

Just think of it as  
5 2k's in a row

## OLD MAN CHALLENGE #10!!

Friday February 22, 2013

Ready or not, the invitation you have all been anxiously waiting for has arrived!.... After a DECADE you'd think I could come up with a new opening line. Yet, some part of me deep down hopes that you, in fact, have been anxiously waiting. Maybe?

All friends of WPI Crew are hereby officially invited to participate in our iconic annual event of sweat, pain, humble-pie-eating, and strangely, fun! So check your calendars, erase whatever is written in that day, and replace with "COME TO WORCESTER to KICK SOME UNDERGRAD BUTT"!!!!

It's a historical year. Our old Crew winter home, Alumni Gym, the one with 34 gargoyles and oozing with WPI historical lore and that special smell that takes 50+ years to create, is now closed, and we have moved into our awesome new quarters in the Sports and Recreation Center. Ironically, the novices this year have *never even seen* the inside of Alumni Gym, so in honor of our history, which should always be honored, I am including some memories.....



OMC #9 - Feb. 2012 in Alumni Gym



WPI Crew vs Holy Cross - Ernst Mooser Indoor Rowing Classic Feb. 1985  
WPI Alumni Gym - Model A C2 ergs - 2500m on the stopwatch



Momma B. and me at the first re-run of Ernst Mooser back in 2008.



OMC #2 - February 2005 - This was about half of us who rowed (alums and undergrads). If you're in this photo, please come and row with us, or send in a score, or just send me a note to say hi - it's been way too long for some of you. Larry, you get to watch this year.



OMC #4 - We're tired. Especially Larry.



Do You Know This Man? If you knew him then (1982), you are officially OLD! He plans to be at this year's event signing autographs. After all, how many of you know a living legend?



Can you guess who this hairy man is? Did you know this is the official crew kilt from his Scottish alma mater? Could it be E.M.? Will he attend this year?

So I think I've wasted enough pages on old stuff and hairy butts. Now, we look ahead. To number 10. Alumni vs the Undergrad slugs. 10,000 meters. Inaugurating the Sports and Rec Center with the aura of Old Men. Put your money where your mouth is people!

The often tired and even older alumni team is ready to rock. Undergrads, what'ya got? Will you "bring it" to this legendary wormtown event? With all your fancy new training equipment, including moving water tanks (!!!!!, seriously, right? the class of 2012 was definitely cheated), you must be fats, sorry, fast. Little Freudian slip there. You must be badass....oooohhh, I'm scaaaared.

The thing about this event that's great is the pressure on these young people. I mean, can you even *imagine* losing to a guy more than twice your age? And if us old people get smoked, we have the ultimate excuse, we're OLD! But we still ROCK!! And we still know how to dole out whupp-A\$\$!

Old Friends, get your spandex out of deep storage, shake the spiders out of your water bottles, and come and row with us. Or just come and visit. We will be conducting tours of the new Sports Center and our rowing tanks, you can even try them if you like. You can park free in the new WPI garage accessed via the Higgins House lot. After we erg we'll be heading to O'Connors for a small alumni gathering where the food is on me. If you can possibly be there anytime between 4PM and 9PM on Friday Feb 22, it would be really great to see you.

Some of this year's Challenge highlights and unanswered questions:

- Who will row the fastest time? Old Man Stottlemeyer, who nearly broke 35 minutes last time? Big John Madura has a submitted score - can you beat him? A freshman perhaps? Or one of the women? It's been awhile since a varsity guy crushed it. (so much fun!!!).
- Recent alums Irish, Animal, Jim, Mike, Ricky, Zack, Lauren. We need you!
- Bake, it doesn't matter how much time it takes. We'll wait.
- There is once again (yes again) a rumor that some powerhouse alumni from **the ancient 1980's** are planning a reunion of pain and fun. Undergrads, FEAR THEM!
- **Possibly-Still-Mighty-in-an-even-more-Slightly-Different-Way Dan Reed** hopefully will find himself an erg and send in a score to help out the Old man team.
- **Son-of-Troy McGrath**, come visit or send a score. Show us whatcha got.
- **Tobin McGee** -- it's a big year, with the wedding coming up and all. Historically, our data shows our alumni slow down exponentially after tying on the ball and chain. This COULD be your last year to crush it. Oh sorry, did I just call Megan a ball and chain? You know I don't mean it Meg...you rock!
- **Jim McGee** -- seriously dude. How many times do I have to invite you. I'm beginning to think you don't like us anymore.
- **Coach Noble** will be running the ipod this year. Classic Talking Heads for 40 minutes baby!
- **Jason "Daddy'o" Steele** is planning to don his kit and put his light-HW power to the erg. Will he break 40 minutes?
- As most of you know, this is a coed event, so **ladies**, show up, DO WORK! Women's handicap is in effect. That would be for females only. And Santosca, if he shows up.
- Row on a RELAY TEAM this year. Less pain time. Bad news is there's a handicap. See below.
- Who will get their name added to the coveted OMC trophy now garnering the wall in the new tank room? Be remembered next to names like Sipe, Gary, Reed...and Purcell? (yes it's true). Best Undergrad and Old Man score get added every year. Then there are the infamous **prizes** provided by the race organizer. Got more good stuff this year.

**As history has proven, no matter what the results, I can promise all of you alumni who show up, you WILL have a great time. You will smile 'till your jaw aches. You may part with some of your hard earned cash and much sweat as you see fit. And just a reminder for the undergrads, row really, really hard or you will lose.**

**OPTIONAL COXSWAINS RACE TBD! Attention all WPI coxswains . IF THERE IS INTEREST IN CONTINUING THIS SPECIAL EVENT I WILL PRESIDE OVER YOUR PUNY, BUT ADMIRABLE STRUGGLES TO ERG. If you dare, you will race between 4:45 and 5:00PM. Short people, short race . 500m. However, you must be dressed in the costume of your choice and you must have 4 large rower coxswains urging you on during your piece. There is a prize for the winner of course, and I am still waiting for a killer costume to sway my judgment of who wins. ATTENTION - NO CHEATING! COXSWAINS MUST ROW BY THEMSELVES WITH NO "ASSISTANCE" FROM OUTSIDE FORCES like the debacle in 2011.**

**2nd Annual Relay Team Category for Old People** - That means that you undergrads are **NOT eligible**, so don't freakin' ask me if you are. For those of you who are weak, lazy, not fit, or just plain slugs, this year I am allowing relay teams consisting of 2, 3 or 4 members. The total meters rowed is 10,000 and may be split up in any way that the team desires. Of course, in the spirit of The Challenge, a level playing field is essential, so the same Guida-derived handicap system used last year will be used. HINT: You need to be really fast to win using a relay team. There will be no mixed team handicaps, if you have a male on your team, you will get the men's lesser handicap.



1968 WPI Crew New England Champions

People I know - Far right, Prof R.V. Olsen (a huge supporter of our program - check the name on the bow of the boat hanging inside the DRC), 4th from right, Jim Razlavsky (check the names on some of our men's boats people), front right, Dave Ploss, longest tenured coach of WPI Crew, 5th from left, Ken Burns, father of modern Quinsigamond rowing programs, including WPI.

One more page, I promise.....

For those of you unfamiliar with (or wanting to forget) this annual landmark event, we alumni and friends collectively challenge the WPI Varsity men and women's crew to compete against us in a grueling, all-out 10k erg piece. I will donate to the team a yet to be determined dollar figure for each person beating my score (I historically pledge \$20 per person and am inclined to do the same this year), to subsidize the Crew's spring training trip to Florida. Each year our participation is outstanding. Last year we had three sessions of competitors with many alumni in attendance and several mail-in alumni entries as well from across the country. The continued generosity of our alums is something I am very proud of, and you should be too. **Who will be the 10k Champions? Come and find out! Embrace the pain! Smell the burning blubber, testosterone, (and estrogen)! Laugh at the young ones trying, unsuccessfully, to beat us old folks... it's FUN!** Remember . Old Guys Rule!

**WHEN** – Friday, FEBRUARY 22 2013. FIRST GROUP including relay teams GOES OFF AT 4:00 PM sharp-ish. WARMUPS BEGIN WHENEVER YOU GET THERE. WE'LL SURELY NEED A SECOND AND THIRD GROUP. THEY'LL START AROUND 5:00 PM and 6:00PM. **Coxswains race at approx. 4:55 PM if there is interest.**

**WHERE** – WPI Sports and Recreation Center, Main Floor Mondo Court (you can't miss it) INSTITUTE ROAD, WEST SIDE OF THE NOW PEDESTRIAN QUAD, WORCESTER, MA, USA, PLANET EARTH, THAT'S THE THIRD ONE FROM THE SUN.

**WHO** – ANY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO WANT TO PRETEND THEY'RE YOUNG AND IN-SHAPE AND HAVE SOME SERIOUS FUN. WE'LL MIX UP THE ALUMS AND THE VARSITY SQUAD.

HERE'S A RECAP OF THE OFFICIAL RULES+

1. **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. Don't expect much.....unless it's a really spectacular bribe.....**
2. Compete with me by rowing a 10k erg piece, either on Feb 22 at WPI or elsewhere and send me your score. Alumni need to row the piece between Feb 1 and Feb 22 unless otherwise approved. For a traditional approach, 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 22nd. I can tell you that last year most of the team rowed between 42 minutes and 35 minutes for their 10k's. There are approximately 50 undergrads competing this year. You do the math, however any donation is appreciated. Many Friends donate fixed amounts not tied to how fast anyone rows. Donate if you can and if you feel like supporting the program. **I just want YOU to stay connected to this awesome program, which will always need YOU, which YOU will always have a personal stake in, and HAVE FUN!** If you are out-of-shape, unable to erg, are a girly-man (did someone say lantosca again?), are just plain lazy, or all of the above, but you want to play the game, you can gamble on my performance instead. Isn't that right Ryan Wartman?
3. **New rule number 4, which I was compelled to create several years ago after a faux pas by a freshman, I control which erg I get, who I row next to, and the musical selections. No exceptions. Remember, it's my day to play. Don't touch the freakin' tunes! Don't like my music? Bring more heat and show me up, row angry, whatever, I really don't care....the mix will be eclectic as usual...and maybe even include some dubstep and Celine Dion for Coach Steele!**

FYI, and I repeat this every year, although you usually don't hear much from them, **ALL of the members of the Crew very much appreciate our generous and continued support.** I continue to get the sense they are both amused and intimidated by our massive Old Man/Woman power and our will to endure. Contributions of any amount are welcome. Mostly, people make checks out to WPI Crew, but if you desire confidentiality, you can make it out to me, and I will write an anonymous check for you. Last year's donations were extremely generous and ranged from small to Wow. It's so awesome! I run in the red . this is a negative profit endeavor as ALL proceeds plus more go directly to WPI Crew. Please spread the word to other crew alums (both men and women). All donations are tax deductible and I can provide a receipt on Friends of WPI Rowing letterhead if you need it. Just ask.

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**Yours truly in old age, Pat Guida '83  
AMF!**