



THE HAMMER ERGATTA HISTORY

The inaugural 'Hammer' (formerly the 'Cleveland Indoor Sprints') was held in March 1990 at the 'One to One' fitness center near Case Western Reserve University/University Hospital. The 'One to One' location was ideal as a Western Reserve Rowing Association member and University Hospital employee was a member. One to One's four 4 ergs, along with two WRRRA model B's (with a couple of Model A's for warm-up) and three or four individually owned ergs provided race organizers with a large enough fleet to hold the first Cleveland ergatta.



The original race distance was 2,500 meters as the current 2K race did not become a universal standard until 1996. The home for the 'Hammer' has changed over the years including One to One, Orange High School, and several other locations. The 'Hammer' finally earned its formal name in the early 1990's when trophies made from ball peen hammers (with heads painted gold and the event name burned into the handle) were awarded.

Sometime around 1994 neither Western Reserve Rowing Association nor any of the local high schools were interested in organizing the 'Hammer' any longer, so Case Western Reserve University Crew Club (aka Case Crew) and John Carroll University rowing club volunteered to continue the Hammer's tradition. In 1995, Tim Marcovy and Neil Messner each chipped in a few bucks to provide the team points trophy that has changed hands over the years between Case Western Reserve University and John Carroll University. Cleveland State University eventually joined the competition and is the current holder of the team points trophy.

