

What's Your Summer Activity?

Hello Fagowees!

Have you ever driven over I-90 or been looking out at the river in the summer and wondered who those crazy people were in the skinny boats? Or maybe you've wondered how you could get involved? We are the rowers and we think we have one of the best views of the city! Our group is made up of approximately 800 rowers of all ages including high school, college and adults and we row on the Cuyahoga River between March and November. Cleveland Rowing Foundation (CRF) is the umbrella organization that oversees all of the rowers in Cleveland and operates the only boathouse in Northeast Ohio. Eight high school and collegiate crews row under the CRF umbrella, as well as the Western Reserve Rowing Association (WRRRA) adult program, which offers the Summer Rowing League program.

The Summer Rowing League offers a fun way for adults to experience the Cuyahoga River. Rowers can sign up individually or as a group. We provide all of the equipment and coaching; you provide the enthusiasm! Crews row once a week during a 15-week season, and head to head along the mighty Cuyahoga during two fun-filled races during the season. Another great way to experience rowing and see if you like it is to sign up for a Learn to Row session (typically held in April and August). For more information, visit www.WRRRA.cc.

Our latest initiative has been a search for new space as we anticipate we will be asked to relocate from our current boathouse located at 1948 Carter Road. After months of searching, we've identified the perfect spot to help us achieve our vision. This recreation venue, called Rivergate Park, has 1,100 feet of access along the banks of the Cuyahoga River. It will be developed for rowing and other outdoor sports such as biking, kayaking, dragon boats and parkland for the public to enjoy. This exciting project will complement and enhance surrounding public spaces such as Canal Basin Park, the Towpath Trail and a proposed state-of-the-art skateboard park, and could be the catalyst to rebuild the Flats. Help us revitalize Cleveland! For more information, or to donate to our campaign, visit: http://clevelandrows.org/rivergate_park.php.

CRF also has many fun events during our off-season including Guest Bartender nights or Rower nights at area bars and restaurants. CRF's annual fundraiser, the Bow Ball will be held on January 29, 2010, at Trinity Cathedral. This cocktail party will have food, drink, music and a silent auction. For more information, visit www.clevelandrows.org/bowball.

If you want to learn more about the Cleveland Rowing Foundation, visit our website (www.clevelandrows.org), or follow us on Facebook or Twitter. Also, watch for an upcoming joint happy hour in February with the Fagowees.

We'd love to see you down at our docks! May you have much snow and a great ski season.