



DRAGON TALES

Monthly Newsletter of the Dragon Dream Team

JULY 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

Tues., June 26	Board Meeting – Craftsmen Park
Fri. – Sun. July 6-8	IBCPC Festival – Florence, Italy *
Fri., July 27	Dragons on the Lake Festival set-up – Portage Lakes State Park
Sat., July 28	Dragons on the Lake Festival – Portage Lakes State Park *
Tues., Aug. 7	Board and Committee Chair Meeting - Craftsmen Park

* further details provided in this newsletter

JULY / AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: *Members: If we have omitted your birthday, please let us know.*

JULY

3 – Susan Balmert, Lee Orin
10 – Connie Delehanty
14 – Marilyn Purdy
25 – Jessica Mader
27 – Christine Krieger
31 – Judy Akins, Ginny Bache, Madie Griffith

AUGUST

1 – Eva Wright
25 – Pam Spencer

PRAYERS: *If a DDT member is in need of prayers and/or support, please contact **Deb Merrow**, Sunshine Chair.*

 News from the Sunshine Committee:

We have been busy this month. We are praying for Pat Donnelly, Michelle Lang-Schock, Tara Reynolds, Christine Petro and Mary Hlavac. Thank you all for signing the cards, sending cards, preparing meals, and praying for our sisters.

Remember: We are all just walking each other home!

~ submitted by Deb M

DRAGON MESSAGES:

Message from our President:

Don't ever forget who you are: fierce warriors.

~ Amy



DRAGON MESSAGES: (continued)

Message from our President-Elect: New Paddles and Shirts

The Paddles have Arrived!

As most of you know, the new paddles finally arrived earlier this month. Very exciting! We got 60 paddles for the team and an additional 21 for members that purchased their own. It involved some work and coordination but totally worth it in the end! Thank you Tara for taking the design idea and making it look so cool! Thank you Trish for picking up the order, checking it, and helping organize everything. Thanks to all that helped organize the boathouse, put the sizes and initials on the paddles, and put on the grips. And, a *huge* thank you goes to Gina, Trish and Betsy for getting the donation from their company to enable us to purchase the paddles.



We had lots of great comments about how professional we looked with our new paddles in Buffalo, and I still think that they helped both teams move so fast down the river. ;))

The other teams in Italy will be so jealous!

Sincerely,

Erica

New Race Shirts and Supporter Shirts

The Race Shirts and Supporter Shirts are here!

Remember all those shirts we ordered? Thank you to Trish, who picked them up and separated them into bags according to what each member ordered. They were handed out at our Membership Meeting on June 23. We will leave all the orders not picked up in the boathouse; if you are going to Italy you will need your new race shirt (see photos on next page) before we leave.

It was a pretty big order; we ordered 68 race shirts for the members as of February, another 40 shirts for new members coming in. An additional 53 shirts that members purchased for themselves, and another 72 support shirts purchased by members. That is a total of 233 shirts!

DRAGON MESSAGES:

Message from our President-Elect: New Paddles and Shirts (continued)

The shirts will take up a lot of room in the boathouse, so please try to make sure you pick up your shirts as soon as possible if you were unable to attend the Membership Meeting.



We are really going to be fancy in Italy with our new paddles, our new race shirts, and even our supporters sporting new shirts that show they are rooting for the Dragon Dream Team!

~ submitted by Erica

Messages from Team Ops:

Practice schedule for the next four weeks: (PADDLERS PLEASE READ!)

- Week of June 25th – Normal practice schedule, including Saturday
- Week of July 2nd – Monday, 7/2 (only) at 5:45 for warm-up and at 6:00 for anyone that wants to paddle including any new members
- Week of July 9th – Wednesday, 7/11 (only) at 5:45 for warm-up and at 6:00 for anyone that wants to paddle including any new members
- Week of July 16th – Resume normal practice schedule to prepare for PLX Festival (DDT Festival on 7/28)

Italy: We are almost there; the Worlds BCS competition in Italy! Please check all your lists (tour book, Erica list and Storm list) to ensure that you have everything ready and packed, INCLUDING your passport, life vest and two race shirts. Thanks to everyone for raising money to reduce the membership cost to Italy. Even the ladies not going to Italy helped get forty-five members and a coach to the Worlds; THANKS TO ALL, we are so proud of each one of you!!!

Dragons on the Lake Festival: Please see Barb or Juanita if you want to paddle in the Dragons on the Lake Festival at Portage Lakes State Park on July 28. We will have two full boats of DDT members and a third boat of our members and Pink Steel (Pittsburgh) BCS paddlers! We will resurrect “Pink Steel Dream” one more time. Pink Steel has 8 paddlers and a drummer, and we currently have 10 paddlers. We will need 2 more girls to fill all three boats. How amazing to be touching this many Breast Cancer Survivors with PADDLE POWER and SUPPORT!! Way to go Dragon Dream Team!!!

DRAGON MESSAGES:

Messages from Team Ops: (continued)

2018 Hope Chest Buffalo Niagara Festival

Congratulations ladies on a fantastic weekend in Buffalo. Dream and Hope came in 1st and 3rd in the BCS race and Hope placed 3rd overall in the Women's Division! We are so proud of the hard work and effort you all put into the races. Even more importantly was the way we supported each other, showing grace, love and good sportsmanship. It was a true day of sisterhood; the reason we do this!

~ submitted by Barb F and Juanita

Photos from the Hope Chest Buffalo Niagara Festival - June 16, 2018:



DRAGON MESSAGES: (continued)

Message from Marketing/Public Relations:

New Date for Making Strides Walk – Sunday, October 7, 2018

Please save the new date for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Walk. Due to a conflict with another event at Canal Park, the Making Strides Walk has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 7th at 10am at Lock 3 Park in Akron. This new date means that there is no longer a conflict between the walk and DDT's Marketplace on October 20th.

~ submitted by Toby

Message from New Members Chair:

It's been so exciting for the Dragon Dream Team to meet all the NEW members this year. There are 14 official members, with at least three others waiting to begin their experience on the dragon boat. Filling our boats has NOT been a problem this year. One of the most obvious contributions of our new members is the willingness to participate in their first Dragon Boat Festival in Buffalo, thus allowing the B Team to have a complete team in the competition. Thank you Brenda Ptak, Maria Avila, Davida Pantuso and Kathleen Messner. It was so much fun! We are eager for ALL new members to experience their first festival soon. And that will come with our own Dragons on the Lake Festival at Portage Lakes State Park July 28. So, be certain to sign up with Barb Fox or Juanita Chapman. And check committee lists if you want to volunteer. ~ submitted by Susan C-H

Message from our Outreach Chair:

Boatloads of Hope

Every time I have the opportunity to make a delivery of pashminas to one of our partner facilities, I am told about how appreciative their patients are to receive them. We recently received a couple of thank you notes that I want to share with you so you can see what the pashmina means to a woman who has just learned she has breast cancer.

Dear Dragon Dream Team,

Thank you very much for the beautiful silk pashmina. I have just completed chemo and will soon begin Radiation therapy. This challenging time has been difficult, but the thoughtfulness and kindness of others, along with the many prayers, have made this chapter in my life bearable. Your message of hope is very much appreciated. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Ruth

Thanks so much for the beautiful pashmina. It brought tears to my eyes to know that there are so many people caring and praying for us as we fight this disease. I will be wearing this during chemo this week. Blessings to you!

Vicky



~ submitted by Judy A

DRAGON MESSAGES: (continued)

Messages from the Italy Fundraising Committee: "Forward to Florence"

Thank You for a Great Night with RubberDucks

Thank you to the Dragon Dream Team for your help and support with our big fundraiser on May 27. It was Breast Cancer Survivors Night with the RubberDucks at Canal Park in Akron. Because of all your support we had a *successful* fundraiser!

We participated in many activities during the evening: the team participated in a Breast Cancer Survivors Parade (led by Jen's grandson), a six-person group sang the National Anthem (which included Karen K, Pat T and Dorothy), Coach Allen was the honorary team manager, Kristen threw out the first pitch, Jen's grandson and Juanita's grandson started the game by announcing "play ball," the team sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," AND we manned a Dragon Dream Team info/kayak raffle table! A fireworks display also capped off the entire evening! It was lot of fun!

Thank you again, ladies, for all your help, it was greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Karen K (Kiki)

Photos from the RubberDucks game on May 27:



Before the Survivors' Parade



First pitch



National Anthem



Kayak Raffle



Take me out to the Ballgame!

DRAGON MESSAGES:

Messages from the Italy Fundraising Committee: "Forward to Florence" (continued)

Gardner Pie Contributes \$4000 to our Italy Fundraising Effort!

During the months of April and May, the Gardner Pie Company donated a portion of its pie sales to the Dragon Dream Team for our Italy fundraising efforts. Each day, when someone purchased certain designated pies, \$1 from each of those pies was earmarked for the donation to the team. We are very grateful for Gardner Pie's support of the Dragon Dream in the amount of \$4000. Please continue to buy pies from Gardner to show them how much we appreciate them!

~ submitted by Toby



Message from the Festival Committee:

FROM FLORENCE...TO FESTIVAL

Although Italy is the focus for many DDT members for the next few weeks, Coach Sara is pulling together the multitude of details for our **Sixth Annual Dragons on the Lake Festival** (July 28). We have many returning and brand new teams participating as the excitement of this event continues to grow every year. Our job is to make sure the 1000 plus community, corporate and visiting survivor paddlers have another great Festival experience.

As soon as the Italy crew returns, it will be all hands on deck to step up and help. The last two weeks of July will be crunch time as we will not only be practicing to race (and win) at our Festival, but be great event hosts delivering a fun and inspirational message of breast cancer survivorship!

If anyone has questions about the Festival, please contact Sara or Susan B.

~ submitted by Susan B

TAMMY'S TOTES:

Thanks to an amazing effort by our team, our Tammy's Totes bin, located in our boathouse, is full. I plan to box the toiletries up for Tammy when we return from Italy. Summer's not over! Please continue to save hotel toiletries, along with deals you find, for this worthwhile endeavor. Tammy Raess is working with fire departments throughout northeastern Ohio, providing tote bags of everyday essentials, to individuals that lose their home to fire. Thanks for your continuing help! *~ submitted by Marilyn*

PADDLING NEWS: The Dragon Dream Team has the remaining races scheduled for the 2018 season. All are welcome and encouraged to come and cheer the team on to victory!

Fri. – Sun. July 6-8

Sat., July 28

Sat., Aug. 25

IBCPC Festival - Florence Italy

Dragons on the Lake Festival – Portage Lakes State Park OH

Dragon Boat Wheeling Festival - Wheeling WV

COACHES' CORNER: Quiet in the Boat!

For those of you who were able to participate in Buffalo, did you notice how much noise was being generated during the race? Some teams drum loudly. Others scream out the pace. Now, imagine if there were *twice* as many teams racing at the same time, as will be the case in Italy. It was that loud level of noise that caused us to switch to paddling *visually*. And, it's been great! It forces a higher level of focus, but that's not a problem for serious athletes. On top of that, it's unnerving for the other teams to have a team racing side by side with them that's not making a sound.

Our team members need to be able to focus, and that means that we need to be quiet. And if that means that we upset the competition, so be it! Quiet in the boat!

~ submitted by Coach Allen



Have information and photos to share?

Send to Carolyn Bernstorf (cwbernstorf@hotmail.com) by the 20th of the month and it will be included in the following month's *Dragon Tales*, issued by the end of each month.

The Dragon Dream Team is Ohio's first group of breast cancer survivors participating in the team sport of dragon boating. Inspired by the courage of the dragon and the power of the paddle, our mission is to support and care for each other, increase self-esteem, physical and emotional wellness through paddling. The Dragon Dream Team demonstrates that life after breast cancer can be full, active and beyond all expectations. Our "Boatloads of Hope" community outreach program offers encouragement and support to breast cancer survivors and their families during the treatment phase of their cancer journey by the delivery of pashminas in area hospitals and cancer facilities, along with a powerful message of hope. The Dragon Dream Team is a 501(c)(3) organization.