



POUGHKEEPSIE ROW FOR THE CURE®

Press Release,

On Sunday, June 5, 2011, the Wappingers Crew Club will be hosting their 4th annual Row For the Cure® Regatta. This regatta will raise money for the Greater NYC Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. Komen Greater NYC uses these funds to provide breast health education, screening, treatment, and support services to underserved women and to provide funding for peer-reviewed national research programs. Seventy-five percent of net money raised goes to Local Community Health Grants, while twenty-five percent of the funds raised are used for National Research.

The Row for the Cure® was originally established in 1994 by Kathy Frederick and Station L Rowing Club. This was to support the Oregon and SW Washington Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure in the search to find the cures for Breast Cancer.

The first regatta was a parade of rowing boats on the Willamette River with just 46 rowers. Organizers included men, as well as women, because Breast Cancer affects the whole family. After 1997, when the Station L barge sank, Station L continued to attend this regatta every year. They have contributed over \$125,000 to their local affiliate of Komen for the Cure.

In 1999, the Seattle Row for the Cure® began the nationwide expansion of these events. By 2006 some 11 cities across the U.S. and Frankfurt, Germany had hosted a Row for the Cure®. The U.S. women's national eight-oared crew helped raise awareness of the fight against breast cancer by competing in a Komen for the Cure benefit sprint following the Munich, Germany World Cup stop in 2005.

Today, the Row for the Cure® is a national land and water based multi-sport regatta series which includes rowing shells, canoes, kayaks, dragon boats, and Native American canoes. The national website is www.RowForTheCure.com. The regattas are official third party events which raise money for local affiliates of Komen for the Cure. They are sanctioned and supported by the national ruling body, the United States Rowing Association. Row for the Cure® is also supported by partnership with Regatta Central and counts among its sponsors the Pocock Rowing Foundation. Over the years the events have contributed over \$500,000 to the cause of early detection, patient and family support and research to eliminate breast cancer as a life threatening disease.

Wappingers Crew Club (WCC) has hosted a Row for the Cure since June 1, 2008. The idea to host a Row for the Cure was made by Kelly Kranz and Nicole Rooney, who were both seniors at John Jay High School at the time, and were members of WCC. Kelly and Nicole organized the regatta along with the support of other WCC students at Roy C. Ketcham High School and John Jay High School, the WCC coaches, parents, HRRRA, and the other local crew clubs. This first regatta raised almost \$4,500.

The tradition continued the following year when two new Wappingers seniors, Shelby Stangl and Jacqueline Van den Bergh, organize the regatta in 2009. This regatta doubled the amount raised the prior year to over \$9,000. Last year, two new seniors, Sarah Ruvo and Holly Smith continued the tradition of organizing the regatta. This regatta raised over \$11,000, surpassing the amount raised the previous years substantially.

Continuing the annual tradition this year are three Wappingers seniors, Kayla Morano, Ericka Knox, and Jonathan Schmierer. Following the examples of the previous years, the three rowers hope to raise even more money to support this worthy cause.

The Poughkeepsie Row for the Cure is a US Rowing registered regatta. The regatta has events for High School teams, and Masters. The regatta also includes sculling events, in addition to crew. For information on available events, or to register for the regatta, please go to: <http://www.regattacentral.com>.

Anyone is welcome to view the regatta, even if they are not competing. The regatta is held at the Hudson River Rowing Association Community Boathouse. For directions to the boathouse, visit <http://www.hudsonriverrowing.org/>. For those not familiar with regattas, please be aware that this regatta will be starting around 6:30 am, and will likely be complete before 11:00 am.

Those that cannot attend, but wish to make a donation, may make a check out to "Komen Greater NYC", with "Poughkeepsie Row for the Cure" on the memo line, and sent to: Wappingers Crew Club, P.O. Box 221, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533-0221. Pledge donations are tax-deductible.

For additional information, please contact one of the following:

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