

# 2010 Canoe & Kayak Whitewater Issue

## Featuring NRS Revolution Drytop.



**NRS REVOLUTION:** When you pick up the NRS Revolution you might do a double take and search for the gaskets to make sure you've got a dry top. But don't let the light feel fool you. Since making the switch from TriTon to a ripstop nylon eVent base material, NRS brings a new level of breathability to this stalwart jacket from its extensive line, ready for wet-weather abuse with stretchy polyurethane/Lycra gasket cuffs and reinforced nylon Cordura elbows (\$320, nrsweb.com).

### GEAR | Drytops

**TOPPED OFF:** When you mix big whitewater and big exposure with years of use, you eventually need to pony up the bucks for a high-end drytop. That means latex gaskets with cuffs, double tunnels, and taped seams of futuristic waterproof/breathable fabric layers. So we picked six of the most bombproof tops on the market and subjected them to a winter's worth of boating. — DS

**1 SANDLINE FREERIDE 4L:** Twenty years after a group of Slovenian windsurfers started looking for independent solutions to cold-water gear necessities, Sandline's whitewater outerwear still packs the high-quality essentials you need, and nothing you don't. So you won't find any pockets on the FreeRide, but the four-layer fabric definitely has dryness covered and won't leave you crying for a recall. Notable extras include the rugged, grippy protection patches on the elbows and shoulders, plus stretchy, 2-mm UltraSpan neoprene inner tunnel (\$330, sandline.com).

**2 KOKATAT ROGUE:** If you've spent much time on a cold river, you've probably seen the Rogue, Kokatat's flagship top since 2005 that proudly boasts the Gore-Tex label. And maybe you don't understand polytetrafluoroethylene or how emulsion polymerization works, or how Kokatat blends three different Gore-Tex laminates into the Rogue (including the inner tunnel and seam tape). Relax, you don't have to. Just know that this high-tech, high-density nylon top is beefed up with Cordura-reinforced shoulders, elbows and forearms, and you can trust it to keep you dry (\$410, also available in the three-layer TROPQS Heix, \$219, kokatat.com).

**3 BOMBER GEAR BOMB:** Rick Franken continues dropping innovative bombs with design tweaks that have earned the Colorado manufacturer loyal devotees. The Bomb's Velcro-less gasket cuffs sets it apart: The neck features a trim slickskin neoprene that sticks to your neck over the latex gasket for a double seal (plus a whistle pocket) while the Sub-Screen pore-sealing treatment for the bone-dry, conical neoprene cuffs double down on your wrists too. Add a roomy, easy-paddling fit and a Toray Entrant three-layer fabric for a top that locks down cold (\$280, bombergear.com).

**4 IR COMP LX:** Simple, solid, sophisticated. You could practically throw seamless in there too to describe the new 2010 incarnation of Immersion Research's Comp LX. Wearing this top feels like donning a tailored jacket (though with a thicker feel than the IR's previous generation thanks to an added polyurethane layer). The lack of four-way seam intersections means solid taped seals on the new element-shedding, four-layer Toray Entrant material. A hidden chest pocket and stretchy waterproof/breathable inner tunnel complements the clean look (\$315, immersionresearch.com).

**5 SWEET PROPHECY:** Another European company, Sweet Protection, long known for its premier carbon-reinforced helmets, brings the same quality construction to its drytops. The Norwegian-made Prophecy offers paddlers another option with the Gore-Tex label, this one with their three-layer Pro Shell material. The longer neoprene waist with big, 100-mm elastic bands offers a super-snug and sealed-to-torso fit with your sprayskirt (\$435, sweetprotection.com).

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