

PADDLESports

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**ON-RIVER
CONFERENCES**

The Great Trade Show Debate

+ I.R.'S JOHN WELD ON O.R.

**EARLY SEASON
OUTLOOK**

**LOCAL BUILDERS
LOYAL CUSTOMERS**

**STAND AND DELIVER:
KAYAK BUILDERS ENTER
THE STANDUP GAME**

GEAR

RACKS

Loading kayaks alone can be tough. **Malone Auto Racks' AutoLoader** with **Telos Load Assist** is a ratchet-based lift that lets the user gently raise the kayak and avoid damaging the vehicle. The quick connect features then allows for easy removal, or to add a second kayak on the other side (**Autoloader \$125, Telos Load Assist \$240, maloneautoracks.com**).

Confront any security threats with the **Inno Canoe/Kayak Locker**, a rack system that locks your paddle craft to the roof of your car. Simply throw your boat on the rack and ratchet the rubber-coated, stainless steel cable lock straps around each end of your kayak and then shut the locks with your personalized keys. Fits square, round and most factory crossbars (**\$229, innoracks.com**).

Whether you don't want to rock the rack for aesthetic, gas mileage or general cost concerns, one affordable option is packing a **HandiRack** inflatable roof rack in the trunk. The twin reinforced nylon inflatable tubes work interchangeably to fit most two- or four-door vehicles and fill quickly with the included pump (**\$100, handirackuk.com**).

When you charge in the parking structure, forgetting about your mounted cargo box, you'll want the 50 percent stiffer lid of **Yakima's SkyBox LoPro**, an eco-friendly product of 80 percent recycled plastic. It mounts quickly onto round, square or most factory bars and also has a new drag-reducing shape and a SkyLight solar-powered system that illuminates when you open the 15-cubic-foot box (**\$700, yakima.com**).



BAGS

Once you slide **Sea to Summit's Big River Tapered Dry Bag** behind your seat or in a bow hatch, you may never go back to the typical cylinder-shape bag again. The top of the tapered end has an eVent panel to purge any extra air and custom fit this efficient bag (7.4 oz., 2,136 cubic inches) of waterproof, double stitched and reinforced 420-denier nylon (**\$55, seatosummit.com**).

The trouble with all that handy stuff—phone, wallet, keys, and of course, handheld GPS units—is that it becomes irrelevant once replaced with a paddle. Throw an **Outdoor Research SeaVault Cube** in the boat or lash it to the deck and toss the items in the molded screw-top lid for a waterproof seal. The submersible durable nylon of these nifty containers will keep it dry and protected (**\$75, outdoorresearch.com**).

Aquapac engineers the ideal wet-weather daypack by combining a well-fitting and nicely configured pack with Aquapac's proven lightweight, polyurethane-coated fabrics and taped seams for its limited edition **Wet & Dry Backpack**, which packs 1,525 cubic inches and puts any thought of soaking gear, or even the slightest seepage, out of mind (**\$95, aquapac.net**).

The **North Water TurtleBack Deck Bag** favors the minimalist who likes to keep boat decks clean but to still secure essentials. The nylon bag has solid four-way anchoring contacts, a contoured profile that won't interfere with low-angle strokes, and "waist pack" flexibility for any on-shore expeditions (**\$65, northwater.com**).

If you need more space for overnight equipment, the **SealLine Kodiak Deck Bag** also provides secure low-profile storage with the added benefit of a clear urethane window to spot all your stuffed stuff. The 12.5-ounce, PVC-free bag has a roll-down closure that features rugged RF-welded construction and holds 620 cubic inches (**\$60, cascadedesigns.com/sealline**).

