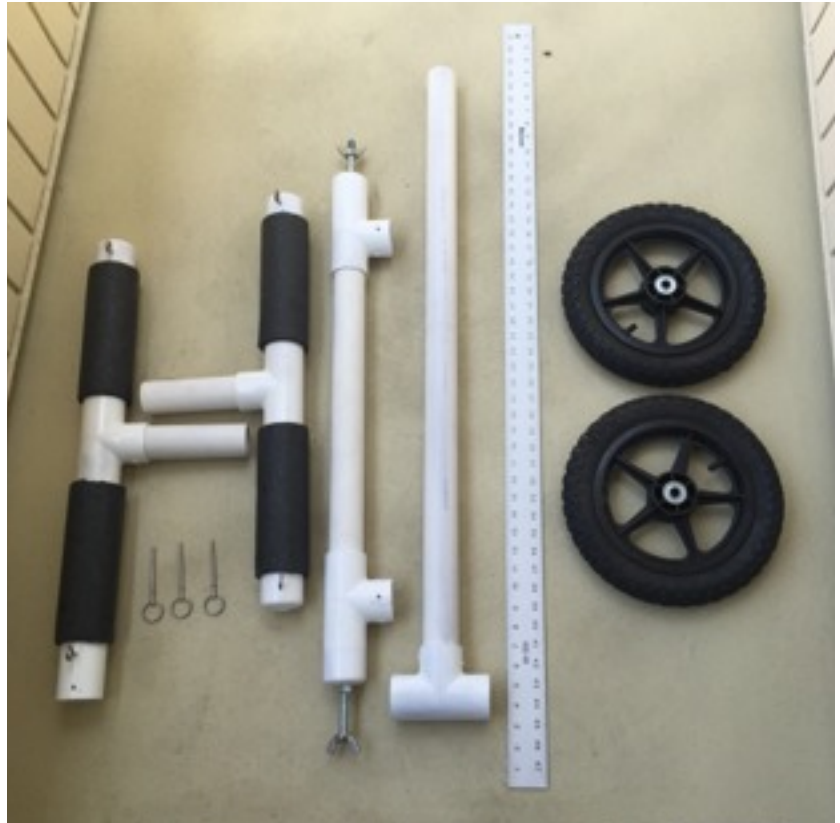


Brian Crutchfield's PVC dolly for his PT SPEAR

For my cart I needed something that I could break down and transport easily, and that would fit in the forward compartment of the spear if I absolutely had to take it with me, and couldn't make the trip back to my car and store it there while I was out in the boat. Its components are:

- 1-1/2" PVC Pipe (only needed 1 10' length to build the whole cart)
- (5) 1-1/2" PVC T couplers
- (5) 1-1/2" PVC end caps
- (1) 1-1/2" PVC straight coupler
- A length of foam 2" pipe insulation and contact cement
- 36" 1/2"-16 threaded rod
- (2) 1/2"-16 wing nuts
- (2) narrow 1/2"-16 jam nuts
- (3) 3/16"-1/4" metal quick release pins with a 2-1/4" throat
- (4) metal screw-eye loops for hooking tie down straps or bungee cords to hold the boat down.
- (2) 12" 1/2" bearing-hub wheels (makes it easier for them to roll with the wing nuts tightened up against the hub)



I'm thinking of upgrading the 36" rod to a 48" rod so that I can optionally put balloon tires on it for beach launches. The small tires are wonderful for normal boat ramps, but they'd be a real bear on sand.



It is constructed with PVC glue, and the bottom axle part is epoxy/silicone caulk sealed on the inside to prevent it from filling with water when launching. There are 2 jam nuts on either end of the axle tightened against the PVC caps to hold the axle on center and prevent it from spinning in the PVC housing while tightening the wheels on with the wing nuts.



The long arm could act as a kick stand, but I use it more as a handle so I can shove the cart out and under the boat while it is floating at the boat launch ramp without getting waist-deep in the water. Since the unit is sealed with silicone caulking and epoxy, and has foam wrapped around the support arms, it freely floats up against the bottom of the boat, and with a simple positioning with the arm/handle, I can single handedly get the boat up and out of a traditional launching ramp in 15-30 seconds by just pulling on this handle, and the breasthook. Then once I have it out of the water I secure it with bungees/straps to haul it the hundred feet/yards to the car.

It works really great, but if I were to do it again I'd definitely start with a 48" threaded rod axle so I could upgrade to a 10-12" balloon tire for sand launching off of beaches. Their 6-7" hub size wouldn't fit on the current setup.

