

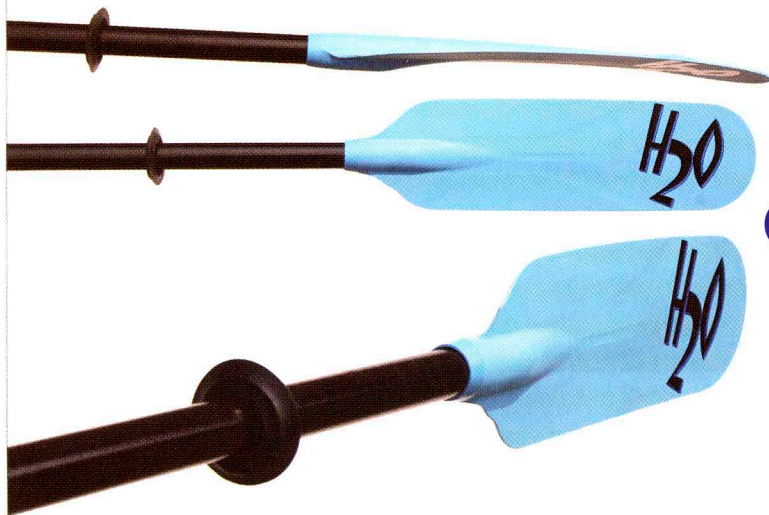


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1 *Ronin* may be Japanese for “freelance samurai” but the literal translation is “wave person” or “one who is tossed about, as on the waves in the sea.” Designed by and for wave people, the **RONIN PRO PFD** has wraparound padding that doubles as body armour. It’s fully teched-out with a built-in tow belt, multiple lash points and pockets, and planet-friendly PVC-free foam. \$199 US; www.kokatat.com.

2 **AROUND ONE MORE POINT** by Mary Gazetas is a beautiful shoebox-full of memories rendered from an artist’s lifetime of musings, snapshots and sketches from West Coast kayak trips. \$25 Cdn; Touchwood Editions, www.touchwoodeditions.com. While Robin Lloyd Jones paddled 240 kilometres through western Greenland, his literary ramblings in **FALLEN PIECES OF THE MOON** range even more widely, into cannibalism, kayak rolling, Inuit string games, cargo cults, and other preoccupations of a mind gone wild. Whittles Publishing, www.whittlespublishing.com.

3 Goodbye, cork and leather; Hello, foam and rubber: Footwear visionary Martin Keen has invented a Birkenstock for the 21st century. The **MION FLOOD TIDE** treads softly in more ways than one. Comfy, removable booties protect from rocks, sand and cold. And the “Eco Metric” label (zero greenhouse emissions) shows that the footprint is small, no matter what the shoe size. \$140 Cdn, \$110 US; www.mionfootwear.com.

4 The **H2O-2 TOURING** paddle stands out on the rack and on the water. Greenland-inspired parallel edges provide even water release and remarkably smooth strokes. The round tip offers a consistent feel for low-angle lily dipping or high-angle power stroking. High-performance and versatility at a very reasonable price. From \$199 Cdn, \$179 US; www.h2opaddles.com. —*Thom Lambert*

DO-IT-YOURSELF

MAKE YOUR OWN RADAR REFLECTOR

The silver mylar bags that come inside four-litre wine boxes are very useful. First, of course, you get to drink the contents. The bags are very durable and can also be used as a water container, an inflatable pillow, or an effective radar reflector. For radar detection, I semi-inflate the bag and fasten it behind me, looping a bungee cord over one end so the bag fully inflates and extends upright. Because the bag has square corners it is picked up on radar. When it’s foggy I attach the

bag to the end of a six-foot fishing rod. With the bag at that height I was informed by the coast guard that they spotted me on their radar three kilometres (1.8 miles) away. Homemade radar reflectors can be as effective as anything on the market. One study posted online (www.seagrant.umaine.edu/documents/pdf/rarefppt05.pdf) found that an aluminum foil-covered hat actually outperformed commercial radar reflectors by a long shot. —*Derek Crook*



PHOTO: TOM WATSON