

# equipment

## TIPS FOR TRIPPERS

At the fall meeting, we tried out and "Ideas' Workshop", at which the fertility of WCA inventors was well demonstrated. We cannot expect the ponderous machinery of mass-product manufacturers to supply us with the custom modifications to our equipment we need; worse, the product itself may be inferior to and/or more expensive than a device we can make for ourselves. However, so often we go for years without thinking of an idea which seems perfectly obvious once someone else shows it to us. Hence the "Idea Swap."

We began by listening to Dave Berthelet explain the fittings on two of his ever-fluctuating fleet of Grumman canoes, but others in the group, some of whom had brought their canoes into the room, quickly added alternative suggestions, until the session resembled a panel discussion of the whole group. We concentrated our attention on these topics: rigging a canoe for a wilderness trip (spray covers, tied-in

gear, portaging rigs, etc.), waterproofing (cameras, maps, and other items), and packing (tumps, wannigans). Some of these ideas will appear in the newsletter from time to time with the name of a person who can give more details of its success.

While some ideas were "organized" in advance, others were a complete surprise: well, I mean, who could have guessed the arrival or even the existence of "Super-wannigan?" Which prompts the thought that we should do this again. Perhaps at some future meeting we might compare notes on food packing and organization (as opposed to recipes, menus and cookery, which we've done before). In fact, Penny's homemade wind-screen and reflector oven and Dave's waterproof matches were waiting in the wings all the time and we never got to them. Or perhaps custom fittings to tents and clothing? Surely anything Eddie Bauer can do, we can do better.

### Portaging and Paddling

1. Velcro strips, fastened at the bow and stern will hold your coiled painters, making them quick-release-able. (Dave Berthelet)
2. Two inch elastic bands at thwart-gunwhale junctions will hold paddles. Hold them in with the plastic electric-wire-constrictors. (D. B.)
3. Velcro, sewn on a sponge, will make it possible to affix sponge under seat to a second velcro strip (D.B.)
4. Strap a compass on the centre thwart. You can read it and paddle at the same time. (D.B.)
5. Put your name and address on everything, especially your canoe, in such a way that it cannot be removed.
6. Lengths of old broom handle fastened into the bow and stern make handy grips, when you are lugging your canoe (right side up) over liftovers. (Norm Coombe)  
Alternately, use rope loops in the painter eyelet with garden hose handles (D.B.) or carabiner rings (John Cross).
7. The jam cleats used on sail boats are dandy for holding your painters. (R. & C. Smerdon)
8. For lining upstream, make a lasso noose with your rope, loop it through the bow seat and then over the bow and under the belly of the canoe, so that the long free end is coming from the keel line. This trick keeps your canoe nose well up and you have good directional control of the canoe.
9. Ensolite pads to pamper your knees can be permanently glued to the canoe with silicone seal.
10. Bicycle inner-tubes make permanent paddle lashings for portaging.
11. Some people prefer portaging yokes, others think lashed paddles plus tumpline is the most comfortable method there is.
12. Another method is shown in Cliff Jacobson's book. (Contact Lenny Winn)
13. Another method of portaging canoe plus paddles plus tumpline plus pack from Paul Provencher's book was demonstrated (J.C.)
14. Sew styrofoam on the neck of your life preserver as a neck rest when portaging. (Smerdon's)

### Straps, Maps, Cameras

1. Canadian Tire roof rack straps are very useful. Make your own buckles. (Norm C.)
2. twenty-five foot one and one-half to two inch straps make dandy tump lines. Leather is a preferred material. (J.C.)
3. Cut A.B.S. plastic drain or plumbing pipe to length and add end fittings. These make good waterproof map holders. (Smerdon's)
4. Plastic camera flotation bags are good for maps as well as cameras. Drill holes through the plastic rods of these bags, thread cords through these holes, and fasten under seat or thwart with camera and/or raps inside.
5. Large tupperware box lined with foam makes a waterproof camera case. (Herb Pohl)
6. Or make your own imitation ammo box. (Jim Greenacre)

### Rope

An excellent source of good rope is Davidson Sales and Marine Supplier, 107 King St. E., Toronto. They sell a very soft light-weight non-kinking coloured rope ideal for canoeists needs. (Jim Greenacre)

### A lifesaving idea!

Buy one-hundred feet of rope. Make a brightly coloured bag (yellow shows up well) and sew one end of the rope into the back of the bag (inside.) Stuff the rest of the rope into the bag with just a little hanging out. Close the mouth of the bag with a drawstring. Sew a loop of rope or a brass ring to the back of the bag and hang the bag in the canoe in an accessible place. In an emergency, grab bag, open drawstring, strap end of rope around one hand and hurl the bag to the person in need. The bag will travel an incredible distance and can be seen in foaming water. (It is good to practice this first, at home!) (Tony Bird)

### Spray Covers

1. If you are using a spray cover, keep it snapped on in the middle section of the boat and roll bow and stern section of cover out of the way, but still instantly accessible.
2. If you wish quicker access and egress from your spray cover, put the cover on the boat, climb in, and slit the fabric in a straight line forward (from your belly button) towards the bow, twelve to eighteen inches or more (as you wish, and sew or glue velcro to each side so that you now have a big slit in front of you which you can open instantly. Note! This is not waterproof as the original hole, but worth the modification for emergency purposes. (D.B.)
3. Rip-stop nylon makes good spray covers.
4. Snaps are superior to velcro (around the gunwhale). (This is a controversial point. Editor.) Turn fasteners AND velcro are good. Glue velcro with contact cement. May have to repeat glueing once or twice.
5. Six mil plastic and duct tape work perfectly well as spray cover materials for temporary uses. (Tony Bird)
6. Some people prefer a multi-section velcroed-together cover with chest shields - not elastic cones. (Talk to Matt Ardron).

### Other Tricks

1. Short ice cream pails discarded from bake shops and donut shops make excellent waterproof containers IF they are of good quality. (Go to back doors.) (Glenn Spence)
2. Trim your map all around the border. Glue those portions of the border (containing valuable information) on the back of the map. Laminates the map. Finished product smaller and easier to abut to next map. (Smerdon's)