



In Chinese Culture the Golden Dragon is a Symbol of Good Fortune · Strength · Protection · Harmony

Issue 15; Feb 2025

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Publisher's Message:

*****This is the last monthly edition of the Dragon's Breath Newsletter*****

Watch for the **Dragon's Breath Bulletin** that will be used for specific notices, request for action and such. Doing away with the end of month deadline! Additionally, we will be organizing the website content for important posts such as the calendar, training tips, event photos/videos and more.

I am still accepting articles, posts and information of interest to the membership! Send to me at dbhwalker@aol.com.

As this goes to print, we have just concluded the team meeting during which the 2025 season plan was presented to include paddling categories, chosen festivals, and practice sessions.

The meeting was well attended; about 50 members gathered to hear what was in store for 2025. It was great reconnecting and getting caught up! A couple of members were able to attend remotely. Wow! Thank you, Rob! You've raised the bar by providing great tools and resources for the Club!

I will not restate the information. The document outlining the 2025 season plan and anticipated Q & A handed out at the meeting, are now available on the website <https://tellicoheat.com/thdbc-jan-2025-team-meeting/>

Questions may be directed to Cat at liaison@tellicoheat.com. Board and committee members are available to you. Using InstaTeam messaging to an individual is a good option. Read on for more about that!

What must be said is that an extraordinary commitment was made by many of your teammates to bring together a thoughtful 2025 Season Plan starting with the race selection committee that provided the foundation from which to work. These folks compiled not only festival names, places and dates, but key criteria were gathered so that choosing festivals could be based on many factors important to the membership. The Planning Committee met every week since mid-December, including the days after Christmas and New Years! The coaches met frequently and the Board meets monthly. Each of the meetings ended with assigned tasks associated with crafting the plan and presentation documents.

Throughout the process the thoughtful input and insights was terrific and resulted in productive sessions. The group consistently showed great care for the membership, the keys to the mission statement and membership input from last year. Discussions were positive, constructive and ended with consensus on issues. The result is a testament to the commitment to the success and evolution of the club. We now have many teammates representing the membership and providing much needed support, and presenting various viewpoints.

Everyone involved deserves a standing ovation for the time and energy devoted to 2025 Plan.



I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the leadership of the past couple of years that shepherded THDBC through significant growth. They continually nurtured paddlers, maintained a vision, determination and their love of dragon boat. Thank you Kevin and Marita Kelly, Denise Burns, Dee Foster, Ginger McDonald and Marla Short!

The leadership group expanded in 2024 with the formation of the governing board and committees. Other individuals took on tasks such as boat maintenance, photography, and leading warm up and cool down exercises. We have already seen

more members step up this year to lay the foundation for the coming season.

Volunteers are needed during the year [and always!] to captain festivals and support committees and activities. We now have experienced members to support new volunteers. Will you be the next to volunteer for a committee or leadership role?

Announcing an Important Communication Tool

The Tellico Heat Google account has been upgraded to Workspace/Business. This expands the resource that has already proven to be helpful for creating surveys and result reports, creating a central prospect list and group emails.

The upgrade to Workspace allows for multiple club emails. An email dedicated to the Club Liaison [Currently Cat Hobbis] has been created; liaison@tellicoheat.com.

Please use this email to direct questions or comments directly to Cat!

The Communications/Media Committee will be exploring how to utilize this resource to its fullest!

Do You Know Potential Members? Have You Been Approached With Questions for the 2025 Season?

Change to Link

Lynne has established a central process for accumulating names of people interested in THDBC. It requires you to enter your name and contact information for prospective member; that's it! We will then have a central list for follow-up when information for the 2025 season orientation is established.

Here's the link to add a prospective member name, <https://forms.gle/eUbyDFFachthh16j7>. It seems best to cut and paste to browser. Please check with Lynne if there are any issues, lynne.schwartz@att.net.

You may also refer them to the website that has the Gmail address for contacting the Club at any time. As the website develops, the landing page will be updated and links to "about" dragon boat and the Club will be added. I hope we are able to add banners for new member orientation and/or introductory paddles and other appropriate events for public information.

~ Deb H.

Help Wanted

As you read about the committees and all the work being done during the off season and off the water, do not hesitate to reach out to any committee chairs to express your interest to volunteer.

The work of volunteers is invaluable to the success and future of the club. In the last two years, the successful management of the growth was possible by contributions, big and small, by many members.

The volunteers also ensure the filling of leadership roles in the future as attrition takes place.

As a paddler and committee member, I appreciate the people who have stepped up in so many ways. Thank you!

Board and Committee Reports

Introducing Your Governing Board for 2025:

Voting:	
Club Manager/Board President:	Doug Elkins
Secretary:	Peggy Partnoff
Treasurer/Finance Director:	Jan Miles
Coaches:	Kevin Kelly, Denise Burns, Dee Foster
Safety Director/ Sweep Coordinator:	Ginger McDonald
Communications/Media- Co-Chair:	Rob Thrush
Non-voting	
Communications/Media Co-Chair:	Deb Hyde
Club Liaison:	Cat Hobbis
Social Committee Chair:	Marita Kelly

Planning and Planning Subcommittees

The Team Meeting presentations and documentation demonstrated the results of the tremendous time and effort the racing and planning committee members and the Board put in over the last two months.

Watch for requests for volunteers for subcommittees and race captains needed to support the membership throughout the year.

Communication/Media Committee Report- Rob Thrush and Deb Hyde, Co-Chairs

- Rob was deep into the process of reaching a positive decision about TeamSnap to replace InstaTeam as the management and administration application. Into the initial testing it was discovered that unwanted ads popped up and the only way to eliminate was with an added unacceptable expense. Additionally, the functionality for event signup and management was not as robust as hoped and purported.

Therefore, the decision was made to remain with InstaTeam. There are shortcomings, but we are learning more about the functionality and users should see some improvement with organizing groups and events.

This does not preclude continuing to look for alternatives. The United States Dragon Boat Federation has introduced a potential alternative offered to all members, of which THDBC is one. And we will be investigating! In the meantime, InstaTeam Administrators will be working to delete older or duplicate groups. And watch for more tips about using InstaTeam; *see the end of the newsletter!*

- The Club's Google account has been upgraded to Google Workspace allowing for a more robust resource including multiple Club emails which allows for the addition to a direct email to Cat as liaison; liaison@tellicoheat.com. This should prove more efficient than InstaTeam. The general contact email has been changed but messages to the old will be forwarded to the new. I understand that an event calendar may be tied to the website that is formatted better than the link to InstaTeam. Lots to explore!

Lynne is our Google Guru and will be working with Rob showing us ways to use Google Workspace effectively.

- Progress on the Website! You should soon see a Home/Landing Page and completed links to "What is Dragon Boat" and "About Tellico Heat Dragon Boat". The plan is to have these key pages completed before the Prospective Member meeting on February 28th.

A plan to post Jane's terrific videos and picture galleries from 2024 events is also in the works.

The stage is being set to post documents for members such as:

- The Season Plan introduced at the Team Meeting
 - InstaTeam User's Guide
 - Training and Safety
 - Governing Board Meeting Minutes
- Flyers promoting the Prospective Members meeting have been crafted for posting to several Facebook sites and NextDoor, and emailed to the list of interested people and a Kahite resident email group.
 - A pamphlet and flyer are available for the New Villagers meetings.
 - Sean Daly is unable to join us for the 2025 season. His day job keeps him in Northern California. However, he continues to be an active and production member of the Committee. He joins meetings via Zoom and is working on the website as time permits. Sean remains a staunch supporter of THDBC and dragon boat. He found a club in his neck of the woods but finding the time to paddle is a challenge.

Sean, thank you very much for hanging in with us and we hope to see you on the water with THDBC again!

We roll on! And could always use help for design and administration of the website, Google account and InstaTeam and search/research of alternatives.

~Rob and Deb H. ~Co-Chairs

Save the Date

Prospective Member Meeting	February 28th	4:30 p.m. Set Up 5:00 p.m. Meeting Start	Yacht Club, 3 rd Floor
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Saturday, Mar 29, 2025

08:00 am - 12:00 pm (Mar 29, 2025)



CPR Class ★
Tellico Heat Dragon Boat Club
Venue: TBD

01:00 pm - 02:00 pm (Mar 29, 2025)



Stop The Bleed Class ★
Tellico Heat Dragon Boat Club
Karen Sue Keith's Home

Sign Up on InstaTeam!

Tuesday, Jul 08, 2025

12:00 pm - 03:00 pm (Jul 08, 2025)



TELLICO HEAT RAFT OFF
Tellico Heat Dragon Boat Club
Venue: TBD

Rick and Marla Short are getting a jump on the planning!

Steve Rodier provided this interesting article

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/in-china-i-was-told-grades-were-everything-dragon-boating-in-canada-taught-me-to-enjoy-the-ride-1.7439123>

Did you catch the episode of Ladies of Tellico Village with our very own Robin Francisco?

Robin had a distinguished and amazing career in the FBI. She is a remarkably accomplished woman and we are privileged that she chose Tellico Heat as a focus of her retirement activity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOLOW7wNzaE&t=22s>

Hornet has a new seat design!



InstaTeam Messaging

Messaging to Individual or New Group

Frequently we see posts, usually questions, which need not go to the entire membership, the "Player's Only" Group. Before posting, please consider sending a message only to the person who can best answer or direct you to the correct person. This will usually be a coach, club manager, club liaison or committee chair(s).

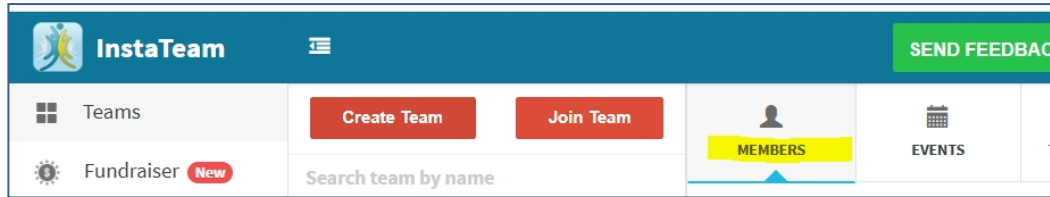
If a general message is sent to the entire membership, continued conversation should be individualized as much as possible, either shrunk to a specific group level when participants are identified, or to individual.

Here's how.

Individual Messaging

InstaTeam allows for messaging a single teammate. Here's how to message an individual.

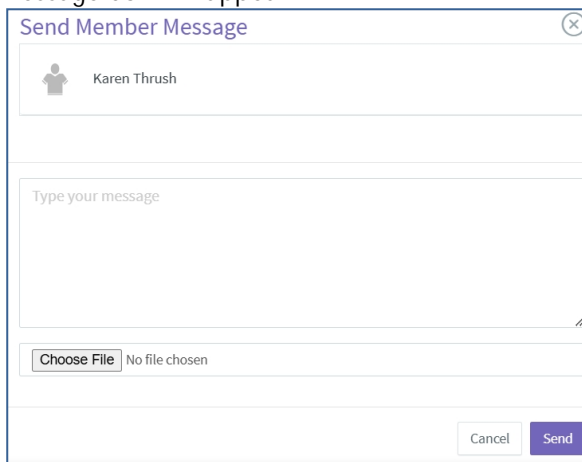
1. The "Members" tab provides the list of active members.



2. Locate the recipient from the member roster and click on the arrow [paper airplane?] icon

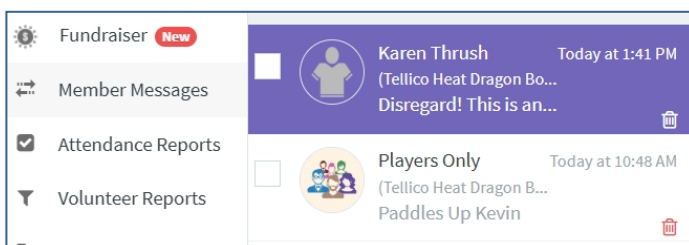
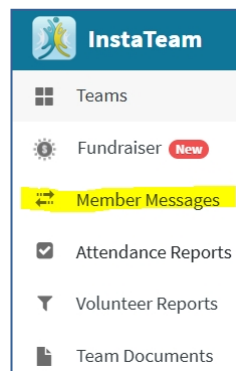


The following message box will appear:

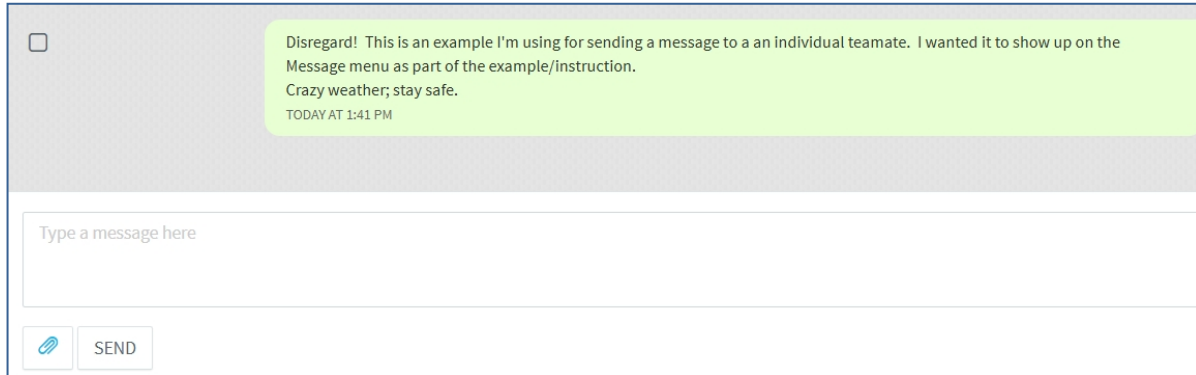


The choose file option provides for sending an image or document from your computer. After sending, a 'sent' confirmation will appear.

3. This message thread will appear on the Member Messages list:



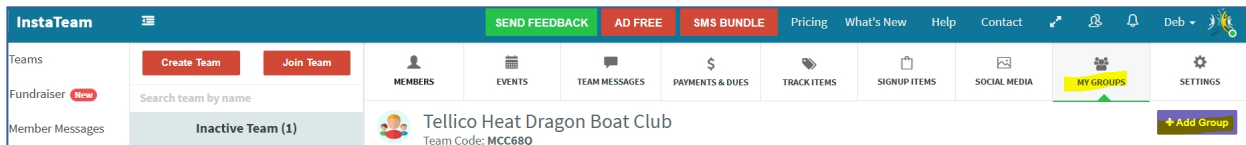
And clicking on the name will bring up the conversation in the right pane. And this is where the conversation will continue.



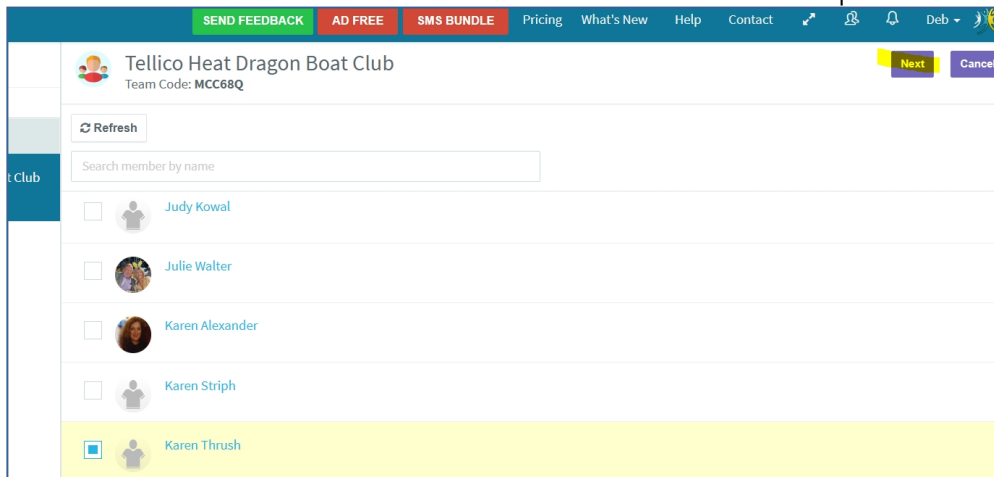
Group Messaging

The "Group" may be used to send a message and start a conversation with a select few.

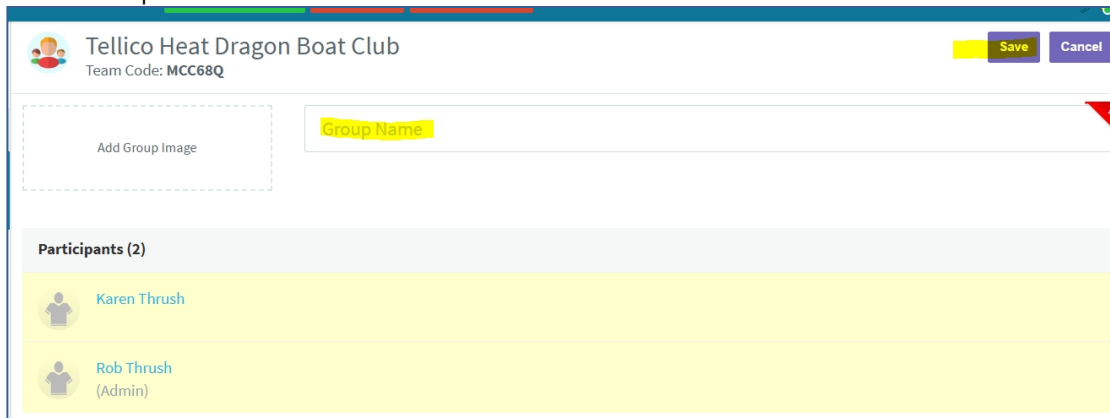
1. Choose "My Groups" and then "+Add Group"

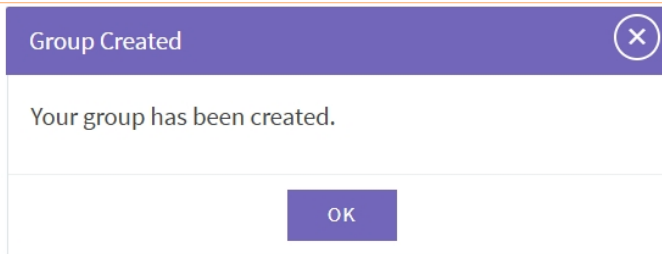


2. You will then be directed to the Roster. Select the Teammates for the Group. Click "Next"

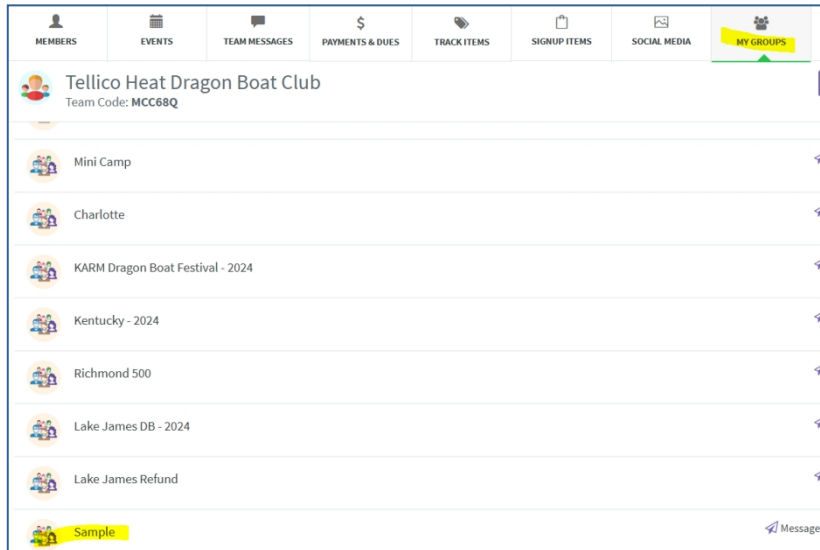


3. Add a Group Name and then Save





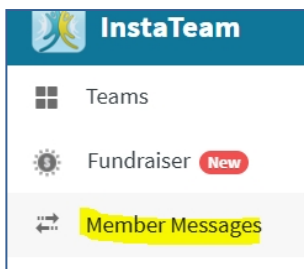
- To message your Group for the first time Go to “My Groups” and locate your Group. You will see other groups previously established in which you were included.



- Once again, use the “message” icon to send your message.



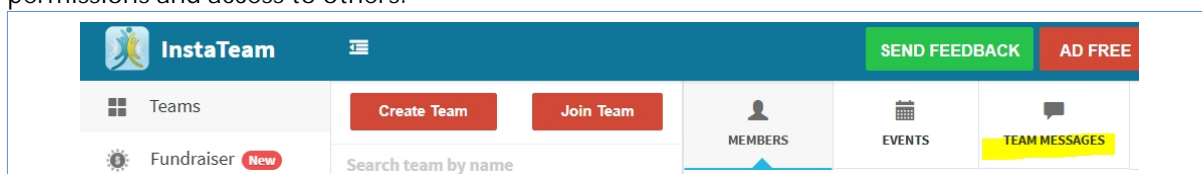
- The response/reply activity for the group will appear on the “Member Messages” list on the far left.



Home Page – Team Messages

The “Team Messages” function is only available to InstaTeam Administrators. It is an efficient way for leadership to address the entire membership and allow for individual replies.

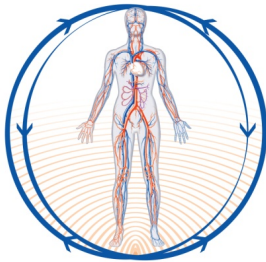
Currently the administrators are Rob, Dee, Denise and Ginger. This function will be reviewed to determine possible level of permissions and access to others.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS!



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