

Sarasota Crew Rows to Fight Hunger and Break Record!

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Sarasota Crew Rowing to Beat The World Record

(Sarasota, FL) One lone wheel on a stationary rowing machine (an “erg” machine) will begin spinning at exactly 5pm on November 13, 2009 at Whole Foods Market. It will be up to Sarasota Crew to keep it spinning for the next 24 consecutive hours to break the world record for the most meters rowed in that time period. The world record attempt is part of the team’s annual Ergathon fundraiser to be held November 13 and 14th to raise money for the maintenance and purchase of team equipment. The current world record is 439, 931 meters, the equivalent of nearly 275 miles. Head Coach Casey Galvanek thinks the team’s chances of beating the record are good, however, he warns, “The rowers will need to pull their strongest every time they sit down to row.”

This will be the third year that the Whole Foods Market in downtown Sarasota has hosted the team in this fundraiser. The public venue for the event is crucial as varsity coach Liza Dickson explains, “One of the problems with rowing is that the communities we row in don’t often get to see what we do and may not even know that Sarasota Crew exists. This is a wonderful opportunity to expose the community to our sport and our team, as well as show them what a great group of talented and hard working kids we have.” Middle school students will be on hand for the rowing event during daylight hours to offer support to the high school rowers who will row throughout the night, attended by chaperones.

With Sarasota Crew rowers and parent volunteers on hand to answer questions the Ergathon is the perfect opportunity to see first hand what rowing is all about. This exciting event will have an All Faith’s Food Bank drive, music, a boat display, team videos, children’s games, and a free raffle for a Whole Foods \$100 gift card. The event is free to the public but donations are always welcome. For further information about Sarasota Crew please go to www.sarasotacrew.org.

Sarasota Crew boat racks at Bay Preserve hold numerous styles of boats; everything from eight person shells to singles. Many rowers are learning both the sweep style of rowing (one oar) as well as sculling (two oars). With a growing roster of rowers there is a constant need for equipment repair and for an influx of new equipment. According to board president John Leeming, “The funds raised by Ergathon in this challenging economy are vitally important to making scholarships available to rowers in need and keeping the team’s boats well-maintained and competitive on the water.”

Sarasota Crew is a non profit youth rowing club founded in 2002 and holds practices at Bay Preserve in Osprey, FL. The 130 plus rowers that comprise the team funnel in from thirteen middle schools and high schools across Sarasota County. Since its inception the team has flourished and enjoyed successes at all levels of competition. A majority of the freshmen, novice and varsity rowers move up from Sarasota Crew’s middle school squad which has witnessed exciting growth with participation tripling in the past two years. /end