



Dragonflyers of Michigan Newsletter

April 2024

A Message from our President

I am so looking forward to our paddling season this year. I have my paddle out, sitting where it is a reminder that we will soon be back in the water.

In 2024 we welcome back our coaches Ellen and Alyona. This year Ellen will serve as head coach of our adult team. Alyona will serve as our youth coach and continue as a substitute coach on our adult team. This year we also welcome a new assistant coach, Ckat Duke, for our adult team. Ckat brings a wealth of experience in dragon boating and has been coaching our off-season erg training. We are fortunate to have such an excellent coaching team. We are also looking forward to three races this year. Most of all, we are eager to welcome newcomers and returning paddlers. This is a great time to invite friends, family, co-workers, and others to check out our team and amazing sport. See everyone very soon! Paddles up!

- Julie

2024 Board Members

President – Julie Sinclair

Vice President – Ginger Martz

Secretary – Sarynna Lopez-Meza

Treasurer – Jane Roy

At-Large Member – Nancy Hamlin-Anderson

At Large Member - LouAnn Stark-Dykema

Past-President – Samantha Caughlan

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A Look Ahead to the 2024 Paddling Season

Practice Days / Time:

Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning April 30th for returning paddlers and May 7th for everyone.

Time will be 5:45 to 7:15 PM

Location:

1284 N. Cedar St.; Mason, MI

Off Cedar St between Holt and Mason.

Parking:

Please park behind the new building, on the grass closer to the water.

Open Houses:

May 2, 2024, arrive between 5:30 and 5:45. We will be done by 7:15pm

May 4, 2024, arrive between 10:45 and 11:00. We will be done by 12:30pm

Races:

The races for the 2024 season are:

- ❖ Dragons on the Lake at Portage Lakes (Akron), Ohio - July 20th
- ❖ Dragon on the Lake Festival at Green's Park in Lake Orion, Michigan - August 25
- ❖ Capital City Dragon Boat Race (CCDBR) at Hawk Island Park in Lansing, Michigan - September 15



Update on the 2024 Winter Activities

Boys In the Boat Movie

We started off our 2024 activities quickly with a group of us attending the movie Boys in the Boat on Sunday, January 7th at 3:00PM at Celebration Cinema. The movie recounts the story of nine American rowers on a quest to compete in the 1936 Berlin Olympic games. The movie is based on the book The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown, which was reviewed in the Dragonflyers' July 2023 Newsletter. We had a wonderful time, and the movie was captivating. Personally, I am a little concerned as one of the take-aways from the movie was to throw the coach and or drummer into the water after winning a race.



Quiet Adventures Symposium

On Saturday, **March 2, 2024**, Dragonflyers participated at the Quiet Adventure Symposium held at the MSU Pavilion. This was a great way to share the sport of dragon boating with outdoor enthusiasts. Our visibility was great as our location put us in the middle of everything. We collected over 40 names of potential paddlers. We are hoping to see many of these people at our open houses on May 2nd and 4th or at some of our open paddles.

One of the exhibitors was lured over to our table by our amazing volunteers and our attractive table display. As we were talking to him, we learned he is with Paddling Adventures Radio, a podcast service that caters to all things paddling. He wanted to know if we would like to talk to him later and be part of his podcast. We agreed and

later in the day he spoke with Julie about our organization. The podcast first aired on Thursday, March 7th. You can catch the podcast at <https://paddlingadventuresradio.com/> Episode 420. Our portion of the podcast begins around minute 59:30. Julie did a tremendous job. Thank you!



A big thank you to our Dragonflyers' volunteers who help with set up and take down and stayed at our table to answer people's questions. Also thank you to all the Dragonflyers who stopped by and offered us support and encouragement. All of you are very much appreciated.



Upcoming Events

Bowling – Save the Date!

Please join us on Sunday April 21st, 3 pm for Bowling! Watch for an email with the specific location. Join us for an afternoon of bowling, eating, laughing, and a little competition. If you are thinking of joining the Dragonflyers of Michigan, this is an event where you can meet us and experience the fun and laughter, we all enjoy.

Planning Events

If you have suggestions for events and/or are willing to help organize events, please share them with Sarynna at Dragonflyersofmi@gmail.com

Fundraising Event Yard Sale 2024 – Save the Date!

My mother-in-law passed away last weekend. In sorting through her belongings, I realize I have lots of items to donate to a Dragonflyers yard sale. ~ *Mary G*
Dragonflyers earned about \$2300 from last year's sale, therefore it would seem to be worth doing it again this year. However, for the yard sale to be successful, and not a burden on a few people, we need everyone to help. The yard sale will be on **Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, 2024**, in the Sycamore Park Neighborhood (as part of the full neighborhood sale).

Please start collecting items you will donate for the sale; clean them up, and place price tags on each item. If labels are needed to describe an item, please include any details or instructions.

Please watch your email for sign-up lists to indicate what shifts you can work on Thursday for sorting and organizing; Friday early morning for set-up; Friday and Saturday work shifts for sales; and Saturday evening (or Sunday) for clean up and donation of items that did not sell. With everyone's help we can earn more money than we did last year!

River cleanup with Michigan Waterways Stewards

After we did such a good job cleaning up the Red Cedar River in 2023, Michigan Waterways Stewards have contacted Dragonflyers and asked if we would again like to participate in the 2024 Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanup. This year's cleanup is on June 1, 2024 from 10:00 to 3:00pm. See flyer on the next page. It will be wonderful if someone would coordinate a group of Dragonflyers to participate as a group. If not, and you want to participate, please let them know you are a member of Dragonflyers of Michigan. For questions and additional information, please contact Mike Stout at mstout@MIWaterwaysStewards.org or check out their website at www.MIWaterwaysStewards.org

Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanup

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 | 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Event Headquarters: Potter Park Zoo

Equipment, food, drink, hospitality, and much more provided.

JOIN US • MAKE A LASTING IMPACT • THIS IS OUR LEGACY

REIMAGINE
REDISCOVER
RECONNECT



PARTNERS AND EVENT SPONSORS



VOLUNTEER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



MSU Extension
Ingham County



Volunteer Opportunities

- ❖ We are putting the **boat in the water** on either April 20 or 21 depending on the predicted weather. We would like 6 to 12 people to paddle the boat from where in put it in, to the boat dock.
- ❖ We would like at least some of our experienced paddlers to be at our **open houses** on May 2nd and 4th to paddle in the boat and guiding the new people.
- ❖ See article on page 5 on the **Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanup** in coordination with Michigan Waterways Stewards.
- ❖ Our **Yard Sale** to raise funds for our team will be held on June 7th and 8th. See article on page 5.

We are also looking for people to join some of our committees; someone to post to and update our public Facebook account. Please contact Julie at Dragonflyersofmi@gmail.com

Reminder to complete the Membership Survey if you are paddling in 2024. See page 16.

From the Maintenance Shed
Greetings Paddlers!

Welcome back!

By the time you read this, the Blue Heron should be out of storage, cleaned, and waxed.

The maintenance committee has nothing large looming on the horizon. We'll be completing small routine maintenance items before she's launched (wood puddy ends of the gunnel, paint the gunnel, patch a couple small cracks, and gel coat scratched areas). We will put the dock in the water on Sunday, April 14th at 1:00 pm. We will launch the boat on April 20th or 21st depending on the weather. Watch for an e-mail requesting volunteers to assist with the boat and dock!

We look forward to seeing all of you!

Erin & Ginger
Maintenance Committee Co-Chairs



Coaches Corner

In this newsletter, we want to take a minute to introduce you to the coaches for the 2024 season. We hope you will learn something about our coaches that you didn't know before.

Ellen Lurie – Head Coach

Welcome Dragonflyers! Many of you know I began dragon boating in 2016. What many of you may not know is how my love of boating and being on the water began. I was born in January in Chicago, two blocks from Lake Michigan. As a child growing up, I spent many summer weekdays at the beach with family and friends. Weekends were spent on my parent's sailboat. One could say my sailing career started when I was six months old and was on the sailboat for the first time. As I got older, my sister and I attended sailing school (instead of tennis camp or 4H or other camps some of you likely participated in). Here I gained skills sailing small boats that we sailed from mid-March through Thanksgiving. I then moved on to larger boats and racing around the buoy events on Saturdays and Sundays; and beer can race on Wednesday evenings. My goal of racing in the Chicago to Mackinac Race happened in 1985. This is a 333-mile sailboat race, which for the size boat I was on took an average of 56 hours. I was fortunate enough to participate in this race 4 times. One year, due to the wind direction and speed, we completed the race in 27.5 hours. Another year we won our section (1st out of approximately 30) and finished 5th in our division (out of approximately 200 boats). I eventually moved to Michigan and due to many reasons, my love of sailing waned. Then in 2016, I had the opportunity to be back in a boat, this time a dragon boat. And so, the adventure continues. I am honored to coach such a fine group of people, who enjoy dragon boating as much as I do.



Ckat Duke – Assistant Coach

Hello Dragonflyers Friends! Coach Ckat here to give you a little bit of information about me. The wonderful sport of Dragonboat has been a huge part of my life for almost ten years now. I started my Dragonboat life in Burlington, Vermont with a small, but mighty team called Malia. I had the honor of competing with this team at the club level and many of our competitions were at a National and



International level. During my time with Malia, I also competed in the indoor erg circuit in the Northeast and placed 2nd in Nationals!

When I'm not in the boat I enjoy archery. I shoot barebow (no sights, or other fancy gizmos). This past indoor season was my first time in the archery world, but it was a blast! Just like Dragon boating, it's a form-based sport and I learned a lot from it that I can transfer to our amazing discipline. I am looking forward to an awesome season.

Alyona Troitsky – Coach Youth Groups

Greetings fellow dragon boat paddlers and supporters of the sport. Coach Alyona here sending you well wishes and all the best for the 2024 Dragon Boat season. I want to take this opportunity to share somethings about myself in an effort to build our team camaraderie and in hopes that you too will share your experiences this season in the boat. One of the joys for me of being in a dragon boat is getting to know all the amazing people from different walks of life that come to take part in this beautiful sport. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know so many cool people. If it wasn't for our awesome Dragon Boat community, I most likely would not have had a chance to meet with and sweat with some of the coolest people in Michigan!



Anyone who has been in the boat for more than a season probably knows that Halloween is my absolute favorite holiday. Last weekend I had found some discounted Halloween merchandise at Ollie's in Lansing, and the checkout clerk, in his best standup comedian voice quipped, 'and here I thought we had Easter coming up.' We both had a good chuckle.

Folks who know me, know that I am on the lookout for Halloween themed things all year round. In the spirit of Halloween, I finally visited Salem, Massachusetts last fall during October. I was in my happy place the entire trip and I look forward to making another visit there soon. Hosting a pumpkin carving party at my house in October is another event I look forward to year-round.

I also enjoy visiting New Orleans for the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival. Writing and reading are two things, outside of Dragon Boating, I enjoy doing most. At the Literary Festival in New Orleans, I get to meet well established and known authors, as well as hobnob with the up-and-coming literary talent. New Orleans and literary inspiration are a great pairing, and it is an experience that I treasure.

I enjoy potato-based food dishes as is indicative of the cultural heritage of my native country of Russia. And while it does include an occasional serving of potato juice, aka vodka, I love a hardy borscht (beet soup) and cabbage stuffed piroshki. Also, freshly made latkes with sour cream always make my day.

As we prepare for another season of dragon boating, I raise my glass to you, my friends and say 'na zdaroviaya' and 'paddles up'.

Reminder to complete the
Membership Survey if you are
paddling in 2024. See page 16.

Get to Know our Paddlers

This is a new section where we will highlight a few of our paddlers in each edition of the newsletter. Randomly selected paddlers were asked to provide answers to three of 15 questions we provided.

How many can you identify correctly? Answers are on page 21

Person #1

1. *What are your hobbies outside of dragon boating?* - I think most Dragonflyers team members already know about my love of birding. I have been known to shout out various bird sightings during practice, sometimes not choosing the best moments as we are paddling 😊. Perhaps many don't know the backstory. My love of birding developed during the pandemic. I am a traveler and love researching places to visit. Birding became my travel substitute. My friend Sam and I walked on trails all around Michigan every weekend for over a year. Thanks to the birds, I discovered beautiful nature preserves, saw the changes of seasons differently, and got a lot of exercise. Now I can't imagine my life without the birds.
2. *What is a place, tradition, food, or other experience that is meaningful to you and why?* - I grew up in northern New Mexico. The landscape there is a mix of mountains, canyons, high desert, and mesas. A favorite place of mine from childhood to this day is Bandelier National Monument. The area is in Frijoles Canyon, a beautiful place with a stream and Native American ruins of the Anasazi peoples. My family often had Sunday picnics there, leaving many memories of playing in the stream. In high school I took a class on Native American history of the Southwest and spent time learning the archaeological history of Bandelier. In my adult years, I try to visit Bandelier whenever I get home, now birding, hiking the trails and visiting the ancient sites. Truly magical!
3. *What is a fun fact about you?* - A fun fact about me is that I once performed a disco dance in front of an audience of about 2,000 people. I was teaching English in northern China a number of years ago. The college where I taught hosted an annual talent show. Somehow, I got roped into performing in a choreographed disco dance with 7 other teachers. That was a one and only performance, not to be repeated!

Person #2

1. *What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?* - Crickets with lime and chili. They're fried and they're delicious.
2. *What is something about your culture or heritage that you would like to share with Dragonflyers?* - I love the Day of the Dead, even though we didn't really celebrate it in Northern Mexico as much as they do in the South, which is what you typically see in movies like Coco. What I love about it the most is the idea that our loved ones live on through the stories we tell about them, and how you're only dead, really, once people stop talking about you. I find that really profound, and I love telling stories about relatives and friends who have passed on, always remembering that little fact, that as long as they're talked about, they're not really dead.
3. *What is the most interesting place you have ever visited or lived in?* - Living in Berlin was really fun. But the most interesting place I've ever visited is definitely India! I loved the colors, the sounds, and the food! (Though as I type this while in Mexico, maybe I didn't love the heat as much as nostalgia would have me believe, ha!)

Person #3

1. *What are your hobbies outside of dragon boating?* - I love growing my own produce indoors and outdoors with the Tower Garden aeroponic system. I also am becoming more interested in making native plant gardens which attract butterflies, birds, etc. into my backyard. I plan on learning more about native plants and creating more gardens.
2. *What is a place, tradition, food, or other experience that is meaningful to you and why?* - Lakes and water areas in general are very meaningful to me. I grew up on an inland lake in Michigan and this is a part of my deepest being. Lake Michigan, inland lakes, rivers, oceans--all of these give me a sense of being at home.
3. *What is the most interesting place you have ever visited or lived in?* - Swimming at night in the bioluminescent bay near La Paguera, Puerto Rico. This was a remarkable experience!

Person #4

1. *What is the most interesting place you have ever visited or lived in?* Japan
2. *What is your favorite holiday or one that is special to you?* Easter always has been, way more than Christmas as a kid.
3. *What is a fun fact about yourself?* I have visited all but one of the 50 states and I will be visiting that last one soon (Alaska here I come)

Person #5

1. *What are your hobbies outside of dragon boating?* - Growing things including plants, veggies, trees, animals, my savings. I also spend lots of thought and energy creating useful art from found or collected items. Check out some of them on Etsy in my shop: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/poppyparty>. I always wanted to have a shop called The Green Chair. Supporting 'green' art. We'll see what happens when I retire.
2. *What is something on your "bucket list"?* - I found a recipe book about 10 years ago and decided I had to go see the island that was highlighted in the book. It has now become 'discovered' and may be busier than when I first heard about it. The island of Icaria, Greece. That is just one of the things on my bucket list.
3. *What is the most interesting place you have ever visited or lived in?* - My sisters and I took an epic trip to Alaska in 2018. One of our stops was in McCarthy, Alaska and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. <https://www.nps.gov/wrst/index.htm> The history of the area was spectacular, and we learned so much. There is even a TV series about the city of McCarthy called Edge of Alaska. We had to plan this trip a year in advance to make sure we had places to stay along the way. We fashioned our trip after an adventure our parents had taken some years prior. It was amazing thinking that we were traveling along the same roads they did years prior.

Person #6

1. *What is a place, tradition, food, or other experience that is meaningful to you and why?* - My father came to this country when he was about six years old from Belfast, Northern Ireland. I was born in Brooklyn, New York right after

WWII. My father like many GI's took advantage of the GI Bill and soon bought a house out on Long Island. It was in a subdivision with brand new little cape cod houses that all looked the same. The house had two bedrooms, one bath and an unfinished second story. The plan was to build extra bedrooms upstairs for my sister and I, but my father's parents soon let him know that my grandfather was retiring, and they would be moving in. The upstairs area became an apartment for them.

I feel I had the best childhood having grandparents so nearby. I received unlimited, unconditional love and attention. I had tea parties with my grandmother and learned to sew on her treadle Singer sewing machine. She made the best pies (meat pie being my favorite), and other Irish items. The trade-off, sharing a room with my sister, was definitely worth it.

The recipe I am sharing is for Irish Soda Bread. It tastes just like hers, but alas it is not her recipe. She would say "Aye, add a wee bit of this" and I was lost. I make Ina Garten's recipe for soda bread every St. Patrick's Day in her memory. The recipe calls for currents, but I have used a variety of dried fruits and nuts. Dried cranberries and walnuts are my favorite add-ins.

Irish Soda Bread Recipe <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ina-garten/irish-soda-bread-recipe-1949134.amp>

2. *What are your hobbies outside of dragon boating?* - Of course, dragon boating is one of my favorite hobbies, but I do have a few others. I worked in a plant store 25 years ago and still have many of the same plants I bought then. I also enjoy growing orchids.

I like to cycle and especially enjoy the Bike and Seek competition every year in June. (<https://lmb.org/ride-calendar/lansing-bike-and-seek/>)

Groups are given clues to solve as they peddle to various destinations in the Lansing area. The event can be done as a race or at a more leisurely pace on a day of your choosing.

I also like to read. Louise Penny is one of my favorite authors, but her next book will not be released until October. I am now enjoying the Scottish mystery writer Peter May's book Coffin Road.

3. *What is something on your "bucket list"?* - I would like to travel to Barcelona, Spain to see the works of Gaudi's. The Sangria Familia Cathedral would be a highlight, but the whole city has wonderful architectural examples of his work.

Go to page 21 of the newsletter to see how many paddlers who know.

Dragonflyers' Donors

Dragonflyers would like to recognize and thank our donors and sponsors. Through their contributions, Dragonflyers is working towards our goal of multi-generational comradery, team building, healthy exercise programs, and education regarding the technique and wellness features of dragon boating. Proceeds from donors and sponsors also supported charitable racing for a women's center, the arts, and cancer programs.

Darling Hardware in Perry, MI

Great Northern Docks in Vermont

South Lansing Lowe's

South Lansing Menards

Performance Project, LLC (M-43 Gym)

Laurel Winkle

Capital Region Community Foundation (Guerriero Family)

Rebecca (Becky) Saul

Beth Wing

Paige Lawson

Joyce Ochowicz

Rob Flanders

Melodee Graybill

Linda Connor

And many of our paddlers

Membership Committee

The membership committee would like to share the following recruitment flyer to share with your contacts (page 17). All members should [complete the membership form](#) each season. Word of mouth and your testimonies about the sport are still the most powerful way to attract new members. If you have interest in joining the membership committee, please contact LouAnn or Bess at Dragonflyersofmi@gmail.com. We would love to have you involved!



Adventure

With Us
Join Us for the Paddling Season!
No experience necessary!



**Check out the exciting and fun sport of Dragonboating
at our upcoming open practices in May**

Regular Practices on Tuesday and Thursday evenings
1284 N Cedar Street, Mason
All genders and identities welcomed!

Please email to confirm your interest: dragonflyersofmi@gmail.com or
complete the membership form available at <https://www.dragonflyers.org/>

 *Community. Camradere. Sport.* 

Training with a Dragon Boat Erg

Beginning in January this year, we offered training on our erg, a paddling machine that helps work on the technical side of your dragon boat stroke, as well as strength and stamina. Ckat was the primary coach for the erg training (see Meet Ckat on page 9), with the assistance of Ellen. The response was wonderful. We had 14 paddlers participate in the erg training at least once. We are looking forward to seeing how the erg training helps the paddlers who took advantage of this opportunity.

We hope to offer some erg opportunities this summer and again at the end of the paddling season.



Word Search – Dragonflyers #1

S	R	E	Y	L	F	N	O	G	A	R	D	T
P	A	D	D	L	E	S	U	P	A	E	D	A
R	O	T	A	T	I	O	N	D	M	L	E	O
R	P	A	M	L	D	R	A	E	T	I	F	B
R	R	C	P	U	T	E	S	A	A	L	P	N
O	D	O	N	U	D	A	E	U	U	B	F	O
P	E	E	D	T	L	N	O	L	T	D	P	G
A	S	D	D	N	H	P	B	U	R	A	S	A
M	X	T	P	R	S	R	A	O	D	O	E	R
E	R	S	S	H	U	S	U	D	O	S	A	D
O	H	U	T	D	L	M	L	E	A	O	G	D
U	B	T	I	I	D	E	G	W	T	I	X	E
H	O	L	D	T	H	E	B	O	A	T	D	B

Dragonboat

Dragonflyers

Drum

Exit

Hold The Boat

Oar

Paddle

Paddles Up

Rotation

Setup

Reminder to complete the Membership Survey if you are paddling in 2024.

See page 16.

Extras

Learn to Tie Knots with Coach Ellen (This class was delayed from mid-April)



The most common knot the Dragonflyers' use is the bowline, which is how we secure the boat to the dock. Other useful knots include the square knot, figure eight knot, half hitch and more. Do you want to learn how to tie these knots? Coach Ellen is offering an informal class in May or June, in the evening. Watch for more details about signing up for this class.

Please send suggested topics for training to DragonflyersofMI@gmail.com attention Coach Ellen

Recreational Paddle Dates/Times Sunday, May 19, 2024; 4:00 to 5:30 Saturday, June 15, 2024; 10:30 to noon Sunday, July 14, 2024; 4:00 to 5:30 Saturday, August 17, 2024; 10:30 to noon Sunday, September 22; 4:00 to 5:30

Seeking Captains for our 2024 Races

We are looking for a captain (or co-captains) for the Dragon on the Lake Festival on August 25th at Lake Orion, MI

We are looking for one additional captain for the Capital City Dragon Boat Race on September 15th at Hawk Island Park in Lansing, MI (Andrea is one co-captain).

LouAnn has agreed to be captain of the Dragons on the Lake Festival in Akron, OH.

Over the Edge Event

Our paddler Joyce has signed up to rappel down the Boji Tower in downtown Lansing, as part of a fundraiser for the Women's Center of Grater Lansing. To qualify to rappel off Boji Tower each participant had to raise \$1000. Joyce is one of 2 who has done this as of 4/8/2024 and will be allowed to rappel. The event happens on May 18th at Boji Tower 120-130 W. Allegan St. in Lansing. You can still donate in Joyce's name by going to

<https://lansingwomen.org/ote2024/>, on this page click on the image that looks like what is shown below.



From here, scroll down until you see Joyce Ochowicz, click on Joyce and you will be directed to her page. Then click the donate button ***under Joyce's name.***

Of course, you can watch on May 18th at Boji Tower as Joyce rappels down the side of the building. Let's Go Joyce!

Comment from last year's winning team captain

Coach Ellen is on the organizing committee for the Capital City Dragon Boat Race, through the Women's Center of Greater Lansing. During one of the meetings, typically on zoom, one of the committee people was commenting on a boat during last year's race that was "a group of older women who really looked good. Their timing was so good.". After he was finished, I said I think you are referring to my team, the Dragonflyers of Michigan. He said "Yes, they were very good." The person who made the comment was the captain for the team that finished first, only 1.26 seconds in front of us.

Red Cedar Elementary

On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Coach Ellen accompanied Rebecca Kasen, the Executive Director of the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, to Red Cedar Elementary School in East Lansing, where they talked with a 2nd grade class about the dragon boat festival and dragon boating in general. They 2nd graders were studying the festival and making dragon boats in art class. The children were polite and had many good questions. Coach Ellen was a big hit as she brought the boats dragon head with her to the event.



Dragonflyers' Website

The Dragonflyers of Michigan website is up and available for viewing at www.dragonflyers.org.

Committees and Chair-people

No organization can succeed without the help of countless people serving on committees. Dragonflyers is no different. We are always looking for people to join our committees.

Membership Committee – Bess German

Fundraising Committee – Co-chairs Julie Sinclair and Ginger Martz

Finance Committee – Jane Roy (Treasurer)

Social Activity Committee – Sarynna Lopez-Meza

Maintenance Committee - Co-chairs Ginger Martz and Erin Linn

Social Media & Website/IT – Looking for chair and members - Contact Julie Sinclair

Election/Nomination – Bess German

Safety – Alyona Troitsky

Race –Ellen Lurie

We are especially looking for people who can help with our Facebook accounts.

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact the chairperson or the board President Julie Sinclair at DragonflyersofMI@gmail.com.

Dragonflyers Board Meetings

The Board holds quarterly meetings, which are open to members and the public.

Meeting dates for 2024 are tentatively scheduled on the following dates:

- ~~January 30, 2024, at 7:00pm~~
- **April 24, 2024, at 7:00pm**
- July 24, 2024, at 7:00pm
- October 23, 2024, at 7:00pm

The meeting will be held on Zoom. You may contact us at

DragonflyersofMI@gmail.com for the link and meeting details.

Additional details will be provided at least one week before the meeting.

All are welcome to attend these meetings.

Answers to Guess the Paddler

Person #1 – Julie

Person #2 – Sarynna

Person #3 – LouAnn

Person #4 – Amy

Person #5 - Andrea

Person #6 - Lin

We hope this Newsletter can be published quarterly. If you would like to help with the newsletter, please contact Ellen at DragonflyersofMI@gmail.com

Articles and ideas for articles are welcome.

For questions or more information regarding Dragonflyers of Michigan please visit our website at www.dragonflyers.org or email us at DragonflyersofMI@gmail.com

Dragonflyers of Michigan is a 501(c)(3) organization.