

DragonTales

Spring 2001

Volume 6

No. 2

A Publication of DragonSports USA



From the Bow of the Boat

Gloria Jones, President

One More Race, Right Here Locally coming your way. DragonSports USA (DSUSA) is building a second race, which is set for July 21st at Vancouver Lake where our annual Fall Regatta is held every September. We have scheduled it in July, to allow teams from the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Dragon Boat Races the opportunity to race one more time, right here locally. Jim Evans, Vice President of DSUSA is the race director and can be contacted at jeva8423@aol.com or 503-682-5815. With this race you will experience the Hong Kong 6/16 style boats that DSUSA uses year-round for open club practices. If you are not a member of DSUSA, membership is open and we encourage you to join for the experience and thrill of worldwide competition opportunities. Don't miss this added race. Contact Jim and reserve your slot today, space is limited.

Our Annual Business Meeting was held on February 12th and we introduced our newly elected board members for 2001. We enjoyed two short videos, a Foster City race promotional and "It's a Miracle" segment of Pink Phoenix's rescue of Dale Buttenhoff. Pink Phoenix had received awards from the Portland Police Department at a ceremony downtown at the Arlene Schnitzer Hall that same day.

Due to the fantastic participation in PKSCA races we have suspended our open club practices on Tuesday and Thursday at 6PM and Saturday at 8AM. Club practices will resume Tuesday, June 12th.

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DragonSports and Dragon Boating, from China 450 BC to Portland 2001

Dr. Richard Cole

Dragon boat paddling dates back to about 450 BC, almost 2500 years ago. It began in Portland in 1989. According to legend, dragon boating began during a war in China between the state of Chu and the state of Chin. A greatly admired counselor named Chu Yuan wisely advised King Huai to be careful of a trap set by the opposing army. The advice was not followed and the King was captured. The enemies of Counselor Chu Yuan blamed him and accused him of treason. In great sorrow Chu Yuan committed suicide by drowning himself in the Mi Luo River. When the people heard of this they rushed to the river and threw rice into the river to divert the fish from eating the body of Chu Yuan. Since that time, the annual Twan-Wu Festival that has always celebrated the change from spring to summer has incorporated dragon boat events, as well.

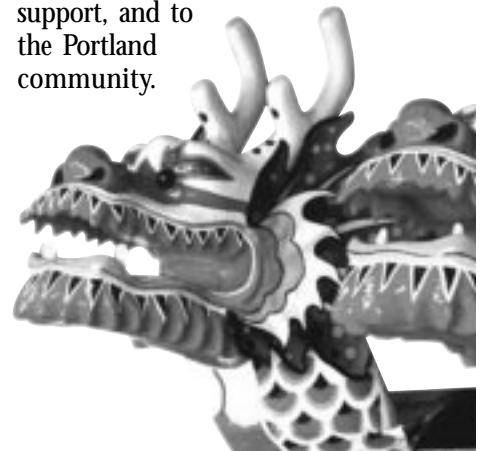
Dragon boat racing began in Portland when the City of Kaohsiung, Taiwan presented a gift of two dragon boats to the newly established Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association in 1989. The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association has held a race each year since. At the first race about 30 teams participated. This year, the 13th annual race, will have about 90 local and visiting teams. It has become a major international event for Portland and major sanctioned event of the Portland Rose Festival Association.

In addition to being a beautiful and fun race, this event is a very important demonstration of the Chinese Culture to the city of Portland. The Awakening of the Dragon Ceremony starts the season with the presentation of a

2000 year old Buddhist ceremony that blesses the boats, water and paddlers, and seeks safety for all participants. The practices begin after this ceremony and continue until race date.

We are proud that each year DSUSA supports and assists the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association stage this annual race. It is a on going contribution to the cultural elements of dragon boat racing and the continuing growth of the sport. DSUSA has benefited greatly from this support. Each June, following the race, many new paddlers join DragonSports to continue practicing and many teams rent the boats practicing for competition the rest of the year.

We are proud of the contribution we make to the many paddlers, teams we support, and to the Portland community.



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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.

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

Board Members/Officers

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Vice President
Jim Evans

Treasurer
Greta Gibbs

Secretary
Christina Borgens

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Nancy Cooper

Committees

Boat Scheduling & Rental • Nancy Cooper
Phone: 503-669-8324

Caller/Tiller Coordinator • Tina Lyons
Phone: 360-892-2677

Communications/DragonTales Gloria Jones
Phone: 503-639-2799, Ext. 2

Equipment & Gear Marketing,
Summer Regatta • Jim Evans
Phone: 503-682-5815

Equipment/Paddles Only • John Myers
Phone: 503-639-6059

Fall Regatta • Christina Borgens
Phone: 503-848-6865

Membership Dues • Greta Gibbs
Phone: 503-525-6659

Membership Serv./Recruiting • Ren Adams
Phone: 503-786-8191

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

Both the PDDBA/Wasabi/DSUSA Coaches clinic and the PKSCA Paddlers clinic were a great success and helped a number of new and experienced participants. Thank you all for helping us make it another great season of dragon boating in the Northwest.

We look forward to seeing more teams participate in the Fall Regatta on September 8th at Vancouver Lake. Contact Christina Borgens at christina@techlaw.com or 503-848-6865 for more details and/or visit our website to download the application for your team.

Visit our web page for additional DragonSports news and information www.dragonsports.org. Please help us make the necessary corrections to our database regarding your address, phone, and e-mail information. Send your corrections to Membership Services at: karen.e.adams@eudoramail.com or call our hotline leave your detailed information at 503-639-2799 x 2 for Karen Adams. Egroups are still under construction and we would like to ask for a volunteer to help us with that project. The club is also looking for the following:

- 1) Coordinator to schedule callers and tillers
- 2) Coordinator for team boat rentals, contact Nancy Cooper
- 3) Coordinator for t-shirt distribution to new members, contact Jim Evans

April is the National Volunteer recognition month and DragonSports would like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous persons that have volunteered and continue to volunteer on a regular basis. Come help us spread the joy of paddling. We couldn't do it without your help.

I'm looking forward to another great paddling season filled with competition and lots of fun. See you on the water!

Northern California Int'l DB Championships 2000

Richard Woo

The fifth annual Northern California International Dragon boat Championship races were held the weekend of September 16-17, 2000 at Foster City California. I participated in this event for the third consecutive year. It was lots of fun. The weather was sunny as usual with temperatures going into the 90's on Sunday. Foster City is an upscale nice clean suburban city in the Bay area just about 15 miles south of San Francisco. The event is held at Leo Ryan Park next to a man made lagoon. The water is connected to the bay and is therefore salt water. There were 60 teams participating this year. Some of the out-of-town teams came from New York, British Columbia, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Philippines. I believe that I may have been the only participant from Portland this year.

In previous years, the Golden Dragons, Wasabi, Stumptown, and Dragon Willies have gone down there with partial or full teams. I was with the team made up of paddlers from New York City called the Metropolitan Area Dragons and from Seattle called Team Sake. We were called MAD/SAKE. Our colors were black and yellow. We looked like bees and were just as fast. We ended up about the 4th fastest team of the 60 in the entire field. The entire field of 60 teams were divided into four divisions. This is similar to what Portland did in the 2000 races, but did 3 divisions instead. Our team took a Consolation trophy in the top division. Our women came in first in an all women race. Our men took a third place in the all mens race.

The team from the Philippines was the fastest. They consisted of marines and navy personnel. They looked and paddled every bit like a military force. The race course was 400 meters and the fastest time was 1:46 for the Philippine team. It would be interesting to have seen them race a Wasabi Mixed team.

Friendship through paddle sports

Our team did a best of 1:50. Most teams were above 2:00. After 5 years of this event being held, there are no longer any "Slug speed" teams participating. Bay Area local teams have come a long way. One of the big race heats entailed 3 teams from the University of California at Berkeley and one team from Stanford University. Last year, all three Cal teams beat Stanford. This year the result was the same even though the Stanford team boasted an improved team with more youth.

Being as hot as it was, several teams including ours engaged in water fights immediately after the race. While it was viewed as childish by some, I can say it was refreshing. I did not start the water fights myself.

The organizers of the race repeats its invitation to Portland teams to participate down there this year and every year. Again, it is loads of fun to race at Foster City.

John and Vonda Myers... Dedicated Dragon Boat Duo

Shirley Ewart

On a cold Saturday morning, dragon boat paddlers gather for open practice. The tiller and caller are a husband and wife who have, for the past seven years, given skilled and dedicated service to dragon boat racing and to DragonSports USA. Meet John and Vonda Myers.

It all started in 1993 when Vonda Myers took accounting courses at PCC and saw a sign advertising for paddlers for the school's dragon boat team. "How do you try out?" she asked. Diane Kadolph Ray answered: "If you survive practice, you're in!"

After the June races, a group decided to form a team to race in Germany. Vonda and her husband John wanted to visit their daughter in that country. So off they went. Vonda to paddle, and John to cheer her on. By 1996, John too had caught the dragon boat fever bug and joined the Golden Dragons, traveling with the team to Seattle, California's

Bay area, Vancouver, and Victoria. Later, came a trip to Australia with DragonQuest USA. He talks with amusement about the New Zealand races of 1998. In Wellington, the Portland boat sank in a forty mile an hour gale. In the family's bathroom is a huge, framed photograph of a choppy sea; the only sign of the Portland crew are bobbing heads spaced precisely apart, still in their seating order.

John's enthusiasm for dragon boating led him onto the board of DragonSports USA, where he recently completed a four-year term. As the Maintenance Chair he was responsible for maintenance of the 6/16's. He also serves on the board of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association and is in charge of transportation of the Kaohsiung boats and helps with their maintenance. And, for the Pacific Rim Dragon Boats, last summer he transported the 6/16's to Baltimore, Maryland for their races; this required three round-trips across the United States. He has also driven the 6/16's to Seattle and down to the Bay area.

After paddling for a year, John decided that his forte was tilling. At the Baltimore races he tilled for Wasabi's Master's team, but he also tills regularly for the Golden Dragons. He helps train tillers for both Sunset High School and the Pink Phoenix team and was Pink Phoenix's tiller the day they rescued Dale Buttenhoff from the Ross Island bridge jump. For their lifesaving rescue, everyone on the boat, including John received truly beautiful, gold and enamel medals from the City of Portland.

In the meantime, Vonda paddled for Leupold and Stevens and Dragon's Breath International (DBI) in New Zealand. Now she co-coaches the Pink Phoenix team and paddles on the Wasabi Master's team. In August, she hopes to go to Philadelphia for the International Dragon Boat Federation's World Championships.

Vonda speaks with enthusiasm about taking part in Wasabi's swimming pool practices this past winter. For this, the paddlers sit in a row on the edge of the pool, and practice paddling with special attention to timing and technique while the coaches watch and critique. The paddlers use cut down paddles to duplicate the resistance found in open water.

When asked what they like best about dragon boating, both John and Vonda enjoy the fun of being with a team, the travel, and the excitement of races. Vonda also mentions the other opportunities that have come her way because of her involvement with the sport, such as paddling outrigger canoes and taking part in the Adirondack Canoe Classic Event paddling from Old Forge to Saranac Lake in New York. These experiences have all added variety and spice to her life.

Looking to the future of the sport, John would like more acknowledgement of the part dragon boat racing plays in the culture of the City of Portland. Also, he definitely would like to see the acquisition of a facility in which the Kaohsiung boats could be both stored and repaired. Vonda hopes to see both the media and the general public treat dragon boating as a real sport, as well as a cultural event. But, whatever the future, both John and Vonda Myers will continue to add joy and expertise to the sport they love.

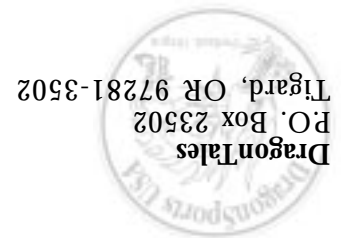
Vancouver Lake Summer Regatta

July 21, 2001

Contact Jim Evans at:
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Dragon Boat for Canstruction (Food Raising Event)

*Kelly L. Perkins/Marketing Assistant
 AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.*

CANSTRUCTION a design/build competition to CANstruct a World Without Hunger, created by the Society of Design Administration (SDA), in partnership with the American Institute of Architects. Teams from the A/E/C industry all over the USA form to build fantastic structures made entirely out of canned and packaged food. The entries are designed to be judged in categories such as Best Use of Labels, Best Meal, Structural Ingenuity, and Juror's Favorite. After the "canstructures" are built and winners are declared, the designs go on view to the public. National winners are subsequently chosen from slides provided to a panel of jurors representing the design and construction industry. Each year's national winners are announced the following spring at the Society of Design Administration's National

Convention. CANSTRUCTION is one competition in which everyone wins... especially those who are hungry and in need.

AMEC partners with KPFF and The Facade Group, Inc. won the "Juror's Favorite" award in this years CANSTRUCTION competition. This is AMEC's fourth year of competing in the local competition, previous awards have been, "Best Use of Labels" and another "Juror's Favorite".

For more information, please visit our website at: www.canstruction.com



2001 Calendar of Events

PKSCA DB Races RiverPlace, Portland, OR pkscaracedirector@hotmail.com	June 9-10
Alcan Dragon Boat Festival Vancouver, BC, Canada canadadragonboatrace.com	June 22-24
Vancouver Lake Summer Regatta Vancouver, WA Jim Evans at 503-682-5815	July 21
Alberta Dragon Boat Festival Calgary, Alberta, Canada albertadragonboatrace.com	July 21-22
Montreal Dragon Boat Festival Montreal, Quebec, Canada mdblrf@aei.ca	July 21-22
Hawaii Dragon Boat Festival Honolulu, HI dragon@chinatownhi.com	July 28-29
Long Beach Dragon Boat Championship Long Beach, CA james@netsol.com or 626-288-2888	July 28-29
4th IDBF World DB Championship Philadelphia, PN	August 1-5
5th Annual California Int'l DB Festival and PDBA Championship Oakland, CA edragons.org	August 11-12
Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Victoria, BC, Canada victoriadragonboat.com	August 18-19
Vancouver Lake Fall Regatta Vancouver, WA Christina Borgens at 503-848-6865	September 8