



NORTHWESTERN CREW

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Financial Hurdles Facing NU Crew

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NU Crew relies upon an array of equipment and facilities in defending its position as a nationally competitive club rowing team. The team also faces the critical task of maintaining these assets. The following is a list of the current costs associated with the team's assets.

- **Racing Shell Insurance:** In the past, the Athletics Department of Northwestern University covered the cost of insuring the team's racing shells. As a result of budget reorganization, the University will only be covering half of the estimated \$14,000 cost of this insurance for the 2008-09 seasons and beyond.
- **Boat House Access:** The Dammrich Rowing Center provides rack space for the team's fleet and serves as the team's access to the North Shore Channel for practice, home regattas and races, and provides the ideal setting for the annual alumni row. Ideally located only a few minutes drive from the Evanston campus, access to the site costs the team \$5,000 annually.
- **Off-season Boat Storage:** The outdoor rack space provided to NU Crew at the Dammrich Rowing Center does not protect the team's fleet from the elements. To protect and maintain the team's boats, they must be moved to off-site storage facilities in the winter and summer months. The team currently pays almost \$2,000 for this storage.
- **Truck and Trailer Registration, Insurance and Maintenance:** BCRF owns the truck and trailer, which the team uses to transport its shells to regattas and spring training. NU Crew and BCRF face the yearly challenge of registering and insuring both and covering routine and major maintenance.

The high costs associated with the sport of rowing directly impact the crew's ability to attract and retain the talented and dedicated athletes necessary to compete at the highest level. With funding from the University declining, the financial hurdles facing the team have the potential to push expenses past a manageable level in the coming years and could jeopardize the future of competitive rowing at Northwestern. Currently, varsity members pay steep annual dues of \$1,500, while novice members pay \$1,250. In order to generate the balance of the approximately \$105,000 operating budget, team members must spend significant time participating in a variety of fundraising activities including working concession stands at football and basketball games and planning and rowing in an on-campus erg-a-thon. This year's Alumni Row & Intra Crew Races is dedicated to raising money for an Asset Preservation Fund which will assist the team in overcoming these financial challenges.

For more information on Northwestern University Crew, visit:
<http://groups/northwestern.edu/nucrew>