

TRR 2012 INFO PACKET

A compilation of important info from www.textilerverregatta.org

Dear Coaches and Competitors,

Over the last decade we have taken your feedback, implemented more complex logistics, brought on partners such as the City of Lowell, UML, Lowell HS, Department of Conservation and Recreation and local property/business owners. With everyone's help we have over doubled the size of our regatta. This year we have grown by an additional 20% over last year. For some of us that have worked the regatta for years, it seems just yesterday that we were timing the race with synchronized watches and posting results on index cards! The race now has topped 600 boats and 3200 competitors!

It has become not only the largest race on the Merrimack River, but one of the largest events in New England. This note is to re-emphasize some logistics from our past years of regattas and to notify you of some important changes to this year's regatta. Our philosophy continues to be to maintain a fun but competitive atmosphere with minimal restrictions on your teams and allowing you to kick off the head-racing season in style. We ask that you disseminate this information widely to your teams, alumni, parents, athlete friends, etc. so that there are minimal surprises on Sunday and retain the fun attribute that we like to emphasize.

As we approach the 'big day' we'd like to remind everyone that for many, this is not only the first race of the season but the first race of their lives. The TRR has generally earned a reputation as an easygoing regatta for a coach to test 'race day logistics', a crew to cut its teeth in a headrace or a warm up for the upcoming successful season for those more experienced. The volunteers that run the regatta would like to maintain that spirit and remind coaches and coxswains of some venue specific protocols to make the day a success for the individual, your team and the regatta as a whole:

PARKING

- **Traffic patterns and Parking** - We highly encourage those arriving on Sunday to review the posted maps in regards to traffic patterns and Parking. There is limited 'crossing' of the median, one lane traffic approaching from the "west" and two lanes approaching from the "east". Although there is plenty of parking you need to "know your regatta destination". Most important ONLY CROSS THE MEDIAN AT A CROSSWALK. There are police posted to ensure a safe crossing.
- **Trailer arrival** - The American Heart Association Heart Walk, usually scheduled on Saturday, is a later weekend this year. We highly encourage trailers to arrive Saturday afternoon. For TRR newbie's, arrival after 6:30 or 7am on Sunday will be difficult "at best". Please bring a traffic cone to place at the rear of your trailer. We hire overnight security. If you park in the 'trailer parking lot' near the boathouse, plan on staying until 3pm race day. Trailers can be left in this lot; tow vehicles have to be unhitched in most cases. IF YOU MUST ARRIVE WITH A TRAILER BEFORE 2PM on Saturday – use the breakdown lane of the boulevard, and make sure your trailers are below the marked Vendor parking area.
- **Boulevard Parking** - This is a very limited resource and the only viable location for the majority of the 'trailer parking'. Parking along the boulevard is reserved for EMERGENCY VEHICLES, VENDORS, BOAT TRAILERS and a few PERMITTED support vehicles. The street will be properly posted according to local ordinances. Please take this into consideration as you may be towed. ALL trailer drivers, please check in with registration for a permit. This will require you to note the license of the trailer and vehicle as well as your name/cell phone number.
- **Pavilion Area** - This is the grass area, with stage near the bathhouse/beach. This is to be used for boat rigging and storage. Please do not park any trailers on the grass.
- **Bus Parking** - Bus parking is in the main lot, we encourage early arrival race day.
- **"Singles Drop Off"** - For those that are new to our venue, we highly encourage competitors and teams to launch from the beach area. There is a dock option, but the beach itself accommodates a larger volume of boats at an instance in time. We encourage people to arrive Saturday or early on Sunday. There are 3 opportunities to drop off your single on race day. You will have to be traveling west to east on the boulevard [water side]. At the two boathouse parking lot entrances, you can parallel park, unload and then drive off. At the finish line parking lot you can drive in, unload and drive out. In both cases, it is expected that you will be in/out in 5 minutes or less.
- **Spectator Parking** - The main lot is directly across the boulevard along the last 1000m of the racecourse. There is an additional 'overflow' lot about 2/10ths of a mile upstream from the boathouse. We have worked with the lot owners to get special permitting

and insurance to utilize this space. Again, we encourage people to use these lots as local on street parking is limited and a business lot as well as the boulevard prohibit parking. Last year, we had approximately 10 cars towed; we expect more this year due to proper posting and policing.

- **HP Parking** - Please reference the online map. There are a few HP spots at the boathouse, a few at the finish line parking lot and a few at the beach launch. Additionally the local owner of JJBoomers has allowed us to use the marked spots in his business lot. This is located at the "overflow parking". There is no cost to park for any of these spots.
- **Shuttle** - The overflow parking area has an accessible ready van, which will run regularly from 9am to 3:30 pm. The expected wait is less than 20 minutes. The van will stop at the cross walks along the boulevard to provide access to the venue. Although available to all, the van is meant for those that cannot walk the distance please respect this!
- **NEW – Leaving the Regatta at the end of the day.** We've posted a deep discussion on how to best leave the regatta at the end of the day. There was significant traffic congestion last year, mainly because everyone wants to go back over the Rourke Bridge. In fact, there are many escape routes away from the boathouse. Read more here: <http://www.textilerverregatta.org/2012/leaving-the-regatta.php> Coaches and rowers – pass this along to your family and friends so that they can get out of town by sundown.

"Camp location"

Please note that the venue "mid-point" is about 200 feet downstream from the 'main parking lot". If you are at, or below this point, it is a huge advantage to launch from the beach vs. traveling the walkway through the vendors to the boathouse.

Trash vs. Recycling

As part of your registration package you will get two 'trash bags' - One clear, one white. Clear = bottles/cans. White = trash. You will notice that during the day we have invested in a "green team" to collect, sort and recycle our venue. If you fill your bag, please empty it as the day goes on at an appropriate collection point along the boulevard.

Launch logistics

There are a number of 'large events' as always...

1. Please review the schedule and understand the scheduling of your event in relationship to others.
2. For these large events with longer launch lines, your crew would benefit with 2 "sling helpers" to give the athletes a rest if needed.
3. At both the bathhouse/beach and the boathouse areas race launch announcements are made relative to the launch location, the size of the event and the anticipated/realized dock return volume. Please listen to the announcements and follow our lead.
4. Before you approach the launch area think about the logistics of launching the boat with the bow upstream. If you use the dock at the beach, you have to approach bow first, if you wet launch stern first. If you use the dock at the boathouse you will have to go to the dock stern first. It is nearly IMPOSSIBLE to rotate boats when you are there!
5. Launch Prep – ensure your oars are in the staging areas at the launch location.
6. At the boathouse - the dock area will be restricted and maximum of 2 "helpers" for oars and shoes will be allowed for an 8+. No photographers on the dock, please hold off and get to an vantage point along the wall.
7. **NEW for 2011** – Check the **Start Area Detail and Notes** on the website which will be very helpful for novice crews. <http://www.textilerverregatta.org/2012/a01trrmap.php>

Hot Seating

There are occasions that you will immediately launch a new crew upon return of the boat. Have the "new crew" ready and waiting. If you are launching from the boathouse please notify the person "herding" the boats to the docks. We have to find space for your boat on the 'outside' of the dock, where normally it would return on the "inside" of the dock.

MISCELLANEOUS

Coaches and Coxswains meeting: Please attend the meeting at 7:10am sharp on Sunday morning. All important information is reviewed.

Regatta/Registration Office: Located at the 'front desk' at the Lowell Boathouse.

Spectators: There is significant space available for spectators at the venue. We request that spectators stay in the 'grass areas' along the course. They will be asked to move if congregating along the 'asphalt areas'. Handicapped parking is available near the boathouse and also in the lot 500m westbound in the parking area shown on the maps below, with shuttle bus access. Instruct your friends and family that there is ample level-ground viewing along the river downstream of the boathouse. See the map below. The finish line is approximately 800m downriver of the boathouse. The Start line is approximately 3 miles upriver and is inaccessible for spectators. Best photo ops of crews in action are along the river walk; returning boats will be traveling upstream very close to shore and normally eager to pose for pictures.

Bathroom Facilities: The bathhouse and boathouse do have public bathrooms. There are 'pods' of porta-potties liberally scattered throughout the venue.

Results: Results will be posted at the vendor area.

Trailer arrival: The venue is available after 2PM Saturday. If the main trailer lot has not yet been secured, park trailers in the eastbound breakdown lane until the lot is available.

General and Team Parking: See Page 2.

Launching: At the bathhouse beach launch, use your own judgment but for best results please launch with bow facing upstream. At the boathouse launch area, please bring your boats to the docks with the STERN pointing toward the docks, led by the coxswain.

Traffic Pattern: Crews should remain along the boathouse shore when traveling to the starting line.

First Aid Location: There will be an EMT parked immediately downstream from the boathouse.

Shell Storage/handling: There is no rack space available at this venue. All crews should bring their own blocks/slings. When approaching the dock in largely subscribed races it is advised to have a coach or support crew with slings to assist the crew. **At the boathouse, crews should approach the docks stern first.**

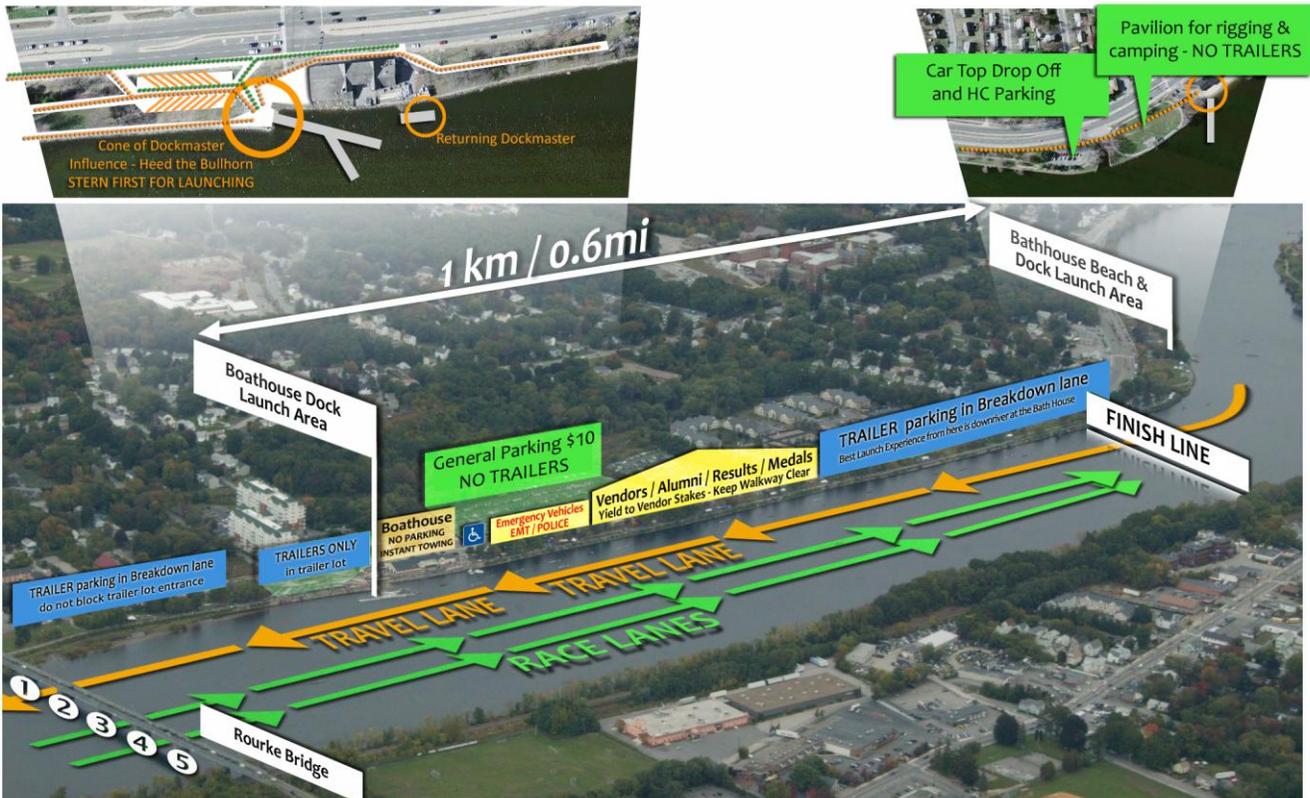
Garbage Removal: Trash bags accompany every registration package. Please collect your trash and deposit around the trash barrels distributed at the venue. Additionally this year we have implemented a recycling program. You will find appropriate containers and some volunteers collecting recycling during the day.

AREA MAP AND PARKING DETAIL

To paraphrase Gordon Gekko, **Green is good. Red = Please Tow My Vehicle. Blue = TRAILERS ONLY.**
 The map shows the bus parking area to the right of the \$10 lot, and this is also available for trailer parking.



A wider angle view of the venue. If your camp and trailer is downriver (to the right) of the Vendor area, you really want to launch from the Bathhouse Beach and Dock Area.



ABOUT YOUR BOAT

Important features for your equipment:

- All shells must have a bow ball.
- All shells must have heel tie-downs that do not allow the rower to raise heels more than 3" from the footboard.
- AT the TRR we 'pre-inspect' and 'mark' boats for these common issues. We place a small color-coded sticker at your bow when a boat has been pre-inspected. Coaches please check each boat no matter how "new" as soon as you unload it from your trailer. Failure to do so will only cause delays at the docks and possibly late start arrival times for your crew[s]

Coaches and Coxswains/Bowman Meeting

- Time: 7:10AM
- Location: In front of the boathouse boat bays.

MISCELLANEOUS

Voiding: There shall be no urination in the river or ejection of other flotsam; a violation results in immediate disqualification from the regatta.

Questions? Write to info@textilerverregatta.org or on race day, ask any TRR volunteer wearing a regatta STAFF shirt.