

# Outside Magazine Summer 2009 Buyer's Guide

## The NRS E-132D Awarded "Gear of the Year" in the Boat Category



**Outside** SUMMER 2009  
**BUYER'S GUIDE**

**THE BEST NEW GEAR**

Running Shoes  
Daypacks  
Sunglasses  
Cameras  
Mountain Bikes  
Tents  
and More...

**349**  
HOT NEW PRODUCTS TESTED

**29 KILLER VALUES!**  
SWEET DEALS ON SUMMER GEAR

WANT TO TEST GEAR? JOIN THE OUTSIDE ARMY

(SEE PAGE 8)

### Boats

Kayaking is still a fine sport, but you can't carry beer, a dog, a grill, and your girlfriend (at least not all at once.) Rafting on the other hand, isn't just easier and more forgiving -- it's like car camping on water. And this year's Gear of the Year winner, NRS's 13-foot Expedition Series raft, is an aquatic (zero emissions) SUV equally suited to parasol-shaded drifting as raging Class IV. It's just enough boat to carry everything you need for a week long float and not so much that you can't take it out for the afternoon without mounting an expedition. BY MARK ANDERS, BERNE BROUDY, AND GRAYSON SCHAFFER



### NRS E-132D Raft \$4,495 nrsweb.com

1. The 132D can be set up as an oar raft or a paddle raft. Rowing requires oars, a frame, and some additional hardware (roughly another \$1,000), while paddling takes four to six friends (roughly priceless). Our testers loved the 132D as a gear-laden oar boat on the Class II Chama River and as a seven person (plus one dog) splashfest on the Class IV Taos Box.

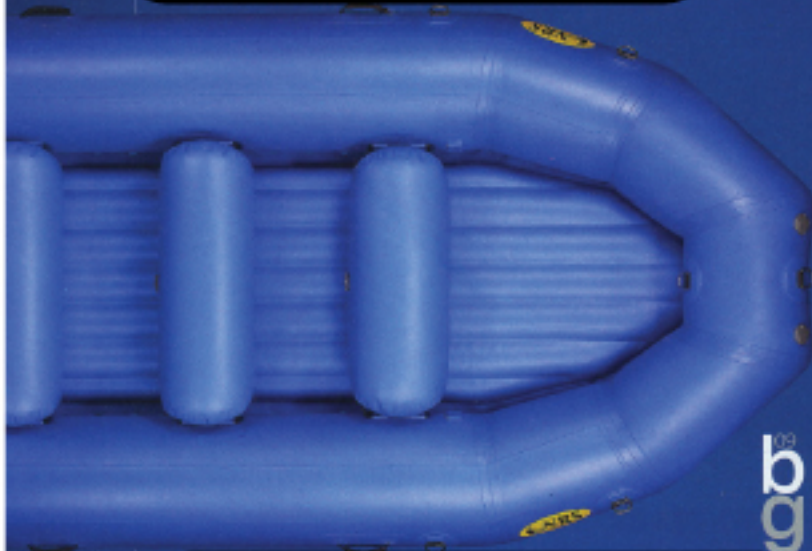
2. Double-thickness Hypalon skid plates, one-way Leaffield valves, tapering tubes, and three removable thwarts mean the 132D will stand up to sharp rocks, dog claws, and poorly cast fishhooks for more than 20 years with proper upkeep. If you've got the cojones to run any rapid, the boat will be sturdy enough to make it to the bottom, whether you stay in or not.

3. Storage, transport, and setup are easy. Rolled, the 132D is smaller than a freestyle kayak. It'll fit into the trunk of your wagon or on the back of a mule, as ours did on the pack-in to Colorado's Class III Gunnison Gorge. Leave it loosely inflated during the summer if you've got a truck or trailer, or inflate it at the put-in with a car-battery-powered blower and a barrel pump.

### 05 Float

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