

Dragon Tales

Winter 2000



Volume 5 No. 1

A Quarterly Publication of DragonSports USA

From the Bow of the Boat

Richard Cole, President

This year DragonSports USA will be six years old. We incorporated on June 29, 1994 and have grown from a group of less than 50 individuals to an association of nearly 900. Growing pains have been a part of our experience, but we have kept true to our goals to provide opportunities for fitness and friendship through paddle sports. We continue to provide safe and inexpensive paddling opportunities and support the overall growth of dragon boating in the community. We can be proud of what we have accomplished and we look forward to an even brighter future.

Of course, changes are constant, so to recap the past year, here are the highlights:

- Last December the Board elected a new member, Nancy Cooper, to replace Roberta Cobb who resigned. We are pleased Nancy has joined the Board. She began paddling in 1999 with a team formed from an association named OWLS. This is the acronym for Oregon Women Lawyers. Nancy is a partner in the Law Firm of Steinman, Cooper, Wiscarson. As a Board member she cannot represent DragonSports but her knowledge, training, and skills have already proven very helpful. Also, she has volunteered to be the liaison between the board and our Team Boat Rental Coordinator, Laurie Jordan, and the Caller/Tiller Coordinator, Tina Lyons. We welcome Nancy to the Board and wish her well.
- Those of you involved in Team Boat Rental and Scheduling are familiar with our new coordinator, Laurie Jordan. This is a complex task and Laurie has been busy learning the ropes. Also, she has developed an up-to-date "Packet" for teams who want to practice for races beyond the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Race in June. Teams thinking about boat rentals, please contact Laurie immediately. Because of insurance and

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2000 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Dragon Boat Races

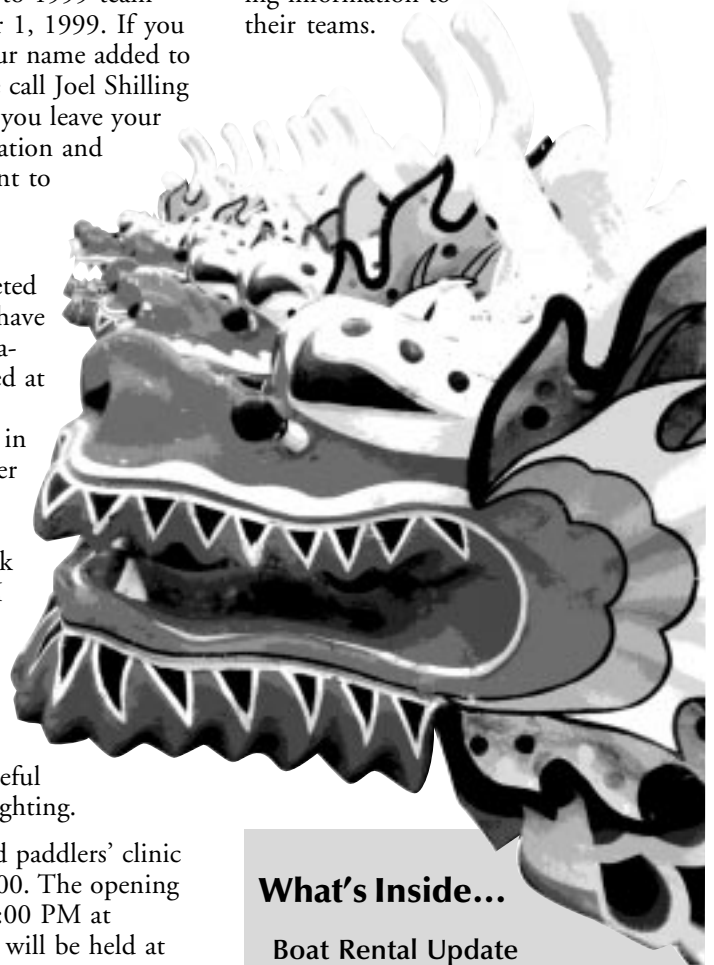
Joel Shilling

The 2000 Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Dragon Boat Races will be held on June 10-11, 2000. The fee for the 2000 race will be \$1200.00 for adult teams, \$600 for high school teams, \$600 for out of area North American teams and complimentary for overseas teams. Applications, instructions, and waivers were sent out to 1999 team captains on December 1, 1999. If you would like to have your name added to the mailing list, please call Joel Shilling at (503) 306-1020. If you leave your fax number, an application and instructions will be sent to you.

Practice times will be assigned when completed applications and fees have been received. Applications may be submitted at any time but practice times will be assigned in the order received after January 1, 2000. Practices may be held on any day of the week beginning at 5:00 AM with the latest time to start a practice being 8:00 PM. As in past years, teams who practice after dark must be extremely careful and use appropriate lighting.

Dotting of the eye and paddlers' clinic will be on April 1, 2000. The opening ceremony will be at 1:00 PM at RiverPlace. The clinic will be held at Quest Diagnostics, 6600 S.W. Hampton Street and will begin with registration at 7:30 AM. Subjects to be presented will be discussed at the February Captains' meeting. Faculty presenters are needed for the clinic; if you are interested, please call Joel Shilling.

The first Captains' meeting was held at Quest Diagnostics on Wednesday, January 20th and every third Wednesday of the month at the House of Louie restaurant at 6:30 PM. Each team should arrange to have a representative at each of the Captains' meetings as this will be the primary means of disseminating information to their teams.



What's Inside...

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Promoting fitness and friend

DragonSports USA Open Practices

Mon., Wed., and Fri. 9:00 AM
Tuesday 6:00 PM
Thursday 6:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM

All evening practices
should be using lights.

*Notice: Be considerate to other teams
by bringing the boats in 5 minutes
before your practice ends.*

For information concerning fees,
please call the information line
(503) 639-2799. Checks for dues or
new memberships should be mailed to
Bill Collet, Treasurer at:

3809 N.E. 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97212

Please visit our website at:
www.dragonsports.org

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From the Bow *cont. from page 1*

liability situations, there are several requirements that must be met before teams can use the boats. E-mail Laurie at: lkjordan@teleport.com or phone (503) 274-9667.

- Those of you interested in Calling and Tilling for the regular club practices, please contact Tina Lyons at: tlyons@profood.com or phone (360) 892-2677. Remember the incentive program that provides the Caller/Tiller one quarter free dues for each 6 full practices you call or till.
- One change for DragonSports involves our efforts toward becoming a 501C3 federally tax exempt organization. The necessary changes will be voted on at our next annual business meeting March 23rd. All paddlers on our lists are invited. Active Members (those who have dues paid up) are eligible to vote.

The DSUSA Board is committed to continue improving the paddling services for our members and the community. With the willing help and cooperation of our volunteers and supporters, it appears to be a very bright New Year. If you want to know more about volunteering or getting more involved, please contact me at: rac@teleport.com or phone (503) 289-0079.

Boat Rental Update

Laurie Jordan

As your team boat rental coordinator, the season has picked up considerably since taking on this position in August. My approach is to accommodate requests for times on a first-come, first scheduled basis. This is fair and works really well when there is prompt communication from the team schedulers. I understand what a demanding responsibility it can be to coordinate practice times that work for your entire team. The following partial list of guidelines is designed to keep the process as simple, fast, and accurate as possible.

First: It is very important that each team designate **ONE PRIMARY AND ONE SECONDARY SCHEDULER**. I will respond to requests for changes in times and cancellations, only when the request is made through one of these designated persons.

Second: Although I am willing to discuss availability via telephone, I must have a confirming e-mail setting forth the times you are actually requesting and will be paying for. After the practice times are confirmed by me, we **MUST** receive your payment promptly and **PRIOR** to any practice taking place.

Third: Newly formed teams must provide:

- A list of all team members
- Signed membership forms and waivers and the \$25 joining fee for any members new to DragonSports.

In order to serve you promptly, **COMPLETE** information is necessary at the time of request. This must include: **Your Name, Team Name, Specific day(s) of the week, Hour of the day(s), and the number of weeks**. I also need to know if you are asking for one boat or two. Along with your name I will need a telephone number and e-mail address in order to reply as promptly and easily as possible.

I have a "Team Boat Rental Packet" that I will mail to you upon request. It contains a complete set of guidelines, rules and regulations, processes, and fees involved in using the boats.

If you have questions or wish to receive a packet I can be reached at: lkjordan@teleport.com (e-mail preferred) or phone (503) 274-9667.

Lorin Moentenich a Seasoned Paddler

Cris Trimble

Meet Lorin Moentenich, a seasoned paddler and an enthusiastic member of DragonSports USA.

Lorin has been dragon boating for nearly eight years. His racing experience began with the Freightliner Dragon Boat Team in the 1992 Rose Festival. In 1998, he joined DEQ's Civil Serpents team. In addition, for the past three years, he has coached the Aloha High School team. Lorin says that he really enjoys working with the kids.

In 1994, Lorin became a DragonSports USA member because he wanted to do more paddling and to participate in more races. He was really drawn to the club's credo: "Fitness and Friendship through Paddle Sports." Since joining, he has volunteered his services as a tiller, caller and repair person for the club as well as teaching the practical portion of the annual Tiller's Clinic. He has also performed many services for the Kaohsiung Sister City Association including setting up equipment for the Rose Festival races.

When asked which of his experiences are especially memorable, Lorin recalls two outstanding events: The first was in 1993 when he raced in Vancouver B.C. It was his first international event and the whole team stayed in a dormitory at the University of British Columbia. He recalls: "The hall, the parties, and the fun were like going back in time to my youth." The other peak experi-

Friendship through paddle sports

ence was his "Dragon Boat Wedding." Lorin met his future wife, Avis Newell, while paddling for the DragonSports USA club team. They were married aboard the club boats and honeymooned in New Zealand where they raced with the Dragon's Breath International team.

Lorin works for the Freightliner Corporation as a Test Technician who tests new truck designs for durability, and also to make sure that they meet Federal and State standards. According to Lorin, "breaking is success". For relaxation, Lorin and Avis enjoy kayaking, sailing Lido 14s, cross-country skiing and other outdoor sports. Last season he tried rowing and sculling with a Lake Oswego club. This busy outdoorsman is also the father of four children: Tony, Joshua, Austin, and Nikki.

Christmas Caroling a Huge Success

Gloria Jones

What a night we had, in spite of the weather! There were over 38 people that participated at our annual Christmas caroling event. Dewey and Trish Gault and Lorin Moentenich did a fantastic job decorating the boats. With bullhorn in hand, keyboard artist Joel Shilling, two song leaders, myself and LeRoy Santiago, along with tillers Tina Lyons and Jim Evans, we hit the river. It went something like this: to the tune of "Jingle Bells."

Splashing through the waves, in a boat so full of slaves, on the waves we go, paddling all the way.

The night was cold and dark, misfortune seem our lot, we got into a Power Ten Now and Whee we moved a lot.

Obbbbbb! Splashing waves, breaking waves on the way we go.

Music ringing in our ears, as we paddled oh so slow.

Oh splashing waves, breaking waves on the way we go.

Song of splendor filled the air in a boat so full of joy.

As our two boats moved down the Willamette river side-by-side, we lit up like a well dressed Christmas tree. Well, almost side-by-side; some didn't have the rhythm and some thought we were having a race, but we filled the air with glorious, melodious, and almost heavenly music. We tried to keep up with the Christmas Ships but they were on a mission and we were just having fun. As we returned to the dock, it seemed all too soon to end the night of fitness and friendship through paddle sports, so we continued our

celebration at Mazzi's in a room reserved for the occasion. Thanks again to Dick Jones for locating another restaurant on such short notice. We were joined by many that didn't make it down to the river. As we proceeded to Mazzi's, Joel said he should just go home, "I'm pretty wet!" Dick Jones assured Joel that he wouldn't need to stay long. Food, fellowship, and merriment were had by all, plus we honored our DragonSports USA founder Dr. Joel Shilling's birthday. He was joined by his wife Sandy, with a huge birthday cake, (thanks to Mary Milestone) gifts, and of course song. Surprise, surprise, Joel had no clue! Fortunately Dick Jones reminded me that we should call Sandy, Joel's wife to see if she had received word that the restaurant location had changed. She had not heard! Another save by Dick Jones.

PDBA Accepted as USDBF Regional Affiliate

Carol Battan

In late 1998, the United States Dragon Boat Federation requested regions to organize themselves in order to help develop structures for determining national and international competition. Two regions have now established themselves as affiliates of the USDBF: the Midwest region, known as the American Dragon Boat Association and the western region, known as the Pacific Dragon Boat Association, USA. The eastern region of the US is just beginning the planning process of formation.

An e-mail list provided the beginning of the formation of the association, followed by its first formation meeting on Feb. 6, 1999 hosted by Edward Quan, one of the west coast USDBF Executive Council representatives and from Dragon Cup USA. A dozen or so attendees from Washington, Oregon, and California participated in the meeting and outlined a format for the organizational structure and its first regional championship. The USDBF offered each regional affiliate three teams (open, women, and mixed division) the opportunity to compete in the Club Crew Championships in Sydney, Australia. Prior to the regional affiliate existence, clubs qualified to compete by documenting their race history and not via direct competition. Unfortunately, Australia had organizational difficulties which resulted in the IDBF canceling the event.

The USDBF provided a list of requirements for regional affiliates to adhere to including incorporation, bylaws, provision of regional races, adherence to IDBF statutes, competition regulations, rules of racing, bylaws and payment of annual fees. This then provided the focus for the first year of PDBA in order

to satisfy these requirements. On December 17, 1999, the USDBF accepted PDBA's application for Regional Affiliate of the USDBF.

Founding members of the PDBA included nine paddling organizations. Race Organizers included: Dragon Cup USA (Seattle), DragonSports, USA (Portland), International Cultural Exchange Association (Long Beach), and International Dragon Boat Association (Oakland). Paddling clubs included: Dragon's Breath International, Cascadia Canoe Club, Wasabi Paddling Club, San Diego International Dragon Boat Racing Association, and the San Francisco Bay Area Dragon Boat Foundation. PDBA is indebted to these organizations for their participation and financial support in getting this organization off and running. Thank you!

Executive council members for 1999 included Carol Battan (DBI) as President, Edward Quan (Dragon Cup, USA) as Vice-President, Gloria Jones (DragonSports, USA) as Treasurer, and Heather Weinstein (DragonSports, USA) as appointed Secretary. Amy Solomonson (Cascadia Canoe Club) also served as appointed Secretary until her move from Portland at which time Heather volunteered her assistance.

The association is now starting its second year in existence and its first as a recognized regional affiliate. We are currently seeking membership applications, will be holding officer reelections, and will be holding a meeting for board members and all interested parties here in Portland. We are seeking input in reference to benefits we can provide, especially for novice and local teams.

The PDBA meeting will be Saturday, March 18, 2000 at the Central Library downtown Portland in the U.S. Bank meeting room. A board meeting will be held at 10 AM followed by an open forum at 2 PM for anyone interested in PDBA. The board meeting is open to anyone; however the focus is on board member discussion. At 2 PM, we welcome and encourage input and questions.

If you are interested in more information about PDBA and/or wish to join its e-mail list, please contact Carol Battan at: carol@battan.com or phone (503) 768-9998.

DragonSports USA Website

Gary Brown

If you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to visit the DragonSports website at: www.dragonsports.org. It's been in operation for about six months now, and contains the latest information on club events, open practice schedules, as well as electronic copies of DragonTales.

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Readers who are interested in placing an advertisement in DragonTales are welcome to do so as follows:

Rates:

\$10 for active members

\$20 for corporations or nonmembers

Ad Format:

2³/₈" x 2³/₈"

Advertisers should furnish either electronic files, camera-ready art, or a proof copy. Advertising copy acceptance is subject to space availability and approval by DragonSports Inc. For more information please contact Stephanie Travis at (503) 283-6450.

Do you have any ideas or topics you'd like to see covered in DragonTales? Comments and article inspirations are always welcome.

Awakening the Dragon

"Dotting the Eye" ceremony

Saturday, April 1, 2000
 1:00 PM

Waterfront Park at RiverPlace
 South of the Hawthorne Bridge

Looking for New Board Members

Do you...

- Provide guidance
- Have good leadership skills
- Enjoy challenging opportunities

Please contact Richard Cole at (503) 289-0079 or e-mail at rac@teleport.com if you are interested.

What's Happening in 2000...

Captains' meetings, 3rd Wednesday of the month; House of Louie restaurant at 6:30 PM.

Awakening the Dragon
 "Dotting the Eye" ceremony
 Waterfront Park at
 RiverPlace

April 1

N.A. Dragon Boat Races

PKSCA Dragon Boat Races Portland, OR	June 10-11
Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Vancouver B.C.	June 16-18
Pacific International Dragon Boat Festival Seattle, WA	July 9
5th Annual AT&T Hawaii Dragon Boat Festival Honolulu, HI	July 22
Long Beach Dragon Boat Races Long Beach, CA	August 5-6
California International Dragon Boat Festival Oakland, CA	August 12-13
International Festival Dubuque, IA	September 9-10
DragonSports USA Vancouver, WA	September 9
Northern California International Dragon Boat Championship Foster City, CA	October 1-2