

## ***Preamble/Prologue***

*It has been my great pleasure to feel the warmth and camaraderie, even as a bystander, that filled the many emails that circulated earlier this year among 25 oarsmen who either rowed on the '63 Varsity Heavyweight Crew Squad or were members of the Class of '63. Two separate but related events were the focus of their attention. The first of these two groups were intent upon competing in the Masters Eight event at the 2003 IRA Regatta in Camden, NJ; the second had as their goal maximizing their class's participation in MIT's 2003 Reunion Row a week later.*

*I had rarely experienced anything quite like it, and I rather early on conceived the idea for two projects that will, I hope, become worthy keepsakes for all who participated in them, while at the same time benefit the Friends of MIT Crew, of which I am a Director.*

*Let me try to explain the latter thought first. The Friends this year mounted for the first time a significant fund raising effort tied into the Five-Year Reunion Gift process. It was moderately successful, but we have learned a lot that should lead to a continuing increase in the donations that result next year and beyond.*

*The Friends want to find as many ways as we can to provide its members with whatever it may take to rekindle their interest in us, but more importantly, in each other – and in that way revive the wonderfully warm memories that will lead to a desire to give back to the MIT Crew Program the financial support it needs for the benefit of each new class that comes along.*

*The end products of the projects I had in mind are two documents, each perhaps best described as a diary of especial interpersonal dialogue. This one chronicles the hugely successful efforts by Jack Lynch, Jim Latimer and Bob Vernon to maximize the participation of their class, '63, in the Reunion Row on the Charles this year. We want everyone of you to share in the wonderful experience this spring and summer has meant to them all, so as to motivate you to do likewise when your Five-Year Reunion comes up. To culminate, for example, in two class boats in the Reunion Row rather than one (or less), and by association, to re-ignite your interest and willingness to donate more to the MIT Crew Program than you might otherwise.*

## ***Introduction***

*These emails chronicle the preparation for, and the afterglow from, what was obviously a very important event in the lives of 18 rowing alums in the Class of '63. (The emphasis added here is for a reason explained later).*

***Ken Andersen  
Harvey Bines  
Elliott Bird  
Denny Buss  
Ron Cheek  
Tony Fiory***

***Bill Gadzuk  
Mike Greata  
Bob Johnson  
Bob Kurtz  
Jim Latimer  
Jack Lynch***

***Rick Metzinger  
Murray Morton  
Jerry Skinner  
Bob Vernon  
John Wasserlein  
Ron Young***

*The Class of '63 was absolutely unique in its participation in MIT's Crew Program. They were witness to the most successful four-year span in MIT's rowing history, before or since.*

- *As freshmen, the heavies were 2<sup>nd</sup> at the IRA (beating their coach Dick Erickson's University of Washington alma mater by a length) and the light varsity was a close 3<sup>rd</sup> (0.5 sec) behind Princeton at the Eastern Sprints.*
- *As sophomores, they saw the freshman lights win the Sprints, while the heavy varsity placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at both the Sprints and the 3-mile IRA.*
- *As juniors, the heavy varsity defeated Princeton, Harvard, and Rutgers to win the Compton Cup, still the only MIT victory in the 68 year history of the event. That year, too, the light freshmen were 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Sprints, and the varsity lights won (in a triple tie with Cornell and Navy) and went to England to compete for the Thames Challenge Cup (earlier won by them in '54 and '55) at the Henley Royal Regatta.*
- *As seniors, the varsity heavies were again 3<sup>rd</sup> at the IRA, a scant 5 seconds away from a win in a 17:27 minute race. The light V and JV placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Sprints, respectively.*

*You will note that this chronicle begins almost a year before the main event – the Five-Year Reunion Row on the Charles, formally initiated in '97. The first twelve of these emails were sent in calendar 2002 and are included so as to provide the reader with an early appreciation for the level of dedication that infused this effort.*

*A word about formatting. The author and date of each email is given above the text, but usually only the first names are used to identify them (as illustrated in the first paragraph of this section) and, unless the email is addressed to the group as a whole, the addressee is named as the text begins. Where persons outside the group are involved, a parenthetical identifying comment is supplied.*

*And lastly, there are a few occasions where I feel something I can add would expand and/or intensify an interesting point (or add a touch of humor?). In that event, my comment is parenthesized and in italics, as here.*

*Jack Frailey '44  
October, 2003*

**From Jack Lynch**

**July 16, 2002**

GREETINGS TO CLASS OF '63 OARSMEN

It's looks like our class is going ahead with plans to hold a 40<sup>th</sup> reunion, and part of the plan is to have a reunion row similar to what we did at our 35th. (It's 500 meters, about 2 minutes

long) The event is now scheduled for Sunday morning, June 8, rather than Saturday afternoon as it was in 1998. The reunion row will include all the MIT classes that are having their 5th, 10th, ... 50th reunions. A rough outline of the weekend plan is at the end of this note.

Three of us (Bob Vernon, Jim Latimer, and Jack Lynch) have volunteered to help organize our class's participation in the rowing event. Any of you are hereby invited to join us in any way you might wish. And of course we hope that every one of you will come to the reunion and row on Sunday morning.

We'd like to state that the event is not a race! Well, of course it is a race, but it's a friendly noncompetitive race. It's really just an opportunity for old rowing friends to experience the thrill of getting back into an eight-oared shell. Nevertheless, many of us are still competitive in spirit, if not physically, and might pull a little harder than they should for a man of sixty years. Therefore, we are suggesting that everyone engage in a mild exercise program that includes some aerobic as well as strength building components. You can let the reunion row be your excuse to start such a program although we suspect many of you already exercise regularly. If not, then with your doctor's consent, and perhaps after taking a treadmill stress test monitored by a cardiologist, you should seriously consider starting such an exercise program.

The other thing you can think about is whether you'd like to have a special oarsman's lunch on Saturday or oarsman's brunch on Sunday after the row (spouses etc. invited of course). If such an event is desired by most of us then we can look into possible places. By the way, our coaches, Jack Frailey and Gary Zwart are invited to all of our activities.

So please mark your calendars for June 6-8, 2003 for the Reunion. Please let us know if you might come and what your opinions are about anything we have discussed or should discuss.

We think we have found most of us and we have email addresses for all but three. (That would be Robert Kurtz, Ken Andersen, and Lew Taft.) If you know email for these three or can think of anyone else who rowed with us, even for just a year or two, then please contact them or one of us about them.

**From Bill,**

**July 17, 2002**

I've had time for the 40th blocked out since the Reunion Row in 1998. I'm definitely in for June 8, 2003. I remember fondly the "training table" lunch at Durgin Park (DP) prior to the '98 "regatta" and would certainly be up for something similar. I wonder if there is any possibility of pulling off some sort of practice/refamiliarization row on Saturday afternoon. As Jim and Tony know, Jesse Lipcon pointed out to us that, "The '65 crew rowed the day before our 35th reunion race, and it made all the difference in the world. All the other crews tried to just jump in the boat and race, and we beat them even without recourse to our age handicap."

This came up in the context of preparation for a huge event for me, the Alumni Masters race last month at the 2002 IRA in which our class of '63 provided the bow 4 (4-Tony Fiory, 3-Jim Latimer, 2-Bill Gadzuk, 1-Ken Andersen) for an MIT boat, average age = 62. It was a

tremendous experience and a great honor for which I am still on a bit of a high.

In any event, whether we do anything Saturday or not, I would strongly urge for something after the boathouse festivities on Sunday morning. From what I recall at the last reunion, it would have been nice to have gotten together after the mighty deed was done. Fortunately we have three very capable organizers (Jim, Jack, and Bob). The bow 4 has already benefited from Commodore Jim's skills along these lines as he ultimately was the one who was able to see to it that the IRA actually happened for us. Looking forward to it, whatever it turns out to be.

**From John,**

**July 17, 2002**

I would like to be included and will save the time on my calendar. I do suggest that we have some practice prior to the race -- we are the only undefeated class in class day races and alumni day races and should maintain that distinction!

**From Ron Y,**

**July 17**

See <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/notes/crew.shtml> for previous reunion row results.

**From Harvey,**

**July 18**

I'd like to row. Please keep me informed. How can I help?

**From Murray,**

**August 17**

I would like to be included in the reunion row if there's room in the boat! I have done some sculling in the past couple of years and started a regular exercise program to be race-day ready by next year. In signing up for the Infinite Connection, I identified myself as a member of the Varsity Heavyweights even though I only rowed on the freshman crew (although I practiced with the Varsity Heavies occasionally.) The reason for doing so was to get on the crew mailing list as soon as I learned about the 1998 reunion row and saw the pictures.

I never made it back to school to row varsity as I was on academic probation second semester and crew was the only subject I passed!

I'm all for pre-race practices if it doesn't violate N.C.A.A. rules! Can you still row to the Watertown arsenal? Is there still a Watertown arsenal?

Hoping I can win a seat.

P.S. I have a friend whose son has coxed several Canadian crews in the Olympics and World's competitions. If we need a cox, can we use him?

**From Murray,**

**August 19, 2002**

**Roger**, the attached photo was forwarded to Ron Young in response to a call for photos of the class of '63. Since you are a prominent feature of the photo, I thought you might get a kick out of seeing it again.

In a separate email, Ron made a plea for former coxies to join the reunion row next June. I'm sure your former crewmates would like to see you there, I know I would.



**1963 Freshman Heavyweight Crew**

**L – R (standing):** Tom Taylor, Bill Pettus, Jim Latimer, Anthony Fiory, Herb Doepken, Murray Morton, Ron Cheek, Chris Miller. **Front:** Roger Gans.

**From Jim,**

**August 19, 2002**

**Murray**, great to hear from you! Thanks for sending this along. I can't believe this! One small point: Ken Andersen became our freshman crew bow man, but the guy in THIS photo is Tom Taylor

**From Jack,**

**December 15, 2002**

Many of you responded to our announcement of the MIT Reunion Row on Sunday Morning June 8th, 2003 by saying that:

1. We should have a practice row on Saturday afternoon, (My guess it would be held around 3:00PM)
2. We should have a social gathering (with spouses) either before the practice session on Saturday (ie Lunch) or after the Reunion Row on Sunday morning (ie Brunch).

Either way, we would have to not attend the scheduled class of '63 events scheduled for those times. I am writing you this note to get some feedback from you about that choice.

I am on the planning committee for the overall reunion (as is Jim Latimer) and this week the planning committee will be deciding on a venue for their Sunday Brunch. The numbers that might attend make a difference in where they plan to go. (The MIT Faculty Club can only accommodate about 80 people) So it matters whether or not 8 to 12 oarsmen plus spouses plan to attend that brunch or plan to have their own brunch somewhere else.

Hence my desire to get some feedback from you on your thoughts. By the way, please copy Jim Latimer and Bob Vernon on your replies -- or even all on the list. My own thought is to have an oarsman lunch on Saturday (at, say, Durgin Park) like we did last time since skipping the class lunch on Saturday is no big deal. Then we can all also go to the class brunch on Sunday after our row/race is over. (Probably 11AM)

Larry Krakauer has scheduled a conference call of the Committee members on this coming Wednesday night, so I need input from you before then.

**From Denny,**

**December 15, 2002**

**Jack**, lunch at DP on Saturday afternoon is OK with me. I won't be attending the reunion events other than the oarsman events. But if we are going to turn out 3:00PM on Saturday it won't be much of a lunch!! What time is the race scheduled for Sunday? What time will it be over? I need to schedule a flight to Japan sometime on Sunday, 8 June. I wish you all the best for the Christmas holiday season.

PS: Did you hear about John Yasaitis??? John was a heavyweight, class of '69. He continued to scull on the Charles up until a couple of months ago. He was out one morning and was rammed by an eight. His lower abdomen was severely traumatized. He was in and out of Mass General for several weeks. I understand that he has recovered smartly, and that he is back at work now.

**From Bill,**

**December 17, 2002**

**Jack**, the so-called "training table" lunch at Durgin Park on Saturday worked really well last time, particularly with some rowing event to go to afterwards (THE race in 1998, the practice

row this time). But a brunch on Sunday would also be nice. How's that for a definitive stand? Whatever is the final choice, I'll be there.

**From Bob V,**

**December 16, 2002**

**Jack,** I have a modest preference for the after-race lunch/brunch option on Sunday, but frankly I am not planning to schedule my weekend too tightly and can work with whatever you decide. Mostly, just looking forward to the get-together and the event. I don't think I've been in a shell since about 1964. Also, I haven't been to Durgin Park since about the same timeframe. Let's think about doing the lunch there.

PS. Rumor has it that Somp and Greata aren't planning to row. I don't think I can cox a boat that doesn't have them in it.

**From Jack,**

**February 24, 2003**

Greetings from the '63 Reunion Row Organizing Committee (Jim Latimer, Jack Lynch and Bob Vernon) The committee can feel it in our bones that you all have been in training for the Reunion row to be held at MIT on Sunday Morning, June 8th, 2003 in conjunction with the 40th reunion of our class. If you haven't it's okay, the "race" is about 500 meters and is over in less than 2 minutes.

Besides the three committee members, we have "yes" responses from Ken Andersen, Denny Buss, Ron Cheek, Bill Gadzuk, Murray Morton, and John Wasserlein. We think we can put out two boats so we'd like to see at least eight more of you come. If we have extra oarsmen or need one or two there can be exchanges between classes so that just about everybody will get to row in some boat.

We've attached an EXCEL file with names and addresses of all in our class who rowed, even a little bit. Please feel free to contact others on the list to encourage them to row with us.

Both of our coaches, Jack Frailey and Gary Zwart have agreed to come to the event and to join us should we have a lunch or brunch of some kind. I also suspect that at least one of them would be able to join us for a practice row should we chose to have one.

The lunch/brunch and the practice row involve schedule conflicts that affect us all so we need to ask you to express your opinion on these matters. However, most of you and all of the committee would very much like to see both of these events occur. For many of us it is the highlight of the weekend. Here's the rub.

The MIT Alumni office has moved Technology Day lectures from Friday to Saturday and moved Tech Night at the Pops from Thursday night to Saturday night. This means that a Saturday lunch and a Saturday afternoon practice row would require us cutting some of the lectures on Saturday afternoon.

The MIT schedule is for there to be 3 one-hour lectures from 9AM till noon on Saturday. Then an informal box lunch (for all classes) from noon to 2:00PM, then two lectures from 2:00 till 4:00. At 4:00 there is an awards ceremony of some kind in the President's garden, then at 5:00 people assemble for a mass dinner (seating by class) before being herded into busses to go to Symphony Hall at 7:00. The class of 1963 is holding a Sunday Brunch at the Faculty Club which we could cut if we were to have our own Brunch at that time.

We see several possible options (if you see other options please let us all know).

1. Have Oarsmen's Lunch on Saturday. Have practice row 2:30 - 4:30 Saturday afternoon. [means skipping the box alumni lunch and two afternoon lectures]
2. Have Oarsmen's Brunch on Sunday after the reunion row (race) and have a quick turnout at 3:15 on Saturday afternoon. [Means skipping one lecture and skipping the Class of '63 Brunch at the Faculty Club]
3. Turnout at 3:15, no lunch/brunch.
4. Saturday Oarsmen's Lunch, be back by 2:00PM for lectures, no turnout.
5. No turnout on Saturday, Oarsmen's Brunch after Row/Race on Sunday.
6. No Turnout, no Oarsmen's Brunch/Lunch but try to sit together at the Class '63 Brunch at the Faculty Club.

In addition, if there are four of us in Boston who want to row on Friday afternoon, say at 3:00, we could have an additional turnout then. (We would also need a cox). Four of us went out in 1998 and it was great..

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Please confirm if you will row or please decline the invitation; AND if yes, please state whether you row Port or Starboard or both.
- B. Vote on lunch/brunch and practice row options. - Tell all of us your thoughts on the matter. (Naturally significant others are invited as well, and you can certainly join us even if you don't row on Sunday.)
- C. Might you be available for a Friday 3:00PM turnout?
- D. If you plan to come to Boston for the reunion or just the Reunion Row then you need to make hotel or B&B reservations now because that weekend has been scheduled for many graduations and reunions in the Boston area. The further out of town (e.g. Concord or Lexington) you go the less expensive and more available the place.

**From Bill,**

**February 25, 2003**

I'm really looking forward to the Reunion Row, PORT-side! We have the makings of our bow end from our 2002 IRA Masters Alumni boat. As for the reunion in general, my (almost) total interest is in the "regatta" and thus I am not conflicted by any of the official reunion scheduled talks, lunches, brunches, etc. In other words, I would be delighted to do a 3:00PM Friday afternoon practice AND the: "Oarsmen's Lunch on Saturday. Have practice row 2:30 - 4:30 Saturday afternoon."

Also, no problem with a Sunday brunch after the row. I am most enthusiastic about the full Saturday plan. I can listen to lectures any old time, but this is the only chance (within the next five years) to row with old MIT buddies on the Charles and that's what I really want to OD on. So let there be no ambiguity, I am up for anything that can be arranged. I eagerly await the next words of wisdom from Jim, Jack, and/or Bob.

P.S. In spite of yet another year of "experience"(aka ageing) and increasingly deteriorating knees, I am 15 seconds faster for 2000m on the ergs than I was when we did the IRA in June. Perhaps it's the alignment of the stars or whatever it is that gets aligned.

**From Murray,**

**February 25**

I second Bill Gadzuk's thoughts: Screw lectures and let's row! (oops! that's the sentiment that caused the school to dis-invite me to attend after my freshman year!). Specifically:

A: Yes, I'm coming and I prefer to row Port.

B: Let's have lunch on Saturday then row. (Does anyone remember the time we drove from Dartmouth to the IRA in Syracuse and stopped for dinner somewhere on the way? After a week of training table food most of us ordered pasta and Dick Erickson had a fit! 40 Years later it turns out that was the right thing to do!)

C: I'll be available for a 3PM turnout.

D: I'm here for the row but will partake in as many reunion activities that don't conflict. I already have reservations at the Marriott.

**From Jack Frailey,**

**February 25**

**Murray**, how great to be in contact with you again. NOW I know why you didn't show up at the boathouse when the other sophomores did!

Seriously, I've often wondered how much faster we might have been with you in the boat. You know we were third at the IRA in '61 and '63, and close to Harvard in the Compton Cup those years as well (We WON IT in '62!).

Looking forward to seeing you again.

**From Ron C,**

**February 25**

**Bill**, I'm with you!! I majored in crew in '63 and nothing has changed. I am in better shape than I was in '98 and am looking forward to June.

**From Roger,**

**February 25**

Let me temporize for just a bit. The idea of a bunch of you hauling me around the Charles after lo these many years is quite intriguing, but I need to be sure I can clear the time. (I'm bigger than I used to be, but still under 140, if not by much.) Actually rowing is probably out of the question. I don't think my L1/2 disk will allow that.

**From Jerry,**

**February 27**

I jumped overboard after my Lightweight Frosh season. Now I'm raring to get my butt out of the recliner seat and back into the bow seat. Our coxswain (why is that word followed on my dictionary's next page with the phrase "catch a crab"?) may have to lean a little further out of the shell this year to get his bearing from the City Service (er - Citgo) sign.

**From Bill Pettus,**

**February 27**

Sorry guys, I will not be able to make the event, but I will try to have a beer at race time as a long distance booster. The thing I will miss most is Ken Andersen's oar in my back and sharing a fisherman's platter.

If Dick Erickson were going to be there I might just try to make it just to see how he reacts after all these years. I looked him up in the early 80's at the regatta in San Diego. When I introduced myself, his face turned white and he turned around and walked away without a word... I don't think I was his favorite oarsman.

Anyway, I wish you guys the best and hope to see a victory posted in the media.

**From Elliott,**

**March 12**

Here's another yes, but right now I'm nursing a broken arm and I'm a "little" heavier. But I can cheer. Looking forward to seeing you all.

**From Jack,**

**March 21**

## THE ROW

We have enough oarsmen for 1 ½ boats! Plus one coxswain and several possibilities for a second. I hope at least four more of you will come row with us on Sunday morning, June 8th at the MIT Reunion Row. We will field two boats regardless because we can always fill in the second boat with oarsmen from other classes. If we have more than 16 rowers the extras can fill in with other class boats. Since there are two heats before the "race" everybody gets to row at least once.

The course is approximately 500 meters and the "race" takes about a minute and thirty seconds to two minutes. Although you don't need to be in good shape to row such a short distance we recommend that you do some sort of regular exercise for the next few months. I realize that most of you already do this.

## OARSMEN'S LUNCH

Five years ago at our 35th reunion the oarsmen and their significant others met for a high spirited lunch at Durgin Park on Saturday of the reunion. Since there is no such place anything like that place anywhere near that place then that must be the place for our 40th reunion oarsmen's lunch. Both Jack Frailey and Gary Zwart will be joining us. You and your spouse are invited to join us whether or not you can row with us.

If you are planning to eat with us and are coming to other reunion events then do not sign up for the MIT Box Lunch on Saturday. You will be able to attend the mornings Technology Day's lectures from 9AM - noon. We will gather after those morning lectures are over and probably take taxis to Durgin Park.

At some point, we'll need to make a reservation at Durgin Park, so please confirm if you are coming to the Lunch and if you will be bringing someone.

## SATURDAY TURNOUT

There will be a practice row on Saturday afternoon after the Oarsman's lunch. Probably from 2:30 to 4:15 or so. It will be over in time for you to shower and get to the 5:00 dinner with all MIT reunion classes in a tent on the football field then you all will be bussed to Symphony Hall for Tech Night at the Pops. Rowing on Saturday afternoon means that you will miss two Technology Lectures scheduled between 2:00 and 4:00. So don't sign up for those free afternoon lectures if you're going to row with us Saturday afternoon. We'd like a show of hands of who will show up at this turnout.

## AND FINALLY

I have been asked by our Class of '63 fundraiser (Bob Johnson) to mention to you that your gifts to MIT designated to the "Friends of MIT Crew" (even small 'token' monetary gifts) are very important. This is because a high percentage of crew alumni participation re-emphasizes to the MIT administration that crew is viewed by alumni as an important activity on campus, and is loyally supported. Bob, Jim and I want to keep any fun-related activities separate from fundraising activities but for this particular case, due to its importance, we are making an exception. (gifts to FOMITC can be designated by account #3855200)

**From Murray,**

**March 31**

**Jack**, as requested in last week's email, I am advising you of my intention to attend the Oarsman's Lunch at DP and will be bringing my wife.

Your email indicated the Saturday practice will end in time to make it to the Tech Dinner at 5PM. How many rowers plan to attend the dinner? I'd hate to miss an opportunity to hang out with the guys but understand the awards ceremony and dinner may be important to many.

Similarly, does anyone plan to try to make the Sunday brunch after rowing? I'm thinking it would be another opportunity to do something as a team.

Finally, your email in February asked about interest in a Friday 3PM practice. Was there not enough interest or would it interfere with the current crew's practice schedule? If some of us showed up at the boathouse would we be allowed to take out a boat on our own? Could we shanghai a cox if necessary (using Coach Frailey's old threat of taking his/her rowing scholarship away?)

*(Scholarships? Scholarships, you say? Let me tell you about Title IX and scholarships for women.*

*Rowing quickly became the favored sport when it became apparent to college Athletic Directors that it could provide the numbers necessary, under that law, to balance against big-time football teams. You name the school – Michigan, Ohio State, Kansas, USC, Stanford, Colorado, Miami, Penn State, blah, blah, blah. Under NCAA rules each is permitted to offer 20 (not a typo) full scholarships to women each year! And almost all do.*

*No matter there aren't that many young women in the country at the high school level who have demonstrated the high level of proficiency one might expect as a necessary pre-requisite. Women's coaches simply search everywhere for the best athlete they can find, and offer the scholarship with the hope that the young lady will turn out to be worth it. JF)*

**From Roger,**

**March 31**

I've lost track of whom it is I am to keep informed. I had said that I was interested, but could make no guarantees. Well, the other shoe has dropped and I must reluctantly send my regrets.

**From Murray,**

**May 8**

**Bob J**, please thank John Wasserlein, yourself, and the others for their generous offers to match the first \$100 of my contribution to MIT.

My wife and I recently sent in a donation of \$300 to FOMITC (my wife's employer will match it.) Prior to the receipt of your letter, I had already made a commitment to Tony Fiory but held off , waiting for the matching gift paperwork from Citibank. I don't think, therefore, it would be fair to hold the ten of you to your offer.

Having dropped out of MIT after my freshman year, I never considered myself an alumnus (and hadn't been solicited for donations.) Reading about the class Reunion Row made me eager to participate and learned my two semesters qualified, so I registered as an alumnus. Hopefully, I will be able to support the Institute in each of the following years, as well.

**From Jack,**

**May 9**

Thanks, Dennis, for trying to take the heat about liking to workout in the morning but you are not the only one who is unwilling to act in an age-appropriate manner. In fact, SIX of you said YES to a 8:30AM practice row and three said "Okay, we'll do it if we have to." That's for oarsmen. Bob Vernon, our coxswain is also an okay, but I know where he'll be sleeping on campus so I may need to ask two muscular volunteers to roust Bob out of bed around 7:30AM on that Saturday. But don't make your plans yet, as he might come peaceably after all.

I have contacted Coach Gordon Hamilton and we are CONFIRMED for an EIGHT at 8:15AM. However, the coach cannot let us take out a launch with our own two coaches (Gary and Jack) and our own esteemed manager/driver Elliott Bird. He will, however, let us have a launch if one of his drivers "is available" but doesn't want to make any promises. At this point I don't have word from any of those three if in fact they are willing and able to make that practice row so I don't want to pursue the launch problem until I know what we want to do. Be nice if someone else had a small powered boat we could borrow for the morning. (I'll call Gary and Jack to ascertain their availability and enthusiasm)

At this point I have not heard from Ken Andersen, Rick Metzinger, or Jerry Skinner regarding lunch or the practice row but they did say they would row on Sunday with us. The rest of you indicated you would be there for lunch and whether you'd be with a guest. Thanks.

**From Jack,**

**May 17**

There are twelve of us who want to row at the reunion row. Everyone will get to row but we now must consider how we are to decide who rows in the first boat and who rows in the second

boat. I've discussed this issue with both coach Jack Frailey and coach Gerrit Zwart and believe me there is no easy answer.

I could tell you (again) that this is not a race but just a chance to get on the river again with old friends and that it doesn't matter who rows in what boat. However, many of you have been quite expressive that this is indeed a race and that we are going to win it, notwithstanding that we are over 60 years old and some of the competition are in their 20's and 30's. I applaud and share your enthusiasm.

Therefore, it's a reunion row and it's a race and by God we will win it. With that in mind, let me attempt to explicate a few possible criteria for making the first-boat seating decisions. These are draft ideas presented to prompt you all to contribute your own ideas so that we can reach some sort of consensus.

1. Each oarsman must be in good physical shape. Second-boat oarsmen can regulate their effort to be consistent with their current capacity. The first-boat oarsmen will row flat out. First-boat oarsmen should be working out in some form several times a week for several years and preferably several decades. Rowers in the first boat should expect their heart rate to be between 95% and 99% of its maximum for the two minutes of the race. Each of you needs to affirm that your present physical conditioning is sufficient for the boat you want to row in. (This is not a bragging contest. This is your decision, so a short affirmation will do.)
2. Preference should be given to oarsmen who made a major commitment to MIT crew while they were undergraduates. An important focus of the reunion row is a reunion of guys who made close friendships over a period of many years.
3. There should be some reasonable distribution of lightweight and heavyweight oarsmen.
4. We need 4 guys with experience on the port side and 4 with experience on the starboard side.
5. Priority could be determined by the order in which each oarsman signed up for the reunion row. (This is often what other classes do and what we did in 1998) This is somewhat arbitrary but it feels better than a random draw to some people. It also relieves anyone from making hard decisions. This can be used as the sole criteria or used in conjunction with other criteria.
6. Some combination of rowing ability and strength (past and/or present). This could be partially based on a competitive 500 meter "race" on the Concept II rowing ergometers at the MIT Boathouse. (a mini "Crash-B" for those who know of that "race"). We'd have to meet at the boathouse at 7:15 to allow time to warm up and do the erg "race" before going on the water.
7. Preference should be given to oarsmen who come to the practice row on Saturday morning at 8:15AM. (I believe most of you said you were coming anyway -- you are all so gung ho -- that this criterion will not eliminate anyone.)

7. Second boat volunteers. If someone felt that rowing in the first boat was not the top priority in their life, then they could volunteer to be considered for the second boat and thereby make our decision-making a whole lot easier.

#### WHEN DO WE DECIDE:

We could decide as a group before the practice row but we would have to budget extra time before the practice because we may want the first boat people in the first boat for the practice. I am hoping that the second boat people will also get to practice but I will need to ask Coach Gordon Hamilton if we can use a four-with-cox and persuade Ron Young to cox that morning, or find 4 other oarsmen from other classes to practice with us and then secure another eight. (All of this is difficult to coordinate.) I'm hoping that we can reach some sort of consensus via email so that we will know how we stand well before Saturday June 7th.

Please respond with your affirmations and opinions, preferably copied to everybody else on the list by next Thursday, May 22. Your names are below with my best guess as to what side your row on since some of you didn't answer my last question about that. Please advise me if this is correct for yourself and for others you are sure about.

#### Twelve '63 oarsmen

Andersen, Ken	Starboard	Latimer, Jim	Starboard
Bines, Harvey	Port	Lynch, Jack	Starboard
Buss, Dennis	Port	Metzinger, Rick	Starboard and Port
Cheek, Ron	Starboard	Morton, Murray	Port
Fiory, Anthony	Port	Skinner, Jerry	Starboard
Gadzuk, Bill	Port	Wasserlein, John	Port

PS. Bob Vernon will be coxing the first boat, Ron Young will likely cox the second boat, and Elliot Bird will be our manager. Gary Zwart is planning on coming to the race and to the practice row and is calling coach Gordon Hamilton about finding a manager who can drive the launch. I told Gary that we would be willing to pay this manager for working overtime. Jack Frailey is coming to the race and is hoping he can make the practice row. (Jack has a grandson graduating from high school that day and has to sort out his schedule.)

*(We were very sorry to miss the practice row. Jean and I attended Reed Frailey's graduation, which was most memorable for being held outdoors in a teeming-down for a solid two hours! On his first day at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, he went down to the boathouse to see what they had to say about crew – never before having intimated this interest to anyone else in the family. When they told everyone that practices began at 5:30AM, that did it for him.*

*On the other hand, his three-year-old sister, Jaimie, started rowing enthusiastically as a freshman at Denison University in Ohio. In her sophomore year not only did she end up in the stroke seat, but they lucked out in the Head of the Charles lottery. So granddad strutted proudly on the Cambridge Boat Club veranda as the Denison eight swept by.*

*And – are you ready for this? Also in the boat was Terry Michael's [MIT '70 and crew captain] daughter! JF)*

**From Bill,**

**May 19**

**Jack**, you've laid out the situation/problem very well. Apparently we all seem to be into the competition frame-of-mind, but I think that it is also important to maintain the "fun"/reunion aspect as well, particularly minimizing the chance of creating hard or hurt feelings and too much intra-class competition. I would favor something like the following combination of your suggestions.

No brainers: Of course anyone who participates must be in adequate physical condition to do it, as you outline in your #1. Obviously anyone who volunteers for the second boat can go there (barring the unlikely possibility that more than 4 of us have been frightened off or don't qualify under criteria #1). Participation in the Saturday morning practice row. 4 ports and 4 starboards, which is made easier to deal with as we have equal numbers of "candidates" for each side.

If the "no brainer" screening by itself doesn't resolve the problem, then some benign criteria such as your #5, either order of signing up, or two drawing of straws (as long as we have equal numbers of ports and starboards).

Whatever system prevails, I'm really looking forward to both days and getting together with everyone under the umbrella of rowing.

P.S. With regards "Each of you needs to affirm that your present physical conditioning is sufficient for the boat you want to row in.", for myself I so affirm. The "several times a week for several decades" criteria fits.

**From Denny,**

**May 19**

We are fortunate, indeed, that we have the problem of choosing who of the many qualified candidates will be in the first boat. I wonder how many classes at their 40th reunion have this problem. My guess is, not many!! I agree with your selection process, Jack. Erg scores have the virtue of being objective, and we should decide the seating before our turnout Saturday morning. I'd be willing to come to the boathouse a little early on that morning to do a 500m time trial on the erg before practice. How many machines do they have at the boathouse? Health affirmation: I've been running three miles a day since I quit rowing. I've gotten a lot slower, but it keeps my heart in shape.

**From Jerry,**

**May 20**

Second boat suits me fine. Since I only rowed frosh lights, it doesn't matter which side, but I would love the bow seat (starboard) that I had then. Thanks for the time and effort

**From Ron C,**

**May 22**

1. I'm ready to rock & roll. I ride bikes and am revising my regimen toward a sprint rather than endurance.
2. Yes.
3. Do we have to make weight Friday night?
4. Looks like Metz has an advantage here.
5. Good tie breaker.
6. Might as well get the heart attacks out of the way early.
7. It's great that so many of us can be so gung ho after all these decades. It will be a big advantage to have rowed together even for a few minutes. Things such as what stroke we should row can't be decided during the race.

I know I didn't have a sense of humor when we were rowing, but people do mature.

**From Jack,**

**May 27**

I have been heavily weighing our boating alternatives. I have received email responses to our boating dilemma from about half of you. I don't blame the others for being reticent because I am not happy about having to deal with this issue myself. But since I accepted the responsibility to coordinate the reunion row for our class, I think I must make some decisions. While the responses I have received don't quite make for a consensus they do largely support two key issues I have discussed previously.

The first issue is that I think there should be equal representation among the rowers from the lightweight and heavyweight squads. Of the twelve of us, six are lights and six heavies, so that means we will have 4 of each in the first boat and two each in the second boat. (By the way, I'm counting Ron Cheek as a lightweight since he rowed as one his senior year.)

The second issue is that the reunion row is foremost a reunion of a bunch of guys who rowed together as undergraduates. Most of shared the same thrills and pains of combining a serious program of intercollegiate athletics with a serious program of academics. In other words, many of us formed close friendships with a bunch of guys that were an important part of our undergraduate experience. We did that in a college environment that was generally not very supportive of us, thus making our rowing friends even more important to us.

With this in mind I feel that preference for the first boat should be given to those oarsmen who were part of that cadre of undergraduate oarsmen. That means that I am asking Harvey Bines, Murray Morton and Gerald Skinner, all of whom mostly rowed just freshman year to row in the second boat. Harvey and Jerry have so volunteered and I appreciate their sensibility here. Murray on the other hand, has taken up rowing in an eight in the last few years and has been earnestly training for this "race." So, I wish Murray success in finding other serious races to participate in (there are many) and welcome him to row in our second boat and join us for lunch at Durgin Park on Saturday.

This leaves us with nine candidates (4 Light and 5 heavy) and no easy way to make a selection. However, Jim Latimer has volunteered to row in the second boat. Jim rowed extensively as an undergraduate and last year rowed a 2000 meter race in a senior event at the IRA so he is in terrific shape. I am not comfortable accepting his decision but I feel I must go with it since I don't have a clear cut alternative. If for any reason, any of the eight first boat oarsmen have a last minute problem making the practice row at 8AM on Saturday, it is very important that you call me and Jim so he can step in. I don't think it's fair to ask Jim to come down to the boat house to ride in the launch for the Saturday practice row at 8AM so we must ask him in advance if one of us has a last minute problem.

Therefore, the heavyweight oarsmen in the first boat are Bill, John, Ken, and Tony and the lightweights are Dennis, Ron, Rick, and myself.

I'll be discussing with Jack Frailey and Gary Zwart what seat assignments make sense but we have 4 ports and 3 starboards and one ambidextrous oarsman in the eight, so I think we are fine in that matter. As you know, Bob Vernon is the first boat coxswain. I assume that all nine will meet at the boathouse for a practice row on Saturday at 8:00AM (That's 15 minutes before we go on the water.) If possible, I'd suggest you be there even earlier to warm up on an erg. Gary Zwart will also be there to coach us and as of this writing Jack Frailey is trying to arrange his schedule so he can come. He has a grandson graduating for high school on that Saturday.

The second boat will consist of Jim, Murray, Jerry and Harvey. Ron Young will be the coxswain. If all four of you want to hold a practice row please contact me and I'll give you information about how to find oarsmen from other classes and how to reserve an Eight. (You'll also have to talk Ron into getting up early on Saturday morning.)

**From Murray,**

**May 28**

**Jack,** I appreciate your dilemma in making seat assignments and concur with your decision! It's just great that so many were able to participate.

I would like to get in practice time on Saturday if the rest of the second boat does (my recent rowing has only been in a single scull so I could definitely use sweep practice.) Please let us know what's involved in picking up another four rowers and practice boat.

Regardless, my wife and I will be joining you all for lunch Saturday.

**From Bob V,**

**May 28**

**Murray**, Jack Lynch's computer is down, and may be for quite some time. However, He asked me to respond to your questions about how to arrange a second eight for a Saturday morning practice.

Unfortunately, I do not have your original email, but here is some general guidance.

First, the names of the other '63 oarsmen who are not in the first boat are Jim Latimer, Jerry Skinner, and Harvey Bines. All of their contact information is in the spreadsheet that Jack sent us sometime ago. My advice would be that you line these guys up in advance, as it is not likely they would just show up on Saturday morning.

Second, you might need to contact the Captains of the other alumni boats, who may be looking for oarsmen to fill their boats, or who may have more than eight and would welcome making up a boat with you. The contact to get the captains' names is Moana Bentin at MIT.

Finally, a rowing shell must be reserved for Saturday morning. The contact here is Gordon Hamilton (I think he is the head coach).

Ron Young has expressed a willingness to cox a second boat. However, I don't think he will just show up on Saturday morning unless asked.

**From Jerry,**

**May 29**

I was never known much for being a team player. This month, all you men have shown me what I'm missing. Put me in the shell, put me in the launch, leave me in the boathouse; it doesn't matter where. I shall be there!

Thanks

**From Tony,**

**May 30**

The four of us '63ers at the IRA want to row a 4+ at the reunion row. This neatly solves the problem of splitting 12 rowers between 2 boats. We propose: Ron Young, cox, and Fiory, Latimer, Gadzuk, and Andersen rowing in that order. Ken assures us, "We will win it". The 4+ should get a seven second handicap vs. an 8, according to standard reckoning. We're serious.

Ron: You're in! OK! Organizer guys: Can you arrange that? Thanks.

**From Harvey,**

**May 30**

Dear Moana and Gordon,

I am trying to put together a second '63 crew in combination with extra oarsmen from other classes and to arrange a practice row Saturday morning. Bob Vernon advises that Moana can put me in touch with other captains to see whether we can fill another boat. We have four oarsmen -- three starboard and a port, I think -- and a cox, and that Gordon can arrange for a shell for Saturday and Sunday. My details are below. I hope you can help, and thanks for the effort.

**From Bill,**

**May 30**

**Jack**, go for whatever feels best from your point of view. You're in a terribly difficult situation and your last position was as good as is possible. While Tony's note reflects some of our whimsical talk, most of us are quite okay on your plan which also seems to me to be the kindest resolution to the problem. In other words we won't be disappointed if our IRA 4+ does not happen.

Meanwhile, what will be disappointing is if the thunderstorms predicted for tomorrow (after our two successful practice rows yesterday and today) interfere with or cause cancellation of our race. Already they have rearranged the final day's schedule, moving the heavyweight varsity final to first thing in the morning (~7:30AM) and moving us an hour later into the afternoon when the storms are more likely. You'll soon hear how we did.

*(Here are the results of the Masters Alumni Race at the IRA. The difference in the two times listed below are, of course, the result of the handicapping formula they use. For a full description and post-race discussion see Volume I, May 31 and later. JF*

	<i>Actual Time</i>	<i>Corrected Time</i>
<i>Syracuse</i>	6:22.97	6:01.97
<i>Brown</i>	6:07.50	6:07.50
<i>Cornell</i>	6:52.40	6:09.40
<i>Penn</i>	6:37.42	6:12.42
<i>Temple</i>	6:26.13	6:23.13
<i>BU</i>	6:43.64	6:42.64
<i>MIT</i>	8:05.32	7:12.32
<i>Rutgers</i>	8:55.23	8:35.23)

**From Bob V,**

**May 30**

**Bill**, you wrote some very welcome words. Jack's computer is still down, but I spoke to him today and brought him up to date on recent developments. As you know, even though Jim and I are listed as co-organizers, it is Jack who has put in countless hours putting this thing together.

Without wanting to write a long treatise, let me just summarize by saying that it would be **HIGHLY PREFERABLE** if you guys do drop your "four", and help make up the "first boat eight" which Jack has suggested in his previous memo. (Frankly, the only issue I ever had with Jack's boating was that Jim Latimer had to volunteer to row in the second boat for this thing to work. A very generous offer by Jim, but I would love to have all four of you guys from the IRA sitting in front of me. Maybe the gods will be with us and someone will drop out so that Jim can row in the eight.)

Meanwhile - among the many complications with the "four" suggestion, I received a couple of emails just today from Harvey Bines who is already making arrangements with the other alumni classes to fill out the second eight.

Meanwhile, you guys really go for it this weekend at the IRA. I live just north of Philadelphia and would like to see it happen. Were it not for a long-standing personal obligation I would be over there cheering you on.

**From Jim,**

**June 1**

**Bob**, Ken and I are joining the group at the DP lunch just after the Technology Day lectures without our wives. I will meet Jack and company outside Kresge to take the taxi, not sure if Ken will attend the lectures, but he wants to join the Durgin Park lunch. Maybe he'll travel on his own if he doesn't do the lectures with us.

**From Harvey,**

**June 1**

I heard from Moana this afternoon, and I am contacting captains to fill out a boat. Also, Bob Kurtz will be rowing with us. Just for the record, can you all forward me whether you're port or starboard? I think, excluding Bob, we're three starboards and a port, but I want to confirm.

**From Jim,**

**June 1**

**Harvey**, I know for sure that I am a starboard oarsman. I enclose this cut and paste snippet from an old Jack Lynch email that indicates that Murray Morton and yourself are port siders, Jerry Skinner is a starboarder. If that's true, then we are even parity plus whatever side Bob Kurtz rows. Hope this helps.

**From Harvey,**

**June 1**

**Jim**, thanks. I'm actually a starboard. Jack was trying every ruse he could come up with to keep me off the water.

**From Jerry,**

**June 1**

I'm gonna be there. I want the bow seat. You call it what you want.

**From Harvey,**

**June 2**

'63 will have a full boat and has four (three starboard, one port), possibly five (I don't know yet which side the fifth is), oarsmen and a cox for a second boat. We, the second boat, would like additional oarsmen to fill the boat, and if that won't work, to row with other crews with open seats. We plan a Saturday morning row -- Gordon says one shell remains available at 8:15AM and several shells are available at 7AM (there's a surprise). I think that we are amenable to either time, but I will need to confirm the 8:15 promptly. I assume that filling in from the classes closest to ours makes the most sense, but, if where we place is a consideration, I wouldn't object to rowing with three or four '98 heavies.

Joking aside, if one or more of you can help get us out on the water, we'll be grateful for the assistance.

**From Bob K,**

**June 3**

**Murray**, amazing to hear from you. I'd love to get in one of the shells and will turn out for practice.

**From Harvey,**

**June 3**

I heard from Bob Kurtz. With Bob and Joel Robinson, we now have six oarsmen -- one port, three starboard and two ambi (preferring starboard, but one will have to take port, it seems), and a cox. I also emailed Gordon requesting the 8:15 boat. Two port oarsmen will fill the boat.

**From Jim,**

**June 5**

Flash! We have a second 1963 boat completed. Recruited Bob Johnson (port) and just to finish it off, honorary class of 1963 member and port oarsman Eric Fitch (well, he's actually

from the class of 1995 but he has that lean and hungry 1963 look and attitude, so he'll be fine). I have not actually spoken with a very busy Harvey Bines, second boat recruiter extraordinaire, but I expect had he found anyone else we would have known by now, so it looks good. See you all about 7:45 Saturday morning (actually, Bob Johnson is giving a speech at that time, but he will race with us the next day.) We can either workout with 7 oarsmen, or solicit a willing workout sub Saturday morning, there are always dockhands about. Harvey, if there is a conflict, call me at once and we'll work it out somehow. Thanks, everyone, and see you soon.

**From Murray,**

**June 5**

Great news! Now, can we add the points from the respective finishes of each of our boats to determine the class champion?

**From Bob K,**

**June 5**

My but we're competitive. It's got my juices flowing again.

*(After two earlier elimination heats, the final race was very close with the class of 1963 edging out two other teams, '73 and the combined classes of '68, '58, and '53 who tied for second place. Final times were 1963: 1:02.5, 1973 and 1968/58/53: 1:03.5, after accounting for a class-related handicap of 1.5 seconds for every five years out. Previous winners have been:*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Winning Class</u>	<u>Time</u>
2002	1992	1:12
2001	1976	1:22.4
2000	1965	1:08.6
1999	1954	1:12.5
1998	1963	1:19
1997	1992	1:10.4 JF)

**From Ron,**

**June 10**

Thanks to all of you for last weekend. It was so good to see you and get out on the grungy Charles again. We are processing our pictures and will pass along any that are halfway good.

As of now I'm in training for '08!

**From Jack,**

**June 10**

Yes, thanks to all of you. I have been asked by the class secretary to write a blurb about the reunion row and it would be great if we could post that picture of the whole group on the dock in Technology Review's Class Notes. So if any of you gets a good print and can scan it to digital form with a reasonable resolution you might pass it along to everyone but also to me to give to Mike Bertin. We can also post it to the '63 crew page at some time. (Ron Young would be happy to do that I'm sure.)

**From Ron Y,**

**June 10**

See [http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/2003 Reunion Row/](http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/2003_Reunion_Row/). Let me know if you want the 1280x960 bit version of any of these. ...

**From Bob K,**

**June 10**

**Ron**, I think you expressed the sentiments of all of us. Wasn't it great! I'm already wishing that 2008 were next year.

**From Jim,**

**June 10**

We second boat oarsmen have been wondering how on earth our boat got to be so smooth. The setup was amazingly good, and the ride was real smooth. Several of our men had ear-to-ear grins, they were having so much fun being back on the water again. The best part is the camaraderie and the teamwork. Thanks to all our guys for such a great effort.

**From Bill,**

**June 10**

Indeed the past weekend was a memorable and totally enjoyable experience. It was great seeing you all and to be able to not only recall the past, but to actually truly relive it. For sure us crew people had the best of all the options provided for the reunion participants. It's hard to believe that in the year 2008, we will be getting our third consecutive "Reunion Row" first place trophy. What did you do with this one Jack; or was it Jim Latimer who snuck off with it?

By the way, I hope that any of you who are in the Washington area do feel free to get in touch with me; maybe getting together for a drink or dinner or whatever. Really looking forward to our next one gang.

**From Tony,**

**June 10**

I'd like to second Ron Cheek's note of thanks to everyone. It was great meeting you all, some of you after so long a time since '63.

I'd like to suggest initiating an "Alumni Row Cup" for participants of the alumni row races each year. What I have in mind is an "E-Cup", that is, a permanent web site at mit.edu posting the statistics for each year's races.

Unlike a physical silver cup, there would be room for all the information about the participants and the results. Perhaps Ron Young, being our Web Master, can look into it. Being a technical kind of fellow, I'm disinclined to toss data away (especially the good data collected this year: our 1st and tie for 2nd!).

**From Ron Y,**

**June 10**

See <http://alum.mit.edu/ne/reunions/reunion-row.html> referenced from <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/reunion2003.shtml> - 40Year Check there for references to pictures that I upload.

**From Bob K,**

**June 10**

I never expected that not only would we win on Sunday but that we would also set a course record! How fine is that. I also think that Tony's idea of a virtual cup is excellent, but wedded as I am to triumphal hardware I'd like some of that too. I suggest we buy a cup, donate it, and declare ourselves the first winners. Replies?

**From Ron Y,**

**June 10**

There was a cup last reunion. See <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/notes/crew.shtml>. I don't know where it is now. See [http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/2003 Reunion Row/](http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/2003%20Reunion%20Row/) for some pictures taken this Sunday.

**From Bill,**

**June 11**

I'll drink to that; out of our cup! Sounds to me like Bob Kurtz is a natural to be Chairman of the Cup Committee. Go for it Bob. I'm in for a fair \$\$'s share. You're right Dennis, we do deserve it, especially since we are a repeat winner. Let's just hope that there is wheelchair access to the eights in 2008 when we make it three in a row.

**From Bob K,**

**June 11**

I'd be willing to get the cup if I can get, say, eight affirmative replies. We can think about wheelchair access over the next few years!

**From Jack,**

**June 11**

Fine with me. My only thought is to be sure all the oarsmen, coxswains and even our reliable manager be included on the same basis. In other words, it's the seventeen of us who participated in the row in one way or another. Please let me know if I'm forgetting anyone.

---

Kenneth Andersen  
Harvey Bines  
Elliott Bird  
Dennis Buss  
Ronald Cheek  
Anthony Fiory

William Gadzuk  
Mike Greata  
Robert Johnson  
Robert Kurtz  
James Latimer  
Jack Lynch

Richard Metzinger  
Murray Morton  
Gerald Skinner  
Robert Vernon  
John Wasserlein  
Ronald Young

**From Murray,**

**June 11**

First: thanks to everyone for attending - it was great seeing you all again. I avoided any alumni activities in the past as I didn't feel I belonged. The chance to get in a boat with you all was too good to pass up, however.

Second: special thanks to Jack and Harvey for all the work lining up boats, launch, and extra oars people.

Lastly, I second Bob's idea of donating a trophy. Does anybody have experience dealing with trophy vendors? Are there any criteria for size, number of future slots, etc. Should each year's winning crew's slot have the name of each participant (like the Stanley Cup?) Once we have an idea of some answers to the above we can get an idea of the cost to be shared.

**From Tony,**

**June 11**

Wow, such enthusiasm for a cup! Bob, you're on!

What I had in mind was that ALL the rowers in the alumni races be recognized. That's why I suggested an E-Cup. Failing that, at least 1st, 2nd and 3rd (like in the Olympics). I agree with Bob and everyone else that a real cup would be real nice. It would have to be big, like the Stanley Cup, to accommodate lots of information (a URL citation to alum.mit.edu won't do!) and to (perhaps) outlive us all.

So... I'm IN on the idea and will cough up \$\$ share (even if <100% of '63).

Here's a Proposed Roadmap to the MIT Alumni Row Cup ...

- Nominate or acclaim the Trophy Committee Chairman (That's done! It's Bob, right?).
- Trophy Committee checks with the MIT brass, Gordon, particularly, to get approval of the idea.
- Trophy Committee determines the MAXIMUM height of the trophy, to fit in a suitable and pre-selected place in the boathouse.
- Trophy Committee polls '63 to decide on the Name for the cup; Should there be a dedicational sub-name to our coaches?
- Trophy Committee finalizes what will be written on the trophy.
- Trophy Committee recommends and selects the type of trophy (i.e., not a champagne cooler on a box!).
- Trophy Committee collects funding from 1963 donors.
- Trophy Committee acquires the trophy, prepares it, and delivers it to MIT in time for awards ceremony after 2004 races.

It may be little tacky to inscribe it to ourselves only. I suggest placards or inscriptions, depending on the style of the trophy, for all the previous winners for whom the records exist.

**From Bill,**

**June 12**

My absolutely immediate reaction to Tony's outline was how natural and appropriate it would be to name the trophy in honor of Dick Erickson. What could be more fitting? We the (heavyweights of the) class of '63, as freshmen, were the first crew that he ever coached, a point that he was truly proud of as Tony and I found out when we visited him in March, 2001, a few months before he died. Amongst ourselves, we have been extolling his virtues and profound positive influence on us as individuals and on the MIT crew program in general during the period of excellence when he was at MIT.

*[Dick was our Freshman Coach for five years, '60-'64. In '65 he returned to his alma mater, the University of Washington, to coach the freshmen in preparation for taking over the Head Coaching position there in the fall of '67. Among his many accomplishments were the back-to-back winning of the Grand Challenge Cup by his crews at the Henley Royal Regatta in '77 and '78, and the enthusiastic establishment of the women's program there on a full and equal basis with the men's, which soon became the most consistently successful in the country -JF]*

It would be great to share this with the rest of the MIT rowing community. The proof is in the

pudding. The class of '63 seems to have more long range interest, involvement, and commitment to MIT crew than most classes. As undergraduates our crews were amongst the best that MIT ever fielded. As old timers we have won both "Reunion Rows" that we were eligible to participate in. I strongly feel that Dick's early influences on us were most instrumental in instilling the love, respect for, commitment to, and appreciation for not only rowing, but for life and its challenges in general. Perhaps I'm sounding too schmaltzy, but that's how I feel.

From the point of view of the current crew program, I think that anything that can be done to maintain active interest and involvement of the crew-appreciative alumni is a big plus for the present and future. Significant alumni interest and thus contributions to FOMITC will almost certainly increase as old (and presumably more well off) alums are given the opportunity to participate in current day events such as the Reunion Row and maybe some other not-too-serious races. The Reunion Row will take on even greater significance and become a bigger draw with the establishment of something like the Dick Erickson Trophy. Needless to say, I hope that this hits a positive chord with you guys.

**From Tony,**

**June 12**

Here's a link to a description by a reporter of the Class of 1972 about the 1997 race, won by Class of 1997. It states, "And there was a trophy (to remain in the boathouse trophy case) for the winning team." <http://www.med.uc.edu/1972re/row.htm>

Some trophy vendor's URLs follow ...<http://www.bladesgalore.com/products/oars.htm>  
<http://www.bladesgalore.com/products/miniboats.htm> Article on the Philadelphia Challenge Cup (Au) made by Bailey, Banks and Biddle.  
<http://philadelphia.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/stories/1999/05/03/story8.html>

**From Ron Y,**

**June 12**

As I previously mentioned, we were photographed in 1998 with me holding the trophy. <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/notes/crew.shtml>. So someone should inquire as to where it is and when it will be re-inscribed.

**From Jerry to some friends,**

**June 14**

"Can I see you for a moment, Jerry?"

This question greeted me a week ago this morning as I exited the crew boathouse for the first time since my 1960 freshman year. I thought I recognized the man as Jack Lynch - one of the many accomplished, but unassuming, oarsmen that were only a very dim memory from those early years. His name, among others, had come up over the years, and much more frequently

during the frantic rush of e-mail during the final month of preparation for the crew row competition for the Class of 1963's reunion participation.

I'd just gotten off Boston's Charles River as a member of the (second string) eight man shell for the next day's nine entry competition among the various reunion classes (10th, 25th, 50th). I'd been astounded that only the Class of '63 had used the internet to organize a practice row for the interclass competition - and we had fielded two shells with our original coach returning to see that nothing was amiss.

In 1960 we had two shells - Heavyweight & Lightweight Freshman. 7 days ago, we had 2 shells - Class of 1963's 1st & 2nd string.



What did I know? I, like any other semi-sane person, had never paid much attention to crew races. I had spent my varsity years being a big shot with our outstanding rifle team. Still, I'd immensely enjoyed the day's practice row - all the little things that I had remembered, I had remembered correctly - and the things that hour had brought back from the deep recesses of my memory were wonderful. (That's me kneeling on the bottom right of the photograph.)

Sunday's ideal rowing conditions allowed our shell to turn in an age-adjusted time that would have won previous rows. Ahead of us Sunday were three other shells, with the Class of 1963's first shell taking the proverbial checkered flag.

After getting my attention last week, Jack handed me a pamphlet he'd just written of his reflections of his crew years. My experience was the same as he recounted in the first half of his intensely personal telling of the tale. While the second half of his effort continues with his varsity experience, I can vouch for the picture that he paints of our freshman athletic and academic year.

For those few of you with way too much time on your hands, you can read what my fellow oarsman handed me a week ago: <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/NiceRow.shtml> and clicking on: "Nice Row".

*(“Nice Row” refers to a great book, a superb short read, written by Jack Lynch. He handed out the first printing of 50 copies at the Reunion Row, but don’t despair, he’s had sixty more printed. The web page noted above has this to say:*

*“This memoir, written by a Junior Varsity oarsman from the class of 1963, relates how a squad of unathletic kids at a non jock school carrying the normal heavy academic work load that all MIT students carry somehow managed to live up to a legendary sprint and in their senior year became the “lightweight crew to beat.” In the telling of the story we catch a glimpse of what life at MIT is like as well as see how competitive intercollegiate athletics can be integrated with serious academic studies.”*

*Read it! Get it! JF)*

**From John,**

**June 16**

I have read with interest all of the e-mails re: a trophy for the reunion races, and I don't think that is the optimum answer. This is especially true when you realize we can only win it one year out of five and it would fail to recognize (for the heavies and perhaps the lights) being the only class to win all three of the class day races back in '60, '61 and '62.

I do think the class of '63 has had an enormous effect on MIT rowing, and the best results of any class. I agree that for the heavies Dick Erickson had a huge effect.

My suggestion is to donate on our 45th reunion a shell with the name 1963 or perhaps Dick Erickson on it. Also, on a dedication program we should list, by date, over the four years, all of the crews that were beaten by any boat with class of '63 oarsmen in them. This should include our freshman boats and both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd varsity boats for the three other years

I think this would help encourage other classes and help get the rowing program back on track.

**From Bob J,**

**June 21**

Just in case you haven't seen it, log onto <<http://alum.mit.edu/ne/reunions/reunion-row.html>> It shows the winners since inception, the times, and the handicap “algorithm”. Two points: we have the record time for all years – and look at how much we improved from five years ago!

I like John's idea of donating the “Class of 1963” shell for our next reunion!

**From Bill,**

**July 9**

**Ron,** do you have any constructive use for [these pictures]? Would some other format be better? The more I think about our crew renaissance, the luckier I realize we are. It's been

fantastic being able to relive some of the things from 40 years ago, not just by talking about them but by actually doing them, and best still, with the same guys. Keep ready for 2008!

**From Ron Y,**

**July 16**

If you haven't seen these yet, take a look at:

[http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/2003\\_Reunion\\_Row/](http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/2003_Reunion_Row/) [pictures from Ron Y]

<http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/MurrayMortonPictures/> [pictures from Murray]

<http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/ReunionRow-2003.htm> [pictures from Bill]

There is also a picture at the end of: <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/freshman.shtml> which Murray has partially identified.

Please send corrections.

[Note: I have moved the crew pictures from the Class of 1963 freshman year to <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1963/freshmanCrew.shtml> and added some scanned documents I found.]

**From Murray,**

**July 21**

I have only glanced at the new website but what I've seen so far is great! Not only does it bring back memories but it explains how I have a Columbia and Dartmouth shirts - I'd forgotten about the race at Dartmouth (like Bob Kurtz, I still have my Harvard and B.U. shirts, as well.)

Tony's memory book included copious coverage of Coach Erickson's passing. In them I found reference to a Dick Erickson bobble-head doll. I had heard of the possible existence of this last year from the coach at the local school where I volunteer (he's a 2002 graduate and coxed their crews as well at least one national team.) At that time, I googled the internet to exhaustion but to no avail. Of course, I had to get one.

Here's the deal....make a donation to the Dick Erickson Scholarship Fund and his son, Alan, will send one to you. For full details go to: [www.huskycrew.com/bobblehead.htm](http://www.huskycrew.com/bobblehead.htm).

I did this and also provided a few words about Dick's tenure at MIT (absent from the media coverage.) I also remarked that all of his former athletes spoke of him fondly (and fiercely) at our recent reunion. Alan replied with an email message that I have pasted below:

”Murray,

Thanks for your donation, and thanks for the kind comments. Your words nearly moved my mother and I to tears, it's easy to forget that Dick had coaching success at MIT as well as at Washington, except for those of you who rowed for him at MIT. Congratulations on your success, it's great how these things tend to last a lifetime.

I was born in 1960, so perhaps you have some vague memories of me running around the boathouse at 3 yrs old. I was very fortunate growing up around generations of oarsmen, and indeed rowed for Dad in his Varsity boat at Washington, 1980-82.

I will ship your bobble-head doll in the next day or so. I hope that someday we could meet, it would be fun to share some memories.

Al Erickson”

**From Elliott,**

**August 16**

Hello everyone. I have a starboard oar from 1963 in relatively excellent condition that will be needing a home. Relatively here means you can't tell there's anything wrong with it by looking at it. I've had it in my home since Joe the Rigger gave it to me so many years ago. It seems a freshman had made it unusable.

Earlier, there was another oar in much worse condition--cracked quite badly: must have been quite a crab caught by a mighty heavyweight oarsman--that I was going to take. Joe said to me, don't take that one, I'll find you a better one. And sure enough after a long wait, he pulled me aside one day and said, “See, I didn't forget”. And he presented me with the oar. But now we are moving to much smaller quarters and I do not see how I can keep it, but I also don't want to discard it.

Any takers? Or anybody have any idea of what I might do with it?

**From Murray,**

**August 15**

**Elliott**, I would love to take it off your hands. I "earned" an oar by breaking it during practice (and not by catching a crab. I did that at Dartmouth during preparations for the IRA, carving a perfect parabola before entering the Connecticut River.) I carried my trophy back to the Sigma Chi house and hung it on the wall as others had done. When I went back there two years later someone else had liberated it.

Of course, the problem would be arranging to pick it up. If C. W. Post had crew they might be able to get it to the Tech crew at a regatta and Gordon Hamilton could bring it to Ft. Lauderdale, where I live, when M.I.T. has spring practice. My daughter (who took post-graduate courses at Post before going to vet school) might have friends at Belmont who could put it on a horse trailer bound for Florida but you can see it's already getting complicated!

I'll keep thinking of a way but if anyone else is closer and wants it let them have it. As a volunteer coach at a high school here, I have access to a lot of broken oars but they're all the plastic kind and hold no attraction to me. If it's not wooden with a gray blade and a red 'T', I'm not interested.

Thanks for thinking of us, and for preserving a piece of history.

**From Bill Weber '63,**

**August 15**

**Elliott**, looks like Murray beat me to the punch, but I, too, am interested in your oar.

If you and Murray can't work out the logistics, let me know and I'll be glad to keep it for you. Where are you now (or, better said, where is the oar)?

By the way, I remember quite well the famous Murray Morton crab at Dartmouth. I was in another boat, I think, but I remember several guys telling me that they felt the boat shudder and were surprised to look up and see Murray looking down at them -- upside down. Did a nice job on the rigger, too, as I recall.

**From Murray,**

**August 15**

Let the record reflect that I was rowing with perfect form, even though we were traveling at ramming speed: blade skimming millimeters above the water in ground effect. The number 2 seat (no names) was having trouble getting his oar unstuck and was leaving pretty big puddles. I hit his puddle causing my blade to rotate 180 degrees. When I perfectly inserted the blade in the water at that speed it was like deploying the thrust reversers on a B747! Unfortunately, I used to row in my socks with the boot stretcher laces loose, so the short end of the 12 foot lever propelled me out of the boat rather than burying itself in my rock hard abs - which would have sheared off the oar handle in an instant, I'm sure!

The cold water woke me up right away (Coach had been drilling us so much we were rowing in our sleep) so I had the presence of mind to stay under for several seconds - not wishing to come to the surface in the midst of seven thrashing oars. Of course, the other seven oars had come to a halt pretty quickly, so the other 8 guys were stopped - wondering where I went.

Jack: If this episode makes it into your book and the book is made into a movie, I want Gov. Schwarzenegger to be my stunt double.

**From Elliott,**

**August 21**

Well so far, I have heard from nine people. I have received some interesting offers, but I'm going to hold off on making a decision until after Labor Day. I hope that is okay with all of you. I've also received some enjoyable reminiscences that I will share with all of you when I write next. Believing you may enjoy reading these emails as much as I and in the spirit of the work Jack and others are doing, I will include them. If you have any problem with that, let me know.

But I would like to share now one that I received because it offers two ideas that are worth

considering, or a combination of the two, which might even be better. It is from Tom Kiefer at the Boathouse. Note how he signs his email:

"Let me introduce myself...

I'm one of the two part time boatmen here at the Pierce Boathouse. If there are no takers for your oar I would hope we could find a good place to display it here at Pierce. They don't make oars like that anymore and I know they are hard to come by. I can say that we definitely don't have any more in this boathouse.

I know that at Columbia they actually auction off one old oar per year to the alums. I'm not saying that's what you should do with yours ... just that's how valuable they are.

Oars Truly, Tom Kiefer"

Maybe we could donate the oar as a class to the boathouse. Or maybe we could, as Tom suggests, auction it off, and donate the funds to FOMIT. What do you think?

My wife and I are heading north to Lake George, Montreal (a great deal via hotwire.com), and then to Cape Ann in Massachusetts. I don't know if I'll be able to check my email. But I'll write again shortly after Labor Day.

**From Tony,**

**August 21**

I'm for Elliott donating the oar to MIT (tax advantage to boot!) if he's agreeable to Tom's "offer". Perhaps we can all autograph it at some ceremonial occasion in the future! (My old '63 oar is collecting dust in the corner of the garage: unfortunately I broke it during a 1963 practice session: damaged goods of low value.)

**From Bob Wild,**

**August 22**

I had one variation on this theme that I previously shared with Elliott but I'll just lay it out for general consideration. In lieu of an auction, anyone willing would chip in, say, \$25 or more to purchase the oar from Elliott and we would give it to Chris Miller as a get-well gift. In addition to making some gesture to Chris, I thought that many people donating small sums might raise more money than a single auction (of course, anyone willing to pay a fortune for the oar could still contribute it to Chris's gift). Once we had bought the oar from Elliott, he would make a gift of the entire proceeds to the Friends of Crew and claim the tax deduction (this should handsomely repay Elliott for his generosity and remove any doubt the IRS may have concerning the value of the gift).

**From Jack,**

**August 24**

**Elliott**, I've been away so just now am reacting to the OAR issue and I have not yet read the other responses that I see on my list of 150 emails. My reaction is:

Do something "public with it" rather than just give it to one person. Your idea and Tom Kiefer's sound perfectly reasonable. You might also sound out Jack Frailey and Gary Zwart and the current coaches for opinions and alternatives.

**From Bill,**

**August 24**

It's really great to see the interest that your oar has stirred up. There have been a lot of good suggestions and worthy potential step-fathers for the soon-to-be-homeless oar (the oar without an oar house?). I think that Jack just expressed things very well (as he also did in his wonderful memoirs) when he said "Do something public with it" rather than just give it to one person." If we can raise some \$\$'s for FOMITC or some other worthy MIT rowing cause with it, that's best as far as I'm concerned. I certainly will be delighted to throw in whatever the village elders decide is the correct amount. Now if we can only decide who the village elders are.

### **Thoughts on organizing the MIT class of 1963 oarsmen participation in the 2003 Reunion Row**

I came to organize the 1998 (my 35<sup>th</sup> reunion) Reunion Row because I had been on the Class of 1963 reunion committee and when the Alumni Office coordinator said our class needed a contact person for the reunion row I said I would do it. A year before our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion, I asked Bob Vernon (varsity coxswain, captain of the lightweights, fraternity brother and close friend) who lives near Philadelphia and Jim Latimer (heavyweight who has also been on the reunion committee in the past) who lives near Boston, to help organize the reunion row for our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion. I wanted someone to look over any emails I sent for content, style and grammar and to share in any decision making that was to be done.

In 1998, Lauren Sompayrac (lightweight who had been a close friend in college) and I called all the lights and heavies. We had eleven oarsmen and one freshman coxswain and made our boating based on who had signed up first. Lauren had lived in Colorado and Idaho and had not visited Boston very much and wanted to go to Durgin Park so we got all the guys and their spouses and Jack Frailey, the heavyweight coach in 1963 all to have lunch at Durgin Park on Saturday a few hours before the 3 PM row. Both the lunch and the row were huge successes. Wining the race (based on an age handicap) was an added thrill but I think the guys would have been enthusiastic anyway.

I have to insert here that for whatever reason, and I can go on at length with why I think this is so, the class of '63 (lights and heavies) have always been very enthusiastic. For example the lightweight varsity was in a three-way tie with Navy and Cornell at the 1962 Eastern Sprints which bolstered enthusiasm for all who rowed at the time. I mention this because I never

actively recruited people to participate in the reunion row. I simply asked and they came. I did serve as a focal point that made the event more concrete to people and I did start early making it easier for them to plan for the event. So now I'll explain what it is I did do. However, my computer crashed about 12 days before the reunion and although I had a backup of my files I had failed to backup my emails and email addresses. As a consequence, I have to rely on my recollection of what occurred when.

In the late summer of 2002, (10 months before the row) I sent out an email to the oarsmen for whom I had email address. This was mostly the guys I had contacted in 1998 who were simply the guys Sompayrac and I remembered, that is, the guys who rowed at least three years. The email encouraged them to start thinking about coming and to start a modest training routine if they didn't already have one. In 1998, I had two guys who were a bit out of shape and I wanted to be sure we didn't have any heart attacks on the course. Within a day I had a few responses.

Sometime around Thanksgiving I sent out another email stating who I had heard from and mentioning the possibility an Oarsmen's lunch or brunch. It was about this time that Ron Young (who had been a freshman coxswain) and who is our class webmaster forwarded one of my emails to a larger list. That list has information on every person in our class who indicates on their alumni page that they rowed at sometime in their undergraduate career. Later in the early spring the alumni office appointed someone to coordinate the reunion row and she upon request sent me an EXCEL file with that information. (BTW, I have no idea what that person did or was supposed to do.)

In February, I emailed the group a rough outline of the overall reunion schedule and a detailed discussion of decisions we had to make. At this time I had enough oarsmen for one boat, two coxswains and started asking for more people for a full second boat. The issues we had to resolve were whether we wanted to hold a practice row on Saturday afternoon and weather we wanted a Oarsmen's lunch at Durgin Park on Saturday or an Oarsmen's Brunch on Sunday after the row. Both of these activities conflicted with MIT's Technology Day events.

I was very frustrated during this period because very few of the oarsmen emailed me a full response to my query. I made decisions based on just four responses plus the inputs of my two committee members. We elected for the Durgin Park lunch on Saturday and a Saturday afternoon practice row.

There were many more emails in March-May as more oarsmen signed up. One of those emails was timed to arrive immediately after the oarsmen received their surface-mail reunion registration forms from MIT. We found out that the boathouse would only let us have a practice row at 8AM or so on Saturday morning which Bob and I felt would not sell. However we were proven wrong as several guys emailed us to say they worked out every morning at 6AM and liked it.

Late in May I was just three oarsmen short of a full second boat and told them that they were on their own for scheduling a practice row and for filling their three empty seats. One guy, Harvey Binds, who had only rowed his freshman year took over and got them organized and found the men needed from other classes.

My big problem during the late spring was how to decide who got to row in the first boat. First come first serve didn't feel right to me so I wrote an email to all the guys who had signed up explaining what the issues were and asking them for their opinions. I got very few responses but I did get three second boat volunteers which greatly eased the problem. We said that it was just a 500 meter "non-race" but in fact I think people cared very deeply about being in the first boat. My email is appended at the end of this note. In the end it worked out well, primarily I think, because two guys, Jim Latimer and Harvey Binds, created a very enthusiastic environment for the second boat.

Incidentally, only about half of the guys participating in the Reunion Row formally registered for the reunion even though they traveled long distances to be in Boston. They simply did not feel a connection with the large-scale part of the institution. (The exception is small living groups. I also helped organize a reunion dinner for my classmates in my fraternity. Twelve out of thirteen came and most of them did not formally register for the reunion either. Evolutionary psychologists note that one's allegiance to groups is most always through a small pack where you know all the members well.)

Let me try to summarize my experience in terms of some concrete suggestions for other classes.

1. Find a person to be the chief contact point and coordinator. This person needs to be comfortable with email but need not live in the Boston area. I'd start asking two years before the row.
2. Let that contact person ask one to three others to be on the planning committee. They need not be local but at least one Boston area person on the committee may prove helpful.
3. The first email should go out roughly a year before the event. A good time might be just after the previous reunion row, i.e. late in June. One could then refer to how that reunion row went. Email list in an EXCEL file is available from the Alumni Office. Bounced email addresses should be tracked down by phoning.
4. Some sort of communication, email or phone call, is good around thanksgiving but not too near the Christmas holidays. A gentle reminder mostly plus report on early signups. This might be a good time to address how boat seatings are to be handled although one could also wait to see if the problem comes up at all.
5. If a private room in a restaurant is desired for a lunch or brunch then November/December this is a good time to secure one for June even if it only for 15-20 people (Including partners).
6. If the reunion class committee is planning a dinner during the reunion weekend (I think that would likely be on Friday Evening) the crew people could consider asking for a table or two to be reserved for them.
7. Email or phone calls in February urging people to get their airline tickets and hotel reservations at that time to avoid the big crunch due to the many graduations and reunions in Boston in June.
8. Now is the time to decide on details such as a lunch or brunch on Saturday or Sunday and a possible practice row on Saturday morning (7:00 or 8:15AM I believe)
9. Email in March immediately after MIT reunion registration forms have been mailed.

10. If a lunch or brunch is scheduled at a public restaurant then reservations should be made in March. A private room in a public restaurant is best but March may be too late to secure one but you may not have good estimate of the attendees till then. Some places will want a serious monetary deposit to hold a private room and this can be risky and may not be worth the complication.
11. Final email in the 2nd or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May confirming the plans and who is attending. Providing Boston contact phone numbers (hotel numbers and local people's homes or cell phones)
12. None of the above details matter. The essential point is that someone needs to coordinate things well in advance so that people can get their long term plans made and any scheduling conflicts resolved. Oarsmen and oarswomen will want to row again. You provide the opportunity and they will come.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Lynch '63