



INTRODUCTION

There has been a growing interest in our Moss Landing-Elkhorn Slough rental program. Therefore, we have formalized the Santa Cruz Rowing Club (SCRC) Equipment Rental Rules for Moss Landing and require all users of club equipment at Moss Landing to understand and agree to follow these rules.

Additionally, while rowing in Elkhorn Slough is a wonderful experience, it also carries dangers that all rowers need to understand and be prepared for. Our goal is to keep the rental fleet seaworthy and safe by minimizing damage and ensuring that rowers take all necessary precautions in order to have a safe and fun rowing experience.

Background:

Did you know Elkhorn Slough is one of the largest saltwater estuaries in California? Next only to San Francisco Bay. Lots of company! Elkhorn hosts the largest concentration of Southern sea otters in California and hundreds of harbor seals. Sea lions add to the raucous chorus while tens of thousands of birds migrate through every year. Designated as a protected environment, Elkhorn Slough now attracts hundreds of ecotourists from around the world. On most weekend days Elkhorn is dotted with colorful kayaks and an increasing number of rowing shells.

Santa Cruz Rowing Club members began visiting Elkhorn sometime before 1995 when boat owners and renters planned outings and caravanned down the coast to enjoy rowing in nature's wonderland. In 2012, after a couple of years of friendly association and negotiations with the owner of the Kayak Connection, Tom Dexel made an agreement with Mark Pastaic to purchase a salvaged triple rowing dory in exchange for approval to erect a rowing rack for the club. In the summer of 2012 Sam Johnson took the lead with the help of a few volunteers and designed and built a rack for eight rowing shells. It didn't take long before the rack was

full. As more SCRC rowers discovered that the flat water of Elkhorn is a beautiful place to work on rowing skills and build endurance, the demand for rack space grew. Kayak Connection changed hands in 2014 and began to grow as a business. After several good experiences and a few years of casual conversations and negotiations with SCRC rowers, the new owner, Dave Grigsby, agreed to clear additional space for a second boat rack. Now we have space for up to 16 rowing shells.

The SCRC Elkhorn rowing center is safely located within the fenced and gated security of Kayak Connection, 2370 CA-1, Moss Landing.

Equipment Rental

Available to SCRC members under the following conditions

1. That the member has demonstrated competency in boat handling and rowing at Elkhorn Slough, as deemed by an SCRC-approved Instructor.
 - Tom Dexel tdexel1@gmail.com (831)818-2271
 - Margaret Niven nivenart@gmail.com (831) 566-6414
2. That the member is current in their SCRC annual club dues and equipment rental fees.
3. That the member reads and understands, and agrees to follow the SCRC Equipment Rental Rules, as indicated by signature at the end of this document.
4. That the member understands that he/she is financially responsible for any damage(s) that occur while the member is in control of the equipment from the point of log-out until the equipment is logged in.
5. That the member has completed a SCRC waiver for the current calendar year.
6. That the member participates in 10 hours of volunteer activity during the membership year (April 1 – March 31st).

SCRC Guest Policy

The guest must:

1. Complete a SCRC waiver.
2. Pay a \$20 rental fee per seat/per row.
3. Follow all other safety and club procedures, under the supervision of the Club member.
4. The member who has hosted the guest is financially responsible for any boat damages that occur during the visit.

Mail waiver and check to the club or leave in the Iron Ranger in the Santa Cruz oar locker.
SCRC PO Box 2544, Santa Cruz CA 95060

SECURITY

The oar box is for the exclusive use of SCRC members and their supervised guests. The combination is changed periodically to limit access to authorized personnel only. Club members who have satisfied the Equipment Rental requirements are considered authorized personnel. If you have not received the updated combination, please contact our membership chair Jeltje van Baren, yinnah@yahoo.com

DO NOT give out a combination to anyone. If someone asks you for the combination, refer him/her to the membership chair, Jeltje van Baren. Jeltje can verify that the individual has Equipment Rental privileges before giving out the combination.

BOAT AVAILABILITY

Boat Reservations can be made by our reservation Google Doc. Once you have been cleared to row at Moss Landing, the link will be sent to you.

Boats are reserved for a specific time. The reservation is valid for one hour after the stated time. When reserving a boat, be sure to name the boat you want. One can delete one's own reservation, but not someone else's without their explicit permission.

PREPARATION AND LAUNCHING

Always review the water and weather conditions - wind/fog/tide/visibility- before deciding to row. BE SAFE, NOT SORRY!! The conditions at the Moss Landing harbor mouth and the slough can change quickly. Research weather and tide forecasts before rowing. Windfinder.com for Elkhorn Slough is very helpful. Don't take unnecessary risks. It is also strongly recommended that rowers row with at least one other person, and that someone on land knows you are out rowing and what time to expect you back. It is also easiest and safest for two people to carry each boat to the beach for launching. You are encouraged to carry a marine radio with you and know how to use it, in case you need to call for help.

Slough Only

All of the club boats stored in Moss Landing are inspected regularly for safety and Slough-worthiness. They are NOT to be rowed out of the Moss Landing Harbor onto Monterey Bay.

The NEVERS list

1. Never row a boat that has a DO NOT ROW sign on it. Do not remove the sign and do not assume that the boat is seaworthy. If you have questions, contact the Club Fleet Managers for more information.
 - Rebecca Green BeccaN@rocketmail.com (650)906-0906
 - Brett Howell brett.howell@fastsigns.com (925) 819-6722

2. Never row a boat that is missing key safety parts such as the cork or inspection port cover. If it is possible for water to enter the hull of the boat, the boat is not seaworthy, regardless of how ideal the weather and water conditions may be.
3. Never move a boat with the bailer open. This can damage the bailer.
4. Never set the boat down in the sand with the bailer open.
5. Never apply WD-40 to slide tracks on any SCRC-owned boat. While it temporarily lubricates the track and alleviates squeak, over time, it results in damage to the track as dirt, salt and sand are attracted to the oil. CLEANING with fresh water and soap is the best solution to squeak problems.
6. Never make repairs to a boat without the prior approval of the Fleet Managers (see #1 above). We appreciate any help from members in repairing and maintaining boats, and want to make sure the proper materials and procedures are used, for safety reasons. If you are interested in learning how to fix boats, speak up!! We welcome your help.
7. The Club will reimburse authorized repairs – send your receipts to SCRC PO Box 2544, Santa Cruz, CA 95063

Launching

Any equipment that is borrowed should be logged out on the log sheet in the oar box. Your boat rental includes seats, oars and Personal Flotation Devices (PFD). If you are borrowing oars only, please indicate this in the log book

1. Sign out the boat on the log. (If a boat is NOT signed out and is not in the rack, it is considered a stolen boat. Please notify the Fleet Managers.)
2. Check for:
 - a. Hull cracks or damage.
 - b. Loose screws on oarlock or rigger.
 - c. Check oarlock flexibility. It should feel rigid, and not as if it is about to break (or like a loose tooth.)
 - d. Cork/rubber plug in the hole at the stern end of the boat.
 - e. If possible, adjust the foot stretchers in the rack.
3. Before moving the boat, do the following:
 - a. Get the hatch cover from the oar box and cover the hatch/inspection port.
 - b. Close corks/plugs.
 - c. Close bailer.

4. Boats are rigged before moving to the beach. First, set out a pair of slings near the racks. Take the boat out of its rack by slowly lifting it clear. Do not drag the boat on the rack. Be careful that riggers, oarlocks and the skeg (fin) do not touch other boats, the rack or anything else in the boat yard. Lift the body of the boat, NEVER the riggers. Move slowly until you are clear of the racks and other boats.

If you are not 100% sure you can lift and maneuver the boat by yourself, ASK FOR HELP from another rower, or anyone who may be around. You are responsible for any boat damage that occurs when you are handling the boat.

There is a dolly next to the oar box to assist solo rowers in getting the boat to the beach. Please ask for an orientation from one of our regular solo rowers.

- Jamie Dillon at ngc1023jd@gmail.com or (831) 776-5253
 - Tom Dexel, (831) 818-2271
 - Joe Hoffman joe.hoffmann114@gmail.com
 - Brett Howell our Boat Captain (925) 819-6722 brett.howell@fastsigns.com
5. Put your oars and seat (the seats go onto the tracks from the front) in the boat along with anything else you will carry (water bottle, marine radio etc.) Check to make sure both oarlocks are secure and the hatch and bailer are closed. Remember that when closed, the oarlock fastener should face the stern. Double check that the foot stretchers are where you want them to be and make any adjustments. Grab your PFD and set it on the stern. Put anything else you will carry (water bottle, marine radio etc.) in the cockpit. Pull the oar shafts up over the boat in an X position and secure them across the PFD with a bungee. You are now ready to carry the boat to the beach

The Coast Guard requires one PFD per rower

Remember to make sure your PFD straps are untangled so that you can put it on easily if you need to. You don't want to struggle to make your PFD fit if you end up in the water.

6. Carry the boat to the water **only** when you are ready to launch, you have visited the restroom, stretched, or whatever else you need to do.
7. Be sure to lock the oar locker and close the gate before you row. You may leave the slings set up for washing the boats later.
8. When two rowers are carrying one boat, turn it sideways on your shoulders to go through the fence gate. Any items you have in the cockpit will need to be secure. You can also lift the boat up so that the riggers clear the fence, if both rowers are comfortably tall enough. It tends to work, even for our shorter rowers.

9. If you can, put the boat directly into the water, skeg first, deep enough for it to float. The boat should be perpendicular to the shore. If you need to help someone else to get their boat, set yours down on the beach and place a PFD under the skeg to keep it up out of the sand. **IMPORTANT:** never drag the boat along the sand. Lift it in and out of the water.
10. Once your boat is in the water remove the bungee from the oars to free them and use it to secure the PFD. Wade with the boat to water deep enough so that you can enter the boat with room for the skeg to float. Sometimes parallel to the beach is best. Extend your oars out onto the water until the buttons connect with the oar lock. Float the blades in the feathered position. Facing the stern and holding onto both oar grips with the hand closest to the boat, either straddle the boat or turn your butt to the boat like you are about to sit in a chair. Sit down in the boat. Swish your feet around in the water to loosen any sand. Pull your feet up into the boat and into the foot stretchers. Be careful to avoid dripping sand into your seat tracks.
11. Once seated in the boat, secure the Velcro in the foot straps and make any final adjustments. Keep control of your oars the whole time you are in the boat until you are done rowing and out of the boat. You can hold one oar in each hand, two oars in one hand, or tuck them between your legs and torso, but don't let go! It's a good idea to carry a Velcro strap with you in case you need to secure your oars by tying the grips together.
12. Check for oncoming boat traffic before beginning your row. Make sure you know which way you are going and which side of the channel you should be on. If you are heading toward the Slough from the beach, you must cross over to the other channel. Keep the green buoys to your left and the red buoys to your right. If you are headed in to the beach from the Slough do the opposite
13. Looking carefully again for oncoming traffic, make the turn to go under the bridge. Keep your boat centered between the bridge pilings. Always enter under the bridge parallel to the pilings and perpendicular to the roadbed above.

NAVIGATION

Elkhorn Slough is a tidal estuary. When the tide is low the water is shallow and when the tide is high the water is less shallow.

Watch where you are going not just for traffic or bends in the river, but also for depth. The bottom is very muddy. You do not want to get out of your boat if you get stuck.

Sam Johnson mapped a good route on his GPS. His GPS coordinates for the best Slough passage are in the oar box, or can be requested from Sam at majohns1@sbcglobal.net

LANDING

1. Row bow first close to the beach. Turn the boat parallel to the beach while you are in water shallow enough to step out of the boat, but deep enough for the skeg to float. Keep your oars in the oarlocks and fully extended until you are out of the boat. Pull the oars across the boat in an X shape once you step out and secure with the bungee as at launching.
2. Lift the boat onto the beach, put the PFD under the skeg.
3. Set up slings in the boat yard near the club racks for washing your boat. Keep clear of the changing rooms. Keep the area in front of them dry.
4. Return to the beach, carry your boat up to the boat yard (or use above mentioned dolly) and put it in slings.
5. Remove your items from the boat.
6. Remove the oars from the oarlocks and **close all oarlocks**.
7. There is a black fabric hose in the oar box. Attach it to the Kayak Connection's hose and it will reach all the way to our racks.
8. While washing the boat, look at the hull for any cracks or holes. While the boat is upside down, remove the cork and hold up the opposite end of the boat higher than the stern end to let water run out of the inside of the boat. If you find hull damage or excessive amounts of water inside the boat, report it immediately to our fleet managers.

Rebecca Green BeccaN@rocketmail.com (650)906-0906

Brett Howell brett.howell@fastsigns.com (925) 819-6722

9. Flip the boat and wash the deck and cockpit, with the bailers open for drainage. Be sure to scrub the tracks and clean inside the oarlocks – this eliminates most of the squeaking problems. Scrub and rinse the bailer while it is open to help remove sand. After you are done spraying with the hose, remove the inspection port cover and look inside for water. If you see large amounts of water, report it immediately. Wipe the threads of the inspection port and its cover.
10. Leave the bailer open (it can look closed but don't clamp it down) to preserve the gasket. Put the cover back on the boat while it is still in the slings, rather than on the rack. It's much easier.
11. The boats that occupy the north side of the rack enter bow first. The ones racked on the south side enter stern first. This way the outriggers situated on adjacent boats are not opposite each other, and not likely to get tangled.
12. Lift the boat and carefully place it in the rack "guts down", being careful of the skeg, riggers and oarlocks. Do not drag the boat on the rack. Lift it. Make sure that oarlocks and riggers are clear of other boats, crossbars or the rack. Make sure the oarlocks are closed.

13. Tie down the boat.
14. Thoroughly wash and rinse the seats, port covers, oars, PFDs and place them carefully in the oar box. Pad the blades with the PFD's.
15. Sign out on the log sheet. Put the hose back. Lock the oar box.
16. Check to make sure everything is secured and that you have your personal items before leaving.
17. Lock the gate.



Please return this page, signed, along with your Membership Fees, Membership Form and signed USRA Waiver to:

**SANTA CRUZ ROWING CLUB
PO BOX 2544
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95063-2544**

I, _____, have read and understand the Santa Cruz Rowing Club (SCRC) Moss Landing/ Elkhorn Slough Equipment Rental Guidelines and agree to follow them. I understand that I am financially responsible for damages to the equipment that directly results from my handling or use of the equipment.

I further understand that renting SCRC equipment is conditional upon my proper care of the equipment and that my refusal to obey SCRC Equipment Rental Guidelines may result in a loss of my SCRC Equipment Rental privileges.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Elkhorn Slough ACCESS

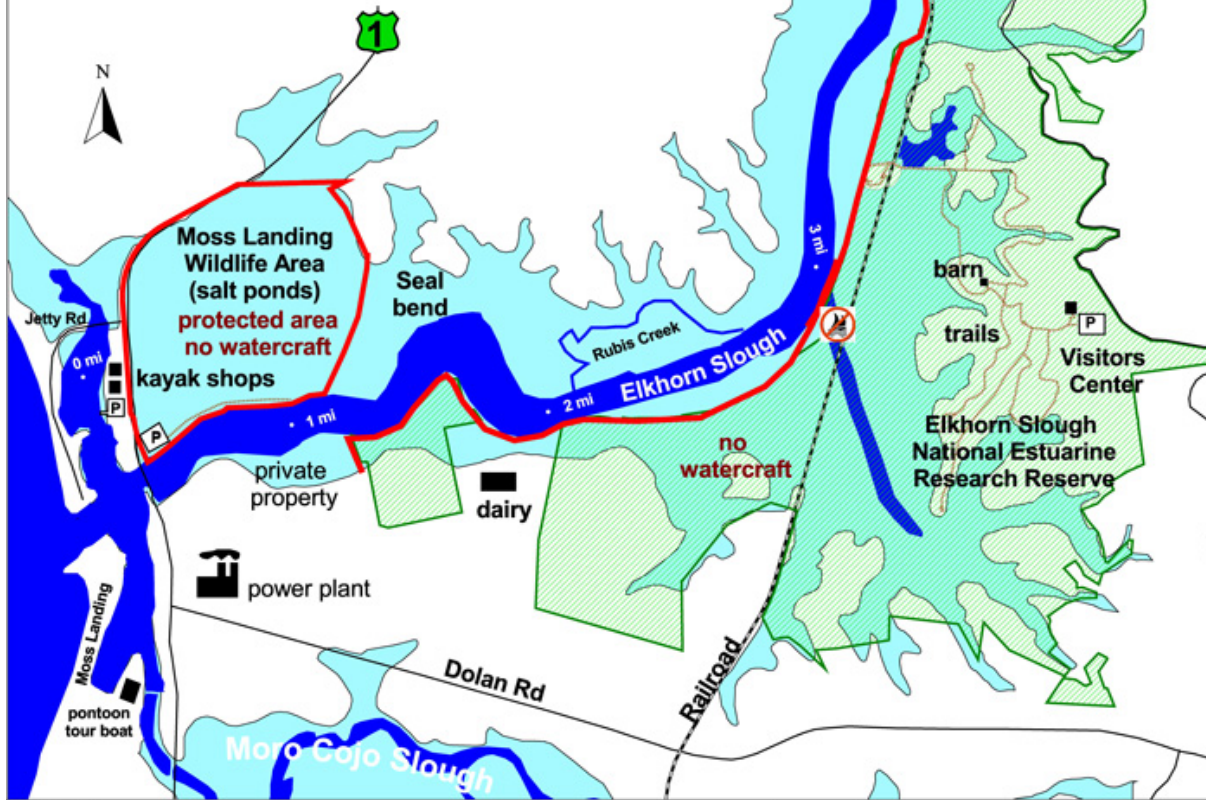
Kayaking access points for Elkhorn Slough are located at Kirby Park, the kayak shops, and the boat ramp in the Moss Landing parking lot.

There are currently no legal landing sites in the slough except the above put-in locations. Please do not step onto the mudflats or marsh and stay in your boat at all times.

For your safety and the protection of this rare habitat, watercraft is only allowed in the main channel of Elkhorn Slough. Please avoid kayaking and boating in areas marked in red.

Walking access is available at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Moss Landing Wildlife Area, and Kirby Park.

Elkhorn Slough is an important feeding and resting area for many animals. Give plenty of room to birds, sea otters and harbor seals both in the water and on their haul-out sites. Observe animals cautiously. If an animal looks in your direction and fidgets, you are too close and should quietly back away.



Map courtesy of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation--www.elkhornslough.org

Legend

- No watercraft allowed
- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Railroad
- Wetlands
- Slough channel
- Submerged hazard