



History of Des Moines Rowing Club

1983	The Des Moines Rowing Club (DMRC) restarts after hiatus of many years.
1984	First Head of the Des Moines (HOTDM) Regatta is held.
1987	HOTDM hosts 400 rowers representing 20 teams. Dues are \$25/year.
1988	Club membership is about 40 people. David Lynch becomes president.
1989	Club membership jumps to 125.
1990	The club purchases a new 4-person racing shell, which later becomes the IMMC (for Iowa Methodist Medical Center). HOTDM hosts 650 rowers from 27 teams. DMRC team wins the Bud Poe cup at the Waterloo regatta.
1991	The club purchases a brand new Maas Aero recreational single, which later becomes the John Moon. The regatta is featured on the front page of the Des Moines Register Datebook.
1992	Scullers added a single storage section to the Gray's Lake boathouse. The regatta hosts 500 rowers from 35 teams. DMRC races at Head of the Mississippi and Head of the Iowa.
1993	The flood of 1993 fills both boathouses, but the club decides to swim instead of sink. With enough warning, crews evacuate almost all of the boats to members' yards and other dry-land shelters. The club votes to carry on the 1993 regatta, holding it at Easter Lake in several inches of rain.
1994	The club purchases a boat trailer from Nebraska, enabling members to more easily travel to out-of-town regattas. The club purchases a used double, later being named the Downey and a used 4, know as the S4. All the club boats receive homemade cox boxes, so crews can hear what the coxswain is saying. DMRC competes in seven regattas throughout the Midwest, plus the Head of the Charles in Boston. Some members attend the World Rowing Championships in Indianapolis.
1995	Club members race at Masters National Championships in Minneapolis, bringing home a bronze medal for the women's lightweight double. Some of the 190 club members also represented the club at 10 out-of-town regattas during the season. We built 16 new dock sections to handle the growing number of club members.
1996	The club purchases a used 8-person shell plus oars. Ten of the new dock sections are lost downstream, so club members rally to build 10 sections in time for the regatta.

1997	The club receives a used recreational single as a donation. The Des Moines Register features the regatta on the front page of the Des Moines Register Today section. Due to Channel 8 reporter Jenny Atwater's involvement with rowing, Channel 8 gives the club exceptional coverage. Our biggest race is the women's open 4 with 22 boats. When Drake University ceases its men's rowing program, the club picks it up and travels with the men to several regattas.
1998	The club purchases enough cox boxes to furnish all the 8s. The Gray's Lake boathouse floods, ceasing our 72-person novice program temporarily. Mayor Preston Daniels awards the club with a key to the city on HOTDM Regatta Day or Des Moines Rowing Awareness Day. Club members officiate at the second annual NCAA Women's National Rowing Championships on the 1996 Olympic racecourse in Atlanta and at the National Rowing Championships on the 1994 World Championships racecourse in Indianapolis.
1999	The HOTDM regatta design wins a Silver Award at the Art Directors Association of Iowa Annual Design Exhibition. The club buys a used recreational single, a used 8, and a used 4. Members participate in the dedication of railroad bridge as a bike path.
2000	The club purchases a brand-new double. The first club survey finds that the club is interested in upgrading equipment, which the newly formed strategic planning committee takes into consideration. Subaru becomes our major regatta sponsor.
2001	An improved Gray's Lake reopens, after club members have spent four years on the planning task force. The club establishes a website.
2002	The club purchases a new 4 and a new quad.
2003	The club is granted 501(c)(3) status. The club holds board elections online for the first time. HOTDM celebrates its 20 th anniversary.
2004	The club surveys members again and finds developing coxing skills, improving the novice program, and improving the docks are the top three priorities. The club performs a benchmark survey of Midwest rowing clubs. DMRC hosts Iowa Games at Gray's Lake. The club purchases a new Kaschper 8.
2005	The club revises its bylaws, moving to a 10-member board with two-year terms. The club holds the first annual dinner with guest speaker Mandi Kowal. The club builds new dock sections with the help of Graham construction. The club "changes its course" by purchasing new buoys for the 22nd HOTDM. The club purchases a new Kaschper 4. The club increases due to \$150 for a regular membership. The marketing committee designs a new logo. Founder Jamie Wade dies.
2006	David Kruidener, founding contributor and supporter of the Gray's Lake renovation, died in January. Marny Jaastad, Des Moines native and world champion rower, speaks at our second annual rowing club dinner. The lease for Gray's Lake was finally signed. The Iowa Games were hosted by DMRC and were at Kellogg. A boat Christening was held with several boats being Christened: the Jamie Wade, the Meredith quad, the Opportunity four, the Ric Jorgensen four (since the RJ wooden 8 was now out of commission), the Jack Taylor single, followed by an end-of-season party at Julia and Randall's house.

2007 The club's third annual banquet was held in February with former Canadian Olympic coxswain Lesleh Himes sharing her stories. Des Moines Rowing Club participates as a site host for the first time in the sixth annual Garbage River Grab. Membership Coordinator Randall Wilson introduces his membership database which allows members to be searched by gender, shoe size, employer, occupation, type rower, coxswain, availability. The club starts promoting the novice program and regatta at the downtown Farmer's market and at the Hy Vee Triathlon.

2008 Mike Hughes, Head Coach of the women's crew at the US Naval Academy, spoke about coaching, technique, crew selection, and coaching men vs. women. The club participated for the first time in the Drake Relays parade in the spring. The club celebrated its 25th annual regatta by inviting founder Jeff Dodge to join us from his home in Hawaii. The river and Gray's Lake boathouses flood on Monday, June 9. Over the course of the next 8 weeks the club worked with the city to clean and restore the boathouses and to clean and sort through club belongings. The club finally returned to the river in August. The novice program was shortened as well. Despite flooding, club members drove up to Minneapolis to compete in the Minneapolis Sprints the weekend of the flood, rowing in a fleet of borrowed boats. The club participated in the 7th annual River Run Garbage Grab, with more members than ever participating and helping the club host. Doug Argent and Coach DiSilvestro took advantage of an empty boathouse to redo some boat racks to provide more storage.