

September 1, 2009

Dear MJRC Parents,

Our 2009/2010 Rowing Season is upon us and your continued help and support will ensure another successful season for the team and our children! We are encouraging all MJRC parents to be active and involved with all aspects of MJRC:

- attend away regattas, encourage your children,
- serve in various roles on the MJRC Parent Committee
- help coordinate/support events in the spring that are major fundraisers for the organization, including the erg-a-thon, which is a “fun –raiser for the entire team”. (Each rower is asked compete and solicit funds in their community. It is excellent awareness of the program and last year we raised \$20,000!)

This spring, we will be hosting two major regattas at Mercer Lake, the Mercer Sprints and the Mid-Atlantic Regional.. PNRA/MJRC are recognized by the rowing community as running top notch regattas ---KUDOS to EVERYONE! As most you know there are a lot of “man hours” go into these events: pre-regatta planning; regatta day duties and post regatta. E-mails will be forwarded to you regarding event sign-ups closer to the events with duties filled on a first come, first serve basis. These duties include: set-up of Vendor Tents; Signage; Parking; Team Registration; T-Shirt Sales; Launch Boat Drivers; Stake Boat Holders; Water/Food Distribution to Volunteers and Officials, Timing, Announcing, Awards Dock and the list goes on.

Each MJRC family is required to commit to 4 hours per event for our two major events (Sprints/Regionals) (one regatta will be a 2 day event). Teenage siblings 15 years old and up can assist fulfilling the time commitment. If you cannot complete this requirement for each required regatta, a fee of \$200 will be collected in lieu of your hours worked to allow the hiring of sufficient staff to cover certain aspects of the event. Please, keep in mind that home regattas are a major source of

revenue and directly benefit MJRC's athletic training, scholarship, and equipment budgets.

On a social note, away regattas are fun and less stressful as the host team does all the work and your job is to have fun cheering "loudly" for our athletes, mingling with MJRC parents, and perhaps flipping a few burgers. Your attendance is so important to your child as well as to the entire Mercer Program...remember, there is "power in numbers"! No cowbells needed!

In addition to your family time and financial support, we will also reach out to parents for food donations for the athletes for both home and away events; cases of water, Gatorade, fruit, bagels, granola bars, salads, cheese/crackers, peanut butter, veggies etc... If you sign up for a food donation and your child is not scheduled to race, we **STILL** need your food donation, all athletes are depending on it -- and will appreciate the food there. Sign-ups will be at the parent meetings in fall and spring.

Please take a moment and complete the attached MJRC Family Commitment Form and return with the other registration required documents.

I would like to "THANK YOU" in advance for your all your assistance in making the 2009/2010 MJRC the "**Best Season Ever**"! I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

Go Mercer!

MJRC Parents' Committee