

# Packrafts

## Versatile and Capable

By

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# Who am I?

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Diane Dandeneau

2<sup>nd</sup> year boater

Slightly Obsessed...

Didn't like being upside down so....

Excited for the new craft!

Live in Lyons, looking forward to  
2022!





# What is a Packraft?

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**Inflatable, light weight (2 – 10 lbs), packable, boat. I think of it as a cross between a kayak and a ducky, but lighter.**









# History?

- Great article on the history of Packrafts: <https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/exploration-survival/brief-history-packraft/>
- **1946-mid 1950s:** Inflatable “packable” rafts begin to appear in army surplus stores. These boats were left over survival equipment from World War II airplanes.
- **1970s:** [American Safety](#) produces a packraft designed to float on calm waters. It remains in production for nearly a decade.
- **1980:** The first Curtis Designs packraft is made in Seattle, inspired by the surplus military rafts. Designed for lakes, it's a soundly-constructed lightweight boat.
- **2000:** Thor Tingey spends the summer traversing the Brooks range with a Curtis packraft. When he returns in the fall, he talks his mom, Sheri, into building him a packraft to run rivers.
- **2002:** Sheri Tingey sells her first boats and the [Alpacka Raft](#) company is formed, offering two sizes of rafts: a “Yak” length, and a “Denali Llama” length. Soon there's a “Fjord Explorer” with a rowing frame and a two-person packable “canoe” called the “Gnu,” capable of running class 4 whitewater.

# Outside

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# Who Makes Packrafts?

#packrafts  
#kokopelli  
#waterboys

@packrafts

- **Alpacka** (US/CO Made)  
<https://www.alpackraft.com/>
- **Kokopelli**: (US/CO Made)  
<https://kokopelli.com/>
- **MRS**:  
<https://www.microrafting.com/>
- Aire:
- Others:?



# Kokopelli Packrafts





# Alpacka Raft





# Uses

ALPACKA RAFT

Packrafts

Essentials

Repair

Our Story

Education Center

This is Packrafting



## Backpacking



Alpacka Series

[View Collection](#)

## River Running



American Rivers Series

[View Collection](#)

## Whitewater



American Whitewater Series

[View Collection](#)

## Hunting & Fishing



BHA Series

[View Collection](#)





# Wolverine

The precision to make the move with style.

## Size - Small

- ☒ Small
- ☐ Medium
- ☐ Large

## Color & Fabric - Lava

- ☐ 210d
- ☐ 210d
- ☐ 420d
- ☒ 210d

## Build Configuration - Whitewater De

- ☐ Self Bailer
- ☒ Whitewater Deck

Add To Cart

Estimated Ship Date: April 4, 2022



# Gnarwhal

Ultimate Stability & Forgiveness

## Size - Medium

- ☒ Medium
- ☐ Long
- ☐ Extra Long

## Color & Fabric - Fireweed

- ☒ 210d
- ☐ 210d
- ☐ 420d
- ☐ 210d

## Build Configuration - Self Bailer

- ☒ Self Bailer
- ☐ Whitewater Deck

Add To Cart



# Storage

- Load 250 – 350 Lbs of you and gear with the cargo fly with internal dry bags INSIDE the Packraft.
- Bow Bag for daily needs.





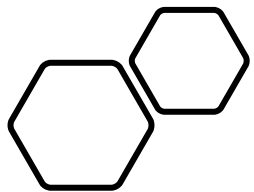
# Bikerafting Test Run











# Macintosh Lake







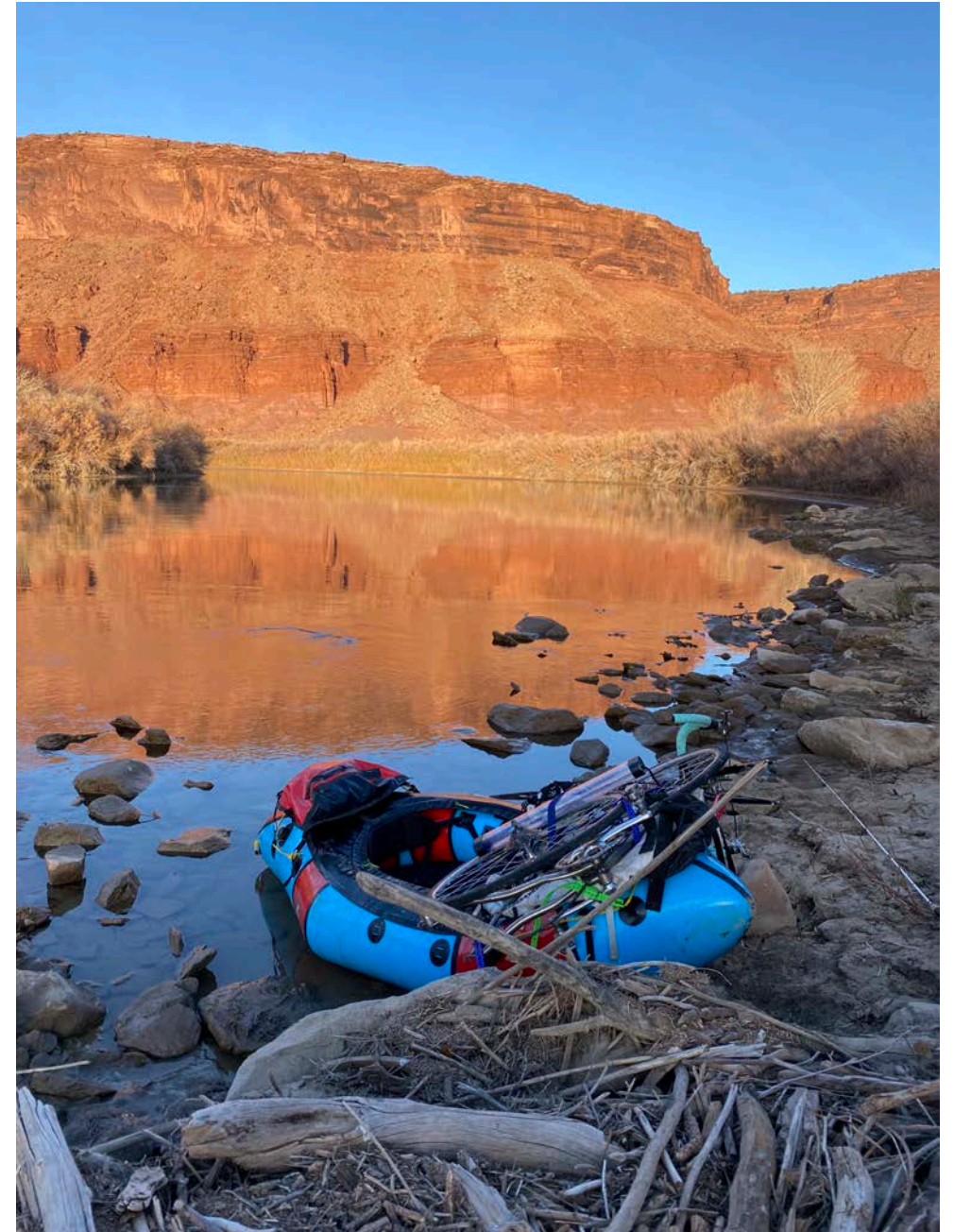




# Moab Daily Colorado River



# Colorado River Float







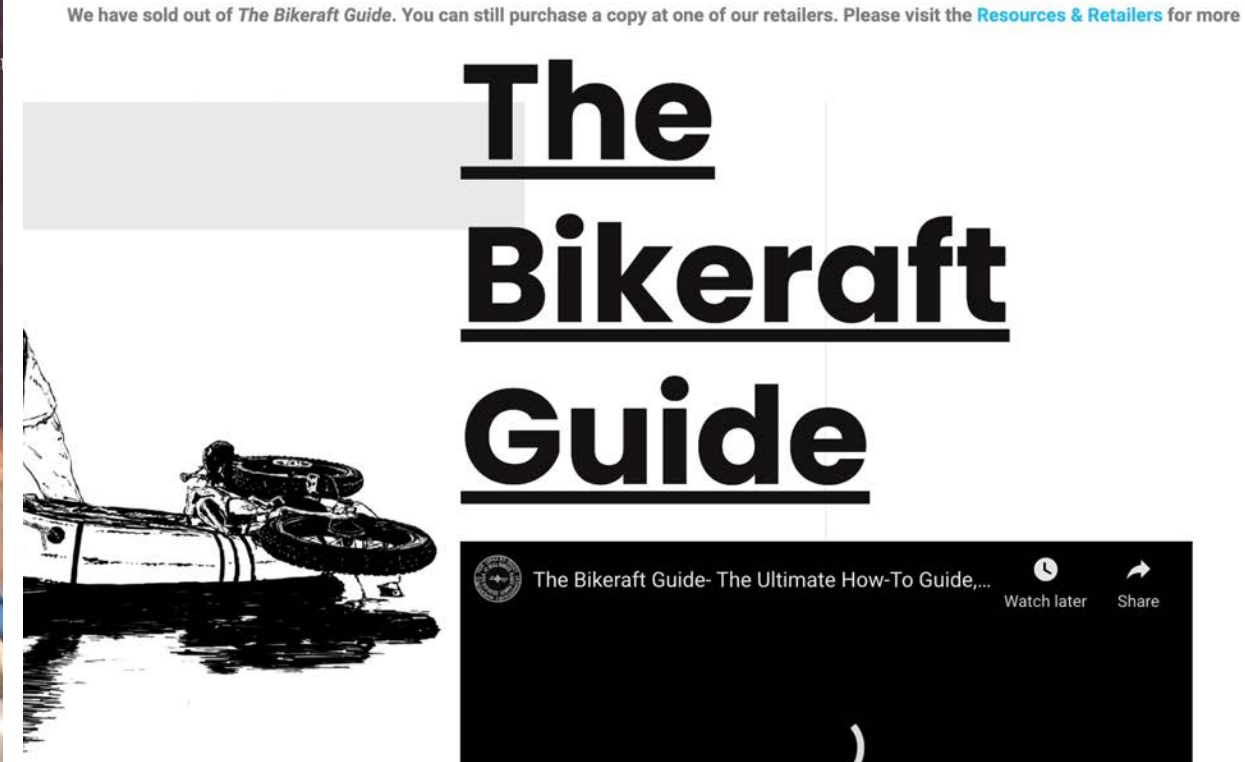
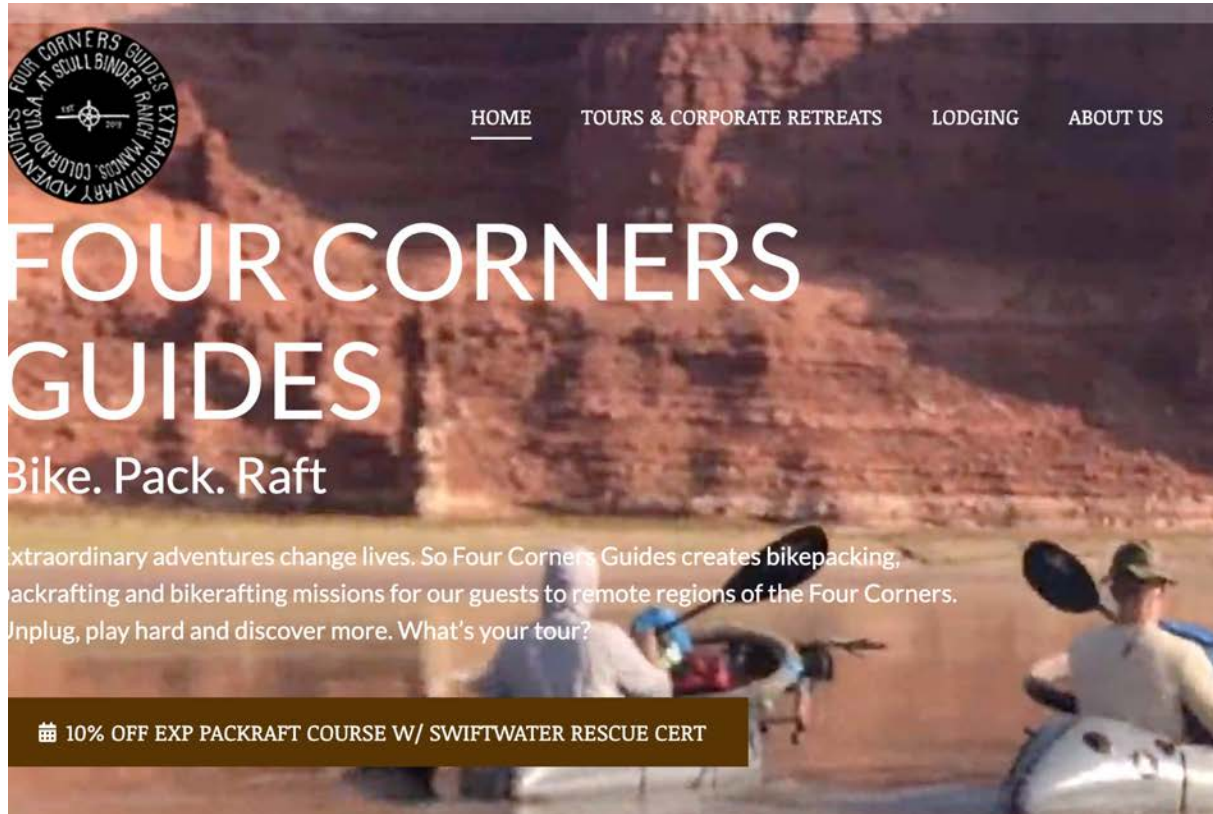
## Resources and Outfitters

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- Whitewater Collective, Lotus, CA.  
<https://www.cwwcollective.com/>



# Four Corners Guides, Bikerafting, Bikepacking and Packrafting Tours Steve Fassbinder and Lizzy Scully





# Mancos, CO

<https://fourcornersguides.com/>









Random Packraft Hiking photo







# Whitewater Workshop

## Nik White

### Packraft and Kayak Lessons

- <https://whitewaterworkshop.com/>



# Packrafting the Escalante - Paxson Woelber

- <https://winterbear.com/trip-reports/packrafting-the-escalante-river/>







# The Packraft Handbook

AN INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE FOR THE CURIOUS



MOUNTAINEERS BOOKS

LUC MEHL  
SARAH K. GLASER

## Luc Mehl

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- Things to Luc At.  
<https://thingstolucat.com/>  
Courses and Handbook.  
Anchorage, AK.



# Whitewater

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5MPHibMPVI>
- <https://vimeo.com/255818318>
- <https://vimeo.com/246998385>



# Questions:

- Can you roll a Packraft?
  - Some people can roll some packrafts. Narrower models, like the Alpacka Wolverine and new Valkarie are easier to roll.
  - Usually, people will swim and climb back in or swim to shore.
  - More primary stability, and less secondary stability.
- Others?



# Alpacka Valkyrie





# Invitations

- I have an extra medium and large Gnarwall to share. Happy to let anyone paddle it (preferably withy me!). My new boat is the large Wolverine that people can try out for size.
- Looking for Class 1 – 2 (with and some class 3), paddling partners in 2022.
- Packraft trips?
- Email me at [diane@dandeneau.com](mailto:diane@dandeneau.com)
- Thanks!