

BMO Newsletter: Fall 2015

Blue Mountain Outfitters

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Wow, this is the latest I've ever gotten the newsletter out, but have a (fairly) good excuse. Just returned from celebrating my Dad's 96th birthday in sunny Florida. (Before you think I'll ever last that long, he's technically my stepdad, so unfortunately I don't have those genes!) On the way back we found a gem of a place to stay, the Low Key Hideaway Motel in Cedar Key. Seldom does a place live up to the hype on the internet, but this was everything it promised to be. Overlooking the gulf, this little (5 rooms only, all adult) place was just as relaxing and funky as promised. Hang out on the deck and watch the sun go down, paddle around a ship-wrecked boat or among the mangroves (watch out for flying mullets; they're everywhere!), or spend time with new friends at the Tiki Bar, it's all good. And it's only a short drive north to paddle numerous spring fed rivers (we chose the Santa Fe; might have something to do with the fact that it has a spring named "Labatt's Blue Estevelle Twin Cypress"!)

What's New in Boats?

While it's nice to have fishing boats in our showroom that are loaded to the max, it's also nice to offer more affordable choices that aren't bottom end ones. Perception's filling the gap this year with the Pescador Pro 10.0 and 12.0. (Yup, we had to look it up; it's Spanish for "fisherman" or "fisherwoman") All the comfort, design, and amenities you need without the extra weight and cost.



Perception Pescador Pro 12.0



Low Key Hideaway, Off Dock



Low Key Hideaway Tiki Bar

Native Watercraft is returning the Manta Ray 10 and 12 to their line this year also, again filling that less expensive sit on top niche without sacrificing outfitting and comfort. Bottom line is, everyone can get on the water in style and catch the big ones!

Also new from Native, the Ultimate FX Propel 13; all the advantages of the pedal drive sit on tops in a dryer, deeper sit inside.



Native Watercraft Ultimate FX Propel 13

NuCanoe Seating

Building on great feedback for their Pursuit Multi-Height Pinnacle Seats, NuCanoe has revamped the Frontier Seat; enter the 360 Pinnacle swivel seat. Fast drying and comfortable with great support. (The price tag is higher, but not to worry; we still have traditional swivel seats in stock as well.)



NuCanoe 360 Pinnacle Seat

Northstar Canoes

Some people just can't seem to retire, and Ted Bell is one of them. Northstar Canoe's line includes a collection of several original Bell designs, others that have been tweaked to make them even better, and some new ones as well. Featuring three composite layups, these boats are beautiful. A new model this year, the Polaris (16'9") fills that 17' niche missing in the Northstar series. (They were going to name it the Northstar, but figured that the "Northstar Northstar" would sound pretty goofy. Guess Wenonah didn't think so when they made the "Wenonah Wenonah"! Great to be working with Ted and Bear again; we'll let you know when the boats arrive at BMO!



Bell Northwind 16

New BIC Inflatables

BIC is increasing its inflatable SUP line up this year with the addition of the 9'2" River (whitewater) and 10'6" Fit (yoga). Have trunk will travel; coming this Spring to BMO!



BIC River

BIC Fit

Dagger Nomad

Dagger's iconic creek boat has been popular for years, but didn't fit larger paddlers well. The folks at Dagger listened, and are now offering the Nomad in three sizes to fit virtually all paddlers. Featuring an updated hull profile for improved speed and maneuverability, increased volume to stay on top of the water, and more rocker to keep the bow on the surface over holes in back; they'll be hitting the floor shortly (one model at a time!)



Dagger Nomad 9.0 L

Also available this year (finally!), the Tarpon 135T, a redesigned tandem sit on top. Originally slated to be released this year, we're looking forward to seeing it in the Spring!



Wilderness Systems Tarpon 135T

Wilderness Systems Tarpon 130X and Tarpon 135T

Building on the success of the Tarpon series, Wilderness Systems is adding the Tarpon 130X this year, with a twist. It'll feature a removable storage pod (like those used in the Thrasher and ATAK) that will accept an optional removable Motor Drive motor. Concentrate on the fish, and let the motor do the work for you!

Wilderness Systems Tarpon 130X



Wilderness Systems Motor Drive

Nova Craft Tuff Stuff

Remember when Old Town threw a Royalex Tripper canoe off their factory roof to show how tough it was? Well Nova Craft's factory is even taller, and their new TuffStuff Prospector survived just fine. In fact, it's survived even worse fate at the hands of some serious Canadian crash dummies (the intrepid MEC Calgary staff!) Made out of a proprietary material that includes crushed basalt rock (tough as stone?) it's looking like a promising alternative to the much missed Royalex. Several boats in stock, and more to come this Spring!



Nova Craft TuffStuff Prospector 16

What Else is New? Accessories!

Seals Cockpit Drape

No, this isn't a new designer trend, but rather an answer to an age old problem; how to put a cockpit cover on a kayak that doesn't have a rim designed to accept one. (Something we find more and more with boats showing up in box stores.) Utilizing a series of straps, and available in three sizes to fit a variety of boats, we're finally able to keep the creepy crawlers out of virtually all kayaks. (Now if someone could figure out how to make a sprayskirt that would work as well!)



Seals Cockpit Drape

Astral Buoyancy Layla

Many years after being discontinued, we still have customers begging us to dig in our corners and try to find a leftover Lotus Designs Lola PFD. The corners have been depleted a long time ago (well, of Lola's anyway!) but not to worry; designer Phillip Curry's current company, Astral Buoyancy, is reviving this tried and true design, with some twists that will make all those Lola lovers happy again. The name? Layla. The format? Same familiar princess seams, but now featuring quick release belt compatibility, and a soft (oh, so comfortable!) kapok center panel. Best of all? Check it out, the good luck Lotus Flower is back!



Astral Layla

Double Duty

Suspensz, long known for their superior Paddlesports storage fixtures, has branched out in recent years to include car top carriers and other Paddlesports accessories. New this year is the Flying-Y All N' One Rack, a folding kayak carrier that can be used upright as a single or double J-Bar. Used as a single J, the uprights are adjustable to multiple angles, allowing best fit for a variety of kayaks. Need to carry an additional boat? Add the removable additional bottom component, and you're set to go. And it fits round, square, and most factory racks!



Suspensz Flying-Y

Even MORE Yak Attack Gear

Well known in the kayak fishing arena, Yak Attack is expanding their line to include innovative SUP outfitting as well. New this year, cleat mount leash plug adapters with screwballs in two sizes, allowing the addition of accessories such as camera mounts, dive flags, etc. Also, cleat mount vertical tie downs for straps or bungees, and a leash plug Paddle Holder.



Yak Attack SUP Paddle Holder

For kayak fisherman, vertical tie downs that fit in kayak tracks, and allow the use of 1" or 1.5" webbing or shock cord, a track mount paddle holder, a 2-piece 8' stakeout pole, and their new LeverLoc Anchor Trolley kit. Rig to your heart's content! (We had to buy a new display just to hold all this stuff!)



*Yak Attack
Vertical Tie Downs*



*Yak Attack
Vertical Paddle Holder*

Black Friday, Shop Small Saturday, and Bloody Sunday (Just Kidding!)

Once again, BMO will be joining American Express to encourage folks to shop local on Small Business Saturday, November 28th. Hard on the heels of Black Friday (which traditionally features stampedes at mega stores) we hope you'll remember the local merchants who support your local economy. ('Course we'll be here on Black Friday also, if you want to miss the crowds!) Sales throughout the store, and we'll be open Sunday as well. (But NOT Cyber Monday and definitely not Thanksgiving Thursday!)



BMO Staff News

Tim's become our official whitewater ambassador, clocking rivers and creeks as fast as we can count 'em, including the Cheat, Middle Fork into the Tygart, Lower Big Sandy, New, Lower Gauley, Upper Yough, Cedar Run, and the new Holtwood whitewater park, to name a few. AND he still found time to take a Swiftwater rescue course, and put in full hours at BMO. Next on the list? Upper Gauley, Top Yough, Beaver, Moose, and whatever else trips his trigger. (We suspect he tells his Mom that he goes to Hershey Park!)



*Upper Yough,
Heinzerling Splat*

Dougisms (If it ain't a word, it should be!)

When our washing machine came down with the plague for the second time this year Doug was all for getting a new one, but I can't resist a challenge. After several hours of cussing, a few glasses of wine, and the help of Google, I was able to get it working again. (Okay, so it involved bypassing wires that aren't really supposed to be bypassed, but really, do you need an override to keep you from sticking your arm in the thing during the spin cycle?) Doug's response? "When in doubt, call the Maytag Hag". (Next time I'm sending him a repair bill!)

Wave Sport Moves Overseas ☹️

We've been selling Wave Sport Kayaks since it was a small company owned by Chan Zwanzig (and that was a LONG time ago!) but now it appears that if we want to continue to sell them, we'll have to open another shop in Europe (hmmm). Not sure what the reasoning is, but it looks like we'll be selling a lot more Daggers now!

It's Back (Well, sort of)

After deciding to sell only factory direct last year, Liquid Logic (under new ownership) is returning to retail shops. But wait, not the entire line; just touring, rec, and crossovers. Whitewater kayaks are still only available factory direct (at least for the time being; stay tuned!)

Blast from the Past

Had a van full of folks pull in several years ago on their way back from a paddling trip; saw the shop and couldn't pass it by. Found three more boats to add to their collection, but said they couldn't buy them because there wasn't room to carry them. Doug's response? "You buy it, I'll load it" (And that was before the advent of stackers).



Classic Customer Questions

"Do you think you have a PDF that's big enough to fit me?"

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Maintenance & Repair

Most of us aren't ready to end the season just yet, but before you stash your boats and gear for the winter, make sure it's ready for use when spring arrives. Clean boats (including hatches, foot braces, rudder assemblies, and all nooks and crannies.) Remove airbags, thoroughly dry, and store somewhere safe from critters. Clothing should be cleaned, dried, and stored away from smoke, coal dust, etc. Inspect wrist, neck, and ankle gaskets for tears or rot, and replace if necessary. Paddles? Check 'em for cracks, and if break down, break it down and thoroughly clean the ferrule. We're a lot less busy during the off season, so if you need repairs, skid plates, custom outfitting, etc. PLEASE give us a call over the winter. And before you bring anything in for repair, clean, clean, and clean some more. We charge by the hour, and you can save a lot of money if you use your elbow grease instead of ours!

BMO's 2014 Tax Write Off

As promised, here's a photo of Doug's beloved Kubota Tractor (our 2014 tax write off, now officially "written off") after being hit by a tree at our annual Columbus Day Staff Retreat. (Believe it or not, there really is a tractor under there!) On a good note, we had old friends from PA and Texas join us for the weekend, and (after a massive cleanup) we all had a great time paddling, partying and chilling!



Hope you're all enjoying time on and off the water!

-The BMO Gang
(Doug, Mary, Kris, Tim, & Leah)