

**Sunday, July 12, 2009
568 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California**



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone for participating in the 2009 USRowing Southwest Masters/Open Regional Championship regatta hosted by Lake Merritt Rowing Club. It was a beautiful day with calm water on the race course. We had nearly 700 athletes competing in 70 events. With the time between races reduced to 6 minutes, everyone did a fantastic job getting to the start line on time, and not a single boat missed its start. It was a wonderful day at the lake!

We would like to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard over the past few months and days to make this event a reality. This event was only possible with the support and volunteers from Lake Merritt Rowing Club, Marin Rowing Association, Jack London Aquatic Center and Los Gatos Rowing Club. Special thanks go to these local clubs for their hard work helping us with the course and on regatta day. Extra special thanks go to the friends and family members who came down and helped out as well!

Our sincere thanks to the USRowing and the Official Referees, without whom we never could carry out such an event. Special congratulations go to Paul Wilkins, who organized registration, the schedule, and all the preliminary work from Australia and to James Ralston who stepped in for Paul and hit the ground running. In particular I would like to thank Jim Willis, our head USRA referee. Jim and his team were outstanding keeping the regatta on time and safe!

Special thanks to Oakland Swift Water Rescue, whose presence helped ensure everyone's safety during this event. Behind the scenes, we had the invaluable support and assistance of the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department, helping us out with docks, a beautiful lakeview office from which to compute the results, and provision of a launch and driver to help with the racing on the lake. Thanks also to Oakland Strokes who generously lent us launches and engines.

Our hearty thanks go to Peet's Coffee, Noah's Bagels, Trader Joes, Whole Foods, Safeway, SemiFreddi's and Coca-Cola Bottling Company for their generous food and beverage donations!

Our appreciation also goes out to the Cameron-Stanford House, which kindly provided us with electricity at the finish line.

And thanks to Fine Designs, who designed and sold our t-shirts this year.

Thanks go to Regatta Central, who handled registration; their support keeps an event this large manageable. A special recognition of appreciation goes to the Regatta Committee. This is a dedicated group that comes together every year to make the event seem so seamless and easy to host. This year's regatta was not possible without the energy and commitment of the entire Committee, which included Alan Kirshbaum, Ann Macdonald, Cam Sutter, Dave Haddick, Dennis Watt, Dominique Channell, Jill McIntire, Pam Weimer, and Shirley Doell.

Again, thanks to everyone who made this event a pleasure to run, and we hope to see you all again next year!

Candace Swimmer, Regatta Director and The Regatta Committee