

BMO

Blue Mountain Outfitters

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Assateague, 2009

Actually thought about skipping this year (the write-up, not the trip!) but several of you told me you look forward to hearing about BMO's latest Assateague trip and New Years Day Float, so here you go.

29 people this year, including an old friend from Doug's home stompin' grounds of Tidioute, PA (pronounced Tiddy-oot; explains a lot about Doug!) Ryan snagged the best Assateague Pony pic we've seen yet (you should have seen him lining up all those little birds!)



"All Aboard the Pony Express"

New this year, Angie and Gabby (with a little help from Gabby's husband Joey) led a morning yoga session on the beach for several of us neophytes. (Personally I think they just enjoyed watching us fall over when we tried to master poses that sound much easier than they are.) Home on leave from the Guards, Joey was a shoe-in for the "Warrior" poses. My favorite? The "Child". Which explains a little about me! (Mary)

Eric and Greg showed up with identical (although 1 model year apart) MSR tents...at least they were SUPPOSED to be identical!



"Before Beer"



"After Beer"

Speaking of beer, we're in kind of a quandary for next year. Have been going to Assateague for over 30 years, but as of 2010 Maryland is changing their regs to prohibit alcohol at all state parks. (Note to Pennsylvania: wonder why we always went to Maryland?) Looking at possibly the National Campground (have to research Virginia's rules) or up the coast to Delaware (which only says "no kegs") Any suggestions would be appreciated. (By the way, this is the culmination of a season of very hard work, so "quit drinking" isn't an option!)

End of Season Sale

Trucks are stacking up in our driveway, and we're running out of places to put all the 2010 boats that are arriving. SOOO, come on in and take advantage of some great deals on 2009 boats (in most cases the boats haven't changed, just the pricing.) We even have a limited number of canoes & kayaks 2008 or older, which are marked down even more. Lots of marked down accessories as well; don't forget that with the purchase of a boat, you get a 10% discount on accessories...even the ones that are already marked down!

Speaking of sales, Doug's adamant that this winter we're going to tear the office apart and fix the leaking roof/ceiling, which JUST HAPPENS to be near our computer. In order to do this, all our inventory and office machines have to be moved out of the room temporarily. Which ALSO means that we have to empty out our whitewater kayak demo trailer to use as temporary storage. SO, give us a call to check on available inventory and pricing, on both demo and new (other than 2010) whitewater kayaks, and make an offer. We either have to sharpen pencils, or build an ark!

Here Comes another One, Just Like the Other One

Speaking of new 2010 boats, after attending both the OR (Outdoor Retailer) show in Salt Lake City, and the EORA (Eastern Outdoor Reps Association) show in Sturbridge this year we came back feeling like we were seeing double! Can't say that we saw anything really new and innovative this year, but sure DID see lots of "new" boats that bore a striking resemblance to existing ones.



"Ultimate or Commander?"



"Ripper or Spitfire?"



"Tsunami or Inuit?"

What 'SUP?

Hard on the heels of the SINK (sit inside kayaks) and SOTs (sit on tops) comes the SUP (stand up paddleboard.) Time to pull out a paddling dictionary! Supposedly the sport's new phenomena, we wonder if everyone's forgotten gondolas, pirogues, canoe poling, and George Washington crossing the Delaware...heck, people have been standing up in boats for years! But not ON them, apparently. We tried it last year in its simplest form...long canoe paddle with our vintage California long board in the Assateague surf, resulting in some entertaining carnage. Have to admit it was a lot easier to climb on the Native Versa-Board and Osceola the next time around (admittedly NOT in the surf!) Boards are even sprouting accessories such as deck rigging, seats, and rod holders, making us wonder whether they aren't turning into glorified SOTs, but hey, if people want (or need) a different paddle craft, we may as well provide it. Coming soon to BMO!



Sorry, Jimbo, but she won our staff's "Best Looking Model" vote hands down!

New BMO Kayak Trailer

Check out Doug's latest trailer design; we'd traditionally call this a 6-boat (or 6-pack) based on the number of rungs, but in this case it can carry up to 18 kayaks (making it an 18-pack.) Haven't checked yet to see how many SUPs it'll hold, but am guessing at least a case!



Mark Your Calendar (If you have one yet!)

February 6-14 BMO will once again be exhibiting at the Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, with an expanded lineup of everything related to Paddlesports hunting and fishing. Watch for updates as we get closer!

We're also expanding our annual Demo Day from one to two days for 2010; Saturday and Sunday, May 15th & 16th from Noon to 5 pm. Watch our website and Spring newsletter for details!



Demo Day

BMO Gallery of Fine Art

Okay, so it isn't ALL about paddling in the Adirondacks! Our latest from friend Tim Lawson's collection:



"Mary, roughing it at Little Green Pond"

Holiday Sale



Ho, Ho, Hoping you can make it to our annual Holiday Sale, Friday and Saturday, December 4th and 5th from 10 am to 8 pm. 2010 in stock boats 10% off, even more for older ones, and all in stock accessories and gifts 15% off. Check out our newest logo-ed items including a backpack cooler. How cool is that?

Out of Africa; Saved by the “Nyaminyami”

BMO’s shop manager Kris and his girlfriend (Sarah’s mom) Guni survived the hippos, crocs, parasites, diseases, and HUGE rapids of the Zambezi River this fall in their annual “see the world” quest. Seems one of the biggest hazards was the food thieving monkeys (or as Kris described them “Monkey Bastards”) who managed to make off with Kris’s lunch! (They’ve apparently learned that if they drop rocks on people they can distract them and steal their food. Proves that primates do indeed know how to use tools!) Kris is still putting together pics, but here’s a couple. (The “Nyaminyami”, by the way, is the Zambezi River God; guess they must have done something right for him to grant safe passage.)



Kris, on Rapid 13, “The Mother”



“Monkey Bastard”

With a Little Help from My Friends

Light canoes + strong Susquehanna winds = X!#*!! Kris came up with a solution if you’re out with a fellow paddler...raft up (otherwise known as the “muckle-up”) Seems it straightens things out quite well. As Kris puts it, “two 16’ boats rafted up equals about one 26’ boat that tracks like a rail!”



“All Tied Up”

Bloody Shame

The BMO “Bloody Mary” War Canoe has been sadly dry this season, much to Doug’s disappointment. 2009 was an unusually high water year, perfect for expeditions in the “big boat”. However, it seems that folks have the misconception that it’s boring. We’ll have to start collecting testimony from visiting relatives who’ve been known to say prayers while surfing the Susquehanna Ledges! Bird watching, train watching, leaf watching, girl watching (just seeing if you’re still paying attention), it’s all good in the “Mary”. Pass the word!



“Bloody Mary, Dry Docked”

Without a Leg to Stand On

The Dauphin Narrows has claimed its share of flotsam and jetsam over the years, usually due to people not listening to (or listening to but not HEEDING) our directions to “stay left!” The latest (unfortunate) loss was a titanium leg, still out there somewhere. The good news (we try to stay optimistic around here!) is:

1. There’s a mounting quest among area whitewater paddlers to find it.
2. Fortunately, it was the back-up one; the paddler still had her “main” leg.
3. A lot more people are listening and staying left after being told by Doug that the last person who DIDN’T listen had her leg ripped off.

Let us know if you find it so we can reconnect it to its owner!

The (Not) Terrible Towel

We’ve had (and used) a lot of different camping towels over the years, all of which were a big step up from the typical terrycloth bath ones, so were a bit skeptical when approached by Discovery Trekking Outfitters about yet another one. But, we’re all about SWAG (Shit We All Get) so when offered to try one out for FREE, we weren’t about to turn it down. Doug put it through its paces on the Schuylkill River Sojourn in June, in conditions that usually cause clothes, shoes, people and towels to smell worse than Grandma’s sauerkraut crock, and the towel came through with flying colors. Kris depended on his in Africa and was the envy of others on the trip. Next, to Assateague, to deal with salt and sand...again, great! (Mary even used it as a yoga matt; didn’t prevent her from falling over when attempting the “Crane” pose, but worked great otherwise!) Now it’s Pine Creek, where the rain hasn’t stopped for days (making it easier to stay indoors and write this newsletter!) Soft, packable, dries in a heartbeat, soaks up water better than the “quicker picker upper”, and smells good! We’re sold, and have a supply of Penn State Blue ones at the shop if you’d like to check them out!



“Discovery Trekking Towel...Check out the Phillies Red, Penn State Blue, & Steelers Gold & Black...Go Pennsylvania!”

Sarah’s on a Roll

Sarah’s once again planning to attend some of the area’s off season roll sessions (currently for the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, and the Conewago Canoe Club) and is willing to bring a limited number of whitewater kayaks to try out. HOWEVER, she asks that you periodically check your club’s message boards to keep current on when she is planning to attend, and contact her with any special boat requests. (It’s also very helpful if she is assisted in loading and unloading boats at the sessions. She can throw boats around with the best of them, but more hands make the task easier.) Requests are on a first come, first served basis, so plan ahead! And a “heads up”; some of these boats will be first quality, so should be used “gently”; no pushing off the pool sides and looping up onto them! Thanks!!



“Pool Session, Next Generation”

Whew, enough! After two days of rain, Pine Creek is cranking and the water is beckoning! Hope you’re all getting out as well!

The BMO Crew