



## SAVE OUR OARS

Earlier this season NRR replaced its old, falling-down, aluminum storage shed with a sturdy new structure. Its purpose: to hold all NRR oars vertically and in an organized fashion. We owe many thanks to facilities coordinator Phil Flego and NRR members Michael Zaslav and Bill Elliot for the design and installation of the new oar storage system.

*When used correctly, this new set-up is a vast improvement over our previous arrangement.*

But, just what is the correct way to store oars in the new racks? Following is a quick tutorial that will – I hope— get us all on the same page (or rack) when it comes to oar care.



The new racks are designed to store oars with blades “spoon” forward and parallel to the wooden slats above them. Putting oars in any other way requires additional force; disturbs adjacent oars; uses more space, and makes removal more difficult. It may end up damaging the racks or the oar sleeves as well.

← *wrong*



As you can see oars go into the racks grip up and blade down (spoon side out and parallel to slats).

**The correct way to insert:** With oars straight up and down and the sleeve slightly above the slats, slide the oar in. Then lower the oar straight down until the collar rests on the slats. Do the same for the next oar of the pair. **Move the two oars together so the collars touch but not overlap.** (as shown above)



← *better*



To remove oars, reverse this process - lifting and sliding rather than trying to yank them straight out.

For best results, line up pairs with port (red band by blade) and starboard (green band) oars on the same side as others in the row. (see photo)

← *best*

*Oars are arranged by pair, type and/or tape color.*

- Oars still travel in pairs. Most (but not all) oars have fairly large, white numbers on the shaft. Two oars with the same numbers form a pair.
- Oars without numbers also need to be paired. Look for the red or green bands right above the blades. 1 red and 1 green = 1 pair.



**Quad oars are stored in sets of four and should be taken out, used and put back in sets.** All oars in a set have the same combination of colored tape (red/blue, green/yellow, etc). The racks where the sets of oars go have matching tape on the end of the slats.

Most quad oars have the word “QUAD” on the oar shaft. The exceptions are single oars or pairs that have been used to replace broken or damaged originals to complete a set. They will have tape that matches the rest of the set.

**Due to adjustments made over the summer, quad oars are NOT interchangeable with other oars – not even with other sets of quad oars. Please do not use them with singles or doubles.**

**Doubles oars have green and white tape and the word “double” on the shaft.** There are just two sets like this. So the third, fourth or fifth double that goes out will need to use other oars – any two pairs of oars with the same color tape (orange, white, blue) other than quad oars will be fine.

**All remaining oars are suitable for singles and available to all NRR rowers.** They are also grouped together by tape color. There are oars with orange tape, white tape and blue tape as well as newer oars that have no tape. Each group may have slightly different collar settings than the other. You may find you prefer certain pairs – or not even notice the difference.

*Oars still need to be rinsed after every use; please rinse the entire oar - blades, shaft and grips.*