

Who is Carlos Dinares?

He's a skilled oarsman and coach, a crack race organizer, a husband and father, an entrepreneur, and an invaluable presence at Conibear shellhouse. He speaks Spanish, Catalan, French and English fluently. Student-athletes and recent grads know him as an available and kindly guide, the coaches as a man who challenges orthodox thinking. All who know him agree on one thing: he spends most waking hours working on ways to make the Huskies go faster.

Carlos walked in the front door of Conibear in 2006 and introduced himself to **Michael Callahan** by saying: "I want to help." Surely, Michael had little idea what he was in for when he said, "okay." Carlos showed up every day and quickly became not just a volunteer fixture but an important contributor to the Huskies re-emergence as the dominant power in the sport. But who is he?

In 2004 the Catalan Rowing Federation sponsored the Junior World, non-Olympic boat World and Adaptive Rowing World Championships at Banyoles, Spain. Carlos organized this major event for the association.

Shortly after he moved to Philadelphia where he met his wife, **Julie**. They relocated to Bellingham where, with a Spanish partner, they launched a summer camp for Spanish youth interested in improving their English and experiencing life in the United States. When Julie began work on her Ph.D., the couple moved to Seattle. But who is he?

Carlos knows rowing and in Callahan's words he "has a passion for learning to do it better." Perhaps more important, he loves the sport and is prepared to talk, analyze, help or instruct endlessly in the pursuit of rhythm, balance and speed. Callahan points to Carlos' education in a French school, his Catalan heritage and Spanish citizenship as a source for his descriptive ability. He said: "Carlos has a special way of communicating, soft and direct but intense like George Pocock, a manner that draws you into a conversation and holds your attention." And most important, he ignites a similar love for the sport in the hearts of those around him.

Talk to those who know him and they will tell you he has a huge heart. In the winter and spring of 2007, the Dinares family housed Husky and U.S. Olympian, **Scott Gault**, who said of the experience: "I've never known anything quite like it. Carlos has a pas-

sion for giving, for generosity, for bringing a person into a family and making him feel part of it."

Endlessly entrepreneurial, Carlos and Julie maintain their summer camp and Carlos now runs a rowing instruction school as well, Row Smarter, and a companion online program, Rowsmarter.com.

Two years ago he met a South African named Ursula Groblers who was about to paint a mural in their baby's bedroom. She mentioned she wanted to learn to row so Carlos traded lessons for the mural. Today, Ursula is posting times in the lightweight singles and pairs that are as fast as some of the heavy-weight women and even some of the men. London, 2012? Stay tuned.

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Callahan observed that he and Carlos think alike on rowing. Not long ago they gathered a group of used Row Perfect ergometers. Carlos repaired them and wired them to a computer. They are now able to graph the power curves of one or more athletes and to show graphically where and how to improve their stroke.

The tool, Michael says, rewards technique. There are other rewards to the equipment but we must remain silent on them for the moment. The important thing to know is that Carlos' original idea and doggedness led to teaching tools that work. Scott Gault calls it a "great

leap forward in technology for elite rowers." Carlos is now the North American distributor for an improved computer-based output system.

Who is Carlos Dinares? He is a complete man, at home in his skin, passionate about his life, and generous to anyone in his sphere. When you think of Husky national championships, know that he owns a piece of them and, in return, we owe him our thanks and appreciation for all he has done