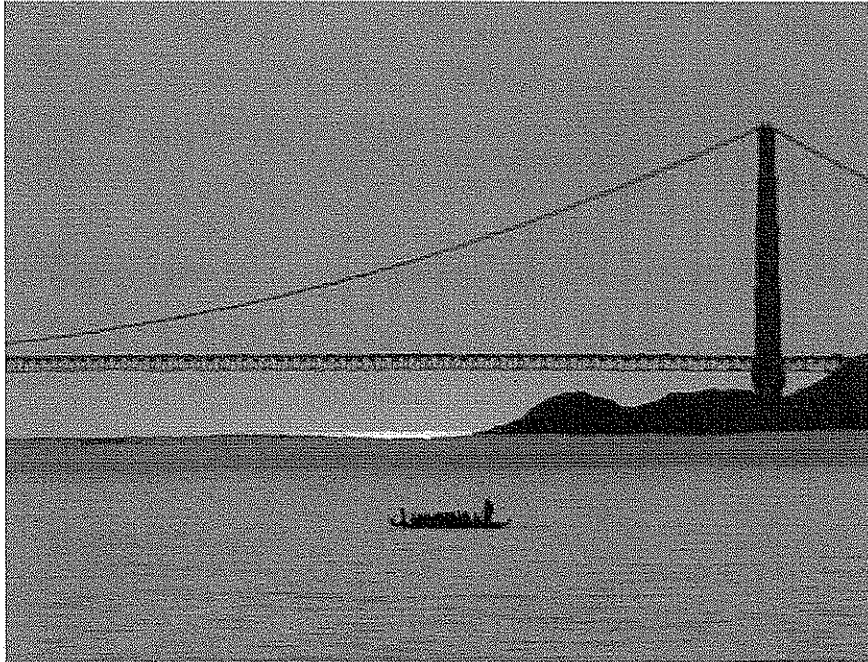


*Berkeley Racing Canoe Center*

# **2007 Annual Report**

## Introduction

Throughout the year, visitors to the Berkeley Marina and surrounding area have been intrigued by the sight of a dragon boat as it is being paddled in the waters of the San Francisco Bay by members of the Berkeley Racing Canoe Center (BRCC). For those curious enough to venture to



“M” Dock for a closer look, they will discover an organization that has dedicated itself to providing low-cost access to water activities in an environment that encourages teamwork in a unique setting. Whether it is a free dragon boat ride on the Fourth of July, or a year-

long commitment with other water sport enthusiasts, BRCC can offer these opportunities at a low cost primarily because every aspect of the organization, from safety training and equipment maintenance to administration, is run by its members on a voluntarily basis. The uniqueness of dragon boating also permits BRCC to provide a community service in a manner that other organizations cannot.

## History and Mission

The Berkeley Racing Canoe Center was formed in January 2004 as a public benefit corporation for the purpose of promoting international dragon boat competition and providing water access and educational opportunities for the Berkeley and East Bay communities. In November 2004

BRCC transformed into a non-profit organization under United States Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) in service to the public, and has been serving the public continuously since then.

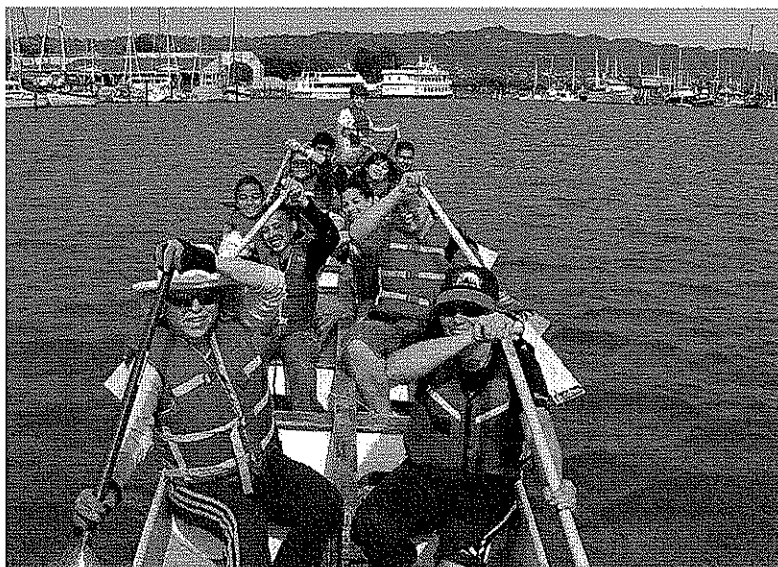
### **Low-Cost Water Access and Educational Opportunities**



Membership to BRCC, at \$100 for an annual membership (\$20/year for college students, free for students 18 years of age and under), is one of the least-expensive ways for the general public to become a part of the Bay Area's unlimited water opportunities. BRCC encourages

individuals interested in dragon boat paddling to take advantage of BRCC's free trial memberships before making a commitment to a paid membership. Full members have access to BRCC's fleet of various "human-powered" watercraft, including kayaks, dragon boats and outrigger canoes, and can enjoy new opportunities for recreation and fitness.

BRCC is able to maintain its low membership fees due in large part to the free berths and other marina



services that the City of Berkeley provides to BRCC without charge. In addition, BRCC members volunteer their time to maintain BRCC's fleet and equipment, to run the day-to-day administrative functions, as well as to provide dragon boat paddling instruction and coaching to the local community. Although BRCC does not require its membership to volunteer for community service activities, it has fostered an atmosphere of cooperation and a spirit of teamwork through its competitive DragonMax dragon boat racing team that members enthusiastically volunteer their time to pass along their passion for water activities to the general community, especially to the youth. Given that BRCC members participate in a sport that is still amateur in nature and requires a great deal of personal and financial sacrifice and investment, the level of volunteerism within the organization is impressive.

### **Free Dragon Boat Rides**



As mentioned previously, BRCC encourages all individuals regardless of age to join BRCC's dragon boat team members on a trial basis during regularly-scheduled practices year-round



(conditions permitting) at no cost. One of BRCC's busiest (and most popular) events continues to be its participation in the City of Berkeley's annual Fourth of July celebration.

In 2007, approximately 20 members the DragonMax dragon boat team volunteered their time, as well as their "human" power, to provide free dragon boat rides around the Berkeley Marina to over 300 people of all ages who came for the festivities. The



enthusiasm of the volunteers was well-received by all participants, who experienced the Berkeley Marina and its surroundings in a unique way. Some enjoyed their experience so much that they became members of BRCC.

### **Youth Programs**



In March, April and May 2007, BRCC provided dragon boat paddling programs as part of the outdoor activities organized through the Berkeley Boosters PAL program.

These programs consisted of a series of eight outings that allowed elementary and middle school students to

experience the sport of dragon boat racing, many for the first time. In addition, BRCC hosted



two dragon boat outings organized by B-Tech alternative high school in September and October 2007, and an outing with the Fred Finch Youth Center organized by the City of Berkeley in June 2007. A typical session consisted of eight to twelve youths, accompanied by at least two

adult chaperones, and about three or four BRCC volunteers (mostly from the Berkeley area) who provided instruction and encouragement. A BRCC-certified steersperson was always in charge of the boat to ensure that all BRCC safety procedures were followed. Please refer to Appendix “A” for a photographic record of some of BRCC’s youth-oriented activities.

### **Other Community Service**

In addition to its primary focus on youth outreach, BRCC also participated in other community service-oriented activities, such as volunteering at the Oakland Chinatown StreetFest and training novice corporate teams at the Berkeley Marina for participation in the inaugural Paddle For Life dragon boat festival (a fund-raiser for breast cancer research) in August 2007.

### **Membership**

In 2007, BRCC had 60 paid members, of which over two-thirds were active participants throughout the year. The majority of the membership consisted of adults, while three were student members, and ages ranged from 16 to 70. In addition, five individuals paid one-time race fees to participate on the DragonMax dragon boat team for local races, but did not have full access to BRCC’s member services.

## **Finances**

In 2007, total income for BRCC was \$16,085. The largest source of income was from corporate and individual donations, followed by membership fees. Expenditures for 2007 totaled \$12,119, which included a one-time capital expenditure of \$6,000 for the purchase of a used Penn Yan Sportfisher powerboat. This purchase was made possible by generous donations earmarked specifically for the Penn Yan, which will be used in conjunction with BRCC's existing dragon boat programs to introduce more local-area youths by introducing them to the San Francisco Bay as an urban resource, and to offer them the opportunity to experience a unique team sport at the same time. The remaining funds acquired in 2007 will be used for regular maintenance and upkeep of BRCC equipment (e.g., annual dragon boat refinishing, paddle and PFD replacement) and other scheduled expenses (e.g., insurance, dragon boat repayment). Appendix "B" contains more information regarding BRCC's 2007 financials.

## **Plans for 2008**

BRCC's focus in 2008 will be to continue to develop its youth outreach programs, as well as

provide low-cost access to water

sport resources. It has already

received a commitment from

Berkeley Boosters PAL to continue

its youth program, with at least eight

outings scheduled in January and

February 2008. In addition, plans are

in the works to develop additional

programs with youth groups at



Berkeley and Albany High School. In June 2008, BRCC (through its DragonMax dragon boat team) will co-host the second annual Paddle For Life dragon boat festival in Oakland, and will be training several recreational teams that will be participating in the breast cancer research fundraising event. BRCC also looks forward to continuing its participation in the City's annual Fourth of July festivities through its free dragon boat rides.



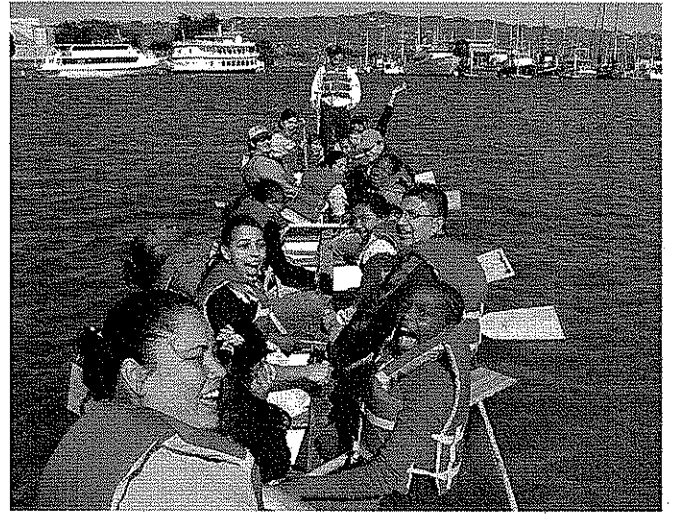
# Appendix "A"

A partial record of public service and  
youth outreach during 2007

Berkeley Racing Canoe Center  
<http://www.BerkeleyRCC.org>



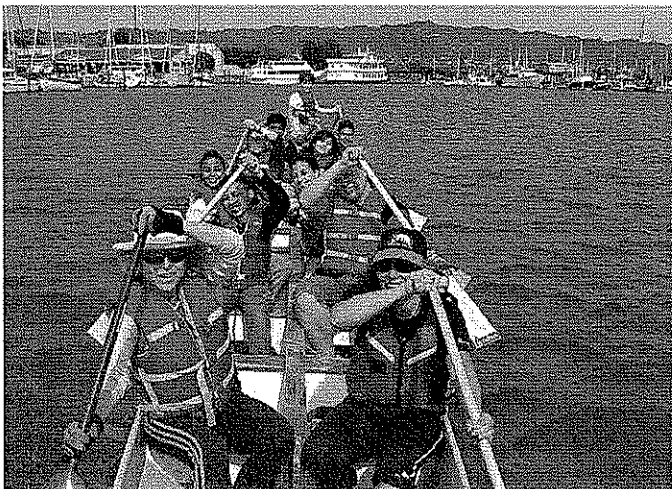
Berkeley Boosters, March 2007



Berkeley Boosters, April 2007



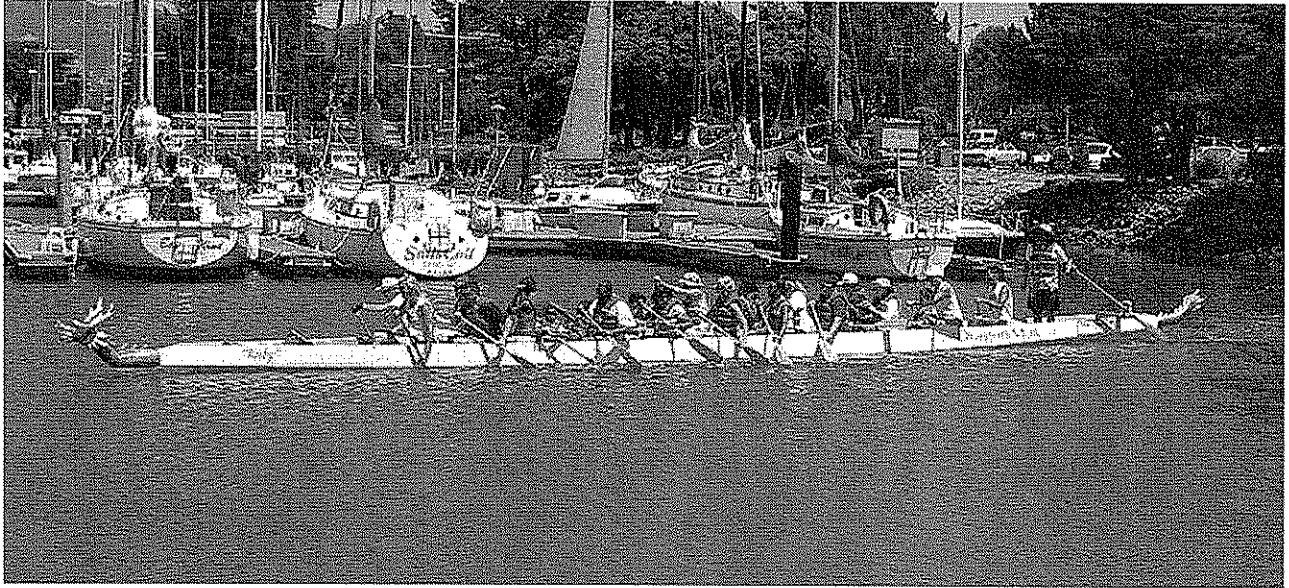
Berkeley Boosters, May 2007

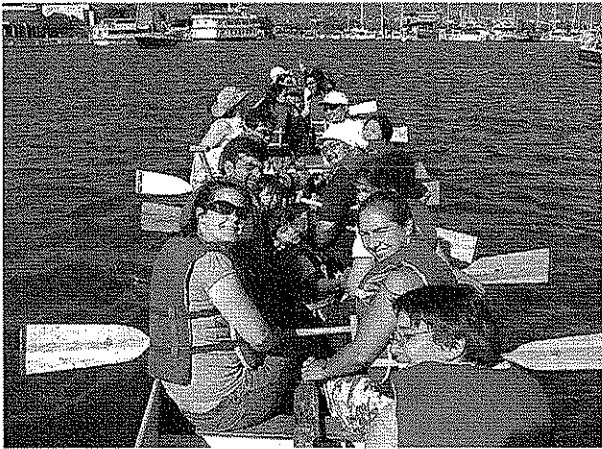
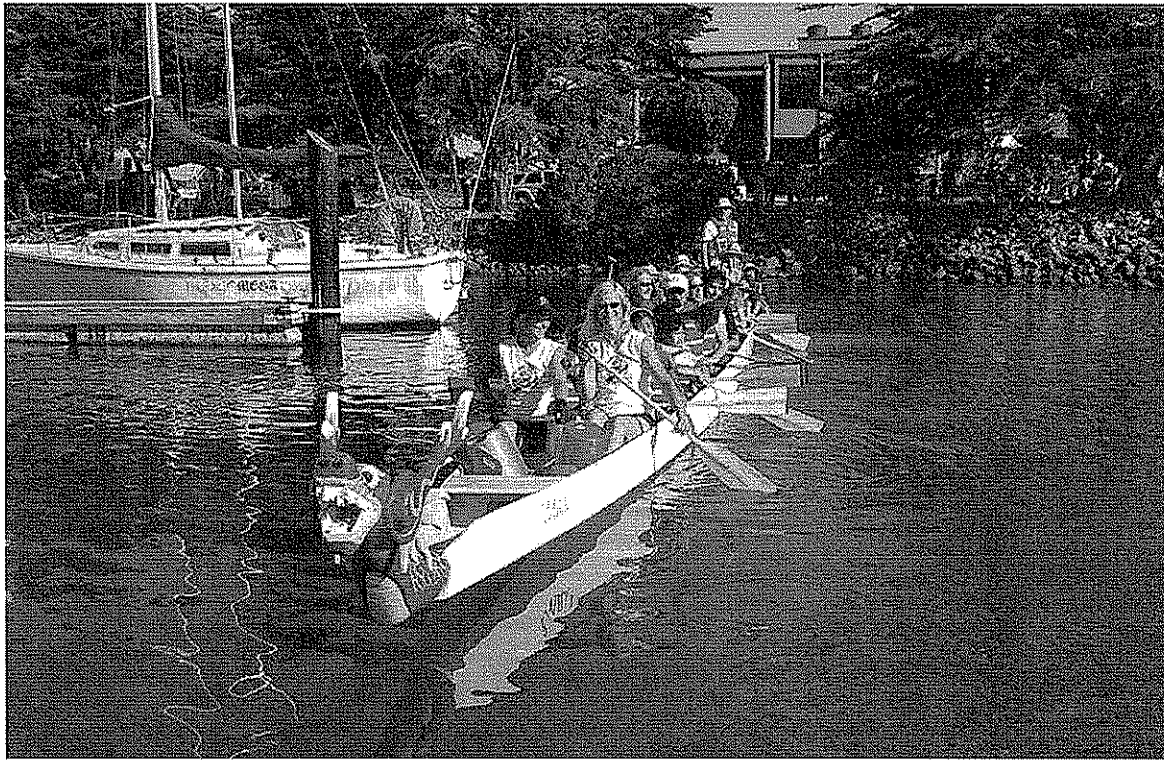




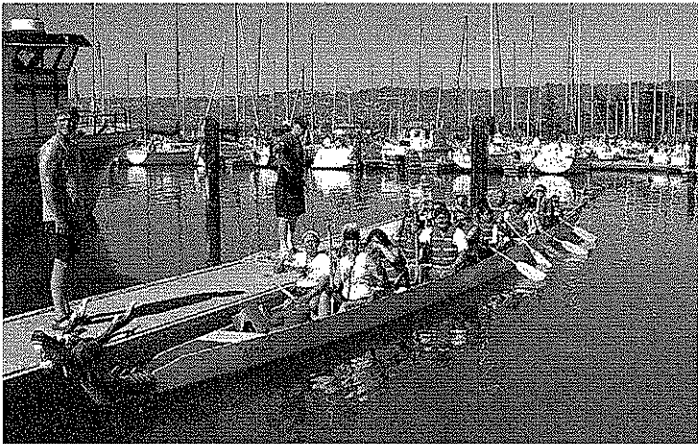
July 4 2007

## Free dragon boat rides

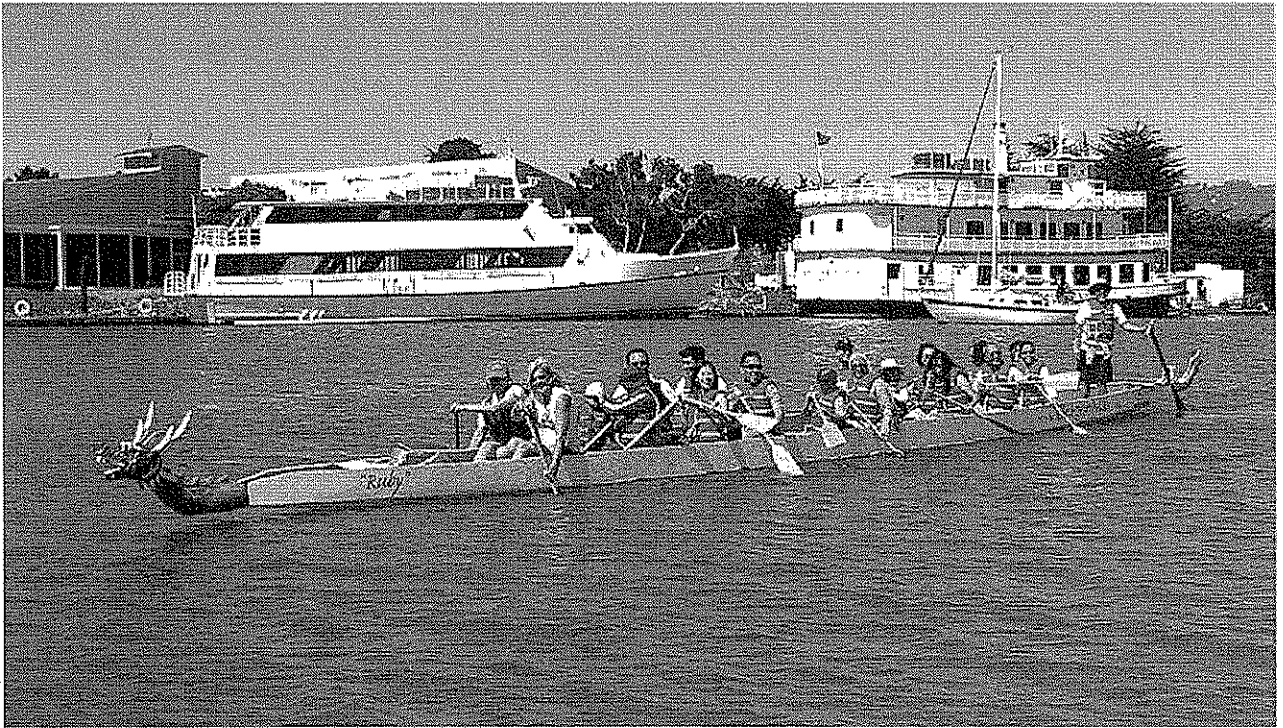








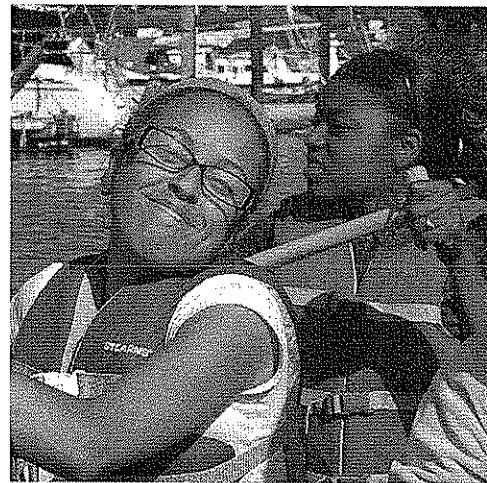




Berkeley Technology Academy, September 14 2007



Berkeley Technology Academy, September 21 2007



Berkeley Technology Academy, October 5 2007



Crestmont School, October 2007

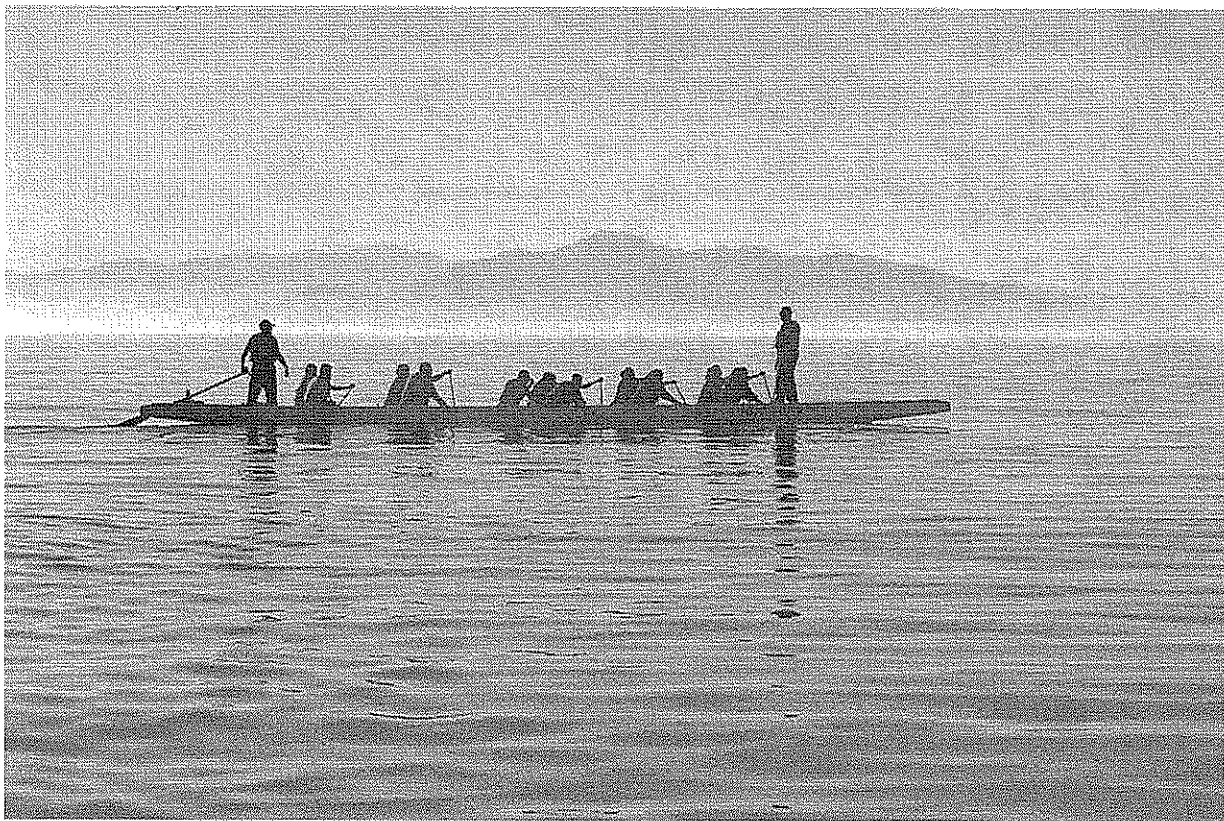
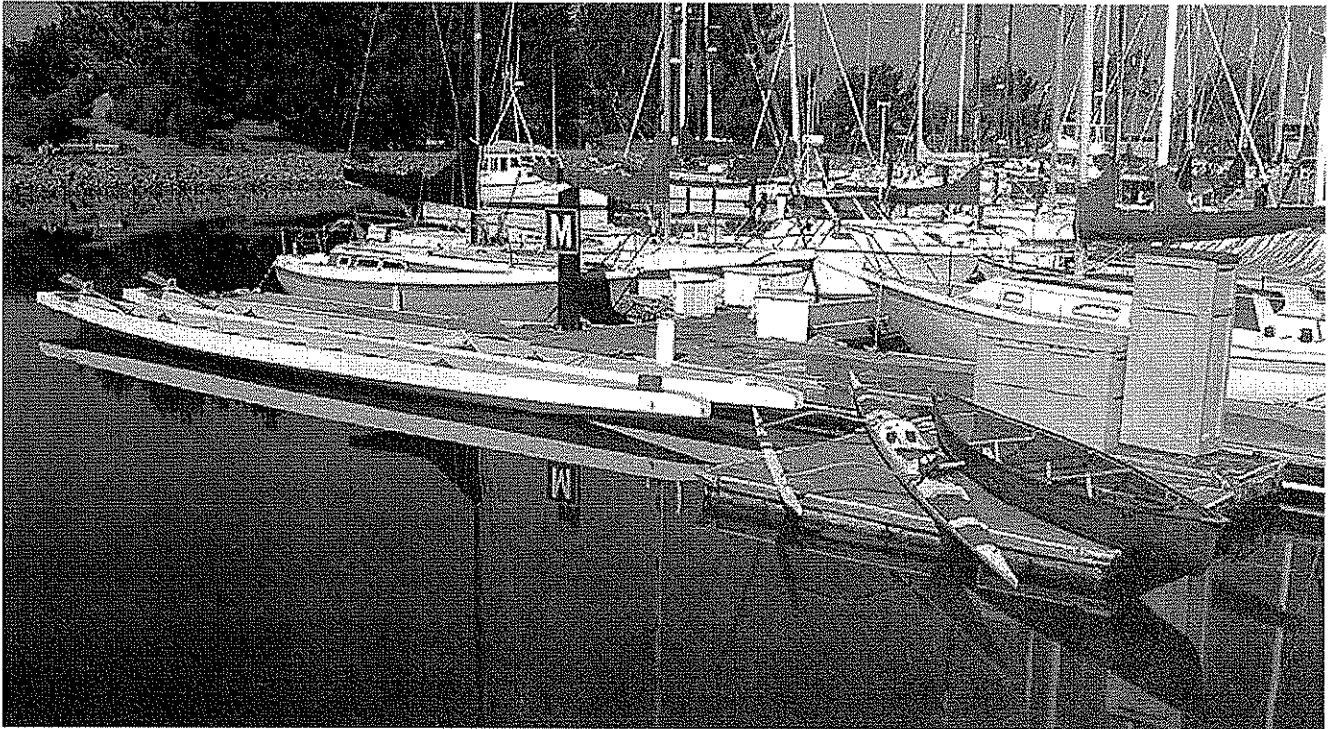


Bird Rescue, November 2007





M-Dock inside tie berthing area, west side



# Appendix "B"

## BERKELEY RACING CANOE CENTER Financial Statement for Calendar Year 2007

### Income

Memberships	\$ 6,110.00	
Corporate Sponsorship	\$ 2,000.00	
Power Boat Fund Donations	\$ 7,875.00	
Visitor Race Registration Courtesy	\$ 100.00	
Total Income		\$ 16,085.00

### Expense

Annual Dragon Boat Lease/Purchase	\$ 2,000.00	
Dragon Boat Equipment	\$ 483.00	
Dragon Boat Operations	\$ 292.00	
DragonMax Subvention	\$ 1,800.00	
Insurance	\$ 919.00	
Power Boat Operations	\$ 325.00	
Administrative Expense	\$ 300.00	
Total Operating Expense		\$ 6,119.00
Total Income less Operating Expense		\$ 9,966.00

### Capital Expenditures

Power Boat	\$ 4,000.00	
Power Boat Trailer	\$ 2,000.00	
Total Capital Expenditures		\$ 6,000.00