



## *Texas A&M Crew*

### *Newsletter*

*Fall 2016 Season*

### *This Season's Competitions*

Welcome to the Fall 2016 Texas A&M Crew Newsletter! This semester, we added many new rowers, growing our team close to 70 rowers in total. We raised over \$4,700 for the team through fundraisers and donations throughout the semester. The team traveled to five regattas and duels around the country, where we underwent some great improvement and proved ourselves to be a competitive group.

For those parents new to the sport of rowing, there are two seasons in the sport; fall season is “Distance Season” in which races consist of 4k and 5k head races, while the spring season is “Sprint Season” in which races are 1k or 2k head-to-head sprints.

In the fall semester, all the regattas are on the water and are timed competitions. In a head race for Distance Season, boats race against the clock as they are sent off one at a time with a small time gap in between each boat. This differs from the head-to-head race style in Sprint Season in which boats race in heats similar to a swimming or track race. We participated in five regattas this semester: Head of the Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK), Head of the Brazos (Waco, TX), Head of the Colorado (Austin, TX), Head of the Hooch (Chattanooga, TN), and a duel on Baylor’s campus against 4 other universities in Texas.



*The team after re-rigging boats on the Sunday after competing at the Head of the Oklahoma regatta in October.*

## *Head of the Oklahoma*

*Oklahoma City, OK*

The first regatta we attended this season was the Head of the Oklahoma hosted by Oklahoma City University. This was a 4K head race, followed by 500m night sprints, which many of our open rowers competed in. We raced five 8+ boats and five 4+ boats against many universities including Oklahoma, TCU and A&M Galveston. Two of our boats, the Novice Men's 4+ and the Open Women's 8+ (night

sprint), received 3rd place throughout the weekend of racing. Many of the other boats placed very well despite the size and competitiveness of the regatta, especially the novices, many of whom had only begun rowing less than 2 weeks before this competition.



*The Lightweight Open Women's 4+ after racing their first 4K race of the season at the Head of the Oklahoma Regatta in early October. (R to L: Kaitlin Burg, Ashley Adams, Madelyn Mohr, Kassie Stagner, Emily Mitchell)*

## *Head of the Brazos*

*Waco, TX*



The week after Head of the Oklahoma, the entire team traveled to Waco to compete in the second regatta of the season, Head of the Brazos. This was the first 5K race of the semester, and we raced mainly against other universities in Texas such as Baylor, UT, Rice and TCU. This was not quite as large and Head of the Oklahoma but our first large regattas back in Texas. Here, the team started to show a competitive nature and received a few finishes that were competitive to NCAA boats.

*The Novice Men 8+ adjusting their boat before pushing off the dock to race the Head of the Brazos 5K race in Waco, TX.*

## *Head of the Colorado*

*Austin, TX*

The team continued the competitive nature at the Head of the Colorado in Austin,



*The Open Men's 8+ rowing to the start of their 5K race at the Head of the Colorado Regatta. (L to R: Kassie Stagner, Will Alexander, Dustin Smith, Alan Abbott, Cameron Netherland, Jake Smith, Nick Maleska, Jake Inman, Amin Heravi)*

TX, racing against similar competition as Head of the Brazos. This was another 5K race, this time racing through the middle of downtown Austin. We raced a total of six 8+ boats, including a mixed boat made up of novices, and five 4+ boats, placing high in the rankings with some 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishes from many boats. These were great finishes for the team, as many of the boats the team raced against were NCAA teams, instead of just club teams.

## *Head of the Hooch*

*Chattanooga, TN*

The weekend following the Head of the Colorado, selected rowers traveled to Chattanooga, TN for the fall championship regatta, Head of the Hooch. For the championship regatta, one boat from each category is brought to represent the team on a national level. This is an incredibly prestigious opportunity for the rowers selected and is easily the most competitive regatta of the semester. This is a huge regatta for the entire country, and the team performed very well in the setting, many of the boats racing their best times of the season. We raced three 8+ boats across the open women and novice categories, as well as an open men's 4+.



*The Open Women's 8+ after finishing at the Head of the Hooch Championship Regatta (L to R: Madelyn Mohr, Kassie Stagner, Kristyn Kraus, Jordan Giberson, Kailey Creeger, Ashley Adams, Mollie Kaarlsen, Emma Partridge. Front: Marcus Heinonen)*

Unlike the championship regatta in the spring, these boats race once the whole weekend, and instead of being placed into final brackets, they were ranked against close to

direction.

## **Battle on the Brazos**

*Waco, TX*

This semester, we decided to schedule a friendly duel in late November on Baylor's campus against a couple of other Texas universities: Baylor University, TCU, UT and Rice University. This served as the final regatta of the semester and as a good preparation and introduction for sprint season in the spring as it was a 2K head-on-head race. The team performed very well at this duel, finishing strongly in each race. The Open Women's 4+ placed 1st against Rice and Baylor, and many other boats placed 2nd in their category, namely the Novice Women's 8+, the Open Men's 4+ and the Mixed Composite 8+. This scrimmage was a fun and positive way to conclude the semester and gear up for spring.

## **Looking Forward to Next Semester**

Howdy! I would like to thank all of the parents and friends for their continuous support to the team. We are all very appreciative of everything everyone has done for us! We would not be able to move forward, and the team would not work the way we do without the support, housing of our team for regattas, food, and donations from our families and supporters. We are all looking forward to next spring and seeing what it holds for our team!

If you wish to contact the team, I now receive all messages sent to [fundraising@crew.tamu.edu](mailto:fundraising@crew.tamu.edu). I will handle all of your questions about how to support the team moving forward in addition to keeping you all in the loop with future fundraising events. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, I'd be happy to help!

Make sure to visit our team's website <http://www.tamucrow.com> where we post schedules, news, and more information during the season, as well as our Facebook page, Texas A&M Crew, and our Instagram, @tamucrow.

Hope you all are well! Happy holidays!

Katherine Stagner  
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*Texas A&M Crew*