

Spring 2010 SUP (Stand Up Paddler) Magazine Featuring NRS Expedition DriDuffel.



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HOW TO PACK: THE SUP SURF-TOUR GEAR HAUL

BY DAVE SHIPLEY

The overnight SUP setup I used for our close encounters in the Big Sur wilds ("Surf Safari," p. 56) started with enough usable deck space for rigging. I paddled a 12'1" Laird (see pg. 72 for the lowdown) and attached some of SurfCo Hawaii's Flex E-Z Plugs to the nose. Typically used as leash plugs, these \$6 suckers (1. surfcohawaii.com) have an easy 3M peel-and-stick adhesive that locks 'em down, so I could tie in the Everpaddle Deck Bag with some nylon cord. This eco-minded board and paddle manufacturer delivers a perfect accessory for rugged, recycled nylon storage of quick-access day-touring items—or wet and rancid gear you want to keep separate—in one main compartment (2. \$75, everpaddle.com). Plus, I could slide my flip-flops in the shock cords and pull out the recycled plastic liner to double as a kitchen table/cutting board—not that we brought any fresh produce to prep.

A central cam strap run over an NRS Expedition DriDuffel was the crux of this setup. This bomber 500-denier urethane-coated Cordura bag, designed with raft rigging in mind, is a cinch to cinch straps to, with two D-ring attachment points on either side (3. \$70, nrsweb.com). Most importantly

though, it has a wide duffel-style opening to easily load my overnight kit.

First, the sleep enigma. Padding air day, surfing until dark and then foraging for flat space to collapse worked great for me. But it helps to have a few creature comforts while out in the elements. The light and fast alpine approach paid off with Black Diamond's simple, effective (warm and dry), and super-light Twilight Bivy (4. \$149, 10 oz., blackdiamondequipment.com). It's nice to have some padding too. The North Water FourPlay is technically a sea kayak paddle float for self-rescue situations, but when my butt needed rescue from our rocky camp, it clipped up for a Crazy Creek-style seat, then rolled out as sleeping pad (5. \$90, northwater.com).

Before you sleep, you gotta eat something. Best to boil water fast for a quick concoction or needed cup of cowboy coffee. Primus' EtaPackLite weighs 21 ounces for a base/burner, gas cartridge, windscreen and bowl that all packs into the included 1.2-liter pot. And it's totally idiot-proof: Screw on 100-gram LP butane/propane cartridge, push a button, and the water's boiling in 2:30 flat (6. \$115, primuscamping.com). It takes even less time if you skip

water and go straight for heating Campbell's Chunky Savory Pot Roast, or like one of our trip members, skip the heat and eat the 230-calorie Chunky chowder cold (7. \$2.19 with Ralphs Rewards card, campbellsoup.com).

Back on the board, the HyperFlex AMP 3/2-mm wetsuit more than handled the cold central Cali water, surprising given how light it feels. The six-way super-stretchy neoprene suit features interior PU rubber, heat-sealed and rubber-taped seams, and HoneyComb HollowFiber poly fleece interior lining on the chest and back—so cozy I broke a bit of a sweat (8. \$259, hyperflexusa.com). Out of the wetsuit, I tried Nookie's Guide Stride pants. While a bit of an oddity, designed for raft guides and whitewater open boaters, these rugged, quick-drying man-pris (that's right, I said it) come in handy on a distance SUP when you want to give your legs a break with their reinforced knees (9. \$104, nookiekayaking.us).

When it was time to paddle home, I used an old river throwbag belt to stash the 1.8-liter Platypus Big Zip, a durable hydration system with a wide and simple SlideLock closure that lets you fill it like a bag. It also, thankfully, features a new taste-free film



Expedition DriDuffel

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