

BMO Newsletter: April 2009

Blue Mountain Outfitters

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Trees are budding out, robins are here, and young men's (and women's!) thoughts are turning to...paddling!

Change in the Boof (Not in the Buff!)

Recently several of you asked about a cozy, oversized wearable fleece "changing room" you'd seen other boaters using at various take-outs. Mary remembered seeing ads for the product years ago, and thought it was called "Buff Wear". Numerous Google searches took her to many sites that were interesting to say the least, but had nothing to do with fleece or garments (other than taking them off!) Finally she resurrected an 8-year old American Whitewater magazine (proving she never throws ANYTHING out!) and found the original ad...for Boof Gear® Oh well, it was close! As it turns out, the folks at Boof Gear® are still going strong, and their roomy, warm "Cascade" is now available at BMO in lots of bright Aztec prints (as well as solids, for you solid, conservative types). Oversized hood/neck warmer, hand warmer pocket on the outside, nifty inside pocket to hold the clothes you're changing into, and roomy enough for even mega-sized boaters (or two small ones...hmmmm!)



Sarah, Buffin' in the Boof

And More Coverups

Speaking of covering up (no, we're not talking politics here) don't forget your boat! The folks at Danuu make a cover for just about any canoe or kayak out there, in a tough fabric that protects your boat both on the road and off from the nasties...UV deterioration, bird turds, pine tar (ever try to get THAT off?), you name it. A red built-in storage bag on the end serves as a flag while transporting...these people think of everything! And we love the names: Brat, Punk, Buddy, Tubby, Stumpy...no, we aren't making these up! Measure your boat and come on in, we've got 'em in stock. (Okay, we lied...if your kayak is between 18' and 26' long we'll have to order you one!)



Danuu "Stumpy" in Action

PFBC News – Ramp Etiquette

Sometimes it's hard to not cop the attitude that we non-powered boaters are somehow superior to our fellow powerboat users. After all, we don't make "noise" (other than an occasional whoop or holler), and don't emit smelly fumes (well, depends on what we ate at camp the night before!) However, we do need to remember that the more boaters of all kinds using our waterways responsibly and respectfully, the more advocates we have to protect those waterways. And sometimes we can even learn from them. Stay with us on this one!

Golden Opportunity

Think about it this way. You know that feeling when you're standing in line at the grocery store holding the 9 things you carefully counted out to qualify using the express line? And the person in front of you takes his/her time placing their 20-some items on the belt, then proceeds to dig in her purse (okay, never mind that his/her thing now!) for lost coupons, then exact change (like she's going to get an "exact change award" or something)? Exasperating!

Well, the same "rules" apply at boat ramps, and unfortunately we often tend to see power boaters understanding and adhering to those rules better than we "superior" paddlers. Bottom line is, the boat ramp is for launching and landing only. In other words, only the steps needed to get a boat from a trailer (or cartop) into or out of the water. Arranging or securing gear, packing ropes / straps, and DEFINITELY chit-chatting should be done in the parking lot or on the water, well away from the ramp itself. Ropes / straps can be removed ahead of time, with only those necessary to prevent the boat and car from parting ways between the ramp and parking lot kept in place, and should be coiled (if you are that neat!) and stowed later. Gear should be organized and removed as soon as possible, NEVER left on the ramp itself. Needless to say, garbage should be deposited in appropriate receptacles (if available); otherwise taken with you and disposed of properly (hopefully recycled whenever possible.)

While we're acting all "high and mighty" we'll admit that our rental customers sometimes are the worst culprits of all. We do our best to educate them, and provide our shuttle drivers with whips if they don't listen (just kidding!) but realize that often in the afterglow of the trip (especially those overnight ones involving lots of gear) they don't realize they aren't "playing by the rules". We're doing our best to change that!



Load 'em up, and move 'em out!

You know those tie-down straps that keep wandering away and never seem to wander back? Well, we have a deal for you to replace them a little less expensively. Recently we received 200 12' cam straps (the most commonly used size) in bright, bold, gold instead of our usual black. Could have sent them back, except for the 200 BMO labels attached to them. Sooo, worked out a deal to keep them, and can pass it on to you. Save a couple bucks, and maybe that bright bold color may prevent them from sneaking away quite as easily next time!

New Years Day...Low Temps, High Spirits, and Big Boats!

14 hearty BMO paddlers launched on the Susquehanna this year to celebrate the New Year, and Doug & Mary's first anniversary. Yup, after 17 years of cold feet they finally tied the bowline (a year ago...it took another year to announce it. Gotta take these things slow, you know!) The Bloody Mary was full, as well as the Minnesota 4. Several solo canoes and 1 kayak rounded out the crew. Hap's "sun alarm" didn't go off so he missed the crack of noon launch, but came through with a much needed shoreline fire at the takeout, where Sailor Jerry made his annual appearance. 2009, off to a great start!



Beverage Break, New Years Day 2009

Save this Date!

Mark your calendars May 17th from Noon to 5 pm for our annual Demo Day at the Marysville Lions Club pond just down the road from the BMO shop. Test paddle a wide assortment of canoes and kayaks, catch up with your fellow paddlers, and have fun! All our boats and gear will be on sale that day, just in time for the paddling season!

Take a break during the day and check out the wilderness canoe camping reenactment brought to us by the folks at the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg. Learn how to pitch a tarp, pack a boat, cook a whole meal with just one stove, and lots of other cool stuff to keep you comfortable in the wild.

Also at the event, Wilderness Systems sponsored fisherman Jeff Little will hold a seminar on Kayak Fishing. Boats, gear, techniques, and all the little secrets to catching the elusive smallmouth bass will be covered in depth. (Little pun, there)! If conditions on the river are suitable, you may even be able to get some on-water fishing time in. Jeff will also be happy to autograph copies of his kayak fishing book, available at the event.

Back at the BMO south parking lot, we'll be hosting a Paddlesports Market; think of it as a flea market but with better stuff, that you don't have to wake up early for! Bring your unwanted paddling / hiking / camping gear and sell, swap, barter, or just plain haggle. Just remember to bring cash, 'cause our credit card machine will not be available for private purchases. It WILL be available, however, for all the marked down goodies we'll have at the shop that day!

BMO Gallery of Fine Art

Tim Lawson from New York again, with a beautiful photo of his beautiful daughter Laura (a great paddler in her own right) enjoying the Adirondacks with Dad.



*Laura Lawson on Lester Flow
in the Adirondacks*

Half the Paddle, Twice the Man

That's the old saying anyway, usually attributed to C-1 whitewater canoe paddlers (who also brag that they DON'T wear skirts!) We just used it 'cause we couldn't think of a catchy title for a blurb to remind you (or inform you, if you haven't been to our shop already) that we have one of the largest selection of solo canoes available, in stock, in the country. Large and small, heavy duty and feather light, whitewater, flatwater, and all the water in between, we should have something for you. And if you are one of those kayak paddlers who scorn canoes, let us remind you that it takes more skill to finesse a canoe (especially an open decked one) through a rock garden than a kayak. AND, there's more room to carry gear (don't even THINK about asking your canoe paddling buddy to carry the stuff you can't fit in your kayak, unless you're willing to provide a pretty hefty bribe!)



*Just a small sampling of solo canoes
available at BMO*

Off the Couch, and Onto the Water!

Most people agree that there's a growing concern that kids these days are spending too much time indoors pushing buttons, and too little time outside. For years it could be argued that there just wasn't a lot of outdoor gear correctly sized for kids. Well, that's changed, and we're geared up to get your kids out and having fun with you on the water. Boats for both whitewater and flatwater have shrunk to sizes small enough to handle the littlest munchkins out there, and we also have PFD's, paddles, paddling booties, helmets, gloves, clothing, and lots of other things to make the experience a great one. Just beware, you might find them paddling circles around you in no time!



Sarah Douglas shredding it up at Scudders Falls on the Delaware, in her new WRSI helmet from BMO

Happy River Art

Hap has a knack for finding sticks and stones on the river that look like other things. Here's the first of many to come!



Woody the Woodpecker, Hap Style

Recession?

We've displayed a poster on our cash register for years that has suddenly become more relevant. It says "Rumor has it there is going to be a recession, however we have decided not to participate." Contrary to popular opinion Paddlesports is going strong. Maybe it's because it's less expensive than many other sports. Think about it; once you buy the boat and gear there isn't a lot else you need (things you might WANT, but not necessarily need!) No greens fees, no lift tickets, no dock rentals. It's also good for the mind and body; something we all need right not. We're continuing to give the best service we can, and plan to have a great summer. As Doug says, "We're not Dicks".



Where's Doug? Playing in the Adirondacks!

Hope to see you at Demo Day, in the Shop, and On the Water!

The BMO Crew

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