

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

KENMORE COMMUNITY ROWING CLUB



GROWING ACCESS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

When I reflect on the past almost 10 years since the birth of Kenmore Community Rowing Club, I feel both immense pride and deep gratitude. What began in 2016 as a small, passionate organization storing old wherry boats under a bridge has transformed into a thriving, year-round rowing community serving 200 athletes annually across youth and adult programs.

Our growth in 2025 was intentional. We expanded programming, strengthened coaching leadership, invested in boats and infrastructure, formalized safety systems, and sharpened our financial stewardship. We welcomed new rowers, launched new initiatives, earned podium finishes, and—importantly—fully funded 100% of financial aid requests, ensuring that cost is never a barrier to participation.

Behind every accomplishment is something more meaningful: sunrise practices on Lake Washington, novice athletes discovering confidence, masters rowers chasing new goals, volunteers stewarding our boathouse, and families building lifelong connections to the water. Together, we are not just growing a club—we are building a vibrant and sustainable community asset for the North Lake Washington region.

This momentum belongs to all of you: our athletes, coaches, volunteers, donors, partners, board members, city, and community. Your belief in what KCRC can be has powered this remarkable transformation.

And we are just getting started. The foundation is strong, our vision is clear, and our excitement for what comes next is palpable. Thank you for being part of this journey. The best chapters of KCRC's story are still ahead.

—

Emily Bonifaci
Chair | Kenmore Community Rowing Club



CLUB UPDATE



TOGETHER AS ONE

2025 was a defining year for Kenmore Community Rowing Club (KCRC)—marked by measurable growth, strengthened systems, and deepened community impact. What began just a few short years ago as a small but passionate club has evolved into a thriving, year-round rowing organization serving the North Lake Washington community.

Participation expanded across every dimension. In 2025, KCRC welcomed **197 unique rowers—a 28% increase over the prior year. Adult participation increased by 8% over last year and reached 132 athletes, while youth participation surged 125% year-over-year to 64 rowers.** Our **Learn-to-Row programs** remain the engine of that growth, **graduating 71 adults and 31 youth** into ongoing programming.

Equally meaningful is how rowing at KCRC has evolved. Winter participation—once minimal—remained steady in 2025, demonstrating that **KCRC is now a true four-season club.** In collaboration with **Northshore School District**, we launched our **first Winter Youth Training Program**, which provided between-season training and learn-to-row assets for current and potential high school rowers.

In 2025, KCRC introduced **flexible drop-in options for masters rowers**, added **multi-coach practice days**, and hosted our **first Internal KCRC Regatta** to create supportive racing opportunities. Across **579 on-water and land sessions, athletes logged 4,208 total attendances**—evidence of sustained demand and strong community connection.

Competitive momentum accelerated under new **Head Coach Siobhan Quirke**, supported by **11 active coaches** at peak season. **KCRC crews competed in six regattas**—including our first Coastal Sprint—and earned **multiple podium finishes at Green Lake Extravaganza.** Our **mixed 2x finished first at Otter Island Regatta.** At **Tail of the Lake, the Women's Novice 4+ earned KCRC's first medal** at the event, a milestone that reflects the club's commitment to engaging and supporting new rowers.

As participation expanded, so did our commitment to safety and infrastructure. In 2025, we **established a six-member Safety Committee** that completed a comprehensive audit aligned with USRowing standards, formalized incident reporting, partnered with Shoreline Fire Department to designate Safe Havens, and implemented quarterly athlete safety training.

We also made significant investments in our fleet, **welcoming five boats**, expanding our oar inventory, purchasing **additional stroke coaches and cox boxes**, installing a **new Bont shoe system** and purchasing our own **boat trailer.**

On the financial front, this was a pivotal year for the club—marked by strong community investment and meaningful progress. Our **Fall Dinner & Auction raised more than \$54,000**, a 40% increase over the prior year, driven by generous support and spirited bidding for boat naming rights. We secured **the Dunn Foundation matching grant opportunity of up to \$100,000**, with funds designated for safety and equipment improvements. KCRC also received a **\$10,000 King County Get Active, Stay Active Grant** to strengthen long-term infrastructure and expand access to rowing. A **private donor contributed a generous amount toward the purchase of a competitive King 8+.**

Through all of this growth, our mission remained constant: access. In 2025, **KCRC once again fully funded 100% of financial aid requests** received, ensuring that cost is never a barrier to participation. **Volunteers contributed hundreds of hours** maintaining the boathouse, coaching athletes, organizing events, and stewarding our shoreline in **partnership with Northshore School District.**

Together, these accomplishments tell a clear story. KCRC is building **a rowing community that is competitive, inclusive, financially strong, and sustainable**—growing not just in size, but in purpose and impact.

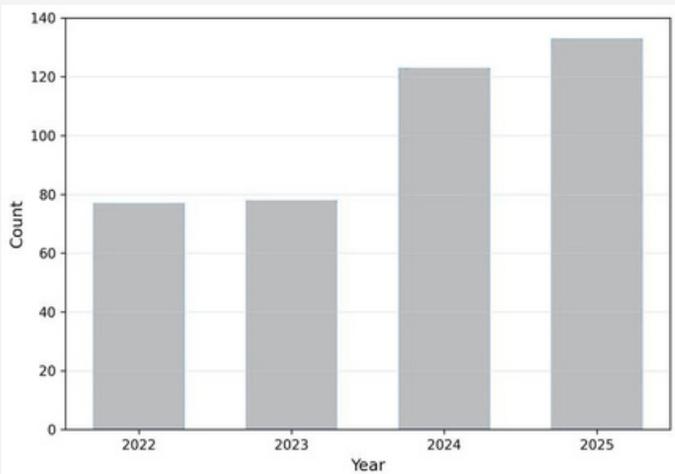
The foundation is stronger than ever—and the momentum continues.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

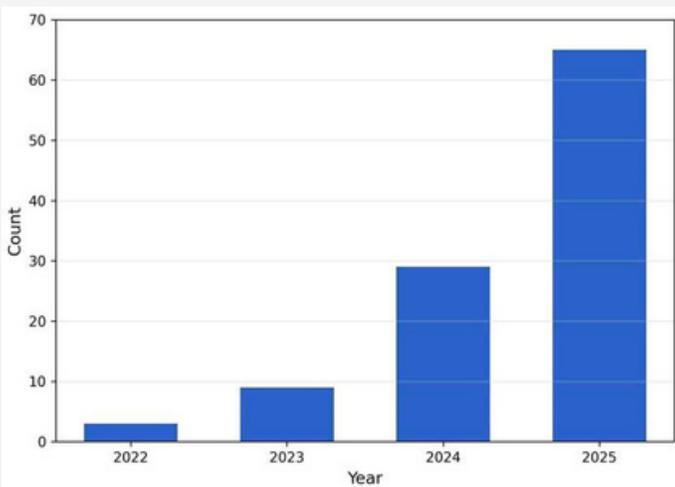
BY THE NUMBERS: A YEAR OF ACCELERATION

2025 marked a defining year of growth for Kenmore Community Rowing Club. We welcomed **197 total unique rowers, a 28% increase over the prior year.** Adult participation reached 132 rowers, up from 115 in 2024—and nearly triple our 2023 levels. **Youth participation saw extraordinary momentum, climbing to 64 athletes, a 125% year-over-year increase.** This sustained growth demonstrates increasing community demand for structured, safe, and accessible on-water recreation on North Lake Washington.

ADULT ROWER YEARLY ACTIVITY



YOUTH ROWER YEARLY ACTIVITY



Our Learn-to-Row pipeline continues to fuel that growth. **In 2025, 71 adults and 31 youth athletes graduated from Learn-to-Row programs.** Just two years ago, adult LTR graduates totaled 23; this year's cohort demonstrates how effectively we are introducing new athletes to the sport and retaining them in ongoing programming.

Program delivery scaled alongside demand. KCRC offered **579 on-water and land training sessions, a 27% increase over 2024.** Athlete engagement rose even faster, reaching **4,208 total attendances—a 30% year-over-year increase and double our 2023 levels.** This growth represents not just more rowers, but more consistent training, stronger community connection, and expanded access to the water.

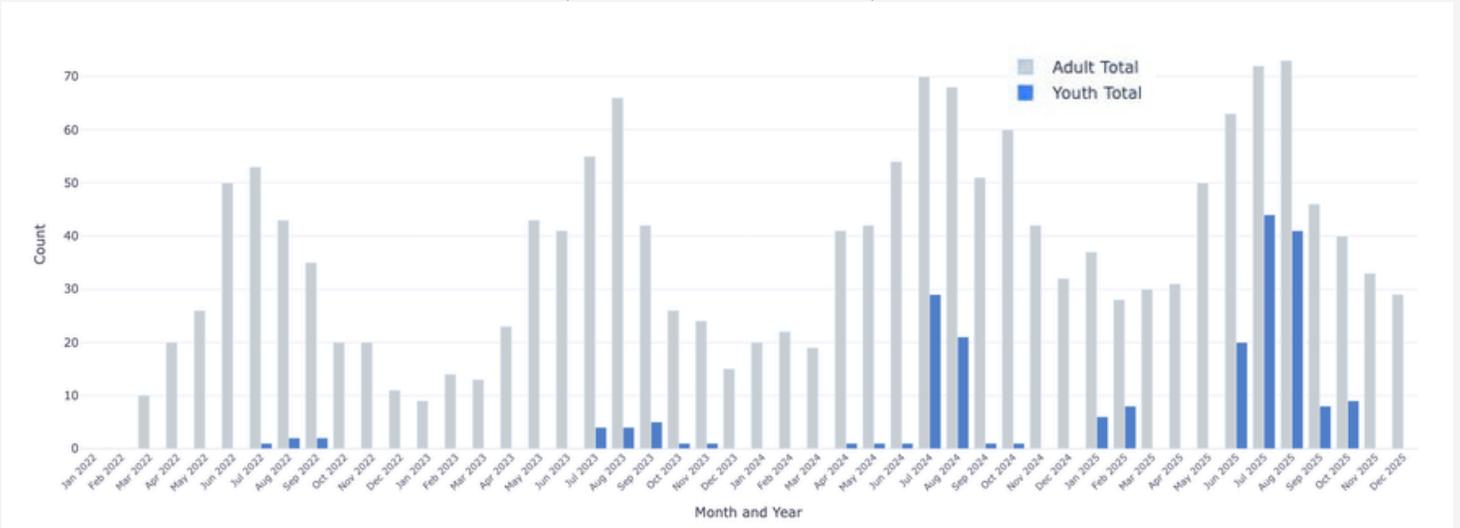
Accessibility remains central to our mission. **In 2025, financial aid requests mitigated real issues our members and community face;** from layoffs to rising medical costs to school budget cuts.

Together, these numbers tell a clear story: KCRC is not only growing—we are scaling responsibly, strengthening infrastructure, and **building a vibrant rowing community accessible to all.**



MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

TOTAL MONTHLY ROWER PARTICIPATION (ALL YEARS COMBINED)



Year-over-year, **KCRC has experienced steady growth in participation**, with predictable seasonal peaks during the summer and early fall months. While activity naturally rises in peak rowing season, **one of the most meaningful shifts is what's happening in the winter**.

In earlier years, participation dropped off significantly during the colder months. Now, **winter totals remain relatively strong**, demonstrating that **rowing at KCRC has evolved into a true year-round sport**. Even in the darkest and coldest months, athletes are staying on the water, underscoring the club's expanded programming, improved safety systems, and growing commitment to continuous training throughout the entire calendar year.

As membership has grown and winter rowing has become a consistent part of KCRC programming, strengthening our culture of safety has been essential. In 2025, we **established a six-member Safety Committee** dedicated to safety on and off the water.

The committee completed a **comprehensive audit** of systems, equipment, and procedures in alignment with **USRowing standards; partnered with the Shoreline Fire Department** to finalize designated Safe Havens; launched a **new safety section on our website**; implemented **formal safety and incident reporting**; and introduced **quarterly athlete safety trainings** to ensure rowers are prepared and confident in all conditions.



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

EXPANDING ACCESS. STRENGTHENING SKILL. BUILDING COMMUNITY.

In 2025, Kenmore Community Rowing Club expanded both the scope and structure of its programming, creating clearer athlete pathways and greater flexibility while supporting significant growth in participation.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Adult offerings included Learn-to-Row (LTR), Adult Intermediate, Adult Experienced, and ErgFit, providing a full progression from introductory instruction to advanced training and ongoing fitness.

This year, KCRC implemented several key improvements:

- Introduced a **flexible drop-in system** for masters rowers, allowing participation without waiting for six-week session blocks.
- **Added two-coach practice days** at least three times per week, enabling skill-based separation for more targeted instruction.
- Launched our **first Internal KCRC Regatta**, providing a supportive racing environment for skill development.
- Organized **fun, community-wide team competitions**, including the “Port vs. Starboard” meters challenge and participation in the Concept2 Holiday Erg Challenge.

These changes improved accessibility, coaching effectiveness, and year-round engagement.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth programming expanded significantly in both structure and participation.

Youth offerings included:

- Learn-to-Row
- Intermediate & Advanced Training
- Learn-to-Scull
- One-Week Row Program

We launched our first **Winter Youth Training Program** in January 2025. **In collaboration with Ingelmoor High Schol Crew**, the program provides any high school aged youth the opportunity to learn to row and also a way for Northshore School District crew athletes to train during the off-season.

Summer youth participation more than doubled in 2025, and in the Fall, KCRC **partnered with the Environmental and Adventure School** to broaden access and integrate rowing into experiential education.

For the first time, returning **youth athletes served as volunteers** during Summer Learn-to-Row sessions—an initiative that will evolve into a formal Youth Volunteer Program in 2026.

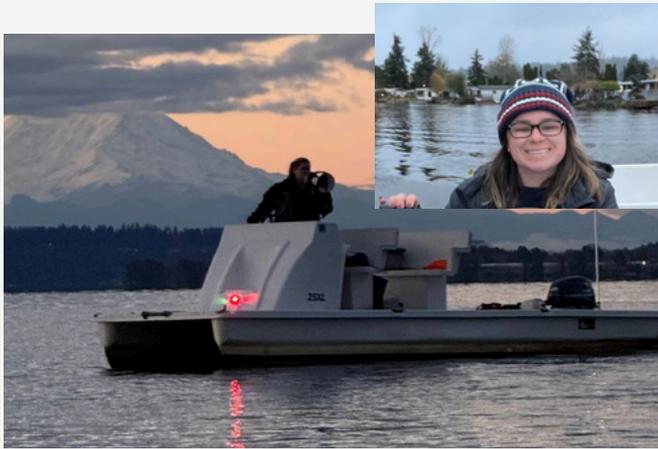
Across all levels, 2025 programming reflects thoughtful scaling—balancing growth with improved coaching structure, increased flexibility, and stronger community engagement.



COMPETITION & COACHING

LEADERSHIP, DEPTH, AND COMPETITIVE GROWTH

In Fall 2025, KCRC promoted **Siobhan Quirke to Head Coach**, strengthening program leadership and advancing a clear competitive vision across youth and masters teams. At the height of the rowing season, the club operated with **11 active coaches**, supporting athlete development at every level and ensuring structured, skill-based instruction.



KCRC athletes competed in six regattas in 2025, ranging from sprints to Head races, a touring regatta, and beach sprints. Teams achieved both performance gains and important firsts.

Notably, at the Green Lake Extravaganza, **KCRC earned multiple podium finishes:**

- Masters Women's 4+
- Masters Men's 8+
- Masters Women's 8+
- Junior Men's 2x

The event also marked the **first time a KCRC youth (junior) boat competed**, signaling the continued growth of our youth racing program.

Performance improvements were evident across the season. The Women's 4+ improved its prior-year time at Otter Island Touring, while at Tail of the Lake, the Mixed Masters 8+ lowered its previous result and the **Women's Novice 4+ earned KCRC's first-ever Tail of the Lake medal.**

The club also expanded into new arenas, competing in its first Coastal Sprint and entering its first all-novice racing crew, reinforcing a culture that welcomes both emerging and experienced competitors.

KCRC Masters rowers represented the club at **Head of the Lake, Otter Island Touring, Tail of the Lake, Green Lake Extravaganza, Lake Stevens Spring Sprints,** and the **Port Angeles Beach Sprints**, strengthening regional visibility and cultivating a culture of lifelong participation in the sport.

These milestones reflect disciplined coaching leadership, growing athlete confidence, and KCRC's continued evolution as a competitive presence in the regional rowing community.



OUR MEDAL WINNERS

HEAR FROM THE WOMEN'S NOVICE 4+ ATHLETES THAT MADE KCRC HISTORY AS THE FIRST MEDAL WINNERS AT TAIL OF THE LAKE

After watching our son complete his first year of rowing at Inglemoor and fall in love with the sport, my husband and I signed up for a late-summer learn-to-row at KCRC. By the time the first day arrived, we were navigating some very stressful circumstances, including the tragic loss of my sister. We drove to practice each day weighed down by everything on our minds; we drove home lighter, animated by what we'd learned and experienced on the water.

As I kept showing up to practice, the coaches and team members welcomed me warmly and patiently guided me through the rocky transition of learning to move a tippy boat with a crew. Within weeks, I was invited to join a four person women's novice boat for the upcoming Tail of the Lake regatta. I was grouped with three incredible women, all committed to supporting one another, growing in the sport, and doing our best as we tried something new. To build camaraderie before the race, we created a team name—JOLO—using the first letter of each of our names. The race itself was absolutely brutal: a long course in tough conditions. But hearing our new club friends chanting "JOLO!" as we approached the finish line was unforgettable.

I have truly found a new love in rowing. It offers a significant fitness challenge and a level of technical precision one could spend a lifetime refining. It is also profoundly stress-relieving. Rowing demands your full body and mind—muscles burning, heart rate climbing, attention fixed on moving well and simply making it to the end of practice. When life feels overwhelming, that forced shift in focus can be a powerful relief. And starting multiple mornings each week watching the sun rise over Lake Washington and the mountain, as eagles swoop and ducks, geese, and herons line the shore, is an incredible privilege. I'm so grateful for the opportunity KCRC gives me to row in my own neighborhood with such a welcoming crew.

~ Jenny (The "J" in JOLO)

I started rowing in June through the Learn to Row program after wanting to try it for years, and immediately found the sport challenging in a really rewarding way, while the club itself was incredibly supportive. Just weeks later, our coaches encouraged a group of brand-new rowers to race, and we went on to win the Novice Women's 4+ at Tail of the Lake, even in stormy conditions. From earning naming rights for our boat, JOLO, to celebrating together as a crew, this experience showed me how motivating and inclusive the coaching and team culture truly are.

~ Olya (The "O" in JOLO)

You may have noticed a blue 4+ named JOLO and wondered about the story behind it. Well, let me tell you, it all began when four ladies decided to compete in a regatta named Tail of the Lake (TotL). We had no idea what was in store for us. We four, Jenny, Olivia, Lindsay, and Olya (JOLO) all took Learn to Row at KCRC at different times in the Spring, but we all fell in love with rowing. We caught the bug, and as the regatta season approached, we were asked if we'd like to row in TotL as novice rowers.

I feel like it's safe to say that we were all apprehensive but excited (slightly queasy) when we thought of the race. We practiced pretty consistently and developed a bond as teammates. The race came and went; it was pretty wild, and even though most of what we were coached went out the window during the race, the camaraderie and sense of accomplishment was pretty amazing. We had a masters coxswain who got us to the finish line. I still grin when I think of our other teammates cheering for JOLO at the finish line. We were able to snag naming rights to the blue boat at the club's auction (with the help of a couple of our teammates), and so now she is known as JOLO (written in gold, because technically we were first place but also the only novice in our race).

This experience at KCRC epitomizes the unexpected rewards of teamwork, dedication, and community support. JOLO's story is a testament to how a shared passion can transform strangers into teammates and how support from coaches and peers can turn a daunting challenge into a cherished memory.

~ Lindsay (The "L" in JOLO)

Competing in my first regatta just two months into rowing was something I never would have imagined possible, but the encouragement and belief of the coaches and club made it feel not only achievable, but genuinely exciting. Racing alongside three other novice women, we took on something new and hard together, and the experience was incredibly bonding and empowering. While our novice boat earned a gold medal, what mattered most was what it represented — a willingness to take risks, try something unfamiliar, and show up with curiosity and courage. That spirit of support and encouragement at every stage of the journey says so much about the culture of KCRC and the people who make it such a special place to row.

~ Olivia (The other "O" in JOLO)



EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Kenmore Community Rowing Club made significant investments in our fleet and facilities—advancing safety, expanding access, and strengthening our competitive program. In 2025 we welcomed several important additions to our fleet:

- **Blue Vespoli 4+ (“JOLO”)** – A high-performance coxed four that elevated our racing capabilities and supported both masters and youth lineups.
- **White Vespoli 4-/4x (“Dawn Patrol”)** – A versatile sweep/sculling shell, increasing flexibility across programs.
- **King 8+ (to be named)** – Expanding full-crew training and racing opportunities. KCRC members rowed their new shell from the historic Conibear Shellhouse at the University of Washington—a landmark in American rowing and home to one of collegiate rowing’s most successful programs—back to Kenmore.

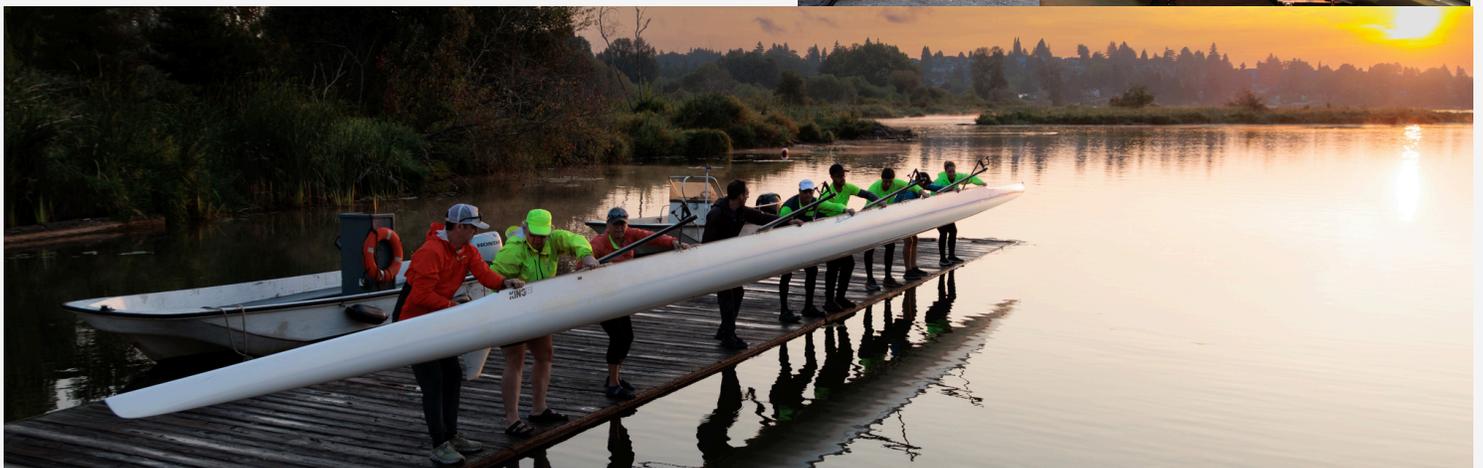
We also saw the addition of two sculling shells, perfect for beginners, and generously and on indefinite loan from KCRC members.

To enhance rigging consistency and athlete safety, we installed a **new Bont shoe system**, improving fit and transferability across boats. We also expanded our oar inventory with:

- Two sets of used **Concept2** sweep oars from UW
- Additional **Concept2** sculling oar sets
- Six sets of **Croker** sculling oars

Finally, we **purchased a dedicated boat trailer**, dramatically increasing our independence and capacity to travel to regattas. Owning a trailer allows KCRC crews to compete more frequently, transport equipment safely, and represent the club throughout the region without relying on borrowed logistics.

The **installation of new heaters in the upstairs portion of the boathouse has been an especially appreciated upgrade to the facilities**. That space is used for regularly scheduled ErgFit classes, Coxswain trainings, monthly board meetings, and special events like a recent Injury Prevention Clinic. Having heaters in that space through the chilly winter months has helped create an energizing hub for training, planning, and connection.



VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY

SERVICE & STEWARDSHIP

At Kenmore Community Rowing Club, volunteers are the backbone of everything we do. From maintaining our boathouse to welcoming first-time rowers, our community shows up—consistently and generously—to strengthen both our club and our connection to the north end of Lake Washington.

In partnership with Northshore School District (NSD), we hosted **two major Boathouse Clean-Up Days in January and again in November**. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to organize equipment, deep clean shared spaces, and improve safety and efficiency throughout the facility. These days are more than maintenance—they're a shared investment in the space we all rely on.

On April 26, we **joined NSD for our annual Earth Day Clean-Up**, reinforcing our commitment to environmental stewardship. Caring for our shoreline and surrounding areas reflects our responsibility as lake users and community members.

Our **volunteers contribute hundreds of hours annually**—coaching, organizing events, maintaining equipment, serving on committees, supporting fundraisers, and representing KCRC in the broader community.

The impact extends beyond the dock. Through partnership, stewardship, and shared leadership, KCRC continues to build not just stronger rowers—but a stronger community.



GROWING THE ROWING COMMUNITY

Community engagement was front and center throughout the year:

- **Welcome Back Row** – May 10 – A celebratory kickoff to the primary rowing season, bringing together returning members, new rowers, and families.
- **National Learn to Row Day** – June 7 (with NSD) – A free, public event introducing new participants to rowing.
- **Social Saturdays** – Held on the first or second Saturday of each month, these gatherings create space for camaraderie beyond practice—strengthening friendships and welcoming new members



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2025 INCOME		2025 EXPENSES	
Donations & Grants	\$145,000	Payroll/Taxes/Fees	\$92,000
Program Income and Misc	\$127,000	Boat Purchases	\$93,000
Total Income	\$272,000	Operations	\$27,000
		Other	\$23,000
		Facilities & Equipment	\$10,000
		Total Expenses	\$245,000

Total Income	\$272,000
Total Expenses	\$245,000
Net Operating Income	\$27,000

*Inclusive of corporate matching gifts, grants, and fundraising events, including \$40,000 grant income which was earned in 2025, but realized in 2026.

In 2025, Kenmore Community Rowing Club reinforced its financial foundation and positioned the organization for long-term sustainability. **Recognizing the importance of investing in strong infrastructure, we made strategic commitments to the future of KCRC—expanding our equipment fleet and strengthening leadership** through the hiring of a Head Coach and dedicated bookkeeper.

KCRC was honored to receive the **Dunn Foundation Grant**, a transformative matching opportunity of up to \$100,000. Structured as \$1 for every \$2 raised by the club, these restricted funds support critical equipment and safety infrastructure.

We also secured a \$10,000 **King County Get Active, Stay Active grant** to support equipment, coaching, and program costs, along with a generous **private donation** that helped fund the purchase of our first competitive racing shell, a King 8+.

FALL 2025 DINNER & AUCTION

Our Annual Dinner & Auction, held in October at the Lake Forest Park Civic Club, was a tremendous success and a true **celebration of community spirit**. The evening featured an energetic **Raise the Paddle**, a **silent auction**, and an exciting **live auction** that included intense **bidding wars for naming rights** to two of our newest Vespoli boat purchases—the blue 4+ and the 4-/4x, now JOLO and Dawn Patrol.

This marked the second year that KCRC **honored outstanding members of our rowing community**. Our awards include the Quick Catch Award, Getting the Swing Award, and Pulling Together Award, each recognizing the dedication, teamwork, and positive energy that strengthen our club both on and off the water.

The room was filled with generosity, camaraderie, and shared commitment to KCRC's future. Together, supporters **raised more than \$54,000** to strengthen our programs, expand access, and invest in equipment that will serve rowers for years to come.

Together, these financial milestones reflect a year of discipline, generosity, and forward-thinking leadership. With stronger financial systems, robust fundraising, and strategic grant support, KCRC is building a stable platform for continued community impact.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As we turn the page to 2026, Kenmore Community Rowing Club is building the infrastructure to match the momentum we've created on the water.

The addition of a **new Administrative Coordinator** has strengthened communications, registration, and member support—freeing our all-volunteer board to focus on the club's long-term growth. We are also **beginning the search for a part-time Director** to build on this momentum and support continued success. With more boats and rowers on the water each day, we plan to purchase a **new safety launch** to further enhance on-water supervision and response capacity.

We are excited to **implement a formal Youth Volunteer Program in 2026**—creating meaningful leadership opportunities for junior athletes. We are also **laying the groundwork to sponsor Camp Lucy**, a free, girl-centered camp that teaches social, emotional, and life skills through rowing.

At the close of 2025, we finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Inglemoor Crew and Northshore School District (NSD), formalizing our shared use of space and equipment. Throughout the coming year, we will continue to expand on this collaboration, working together to coordinate community events like National Learn-to-Row Day, Earth Day, and boathouse clean-ups.

Looking ahead, **we will continue aligning our programming to support a clear youth pathway**, using winter and summer offerings to introduce and thoughtfully funnel new athletes into NSD's competitive programs while maximizing community resources.

On the coaching front, **we will continue expanding our seasonal staff** to support novice development, masters progression, and youth advancement. Competitive aspirations are rising as well, with the **goal of qualifying crews for USRowing Regional Championships**—and perhaps one day setting our sights on the Head of the Charles.

Above all, our focus remains on community. In 2026, we will continue investing in people, programs, and long-term sustainability—ensuring KCRC remains a welcoming place where more neighbors can discover confidence, connection, and purpose on the water.



CONTACT US

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