To Anyone reading this:

The deadly and destructive Carr Fire has indefinitely wiped out the Shasta Rowing Association’s opportunity for rowing at Whiskeytown Lake where the boats and oars are currently stored. As you may know, all (except 4) of the club’s good sweep oars were burned up – along with all of the sculling oars. A 4+ and an 8+ were also damaged beyond repair due to the oar house burning down.

The Park Service is very concerned there will be mud slides that will come into the boat yard parking area, so they want all the remaining equipment moved out at least for this winter & until the hillside stabilizes. At this time, the plan is to move and store all of the equipment at Reese’s house in Palo Cedro.

In more devastating news, our newest and most promising rower, and certainly the best erg puller in the club, Thomas Taylor, had his home destroyed by the Carr Fire. Due to the nature of his work, he doesn’t need to live in Redding and while giving a 2-year opportunity for the area to recover - there is a good chance we might not get to enjoy his company in the future. So sad.

This summer has not only seen the Carr Fire, but also the Hirz Fire and the Delta Fire – both also huge fires. The smoke has been horrible since the end of July – exercise outside has been practically out of the question. Only now, today Sept 14, is the air seem fresh but it’s still smoky to the east toward Whiskeytown. This is one of the worst smoky summers in memory.

A bright spot in all this calamity is that a teacher at Mt. Shasta High School, Erika Bruser, who use to row in New Zealand, has a group of high school girls that are interested in starting a crew. We donated the E Streeter (an older front loader Vespoli 4+) & 8 oars that need handles & a Maas that needs a foot stretcher and a skeg. They need a trailer to transport boats to the water, so we are going to donate the club’s older smaller trailer to them -which is stored at Whiskeytown and needs tires. They picked up these boats last week using the club’s big trailer. We were also planning to donate a couple more sculls and possibly an 8.

Keswick Lake burned over too, and there is no place to store equipment there. We’re basically a club without home at this point. Reese is going to check and see if we can store some boats at a location at Kutras under a deck. It’s only a 500 M rowing venue, but better than nothing. For us to row, we have to transport boats somewhere and bring them back. Classes have been cancelled.

This is the worst thing that could happen to a fledgling rowing club trying to get off the ground. But we will persevere through this tremendous set back. It’ll take at least a year to recover. It’s almost like we have to start over again. We’re just going to have to car-top our personal sculls to keep our skills fresh, maybe once in while we can take out a 4 but that’s unlikely since the boards on Lake Redding are pulled in October. Hiking a 4 out to Keswick, Whiskeytown, or Shasta and back from Palo Cedro just for a fun row to get out just seems like it’s not worth the effort at this point. We’re deflated.