

Dear fellow Crew Alumni,

Greetings to all, and welcome to 2006! It is once again that time of year. The cold, desolate, boring, mid-winter doldrums need their ass kicked out of town. What better way to give winter a good kick in the spandex pants than to participate in the 3rd annual 10k Old Man erg challenge?

**And then get hammered!!!!**



For those of you unfamiliar with (or wanting to forget) this landmark event, I have once again challenged the WPI Varsity men's crew to compete against me (and you all by association) in a punishing 10k erg piece. I will donate to the team a yet to be determined dollar figure for each person beating my score (I did \$20 per guy last year), to be used towards the Crew's spring training trip to Florida. Last year's participation both physically and monetarily was outstanding!

This year's competition will be fierce. On the varsity side several of the athletes are in very good shape, including several novices. I erged with some of them before they went home for the holidays to get fat, dumb and happy and they kicked my old, fat butt in a 10k. I have been working hard all winter and hope to turn in a personal best for the competition □ but of course that's always the goal! But damn harder to keep doing it as I age □ ..

To be sure, some burning questions will be answered on February 17, namely:

- Will Mighty Dan Reed uphold his mastery of the machine and turn in another sub-36 minute performance? Predictions are mixed, mostly because the baby is still in-utero. For 2007, though, things might be tougher for the Dan ☺. If I were a varsity guy, I'd watch this guy on the 17<sup>th</sup>!
- Has Sipe been working out, or will he just show up and pull another mind bending piece despite being fat, happy and slug like?
- How will the 2005 grad's performances hold up compared to last year? Will they finally begin to realize it's all downhill from here, and maybe give the old guys more respect? Welcome to old-man country boys! Hope some of you can join us. We welcome you to the Old Man Team with open, arthritic arms.
- Will anyone show up to cheer the old guys through the last 5k (Kate ☐ Irene ☐ Erica)?
- Will any Holy Cross grads join the Old Man team this year? They're invited!
- How fast is Larry this year? Word on the (fake) lake is that he's improved a lot on last year's score (which was excellent BTW). God save you varsity guys that get your butts kicked by your fat, old Coach. It, um, *just doesn't look good* ☐ the guy's twice your age, (but no longer twice your weight)!
- Will the lightweight Jason Steele once again don his manhood-hugging spandex and show off his perfect form (rowing form that is), or perhaps, if we're blessed, he'll show up in his Scottish attire (see pic recently snapped in Alumni Gym as the wind from the ergs whipped about the room!!!)? Who knew he looked so handsome in argyle socks?



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- And finally, who will be the 10k Champion? Come and find out! Feel the burn! Imbibe in the testosterone-laced atmosphere. Shame some weenie varsity ☐studs☐ into submission.

**WHEN – FEBRUARY 17, 2006. 4 PM WARMUPS BEGIN.  
WHERE – WPI ALUMNI GYM 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
WHO – ANY ALUMNI WHO WANT TO KICK SOME SLUG VARSITY BUTT  
AND HAVE SOME SERIOUS FUN. LEFTOVER ERGS WILL BE FILLED  
UP BY THE FASTEST OF THE VARSITY SQUAD.**

HERE'S A RECAP OF THE RULES

1. Compete with me by rowing a 10k erg piece, either on Feb 17 at WPI (about 4PM – see above) or elsewhere and send me (or phone in) your score no later than noon on Feb 17. Alumni need to row the piece between Feb 1 and Feb 17. Before you begin, you decide how much \$\$ you will donate per rower that beats your score and communicate that to me. The crew all rows on the 17<sup>th</sup>. I can tell you that last year the team rowed between 41 1/2 minutes and 36 1/2 minutes for their 10k's. I was able to beat 11 out of 21 last year. There are approximately 20 undergrads competing this year. You do the math. Any donation is appreciated. The goal is to have fun and help out the crew at the same time (and to top last year's donations if we can).
2. If you are out-of-shape, unable to erg, are a girly-man, are just plain lazy, or all of the above, but you still want to contribute, you can gamble on my performance instead. I'm feeling strong again this year (I've added weight training since I got off the water in December) but much of the varsity squad has been kicking some serious tail with their dedicated workouts. I predict at least 5 of them will be hovering in the 36-flat range (that's a 1:48 average for you ergers). Truly, one never knows until the fat lady (or fat old guy in this case) sings. And I guarantee I WILL be singing. My goal is to break into the thirty sevens this year, but don't tell the varsity guys, I like to surprise them. After all, they just don't understand that FAT RULES, as anyone who knows the Largest, aka Bake, can attest to.
3. I am the master of the Old Man 10k Challenge. All rules, decisions, arguments, protests, et al concerning fair (or unfair) play, scores, official times, etc. are mine and mine alone to rule on. In short, I am the god of the OMC. Bribes of all types gladly accepted, although I've been blessed (cursed?) with an inbred sense of fair play and team fellowship. Don't expect much – unless it's a really spectacular bribe –

FYI, although you don't hear much from them, all of the members of the Crew very much appreciate our generous and continued support. Contributions of any amount are welcome. All contributions will be confidential between you and me and I will simply publish a list of contributors so the team knows who to thank. As usual, I don't really have a specific goal in mind as I'm no professional fund raiser, nor do I want to sound like one. Last year's donations were extremely generous. They ranged from \$20 to \$400+. Let's do it again. It's cool!

Please check the distribution on this email and if you are in regular contact with other crew alums not listed, please forward to them if you think they'd be interested. This is intentionally a relatively small-dollar and private fundraising event not associated with the WPI alumni office, so I haven't asked them for any assistance in the way of contact info. Josh, please forward this to the new WPI Crew alumni email group. I do not have the 2005 grads emails except for Ian's. Ian, please forward to them.

Checks made out to WPI Crew are tax deductible, and won't have any propensity to end up in my bank account ☺.

My address is:

Pat Guida  
35 Pine Arden Drive  
West Boylston, MA 01583  
Office - 508-368-0844  
Home - 508-835-2565  
Cell - 774-261-0354

Forever Tubby,  
Capt Fat