

## 6/27/09 — US Rowing SE Regional Masters Championships

At the USRowing SE Regional Masters Championships June 27th-28th, thirty eight ORC members competed in 103 degree heat to bring home 100 medals, 96 of them gold and silver. The course was fully buoyed and calm through the morning, with a slight headwind building throughout the day. Most members raced at least twice, many three times, and for the men, up to four times in order to achieve this record performance. The boats medaled in every event entered. As for club points, ORC maintained a solid second place, despite racing Saturday only, against Atlanta, Lake Lanier, Oak Ridge, Catawba, Jaxsonville, Chester River, Lightwave, Asheville, and CARA.

The first races of the morning were the W4+s. For two years, the W4+ (B) of Sonja Jamilla, Tara Schweizer, Donna Lamb and Lynn Sproul have been racing together. With cox Mary Walter, they took gold with a time of 4:10.7 against our second entry, W4+ (B) of Caroline Walter, Lesley Silvia, Stephanie Cobb, Heidi Wilkins and cox Lauren Krinker with a time of 4:19.0. Our neighbors, OARS, won the W4+ (C) event, and the W4+ (A) of Becky Watt, Megan Mims, Audrea Huff, Lindsey Fore and cox Michelle Sims, together for the first time, won their event with a 4:08.2.



ORC's next entry was the M8+ (A) of Patrick Fore, Robert Hoppenfeld, David Dojcsak, Brad Ingram, Stephen Harris, Ben O'Grady, Michael Dorff, and Greg Kerrebrock. Despite a raw time of 3:19.5 over Atlanta's (C) 3:25.7, the Atlanta handicap of 8" left the crew with silver.

Laura Riecki and Jamieson Thomas raced the W1xs, (A) in the A-C flight and (D) in the D-F flight, respectively. Riecki's time of 4:47.5 earned a bronze medal, and Thomas brought home silver with 4:58.1. Thomas also raced in the women's open single event, a 2k distance, with a time of 10:17.4, bringing in bronze against two Atlanta boats.

The men's fours didn't have much rest time after the eight, but got back on the water to claim gold and silver in their events. First flight was M4+ (A) of Patrick Fore, Robert Hoppenfeld, David Dojcsak, Brad Ingram and Michelle Sims, gold, time 3:42.7, leading the A-C field 6". The M4+ (D) of Greg Kerrebrock, Dan Villareal, William Enright, Rick Smith, and Laura Riecki earned silver, time 4:24.7. It was by far the best performance of their two week period together.

The women's masters eights were the next event. ORC demonstrated it's depth in these events, entering three eights across two flights of five boats each, A-B and C-D. In the first flight, our 'National' level boat, Alchemy (B), Mary Walter cox, Lesley Silvia, Tara Schweizer, Audrea Huff, Melissa Minkler, Kim Watson, Stephanie Cobb, Lynn Sproul and Lynn Shoemaker, fought against two Atlanta (A) boats. Despite having hands up, the race was started, and the ORC boat came from three boats behind to cross with a time of 4:14.1, raw, second to Atlanta's 4:07.2, raw. In the second flight, the boat Havoc, cox Linda Rich, Adrienne Payor, Lindsey Fore, Becky Watt, Leslie Welch, Donna Lamb, Vicky Hatter, Gwenn Hamilton and Sonja Jamilla went to the line with boat Everlasting Piece, our 'Regional' level boat, cox Lauren Krinker, Caroline Walter, Kay Bass, Heidi Wilkins, Karen Wetteland, Amanda Rich, Tammy Walling, Linda Barnby and Mary Beth Brink. Havoc lead the field by open water, finishing 4:09.4 raw, 15" ahead of second place Asheville. Our Regional boat fought bowball to bowball with the rest of the field for the first 500m of the race, and ended their sprint season with one of their best performances, 4:40.4 raw, 4th place.

For the last events of the day, the focus boats broke down and mixed into three mixed eights and five mixed fours, including a composite boat with Jaxsonville men. The Mx8+(A) came home with gold, and the Mx8+(D), silver. Our Mx8+(B) finished 4th in the A-B flight. ORC entered two Mx4 (A-B) boats, and they finished gold, silver and open water in their flight against CARA, Lanier and Oak Ridge. Our Mx4+(C), the JRC composite, finished bronze, and the two Mx4+(D) boats finished silver and 5th.

Congratulations to all! Full results can be found at [Row 2K](#). Click on "Photos & Videos" at left for pics from this regatta.