

BMO

Blue Mountain Outfitters

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Welcome Back!

Hope you all had (and are continuing to have) a great paddling season! We had some great days on the water, most recently a Yellow Breeches paddling & poling trek that included 14 assorted BMO gang members and Duckheads, low water, high spirits, and, as Topher put it, "an appropriate number of swims." Great time as usual!



Photo by Topher Reynolds

! SALE ! SALE ! SALE ! SALE

There's nothing that gets peoples attention like the word "Sale". We vowed for years we wouldn't go this route with our newsletter, but you've indicated otherwise, soooo,

Along with all the new boats, paddles, and other paddling paraphernalia that surfaces every year comes the need to make ROOM for it all! Hence the proverbial Fall Clearance Sale. (Doug wanted to have a "Water Damaged Boat Sale" just to see if anyone would question the logic, but we voted him down!) All 2006 and older boats are marked down,

the older the boat, the larger the discount, along with a HUGE selection of other stuff. Need a sprayskirt? Bring your boat in and have at it...plenty of whitewater and touring skirts on sale. Cold? We bought out a rep's sample stock, including neoprene wetsuits, shorts, vests, & gloves...limited sizes but great deals! Also LOTS of marked down paddling clothing, from jackets and pants to stylin' togs. Kayak paddles, odd-ball car-topping stuff, dry bags and too much more to mention. Come in and check it out!

Big or Little, No Problem!

This seemed to be the year to address the fringes of the paddling community. Following are some of the new boats we found at this year's Eastern Outdoor Rep Show:

Super Size Me!

For years we've been selling lots and lots of Prijon Capri Tours, 'cause it's a great "tween-er" boat; lakes, rivers, easy ocean, bays, and light whitewater. Only problem was, it only fit small to mid-size paddlers. Now Prijon has added the Cruiser, all the advantages of the Capri, in a larger boat. Go ahead and add condiments; there's room! www.wildnet.com

Not to be outdone, Lincoln Canoe & Kayak has added a new boat to their line to complement the L'il Diamond (drum roll here, 'cause you'd never guess) the Big Diamond. Once again, take a proven hit, make it bigger, and go with it! (www.canoesandkayaks.com)

And for you whitewater paddlers who want to not only wiggle your toes, but have room to wiggle everything else, Jackson is bringing you the Mega Rocker. 8'3" of roomy (93 gallons!) creek boat that will handle just about everything, including a 300 lb. Pennsylvania Linebacker!

(www.jacksonkayak.com)



Make Mine Small, Please

It's a small world after all for some of us, and until lately it's been a pretty limited world also. But take heart, this seems to be the year that we height and weight challenged (that's Mary talking) paddlers are getting noticed!

Wilderness Systems has taken their run-away hit, the Tsunami, and added a smaller version, the Tsunami SP, a scaled down 12-footer for 60-120 pounders. This is going to round out the Tsunami line to a T!

(www.wildernesssystems.com)

On the recreational side of things, Emotion Kayaks brings us the Bliss, just under 11' and paddles like it's WAY longer; this boat rocks! Plenty of stability, but without sacrificing speed; this is the way it's supposed to be! (www.emotionkayaks.com)

Probably the largest "anti-up" made this year to the smaller paddler was made by Current Designs, who debuted a whopping 3 new "Little People" kayak designs; the Suka, a small Greenland style 16.6 footer, the Willow, a British Design 15.5 footer, and for the wee folk, the Raven, 12' of serious kayak for paddlers up to 110 lbs. (www.cdkayak.com)

And as usual, Jackson Kayak is there for the kids with the Punk Rocker; 7'8" of creekin' fun for the 80-165 lb. crowd! (You can thank EJ's son Dane for that!)

(www.jacksonkayak.com)

On the canoe side of things, NovaCraft introduced a smaller version of the Prospector for 2007, the Pal; another tried and true Chestnut favorite for smaller paddlers.

(www.novacraft.com)



Snakes on a....Boat!

Okay, this isn't the latest movie, nor is it the latest paddling gear, but it's cool enough that we needed to tell you about it anyway! Pacific Outdoor Equipment (the same people who brought us the triangle sponge that gets water out of pointed boat end spaces) also offers the "Bilge Snake", a long bilge-water sponge that lays in the bottom of the boat (lurking, kind of) and soaks up water as it enters. There's even a shock cord leash to keep it from slithering away. Thankfully its soak is bigger than its bite!

Crazy Footage

Nope, also not a movie! Last newsletter we reported a new Crazy Creek Chair, the CradleLounger, prompting several of you to stop in and purchase one (or two!). We just got wind of an upgrade for this year, a “foot disc” that can be attached to the bottom of the chair to increase stability and add support on soft surfaces such as sand. The folks at Crazy Creek were nice enough to send us enough discs to upgrade the chairs we purchased, SO, if you bought a CradleLounger from us (and hopefully are on our mailing list!) give us a call and we’ll see about getting one to you!

I Scream, You Scream

We all screamed for Ice Cream at our Staff Retreat at Assateague this year, and thanks to a product called the “Play & Freeze Ice Cream Maker” we got it! We looked at this last year when it came out, but it produced a meager pint of ice cream...what’s the point! But now, they have the MEGA BALL (twice the size and twice the fun) and we were hooked! Just mix the ingredients in the center cylinder (cream, sugar, and flavoring...we voted for vanilla, mint, and chocolate chips), add rock salt and ice to the surrounding globe, and shake, rattle and roll! A half hour later (and several trips to the bathhouse to wash off the sand) we enjoyed fresh ice cream for the first time ever at the beach. (Have to explain that this is off season...the ice cream stands are closed by Columbus Day weekend.) Veteran Assateague weekender Jim came up with a great idea for next year...a heavy duty mesh bag, a long length of strong rope, and let the ocean do the work for us...sounds like a plan!

Staff Retreat 2007

Speaking of Assateague, once again we had a hardy 24 participants for our annual Staff Retreat over Columbus Day Weekend. Things got off to a rocky start when multiple “tropical storms” slammed the Maryland shoreline

and eroded it away (didn’t feel tropical to us at all!) but things eventually calmed down and we DEFINITELY had no problem finding campsites, since most campers hit the road looking for better conditions. Our whitewater paddlers met their match in the surf this year, and we (as usual) consumed copious amounts of food and beverage. Topher even managed to get his MSR Pavilion Wing set up in the wind (read LARGE shelter!) which became “Topher Town” for the rest of the weekend. A great time, as usual, for the BMO Gang!



Battling the Assateague winds . . . or so we think.
Photo by Topher Reynolds.

Thule Cartop Box Sale/Rental

Thule has always been an immensely successful product for us, with the only exception being the Cartop box line. This is a tricky one; these suckers are light but BIG, so therefore fall into the “oversized” freight category unless shipped at least 4 at a time. Doesn’t mean too much to you, until we tell you that this translates into an opportunity. We have Thule boxes, you have (hopefully) a need for them, and we think this can work! And if you have a trip coming up, are long on gear and short on space, and don’t really want to invest in purchasing a box (and finding a space to store it) give us a call about renting one instead!

And More Storage

The Thule Box takes care of gear, but doesn't help much with multiple boat hauling. Enter the BMO trailer, which covers both! We have a new welder working for us now, and are (finally!) able to build some stock trailers (smaller 4-boat and larger 8-Boat models) ahead for inventory. Check out our website for details and brochures with prices, along with other trailers sizes and options.



Photo by Kris Wolpert

Shop Repairs

Had a couple rocks jump out of the water and hit your boat this summer? Stems of the ol' canoe wearing thin? More water in your boat than outside it? This is the time of year to check out equipment and make repairs if necessary. Our workshop is ready to go, and we're stocked with repair materials. You'll thank yourself when your boat is all ready to hit the water the first nice day of Spring!

Friends & Neighbors



Photo by
Topher
Reynolds.

Sometimes things just seem to go together, and that's the way we feel about the new business in town, Susquehanna Beer & Soda. Recently purchased by canoe customers of ours, we see an excellent opportunity to combine our offerings at upcoming events. Look for beer tasting along with boat testing at our annual Paddle, Pedal, Pole & Play Demo Day next May!

There's a chill in the air, but you'd never know it looking across the street from BMO where the Parrot Head Bar & Restaurant is getting ready to open. Neon palm trees are the first clue that this margarita theme bar plans to celebrate summer year round. Bring your Hawaiian shirt and practice your Jimmy Buffet so you'll be ready to check them out next paddling season!



Right next to the boat ramp is one of our favorites, the Marysville Tavern. Stop in before launching or landing, or walk down from BMO. Hang out on the deck overlooking the river, listen to live music, enjoy great eats (love the crab cakes & salt and vinegar wings!), and check out the large selection of microbrews on tap. They don't call it the "Light at the end of the Tunnel" for nothing!

Wednesday nights don't forget to venture downstream to the Riverside Pub, where wings, clams, and shrimp are on special every week. If you're into shooting pool, this is a great place to play!

Marysville is definitely the place to paddle AND party!

BMO Gallery

Our Spring newsletter introduced you to the photography of our friend Tim Lawson. Here's another Adirondack photograph of his, taken at Henderson Lake. Hope you enjoy it as much as we did! (Of course, we always like anything "Blue"; this is one of our personal favorites!)



BMO GALLERY OF FINE ART
"MOUNTAIN BLUES"

Cumberland Valley Kayaking (CVK)

One of our customers happened to stop by while we were putting the finishing touches on the newsletter and mentioned that he's started a new paddling group for our local area. Looking for planned or last minute laid back kayaking trips? Log in to www.yahoo.com, go to yahoo groups, and look for CumberlandValleyKayaking@yahoogroups.com. If you're not a yahoo groups member you'll have to join, but there's no fee.

Paper Trail

We're as stubborn as anyone about embracing technology, but when we're finished copying, collating, folding, stamping, labeling, and carrying 120 newsletters to the Post Office, it makes hitting "send" to deliver the others SO easy! Once again, if you are receiving this in your mailbox and have the ability to receive it in your (or your son or daughter's) inbox instead, please, please, send us your email ad-

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dress so we can make the switch. (AND the pictures look much better in color!) What we DO embrace is more downstream and less trashstream! THANKS!

BMO Facelift

As we've mentioned in the past (and for those of you who've never been to our shop) we're located in a 100+ year old brick Train Station, and our bricks are thick! The front of our boat storage area wasn't though, and was definitely in need of repair. Thanks for putting up with our whitewater boat relocation long enough to finish the project. (Actually the temporary digs in the "Whitewater Cargo Trailer" weren't really too bad!) We think you'll agree it was worth it; stronger, quieter, cleaner, and brighter...just don't try to dive into that aquamarine floor; it only LOOKS like water!



The Greatest Show on Earth

(Well, at least on the East Coast) Join us at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA February 3rd - 11th for the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show. We'll be at booth 4060 (probably the only one that's NOT camouflage) in the Fishing & Boating Hall with the latest canoes, kayaks, and paddling gear. If it's made to be paddled, and made to catch fish or hunt ducks, you'll probably find it here. LOTS of new fishing related paddling gear this year, and we KNOW how much fishermen (and women) love gadgets! Our Wilderness Systems reps will be joining us again, along with a complimentary selection of other brands. Details on the show can be found at www.easternsportshow.com Hint: We're working the show for 9 days, and really look forward to seeing folks who want to talk paddling as well as hunting & fishing!

Name That Disaster

In our last newsletter we asked your help in coming up with a caption for River Rat Pat Reilly's kayak (or what's left of it) after it took on the Susquehanna River and the Dock Street Dam with no one at the helm. Seemed only fitting to have Pat judge the entries, and the winning \$25 BMO Gift Certificate goes to Jim Swain. Thanks Jim, and everyone else who submitted ideas; you guys are witty, and judging wasn't easy! Unfortunately no one has been able (yet!) to claim the \$50 gift certificate for retrieving the still missing bow, probably located somewhere between Harrisburg and the Chesapeake Bay. We're still hopeful, though!

Happy Holidays

Although we've always been reluctant to talk about the Holidays when Thanksgiving is still arriving, since we only manage to write 2 newsletters a year, guess we'll have to do it now! BMO has LOTS of gifts for the paddler (or paddlers) in your life, including kids. Also don't forget to add your favorites to our gift registry (we might even figure out a way to put it online...that's why we keep techie kids around!) Mark your calendar, our annual Customer Appreciation Holiday Sale is December 1st - 3rd from 10-6, when even the 2007 boats will be on sale, and all accessories (anything that ISN'T a boat) are 15% off, including our already marked down stock!

We thank you, always, for your patronage and company, and look forward to more of the same for many years to come!

Happy Paddling!

The BMO Gang



DOCKSTREET DAMage.
Photo by Kris Wolpert