

Project Corsair
Project Introduction
August 2026





The Corsair in its Glory Days



Corsair Video Condition - PLAY

The Corsair Today

Project Corsair – Alumni Driven

1. What is Project Corsair

It is about the History, Heritage, Legacy and Nostalgia of past Glory Days of Northeastern Men's Rowing through a boat that carried its men to unique success. Today, some of those men plan to restore the "Corsair" to its original condition to honor the NU Rowing Heritage.

2. What is the Corsair

The Corsair is a wooden Donoratico Eight oared shell manufactured in the 1960's by the Italian company Cantiere Navale Donoratico and its boat designer Lido Filippi in the city of Donoratico Italy. Donoratico closed in 1979 and Filippi started Filippi Boats in 1980. More history to come.

3. Why is the Corsair Significant to NU Rowing

In 3 short years of use, the Corsair won 5 medals, 2 Gold and 3 Bronze medals at the Eastern Sprints and the IRAs. Here's the list:

- Gold – 1V at the 1972 and 1973 Eastern Sprints
- Bronze – 1V at the 1973 IRA and 1974 Eastern Sprints and 2V at the 1974 IRA

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4. What are the Goals of the Project

- Rally alumni to give NU Rowing a tangible Legacy for long term inspiration and nostalgia.
- Allow alumni / current athletes the opportunity to row and “feel” the wooden boat legacy.
- Ultimately to display the Corsair at NU for history and legacy significance
- Help raise funds for NUR remembering the importance of rowing to many past and present

5. How Will the Restoration Occur

- Calvin Coffey 74, and Bill Strobel 76, have created the inspiration to restore the Corsair to original beauty. Calvin and Maggie Coffey have secured the help and facilities of the Finger Lakes Boating Museum (<https://www.flbm.org>) to work with NU alumni to restore the boat.
- NU has agreed to sell the Corsair to NU Alumni for a donation to NU Men’s Rowing
- Volunteers will do all the restoration work. Opportunities to help on scheduled work dates.
- Donations for project costs will be solicited to alumni for interest in support the project.
- Once restoration is complete, alumni and NU will work together to meet the project goals.

6. What is the History of the Corsair and Donoratic Boats

Documenting the history of the Corsair will be a key part of the Corsair Project 2026.

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7. Alumni Driven

- A formal organization has been established in 2026 to effectively manage and run “Project Corsair”
- Board of Directors
 - President – Chris Meehan ’75
 - Vice President – Bill Backman ’73
 - Treasurer - Charlie Ryan ’87
 - Secretary – Bill Strobel ’76
 - At Large – Maggie Coffey (wife of Cal Coffey ’74)
- [Bylaws of Project Corsair](#)
- An Agreement of Understanding with Men’s Rowing is in place
 - Alumni will contribute \$2,500 to Men’s Rowing for the purchase of the Corsair
 - Upon completion of restoration, NU will store the Corsair at Henderson Boathouse
 - Alumni will have complete control of what is done with the Corsair
 - Potential to display the Corsair in a prominent location at NU

Project Corsair 2026 – More Information

How Can I Help With the Project

- If you would like to volunteer time to help with the restoration in any way – [Click Below](#)

[Volunteer Interest – More Info](#)

- Project Lead contact info: Bill Strobel 76 (billstrobel@gmail.com)

Fund Raising Needs – We Need Your Help

- Project budget needs are estimated at \$20,000
 - \$2,500 for purchase of Corsair
 - \$9,500 for materials and supplies
 - \$8,000 for transportation and Finger Lakes Boating Museum for restoration help
- If you can help with support, go to the link below.

[Donate](#)

1964 US Men's Olympic 8 Wins Gold in Donoratico in Tokyo

- LEARN MORE about the winning design of the Donoratico racing shells – [Click Below](#)

[US Tokyo Gold - Donoratico](#)