



The Fairmount Log



“The Boathouse Row Newsletter of Record”

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www.fairmountrowing.org/thelog.html

Holiday Festivities at Fairmount

pix by John Krajewski

The Annual Fairmount Holiday Party took place on Dec. 14 at the boathouse.



Santa Toland preparing to slide down the stairs from the Fairmount locker room.



Tom Greenwood and son.



Jim and Judy Sonzogni.



Rebecca Calvert and Roy Robson.



The scene in the Carlin Room. In front are Rich Burns, Larry Kelly, Mrs. Kelly, John J. Kieffer, and Joe Harris.



Ed Boyle and Maureen Leardi.



Monica Bersani and mom.



Jack Sholl, Tom and Fran McLaughlin.



John Tierney.



Mike Bowers, Joan Wachlin, ?, Sherry and Dietrich Rose.



Among the luminaries at this table are President Willemin, Curt Kaufmann, Guy Iverson, and Tom Greenwood.



Santa has their rapt attention.

2009 Officers

Election of officers was held during the General Meeting on January 5. Those elected for 2009 are:

President	John Willemin
Vice President	Joe Kieffer
Treasurer	Mike Breslin

Financial Secretary	Jim Sonzogni
Recording Secretary	Lee Silverberg
Captain	Tom Greenwood
Coxswain	Molly Konopka
First Lieutenant	John Krajewski

Three members were elected to the Board of Directors: **Molly Konopka, Mike Bowers,** and **Red Sargent.** **Tom Dowd** is retiring from the Board.

Here is a missive from new **Captain Greenwood:**

Happy New Year! Let the 2009 racing season begin.

Fairmount got off to a great start this December with a strong contingent of Ergers following Frank's schedule in preparation for the Main Line Slide February 7th and there is a terrific sense of excitement for the up coming season.

Racing officially starts February 7th with the Main Line Slide and will be highlighted this summer with the Quaker City Masters Regatta and Master's Nationals, August 13 to 16 on the Cooper.

If you are planning to Slide or Race this year please let me know. Include birth date and boat/side preferences. If you already have a boat lined up let me know that as well so that we can attempt to work that into the practice routine (tom.greewood@comcast.net).

Wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy 2009!

Fairmount Foto Fun

Last month's photo was **Dan Knecht** and his father **Bill Knecht.** **Mike Bowers, Tom McLaughlin, Mike Cipollone,** and **Jerry Dudley** all sent in correct answers!

You Can Order FRA Clothes

by Tom McLaughlin

Boathouse Sports has a special on sweats if you wish to take advantage. They will supply imprinted (screen) hooded sweatshirt, sweatpants, shirt and mesh shorts as a bundle @ \$68 for all 4 pieces.

I had samples at the boathouse and they are heavy weight and of very good quality.

They will be gray cotton sweats, you may mix and match sizes. We need a minimum of 26 sets to order. I have typed an order matrix below. Please fill it out and send me your order form and check if you want to order. Sizes run pretty true, maybe on the big side.



We have people wanting to get Goretex jackets. They will be exactly like last year. Brian Perkins has 8 people already (which is the minimum). They cost \$180.

Please fill out the order form and send it to me with your check if you wish to order. There is no freight, I will go pick it up.

Name

Check Enclosed @ \$68

Pant size

Hooded sweatshirt size

Shirt size

Mesh shorts size

GoreTex Jacket size at \$180

Name on Jacket

I will advise everyone when the sweats are done so you may pick them up.

No order will be placed without a check and this order sheet. Please hand it to me on Sat or Sundays or mail it to:

Tom McLaughlin
115 Tenby Road
Havertown, PA 19083

Letters to the Editor

Subject: Racing in Ireland

To all Fairmount members:

As you may know the idea of racing in the Carrick-on-Shannon (Ireland) Regatta has been thrown around the boathouse. The race is on Monday July 27th, just under a week before the Quaker City Masters. It is an all out sprint with a race distance of 420 meters. We have begun to price out airfare and accommodations.

The plan right now is to bring over the Fairmount rowers that are interested in some international racing then get back in time for the QCMR. There are events for Mens Masters 8+, MM4+, MM2x and MM1x as well as Senior events in those categories. The entry fee is 5 Euros per seat, currently \$6.40.

We have reached out to Portadown BC and Bann RC (the Masters crews who raced there last year) and Carrick-on-Shannon RC to nail down equipment. We have also let them know that if they wanted to host some of our rowers we could reciprocate if they wanted to race in the QCMR.

Please distribute this to the membership. Anyone interested in racing, traveling, or hosting any Irish rowers should please drop Brian Perkins an email at thelifeofbrian@juno.com. We are getting started early so that we can get a jump on

fund raising and logistics. ANY thoughts on these subjects would be welcome as well.

Thanks and have a great day.

Brian L. Perkins
267-307-2863

Racing Results

Holiday Festival of Overeating and Drinking

Dec. 21-Jan. 1

Mark Your Calendars

Feb, TBD	FRA Awards Party
June 12-14	USRA Youth Nationals, Lake Harsha, Ohio
July 15-19	USRA Club Nationals, Melton Lake, TN
Aug. 13-16	USRA Masters Nationals Cooper River, NJ
TBD	USRA Elite Nationals Mercer Lake, NJ

FRA's Stephen Burke Moonlights as Comcast COO

by Bob Fernandez, *Phila. Inquirer*, Oct 19, 2008

Stephen B. Burke, the No. 2 executive at Comcast Corp., is a trim and athletic man who has pounded out 13 marathons. Now 50, he bicycles and kayaks on the Schuylkill to save his sore knees.

Sports are a big part of Burke's life, and he sprinkles his speech with the terminology. Earlier this year, facing criticism on Wall Street that Verizon Communications Inc. and AT&T Inc. were beating Comcast to the punch in the pay-TV market, he vowed: "We are budgeting to come out swinging."



Stephen B. Burke, Comcast's chief operating officer.
(April Saul, *Phila. Inquirer*)

These days, sports euphemisms serve Burke particularly well. "We have to suck it up," he said in reference to criticism of the company by regulators and customers.

"A lot of attention we get is because we are the biggest cable company and one of the biggest companies in America," Burke said. "We made a lot of progress in explaining the actions we are taking. You have to take the time to tell people what you are doing."

Burke, a former executive at the Walt Disney Co., serves formally as chief operating officer. But observers consider him chief executive officer Brian L. Roberts' right-hand man. And in a wide-ranging interview in the company's towering new headquarters, Burke evinced a command of Comcast's enormous challenges and spoke with the confidence of a well-trusted lieutenant.

Burke, addressing perhaps the biggest issue, said the cable giant would likely avert the pain endured by many other businesses in an economic recession. The company could lose business, for example, in pay-per-view movies. Customers, instead of running up a monthly \$125 bill to Comcast, might run up just \$100.

But "the idea that people will say, 'I don't want to have my cable, I don't want to have my Internet service,' that's not happening."

Even in this time of economic turmoil, Burke remains focused on Comcast's future. Comcast has to "lean forward" - another sports reference - to keep pace with advances in technology and media.

"The real challenge is that our video business is maturing. And do we want to be a company that grows 2 percent a year, or do we want to grow at a much higher percentage?"

"If you want to create a consistently growing entertainment business," he said, "you have to constantly get into new businesses."

Comcast projects sales growth of 8 percent to 10 percent this year, and Burke said he believed the company had laid a solid foundation with projects such as the Canoe interactive-advertising venture and the online-media division, anchored by Comcast.net and Fancast.

There are no plans to split Comcast's entertainment properties - such as E!, the Golf Channel or Versus - from the cable-TV-distribution business, as Time Warner Inc. has done and Cablevision Systems Corp. has talked of doing.

Burke would like to go in the opposite direction and buy an entertainment company. "We look at everything that comes along."

This is Burke's 10th year at Comcast. He was hired from Disney after launching the Disney retail chain and restructuring its ailing European theme park.

He is considered part of a second-generation management team that took over from the Comcast founders, led by Ralph Roberts. Brian Roberts is the son of Ralph. Burke is president of the giant cable division, in addition to chief operating officer.

Comcast is a completely different company from the mid-tier cable firm Burke joined in 1998. That year, Comcast earned about \$5.1 billion in revenue, all of it from analog pay-TV services, and it employed 17,000.

This year, Comcast will earn about \$35 billion in revenue and has 100,000 workers. The company operates the nation's fifth-largest corporate fleet, with 40,000 vehicles, and maintains 590,000 miles of cable data lines.

Early on, Burke repositioned Comcast as a more modern corporation. He now focuses on diversification of its revenue. It's a point that is important, stock analysts say, as Comcast battles for the attention of investors who think cable is a dinosaur.

Burke "has got a lot of initiatives on his plate, and if he can accomplish those things, it will show he's a real leader," said April Horace, a cable and telecom analyst with Janco Partners Inc., of Denver.

She gives Burke high marks as an executive and notes that, in terms of new products and reaching out to investors, "cable has done more in the last five years than they probably did in the last 25 years."

David C. Joyce, media analyst with Miller Tabak & Co. L.L.C., of New York, said Burke was a "hands-on manager." His only fear with Comcast, he said, is a price war with Verizon or AT&T.

Within two years, Burke said, about half of Comcast's revenue will come from businesses other than pay TV. The company's second-biggest revenue source is high-speed Internet, which had \$6.4 billion in sales last year.

One repeated criticism is that Comcast is not prepared for the booming popularity of wireless services.

Burke does not agree.

"I don't think we have an Achilles' heel, and I don't think people are going to watch a high-definition television the size of their living room wall using a wireless connection," he said. "Technically, it doesn't work. That being said, shame on us if we don't have a wireless-service offering, and shame on us if we don't invest in Clearwire."

Comcast has put more than \$1 billion into Clearwire Corp., based in Washington, to help commercialize the next-generation wireless service WiMAX. Partners in Clearwire include Time Warner Cable Inc., Intel Corp., Google Inc. and Sprint Nextel Corp. The service was launched last month in Baltimore and could be available in Philadelphia next year.

A second perceived threat to Comcast and other pay-TV companies is online video.

"I don't think that ESPN and the USA Network will put their content on the Internet for free, if putting it on the Internet for free means someone does not want to be a cable subscriber. We pay ESPN more than \$1 billion a year," he said, "and they will want us to keep paying them."

Burke, ever the sportsman, says competition is good. Satellite broadcasters, in the 1990s, were supposed to devastate Comcast and other cable companies. But between 1996 and 2004, Comcast invested \$39.1 billion into fiber lines to transmit high-quality digital-video signals into millions of homes. The fiber lines improved the TV picture with the Comcast service and planted the seeds for future business in video on demand, high-speed Internet, phone and interactive advertising.

"The entertainment and media companies that have thrived have invested in new technology," Burke said. "Where you get into trouble is, if you stop and you say this is my business."

And for a man who has run marathons, stopping isn't an option.

FRAgments

Frank J. Valenti, the father of Fairmount member **Mark Valenti**, passed away early Dec. 5 after a long illness. The Funeral was held Wednesday, December 10 at Holy Martyrs Church, Oreland, PA... Judith Lippa, the mother of Fairmount member **Bob Lippa**, and grandmother of **Sara Lippa**, passed away on Monday, December 22. Funeral Services were held on Friday, Dec. 26th at 11 AM at the Stanetsky-Hymanson Memorial Chapel, 10 Vinnin Street, Salem, MA... From **Captain Toland**, former Drexel coach: "FRA member **Paul Avazier** and his beautiful girlfriend, Heather Strittmatter, both former Drexel oarspersons, were at the FRA Christmas party on Sunday, left for about an hour and came back engaged to be married. How Paul can afford a rock like that and still row is beyond me. Best of luck!"... On the Dec. 15 edition of Monday Night Football, the world-famous **Tom Dowd** Christmas tree was shown on the Fairmount dock. **Tom Greenwood** made sure the tree was up in time for the game.



The famous oar-tree. (Krajewski)

Fairmount LOGic



Schuylkill Navy News

by John Hogan

The Annual New Year's Eve row and party was planned for Midnight, New Year's Eve. Rowers were to row out of their own boat houses then assemble at Penn A. C. for food and drink, B Y O B & food. This is a great Schuylkill Navy tradition that was revived a few years ago. And the crowd grows each year. It is a chance to close out the old year's log book and be the first names in the new year's log book.

