



OMC HISTORY 101

The Year – 2005 (Wow! 6 years ago!).

The Event – OMC #2.

The People – Noble, Mighty Dan Reed, Ant, Sipe, Buzzy, Vitale, DBalls, Neil, “Crazy Legs” Charlie Dodd, Old Man Pat and Joe “The Woman” Iantosca.

The Lesson for Today? - These Legendary Figures from our small and humble OMC beginnings, from back when you undergrads were still in grade school and yo’ mama was still wiping your, er, nose, are ever ready to meet the throwdown challenge of the new year....

Old Man Challenge #8!

What’s that you say – Alumni are OLD!? Slow? Washed up? Pokey? Not as fit as undergrads? Or, dare I mention the “F” and “S” words of which I am so fond, Fat and Sluglike? While it may be true that Buzzy’s six pack has softened just a tad, Sipe has a real job and even less training time, the Mighty One has a Tai Chi mojo, Neil is now actually a grown up, and I have significantly more gray hair, we’re still ready to take you undergrads on, any day, any time, any race, with all our dozens of new Old Man (and Woman) friends that have graduated and come over to the dark side (Yay! we get Tobin and Artie!).

The invitation you have all been anxiously waiting for has arrived! Time for all you friends of WPI crew to block your calendars and buy your plane tickets to Worcester -- the OFFICIAL 8th annual 10k Old Man erg challenge is scheduled for **Friday February 25, 2011**.

Year number EIGHT for the iconic event of February in the hallowed and soon to be silent Alumni Gym. The one, the only, and now legendary, Old Man Challenge. Ready or not, I will face ALL challengers in the perennial 10K race from hell. I am bringing many Old Friends, some very speedy despite their dinosaur-like age. They are all very willing to provide you undergrads with the a\$\$ wuppin' you all so richly deserve. Think you can take us? HA! BRING IT! BRING IT HOT and READY TO ROCK!

Dust off your spandex (don't worry, it will stretch over those extra "muscles" you've developed since graduation), and get your butt to Alumni Gym for this most-excellent event of pain, sweat, tears, and, strangely, laughter. That'll be the alumni laughing at the undergrad's 10k scores!

Some of this year's Challenge highlights and unanswered questions await:

- The **number one question** this year is where has uncle **Joe "the Woman" Iantosca** disappeared to? Message from your nephew Zack: "even if you're too F.P.S. to erg with us, please bring your boys up for an evening of fun and adventure".
- There is confirmed rumor that some powerhouse alumni from the ancient 1980's are planning a reunion of pain and fun....**undergrads**, FEAR THEM! Names like **Felix, Tom "The Animal" Pelnik, Slim Willie the Wonder Boy, Scott "the Stud" Gallett**, and others will become legendary in those feeble undergrad minds.
- **COXSWAINS RACE! Attention all WPI coxswains** – if you dare, you will race between 4:45 and 5:00PM. Short people, short race – 500m. However, you must be dressed in the costume of your choice and you must have 4 large rower "coxswains" urging you on during your piece. There is a prize for the winner of course, and I am still waiting for a killer costume to sway my judgment of who "wins". Lauren and team came close a couple of years ago...
- Calling **Scott Gary! Tex**, dude, where the heck did you disappear to? Going out on top is good (34:30 for those who haven't looked at the trophy lately), but the Old Man team needs you. Get back in the saddle Scott.
- Once again, speaking of Texas, I sense that the bearded Tai Chi wonder, **Still-Mighty-in-a-Slightly-Different-Way Dan "Grizzly" Reed** may find himself an erg and send in a score. If you have his contact info please provide copious peer pressure.
- Will **Sandy's** latest modeling gig in DC allow him time to participate? Andrew, I have a friend at Georgetown who can get you an erg and even race with you. No excuses.
- **Punkass McGrath**, come and kick **Tobin's** butt. Show the midget who's boss...if you can.
- **Coach Noble** has a new lucky hat which should be good for at least 30 seconds off his score this year (hint – undergrads, it doesn't look good when the coach kicks your butt).
- **Sipe**, party Thursday Feb 24, then pull a 10k and send me score.
- **Dolphin-boy Steele** has 15 lbs of new "muscle" to show off. He might even be able to keep up with my old fat power this year...come and watch the show.
- As most of you know, this is a coed event, so **ladies**, show up DO WORK! Women's handicap is in effect. That would be for females only. And Iantosca, Vitale and Vitello if they show up.
- Who will get their name added to the coveted OMC trophy? Best Undergrad and Old Man score get added every year. Then there are the infamous **prizes** provided by the race organizer....got some good stuff this year.

As history has proven, 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 may part with some of your hard earned cash and much sweat. And just a reminder for the undergrads, row really, really hard or you will lose. Ha! You slugs don't stand a chance!



I have a new idea for fun at the expense of others this year. A Caption Contest! Write down your captions for these photos and bring them to the Event. My appointed race committee will choose the winning captions and disclose them.



For those of you unfamiliar with (or wanting to forget) this annual landmark event, we alumni and friends collectively challenge the WPI Varsity men and women's crew to compete against us in a grueling, all-out 10k erg piece. I will donate to the team a yet to be determined dollar figure for each person beating my score (I historically pledge \$20 per person and am inclined to do the same this year), to be used towards the Crew's spring training trip to Florida. Each year our participation is outstanding. Last year 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 is something I am very proud of, and you should be too. **Who will be the 10k Champions? Come and find out! Embrace the pain! Smell the burning blubber, testosterone, (and estrogen)! Laugh at the young alumni trying, unsuccessfully, to beat us old folks... it's FUN!** Remember – Old Guys Rule!

WHEN – Friday, FEBRUARY 25 2011. FIRST GROUP GOES OFF AT 4:00 PM sharp. WARMUPS BEGIN WHENEVER YOU GET THERE. WE'LL SURELY NEED A SECOND AND THIRD GROUP. THEY'LL START AROUND 5:00 PM and 6:00PM. **Coxswains race at approx. 4:55 PM.**
WHERE – WPI ALUMNI GYM 3RD FLOOR, INSTITUTE ROAD, NORTH SIDE OF THE QUAD, WORCESTER, MA, USA, PLANET EARTH, THAT'S THE THIRD ONE FROM THE SUN..
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.

HERE'S A RECAP OF THE OFFICIAL "RULES"

1. **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.....**
2. Compete with me by rowing a 10k erg piece, either on Feb 25 at WPI or elsewhere and send me your score no. Alumni need to row the piece between Feb 1 and Feb 25. For a traditional approach, before you begin, you decide how much \$\$ you will donate per rower that beats your score and communicate that to met. The crew all rows on the 25th. I can tell you that last year most of the team rowed between 42 minutes and 35 minutes for their 10k's. I lost to 21 out of 41 last year (but I beat 20!) with a moderately decent 38:59 score. There are approximately 40 undergrads competing this year. You do the math, however any donation is appreciated. Many Friends donate fixed amounts not tied to how fast anyone rows. Donate if you can and if you feel like it. I just want you to stay connected to this program, which you will always have a personal stake in, and HAVE FUN! If you are out-of-shape, unable to erg, are a girly-man (did someone say Vitello?), are just plain lazy, or all of the above, but you want to play the game, you can gamble on my performance instead.
3. **New rule number 4, which I was compelled to create three years ago after a faux pas by a freshman, I control which erg I get, who I row next to, and the musical selections. No exceptions. Remember, it's my day to play. Don't touch the freakin' tunes! Don't like my music, Macauley? Bring more heat and show me up, row angry, whatever, I really don't care....**

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.** I often get the sense they are both amused and intimidated by our massive Old Man power and will to endure. Contributions of any amount are welcome. Mostly, people make checks out to WPI Crew, but if you desire confidentiality, you can make it out to me, and I will write an anonymous check for you. Last year's donations were extremely generous. They ranged from \$25 to \$500. It's so awesome! I run in the red – this is a negative profit endeavor as ALL proceeds plus more go directly to WPI Crew. Please spread the word to other crew alums (both men and women). All donations are tax deductible and I can provide a receipt on Friends of WPI Rowing letterhead if you need it. Just ask.

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**Yours truly in old age, Pat Guida '83
AMF!**