

# Dragon Tales

Summer 2001

Volume 6 No. 3

A Publication of DragonSports USA



## From the Bow of the Boat

*Gloria Jones, President*

It's time to get your team applications in for our Regattas; Contact Jim Evans for the July 21st Summer Regatta at [jeva8423@aol.com](mailto:jeva8423@aol.com) or 503-682-5815 and Christina Lawton at [Christina@techlaw.com](mailto:Christina@techlaw.com) or 503-848-6865 for the Fall Regatta on September 8th. Both Regattas will be held at Vancouver Lake, Washington.

Great racing in Portland and Canada! Several of our local teams made it to the finals in the Vancouver, B.C. races and did very well.

DragonSports USA open club practices have resumed. We have gained a number of new paddlers that want to continue paddling throughout the summer and fall, as a result of the PKSCA Dragon Boat racing experience. Contact us if your team is looking to fill your roster for any of the upcoming races, whether local or away. Call our hotline at 503-639-2799.

Use your talents and help DragonSports and it's members by calling and/or tilling one practice session each month. It's a great way to meet other paddlers and see different coaching/calling styles. Contact Tina Lyons at [tlyons@profood.com](mailto:tlyons@profood.com). Many open club practices will need to take out both boats and we need additional qualified volunteers. Let's make Portland the capital of dragon boat racing in the U.S.

Inside read the information on the PDBA Championship held August 11-12th in Oakland California. DragonSports is fielding one or two teams from DSUSA members to participate. The

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## Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Dragon Boat Races 2001

*Dr. Richard Cole*

The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Races were opened on June 9, 2001, with a ceremony conducted by Dr. Richard Cole, President of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association. Participating in the opening ceremony were Portland's Mayor Vera Katz; Director General Frank Liu from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle; the Honorable Speaker Huang, Chi-chuan and several council members of the Kaohsiung City Council; Shu-Te High School Board Chairman Lee, Fu-Peng; Principal Shang, Leh-ye; and the President of the Portland Rose Festival Association, Mrs. Marsha Apperson. A "Lion Dance" was also performed by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Lion Dance team.

The race was conducted under the Race Directors Mel Pittmon and Roberta Weinstein. Eighty-seven teams participated in the June 9 and 10 races. There were three divisions: Mixed, Women, and High School. Sixteen teams were in the Women's division, 17 teams in the High School division, and 54 teams in the Mixed division. Of the 87 teams, 12 were from outside the Portland area: Canada, California, and Washington. One hundred fifty-five volunteers helped make the event run smoothly.

There were two special races: The "International Friendship Race" and the "Gorman Cup". The "International Friendship Race" includes the girls from Shu-Te High School from Kaohsiung and three local Portland-area high school girls' teams. The "Gorman Cup" involved 4 teams of women who are all breast-cancer survivors. This special race is in remembrance of all of the cancer paddlers who have passed away over the past several years. There were also two other special teams that did not race in special cup races, but must be mentioned. These two teams are the "Special

Dragons" and the "More Special Dragons", all of these paddlers are handicapped young people.

Nearly seventy unsolicited e-mail messages sent to the race directors indicated a wide spread satisfaction with this event. The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association is happy that this Cultural Festival of Dragon Boat races is so well attended and enjoyed.

### 2001 PKSCA Race Results

#### Women's Division

1st: Wasabi Women	2:55.47
2nd: SSPMS	3:00.00
3rd: Catholic Cruisers #1	3:06.31
4th: Snapdragons	3:06.81

#### High School Division

1st: Water Walkers	2:55.53
2nd: Cleveland Dragon Tails	2:57.22
3rd: Franklin Aqua Rockets	2:57.22
4th: Centennial School	3:00.66

#### Mixed Division 1

1st: Wasabi Mixed	2:45.25
2nd: Kai Ikaika	2:53.35
3rd: Crews Control	2:57.44
4th: Cascadia Canoe Club	3:01.00

#### Mixed Division 2

1st: Prudential Power Dragons	2:53.85
2nd: SF Bay Area Dragons	2:54.12
3rd: Draggin'Bottom II	2:55.93
4th: Adidas America	2:56.87

#### Mixed Division 3

1st: Dragon Willies	2:52.40
2nd: Halton's Dragon's Fever	2:57.22
3rd: SF Bay Area Dragons 2	2:57.50
4th: Stumptown Paddlers	3:01.28

#### Mixed Division 4

1st: U-Dragon-U	3:01.28
2nd: Crazy Cousins	3:07.00
3rd: PGE Power Dragons	3:09.53
4th: Closing Fast	3:13.94

# 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.*

Mail checks for dues/new memberships to:

Greta Gibbs/Attorney at Law  
1100 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1200  
Portland, OR 97204

Please visit our website at:  
[www.dragonsports.org](http://www.dragonsports.org)

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## From the Bow... *cont. from page 1*

practice session for the all comers team sponsored by DSUSA will use the second boat during open club practices to prepare for the PDDBA Championship race. To participate in this race, please contact Gloria Jones at [grace@spiretech.com](mailto:grace@spiretech.com) or 503-639-2799 for more information.

As always, more information and back issues of DragonTales can be found on our web page at [www.dragonsports.org](http://www.dragonsports.org)



## PDDBA Championship Race, August 11-12, 2001

The Pacific Dragon Boat Association, the West Coast regional affiliate of the United States Dragon Boat Federation, will be holding its Championship race on August 11 and 12 in Oakland California. This annual event is rotated between PDDBA member races and has been previously held in Long Beach and Seattle. Each year the event grows and the stakes increase. The winners in 2001 will gain the right to represent the United States at the World Club Crew Championships in Rome, Italy in 2002. The races this year will be held in conjunction with the California International Dragon Boat Festival. This two day event is now in it's fifth year and should be an outstanding opportunity for West Coast teams to meet and prove who is Best in the West. Three divisions will be decided; Open, Women, and Mixed. Trophies for each division winner and medals three places deep await the victors in Oakland. In order to enter the PDDBA Championship heats, a club must be a member of the PDDBA. Current PDDBA member clubs include Wasabi Paddling Club, Bay Area Dragons (BAD), San Diego

International Dragon Boat Racing Association, DieselFish, Dragon Warriors, LA Racing Dragons (LARD), and an associate member, Killer Guppies. PDDBA organizer members include: DragonSports USA (Vancouver Lake) California Dragon Boat Association (San Francisco), International Cultural Exchange Association (Long Beach), Hawaii Dragon Boat Association, and the International Dragon Boat Association (CIDBF, Oakland). The IDBA has been officially selected as the organizer for the 2002 US National Championships. Winners in 2002 will be members of Team USA for the World Dragon Boat Championships in 2003 to be held in Shanghai, China!

For more information regarding the PDDBA Championships go to the following link:  
[www.geocities.com/idbajls/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/idbajls/index.html)

For more information on the PDDBA or USDBF see [www.usdbf.com](http://www.usdbf.com)

## CDBA Championships September 29-30, 2001

*Hans Wu*

Come on out to San Francisco for the 6th Annual Northern California International Dragon Boat Championships on September 29-30, 2001!

There are some really exciting things in store for the California Dragon Boat Association's (CDBA) dragon boat races this year. The race site has been moved from Foster City to Lake Merced in San Francisco and we will have four brand new Buk dragon boats to race in addition to the Hong Kong dragon boats we already have. The race course will be 500 meters and there are two race divisions: **Novice and Recreational**. In addition, there will be **Men's and Women's** races as well as an **Out of Town Challenge** to give you all as much racing as we can, while still focusing on running the best on-time, safe and fun races possible. This race is part of the Pacific Dragon Boat Association (PDDBA) race circuit. Outside of the races, the pre-race party facilities look great and the

# Friendship through paddle sports

party committee is working hard to match last years' raucous bash! With the new race site and boats as well as a race fee of only \$250 US, visiting team interest has been running very high and we expect that there will be more teams interested than space available so please contact Hans Wu at [hanswu@aol.com](mailto:hanswu@aol.com) as soon as possible if you are interested. Spaces will be given based on the order the race fee and information is received. If you have any questions, please let me know and also check out [www.CDBA.org](http://www.CDBA.org)! If you are going to be in Long Beach or Oakland, swing by and say hello, as I will be there paddling with my team, the Dragon Warriors. Hope to see you in SF soon !

## Roger Williams Delivers!!!

*Shirley Ewart*

Anyone watching Roger stroking Hampton Woods boat can see how fit he is. When one realizes that for the past seventeen years this Portland mailman has walked his route, clearly he derives his physique from more than dragon boating. Clearly too, he loves his job, getting to know the folks along the way, watching babies grow up and become teenagers, delivering a smile and a friendly word along with the mail. Dragon boaters too know Roger's cheery personality. Those who took part in this year's Starlight Parade, or watched it on T.V. shared the fun of Roger's manic drumming routine leading the actions of the make-believe paddlers on the boat. Those who labored to paint the boats and make them truly beautiful for this year's races, remember Roger, brush in hand, carefully filling in scales, a job that needed both concentration and a steady hand. Hampton Woods knows Roger as an ever reliable stroke. During the last few years, Roger has helped out some eighteen teams as either coach or tiller including, Central Catholics Shaolin Style, the Gladstone High School team, and the two Special Dragons teams.

Roger Williams was born in Victoria, Texas. He grew up in an Air Force family and traveled throughout the U.S. As an adult he decided that the Northwest, and in particular Portland, was where he wanted to live and work. In 1989, intrigued with the sight of the dragon boats on the river, Roger called the Rose Festival office asking how he could join a team. They put him in touch with Joel Shilling and he joined the Hampton Woods team. He has paddled with them ever since.

In 1999, Rhoda Crowe, coach of the Special Dragons, a team for physically or mentally challenged young people, needed a tiller. Roger, who had worked with these special youngsters while he himself was in high school, willingly assented. When a second team, More Special Dragons was formed, Roger took over as the coach of Special Dragons. He laughs as he remembers this year's races. Emphasizing the need to understand the young peoples' possibilities and their limitations, he says that this year he pushed them way beyond their limitations to third place in the semifinals of their division. Anyone who was on the dock as their boat unloaded realized the crew's joy at their accomplishment. Reminiscing on the highlights of his years dragon boating, Roger mentions working with Joel Shilling who he thanks for honing his leadership skills. Too, he cherishes the memory of the trip to Australia with the "Portland Dragon Express". The team raced in both Sydney and Canberra. He remembers how friendly the Aussies were, as well as how competitive.

One wonders how Roger finds the time to do anything but work and dragon boat, but he loves to hike. He also loves gardening. He was too modest to boast of his skill, but he is an official "Master Gardener" and lends his expertise to other gardeners in the area.

Asked to talk about his best hopes for the future of dragon boating in Portland, Roger is concerned that the growth of the sport may be limited by the number of boats available for practice. He is also concerned with the condition of the Kaohsiung boats: In spite of the cooperative efforts of a good many people, only two were completely painted last winter, a further five were partly renovated, the heads and tails were painted. One boat received no attention. There are willing volunteers to do the work; adequate work space is an ongoing problem. And his last concern, Roger expressed with vehemence is, "It is time to get the Willamette River cleaned up", a sentiment with which all dragon boaters would agree.



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