a receipt on Friends of WPI Rowing letterhead if you need it for larger amounts.

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Yours truly in old age,
Capt Fat
AMF!