



PORTLAND

Fall Classic

Rowing Regatta

last SUNDAY in OCTOBER

www.PortlandFallClassic.com

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Portland Fall Classic - Information for Spectators

So you want to come watch the races?! Great, we would love to see you!
Here's some information to get you there on time and prepared.

Who?

Rowing races of northwest competitors from high school and college age to adult. We have 1,300 athletes participating this year. We have the traditional northwest power clubs as well as schools such as Oregon State, Washington State, Gonzaga, Lewis and Clark and University of Portland.

What?

Racing 5,000 meters in various categories and with staggered starts of about fifteen seconds apart.

These are the human powered extremely long and skinny boats that move quite fast down the river. Rowers utilize every major muscle group in the body and is a cardiovascular workout second only to cross country skiing. You may recognize the sport from the Summer Olympics. At the Portland Fall Classic there are eights, fours, quads, doubles and pairs all racing against the clock. See FAQ for race watching tips.

Where?

Willamette River in downtown Portland Oregon.

Maps are located on our website and facebook page. The main spectator area is where Main Street intersects the Eastbank Esplanade. There is fantastic viewing on the sidewalks of the Hawthorne Bridge or anywhere along the Eastbank Esplanade. The boat-house and launching dock are at 1515 SE Water Ave, Portland.

Numerous free street parking spots are available within six blocks of the venue. Also, to have ample parking available we have rented a lot for cars at the intersection of Salmon St and Water Ave. (\$5 cash only). Please stay out of the OMSI parking lots.

When?

Racing happens from 8:30 - 2:30.

There are three flights of activity (8:30, 10:45, and 1:30) and all launching and landing activity that goes with that. Crews typically leave land one hour before their race time and will return about thirty minutes after their race start time.

See the complete schedule at

https://www.regattacentral.com/regatta/entries/index.jsp?job_id=2382&org_id=0

What do I bring?

Dress for the weather and wear walking shoes. Rowing doesn't have rain outs. The only weather that stops racing is severe fog or high winds. Umbrellas, binoculars, and camp chairs are always good extras (cameras too!).

Amenities on Site



- Free Event Programs
- Food/Coffee for sale
- Restrooms
- Event Merchandise for sale
- Vendors (JL, Sweet Spot Skirts, Speed Coach Mobile)
- Team Tents
- Athlete recovery area (with samples & yoga sessions)
- Results/Medals/Trophy Presentation



Race Viewing FAQ

1. What is the race course?

The race runs from behind Ross Island (east side) to just before the Steel Bridge.

Course maps available on our website or here:

https://www.regattacentral.com/regatta/news.jsp?job_id=2382&org_id=0

Boats leave the launching dock at 1515 SE Water and head north on the west side of Ross Island. They circle the island and start racing on the east side of Ross Island and through downtown. For their cool down they turn around at the Steel Bridge staying on the west side of the river and head back to the launching dock.

2. How do I find someone?

If you're going to watch a particular individual race, find out what event, team, and seat they are racing as well as the race's start time. Utilize the event program to find the team colors to help identify them as they come down the course (the oar tips and the uniforms will reflect these colors). Note that boats tend to leave shore approximately 45 minutes to one hour before their start time to do warm ups.

3. Who's winning?

In a head race, as is the Portland Fall Classic, boats are started in staggered fashion and race against the clock. Shells finishing the course in the fastest time win. Boats will have a number attached to their bow and are usually started in order (number 1 goes first). Therefore if you see a larger number come down the course in front of a smaller number, they most likely passed them and are moving faster.

4. What does a good crew look like?

A boat moves the fastest when the rowers are working in unison. Oars should be moving in and out of the water at the same time with minimal splash. The bodies of the rowers should move back and forth in perfect timing like a machine. The strength of the rowers is ideally balanced from port to starboard so that the boat can travel a straight line. All of this is why they refer to rowing as the ultimate team sport. Above all the resulting image of a well moving boat should be one of grace and ease even though we know it feels very much the opposite.



To learn more about the sport of rowing, consider visiting the website of our governing body of the sport, USRowing.