

Riverfront Wins 18 medals and places 4th in the Team Points Trophy at 2010 USRowing's Masters Nationals

Riverfront Recapture Masters Men and Women enter nearly 50 overall events: Compete in the finals for 38 of those events at the United States Rowing Association's Masters Nationals in 2010

Riverfront Recapture's Masters men's and women's racing teams placed 4th in the Combined Team Trophy Points awarded for races held August 12 to 15, 2010 for the USRA Masters National Championship regatta, held for the second consecutive year on the Cooper River in Camden, New Jersey. The Riverfront competitors included twenty-seven men, ranging from recent college graduates to rowers over 70 years of age; twenty-two women aged 22 to 67; and six coxswains. The team points are awarded based on finish position among finalists in a specific event. The regatta offered nearly 200 event-categories.

The Riverfront Recapture men's and women's racing teams joined masters rowers from across the United States in New Jersey for a regatta that featured over 1,550 entries from 151 clubs competing for national titles. Racing is grouped by age category (USRA categories range from "AA" for those aged 21-26 to "J" for rowers aged over 80. The age of an entry is based on the average age of the competitors within a boat, excluding the coxswain).

The Riverfront Recapture women's team competed in 21 events (nearly double the 12 events entered in 2009). Thursday morning, August 12, racing began early with Sarah-Jean Griffin finishing her qualifying heat in third place in the Women's AA 1x (single-person scull) race. Sarah-Jean went on to finish 6th in her final. Thursday highlights included the Women's Club A 4+ stroked by Kate McElroy winning third place, and the Women's Open B 8+ also claiming a bronze medal. Saturday the women's Club E 8+ came in a very close 4th, less than one-second from a 3rd place finish, with a time of 4:16.35 on the course. In the Women's Club E 4+ race two Riverfront line-ups progressed from heats, racing side-by-side in the final with the 4+ stroked by Diane Lukawicz taking the bronze medal and the other Riverfront boat finishing in 5th place. Sunday the women won a silver medal in the AA 4+ race. In the Open D 4+ race, again, two Riverfront boats progressed from the heats to race each other as well as four other teams, taking a third-place bronze in the Women's Open D 4+ race followed closely by the other Riverfront boat in 4th place. Overall the Riverfront women's team won four National Championship bronze medals and one silver.

The men's team entered 29 events, up slightly from the 24 events in 2009, but with fewer athletes, resulting in the majority of the men's competitors challenging themselves with the maximum limitation of six events mandated by USRA for this regatta. Riverfront Recapture's Paul Fitzgerald kicked-off the racing for the Riverfront men Thursday morning in the Men's Heavyweight 1x race, qualifying with a second place to achieve a 4th-place in the final that afternoon. The Men's Heavyweight AA 4+ was awarded a gold medal, with a winning time of 3:58. The Men's Heavyweight E 8+ won silver, and the Heavyweight F 8+ won third-place in their final. Friday, August 13th proved no "bad luck" at all with the Men's Heavyweight B 4+ winning first-place in their event, the Men's Club D 8+ a bronze medal, the Heavyweight A 8+ a bronze as well. Saturday's racing saw the men's team medal in the Heavyweight G 4+ race, winning first place, and another gold medal went to the Riverfront men in the Heavyweight 4- (coxless 4-person shell) race.

Sunday wrapped up with a first-place finish in the Men's Club B 8+ event, a second-place win in the Men's Club B 4+, a bronze for the Men's Club D4+ in a race that left them nearly tied for second place with a time of 3:36.96 compared to competing crew Carnegie Lake with 3:36.92, a silver medal for second in the B 4- race and a third-place for the Men's Heavyweight C8+. The men's team made the impressive achievement in 2010 of having at least one of their entries in any event advancing from the qualifying heats to the finals. Overall the Riverfront men's team won 13 National Championship medals.

The men and women raced in one mixed gender event, the D 8+, progressing from their qualifying heat to finish 6th in the final. Four men and 4 women were in the line up for Riverfront on Thursday, August 12.

Previously, Riverfront Recapture has sent masters teams to the Nationals in 2005 (Worcester MA), 2006 (Seattle WA), and 2007 (Oak Ridge TN), and 2009 (Cooper River, Camden NJ). Approximately 24 women and 35 men are actively training and competing with the RRI masters team this 2010 season.