

3. Fun stuff

Seattle Sports

Love it or hate it, it's an iPod world now. For those who love it, protecting your iPod from the elements can be a problem.

Or rather, was a problem. Accessories for iPods seemed the dominant new product among manufacturers for 2009, with all manner of waterproof iPod covers to solve your portable music issues. But the design of the show had to go to Seattle Sports. Well-known already for their line of dry stuff sacks, waterproof backpacks and dry gear bags, Seattle Sports has joined the mp3 craze with its Audio Dry Pockets and Micro Dry Stuff Sacks. Take your choice of fashionable colors (warning: the flowery pink may clash with certain PFDs). But what we liked best was the audio jack that meshes with an internal cord that allows you to plug in your headphones while your iPod is snug and dry inside the pouch.



But what about powering your iPod over the weeks and months of a Congolese, Himalayan or Antarctic expedition? If you can't plug it in but must simply have music in the outback, Seattle Sports has that covered too – a USB solar charger with panels that slide open, or fold back into a handle for the built-in three-function flashlight. We could add the device's USB port could conceivably power a laptop computer as well as your iPod, but we have to draw the line somewhere. A public service reminder: the idea is to get *away* from it all, not take it with you! With all this, you might forget. www.seattlesportsco.com.

Aerobed

If your traditional self-inflating sleeping pad leaves you with anything less than a desirable sleep, the Dry Gear Solo by Aerobed may be your answer. This producer of inflatable stuff has created a blow-up mattress to compete with self-inflating sleeping pads. Consider: an advertised weight of 4 pounds, an inflated height of seven inches, a fit for people up to 6'6", and it folds to the size of a standard self-inflating pad. Plus no fear of getting wet if caught sleeping below the tide line. You can simply float away! (Not advisable, but hey, it could happen.) And for the kayaker with everything: also from Aerobed, the inflatable sofa bed couch! Can't wait till they invent the inflatable hi-def TV. www.thinkaero.com.



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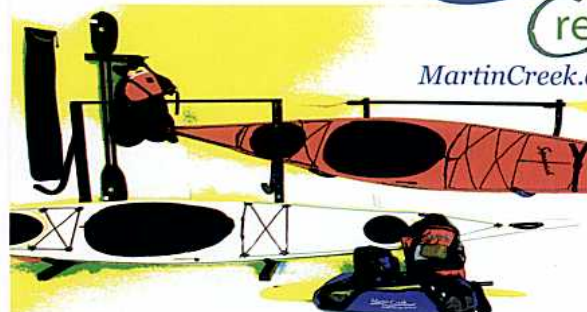


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