



Crew members expand activities during summer

By Jennifer Zaleski

Did you know that Cleveland State University has a crew club?

Well, it does. And some of its members don't stop during their summer break.

However, the summer schedule for the crew-loving bunch is bit more lax during this time of year.

Because of this relaxed summer structure, the CSU crew club members crew under the Cleveland Collegiate Rowing team, said Scott Spatny, a CSU senior finishing up his third year as a crew club member.

What this means is that CSU members work as a team with students from John Carroll University, Case Western Reserve University, Penn State University, and some other institutions. "Whoever lives in Cleveland and wants to do it, can," Spatny said.

While the women have more of a relaxed schedule, meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. on the Cuyahoga River where they practice for about an hour-and-a-half, the men are trying to be a little more event competitive this summer.

The men meet on the Cuyahoga Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., and sometimes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Not every member of Cleveland Collegiate Rowing has to come to every practice, though. Spatny said, "However many guys come to practice, that's the boat you're going to row that day."

He said if three men show up for practice, they will row a three-man boat. If four show up, it will be a four-man boat, and so forth. Everyone who shows up will be able to crew.

There are approximately eight women crewing this summer, while there are approximately 20 men.

Although the summer schedules are lax for practicing, Cleveland Collegiate Rowing does participate in summer regattas.

At the Detroit Boat Club Regatta held June 14, the women's-four placed with a silver standing and the men's-four placed with a bronze standing.

Next, the team participated in a regatta June 21 held Ecorse, Mich. Although the women did not compete, the men's-eight placed with a gold standing.

On July 12, in Pittsburgh, the men entered two men's four-member boats and one men's eight-member boat.

Although these regattas are important, Spatny said the regatta that he's most looking forward to is held in St. Catharine's, Ontario, Aug. 5 through 10.

"The other three meets were just practice for this one," he said. "It's a really big regatta and you have to be really good to win there."

Because this regatta separates boats by age brackets, the Cleveland Collegiate Rowing team will enter one men's-eight boat and two men's-four boats to compete.

Spatny said he is very excited about the regatta. "The more you put into the sport, the better off you'll be," he said. "It's about how much you want it."

As for what gives him the motivation to work hard for the team, he added, "It's the highest level of competitive sports that I could compete in."

Spatny added, "It's the only sport you can learn in four years and potentially go to the Olympics. And (also), it's fun and you don't have to be a frat boy to do it."

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