

HOBBS

ISLAND

REGATTA

-2009 -

REGISTRATION PACKET

INVITATION

The Rocket City Rowing Club, Inc. (RC)² of Huntsville, Alabama invites you to participate in the 2009 Hobbs Island Regatta on the beautiful Tennessee River. Founded in 1996, (RC)² is a rapidly expanding rowing organization and is proud to host Alabama's only head race regatta. Located in North Alabama, Huntsville is convenient to much of the southeast region and many parts of the mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions.

The Hobbs Island Regatta is a 3-mile head race held on a side channel of the Tennessee River. Hobbs Island is an undeveloped island that separates the majority of the course from the main channel of the Tennessee River and shelters the side channel waters from wind, waves, barges, and other river boat traffic. The racecourse begins at the head of Hobbs Island and follows a series of gentle bends around the island. The finish line is located upstream of the mouth of Ditto Landing Marina.

All clubs registering boats must be affiliate US Rowing Club. This is required of the US Rowing for a US Rowing sanctioned regatta. Individuals in singles and doubles may register as unaffiliated.

Included in this registration packet are information on this year's scheduled events and instruction on how your crew can participate. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact:

Betsey Bock
Regatta Director
Phone: 256-883-2142
E-mail: bbockg@yahoo.com

The members of RCRC look forward to seeing at our FREE pasta dinner on Friday night before the Regatta and on race day Saturday October 17!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date: **Saturday, 17 October 2009**
6:30 AM TO 5:00 PM

Location: Ditto Landing Marina, located on the Tennessee River; just 20 minutes south of downtown Huntsville, Alabama off of US 231.

Entries: Entry packets must be received by the deadline of **Saturday, 10 October 2008**. Please send your entry packets by regular or overnight mail to:

Betsey Bock
Hobbs Island Regatta Committee
15045 Leafmore Dr. SE
Huntsville, AL 35803

Completed entry packets include:

- Organization Entry Form
- Event Participation Summary Form
- Waivers for each competitor, including coxswains listed in the event participation summary form
- Check or money order made payable to Rocket City Rowing Club for the total amount shown on the organization entry form

Your organization's entry packet must be complete in order to receive your race packet during check-in. The Regatta Committee will acknowledge all entry packets received by the entry deadline by phone or e-mail. Entries may also be completed online at www.regattacentral.com.

Each class of events will be limited to 15 boats. A, B, and C boats from an organization will be accepted until an event or class is filled.

Entry Fees: The entry fees for the 2007 Hobbs Island Regatta are:

Singles (1x)	\$15 per boat, per event
Doubles (2x/2-)	\$25 per boat, per event
Fours (4+)	\$40 per boat, per event
Eights (8+)	\$80 per boat, per event

The maximum total entry fee charged to any one organization will be capped at \$800. Please make checks payable to Rocket City Rowing Club.

Entry fees will not be refunded after the Entry Packet deadline of 10 October 2009.

Late Entries: After the entry packet deadline, late entries will only be accepted with the approval of the Regatta Committee. Late entries may be made up to two (2) hours prior to the scheduled event start time and must include all information required in the entry packet. Late entry fees for the 2008 Hobbs Island Regatta are:

Singles (1x)	\$35 per boat, per event
Doubles (2x/2-)	\$50 per boat, per event
Fours (4+)	\$70 per boat, per event
Eights (8+)	\$90 per boat, per event

Waivers: All competitors in the 2009 Hobbs Island Regatta, including coxswains, must sign a copy of the enclosed waiver form. Please make duplicate copies of the enclosed form. Competitors under the age of 18 must have the waiver form signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Parking: Cars, trucks and trailers may park on the Ditto Landing premises on the day of the regatta. Parking will only be permitted in the designated regatta parking area. Please cooperate and follow the directions of the regatta parking directors.

Boat Storage: All vehicles with boats, trailers, and equipment must be parked in the area designated for equipment storage. Boat storage trees will not be available. Ditto Landing Marina is a public facility, so it is possible that pleasure boats, boat trailers, and vehicles may be parked next to or near your equipment. All competitors will be responsible for the security of their equipment.

Concessions: Limited food and beverages will be available for purchase during the regatta.

Merchandise: Commemorative T-shirts will be available for purchase throughout the day of the regatta. NOTE: The sale of unauthorized merchandise, food, or drink will not be permitted on Ditto Landing Marina property.

Rules: the 2008 US Rowing “Rules of Rowing” will govern The Hobbs Island Regatta.

Practice: A supervised practice is not scheduled prior to the day of the regatta. Any crews practicing on the course prior to the day of the regatta will do so at their own risk.

REGATTA DAY, 17 OCTOBER 2009

Check-In: Check-In will be held from 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM at the Registration Tent, Ditto Landing Marina the morning of the race. Scullers and crew representatives must check-in to receive the Race Packet.

Race Packet: The Race Packet will include a detailed schedule of events, supplemental regatta information, and bow markers. Entry fees and waivers for every competitor in an organization must be completed and submitted to the Rocket City Rowing Club prior to receiving the **organization's** Race Packet.

Regatta Meeting: The Hobbs Island Regatta Coaches and Coxswains meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2009, at 7:30 AM outside of the Registration Tent. Your crew's participation in this meeting is extremely important to the smooth progression of race day events. Course information, **traffic flow patterns**, schedule adjustments, and safety information will be discussed at this time. All crews will be held responsible for the information delivered at this meeting.

Race Schedule: The Hobbs Island Regatta Committee reserves the right to combine events or to cancel events based on the number of entries received. Every effort will be made to adhere to the published schedule provided in the Race Packet. Late entries may be made up to two (2) hours prior to the published event start time. Should you be required to scratch an entry from any event, Registration should be **notified** at least one hour prior to the published event start time.

Weigh-In: Two weigh-in times for lightweight rowers will be offered. Friday night weigh-in will be held at the Ditto camper's pavilion from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Race day weigh-in for lightweight rowers will be held at the designated area adjacent to the Registration Tent from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM.

Awards: Medals will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each event at the conclusion of the last scheduled event.

Equipment: Every boat will be inspected prior to launch to verify compliance with the following equipment rules:

1. **Bow balls:** Every boat shall have a white or fluorescent colored plastic ball at least 4 centimeters in diameter mounted on its bow for visibility and protection against puncture injury. (USRA Rule 3-105)
2. **Footgear Release:** All footgear shall provide for the quick release of the competitor's feet in case of emergency. Pull strings shall not allow the heel to raise more than three inches above the footboard to which it is anchored. (USRA Rule 3-109)
3. **Boat Construction for Coxswains:** Every boat which requires a coxswain shall have an unobstructed opening (as defined by USRA Rule 3-110) for the coxswain to enter and exit the boat. The inner surface of the coxswain's seat shall be smooth and free of any obstacles that would hinder quick exit. Under no circumstances shall deadweight, as required to meet minimum weight requirements, be attached to the coxswain's body!
4. **Bow Markers:** Each boat shall have in place a bow marker placard designating the appropriate entry number. In addition, the bow oarsman shall wear a corresponding number. Bow markers will be distributed with your race packets during check-in. These bow markers are critical for the correct recording of your race time.

All equipment adjustments must be made prior to launching. Adjustments will not be permitted at or on the docks. Due to the limited dock space, those crews attempting to make adjustments while at or on the docks may be assessed a 60 second penalty at the discretion of the Dock Master. Should you have questions regarding your equipment, please ask during registration and we will be happy to inspect your boat(s) for possible deficiencies.

Dock Master: The Dock Master will have absolute authority over all docking procedures including hot-seating and will have the authority to assess time penalties against crews who cause congestion in the dock area.

Hot-Seating: Hot-seating will only be allowed if the boat that is to be hot-seated can return to the start line prior to the published start time of the event. Please notify Registration if your crew intends to hot-seat boats. There will be limited space in the dock area for hot-seating.

Launching: Events will be called to the docking area one (1) hour prior to the published start of the event. Boats will be launched in the order listed on the schedule for each event. **Anticipate a 45-minute easy row upstream to the start line and pace yourselves accordingly.** Outgoing boats will have priority over incoming boats in the dock area.

RACE CLASSIFICATIONS

Master: A Master is a competitor who has attained or will attain the age of 21 during the current calendar year. A competitor's age is determined as of December 31 of the current calendar year. A competitor thus becomes a Master on January 1 of the year of his or her 21st birthday. A Masters crew shall be comprised exclusively of Masters rowers, but the coxswain need not be a Master. In regular Master's events, the boats will be handicapped according to the US Rowing "Rules of Rowing." Masters crews shall be classified by age according to the following categories: (A) 21 to 35 years, (B) 36 to 42 years, (C) 43 to 49 years, (D) 50 to 54 years, (E) 55 to 59 years, (F) 60 to 64 years, (G) 65 to 69 years, and (H) 70 years and over. The age category of a Masters crew shall be determined by the average age of the rowers in the crew, rounded to the nearest integer. The age of a coxswain shall not be counted. The ages of individual rowers need not fall within the age category, so long as each rower is a Master and so long as the average age of the crew falls within the applicable category (USRA Rule 4-104, with 21-27 added into category A).

Collegiate: A Collegiate is a competitor who in the current calendar year is enrolled in a college or university as a full time student seeking a diploma.

Youth: A Youth/Junior is a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is or has been continuously enrolled in high school as a full time student seeking a diploma. A competitor ceases to be a junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade, which ever is later.

Championship/Club/Recreational: Events not designated Masters, Collegiate, or juniors shall be designated championship/club/recreational events and should be open events.

Novice: A Novice is a competitor who, as of the day of the Hobbs Island Regatta, has only competed one year or less and has not won a head race regatta. Experienced coxswains may cox novice events only if a novice coxswain cannot be found for the race.

True College Novice: A True College Novice is a competitor who, as of the day of the Hobbs Island Regatta, has no Junior/Youth rowing experience and has only competed one year or less and has not won a head race regatta. True College Novice events may be coxed by experienced coxswains only if a novice coxswain cannot be found for the race.

Lightweight:

Men: A men's lightweight crew shall average no more than 165 lbs. per rower, and no individual rower shall weigh more than 165 lbs. The coxswain shall not be counted. A male single sculler (1x) shall not weigh more than 165 lbs. A **Youth/Junior** men's lightweight crew is one in which no individual rower weighs no more than 160 lbs.

Women: A women's lightweight crew, including a single sculler (1x), shall have no rower who weighs more than 135 lbs. The coxswain shall not be counted. A **Youth/Junior** women's lightweight crew is one in which no individual rower weighs no more than 135 lbs.

Coxswains: A male coxswain may compete in events for women, and a female coxswain may compete in events for men. Coxswains will not be weighed in but will be on their honor to weigh at least 85 pounds for juniors and at least 100 pounds for all other crews.

Start Line: Each crew shall be in the staging area upstream of the start line 5 minutes prior to the published start time of the event. It is the coxswain's responsibility to get the crew in position at the designated time. **Anticipate a 45-minute row upstream to the staging area.** Events will be staged in the order as shown on the schedule and the starts will be staggered. The penalty for delaying a start is 60 seconds. Crews not present and in position in the staging when the event is started will be assessed the late start penalty. An exception may be allowed if the Dock Master or Starting Judge is made aware of any extraordinary cause for justifiable delay before the race is scheduled to start.

Overtaking: Boats being overtaken by another crew must give right of way.

Finish Line: The finish line will be upstream of the mouth to Ditto Landing Marina.

Traffic Pattern: A traffic pattern will be provided in your race packet and will be clearly posted at the Registration Tent and at the Dock Area. Should you have any questions regarding the traffic pattern, please inquire at the Registration Tent.

Missed Buoy: A 30 second penalty will be assessed for any missed buoy.

***Please see the following pages for the Regatta Schedule, Organization Entry Form, Event Participation Summary Form, and the Waiver Form.

2009 Hobbs Island Regatta - Regatta Schedule

EVENT #	TIME	EVENT
1	9:00 am	Mixed Masters 2x
2	9:10 am	Mens Masters 8+
3	9:20 am	Mens True College Novice 4+
4	9:30 am	Mens Novice 4+
5	9:40 am	Womens Youth Novice 8+
6	9:50 am	Mens Championship 2 x
7	10:00 am	Mens Youth 4+
8	10:10 am	Mens Lightweight 1x
9	10:20 am	Womens Lightweight 1x
10	10:30 am	Mens Masters 1x
11	10:40 am	Womens Masters 1x
12	10:50 am	Womens Novice 8+
13	11:00 am	Lightweight Womens 4+
14	11:10 am	Womens Youth 1x
15	11:20 am	Mens Youth 2x
16	11:30 am	Mixed Masters 4+
17	11:40 am	Mens Championship 8+
LUNCH BREAK		
18	12:40 pm	Mens Championship 1x
19	12:50 pm	Womens Championship 1x
20	1:00 pm	Womens Masters 4+
21	1:10 pm	Mens Masters 4 +
22	1:20 pm	Womens Championship 4+
23	1:30 pm	Mens Youth 8 +
24	1:40 pm	Womens Youth 4 +
25	1:50 pm	Womens Masters 2 x
26	2:00 pm	Mens Masters 2 x
27	2:10 pm	Mens Championship 4 +
28	2:20 pm	Womens Championship 8 +
29	2:30 pm	Womens Masters 8 +
30	2:40 pm	Womens Youth 2 x
31	2:50 pm	Mens Lightweight 4 +
32	3:00 pm	Mens Youth 1 x
33	3:10 pm	Womens Youth Novice 4 +
34	3:20 pm	Womens Youth 8 +
35	3:30 pm	Womens Novice 4 +
36	3:40 pm	Womens True Coll. Novice 4+
37	3:50 pm	Mens Novice 8 +
38	4:00 pm	Mixed Masters 8 +

The maximum total entry fee charge to any one organization will be capped at \$800.

IN CONSIDERATION of being given the opportunity to participate in any USRowing activity, including scheduled, supervised club activities, and registered regattas, until the end of this calendar year, I, for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin. **1. ACKNOWLEDGE**, agree and represent that I understand the nature of Rowing Activities, both on water and land based, and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. **2. FULLY UNDERSTAND** that: (a.) ROWING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death (“Risks”); (b.) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or the negligence of the Releasee named below; (c.) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity. **3. AGREE AND WARRANT** that I will examine and inspect each Activity in which I take part as a member of USRowing and that, if I observe any condition which I consider to be unacceptably hazardous or dangerous, I will notify the proper authority in charge of the Activity and will refuse to take part in the Activity until the condition has been corrected to my satisfaction. **4. HEREBY RELEASE**, discharge, and covenant not to sue USRowing, the Club, the Regatta, their administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers and employees, other participating regatta organizers, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises, on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the Releasees herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses or damages on my account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the Releasee or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations; and I further agree that if, despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as a result of such claim, to the fullest extent permitted by law. I have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid, the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect.

Printed Name of Participant/USRowing #: _____
Address: _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Phone: _____ **Date:** _____

Participant’s Signature: _____

Parental Consent (if participant is under the age of 18).

AND I, the minor’s parent and/or legal guardian, understand the nature of rowing activities and the minor’s experience and capabilities and believe the minor to be qualified to participate in such activity. I hereby release, discharge, covenant not to sue, and AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on the minor’s account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or part by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations, and further agree that if, despite this release, I, the minor, or anyone on the minor’s behalf makes a claim against any of the above Releasee, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss liability, damage, or cost any may incur as the result of any such claim, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Phone: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (only if participant is under the age of 18): _____