



Texas A&M Crew

Newsletter

Fall 2017 Season

Our Season

Welcome to the Fall 2017 Texas A&M Crew Newsletter! This will give a brief overview of our competitions this semester along with other significant events. We have had an absolutely amazing fall season, and all of the hard work our team put into our water practices out at Lake Bryan and into every workout has definitely showed! Our team consisted of 46 members, and we all became much stronger rowers and closer friends over time. We also raised approximately \$6,000 for our team during this semester alone, which will help us greatly in taking care of our boat repairs, equipment maintenance, and hopefully a new four-person boat for our men. This semester, we were able to replace old riggers, send multiple boats to get some much needed body work done, and had the fence around our boathouse redone, and many more small projects necessary to keep things running smoothly. Our equipment managers, president, and vice president have worked hard to make sure that our boats, facilities, and all of our other equipment stay in good condition.



The team after racing for the last time this season at the Head of the Hooch Regatta in Chattanooga, TN during early November.

In the fall semester, we focus on endurance and longer races. The spring is our “sprint season,” where we compete in shorter, more explosive competitions that are 2km or less. The fall regattas that we compete in are OKC, Head of the Brazos, Pumpkinhead, and the Head of the Hooch, and all of these were 4 kilometers long or more.

OKC (Head of the Oklahoma)

Oklahoma City, OK

The first competition we attended was the Head of the Oklahoma, which is an extremely competitive regatta that many crews across the nation participate in. Although our novices had only three weeks of practice to prepare for their first competition, we saw amazing placings and times across the board from all of our boats. We even had a novice boat take second place, which is an incredible accomplishment especially for the size of this event and the skill level of all of the participants there. Overall, our times from this year show great improvement from those of last year, and this was an exciting start to our season.



The medal-winning novice men's four from OKC in Oklahoma City, OK in early October (L to R: Matt Muschenheim, Daniel Shulkin, William Purvines, Alexandre Tourte, and coxswain Kaitlin Burg in front).

Head of the Brazos

Waco, TX



The women's eight after a long, hot day of racing on the Brazos (L to R: Ashley Adams, Megan Curtis, Savannah Tamayo, Kristen Grimm, Anissa Kneese, Kristyn Kraus, Fallon Wenck, and coxswain Stephanie Bynum).

A week after OKC, our team went to Waco to compete on the Brazos River against multiple boats from Rice, TAMU Galveston, and Baylor—all respectable, competitive crew teams. After OKC, we were excited to show the full potential of our team and strive for faster times at this 5K—even if this regatta was significantly smaller. This friendly

competition was a wonderful experience for us, and multiple members of our team came back with more than one medal after this weekend.

Pumpkinhead (Head of the Colorado)

Austin, TX

During Halloween weekend, we traveled up to Austin to row a 4K on the Colorado River in full view of downtown Austin. Pumpkinhead is a highly competitive Texas regatta in which many NCAA rowing teams participate along with many highly committed and respected club teams. Despite the stiff competition (and the cold), four of our nine boats that went out were able to medal. We were proud to see the fruits of our labor and to grow even closer as a team over the course of this trip.



The lightweight women's four holding coxswain Stephanie Bynum after getting their well-earned gold medals (L to R: Michele Pless, Sandra DalBello, Emily Mitchell, Kassie Stagner).

Hooch Championship Regatta (Head of the Chattanooga)

Chattanooga, TN



The men's eight after concluding their final race of the season (faces L to R: Graham Jones, Joshua Contreras, William Purvines, Alan Abbott, John Dolan, Garrison Ward).

Every semester, Texas A&M Crew travels to a championship regatta in Tennessee. This semester, both men and women raced an eight and a four in the Open category with boats combined with Novices and Opens together. The Head of the Hooch is the second largest regatta in the country, and it is extremely competitive. Teams from all over the nation come to row on the Chattanooga river, and it is a great experience for everyone who goes. Although we didn't medal, we all left very happy with our performances and finished our season on a high note.

Row for Dough Fundraiser

Lake Bryan

After Hooch had ended, we started preparing for Row for Dough. For those of you who do not know how it works, our squads go out in boats and row as many meters as they can for one hour. Donors have pledged to specific squads or rowers beforehand to donate a certain amount of money for every kilometer rowed, and then the donors send the total amount of their pledge to the team. This is currently our biggest fundraiser by far, and without it we would not be able to afford to maintain our equipment to an adequate level. This semester, the winds were too high for us to safely go out onto the water on the day that Row for Dough was scheduled, so we completed the hour by doing relays on rowing machines at the Lake Bryan shore. We raised over \$5,700 from this fundraiser alone, and this will be extremely useful for us and help us be a more competitive team. Donors, we cannot thank you enough for your generosity! You have all directly impacted the continuation and potential of our team, and for that we are truly grateful.



Rowers Matt Muschenheim (left) and Harrison Lie (right) finishing their relay pieces

Looking Forward to the Spring

Our team owes so much to parents, friends of rowers, alumni, fellow crew teams, and so many others who have been with us this season and gave us the help and support we needed. Thank you so much for your support of Texas A&M Crew. We would not be able to function as smoothly as we do or achieve our goals without you—especially anyone who housed us, fed us, or donated to the team. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do to make sure that we can continue to develop our team and to pursue our goals doing something we love.

If you would like to continue supporting TAMU Crew, would like to start donating, or have any kind of question, send an email to fundraising@crew.tamu.edu. Any question you might have will be answered, and you will be updated on upcoming fundraising events and information regarding them.

If you want to learn more about our team, see more pictures, or reach out to us, check out our team's website at www.tamucrow.com along with our Facebook page, Texas A&M Crew, and our Instagram @tamucrow!

Thank you for being a part of our family. We'll see you soon for the new semester!