

Norwalk River Rowing Association's youth team had a golden day of racing at the Mercer Sprints in New Jersey on April 18. Rowing in choppy water with a brisk tail wind, NRRA's crews won two gold and two silver medals in their first regatta of the season.

The mens lightweight eight (cox Jon Massari, Ben Stout, Jeff Mastriana, Clay Baldo, Parker Lange, Matthew LaMonte, Stephen Zoeller, Sam Oster, Krishna Horrigan) showed the benefit of the experience they gained rowing a four in the Junior National Championshipss last summer. They had a strong row from the start and beat their rival crew from New Canaan High School by nearly two seconds. NRRA's novice mens eight (cox Sumner Richter, Nick Flynn, Kyle LaVecchia, AJ O'Mahoney, Clark Ely, Matt Koenigsberg, Danny Schonning, Nicholas Massari, David Sullivan) won their race by almost a boat length and a margin of nearly 3.5 seconds.

The womens novice eight event quickly turned into a two boat contest between the crews from NRRA and Row New York. Norwalk River's novices (cox Jordyn Weiss, Meghan Galloway, Ann Labine, Stacey Velasquez, Emily Tucker, Karina Olsen, Emily Wilson, Lauren Salla, Mallory Dunlap) kept their composure in some of the worst conditions of the day and closed quickly at the end, finishing less than a second behind the competition. The Norwalk mens varsity eight (cox Connor Boyd, Evan, Boliakis, Lane Brokaw, Mike Labine, Gus Vergara, Scott Yanoff, Tom Liederbach, Michael Squitieri, Derek Emerick) found themselves in last place with five hundred meters to go, but a furious sprint nosed them into second place at the wire, four tenths of a second in front of Mercer Junior RC.

NRRA has two more races, including a rematch against Mercer, to prepare for the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Championships in May which will be their chance to qualify for this year's Junior Nationals.

NRRA is a non-profit organization which offers learn-to-row, recreational, competitive, and community outreach rowing programs to youth and adults. Summer programs for new and experienced rowers begin in June. New athletes are welcome and no experience is necessary. For more information, visit www.norwalkriverrowing.org or call 203-866-0080.