



April 2005
Volume 05, Issue 1

Upcoming Events 1
The Winners!! 1
New from Werner 2
Perception Airlite Touring Kayaks & As- 3
Instructional Programs 4-5
Staff Product Reviews 4
Paddling Programs 5
Paddling Tales from Down Under 5
From the Bookshelf 6
Waterwerks Club 6
Get in Touch 6

Aquabatics 6th Annual Boat Swap & Sale, this weekend, April 16 & 17, 9 am to 7 pm

Spring is here, and this coming weekend is our big spring kick-off event. Here's your chance to pick up a sweet deal on a new or used kayak or canoe, and to find a new home for some of that old gear that you no longer need.

Selling? Drop off day is Friday April 15th.

Buying? Doors open at 9 am sharp and all deals are on a first come first serve basis.

Call us for more details.

Local calls dial 288-WAVE

Long distance call toll-free, 1-877-440-9283.

April 6th-15th~ Calgary Herald Auction Mart

Once again Aquabatics is offering recreational kayak packages through the Calgary Herald's annual Auction Mart. Check it out at www.auctionmart.canada.com and pick up some killer deals!

Necky Kayak ~ 2-in-Tents Offer, until May 31st

Buy a new Necky Touring Kayak between now and May 31st and get a voucher for a free 2 person Eureka 2EXO backpacker tent. This promotion applies to the purchase of any of the following Polyethelene Touring: Amaruk, Elaho, Elaho Sport, Elaho HV, Chatham 16, Chatham 17, or Eskia; and any of the following Composite Touring Kayaks: Chatham 16, Chatham 17, Chatham 18, Elaho, Elaho HV, Elaho Sport, Looksha IV, Tahsis, Tesla NM, Amaruk, or Nootka Plus. A \$7. US shipping and handling charge will apply. Act now while supplies last!



Aquabatics Inventory Manager Sean Allen, doing some product testing on the Kananaskis!

Outdoor Adventure Show Draw Prize Winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS:

1ST PRIZE: BOW RIVER FLOAT TRIP FOR 4 WORTH \$316
1 Winner: Larry Larson

2ND PRIZE: 2 DAY YOUTH PROGRAM WORTH \$189 EACH
2 Winners: Davin McWhir & Tobi McLeod

3RD PRIZE: QUICK START PROGRAM WORTH \$39.95 EACH
10 Winners:

Jake Jameson
Ruth Mclean
Pat Fitzsimmons
Jason deRijk
M. Lampard



Heather MacDonald
Lucia McCann
Marco Icorotash
Cameron Hall
The Marois



New blade shapes from Werner and new lower prices from Aquabatics!

For 2005, Werner has added new paddles in every category. No matter which paddle you buy, Werner's bomber strength won't let you down. Get more info on these and other models at wernerpaddles.com



CASCADIA—CARBON RECREATIONAL TOUR NEUTRAL BENT SHAFT

The Cascadia stands alone when it comes to Carbon Recreational Touring designs. It offers the lightest swing weight available in the recreation category and its advanced blade features give it a smooth stroke. Combined with Werner's Glass Neutral Bent Shaft, it offers enhanced ergonomics, plus incredible comfort and value! The blades are constructed of carbon/glass reinforced nylon to be light weight, durable, and affordable. *Price: #315. Cdn*



GUIDE STICK—GLASS RAFT GUIDE PADDLE

The Guide Stick offers raft guides Werner's legendary bomber strength and performance. It's light in weight and the symmetrical fiberglass blades offer great predictability. The shaft is indexed and it has a molded t-grip for comfort and control. *Price: \$210. Cdn*



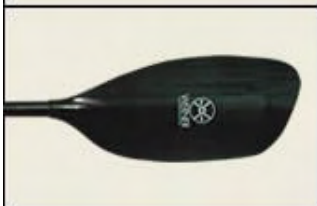
TRIP—PREMIUM WHITEWATER GLASS

The Trip with its mid-size blades is a great choice for all around river running, offering durability, performance and value! The balanced design is powerful from catch through release. *Premium Glass Straight Shaft \$245. Cdn.*



SHOGUN —PRO WHITEWATER CARBON NEUTRAL BENT SHAFT

The Sho-Gun is the ultimate creek and river running paddle and is the largest of Werner's Foam Core paddles. The blade is balanced to create a clean catch that is powerful from catch through release and pulls smooth throughout the entire stroke. This light weight and responsive paddle uses impact resistant Kevlar™ molded into the power face along with a double layer of Dyneel™ edging for added durability *Price: \$595. Cdn.*



POWERHOUSE—PERFORMANCE WHITEWATER CARBON, STRAIGHT SHAFT

The Powerhouse offers amazing power and responsiveness needed for big creeks and river running. Full size blades are evenly balanced to create a clean catch that is immediately powerful and smooth through out the entire stroke, from catch to release. *Performance Whitewater Carbon Straight Shaft \$350. Cdn (other configurations avail.)*



SHERPA—CARBON OR GLASS, STRAIGHT SHAFT OR NEUTRAL BENT SHAFT

If you like running rivers and ripping up a wave or two, the Sherpa is a great choice. The Sherpa is an exceptionally smooth and responsive river running design with mid sized blades that are evenly balanced to create a clean catch that is powerful and smooth through out the entire stroke, but won't wear you out. *Performance Whitewater Carbon Straight Shaft \$350. Cdn (other configurations avail.)*



TWIST—CARBON OR GLASS

The Twist offers a play boating paddle for smaller boaters who don't want to sacrifice performance and want to get out and play like the big dogs. The smaller blades have a strong catch and promote a higher cadence and are the best choice for small play boaters. The down-tilt blade design is responsive and won't trip on the side of your boat. *Performance Carbon Bent Shaft \$490. Cdn ; Premium Glass Bent Shaft \$385. Cdn; Premium Glass Straight Shaft \$315. Cdn*



**In Alberta: #300-8435 Bowfort Rd. NW Calgary, AB. T3B 2V2
Phone: 403.288.9283 Toll Free: 1.877.440.9283 Fax: 403.288.1824**

**In British Columbia: 1960 Hudson Bay Mountain Road, Smithers, BC. V0J 2N4
Phone: 250.847.3678 Toll Free: 1.800.748.2333 Fax: 250.847.5070**

What's new? Astral PFD's...

ASTRAL PFD'S

Astral creates and unique PFD's with an amazing fit. Drop by and try one on!

ASTRAL AQUAVEST 300

This PFD is the leader of the rescue PFD packs for 2005; it's light, amazingly comfortable, has an exceptional fit and it's stylish. It's a streamlined pullover rescue vest for extreme situations. It features a removable 1.5" Quick release harness, extra impact protective sides with extra HDPE inserts, and an integrated Spectra® belay loop. The shoulder straps, when pulled, create a positive grip on your torso. The Fuzzy front hand warmer is slick and the pocket is big enough for a small throw bag. A built-in Tow-System pocket prevents the 'dangling loop' common to other Rescue vests. Reflective piping and daisy chain webbing loops on shoulders.



Price: \$249.95 Cdn.



ASTRAL WONDERPRO

The WonderPro has all the same features of the Aquavest 300R, but is built for the female paddler and rescuer. Women won't find a better fitting rescue PFD than the WonderPro!

Price: \$249.95 Cdn



ASTRAL TEMPO 100

A much simpler vest, Astral's Tempo 100 still has excellent fit and comfort. This front entry PFD is suitable for whitewater or touring, and with a buckle up front and no zipper, this vest is super easy to get in and out of. The Tempo 100 has a low profile front with higher back to allow for a

large range of motion. Price: \$136.50 Cdn.

...Perception Airalite
Recreational & Touring Kayaks

Why consider Airalite™? Airalite is a co-extruded high impact acrylic over premium impact ABS. It is the same material used in whirlpools, spas, and some marine parts, which is strong proof that it's a long-lasting material that will stand up to any type of water. It's formulated with additives for additional flexibility and UV resistance. A kayak constructed of Airalite™ is light and stiff and glossy like fiberglass, is 3x stiffer than polyethylene, but has the durability of poly. It has the highest rating for weather-ability, and is engineered to provide a high scuff resistance. Price-wise Airalite falls in between Polyethylene at the low end and Fibreglass at

SONOMA 10.5

The sleek profile and small size make the 10.5 ideal for women and smaller paddlers who are looking for an 'easy to carry and load' day use boat that can double as a solid workout boat.

Price: \$1249. Cdn



CAROLINA 13.5 & CAROLINA 14.5

The Perception Carolina series has proven to be the most popular touring kayak in the world, and for good reason. The Carolina series provides new and existing touring paddlers with stability, manoeuvrability and control in an easy to use package. The redesigned popular Carolina 13.5 now has a faster hull, the cockpit is easier to enter and exit, increasing the boat's overall comfort. The redesigned thermoplastic rudder helps with steering when you need it. Finally, we have updated our comfort fit outfitting with an easy to use and improved lumbar and thigh support system.

Price for either the Carolina 13.5 or 14.5 including rudder system: \$2499. Cdn.



ETAR ~
Adventure Racing

Three years ago two students, Cheryl Borecky & Jeff Couillard, from the Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership program at Mount Royal College put together an adventure race for the students, faculty & staff of Mount Royal College & the University of Calgary.

This resulted in the birth of ETAR, the annual Eco-tourism Adventure Race. Last years event was held in the Burnt Timber Creek area, where more than 100 racers, volunteers and support crews gather for a full day of non-stop racing & fun. The directors of ETAR 05, Claude Durrupt & Dominique de Chantal, promise that this year's event will be bigger, better and even tougher than last year! And this year Aquabatics will be one of the event sponsors.

VISIT WWW.ETAR.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION



2005 Instructional Program sampler ...call for a copy of our full 2005 program guide.

What sets Aquabatics Instructional programs apart?

With Aquabatics you get top quality instruction, in a small group setting that's ideal for rapid learning. Our teaching methodology is centered around the concept that paddling is a wonderful lifetime & lifestyle activity. Our goal is to inspire you, while providing a safe and fun learning experience.

Our emphasis is on safety; this, combined with our small group size ensures a quality program.

Our energetic instructors are highly skilled and experienced paddlers, with strong abilities to communicate technique and concepts; their passion for paddling inspires students to relax and have fun!

Find out more about Aquabatics Instructional Programs — call for a copy of our full 2005 Programs Guide!

Introduction to Kayak Touring

This 2 day course covers the key skills you need to begin kayak touring, including strokes, capsizes recoveries, bracing, map and chart reading, navigation, and trip planning. Saturday's focus is on learning skills; Sunday we take a paddling day trip into the Rockies.

Dates: **IKT-1:** June 25-26; **IKT-2:** July 9-10; **IKT-3:** July 23-24; **IKT-4:** August 13 -14

Cost: \$189. Cdn. plus gst

Other Courses Include: **Kayak Touring Rescue - Pool Course;** **Mastering the Kayak Roll;** and **Recreational River Kayaking.**

Teen River Kayaking 5-day Intro. Course

With five days of instruction, you'll develop the technical kayaking skills and a solid knowledge of basic safety and river reading, to paddle class II+ water confidently.

This Monday through Friday course starts out on the first day in the pool working on basics skills including river rolls followed by an afternoon run on the Bow River. Skills are built upon day by day, with days four and five spent paddling on the Kananaskis River.

Dates: **T5KR-1:** July 4-8, **T5KR-2** July 25-29; **T5KR-3** August 8 - 12

Other Courses Include: **River Safety & Leadership, Learn to River Kayak - 3 Day, River Kayak Progression - 2 Day, Freestyle Clinic for Teens - 2 day**

Paddle Performance Skill Assessment

You've got the gear, the enthusiasm, and you already paddle. All you need is a plan plus time on the water to take your paddling to the next step! Join National Team member and Level 4 coach Saskia van Mourik for an evening skills assessment. On-the-water feedback and video analysis will help you develop the goals and a strategy to improve.

PPSA-1: May 4, 6-9:30 intermediate and up, Kananaskis River

PPSA-2: May 11, 6-9:30 novice+ Bow River

Cost: \$64 plus gst

Mastering the Kayak Roll

An effective kayak roll not only prevents the capsized river or sea kayaker from taking a swim, but the confidence boost it provides allows the paddler to push skills to a new level. We de-mystify the roll by breaking it down to its key elements. These key elements also make up an effective brace, that will keep you upright more often!

Sessions run Friday evenings- times vary - call us!

KR-1: May 6; **KR-2:** May 20; **KR-3:** June 3; **KR-4:** June 17, **KR-5:** July 8; **KR-6:** July 15

Cost: \$59 plus gst

Other Courses Include: **Rolling in the River**

Please note: A signed waiver and release of liability, plus completed registration and medical forms are required for participation in all courses and programs.

River Kayaking Introductory Course

This course begins with an evening session at the SAIT pool covering wet exits, t-rescues, bracing, and rolling. Saturday morning we head to the Glenmore Reservoir to practice strokes and new skills, then in the afternoon we get our first taste of river kayaking. Sunday is a river running day. We have fun applying our new skills of working with the current, tuning eddy turns and ferries, we learn to read the river and surf!

KWC-1: Co-Ed, May 6 (7:45-9:45) 7, 8

KWC-2: Co-Ed, May 20 (7:45-9:45) 21, 22

KWW-1: Women's, June 3 (7:15-9:15) 4, 5

KWC-3: Co-Ed, June 17 (7:15-9:15) 11, 12

KWW-2: Women's, July 8 (7:45-9:45) 9, 10

KWC-3: Co-Ed, July 15 (7:45-9:45) 16, 17

Cost: \$259 plus gst

Weekend Warrior ~ Adult River Kayaking

Save yourself planning & logistics hassles. Our Weekend Warrior series gets you out of town and on the water! With our expert instruction and guidance, you'll see improvements in all aspects of your paddling, from developing leadership skills and independence on the river, to mastering spins and blunts. Fees include instruction, camping, and Saturday dinner. Transport from Calgary and back available. for \$30. - 40. extra.

Livingston & St. Mary (AB)

Two Alberta Classics equal one excellent weekend!

WWLS-1: June 4-5 (Sat, Sun)

Cost: \$219. plus gst

Red Deer Paddlefest Weekend

June is a great month to be on the classic Red Deer, the playspots are excellent as there is still plenty of water.

WWRD-1: June 11-12 (Sat, Sun)

North Saskatchewan

The North Saskatchewan has something for paddlers of almost all skill levels, from newbies to playboating fiends.

WWNS-1: July 23-24 (Sat, Sun)

Cost: \$219. plus gst

Elk & Lower Bull

We travel to south eastern BC for two classic favorites!

WWEL-1: August 6-7 (Sat, Sun)

Cost: \$219. plus gst

Kicking Horse Weekend Warrior

Two days of whitewater excitement on the Class III lower Kicking Horse, Golden BC

WWKH-1: August 27-28 (Sat, Sun)

We also offer all inclusive multi-day trips including: Western Canada 6-day Whitewater Classics; Eastern Canada 7-day Whitewater Classics; Clearwater 3-day; and Thompson 3-day 'Big Water' Clinic.

Staff & Team Product Reviews...



DVD ~ THE WHITE ALBUM

Ology Productions has put out a fast paced creeking video to rival most others. The White Album has a good mix of carnage, incredible scenery, amazing kayaking and humour. From start to finish the action is fast and the music is really good.

The North Stein is one of the feature sections and it is very well done. Dave Norell, Corey Boux and Braden Fandrich cruised through this remote valley and captured some killer drops and sunny days on film. New Zealand makes a short but sweet appearance and B.C. creeking is well showcased. With the string of documentary type kayak

**Motivation is what gets you started.
Habit is what keeps you going.**

Jim Ryun

Quick Start - Get Paddling!

Want to give paddling a try, but don't know where to start? Not sure what kind of paddling you want to do? In this 2.5 hour clinic you'll get to try out different types of canoes and kayaks - whitewater, recreational, sit-on-tops, and sea kayaks - and learn about what each does best, and you'll get instruction in core paddling strokes and safety skills.

This clinic is taught on quiet water - perfect for a first time paddling experience.

Mondays, 6-8:30 pm QS-1: June 6; QS-2: June 20; QS-3: July 4; QS-4: July 18; QS-5: August 1; QS-6: August 15; QS-7: August 29. Cost: \$39.95 plus gst.

LIQUID LOGIC
VISION 44

Before I took the Vision 44 out on Santa Claus (feature on Kananaskis River) to give it a try, I had it in the shop next to the Pocket Rocket to compare. They looked fairly similar when the two boats were sitting beside one another with only small differences in the hull. When I sat in the boat I felt like I was sitting in my Pocket Rocket... but that was where the similarities ended. My first ride on the wave lasted a total of 2 seconds as I blasted off the wave before I even knew what was happening. This boat was fast. Compared to the small people boats that I have tried, this is the fastest one I have been in. In my opinion if you are a small paddler and you are looking for a high performance boat than you should try out the Vision 44. As I said before it is a fast, aggressive boat. It carves back and forth across the wave and almost blunts on it's own (you just need to put it on edge hard). It is slicey too. I found it fairly easy to get my ends through the water and though I have yet to try it in a hole I think it will cartwheel quite well.

It is easy to roll as it is quite narrow and easy to brace to avoid flipping in the frigid water. The Vision 44 is still able to produce the large bounces that Liquid Logic is famous for. I can't wait to try it on a bigger wave. This is a very aggressive boat. It's much harder to just sit and front surf out on the wave than when paddling a slower boat. Thus for a beginning or intermediate boater this may cause some frustration out on the wave.

As with all Liquid Logic boats the outfitting is great. The footbag molds to your feet so they are always comfortable and the backband and hip pads kept me super snug. ~Michelle Basso, Team Aquabatics Paddler (Michelle is an aggressive paddler who weighs about 120 lbs)

Paddling Down Under...



When I was informed that I would be traveling to Sydney, Australia on a work assignment my first thought was "how will I find places to paddle". Crossing the International Dateline, it took two days to get to Sydney. I was undaunted; I knew there would be a kayak waiting for me at the end of the arduous flight. After an early morning landing, I immediately set about locating a kayak.

A 30 minute ferry ride from the Circular Quay to the outer edges of Sydney Harbour took me to Manly, a North Shore suburb of Sydney. Manly Kayaking is a small but well equipped kayaking company with a variety of kayaks that handle well and are in good condition. From this launch site I kayaked to the end of Sydney Harbour to couple of beaches that I had all to myself. I was amazed that, in a city the size of Sydney (about 5 to 6 million people), I was able to find such solitude. The white sand was flawless, the water warm and ideal for take mid-afternoon swims in the gentle surf and the weather perfect. This end of Sydney Harbour is relatively quiet with the stillness disturbed infrequently by power boats.

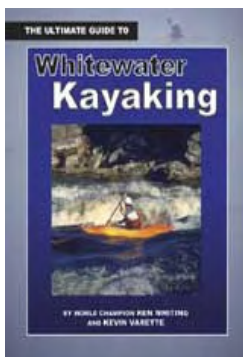
I kayaked at high tide down the South West Arm of the Hacking River to enjoy a unique view of Royal National Park. Paddling next to the park gave me ample opportunity to enjoy the peacefulness and the sounds of the numerous birds that make their home in this national parks, including Kookaburras, Cockatoos and Parrots.

"I was amazed that, in a city of 5-6 million people, I was able to find such solitude."

Although I lacked a vehicle and had a limited budget, this did not hamper my ability to do kayaking day trips in Sydney. In addition to rentals, there were many companies that offered guided day and overnight trips. If you are traveling to Sydney, getting out paddling is simple: and if you are like me and have to rely on the transit system, "no worries mate".

Happy paddling down under. - Lynn Mathieson

From the Bookshelf



The Ultimate Guide to Whitewater Kayaking, By KEN WHITING ..SELLS FOR \$29.95

'WHIRLPOOLS DON'T HAVE TO SUCK' is a segment from Ken Whiting's book, *The Ultimate Guide to Whitewater Kayaking*, an essential reference, covering everything from the most basic skills and concepts to the most advanced, cutting edge paddling techniques. It includes segments from

some of the world's most recognized boaters.

Whirlpools are right up there with eddy lines as being one of the most unstable spots on the river. In fact, big water eddy lines are often composed of whirlpools, but that's not the only place you'll find them. Whenever water is being constricted or forced to make a quick turn, or when different currents collide, you'll likely find whirlpools and/or boils along with lots of other nameless, funny water. In general, you'll probably spend a lot more of your time avoiding whirlpools than playing in them, and this isn't always easy to do. In many cases, whirlpools can be totally unpredictable and pop up in front of you unexpectedly.

Fortunately there is a way to deal with them if you can't miss them. You can actually enter the whirlpool and use its energy to your advantage to get through it. The helical flow of a whirlpool offers you a free ride if you make your way into the right part of the swirling water.

SALE Stohlquist Drifter PFD

The low profile DRIFTER offers maximum comfort in a low profile front zip PFD. Cross chest cinch eliminates ride-up and fits the vest lower on the torso for more effective buoyancy in the water. Shorter lower back will not hinder movement or rub against back-rest. Rugged cordura shell plus details such as the large, low profile, draining front pocket with security "D" ring inside. Hand shaped foam elements provide amazing fit and comfort. Regular: \$149.95; **Sale: \$119.95**



A little bit of Aquabatics history...

Begun as a home-based business in Smithers B.C. with a strong focus on mail order, Aquabatics thrived in the amazing setting of northern BC. In 2000 a second location was opened in Calgary to better meet the needs of Alberta paddlers, and our mail-order customers throughout North America. With 2 locations and enthusiastic staff, Aquabatics has grown into a fundamental part of the western Canada's paddling community. Our casual and friendly environment combined with our knowledgeable sales team aims to provide the highest level of customer service.

If you successfully paddle into the part of a whirlpool's swirling current that is moving downstream, then you can sling shot yourself around and out the other side using this current for a nice boost. This sling shot technique uses a similar concept to that which allows satellites to resist the gravitational pull of the earth and maintain orbit. Of course this means paddling into a side of the whirlpool and not into its center. If for some reason you find yourself in the eye of the whirlpool, your momentum will be lost and there's not much you can do but hold on and wait for the opportunity to escape.

If the whirlpool is big enough you and your boat will sometimes be pulled completely underwater. This can be nerve-racking (or exhilarating!), but you can take comfort in the fact that the whirlpool will eventually die out. Sometimes it will take only seconds for a whirlpool to grow and then disappear, while others can last 10 seconds or longer. Invariably though, the whirlpool will settle out as it moves downstream. This is nice to know when you find yourself upside down in a whirlpool, because it can sometimes be very difficult to roll. If you're having trouble rolling, or even moving your paddle into a setup position, try to relax and wait for the whirlpool to dissipate. Unfortunately, the only way to really develop your comfort level with whirlpools is to play around in them. So next time you get to that squirrely spot on your local river, throw on your nose plugs and start messing around!



WHAT IS WATERWERKS KAYAK CLUB YOU ASK?

Focused on helping new paddlers take the next step from lessons to becoming part of the paddling community (full fledged stinky gear wearing boaters), the club mandate is three fold:

- to help support Alberta's junior development program through recruitment and fund raising;
- to encourage and facilitate the development of safety and leadership skills in paddling community; and
- to facilitate mentor-ship in the paddling community, whereby new paddlers can get together with more skilled boaters to better their skills.

WHAT DOES THE CLUB DO?

- Organizes pool sessions and club trips to various rivers.
- Offers clinics in safety and leadership skills.
- Support junior development programs to help educate a whole new generation of boaters
- Host social functions (ie: paddle weekends) .

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Visit www.waterwerks.ca for more membership information, or call Aquabatics at 288-WAVE and speak with Sean.

In Alberta: #300-8435 Bowfort Rd. NW Calgary, AB. T3B 2V2
Phone: 403.288.9283 Toll Free: 1.877.440.9283 Fax: 403.288.1824

In British Columbia: 1960 Hudson Bay Mountain Road, Smithers, BC. V0J 2N4
Phone: 250.847.3678 Toll Free: 1.800.748.2333 Fax: 250.847.5070

