

BMO

Blue Mountain Outfitters

Newsletter: November 2008

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End of Season Sale

We hate the sound of that, 'cause we don't want the season to end! BUT, since it is, beat the 2009 price increases and find some great deals on canoes & kayaks. (Check out our website, address below, for a list...we're TRYING to keep it updated!) Mary and Sarah have also been making the rounds with the "red tag" price gun, slashing prices on lots of accessories to make room for new ones. This is a great time to pick up some needed gear in time for the cool weather paddling season (yes, there is one!), or warm weather for those of you lucky enough to be heading south!



www.bluemountainoutfitters.net

Mountain Madness

This year's EORA show moved from Hartford, CT to Sturbridge, MA, with a Paddlesports only dealer trade show on the shores of Cedar Lake. Doug and Mary test-paddled LOTS of new boats (more to follow), then headed north to Lake Placid to meet old friends and relax (Ahhh!) in the Adirondacks. That is until Tropical Storm Ike visited, bringing 50-60 mph winds that put pine trees surrounding their campsite to the test. Not much sleep, but lots of excitement! The MSR Pavilion (aka Topher Tent) held up to the gusts and provided a welcome retreat from the accompanying rain (hint, Cascade Designs, bring it back!) Doug and Mary's 2-man tent did NOT survive; good excuse to buy a new one! A beautiful Bald

Eagle and rare moose sighting capped off the trip in style. Stopped at Lake Placid on the way home to visit with Charlie and company at Placid Boatworks (okay, AND tip a few Placid Brewery Ubu Ale's!) which resulted in a RapidFire canoe finding a place on the boat trailer, and a new boat line in BMO's quiver. The boys at Placid smoked the Solo Rec class at the Adirondack Canoe Classic (Mac & Gracie's legendary "90-Miler") this year, taking both first and second place! Look to see more from Placid Boatworks soon at BMO, including the WildFire, SpitFire, and (Mary's favorite) the FlashFire. (What's next, Charlie? The BackFire? Just kidding!) Sounds like a great excuse for more trips to the mountains, and more Ubu Ale!



www.placidboats.com

What's in line for 2009?

If 2008 was the year of the "little people" 2009 is definitely the "big boys" turn to be addressed!

Last year Wenonah brought us the Wee Lassie, an Adirondack style pack boat for mid to smaller size paddlers. For those not so "wee", this year's Fusion provides lots of capacity in a small canoe that can be paddled with either a double or single blade, in a

nice, light package. For fishermen (or women), a ruddered version makes for "hands free" operation (and hopefully more fish!)



www.wenonah.com

New

Bell Canoe Works also came to bat with the RockStar, a solo canoe that will swallow a load and still deliver a fast, nimble, but stable ride. Lots of layups for lots of choices of weight versus price, too! (Those who loved the Yellowstone Solo or Merlin II but needed a larger boat...take notice; this may very well be the boat for you!)



www.bellcanoe.com

Current Designs rounded out their touring kayak options with a Greenland Style (the Isle) and British Style (the Infinity) kayaks for larger paddlers; now there's something for everyone in all of their touring "families". (Doug was so impressed with the Isle that he came home from the show with one!) For rec paddlers, CD responded to customers who liked the performance of the Kestrels but wanted a "dog friendly" version, with the Kestrel OC; same hull featuring a great blend of speed and stability in a rec kayak, but with a roomy cockpit to accommodate a dog or small child. (Those preferring more control can still opt for the original Kestrels.) Also from CD, the Vision 13.5, now available in a more affordable polyethylene.



"Doug's new Isle!"
www.cdkayak.com

New

Native, on the other hand, tipped the scales the other way, adding the Ultimate 9.5, a smaller sized solo Ultimate for kids and small paddlers, to complete the 12', 14.5' solo and tandem, and 16' tandems already available. Also joining the Native line are motorized and sailing versions of the longer Ultimates; now three ways to cruise! For those looking for all three options in a sit-on-top, the Mariner will do the trick. Note: Those who already have a pedaling Ultimate will be able to purchase the motorized and/or sail rigs and retrofit their current boats as well!



www.nativewatercraft.com

Wave Sport redesigned their popular Diesel river running kayak with an additional size and higher profile; now three sizes, one to fit everyone!

www.wavesport.com

Esquif, already well known for their diversified whitewater canoe line, added the Raven this year, 11'3" of fast but stable whitewater fun. (Mary tried one out on Cedar Lake and had a blast...even on flat water!)



www.esquif.com

Vermont Canoe Works brings us a new solo canoe, the Indy; Mad River Canoe fans will recognize the Jim Henry's influence (remember the Independence?)...lots of capacity, lots of stability, and lots of glide! Another fine solo canoe to add to BMO's selection! www.vermontcanoe.com

Emotion rounds out their sit on top line with the 10' Temptation and Stealth Angler (fishing version). Now paddlers of all sizes can get Emotional!



www.emotionkayaks.com

Mad River once again digs into the old Dagger quiver to give us the Reflection 15, a great mid-size canoe that works well for either tandem or solo, joining the Reflection 17 from last year. (We're ASSUMING that the Reflection 16 is next?) www.madrivercanoe.com

Prijon brings us the Marlin, a 16.75' touring thoroughbred that's coming in under 60 lbs! Doug and Mary both paddled this one, and were impressed. Also going full circle after a long hiatus, Wildwasser will once again be the US distributor of the Eskimo line of whitewater kayaks, including the one of a kind Topo Duo.



www.wildnet.com

Wilderness Systems, in a surprise move, is NOT adding any new models this year, but instead redesigned and improved many of them. Stop by the shop to review all the new designs, bells, and whistles! www.wildernesssystems.com

Jackson Kayak has blurred the lines between flat and whitewater with the All-Water; two sizes (9' and 10') not quite touring, not quite whitewater, but a good blend of all of these. A drop-down skeg provides tracking; bring the skeg up and you have a boat that's capable of handling introductory whitewater while still able to paddle the "flats".

On the whitewater side of things, Jackson added a new Hero size, the Little Hero, to bridge the gap between the Sidekick and the Hero. Now everyone can be a (river running) hero! Also coming soon, the Dynamic Duo; Hero times two...a whitewater two person kayak of dynamic potential. Cat Woman and Joker had better watch out!

www.jacksonkayak.com

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish...Greenjacket!

FINALLY (drum roll here!) the long-awaited Greenjacket rescue PFD from Astral Buoyancy is almost here. By the time the newsletter hits the press, we SHOULD have them in stock and ready to go out the door. Thanks for your patience. (Sarah and Mary were at the point of setting up a special phone line just to field requests, there were so many!)

www.astralbuoyancy.com

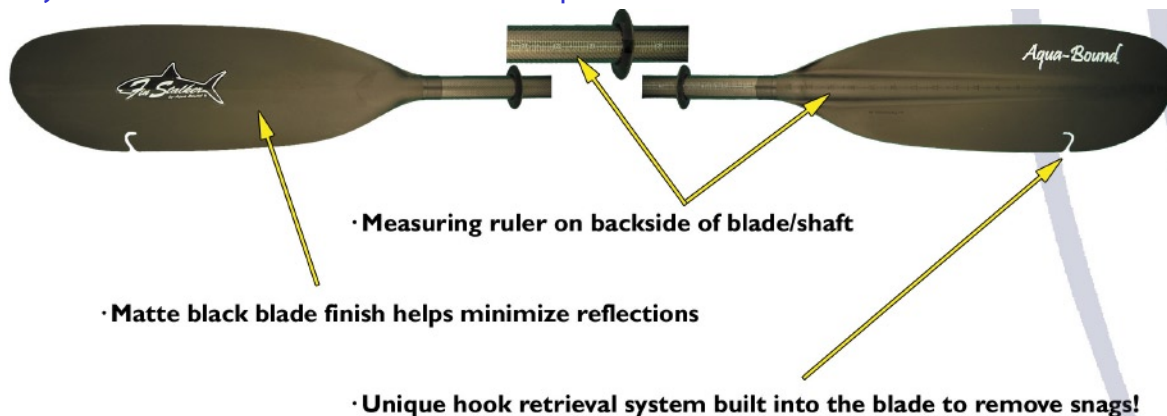
Fin Stalker

"A "fishing" paddle? You've got to be kidding me!" That was Mary's response when hearing of the ever growing number of fishing specific paddles cropping up in the industry. What exactly makes a "paddle" a "fishing paddle"? Up to now, to the best of our knowledge, it was a catchy name (no pun intended!), and a tape rule to measure those monsters. Well, Joe Matuska of AquaBound went one step further with the "Fin Stalker"; first producing it in stealthy black (incidentally making it lighter as well with its carbon shaft and carbon reinforced nylon blade), but also molding the tape measure into the paddle itself, and adding a nifty retrieval "hook" in the blade. Those who DO want to be seen can easily add reflective decals to the blade, preferably in cute, little "fishie" shapes. The only thing we can think of to improve it would be to make the "inches" a little smaller...we all know how fishermen like to exaggerate!

PFBC News

If you haven't been to Yellow Breeches Creek lately, you might not know that the Spanglers Mill Dam is no longer there. Removed by a joint effort of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, DCNR, and the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the "Breeches" at Spanglers is now running free again and is looking great! With the removal of the dam

www.aquabound.com



near Green Lane Farms, scheduled for Spring of 2009, it will be possible to paddle from Messiah College to New Cumberland with only 2 dams to portage. (Note, however, that there are often river wide strainers; so keep your eyes open anyway!) Healthier for the fish, healthier for the creek, and easier for us paddlers!

Raystown...Almost!

After several years of BMO being represented at the Raystown Rendezvous by various staff, Doug and Mary resolved to attend this year...until they found out it was moved to the same weekend as BMO's Assateague Island Staff Retreat. When hearing that BMO would not be in attendance this year, Swift Canoe & Kayak National Sales Director Terry Kent commented, "You're going to miss some serious beer drinking!" Obviously you've never been to Assateague with us, Terry! Hopefully, we'll make it to Raystown next year!

We did hear that Mary's old Baboosic, "Moody Blues" DID make it to Raystown, with current owner Tim Burris showcasing some of "Moody's" freestyle moves. Way to go Tim!



"Tim, looking very NOT Blue"

Life's a Beach, and Then You Fly!

BMO's crew of 32(!!!) enjoyed our annual Assateague Island Staff Retreat over Columbus Day Weekend this year with 3 days of sunny skies and warm weather. For the second year in a row we pretty much stayed right at the beach, taking to the skies with kites, Frisbees, and anything else that would fly (we'll leave that up to your imagination!) and to the water with a variety of kayaks. Attempts to try "paddle boarding" with Doug's old California Long Board resulted in lots

of carnage...next year we'll have an actual paddleboard to try; hopefully with better results!

After MANY years of weather ranging from freezing to pouring to storming, the last two years have been accepted gratefully...hopefully we're on a roll! While we were there we tested out a new sand stake, the "Blue Screw" which is, to date, the only one we've found that holds up to Assateague's wind. (Wish we'd had them at the Adirondacks!)



"Hap, NOT taking to the skies!"

BMO Gallery of Fine Art

After numerous stunning paddling vistas, our photographer friend Tim Lawson surprised us this time with an up close and personal portrait of a critter who spent the night at the Labatts Hotel, peeping out in the morning with a new perspective on life (and hopping a bit erratically). We know the feeling! (By the way, you should be able to right click on the photo to enlarge it...check out Tim's previous pics if you haven't already!)



Laa..Batt...Bluuuuu

Rock On!

We're not sure who's responsible, but enjoyed seeing a new group of inhabitants on the river this summer. The Susquehanna Rock People, a strong, silent type, have been turning a lot of heads both on the river and from the shore. We only hope that if they migrate South for the winter, they'll come back to visit again next year!



"Rocky"



"Susquehanna Stonehenge"

Friends & Neighbors

Those of you familiar with the Susquehanna in the Marysville area will recognize the second photo above as being taken near the Rockville Bridge, now also home to a new neighbor, the Bridgeview B&B. Plan to spend a couple days (or more!) relaxing by the river, enjoying the spectacular view (and of course, great paddling!) Train buffs will love being

close to the historic Rockville Bridge, longest stone arch railroad bridge in the world with its' many trains passing daily. Say "Hi" to owner, Keith, for us when you visit! www.bridgeviewbnb.com

A mile or so upstream from the B&B by the Marysville Boat Ramp, be sure to check out Mr. G's Waterfront Tavern. Re-opened under new ownership, it's great to have the Tavern up and running again, with an expanded outside bar and GREAT view of the river. Cold beer, great food, and (often) live music, all within easy walking (or paddling!) distance of BMO!

What kind of Canoe is THAT?

We knew we make a great canoe trailer, but Mark Hamlin from the University of North Carolina at Asheville sent us this pic of our trailer loaded up for their Freshman Orientation Wilderness Experience Program mountain bike trip this year...proving that anything's possible with a little ingenuity! Wonder what they'll figure out to use it for next?



"BMO Canoe(?) Trailer"

BMO Paddler Magazine Canoe Review Team

BMO staff Mary and Jesse joined fellow Duckhead Mike McCrea to review 5 canoes for Paddler Magazine's September/October 2008 issue. (What? Paddle a bunch of new canoes? Do we HAVE to?) Pick up a copy at the shop, or better yet join the American Canoe Association...you'll get their magazine for free!

Seeing Bloody Double

BMO veteran Topher apparently missed the Bloody Mary War Canoe so much after moving to California that he just had to have one of his own. Originally referred to as the "Bloody Mary II" it now goes by the name "Copious"; incidentally also the name of Topher and Tana's new business, glass-blowing! Doug's busy designing a trailer for her, and we're looking forward to one day seeing the pair of them on the water together, with lots of "Sailor Jerry's" to fire the engines!



*"Copious, Devoid of Decoration"
(We all know THAT won't last long!)*

BMO's Minn IV Goes the Distance

BMO's other "big canoe", the Minnesota IV, headed north this fall with Mike Trump and his team of Pennsylvania Paddlers to run the 90-Miler. Mike & Crew finished the 4-Man Mixed Class their first time, one of 4 Pennsylvania Teams to compete in this class of 13 entrants. Not a bad showing for the Keystone State!

BMO Staff News

Mary's son Greg has been joining Hap at the river lately to crank out LOTS of great eats! Greg dug out the big cast iron Dutch oven, and Hap cleaned up an old cast iron frying pan, and the results have been yummy! Food always tastes better outside, and the biscuits, pizzas, pies, and Hap's famous "Breakfast Messes" and rice dishes are no exception! If you haven't experimented with anything but the old hot dog fork lately, we strongly suggest that you do. (Just keep in mind, you have to paddle extra hard to work it all off...especially the pie!)

Annual BMO Holiday Sale

Once again the BMO elves have been busy stocking the shelves for our annual Customer Appreciation Holiday Sale, Friday & Saturday, December 5th & 6th from 10am-8pm. All in-stock boats (with the exception of Native) 10% to 25% off (some even more!) Accessories (anything that's NOT a boat!) 15% off, including sale items (and we have LOTS of items on sale!) Also check out our selection of paddling related gifts for the holidays, as well as paddling ornaments and cards (including Stephen Pidcock's "Faces of the Susquehanna" note cards...way cool!) Hope to see you there!



That's all for now; stop by when you get a chance and say "Hi"!

The BMO Gang

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