

Returns scheme delayed

The Scottish proposal to impose deposit charges on products in bottles has been delayed until October 2025 at the earliest. Because of the extra staff required to operate the scheme it is likely to increase the cost of bottled products significantly.

Blue lights

The Government and Coastguard are working with UK Search & Rescue to create guidance to enable the fifty or so rescue organizations to fit blue lights and audible warning to their craft. These should also be available to lifeboat launch vehicles.

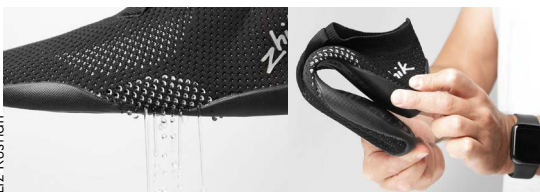


Taff Hewett, one of the Inside Passage team, wore Howies' Merino under his drysuit for the expedition (p9). Howies were more than happy to have his positive feedback from the long journey.



Quingdao Jiahui Industrial Co have issued their 2023 catalogue which includes an extensive range of canoe and kayak carts, trolleys, bicycle trolleys, roof racks (conventional, saddle, folding and soft), roof rollers, pickup truck racks, wall racks, ceiling racks, hoists, stands, anchors, paddle holders and a few other things that won't have crossed your mind.

What's new Eureka!



Liz Rushall

North Water of Vancouver have a rescue strap for those having difficulty in self rescuing. The webbing does not float up and can be used to provide a step for getting back into your boat, a neoprene cuff holding surplus line. It is priced at £26.81 and is suggested for use with a paddle float.

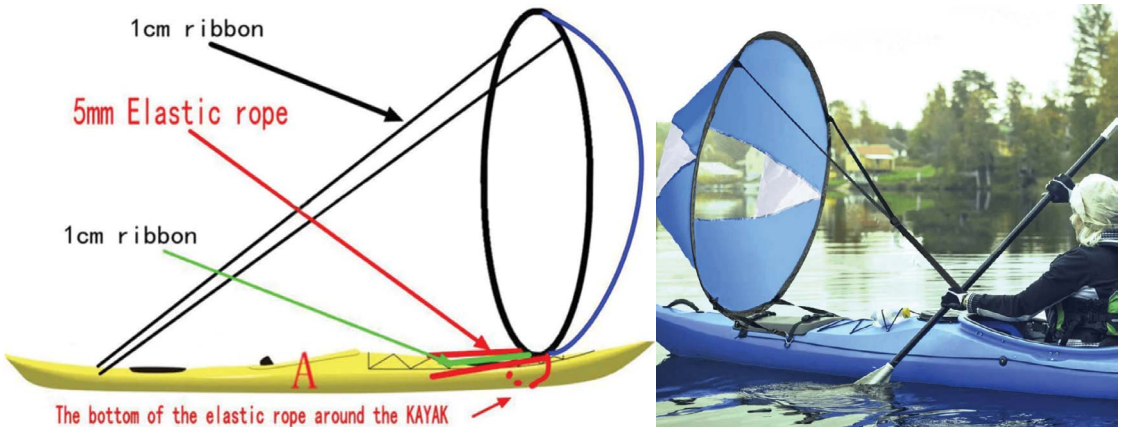


ZhiK's Superthin Bootie is made with a durable knitted upper and an ultra thin, flexible, robust rubber sole. The upper is claimed to be four times more durable than traditional neoprene booties and combines three knit variations that provide foot support, stretch and quick drainage. A lightweight and soft EVA removable innersole adds foot comfort and stability inside. It slips on easily with elasticated panels keeping it secure. Integrated drainage points are positioned in the foot arch to quickly expel any water, keeping the boots lightweight. It comes in sizes 5 to 13 and costs £79.95.

Ukrainian firm Adamant Vert have produced the Poloz-M16 kayak, made cheaply from polyethylene and electrically powered. It can carry up to three people and 250kg of kit. Importantly, it can be fitted with the UAG-40 grenade launcher with a range of 2km and a recoil system which enables it to be used from the kayak. The motor can also be controlled remotely so it can be hidden in reeds to wait for the enemy to pass. It has been used successfully, resulting in a Russian retreat.



The term 'lath and canvas' for folding kayaks is well out of date. Klepper's Marlin is a 3.8m folding kayak that weighs 20kg and packs into two small bags. Its frame is of carbon fibre which helps it retain its shape and to resist rough handling. Gone are the days of aluminium tubing corroded by seawater.



Mounteen of Lake Mary, Florida, offer a simple downwind sail. By twisting the outer rim into a figure 8 and folding it over it can be packed away into a small space.