

Whitewater Raft Kickboat: An Inflatable Boat Better Than A Drift Boat

Water Strider

The best kickboat raft on any river or lake. Just add air and water!

Expedition Planning for Rafting Expeditions

Rafting Expedition Equipment List

www.waterstrider.com

by Ron Castle

Note: This list was for an 8 day fly in, float and fly out wilderness trip in moderate weather, British Columbia, late August early September, fishing for BIG steelhead.

Rafting gear:

1 Water Strider Raft Package, pump, patch kit, in dry bag backpack (can be used for other gear when rafting)
1 pair Kickboat fins
1 spare oar
1 rafting safety light
1 personal flotation vest
1 river rescue folding knife
4 carabineers for easy gear tie down to raft
See note about rope below.

Packing gear:

1 large dry bag
1 medium dry bag
1 small dry bag
1 Lexan waterproof utility box
12 empty small Ziploc bags
12 empty large Ziploc bags

Camping gear:

1 plastic reinforced 10 x 12 foot tarp or larger
2 light weight rope 50' each (for tarp, clothes line, lashing dry bags to raft)
1 three or four season tent with ground cloth
1 sleeping bag 20 degree F rated
1 folding cot or ground pad
1 Micro Table
1 Roll-A-Chair with backrest

Camp kitchen gear:

1 cup set for freeze dried & coffee (2 cups)
1 Lexan cutlery set
1 Lexan coffee press
1 water filter or canteen with filter
1 Lexan flask for adult beverage of choice
1 stainless vacuum insulated bottle 16 Oz
1 half liter Nalgene wide mouth bottle for mixing drinks and powdered foods

1 bottle biodegradable soap
1 scrubber pad

Food:

1 ground gourmet coffee (2 pounds for me, coffeeholic)
10 day supply of Mountain House freeze dried
10 day of drink mix (hot cocoa, etc.)
1 cooking pouch with various and assorted spices

Note: If you are in a fly-in fly-out mode, you need to plan on being fogged in for a few days! Thus, extra food.

Notes about breakfast and lunch:

Breakfast: oatmeal, dry cereal, powdered milk, Vitamin C juice powder, dried fruit

Lunch: a few ramen noodles (or is it nodules?) and dehydrated soups, dried fruit, nuts, homemade gorp, jerky, etc. in portion packed baggies by the day

Dinner: Mountain House entrée of your choosing

Dessert: pudding in portion packed baggies, chocolate candies like M&M's or whatever you prefer

Miscellaneous: one LARGE bottle of nuclear hot sauce, will cure any freeze dried meal

Extraordinary: 1 liter very good Scotch single malt whiskey decanted into 1 liter Nalgene bottle

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Extra Extraordinary: 1 pint VSOP brandy or cognac in Lexan flask in list above

Light and Fire:

- 1 P-Fusion LED Headlamp
- 1 7 LED waterproof flashlight
- 1 candle lantern and 3 new candles
- 1 fire starter block, just in case
- 2 boxes waterproof matches
- 2 butane lighters
- 1 pencil torch wet weather fire starter
- 1 small folding camp saw

Personal gear:

- 2 sets rain gear (Frogg Togg)
- 2 pairs gloves (1 leather for fire tending, 1 warm)
- 2 hats, 1 waterproof, 1 warm (a broad brimmed hat, like a Tilley hat, will be a blessing in rainy weather!)
- 1 eyeglasses if needed
- 1 polarized sun glasses
- 1 small first aid kit
- 1 bath towel and biodegradable soap
- 2 rolls of toilet paper
- X changes of clothes, layered selections
- 1 warm jacket, hood is good idea
- 1 set of toilette articles
- 1 any prescription medicine needed
- 1 Leatherman type tool
- 1 DEET insect repellent
- 1 head net
- 1 rainy day paperback book
- 1 bullshit filter (for listening to fishing stories around your campfire)

Fishing gear:

- 1 soft rod case
- 2 Fly Rods, 4 piece # 8 or # 9 line in tubes
- 3 Fly lines, 2 Floating, 1 Sink Tip
- 2 fly reels
- 3 dozen assorted Steelhead flies (or more)
- 6 Tapered Leaders, 9' 15 # test
- 1 fishing vest or tackle bag
- 1 Finger nail clippers
- 1 Pair of Waders with good patch kit
- 1 Pair of wading shoes with felt soles
- 1 Wading Belt
- 1 Wading staff (collapsible)
- 3 spools leader material, 25, 20 & 17 pound test

Fishing license, permits and regulations!

Group gear:

- 1 large Boilermaker (for a group of 5)
- 1 folding water bucket
- 1 water filter
- 2 6 liter water bags to work with MSR water filter (makes good shower bag)
- 1 roll duct tape (good for everything, wader patch, raft patch, tent patch)
- 1 food safe with rope and pulley
- 1 Yellow Jacket bear deterrent fence
- 3 sets batteries for Yellow Jacket
- 1 small spool soft trellis type wire (last trip was used with duct tape for Mike's wading shoe repair)
- 1 GPS receiver
- 1 set of topo maps of area
- 1 extra raft pump in the group, just in case
- 1 river rescue rope
- 1 binoculars

Ron's video and camera gear list:

- 1 large Pelican waterproof case containing Canon XL1s, JVC DVGR76U video cameras and gear, Nikon 995, Nikon 775, 3 lenses
- 1 package lens paper
- 1 lens cleaner
- 1 lens brush
- 1 journal book and 2 pens
- 4 batteries for each camera (16 total)
- 2 wireless microphones and 1 transmitter
- 1 shoulder camera bag for Nikon 995 with accessories
- 8 each PCMCIA cards for Nikon (enough for approx 600 high quality images)
- 15 each blank 1 hour Mini DV tapes
- 1 digital voice recorder
- 1 each Mini DV head cleaner
- 1 full size fluid head and one mini tripod
- 1 whitewater helmet with mount for small video camera, for video while running rapids
- 4 two way Talk-about radios for coordinating video action on the river
- 6 each 9 volt batteries for wireless mic's
- 20 each AA batteries for headlamp, flashlights and radios
- 4 each AAA batteries for digital voice recorder
- 1 full body wetsuit with hood, booties and gloves

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- 1 diving mask
- 1 snorkel
- 1 mask lens cleaner defogger
- 1 underwater video camera bag for JVC camera
- 1 rain hood for XL1s
- 1 circular polarizer & skylight for each camera
- 1 set precision screw driver set
- 1 small multimeter (for battery testing)
- 2 Harmonicas (to aggravate your campmates)

- 12. Count your blessings, a trip like this should be one of them.
- 13. Relax, have fun, take a lot of pictures.
- 14. Believe it or not, all of this gear other than the camera gear in the Pelican case fit into 2 large Water Strider dry bags.

General suggestions:

- 1. Pack your clothes by the day in waterproof stuff sacks or Ziploc bags
- 2. Keep all your food in one small or medium dry bag to make it easy to hoist up with the food safe.
- 3. NEVER eat, drink or store food in your tent in bear country. If you soil your clothes with food or drink, don't put them in or near your tent!
- 4. A larger tent is a good idea in wet weather country. On this BC trip it rained 20 inches in 4 days. Fish were not biting. A bigger tent and a tarp were real blessings.
- 5. I portion pack my food and coffee in Ziploc bags by the day for all three meals. Makes next day food selection a snap.
- 6. Packing for a trip like this takes me a full day. Make sure everything will fit in your dry bags! I like to pack a couple of days before departure.
- 7. **Do not drink alcoholic beverages while packing.**
- 8. Use your check list and check everything twice, just like Santa Claus. When you are 35 miles from the nearest road, you don't want to miss anything, do you?
- 9. ALWAYS wear your life vest while rafting.
- 10. Whatever you pack in, pack it out.
- 11. Leave your campsite cleaner than you found it, leave some ready to burn firewood for the next group, they may get in late.