



Texas A&M Crew

Newsletter

Spring 2017 Season

Our Season

Welcome to the spring 2017 Texas A&M Crew Newsletter! This semester has been a big one for Texas A&M Crew. While we're sad about our seniors leaving us, we're excited to have had many new rowers join us, leaving our team with 45 rowers in total. Over the past year we have raised over \$5,000 for the team through fundraisers and parent donations. This semester, we competed in five regattas and duels throughout the country. Additionally, we have undated many of our boats, including new shoes for the open men's and women's 4 boats. Our equipment managers have worked incredibly hard to keep our boats on the water and ready for competition and kept up with repairs as damages happened. As for new projects, we are looking at purchasing a new four, renovating our boatyard, and updating the riggers on two of our fours, Hullabaloo and Speedbird. Our Vice President and other officers have identified risks to our equipment in Lake Bryan and have taken steps to mitigate them in order to make practices safer for both our boats and our rowers.



The team after racing in finals at the SIRA Championship Regatta in Oak Ridge, TN in mid-April.

For those new to the sport of rowing, there are two seasons in the sport: fall season which consists of long-distance "head races," or time-trial endurance pieces ranging from 4-6 kilometers, and the spring sprint season where the races are short head-to-head sprints, ranging from 500 to 2,000 meters.

In the spring semester, we we also compete in ergometer (rowing machine) competitions. Unlike distance season, all the races are head-to-head, so the rowers know exactly how well they are doing in races, making races that much more competitive. This semester, we traveled to five competitions and duels throughout Texas and the nation: SWEAT, Erg Rodeo, Heart of Texas, Texas Duel, and SIRA.

SWEAT

Austin, TX

The first competition we attended was the Southwestern Ergometer Amateur Tournament (SWEAT) at Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas, TX. This erg competition was only open to returning rowers due to its proximity to contract night when new rowers join the team. At this tournament, we competed against many colleges across Texas like TAMU Galveston, Rice, Baylor and the University of Texas. Our rowers came back powerful from winter break and proved that through winning eight medals overall. SWEAT was a strong start to the semester and the spring rowing season, and great preparation for Erg Rodeo and the upcoming regattas.



The medal winners from SWEAT in Dallas, TX in early February. (R to L: Fallon Wenck, Kristen Grimm, Kassie Stagner, Ashley Adams, Court Weitzel, Will Alexander, Harrison Lie)

Results:

LtWt. Novice Women

Fallon Wenck- *Silver*

Novice Women

Kristen Grimm- *Bronze*

LtWt. Open Women

Ashley Adams- *Silver*

Kassie Stagner- *Bronze*

LtWt. Novice Men

Harrison Lie- *Silver*

Novice Men

Court Weitzel – *Silver*

LtWt. Open Men

Will Alexander- *Gold*

Aaron Clark - *Silver*

Erg Rodeo

Austin, TX

The week after SWEAT, the entire team traveled to Austin to compete in Erg Rodeo, which was held in UT's Gregory Gym. This was our new novice's first competition and the first of many 2k races throughout the season. At this competition, we raced against many colleges in the region including UT, LSU and Rice. This was an incredibly competitive competition and the team picked up three medals.

Erg Rodeo Results:

LtWt. Open Women

Ashley Adams- *Silver*
Kassie Stagner - *Bronze*

Open Women

Kristyn Kraus- *Bronze*



Novice Rower Graham Jones during his 2k at Erg Rodeo

Heart of Texas

Austin, TX

Despite being rainy and cold, the team's competitive spirit stayed strong at Heart of Texas Regatta in Austin. The team was excited to be racing head-to-head for the first race on the water this season. At this regatta, we competed against many of the same teams as the erg competition on a much larger scale. This was a 1k race on Lady Bird Lake through the middle of downtown Austin. We raced a total of eight boats: four 8+ boats and 4+ boats, three of these boats advancing to finals. This was a very competitive regatta and many of these boats raced against and beat NCAA boats, as opposed to just club teams.



The Novice Women returning from their first 2k race on the water at the Heart of Texas Regatta in Austin, TX in early March. (R to L: Fallon Wenck, Kristen Grimm, Anissa Kneese, Michele Pless, coxswain Sandra DalBello)

t.u. Duel

Austin, TX

For the past several years, we have participated in a duel with our longhorn friends in Austin, competing for space on a plaque as well as points for a Rec Sports competition between the universities. This is the final regatta for many members as only a select few are chosen to attend the SIRA championship regatta in mid-April. Being right before SIRA, t.u. Duel serves as a great opportunity to test the boats that will be raced at SIRA. t.u. Duel is often a fun way to end the semester and a great way to interact with our counterparts in Austin, with whom we race against at almost every regatta.

SIRA Championship Regatta

Oak Ridge, TN

Every semester, Texas A&M Crew travels to a championship regatta in Tennessee. In the spring, we bring one boat from each of the four squads (Open Men and Women and Novice Men and Women) and attend the Southeast Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship Regatta (SIRA). As this regatta represents the entire southeastern region, we saw teams from across the country such as Notre Dame, University of Colorado, University of Alabama, and more. The Open Men's 4+, Novice Men 8+, and the Lightweight Novice Women 4+ progressed to finals, while the Open Women 8+ made it to semifinals.



The Open Men after concluding their final race of the season at SIRA, before heading back home to Texas. (R to L: Alan Abbott, Wyatt Kachner, Cameron Netherland, Will Alexander, coxswain Sandra DalBello)

SIRA Results

Open Women
4th place, Final B

Open Men
2nd place, Final D

Novice Women
3rd place, Final C

LtWt Novice Women
3rd place, Final A

Graduating Seniors

Cameron Netherland

Emma Partridge

Eric Magana

Victoria Watts

Wyatt Kachner

Kaitlin Burg

These people have contributed a lot of effort and many hours to our team during their time at Texas A&M. They will be dearly missed, but we know they will go on to do great things and will continue to be hard working individuals! Thanks, graduates, for your hard work, and congratulations!

Looking Forward to Next Year

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 achieve the level of success that we have without you—especially anyone who housed us, fed us, or donated to the team.

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. I will answer any question you might have and keep you updated on upcoming fundraising events and information regarding them.

Check out our team's website at www.tamucrow.com to learn more about our team, along with our Facebook page, Texas A&M Crew, and our Instagram @tamucrow!

Lastly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Fallon Wenck, and I'll be serving as the new External Relations officer for the upcoming year! I will be updating our pages with new information and organizing fundraising events, so you will be dealing with me a decent amount in the near future! I am so excited to get started up again in the fall; our team is looking great and working hard, and we have a lot of potential to do well next season.

In addition to myself, the new 2017-2018 officers and coaches are as follows:

Texas A&M Crew 2017-2018 Officers and Coaches

Alan Abbott '18
President

Kassie Stagner '19
Vice President

Kristyn Kraus '19
Secretary

Will Alexander '18
Head Coach

Ashley Adams '19
Assistant Coach

Madelyn Mohr '19
Assistant Coach

Dustin Smith '18
Equipment Manager

Sandra Dalbello '19
Equipment Manager

Court Weitzel '19
Equipment Manager

Anissa Kneese '18
Treasurer

Fallon Wenck '20
ER Officer

As always, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer! We'll see you soon!