

## **NBC Roof Rack Policy**

As Roof Rack Czar, I am delighted to provide you with excessively detailed information about how to use, and not abuse, the roof racks we have for NBC boats. Proper use of these racks is essential for safely transporting boats on cars. Please follow the policies below.

### **General Information.**

There are two types of roof racks: 1) Van Dusen style, and 2) sling style (Burnham or Hudson). ALL ROOF RACKS MUST REMAIN AT NBC. PLEASE RETURN THEM AFTER EACH USE.

The Van Dusen Roof racks are designed to fit singles or doubles. The Van Dusen singles racks are stored over the entryway stairs near the computer desk in the boat house. The Van Dusen doubles racks are stored outside near the main boat gate, and are chained to the fence with an NBC-keyed lock. The sling racks are stored inside, in the rafters above the computer desk, to avoid sun damage to the slings.

### **Transporting a boat.**

#### **Step 0: Get some equipment: car rack, straps, tail flag.**

Get a very solid crossbar-style car roof rack for your car that firmly screws on to the roof rails, door slots, or other metal structures on your car's roof (Thule, Yakima, etc.). DO NOT use strap-fastened car roof racks with suction cups or other wobbly racks. Some pre-installed car roof rack rails are actually quite flimsy, leading to wobbly boats in transit, which is dangerous and adds wear and tear to the hulls. The car crossbar rack is the platform to which you will fasten the boat roof rack, and this platform must be a very solid "part of the car". Also, get some boat straps and a tail flag, as described below.

#### **Step 1: Choose the correct boat rack.**

The Van Dusen racks are designed to fit the rigger-and-track system of these boats. If you are taking a Van Dusen boat, use a Van Dusen rack. NOTE: different track spacing requires that you choose the correct rack so the forward brace fits precisely in to the seat tracks. MAKE SURE the rack you use fits your boat BEFORE you attach the boat rack to your car's roof rack.

Sling racks work for most boats, but check the sling width. Van Dusen Advantage hulls, and Doubles may have to be placed upside right to fit in the narrower sling.

#### **Step 2: Fasten the boat rack to your car's roof rack.**

If you are transporting one boat, place it towards the passenger side so you can safely adjust by the side of the road, if needed during transit. Each rack has U-bolts that allow you to firmly fasten the boat rack to your car's roof rack rails. For Van Dusen racks, alternate the placement of the U-bolts on opposite sides of the rack's two rails: e.g., place one U-bolt on the left side of the rack on the forward end, and place the second U-bolt on the right side of the boat rack on the aft end. This prevents twisting of the rack during travel. FIRMLY fasten the wing nuts and confirm that the boat rack is now "part of the car": hold on to the boat rack, rock the car, and there should be no movement of either the boat rack or the car's roof rack.

#### **Step 3: Fasten the boat to the roof rack.**

Place the boat in the rack and align the bow and stern so they are in line with the car. CHECK ALL CONTACT points of the boat with the boat rack, and provide padding to avoid any structural damage to the boat. USE THREE STRAPS to fasten the boat to the rack: two in the middle tied over the car's crossbar rack, and one in the bow tied to the front bumper or tow ring, to keep boat aligned. DO NOT USE ROPE; it can scratch the hull and put wear marks in the carbon fiber. ATTACH a flag to the stern; this is required by law. An old inner tube tied with a small loop at one end and a red flag at the other can be fashioned to fit snugly on the stern, and allows easy placement and removal. DO NOT USE DUCT TAPE FOR ANYTHING.

**Step 4: Secure moving parts**

Remove or fasten the sliding seat so it does not blow away. Gently tape the impeller of the speed coach with low-stick electrical tape. Secure the wiring and bracket for the stroke coach so it does not blow around.

**Step 5: Drive carefully: The 1-10-100 Rule**

Check your boat after 1 mile, after 10 miles and after 100 miles. Before you drive off, while sitting in the driver's seat, look up at the boat and identify a landmark on the boat that will allow you to determine if it has shifted during transit (e.g., line up a paint mark with the windshield).

Parking: find two fore-and-aft parking spaces and park in the middle of both so some bonehead does not drive in to your bow or stern.

Turning: make wide turns. You can see the bow, but sharp turns to one side swing the stern sharply to the other side, which can hit street signs, telephone poles, etc.

**Step 6: RETURN all equipment to NBC**

**Coming Soon: A Roof Rack Sign-out Sheet, and individually labeled racks**

**Questions or suggestions: [David\\_Rand@brown.edu](mailto:David_Rand@brown.edu)**