



BUGGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fall 2009 Wrapup / Spring 2010 Preview

Hello 2010 BAA Members,

Thanks for joining up early in our second year and supporting what has turned into a pretty big and healthy organization in just a couple of years. Last year in early April we were ecstatic to have 40 dues paying members. By the time we got through raceday, the number peaked around 100. This year, with a bit more visibility out of the gates and a number of promotions, we've got more than 40 members already in January. Of course, you loyal "dues-paying-members" are just our favorite part of the much larger crowd of buggy enthusiasts that have fueled our growth.

We hope you have followed along with the activity on cmubuggy.org since raceday last year. We reported on almost every day of rolls this fall, and posted over 200 pictures already this year in the gallery to give you a window into the current activity. We've recently added a feature to allow you to receive updates from the site's news section by e-mail so you don't have to remember to check the site. Visit the site now to sign up.

Our biggest initiative this fall -- aside from the regular installments of rolls reports and pictures -- has been to facilitate an overhaul in the timing technology that buggy uses to measure each team's effort out on the course. Collaborating here in Pittsburgh with Sweepstakes and online with alumni near and far, we've evaluated the shortcomings of our current system and what technological investments we can make to make the timing system more accurate and reliable. The BAA will be helping Sweepstakes make that investment financially, thanks in large part to membership dues and gifts from you and other alumni. Full details of the new system and our role in it will be posted to cmubuggy.org as soon as the plan is finalized.

So, to wrap up the fall and preview the spring, we'd like to offer you this summary of the 14 organizations that will be contending for the glory in 2010 ...



cmubuggy.org

Alpha Epsilon Pi



Q&A with Zach Waldman (Chair, Junior) and Henry Zhang (Ass. Chair, Junior)

Semester summary: Things are going pretty well... a lot of improvement, actually a little bit further along than usual... Almost everyone is up to full speed, we're excited for spring; we're ready.

Goals for the Spring: New buggy coming out, build in progress... Make the pushers faster, getting 4 mens teams for raceday, twice as many as ever before, tracked down derby wheels for it.

Raceday goals: Make 2nd day, beat SDC C

Favorite wheel: 2009 "Goodyears" in white

Fall stats: 3 buggies, 5 drivers, 63 rolls

The Boys On The Corner had a huge '09 raceday - a new buggy, huge leaps in their times (18 and 16 seconds for their A and B team, respectively), and an exhibition race no one will ever forget. Their 2010 could be even better - they're building a second buggy in as many years, which they'll need since they now have 5 drivers. Although one of them is the chairman: He had three rolls this fall.



Beta Theta Pi



Beta was excluded from participation in Sweepstakes this year after a violation in their truck last race day. However, the decision was overturned and they are allowed to participate on probationary terms. As is common with Beta, they didn't roll in the fall, but they did come out for chores and Sweepstakes meetings.



Fall stats: 1 buggy, 1 driver, 0 rolls

Carnegie Involvement Association



Q&A with Ben Matzke (Asst. Chair, mechanic, pusher, Junior)

Semester summary: Warm weather when it wasn't raining, no freezing snowy mornings, currently wrapping up a build

Goals for the Spring: Qualifying newest buggy, getting our pushers up to snuff

Raceday goals: Make day 2.

Favorite wheel: Turquoise or spirally wheel that changes colors when it spins

Fall stats: 4 buggies, 6 drivers, 91 rolls

Even though the EXPLOSIVE MEN OF THE CARNEGIE seem unable to break 2:20, and THE INDOMITABLE WOMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION are unable to break 3:00, there's hope on the horizon. Their first attempt at a composite buggy (Renaissance) rolled this fall, and has posted impressive times. They've already started on their next buggy (currently unnamed #16), which they plan on rolling this spring, and they've started a serious pusher training program. Could this be the end of dropping pushbars?



Delta Tau Delta



Q&A with Aman Chawla (DTD President, mechanic, pusher, Senior)

Semester summary: would like to get through a whole day of rolls; learned a lot about buggy. Next semester, I'm not sure there's a problem we'll encounter that we can't handle.

Goals for the Spring: refining lines, aerodynamics, move past the basic nuts and bolts problems and work on speed.

Raceday goals: Completion.

Favorite wheel: stock Xootr

Fall stats: 1 buggies, 1 drivers, 14 rolls

If there was a competition for biggest heart, DTD would win it. Rolling in Bethany (purchased from Pioneers), they've overcome a lot of problems (including a broken pushbar) and keep coming back. They experienced a bad crash the final weekend of the semester, but we're hoping they'll be able to return in the spring.



Fringe



Q&A with Dave Alberts (Chairman, Junior) and Ray Barsa (Junior)

Semester summary: "Fast and hot." "We've been getting a lot of our new drivers up to speed, and we've been having a lot of fun."

Goals for the Spring: Building a new buggy, getting the drivers comfortable in their buggies at speed.

Raceday goals: Win.

Favorite wheel: Green! No, Orange! Or... square?



Fall stats: 4 buggies, 4 drivers, 95 rolls

Fringe was the rolliest team on the course this fall, accumulating 95 rolls with "only" 4 drivers. They were second to SDC on mini-raceday and in the freeroll rankings showing that they firmly occupy that step on the ladder these days. Objective #1 must be trying to find some way to close the gap and gain on SDC, but perhaps just as meaningful is fending off a resurgent PiKA who won't be satisfied to stay in 3rd. Their annual new buggy is surely in the works, but as always the pusher recruitment race between the independents is just heating up.

Kappa Kappa Gamma / Zeta Beta Tau



Zeta Beta Tau has returned to buggy and joined with Kappa Kappa Gamma. They slipped in under the wire with rolls on the final weekend of the semester. There were plans at the beginning of the semester to build a buggy, but those plans seem to have gone on hold with the recent purchase from SigEp of Enigma. We hope Enigma fares better than poor Ursula.

Fall stats: 1 buggy, 1 driver, 4 rolls

Phi Kappa Theta



Q&A with Rhees Oakes (Chairman, Junior)

Semester summary: Things are good for how early it is.

Goals for the Spring: We'll see about building, focus on getting a few things fixed that we didn't have fixed last raceday.

Raceday goals: Top ten.

Favorite wheel: Black.



Fall stats: 3 buggies, 4 drivers, 37 rolls

Phikap remains one of the lowest profile teams in buggy. Their 3 buggies, 4 drivers, and 37 rolls are all very average. Their last place finish on mini-raceday and 9th place ranking in the freeroll stats didn't turn any heads. On the up side, they brought Celerity back out and stayed largely incident-free for the fall. There's nothing wrong with getting the basics right in the fall and making your move in the spring.

Pi Kappa Alpha



Q&A with Melissa Lee (Head Driver, Grad Student)

Semester summary: Been going well, "We are the best team ever, so it's been real." Lot's of different buggies. I don't know if the old buggy will be back out again.

Goals for the Spring: Over the winter, close eyes and visualize freerolls. Better weather, more rolls.

Raceday goals: "More productive than last year"

Favorite wheel: I am going to say that black is the fastest color, so black.



Fall stats: 6 buggies, 6 drivers, 72 rolls

People wondered how Pika would bounce back from an unfamiliar 3rd place finish in '09. With the fall semester behind us, it's tough to really summarize. On one hand, they were the most visibly active in wheel and tire testing, and definitely in the running on freerolls, ranking 3rd. On the other hand, the Pikes basically abstained from mini raceday (placing 8th, just behind AEPi), and spent time on strange side projects like bringing out what appeared to be a 15+ year old buggy for one day of rolls.

Pioneers



Q&A with Josh Wise (follow car driver, treasurer, Junior)

Semester summary: We have a team, 7 people at rolls

Goals for the Spring: Enough pushers to make it, train a second driver, make it not rain.

Raceday goals: Win! Get there, do it, not have the buggy fall apart, very few deaths.

Favorite wheel: Black

Fall stats: 1 buggy, 1 driver, 11 rolls

The rumors of the death of the Glorious Buggy Collective of The People were greatly exaggerated - but not by much. Even though the Kap Sig pushers didn't come back this year, Chairperson Vincent Zeng decided to give it one more try, building another team from scratch. With 8+ people, it looks like their on track for a comeback!



Sigma Alpha Epsilon



Q&A with Nadir Sidi (Chair, Senior) and Jordan Yuhas (Chair, Senior)

Semester summary: "Epic Win" we're having a lot of fun with it, trying to do better than last year, coming out to more rolls and brining more of the house out to get buggy instilled in the house. "Now we have girls too, they have lady parts" translated to ... teaming up with tri-delt to have a women's push team.

Goals for the Spring: Learning to talk to girls over the winter. Try to be better at waking up. Optimize pushing, improve lines. Get faster without a new buggy this year

Raceday goals: "3 minutes" ... "ok, under 3 minutes?" ... "No, exactly 3 minutes." translated to ... Improve on last year's time.

Favorite wheel: 14" Pneumatics, they're quiet and smooth.

Fall stats: 6 buggies, 4 drivers, 34 rolls

They're back for the second year in a row! They used to have portholes in their buggy. Now they don't. Bring back the portholes.





Q&A with David Fortner (Junior)

Semester summary: Overall pretty good, some rough spots, some days were better than others. There was that sewage thing.

Goals for the Spring: Maybe building

Raceday goals: Win in under 2:03.

Favorite wheel: Purple.



Fall stats: 5 buggies, 6 drivers, 89 rolls

SDC isn't showing any signs that they are loosening the stranglehold they put on buggy last April. The org seems big and healthy putting up top 3 numbers in buggies, drivers, and rolls this fall, but I'm sure those aren't the numbers they are watching. Our freeroll times have them at the top of the heap, with a two second gap over Fringe. Their 4 second margin of victory on mini-raceday (equivalent to a 2:10 full-course as calculated by us) sent a clear statement.

Sigma Phi Epsilon



Q&A with Fritz Langford (Chair, Junior)

Semester summary: Doing pretty well, pretty excited, two new drivers, building new buggy for the spring. Building up to first C team in a few years. Happy to be growing.

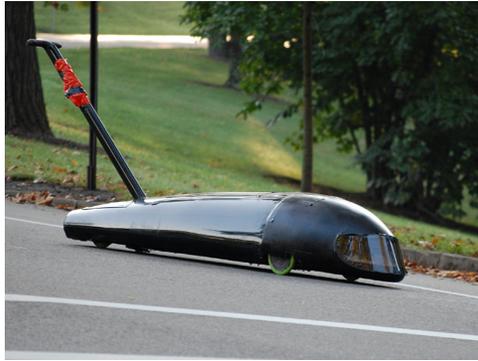
Goals for Spring/Raceday: Do better than last year. Break 2:05 this year, ultimately break 2:00. We cut 7 seconds off house record last year 2:15 2:08

Favorite wheel: "I'm a big fan of bright purple as far as colors go, it's one of our house colors." Of wheels you've seen in buggy ... "Round is my favorite type, round is good, the square ones are not as good"

Fall stats: 2 buggies, 3 drivers, 46 rolls



With KDR off campus, the burden of proving that mid-tier greek teams can work hard and compete for the top spots fall pretty much solely on SigEp. Their 3rd place finish on mini-raceday would suggest they are up to the challenge (although they were .03 ahead of #4 Spirit and 9.5 behind #2 Fringe). Despite only rolling 2 buggies and getting 46 rolls, they were consistently one of the more visible and energetic orgs out on the course. They've been reliable builders in recent years, and Barracuda definitely seems to be their best yet, so we'll see if they can continue their ascent.



Q&A with Carl Nott

Semester summary: Lots of testing, driver training.

Goals for the Spring: Building, pusher technique, more testing.

Raceday goals: 2 in the top 10.

Favorite wheel: Classic black.



Fall stats: 3 buggies, 4 drivers, 22 rolls

The Zoo is trying to reverse a few years of decline, and that's tough especially when the school is threatening every house that has any fun with expulsion. While the buggy core is motivated and determined to improve, they're going to have to motivate more of the house to turn things around. They only made it out for 6 of 11 days this fall and with a skeleton crew at that, amassing only 22 rolls. Skua is still only 6 seconds back from SDC though, which these days is an accomplishment.



Q&A with Kory McDonald

Semester summary: "We had a good fall semester, one of the better in past years, good turnout, glad to have the momentum going into the spring."

Goals for the Spring: "Always different projects over the winter, just look out in the spring to see what's happening." Get teams together early, train early, get set early.

Raceday goals: Racing to win.

Favorite wheel: "I'm definitely down with the lime green, but I keep it simple, black".

Fall stats: 3 buggies, 6 drivers, 39 rolls



Last raceday, Spirit and SigEp were neck and neck, trading spots on the leader-board between prelims and finals. Our timing stats show these two teams looking each other straight in the eye going into the spring with a half second gap in the freeroll, and a mere .02 in their mini-raceday times. One of these teams will make the top 5, but not both. Although they got out for a respectable 39 rolls, those rolls were spread between 6 drivers meaning they've got plenty of practice left to do before raceday.

Freeroll Time Comparison



Best freeroll times (end of hill 2 to window 0) of the semester by team:

SDC	Psychosis
Fringe	Banyan (+2s)
Pika	Chimera (+3.5s)
SN	Skua (+6s)
CIA	Conquest (+7s)
SigEp	Barracuda (+9s)
Spirit	Fuko (+9.5s)
AEPi	Kamikaze (+10s)
PhiKap	Schadenfreude (+14.5s)
SAE	Rubicon (+14.5s)
Pioneers	Chaos (+17s)
DTD	Bethany (+22.5s)

Mini Race Day



Best finish per org, times are from the end of hill 2 to the finish

Men's			Women's	
Place	Team / Buggy	Time	Team / Buggy	Time
1	SDC / Malice	1:45.36	SDC / Psychosis	2:09.01
2	Fringe / Banyan	1:49.12	Fringe / Banyan	2:09.06
3	SigEp / Barracuda	1:58.62	Spirit / Fuko	2:25.00
4	Spirit / Fuko	1:58.65	CIA / Firebird	2:39.05
5	SigNu / Skua	2:06.21		
6	CIA / Conquest	2:06.39		
7	AEPi / Kamikaze	2:06.68		
8	PiKA / Chimera	2:07.82		
9	Pioneers / Chaos	2:24.64		
10	SAE / Rubicon	2:24.82		
11	DTD / Bethany	2:27.44		
12	PhiKap / Shadenfreude	2:35.03		