

the latest stuff

COOL NEW GEAR
FOR YOUR
OUTDOOR FUN

BY RYAN STUART

» Bag of tricks

Outdoor Research Hydroseal DryComp AirX Sacks
(from \$40; orgear.com)

A Gore-Tex-like, air-permeable and waterproof strip along the bottom of the AirX dry bag allows air to escape but keeps water out. Just roll, close and compress with four straps. The bag deflates through the strip. Genius. Our skepticism at the sack's waterproof claim drowned during a month-long sea-kayaking trip on B.C.'s notoriously wet Central Coaster. Not a leak even after a full submersion. The sacks come in four sizes and are light enough (224 to 315 grams) to take hiking.



» Save your soles

Sole Ed Viesturs (\$50; yoursole.com)

We could all benefit from a decent pair of orthopedic footbeds, like this heat-mouldable, hiking-boot-compatible model from Sole. Straight out of the packaging (made from corn), they'll correct alignment, support your arches and cushion long hikes. But bake 'em in an oven for a couple of minutes and they turn into almost-custom footbeds that will mould to the unique shape of your foot. They actually helped one tester who was suffering from IT band pains recover and hike pain free.



» Quick change

TRAK T-1600 Kayak (\$5,575; rethinkkayak.com)

The highly adjustable, 16-foot, T-1600 goes from surfing to flat-water sprinting in seconds. Three hydraulics levers, originally designed to tighten the collapsible kayak's frame, allow it to quickly Jekyll and Hyde. Need fast turning? Reef on the keel line lever and the rocker rises up to six inches front and back. Nasty crosswind? Jack the port or starboard lever to nose the bow and stern to compensate (there is no rudder). Straight and fast? Release all the jacks. You'll stay dry even during on-the-fly adjustments thanks to a custom-designed spray skirt. Best of all, the 47-pound boat assembles in 20 minutes.



» style

1.



2.



1. Oakley Gascan S

(\$140, oakley.ca)

Sunglasses boast all sorts of technical features these days, like "ram-air surge ports" and "dual cam action." But no feature is worth it if the glasses look stupid on your face. Luckily, Oakley's Gascan S shades are both practical and street cool.

2. Columbia Funktional Canvas Short

(\$60, columbia.com)

Don't funk with these shorts. They protect you from the sun (UPF 50) while repelling water and resisting abrasions—stylishly!—thus preparing you for any situation where you might get soaked or scratched up. Like bathing a cat. Or hiking.

3. KEEN Sydney II

(\$120, keen.com)

Over the years, Mary Jane shoes have gone from being overtly girlish (shiny patent leather) to weird (clunky Goth-style platforms) to...normal. Jump on the MJ bandwagon with KEEN's cute but functional version.

— Jackie Davis

3.

