



Newsletter: November 04

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Welcome to BMO's second newsletter. Wow! We must have been having fun this year, 'cause time sure has flown! (Obviously our best laid plans for doing three newsletters a year has flown by also...looks like it's going to be two!)

WHAT'S NEW AT BMO?

Boats, Boats, and more Boats, and all the fun stuff that goes with them!

Current Designs

Added boats to both ends of the spectrum, a 14' Thermoformed Composite Kestrel to compliment the runaway favorite 12-footer of this year, and for those really looking to save the weight in a recreational boat, a Fiberglass/Aramid Fiber/Graphite Hybrid Kestrel 120 coming in at a lean, mean 30 pounds! And added to the high end is the Stratus 18, a fast, stable, fun workout boat!

Esquif

Continues to push the envelope in Whitewater Open Boats, with 4 new entries this year. Tandem paddlers, take heart! The Vertige X compliments the cutting edge Blast as an efficient, easy tracking boat that allows new tandem paddlers to enter the sport with ease. The Spark is a slalom paddler's dream, and in its Camo Royalite wood-trimmed lay-up it certainly stands out from the crowd! And you won't have to spend time at the gym in order to pick it up; we're talking 35 pounds! C-1 Creekers and extreme open boaters will want to check out the Taureau, 8' of rotomolded, freestyle fun! And expedition paddlers will appreciate the newest entry in the Prospecteur line, the Prospecteur 17. This expedition workhorse will carry two paddlers with gear to spare, high and dry through just about anything you can throw at it.

Hobie

Added two new sit-in-tops, a 13' single, the Quest Deluxe, designed with fishing in mind, and a compact 11'6" tandem, the Kona, which is already selling strong throughout the country.

Jackson Kayak

Continues to roll out new models, with all the Fun boats in stock now, and hopefully by this printing, all the Stars. Still to come in the Spring, creekers in both full-on and river running models. Look for BMO to be at your local roll session with a quiver of Jackson Kayaks, and anything else we can round up. Let us know if there's anything special you're looking for!

Necky

Is hitting all aspects of their line this year, starting with the Chatham 17 in both Poly and Composite, fastest in the Chatham series, with all the bells and whistles you've come to expect from Necky. Recreational paddlers will appreciate the Manitou Sport, a smaller version of the already popular Manitou, and whitewater paddlers have two new boats to choose from, the Crux, a creeker with exceptional resurfacing ability, and the Orbit Fish, a surfing machine!

Prijon

Tweaked the Seayak this year, enlarging the cockpit and adding a front mounted day hatch. The Cross, a semi-creeker, and Wizard, river running playboat have been added to the whitewater line, and the long-awaited Combi is finally arriving, combining the best of whitewater and touring in one package.

Sawyer Canoe

Remember the Autumn Mist, the Summersong, or the Cruiser? Anyone who's owned a Sawyer in the past knows and loves these boats, along with the other time tested designs in the Sawyer fleet. Well now you don't have to scrounge through backyards and garages anymore to try to locate one. Sawyer is back and moving east (to Ohio) and will be bringing these sleek canoes back to our waterways. Stop in and check out the Loon, the first Kruger design that started a cult following for expedition type paddling. 17 feet long, and only 50 lbs!

Wave Sport

Introduced the EZG series in 3 sizes, combining the stability and forgiveness of the EZ's with the high performance play features of the ZG's. (That's too much alphabet for me!)

Wenonah

Focused on the solo river runner this year, with the Argosy, a scaled down, composite Rendezvous. The Argosy, available only in composite, promises to be an agile river runner that will still glide through calm water efficiently.

Wilderness Systems

Replaced its popular Cape Lookout entry level touring series with the Tsumani, ramped up in full performance and outfitting, but still offering plenty of stability. Also available in Duralite to shave off the pounds. (Tip: Check out deals on new and used Cape Lookouts...still a great boat!) The Pungo 120 (a favorite fishing and all-around recreational boat) is also available in Duralite, saving a noticeable 10 pounds.

We can't even begin to list the accessories that are hitting the scene, but that's a good reason to stop in and see us!

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, whatever the celebration, we have gifts for the paddlers on your list. Tree ornaments, holiday cards, paddling calendars, gadgets and trinkets, warm, cozy paddling clothes, and books videos, and DVD's galore. Be sure to check out our Kids Corner, with gifts and kid-sized paddling gear for Pint Sized Paddlers. If you're not sure, we have gift certificates, something every paddler can use. Hoping for something special yourself? Sign up on our Wish List and let your friends and family know! Canoe Club members, don't forget our annual Canoe

Club Exclusive sale, December 3rd, 4th, and 5th from 10-8. This is a once-a-year chance to save 10% on all in stock boats, and 15% on in stock accessories. (And we have a LOT in stock!) Not a canoe club member? It's not too late to join; the Holiday Sale is only one benefit of a long list!

“KEYSTONE CANOEING”

If you've been putting off buying your own copy of Ed Gertler's Pennsylvania Paddlers Bible, "Keystone Canoeing", now's the time. Hot off the press with all the latest revisions, the 4th edition is in stock and moving fast. (We may even have to bite the bullet and get a copy ourselves, our current one is falling apart at the seams - it's just plain worn-out from very frequent use!)

FALL/WINTER SALE

Thinking of venturing into another aspect of the sport? New family member to get started? Hole on the boat rack just begging to be filled? This is a good time to check out sales, both new and used. Lots of accessories marked down as well; look for the red tags!

CONGRATULATIONS TODD!

For those of you that may not have heard yet, one of our local paddlers has hit the big time! Todd Baker, 16, a student at Northern York County High School recently won the 2004 Junior Division of the IR/LVM "Big Gun Show", the World Championships of Aerial Kayaking, doing a huge "Pan Am" at the New River Dries. Not one to slow down, Todd went on from there to compete at the US Freestyle Kayak Team Trials in Watertown, NY to win one of 3 Junior spots on the team, and will be heading to Australia in January, 2005 for the World's competition. In addition, Todd has become one of Team Wavesports newest members.

Obviously this didn't happen without a lot of work, dedication, and support from Todd's family and friends. The trip to Australia to represent the US is not funded. Todd's family has created a fund through the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg to be used to help offset the cost for competing at the event. If you are in a position to help, please send contributions to the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg (make checks out to CCGH), 310 Graham Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Also, please join us in wishing Todd the best, and offering huge congratulations!

OFF SEASON REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

Actually, this should probably be titled "Maintenance or Repairs", as repairs are often not necessary given proper prevention and maintenance in the first place! Along that line, we thought we'd talk about some of the problems that habitually end up in our repair shop, and proactive things that could have been done to prevent them.

ROYALEX® COLD CRACKING

Even though every Canoe Owners Manual warns against it, we get a certain number of cold cracked Royalex® canoes brought in each season due to not backing gunwale screws out of wood rails. Wood and Royalex® expand and contract at very different rates when the temperature changes, and at freezing temperatures it's the Royalex® that gives, resulting in a heart-wrenching crack that travels directly beneath one of the gunwale screws several inches down the side of the boat. Although repairable, it is easily preventable, either by storing the boat where temperatures

will not dip below freezing, or by backing out the gunwale screws located within approximately 2 feet of both ends. (We have never seen a case of this happening with vinyl or aluminum trimmed Royalex® boats.) This is also a good time of year to retreat wood gunwales with a coat of outdoor penetrating oil (check with either us or your boat manufacturer to see what product they recommend), and to treat hulls with 303 Protectant®. Don't forget to check the stems of those canoes, if skidplates are needed, now is the time to add them!

LEAKY FLOAT BAGS

When your float bags become “sink bags”, it's a good possibility that they got in the way of a rodent seeking a warm nook to spend the winter. Mice love to set up housekeeping in the ends of both canoes and kayaks, and have no remorse about chewing their way (many times in multiple places) through airbags to get to those places. Repairing all these “chew holes” can be tedious at best, and can be prevented either by removing and storing bags elsewhere for the off season, or covering the boat (or cockpit) to prevent them from entering in the first place (which will keep spiders out as well).

ICE DAMAGE

It's surprising how many boats are brought in to us each spring with hulls caved in or smashed from major ice damage. Although your aluminum (or fiberglass, Royalex®, Poly, etc., etc., etc.) boat may be fine propped against the side of the house /garage / shed throughout the summer, it's a good idea to remember what will be lurking above this winter, and find another home for it!

OLD SALT

Nope, not the revered title given to crusty seafarers; we're talking about the stuff (whether salt, sand, silt, or river sludge) that accumulates in your touring kayak and equipment throughout the season and eventually causes everything to grind to a halt. Now's the time to thoroughly clean footpegs (and rails), rudder or skeg assemblies, paddle ferrules, and any other moving parts before they become terminally immobile. Also thoroughly inspect those hatches. It only takes the most minute leftover bit of lunch (or worse yet, bait!) to make them toxic in the Spring!

NOT SO DRY TOP

Drysuits, Dry Tops, and Semi Dry Tops are great as long as the latex gaskets are intact, but they have a nasty habit of blowing out at the worst time, usually in the middle of a cold, wet, run that puts a damper on the rest of the day to say the least! Inspect latex seals often, keep them clean (rinse after use, and clean with an approved cleaner such as Sport-Wash®), protect from contaminants such as smoke, coal dust, and gases, and treat often with 303 Protectant®.

If seals are bad, now is the time to get them replaced. We have replacement seals and adhesive in stock, or we can do the work in house.

SKIERS & SNOWBOARDERS

Even though the diehards are still hitting the water, a lot of you are trading your boats for skis or snowboards. If you aren't already set up to cartop them, check out the Malone Autoloader or Stax, Kayak J-Bar or Stacker systems that have ski/snowboard modules available to shift from summer to winter and back again. Also check out IR's Splash Pants, designed to do double duty on the slopes.

TRAILERS

Speaking of cartopping, for those of you who's boat collection has outgrown your cartop, or who's boat has gained weight over the years (we know it isn't that we're getting weaker!), we manufacture a full line of top end canoe and kayak trailers for 1 to 10 boats. These are heavy duty, outfitter tested (us!) trailers that will carry a load and last for years. Custom work, no problem. Although we're usually working overtime to keep pace with orders, we do have a few in stock ready to go at this time.

WISHING, AND HOPING, AND PLANNING, AND DREAMING!

Some of us are fortunate enough to be heading to warm (even tropical) paddling destinations this winter, and others are donning the woolies and fleece and toughing it out here in the North. For most of us, however, this is the time of year to curl up with maps, guidebooks, videos, and magazines and start planning trips for next season. We invite you to stop by anytime and share the fire and our library with us, and start making those dreams a reality!

TOASTY TOES

Finally we're going to let you in on a secret the whole BMO Team has embraced with gusto...Mukluks! Looking to extend your paddling season? If you have room in your boat (sorry, playboaters, you lose!), seriously consider investing in a pair of Mukluks. These knee-high neoprene boots allow you to enter and exit your boat without getting wet. We all know that nothing makes a winter paddle more miserable than cold, wet feet, and nothing is more pleasurable than dry, toasty ones. Check them out -- imagine coming off the water and not aching to get your feet dry and warm 'cause they already are!



SAVE A TREE!

Just a reminder that if you have e-mail service, we can send this newsletter electronically, which will save postage, time, and paper. (Just think: The tree you save could become your next paddle!) Let us know and we'll make the change. Thanks!

FROM THE BMO TEAM

We wish you all Happy Holidays, a pleasant Winter, and a Spring full of Water and Sunshine! We'll be here throughout the year, so stop by to trade stories, share photos, hug the fire, or just chat...we'd love to see you!

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