

2023

Annual REPORT



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear ARC Members,


Since we last reported out in September of 2022, it has been both a wonderful year and a challenging year. Our junior program had so many successes throughout their fall and spring regattas, culminating in an outstanding showing at Nationals! Additionally, we sent many of our senior high school rowers off to row at the collegiate level. Over 100 athletes strong, their dedicated and committed coaches really brought their best out all year with strong encouragement, training, teaching, support and mentoring for a great group of young people. It is inspiring to know the opportunities ARC provides to our community. Thank you to their coaches: Head Coach Patrick Kelly, Astrid Wettstein, Hannah Heyerdahl, Ken Jackson, Courty Stanton, Ethan Nussdorfer, Liz Green, and Macy Gomillion.

Through the year, I don't think anyone could miss the dedication and hard work that the Masters Racing Team put in this past year. It was an intense year of training and it resulted in regatta wins throughout the year and many medals at the US Rowing Master's National 2023 Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana. Final results brought the team in as 8th overall in the nation overall! Congratulations to all our Masters Racing Team! A huge thank you to Head Coach Patrick and to Coaches John Mitrowski and James Oldeschulte. Please see Coach Patrick report for more details.

We continue to reach into our Austin community through our Outreach programming. Thank you to Jim Ruddy, who has built a wonderful program that brings opportunities to PE classes at two AISD Middle School campuses, erg rowing at the Boys and Girls Club, on-the-water events for veterans, physically-challenged adults and many other groups that want to try out the sport of rowing and enjoy the river experience. Thank you to our Outreach Coordinator and Coach Henry Andrastek and Coach Liv Foletta as well as Outreach RISE Assistants Sam Broyles and Peter Hutchinson.

Our club crews have enjoyed wonderful support from our coaches and staff throughout the year. Head Master's Coach Megan Getman, along with coaches Allie Aguilar, Sam Factor and Liv Foletta have worked week in and week out with crews on technique and training, encouraging everyone from members that want to train hard to members that just want to row better. They know our strengths and foibles and encourage us to be healthy and active. A shout out to our wonderful dockmasters as well. Their presence helps everyone stay safe when docking and are there to help with boat and boathouse needs. I would venture to say we are spoiled.






Our kayak/SUP business supplies a fun water outing for both locals and tourists and continues to support our ARC overall revenue goals. It takes many hands working hard in various weather conditions, and you won't find a nicer or more welcoming group of folks on the water! Each and every day, the kayak staff welcomes those that want to experience nature and enjoy a river experience. The various guided tours offered are a big draw no matter what time of year. The staff also gives back to the community through numerous lake clean ups and partnerships with summer camps. A huge thank you to Aubrea Rudder, Senior Manager for the kayak/SUP rentals and her staff, including Assistant Managers John Schaeffer, Henry Andrastek and Operations Manager Garet Vaughn. Please give them a thank you anytime you see them as they are integral to our ARC family.

There is a reason that our boathouse operations run so smoothly. Liz Barhydt has been with us for many years, and as Kevin Reinis moved on to corporate work, Liz has moved into the Executive Director position. Always level headed and efficient, she is the backbone of our rowing operations, our kayak/SUP business, and our vendor support. She also deals with the COA and PARD, which is an important strategic alliance as we are tasked with meeting our contractual targets. Carol Baxter is our General Manager, and her organizational skills and member interface has proven vital to the day-to-day management of our programming, including Outreach, LTR classes and coach/dockmaster scheduling, among other things. A shout out also to Liz Green, who is technically our boatman and juniors programming support, but as most of us know, a whole lot more. Liz will be leaving for a one-year sabbatical to Ireland in October, and we wish her a great experience. We welcomed Macy Fetchel this year after her graduation from A&M University in May. She is supporting both our Marketing areas and working with the Junior programming to be sure the 110+ junior logistics and parent communications are well-planned and executed. Stephanie Johnson continues in her 7th year with us, handling the on-site event rental requests, site tours and bookings as well as regatta planning and management. She has been a steady hand for us over the years and we're delighted to have her. And Peter Thrasher, our ace-in-the-hole, continues to handle rowing, boathouse and facility needs. It seems that our boathouse operations are generally seamless, and it is because of our excellent staff that really give 100% to our club. Please thank them as well when you see them around the boathouse.

Along with the news of our successes, we also have some upcoming challenges, and they are not insignificant. First to our non-compliance dock issue. The Facility Dock Report will be more comprehensive, but the short of it is that Watershed, a COA division that is responsible for compliance of vendors in the riparian zone, determined five years ago that our kayak/SUP docks and part of the launch dock equipment were out of permit compliance and had to be corrected asap. This means all equipment for launches, kayaks and SUPs has to be on floating docks, and the riparian zone has to be repaired to city standards. Although this will be a challenge, it may have a silver lining. We are charged



with building all new docks that can hold the correct tonnage of weight, safely move people and be completely on-water. We have the design and have received the appropriate variance from the COA Board of Adjustments (thank you Mark Eaton). We also have approval from PARD staff (thank you Kevin Reinis) and now we are close to the construction phase. Our silver lining is we designed the docks so they move to our new location if/when that happens. We will not lose our investment. We will begin the process of initiating a fundraising campaign to raise the funds needed. We will be asking for financial support from members and leads on possible matching funds from member employers. Additionally, we will reach out to the Austin community, pursue grant funds, investigate bank loans and recruit for sponsorships. We ask everyone to pull together to financially support the new and expanded docks that will better house our kayak/SUP operations, our coach launches and our vendor dock areas. This will increase our revenues and will help pay back our investment.

Another challenge that everyone has observed this summer was the increased fanwort. The ARC Board presented to PARD and had meetings with the COA Watershed Department on the difficulty we faced and what might be done in the future to mitigate the impact of the growth. Watershed believes that the fanwort is beneficial to the lake and have been hesitant to manage the growth. ARC continues talks with various parties in the city, including our District 9 representative to try to find a solution. We depend on our Kayak/SUP and vendor operations to help offset our operational revenue and fund our community Outreach programming, so it is important to continue to investigate ways to work with the city on a solution.

Here's another - heat. Texas is hot in the summer and seemingly getting hotter. This year the heat seemed to particularly discouraged both tourists and locals during the daytime. Summer is generally when we have significant revenue gains from vendor share and kayak/SUPs to help balance the quieter winter months, so we will continue to be careful with operational expenses throughout the year.

Speaking of operations - we have the management contract for the Waller Creek Boathouse. It is very nice to be in an air-conditioned/heated building, with showers, an indoor erg room and meeting space overlooking the water. But the costs for repair, utilities, cleaning and replacement of this city-owned building and land are an impact to our operational funds. The ARC Board and management are careful to meet each contractual requirement and we continue to be good stewards of the COA property.

I look forward to our Annual Meeting when we can come together and applaud our successes and step up to our challenges. Please attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 30th 6:30pm at the boathouse. We're having a pot-luck dinner, (bragging rights for the best dishes) presentations, committee sign ups and Board position voting.

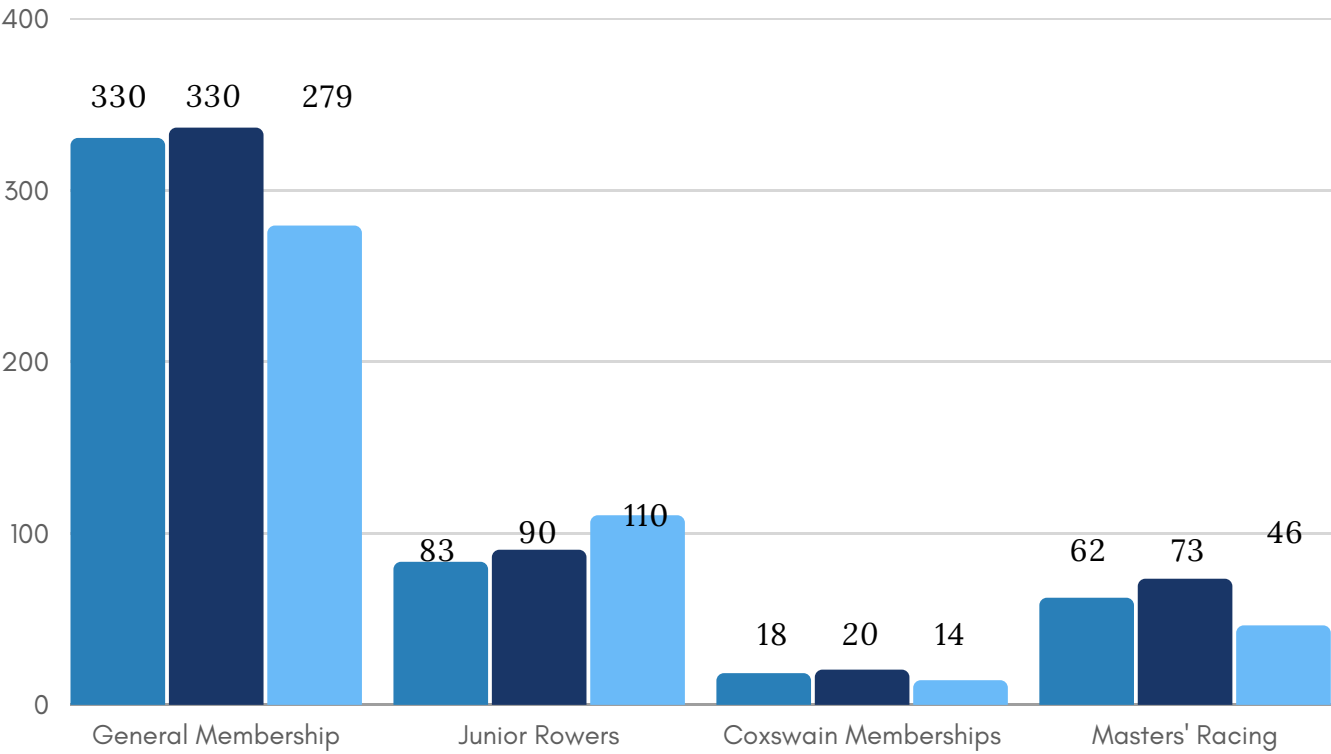
The ARC Board is here to serve you. Let me know if you have thoughts or questions. president@austinrowing.org.

Here's to being on the water,
Liz Hundley



BY THE NUMBERS

2021 2022 2023



2023

PROGRAMMING

Members participated in the first Novice Fun Race on Nov 6, 2022 organized by Coaches Megan and Liv. It was a fun event that introduced the recent novice sweep class graduates with club crew members to give the new rowers a chance to experience racing. We put together three 8+ boats for a mini head race from Congress Bridge to I-35.

The Holiday Erg Challenge was held Nov 24 thru Dec 24, 2022. 31 members participated in this year's event with 11 people accumulating over 100,000 meters each! Our high score was over 313,000 meters!

We had a great time at our Winter Warrior on Dec 4. There were 26 entries, covering most boat classes from singles to 8+. We had participation from individual club rowers, club crews, masters racing team and even 9 boats from our visiting Dartmouth team! Our custom Winter Warrior beanies were very popular. Our volunteers kept things running smoothly and safely.

National Learn to Row Day, held on Saturday, June 3, 2023 was a huge success. Communication of the event to local apartments/condos garnered a much bigger response than last year. We had over 70 participants in 4 one-hour sessions. There was advanced registration which filled up prior to the event. However, we were able to accommodate most walk-ups as well as those registered. Again, we used the barges, which allowed us to accommodate more than 8 rowers as well as families with children and have them get a quick experience on the water. Thanks to Coach Megan for organizing the barge coaches and providing training guidelines and to Jim Ruddy for heading them up day of. Thanks to Macy and Carol and all of the volunteers for a very smooth-running event! The day resulted in interest in LTR classes, junior program and summer camps.

The annual ARC Firecracker was held on July 1, 8:30 - 10:30am. We kept with the hat race format by forming 2 teams (Red team and Blue team) on the day of the race. We had about 30 participants who competed in 4 singles, 4 quads and 2 eights. Everyone was able to compete in at least 1 sprint. We had participation from both club crew rowers and the competitive team. Blue team won with prizes for each participant.

We were not able to schedule the ARC Ladder this year. Programs would like to look for another similar event that can be scheduled after the spring racing season and before the NLTR day.



2023

EQUIPMENT

Update:

- Re-started equipment maintenance days, engaging with the membership and helping service many critical fixes and quick improvements to racing shells.
- Developed ten-year equipment replacement plan for club to prioritize equipment purchases and understand annual capital needs for equipment. The ARC fleet is aging and needs a focused approach to preventing a “sunk cost” mindset investing substantial money into old equipment.
- Oldest boat: Hagelslag (29 years)
- Average age: 11 years
- Most common age: 9 years (12 boats, mostly from Swift purchase in 2014)
- Boats of drinking age: 8 (Alta Pearl, DeHaas, Hongse, Saltzman, Wessels, Hagelslag, Carrie Graves, Zoe Ashton)

New Equipment

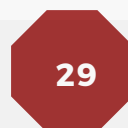
- Trinity (lightweight 8+), 2017 lightly used Vespoli VHP. Purchased early 2023. Funded by juniors program and club.
- Stillwater Duo 18 coaching launch

Equipment Inventory

- Boats (65 total): 11 eights, 4 fours, 9 quads, 12 doubles, 29 singles. 26% in great shape, 46% in good condition, 28% in poor condition.
- Oars (29 sets): 15 sweep sets, 14 sculling sets. Sweep oars are in good or great condition, with Emulex barge oars in poor condition. Two sets of sculling oars are in great condition, six are in good condition, six are in poor condition.
- Electronics: 14 cox boxes, eight have GPS capacity. The GPS capacity cox boxes are in great shape, with the six non-GPS cox boxes in good or poor shape. 13 speed coaches, all with GPS capacity.

2023 Inventory Fast Facts


EIGHTS

COXED FOURS

SINGLES

QUADS

DOUBLES/PAIRS

2023

OUTREACH

EXPANDING & GROWING

Outreach in 2022-2023 - Building on Strength

The mission of Outreach at ARC is to promote health & wellness within underserved communities, to provide outdoor recreational opportunities, and to foster an appreciation for our natural environment.

Promoting participation in rowing remains a key goal. However, as rowers, all of us understand that our sport isn't for everyone. After raising awareness and providing an on-water experience, most folks are still not interested. So ARC's Outreach efforts cannot be measured only by increased diversity, equity and inclusion at the boathouse, but by participation across the city.

New this year - regular rowing and paddling opportunities offered in conjunction with our neighbor, the Mexican-American Cultural Center. They also participated in our Spring Fitness Fest.

Returning post-COVID - supporting disabled veterans and non-veterans with the rowing event at the Texas Regional Games in San Antonio with ergs, staff and volunteers. ARC assists the USRowing team at this regional multi-sport competition.

Ongoing for adults - Team Survivor, comprised of those who've had cancer, has coached rows twice each week.

Regular Introduction to Rowing opportunities for City of Austin employees as part of the city's wellness programs.

Ongoing & expanding for youth -

In the 2022-2023 school year, ARC's RISE (Rowing In School Experience) was active on two AISD middle school campuses - Murchison and Martin. Martin is the school located right behind Festival Beach and closest to our boathouse. Under the guidance of ARC coaches, over 400 sixth-graders rowed at least once a week on the 10 ergs ARC placed there for fall and spring. Additionally, seventh-graders, eighth-graders and sports teams used the ergs in PE and for cross-training.

ARC expanded USRowing's STEM to Stern (S2S) program to two sites this year. Austin first offered S2S in Spring 2022. (ARC was the 9th boathouse to join the program.) S2S is a comprehensive approach to remove barriers to entry to rowing. The program provides academic enrichment focused on STEM, swim/water safety lessons, transportation to pool and boathouse, nutrition, and rowing clothing. While S2S has identified the issues, each partner must find local solutions and fund them.

Ongoing for adults & youth -

ARC continues to work with Austin's Parks and Recreation Department year round. During the school year we host the Good Neighbors Activity Club from McBeth Recreation Centers. These disabled adults visit every Friday, weather permitting. In summer we invite Recreation & Activity Centers to visit, row, and kayak. We offered over 600 slots this summer, though extreme heat limited attendance.

Non-rowing access to nature -

We continue to expose a variety of groups to rowing. But we're taking advantage of our kayak and SUP fleet to promote additional on-water options that provide access to nature and promote responsible stewardship of Lady Bird Lake, including tours, outings and regular clean up days.

ARC continues to look for ways to serve more members of the Austin community and expects to launch several new initiatives before we meet again next year.

VOLUNTEER WITH OUR OUTREACH TEAM



ON THE WATER ADVENTURES



LEARNING TO ERG & DOING GREAT



ALL SMILES IN THE SUN

2023

MASTERS RACING TEAM

From Head Coach Patrick Kelly:

The ARC Masters Racing Team has continued to flourish. We continue to train on the water 4 days/week and on the rowing machines 1 day/week. We've said goodbye to team members leaving the Austin area and welcomed others. We also incorporated 4 college athletes into our summer training.

We had a strong presence at Masters Nationals this year again. USRowing shifted the date of the Regatta from August to mid- July. This affected a few athletes with schedule conflicts but we were still able to send 40 athletes to Eagle Creek, in Indianapolis. Nationals saw a big leap in number of entries across the board this year, up a full third over the previous year.

We entered in 50 events, and came home with 22 medals, placing 8th overall in team points!

Looking forward, we will again race in the Head of the Charles. We have entries in the Club 4+ for both Women and Men. We plan to then race Pumpkinhead, Head of the Hooch, and the Waco Regatta.



Let's go ARC!



2023

JUNIOR ROWING

From Head Coach Patrick Kelly:

Our Junior Team is growing by leaps and bounds to go all-in for the gold. We are providing high quality training and racing for those boys and girls who want that. They are working hard and challenging themselves every day.



We had some of our best ever success on the water last Spring. We put more boats into Finals at Regionals and sent 8 crews to Nationals. We also had our largest group of graduating seniors moving on to row in college.

Additionally, we are creating an atmosphere for growth for those not yet ready for the higher-level commitment. We have a dozen such team members, our non-racers, this year. This path has been a vital addition to our program as we get kids involved with ARC and allow them time to develop.

Off the water we raised over \$50,000 again during our Spring Erg-a-thon. This money goes primarily to equipment and scholarships.

We are training hard and very excited about the 2023-2024 season. As we get into our Fall Season we are excited to be sending a Girls U174+ to the Head of the Charles. We put in for a Boys U174+ and a Girls Youth 4+ but did not get either of those bids.

We will kick off our racing by bringing the Varsity teams to the OKC Fall Regatta at the start of October. That is followed by the Charles, Pumpkinhead, and Waco.

Let's go ARC!

2023

KAYAKS & SUPS



- Rentals employees: 20-45 staff, depending on the season
- New: A new SUP cage for 120 SUPS!
- Guided Tours: Downtown to Barton Springs and Sunset Bat Tours - Very Popular
- Free Paddleboarding: For all ARC members
- Earth Clean Up Day - We hosted our 1st with Keep Austin Beautiful-Super successful!
- Lady Bird Lake Clean Ups- Volunteers: 1,005 Bags collected: 1,700
- The Phoenix Sober Weekly Paddle Group - 417 guests
- Mexican American Community Center Paddle Series - 62 guests
- Annual 4th of July Fireworks Show & Night Paddle: A local favorite
- Highest Rated Paddle Concession on Lady Bird Lake - 4.8 out of 5 rating!!
- Is it Hot in the Summer? Thanks to our awesome ARC Rental Staff for keeping it flowing

2023

CREW LOVE

The Best Crews Choose ARC

SYNC-ROW-NICITY

ROJOS

CREWSERS

ROWING STONES

MOTLEY CREW

OARSEIDON

OAR-DINARIES

OARWHAT?!

OARBITS

ALL OAR NOTHING

OARMAGEDDON

POSH

OCHO LOCOS



2023

ARC STAFF

ARC STAFF

- Elizabeth Barhydt -Executive Director
- Carol Baxter - General Manager
- Aubrea Rudder -Senior Manager
- Macy Fetchel - Marketing/Social Media/Jr. Program Manager
- Peter Thrasher - Facilities Manager
- Stephanie Johnson - Event Manager
- Garett Vaughn, Joseph Garcia, Tori Gregory, Jason Rowlett - Dockmasters
- David Schmidt - Launch Mechanic
- Elizabeth Green - Boatman, Jr. Program Mgr
- Garett Vaughn - Boathouse Operations

*Thank
You*

RENTALS

- Aubrea Rudder - Senior Manager
- Johnathan Schaeffer - Rental Operations Manager
- Henry Andrastek - Asst. Rental Operations Manager
- Garett Vaughn - Asst. Rental Operations Manager

ARC COACHES

- Megan Getman - Head Masters Club, Regatta Director
- Liv Foletta - Asst. Masters Club, St. Ed's Crew, Team Survivor, Outreach
- Sam Factor - Masters Club
- Allie Aguilar - Masters Club
- Patrick Kelly - Head Jr. Program & Masters Racing Team
- James Oldeshulte - Asst. Masters Racing
- John Mitrowski - Asst. Masters Racing
- Elizabeth Green - Jr. Program Manager & Coach
- Macy Fetchel - Jr. Program Manager, Asst. Novice Girls
- Hannah Heyerdahl - Head Varsity Girls
- Ethan Nussdorfer - Head Novice Girls
- Ken Jackson - Head Novice Boys
- Macy Gomillion - Asst. Novice Girls
- Courty Stanton - Asst. Varsity Girls
- Payton Kooyers - Asst. Varsity Girls
- Alyssa Schaefer - Asst. Novice Boys
- Kory Rogers - Asst. Varsity Boys
- Henry Andrastek - Outreach Coach
- Sam Broyles and Peter Hutchinson - Asst. Outreach RISE

Thank you to Astrid Wettstein, Head Jr. Comp Girls Varsity coach and Liz Green , Boatman, Jr. Program Mgr and Coach - both of whom will be leaving soon. Thank you for your dedication!

2022-2023

ARC BOARD

ARC Board of Directors:

- Liz Hundley - President
- Navin Rajashekar - Vice President
- Kevin Hight - Treasurer
- Keith Sharp - Secretary
- Liz Barhydt - Executive Director
- Paul Bloom - Equipment Director
- Mark Eaton - Marketing Director
- Karen Jones - Programming Director
- Jim Ruddy - Outreach Director
- John Jones - Facilities Director
(exp July 2023)



Austin Rowing Club continues to grow its legacy of providing beginner, recreational, youth and competitive programs for rowing and other river sports, organizing regattas and events that bring credit and opportunity to the city, and extending these benefits to communities that have historically been under-represented and underserved.

Our robust Outreach programming and stewardship of the resources we build and manage are increasingly vital parts of our service to the community. Our culture of teamwork, perseverance and accomplishment contributes to the physical, mental and social well-being of all those we reach.

Austin Rowing Club's mission is to foster an inclusive community that promotes the many benefits of rowing and other river sports by providing equitable access to our natural spaces and quality programs throughout the city for people of all backgrounds and abilities.



Volunteer Committees

**Social Committee
Outreach Committee
Facilities Committee
Marketing Committee
Programming Committee
Regatta Committee
Safety Committee**

Volunteer with ARC

austinrowing.org