

BMO Newsletter: April 2008

Blue Mountain Outfitters

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103 S. State Road
(Rts. 11 & 15)
Marysville, PA 17053



Leap (year) into 2008

Hey, in our book that means one extra day of paddling (or one extra day of getting used to Daylight Savings Time...Yuk!) Anyway, we greeted the New Year with BMO's traditional New Years Day Float, with Old Acquaintances NOT forgot, in and out of the Bloody Mary War Canoe. Can't think of a better way to begin a new year!



New Years Day Float, 2008

BMO Swap Meet 2008

Same format, different date. Saturday, May 3rd, 10 am – 6 pm, plan to bring your unwanted paddling / hiking / camping gear to BMO's South Parking Lot and hopefully find a new home for it. If your boat or gear shrank over the winter (our clothes sure seemed to!) or you shrank over the winter (in which case we'd like to know your secret!) we can guarantee there's someone else out there who could use the gear that no longer fits you. No rental charges, no consignment fee, just show up ready to sell, buy, and/or swap. Bring your own tent / tarp if you want, or work off your shuttle vehicle tailgate. Hint...bring cash, since these sales won't be running through our cash register and therefore can't be run on credit cards. Of course we're hoping you'll find some deals in our closeout section as well, in which case you CAN use credit cards! At any rate, it's a great time to catch up with old friends and make new ones!

New this year our friend Jim Knepper will be firing up his smoker and offering mouthwatering pulled pork sandwiches. We'll still have hot dogs, but suspect that once you smell Jimmy's BBQ you'll be lining up!

Friends & Neighbors

Speaking of which, look to see more of Jim's "GreatQ4You!" Barbeque at BMO this summer season, with Pulled Pork, Ribs, and other great BBQ favorites. Featuring flavors such as "Hoover the Hound's Southern Fusion Sauce", and "River Rub", this blend of Memphis and Carolina styles will keep you coming back for more! Here's the scoop!

GREATQ4U!
Authentic Low & Slow BBQ Catering
GREATQ4U.COM
Corporate Events • Parties • Weddings • Bagged Lunches and more...

The Natives are Coming!

Coming soon to BMO on the Susquehanna (once home to the Native Susquehannocks) Native Watercraft kayaks. Sit ins, Sit on Tops, paddling, peddling, poling...and all with comfort! Check them out, along with the rest of our selection, at our annual Demo Day.





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canoe & kayak

- sales
- accessories
- river trips
- trailers
- repairs
- lessons

DEMO DAY

Paddle - Pole - Play

- ♦ **Paddle** your choice of craft -- discover the differences that words can't explain.
- ♦ **Pole** canoes from the standing position -- get a better view of the world.
- ♦ **Play** to your hearts content -- it's a still water demo - but we have whitewater boats.

Test the Latest Canoes and Kayaks

Some older ones too!

SUNDAY MAY 18, 2008

NOON - 5:00 PM

MARYSVILLE LIONS CLUB POND

Factory representatives for many of our product lines will be available to show their wares and answer your questions.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-81 take Exit 65 & follow Rts. 11&15 North 1.6 miles north, turn left onto Park Street in Marysville; it's between the bank and Specialty Bakers.

From the North, starting at the Route 322 / 11 & 15 intersection, follow Rts. 11&15 South for 10.9 miles, turn right onto Park Street in Marysville; it's immediately after Specialty Bakers. The right turn is 0.4 miles South of BMO.

Behind Specialty Bakers and just past the swimming pool is an unpaved road that bears off to the right at a narrow angle. Follow this road downhill to the pond. There will be signs to point the way.

**Please wear old footwear
and plan to get wet!**

Hope to see you there!

**Questions?
Call Blue Mountain Outfitters
at (717) 957-2413**

**or check our web site at
www.bluemountainoutfitters.net**

02/28/08

New Stuff!

Last fall we featured new canoes & kayaks; now it's time for other new stuff!

Squeaky Cheeks

Wilderness Systems' Fishing Team Member Chad Hoover turned us on to this product that treats the kayak fisherman's (or woman's) version of "diaper rash"...you know what we mean if you've spent long hours, days on end, on a wet sit-on-top kayak. Better than anything we've found yet, this all natural powder ("Made from 100% Pure Stuff"), like orange juice for breakfast, is not just for paddlers anymore. As the label says, "Comfort for Golfing, Biking, Running, Fishing, Backpacking, Walking, Endurance Sports, Gardening, Racquet Sports, and most plumbers." (Speaking of labels, we haven't had this much fun since reading our first Doctor Bonners Soap label!) Chad says one container of this "Funny Name, Serious Comfort" powder will last all year, unless you use as much as he does. Hmm...wonder what else he's doing with it?



Squeaky Chad holding court on the right, at the 2008 Eastern Sports Show

Rec Repair

After years of relying on duct tape and bubble gum, we're now seeing more and more repair products on the market for use by paddlers both at home and in the field. In addition to West System Brand® G/Flex Epoxy and the NSR® Emergency Repair Kit covered in our last newsletter, we now have Rec Repair™, a heat activated, moldable field repair patch originally developed for NASA and now available to outdoorsmen for repair of kayaks, canoes, tents, hiking poles, water coolers, and more. Available in different sized kits in two colors, with heat activation provided (similar to the process that heats the MRE's our soldiers are eating), or as simple repair strips...you provide the heat, prepping materials, etc.



Astral V-Eight™ PFD

Wouldn't have believed it without trying it ourselves, but Astral Buoyancy has managed to come up with a breathable PFD that isn't hot...in fact Mary found while wearing it in our blacktopped parking lot that she actually cooled down! The secret? Limiting contact surface with the body, and ventilating ports in the front & back. The mesh back adds even more airflow, and is compatible with the high seat backs so often seen in recreational kayaks. We'd probably suggest something a little more aggressive for our whitewater and advanced touring paddlers, and Astral has addressed that as well with the Willis™ (for the guys) and Bella™ (you guessed it, for you gals.) And in keeping with our quest to stock more earth-friendly products (see Eco Corner), all three use PVC free Gaia™ foam.

Paddles, Paddles, and More Paddles

Remember when you first started paddling and thought there were basically two kinds of paddles...canoe and kayak? We do! Now it seems as if there are so many choices it's mind boggling. Straight shaft, bent shaft, crank shaft, neutral bent shaft....heck, that's just one part of the paddle! Choices are far too many to cover here, suffice it to say if you're in need (or want) of a new stick, stop by and we'll be happy to walk you through the choices. Also coming up on May 17th (see separate article) a paddling clinic by Werner's Kelly Blades, space is limited; sign up soon!

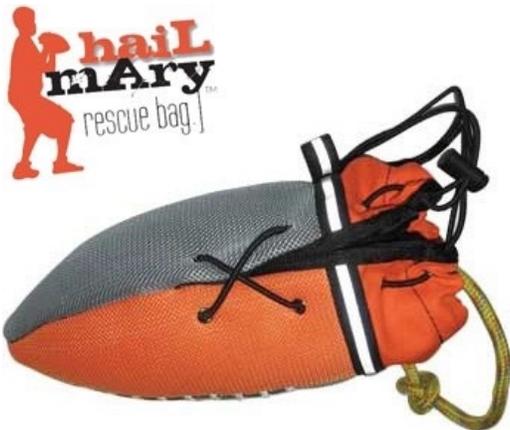
HandiRack™

Bridging the gap between a full-blown Thule Roof Rack and a foam block kit is the HandiRack™, an inflatable roof rack from Malone featuring multiple tie-down points to keep your boat centered and solidly connected to your car. Comes with a hand pump that makes short work of inflation; and compact enough to carry in your boat. Anything that makes it easier to get on the water is good in our book! Of course we also carry the full Thule and Malone Paddlesports Cartop lines, as well as foam blocks and straps from Riverside Canoe Carriers. Too many boats to car top? Try BMO's custom built canoe & kayak trailers!

More New Stuff

Pigskins Hit the Water

Remember tossing the old football around in the back yard with family and friends? Well, WRSI (of whitewater helmet fame) is guessing that more of us tossed footballs than throwbags, and consequently decided to build a series of football shaped throwbags. Whether you throw them overhand with a spiral, or with the traditional underhand toss, these bullet-shaped bags provide speed and accuracy. Come on by and try one out! (Hut one, hut two, hut three, hike!)



Gun Mounts & Stake Out Poles

Nope, this isn't gangster talk, but rather a couple "hook & bullet" items we've added to our line in response to demand from our hunting and fishing paddlers. We've been looking for a gun mount suitable for canoes & kayaks, and have them in stock now...just in time for Spring hunting season. Our

sit-on-top kayak fishermen have been asking for stakeout poles, designed to hold the boat in place without having to deploy an anchor. Yet ANOTHER way to not move in a boat!

PFBC News

The next time you open your wallet to purchase a Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission launch permit or registration, take heart in knowing that a portion of your money (approximately \$2,000,000 this year alone) is being used to fund construction of new (and improvement of existing) boating access areas. And no, these are not PFBC owned access areas, but rather owned and maintained by counties and municipalities for the benefit of all Pennsylvania citizens, as well as visitors from other states and countries (a boon to the Tourism Industry, which is vital to Pennsylvania's economy.) In addition, the Commission is currently partnering with DCNR in an initiative to inventory existing access areas across the state and identify areas where access is lacking or improvements are needed.

To apply for an access area development or improvement grant, contact Scott Bollinger at scbollinger@state.pa.us. The PBBC staff is available to aid in completing the grant application, as well as helping to identify possible sources of matching funds, assist in planning, and even oversee construction if needed. Also, if you have any suggestions for new access areas or improvements, contact Mike Bialousz at mibialousz@state.pa.us. PFBC is inviting input from anyone in the state who uses our waterways.

BMO Staff News

Where's Topher? And Where's Topher's Truck?

We have no idea where Waldo is, but have been asked by many of you what happened to Topher. Along with his wife Tana and "girls" Molly & Ruthie, Topher ventured cross country and settled in Eureka, California... 15 minutes from the beach. We both miss him and envy him! He still makes regular trips back to PA, however, including last fall's annual Paddling.net's "Raystown Rendezvous" where he joined Sarah, Jesse, and Hap as the BMO contingent, with the Bloody Mary and various other canoes. (Luckily we still have Jesse on staff to represent BMO in the CPPC (Canoe Polers, Pennsylvania Contingency...NOT politically correct!)



Molly and Ruthie, California Dreaming

In the process of the move, Topher regrettably had to leave his signature sticker covered chalkboard sided truck. Fortunately it found a good home with fellow paddler Joel Beckworth...that is until someone decided to take it for a joy ride with gear in tow. Paddling.net folks came out in masse with offers of boats and paddling gear to cover the lost items, as well as a vigilante effort to locate the truck that would put the Pinkerton Men to shame! In the end the truck was found a short distance from where it was taken, none the worse for wear, ready to record many more trips to come.



Topher's...now Joel's Truck

Where's Erik?

Also moved on (but not quite as far!) is former BMO Assistant Sales Manager Erik Ferguson, recently hired by Emotion Kayak Company as part of their in-house Sales/Customer Service Team in his hometown of Wyomissing, PA. We're looking forward to working with him in his new position. We hear he likes his new digs, and the commute rocks!

Repair Center

New to BMO's ever evolving workshop:

G/Flex polyethylene repairs (you might not have to turn your trusty old boat into a flower pot after all!)

Vacuum Bagging – We're now set up to do vacuum bagged repairs on boats and paddles, keeping the weight down and the strength up.

TwinTex Repairs – To our knowledge we are the only shop in the USA able to repair Esquif's Twin-tex, and similar materials.

Of course, we continue to offer repairs on Royalex®, Composite, and other boats and equipment as well.

BMO Gallery of Fine Art

Straying from the Adirondacks for a visit to BMO, our friend Tim Lawson took this photo of Mary along the banks of the Susquehanna north of the shop. It's plain to see why so many people travel for miles to experience "our" river. (By the way, we LOVE having Tim photograph us...he can make ANYONE look good!)



Mary, River & Boat

Goodbye, Moody Blues

After several years of being for sale, and Mary cringing every time someone thought about purchasing it, our little blue Merrimack Baboosic canoe (nicknamed "Moody Blues" after multiple touchups with various shades of not-quite-matching blue paint) has found a new home. Send pictures, Tim, and bring her back for a visit now and then!



Mary and "Moody Blues", Yellow Breeches Creek

Eco Corner

As promised, here are some new earth friendly products for paddlers available at BMO:

PVC free dry bags, coolers, float bags, PFD's and more from suppliers including Pacific Watersports, SealLine, Gaia, NRS, Astral Buoyancy, and more we're sure we missed (sorry!) that perform just as well (if not better than) their counterparts.

(Try saying "PVC free PFD three times fast!")

From Seattle Sports, the Hydrostar™ S.U.B. (Submersible Utility Beam), a hand-cranked waterproof flashlight with 4 light settings, and an exterior USB charging cable as a back-up charger for your iPod®. Arriving soon, the ActiveTrax™ Audio...a hand cranked mini-boom box for your iPod®, also with AM/FM/WB radio. Use the side USB jack to provide back-up charging for your iPod® or other USB compatible device. No more used batteries in the waste stream! Seattle Sports also brings us a PVC free solar powered shower...earth friendly AND body friendly!

Another Big Boat?

Doug's always saying that "Bigger is Better"; after all, the Bloody Mary War Canoe IS one of his favorite boats! Now we have another big boat to keep her company, a 23' Wenonah Minnesota 4. She doesn't have a name yet, but is bound to earn one soon! The Bloody Mary spins on a dime, this one tracks like a rail...both are a hoot! We're thinking Susquehanna River speed records sometime soon!

Kayak Paddling Clinics

Werner Paddle Company team member Kelly Blades (with a name like that, you just have to be a kayak paddler!) will be in town May 18th for our Demo Day, and has graciously agreed to swing by a day early and teach a couple kayak paddling clinics. Kelly comes with certifications galore, including ACA Open Water Instructor and BCU (Midwest Coaching Officer). Most important to us, he's willing to teach a couple low-key classes that will be informative but still fun. These are not certification classes (although when you're done, in our opinion, you'll be certifiable!)

At 9 am we'll offer a paddling clinic for Touring kayakers (bring your own boat and equipment, and make sure your boat has adequate flotation.) Kelly

will be working with you on fine-tuning your forward stroke, and all the other strokes that stem directly from that. We know, we can all make our boats go forward, but in our opinion (and this includes ourselves) there is always room for improvement; sometimes with surprising results.

Later in the afternoon (2 pm) we'll be running a Recreational Paddling clinic (bring your own Rec kayak and equipment, including flotation for both yourself and your boat.) This will definitely be informal, with a lot of stress on having fun in your boat, and consequently developing confidence and skill.

Kelly (and BMO) will have lots of Werner paddles to try out also; if you're considering upgrading, getting a spare, or just wondering if the paddle you have is the right size, shape, design, etc. for you, this is a great opportunity to learn from the best! (Our words, not his...he's the modest type!)

Limited to 6 people per class, so sign up early! Give us a call or drop a line for more details.



At the end of the newsletter:

That's it! Hope to see you at our Swap Meet, Kelly's Paddling Clinics, Demo Day, and here at the shop! Happy Paddling!

The BMO Gang

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