

## What's New and Notable

Canoecopia abounds with amazing paddlesport gear to help get you outside. Here are some of the incredible things that we think you might be interested in

Canoecopia started out as “Meet the Folks Who Make the Boats” and as that original title might suggest, it was almost exclusively about which of the latest canoes or kayaks needed to come home with you.

Today Canoecopia is so much more than just that, but we haven't gotten too far away from our roots as a place where you can go and talk to

the reps, designers, and owners of the companies that make the gear that make it easier to get outside.

We've got so much more than just boats though. Here are some of the latest and most notable things that can help your time on the water be that much better. Walk the main expo floor and see the things that catch your eye.



### NRS Pilot and Co-Pilot Knives

These two knives have been favorites for years though they did have a few small idiosyncrasies. The biggest was that the sheath would sometimes pop open when doing a reentry into a kayak. These new updated knives have more secure sheaths. The handle is indexed so you don't have to look to see which side is for cutting rope and which is decidedly unfriendly to thumbs or other appendages.



### Astral Designs YTV 2.0 PFD

The YTV has been a great low-profile seller here, very popular with folks who want buoyancy and comfort.

Astral thought they could do even more so they added larger pockets, and there is a softer, fully recycled outer shell. The PFD is independently certified by bluesign, so you know that from start to finish it is an environmentally-friendly product.

### Bonafide Kayaks PWR129

This boat is a rock-solid platform. The High Rise seating system gets you up higher where you can see the fish. Super comfy too. The catamaran hull is speedy and stable. The retractable rudder is clean and retracts into the hull. It is fitted hull weight is a very manageable 78 lbs, and fully rigged it comes in at 102. Get a cart (see page 50) and it's no sweat at all.

We wondered what PWR might stand for. Jim thought that it was “punting wide receiver” but Darren's guess that it probably means *power*. The PWR129 is completely set up for any additions later without drilling through the hull. The clever design keeps all your other gear at arm's reach.



## Level Six Loki



Dry suits are awesome, but some folks are not able to use them due to latex. The Loki is the first dry suit to use a PU-coated lycra that's adjustable. If you're out kayak fishing and get a little warm, you can loosen the neck and breathe a little easier. Level Six uses a 100% recycled nylon and PVC-free coatings. Are you a recreational paddler who likes to get out at the beginning or end of the season? This dry suit might just be the one for you.

## Aqua-Bound Aerial Whitewater Paddles

Oh my. The folks at Aqua-Bound have been busy. Our resident whitewater addict, Dan, calls these "revolutionary" and if he says it, that's good enough for the rest of us. The biggest problem with well-loved whitewater paddles is the edges delaminating. Aqua-Bound developed Lam-Lok to counter that. It uses 33 ft of aramid thread and will improve its longevity by 5 to 10 times. They developed a new rubberized coating that makes the shaft grippy. A team of whitewater paddlers were involved in the design. Stop by the booth learn even more about their thoughtful design.



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## Swift Canoe Prospector 13

I think if you asked a computer to “draw a canoe” it would likely pick some variant of a Prospector. They are incredibly popular because they’re either *just right* or *will work fine* for most people in most conditions. (They are also quite beautiful.) Swift’s Prospector 13 comes from their 14-foot model. They wanted a solo Prospector for smaller- to average-sized people.

This Prospector, like most of the rest, can be paddled any way you like: sitting, kneeling, or heeled over. There’s enough width for a nice feeling of stability, and enough tumblehome to make it comfortable for all-day paddling.

Swift makes it in a wide range of layups and trims so you can get one that weighs somewhere between 24 and 38 pounds, with some accessories adding a little extra weight.

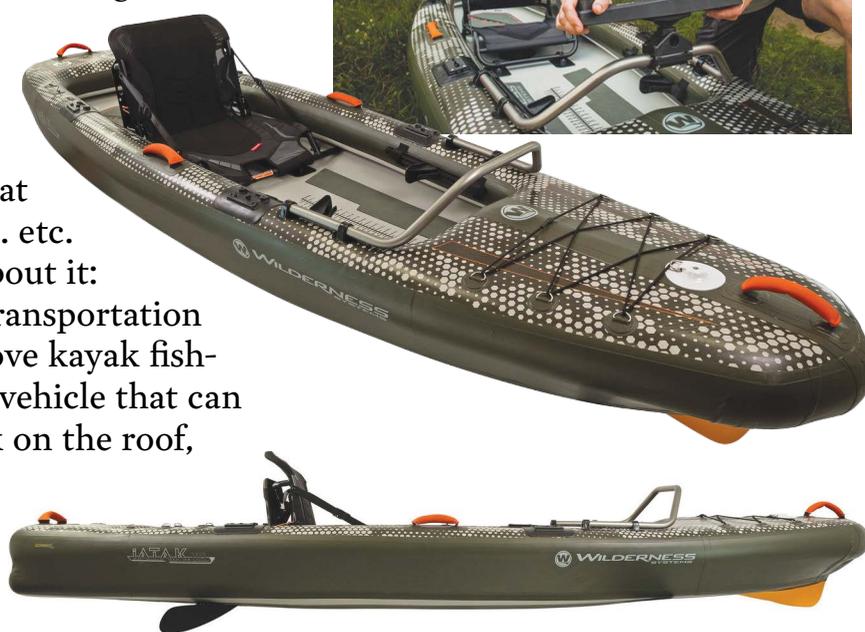


## Platypus QuickDraw Filter

We’re big fans of gravity filters. Why work a pump when you can let Mother Nature do the trick? The Platypus QuickDraw filter is simple with a simple premise: you put dirty water in the dirty side, and take clean from the other. It is extremely flexible too. You’re not limited to just one type of attachment. You can use various vessels to catch clean water, from a two-liter reservoir to your water bottle. You get a little under two liters of water in a minute of filtering. It’s the perfect small group fresh water solution to bring a long on any trip with the same great reliability Platypus filters have always been known for.

## Wilderness Systems I.A.T.A.K.

An inflatable fishing kayak? Indeed. It’s light, durable, and has a great seating system with a rail and anchor system right out of the whitewater rafting industry. Great outfitting, stable, etc. etc. But the best thing about it: never worry about transportation ever. EVER. If you love kayak fishing and don’t have a vehicle that can carry a fishing kayak on the roof, now you can keep your Honda Fit and get out there.



## NRS Ninja PFDs

The new Ninja (top) and Ninja OS (Off Shore, bottom) features the new Orbit Fit system, a round, preformed shape that immediately wraps around and embraces the paddler's torso, providing a snug, secure fit without having to over tighten. The Ninja's low profile means greater range of motion, and graded sizing means a true fit to your specific torso, not one size fits all. If you're a minimalist, this is your PFD.



## NorthWater Inflatable Paddle Float

Our friends at NorthWater are unable to take shortcuts. They also have a strong customer base in the search and rescue world, so all their gear is built as if someone's life depended on it. Because, sometimes it does. Their paddle float is a perfect example of their design philosophy. It's got two-chamber redundancy and a well-thought-out shape. It makes for a great safety tool. If you haven't replaced your paddle float in a while, maybe this is the time to do it..



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## Yakima MOD SUV Organization System

Someone once said that a messy desk is the sign of a creative mind. Maybe so, but a messy pile of gear in the back of a truck (we're looking at Darren here) isn't so *creative* as it is *frustrating*.

The Yakima MOD HomeBase is a drawer system that is designed to maximize the storage space in your vehicle along with keeping all of your gear organized. Large sliding drawers are only the start: using removable GearCrates and GearTotes, the modular system allows you to rig up your storage as it best fits your needs.

## Swift Canoe New Materials

Science! Let's hear it for very clever chemists. In 2024 Swift is rolling out two amazing things: UV Shield and a new epoxy resin. The first is a new clear coat that is lighter (shaves

~2 lbs off most layups), is incredibly scratch resistant, resists cracking like crazy, and as the name suggests gives complete UV protection.

The new epoxy resin is "epoxy on steroids." It is ideal for those who want the ultimate in Composite Boat construction and state of the art durability in a lightweight boat.



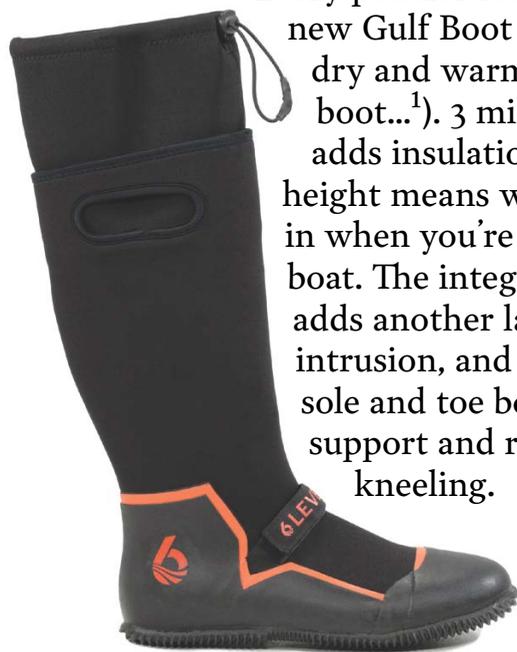
## NRS Clipper and Judoko SUPs

Inflatable stand-up paddleboards have come a long way since the early days with no shape to enhance performance. The Clipper and Judoko are multi-chambered boats, creating a board that paddles with ease. The Clipper is a touring board with a pointy bow that's only possible with multiple chambers, and comes in four sizes to fit a wide variety of paddlers.

The Judoko is less specialized, and has a really cool feature where the center of the board is dropped lower than the sides, creating a better balance point for the paddler. Both are outstanding boards.



## Level Six Gulf Boot



Every paddler loves dry feet, and the new Gulf Boot will keep your feet dry and warm to boot (get it? to boot...<sup>1</sup>). 3 millimeter neoprene adds insulation, and a mid-calf height means water won't slosh in when you're jumping in your boat. The integrated gaiter sleeve adds another layer against water intrusion, and the vulcanized sole and toe box will and some support and reduce wear when kneeling.

<sup>1</sup>Yes. We got it. Only wish we didn't. – Ed.

## Recreational Barrel Works Coureur Canoe Pack

A brilliant solution for solo paddlers, the Coureur is a large portage pack that splits into two pieces so that you can carry it like a regular pack, but when you break it apart you end up with two bags, one for the front and one for the back, so the canoe trims perfectly. Darren wants one. He doesn't strictly need one, but our owner has six or seven solo canoes.



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## NRS Ambient PFD

This will probably be the most comfortable PFD you'll ever own. You see, many lifejackets have the same basic chassis, where the adjustment to body size is just a longer adjustment strap. In a departure from one-chassis-fits all, the Ambient features *graded sizing*. NRS makes this in different PFD configurations so that it fits your body more closely and comfortably. An XS person won't wear the same chassis as an XL. Two draining and expanding stretch pockets give you space for your on-the-water essentials.

## Hurricane Kayaks Osprey 109

We sold out of the Osprey 120 early in 2023, speaking to its popularity. Now the folks at Hurricane bring us another in the family, the Osprey 109. This smaller, lighter version has the same innovative premium open floor plan, and bow deck K-9 com-



fort pad so you can take your pup along on the journey. Just over 40 pounds and at 10' 9" (duh), the new Osprey will paddle great on small streams and ponds.

The Osprey series are loaded with little extras that make using them that much more pleasant. They have premium handles fore and aft and on the sides to make carrying them easy, and tiedowns secure.

The storage compartment in front of the seat has a gastket so phones or other electronics can be stored there.

## Good To-Go Dried Food

The Good To-Go story is a great one. A well-regarded professional chef decides that she could do a much better job of making food for outdoor adventures and so founds a company with her husband. The really cool thing? The food is even better than the story, because you can't eat a story. Seriously, the food is legit. It will change your idea of what just-add-water can taste like. They've also rolled out a new line of microwaveable cups, just right for the office worker on the go.



## Northstar Canoe Opal

The baby sister of the Pearl, the Opal was designed for pleasure paddling. Two people can enjoy the responsiveness of the Opal when paddling on smaller rivers and streams. Flip it around and it's a great solo

canoe as well. At just under 15 feet, it's perfect for a small family where a parent can paddle with a child, and you can get an Opal that's under 30 pounds. If you need a lightweight boat to get up on your car, consider this gem. The Opal is also available in a K9 edition with a flat bow seat moved 8" toward the center and the stern seat replaced with a short thwart leaving lots of room for big dogs.

## PackTowl Changing Poncho

The old days of hiding behind your car with two doors open were the standard stripping-off-your-wet-clothes method whilst trying not to moon the folks across the Waffle House parking lot, and thus attracting the local constabulary. Now you can throw on the absorbent Changing Poncho and drop your stuff in a heap on a pad. The hood helps keep your wet head toasty.



## Exped MegaMat Auto

Sweet sleep. Perchance even to dream. Of course, if you were in the back of your sport ute with the seats folded down and nothing more than a wool blanket over you, your dreams, if there were any, would be foul. With the MegaMat you'd get 4 inches of open-cell polyurethane foam for support and warmth and a brushed, stretch tricot nylon surface that just oozes comfort. Sweet dreams, y'all.



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## Thule Epos

If you were to put a bike rack on the back of a Ferrari, this is the one you'd want. It carries all frame types, including e-bikes, and the optional loading ramp makes rolling your 50-pound e-bike up onto the rack easy as pie. A hinge off of the hitch mount allows it to swing down and allows access to the back of your

vehicle. No need to unfasten everything just to get to your helmet and gloves. When it is folded up it can be wheeled about like luggage, too.

The Epos comes in a two or three bike setup. If your running and brake lights are obscured by the bikes, you can add a very sexy set of brake lights!

*Epos* means heroic poem so maybe this is the rack that tells tales of greatness. Homer would like that.



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## Bonafide Kayaks SKF117

What is this boat? That's what we asked ourselves when we first saw it. It's a sit-on-top kayak. It's a stand-up paddleboat. It's for fishing. It's for playing around with the family and friends. It was inspired by the salt flat skiff's functionality: sight fish, birdwatch, and lay around on it just for yuks. It's easy to add or remove the seat and it comes with integrated rod holders.



## NRS Zander PFD



The new NRS Zander PFD is specifically designed for the angler (but even if that doesn't sound like you, read to the end). It has two large, drop down, compartmentalized front pockets for storing essential gear. Two additional external pockets give additional storage and a specialized tool holster for pliers or line cutters. BUT...it's also a great vest for paddlers who just want more easy access storage. Want a pocket for a pair of small binoculars? GPS? Dog treats? A bag of beef jerky? Says yes to us.

## PackTowl Personal Towels

Pack Towls have been dull and monochromatic for years. I mean, microfibers are awesome and work great, but the pale blues and greens were uninspiring. Now they have pretty colors and patterns, and still offer the performance (dries five times faster than cotton) and weight (about five ounces) you would want from your towel. Why not have a little zip and zing in your life?



## Malone Auto-Racks Forge BTB

For a lot of us pedaling and paddling in the same day is a sure fire path to "Best-Day-Ever"-ville. Just attach the Forge BTB to your bike, then throw on your canoe, kayak, or paddleboard and head off to the beach or park or wherever. The Forge weighs a svelte 34 lbs. and can take up to a 150lb load which should easily handle even a fishing kayak. It breaks down for easy storage and assembles in an instant. Ditch the car shuttle and reduce your paddling carbon footprint to zero!



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## Old Town Canoe BigWater EPDL+ 132

Pretty much everyone understands the appeal of an eBike: you get a little help from a motor to make your pedaling easier. That makes it easy for you to understand the awesomeness behind the Old Town EPDL+.

A propeller can be driven in Manual mode, using no battery. If, however, the wind comes up, you can go into Power Assist mode, choosing one of five levels of assistance. If you're tired or just want to focus on the fish, go into Cruise mode and let the motor do all the work. Think it's just for anglers? Hardly! Anyone who wants to get on the water with a little help has found a perfect solution. Its run time is impressive too: light assist about 46 hours; medium assist is 23 hours; full assist is 3. (Obviously depends on conditions and manual input.)



## Malone Autoracks Traverse HD

With a weight capacity of 250 pounds, this cart will take anything you throw at/on it. We sincerely hope your canoe or kayak doesn't weigh anything close to that, but you can be assured it won't break. The bunks are designed to hold canoes or fishing kayaks with weird shaped hulls. If you have a fully-rigged fishing kayak with all the bells, whistles, and pedals, you can be confident you'll make it to the water safely.

## Native Titan X

There could be an entire page of information about the Titan X. Sadly we don't have the space. The Cliff Notes version is that it's the most versatile kayak when it comes to propulsion. You can use the Propel pedal drive. You can use a bow-mounted trolling motor. You can add a stern-mounted trolling motor. You can even use...a paddle. Gasp! I know, but you *could!*

The Titan X is stable too, and features a 360-degree swivel seat to make access to all the storage that much less inconvenient. All the other bells and whistles are there too. The best way to learn about it is to see it. So come see it!



## Astral Designs Bowen

The Bowen is a super PFD for anyone who likes storage. It features the same floating panel chassis found on the Green Jacket so it moves with you. Sea kayakers will love it for the ability to stash a VHF radio in the huge front pocket. Birders will love it for the ability to stash a small pair of binoculars. The rest of us will love it for its comfort and SnackTec pocket. That's not *really* a thing, but there's a lot of us who love snacks.



## Nova Craft Canoe Prospector 14

Solo canoeing is enjoying a renaissance, and manufacturers are responding. Nova Craft is known for its tough construction and spartan outfitting, sorta like

the old Land Rovers you see on safaris. The Prospector 14 will be stable, predictable, and tough as nails. The TuffStuff layup is legendary, so if you want a boat that's virtually indestructible, this would be a good one to start your own solo paddling journey.



## Nomadix Original Towels

Imagine pretty towels, made from recycled materials in a sustainable method. Nice, right? Nomadix is a socially-responsible company

dedicated to getting it right, not just with product, but with keeping waste out of landfills and always innovating. It's nice to buy pretty towels, but even better to get one you know was made to better the world.



## Agawa Canyon ADK26

The folks at Agawa Canyon came up with a solution to the problem of packing an axe. Most of us have put the axe strapped to the side of the portage pack, but sometimes you're carrying a smaller pack on a shorter trip. The ADK26 is both a hatchet (without extension) and an axe (with extension). It's an awesome tool, and the stainless hardware and synthetic handle means no maintenance.

