

Club Meeting

At the last meeting we decided to have the meetings every 2 months. This means the next one is on Tuesday the 12th September at Neville's place. We need more people there not for the meeting sake but for the social occasion. A few laughs and some interesting conversation is well worth coming for.

Rotto Week

Now is the time to start planning for the Rotto weekend. At this stage we will have people from Geraldton and Albany comming to Rotto with us. The more people the more fun. The week to set aside is 24th March to 1st April. Boats can be transported on the ferry for about \$10.00 and wives and kids are welcome as well. Last year the non paddlers had as much fun as the paddlers.

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All Members

Your club fees are due now.


We have to pay 12 months Canoe WA fees on the 1st of October. To do that we need your money now!

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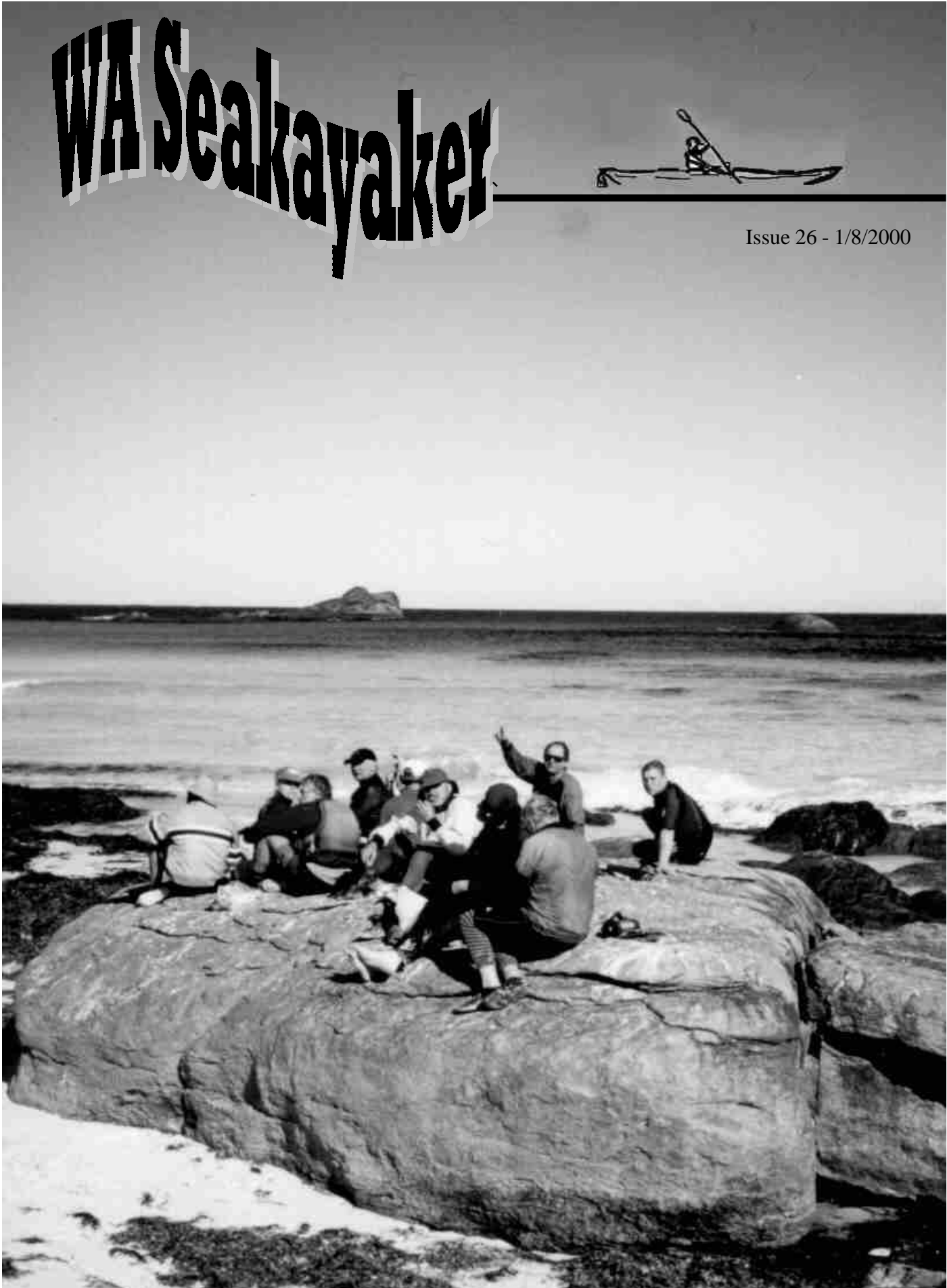
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Journal of Sea Kayak WA Inc PO Box 230 North Beach 6920
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From The President

Greetings underlings, at last - Power, real undiluted power, mine to wield! I may have acquired it by default, but that doesn't mean I can't abuse it! I'm going all giddy just thinking about it. Firstly, I'm going to use said power to thank Les.

Les for his enthusiastic leadership and promotion of our club.

Whilst being Prez', despite our not so insignificant inertia, Les you have relentlessly given the club much time and energy, and I, for one, think that we have benefited greatly.

Without you input our paddling would not be as diverse or as interesting as it has become, and is becoming.

Once again thanks.

Myself I'm the near opposite to Les, more inactive than proactive.

However, my style is mostly irrelevant, I'm only here for a short time, persons willing and more dynamic will be uncovered at the AGM. What is relevant though' is the style of club members in total.

And that is pretty good.

I think we're a great bunch of people, that work well together.

We've had some quality time and experiences together and without too much debate will continue to do so.

I was only joking about the power bit, honest. Then again..... if I could do something about that Eric! Ummmmm!

The New Geraldton Branch of Sea Kayak WA

We now have a Geraldton branch to our club. Neville and I went up to Geraldton in July to offer the local paddlers membership to our club with a separate financial consideration for dues paid by Geraldton paddlers. We will keep \$35.00 out of their money separate for use in promoting paddling in Geraldton. This also gives us the opportunity of joint paddles with our northern brethren. I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming the Geraldton paddlers to our club and thank them for the great hospitality (never drink red wine the night before paddling). Keep paddling boys (and girls) Les Allen

Six of us (Dennis Kerley, Jim, David Crothers, Angus Barnes, Geoff and me) met last night to discuss plans. All but Angus (who won't be buying a kayak but will borrow & come on paddles at times) intend now joining Sea Kayak W.A. (Inc). Morris Ellery does also, but couldn't make it last night. People will either send application forms & cheques direct to you, or via me.

We don't propose incorporating, & would be keen to be an informal sub-group of Sea Kayak W.A. (Inc), for now keeping our portion of our membership funds in your account. Later we'll consider whether to use some or all of "our" funds on some safety or other equipment or hiring VHF radio for trips. We don't propose having a set meeting time for now, & will instead discuss issues after our weekly paddles or at the pub as the need arises. We didn't further discuss any structure or positions, & I suggest if needed my details can be given as a contact, or people can contact any of us from our membership details.

We intend having a set paddling time of 9am each Sunday, meeting at Town Beach unless pre-arranged otherwise. Once days are longer we'll probably also schedule a

weekday evening paddle, & let you know in case it can be calendarised next time. Actually for this calendar why not put it in for Tuesday arvo 5pm.

We are keen to also seek a club paddle from Jurien (possibly up to Leeman) for 3 days (and 4 for those who can take an extra day Tuesday) on the Labour day long weekend Feb/ March (?) 2001. If any people didn't want to camp at Jurien to start there's a well-equipped, cheap "camp school" with lots of bungalows, kitchen, bbq's, space for kids & dogs etc (probably need to book ahead). So please discuss that in Perth & let us know if it suits; if so put in calendar. Lots of interest in Rotto, I expect most will go.

We'll try to build our group by word of mouth & possibly newspaper ads/ community announcements.

All agree on importance of us learning safety & skills, & were impressed by the approach of you & Les. Much thanks to you both for the positive input. We'll be keen for any more opportunities for combined paddles & visits from Perth members, can always put you up. Gary Nixon

10 to 20lt water, air mattress, tent, shoes, toiletries and repair kit in front of back

Clothes in tapered dry bag rear of back hatch

First aid kit, flares, torch, sponsons, and water in day hatch

Split paddle on outside

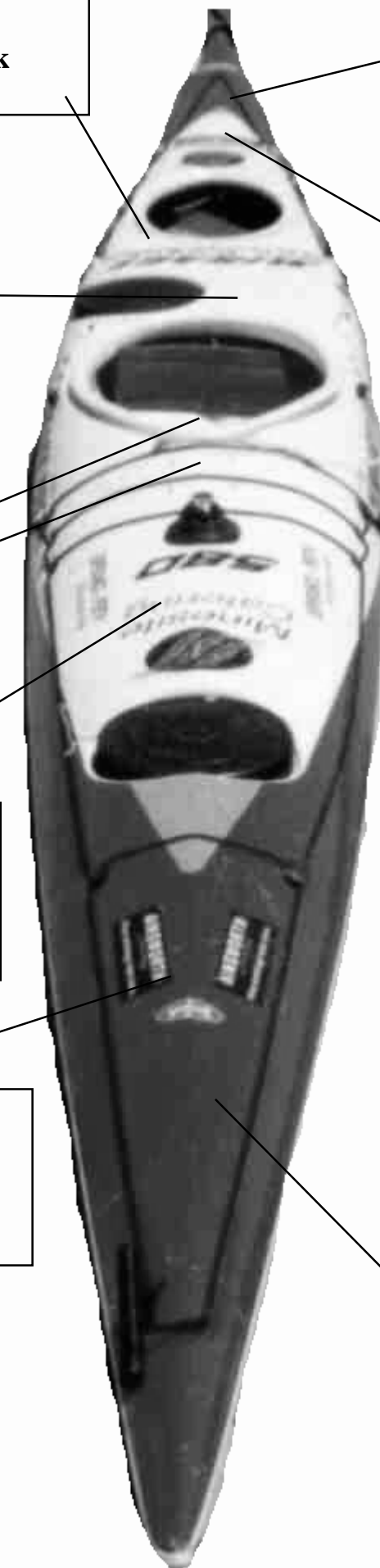
10lt water, smoke flare, sponge, bilge pump inside cockpit. Map, GPS and day food on deck.

PFD, EPIRB, immersion suite, emergency water, emergency food, tow rope, knife, heliograph, hat sunglasses and helmet are all on the paddler.

Sleeping bag, pillow and inner in dry bag in front of bulk head

Cooking gear behind food. Tinned or heavy food near bulkhead

Light food in tapered dry bag at front of front hatch



Packing A Sea Kayak

There is an art to packing a sea kayak so everything is in and the boat still has a good trim. It does depend on the boat you own a little as small boats with small hatches are much more difficult to pack. Trial packing and floating the boat are the only way to check your packing before the trip.

I like to use lists for everything. There is nothing worse than going on a trip and finding you forgot some important piece of equipment. By checking things off on a list as you pack, the chance of forgetting something is dramatically reduced. Keep the list after the first trip and it makes the next one easy. It also is handy for identifying things you do or do not need for the next trip.

The trim of the boat and its performance in the water is directly affected by how you pack your boat. The general rule of thumb is to keep the heavy stuff, like water, to the middle of the boat. Its is also important to ensure the load does not move when you roll the boat or thump down the back of steep waves. A boat coming out of trim when you are out to sea could be disastrous. Load your boat and test it in the water before you go on a trip. Go on an overnight easy trip to test your packing and equipment before the big one. Allow for the fact that your gear will reduce in size as the trip goes on. This can also affect your trim and needs some thought before you leave.

Dry bags for important stuff like sleeping bags and clothes are a necessity, especially if there is a risk of hypothermia. Even if there is little risk a wet sleeping bag is not much fun. Soft dry bags pack better than stiff ones. Making dry bags that fit the bow and stern of the boat also makes packing easier.

All gear stored in the cockpit and on the deck need to be tied in so they can't be washed away. If you pack the boat the same way every time you will make minor improvements each trip.

This is one of my trip lists and I hope it is of some use.

Toiletries

Tooth brush	Tooth paste	Brush	Face washer
Towel	Hand cream	Sun cream	Soap

T Paper

Clothes

1 Track pants	1 Thermal top	Tee shirt	2 Boardies
Cag	Rain jacket	Walking sandals	Hanky
2 jocks	2 hats	Booties	

Cooking Gear

Tranjier	Fuel	Knife spoon fork	Cup	Lighter
Can opener				

Sleeping Gear

Sleeping bag and inner	Air matters	Tent
Pillow		

Safety Gear

PDF 1	Flares	EPIRB	2 Spray decks	Sponge
Split paddles	Knife	Sponsons		Tow rope
Maps	Solar Panel	Sail, Mast		Distiller
Marine radio	Survival bag	Helmet		

Food

Cereal x 3	Baked beans x 3	Fruit x 3	
Condensed milk x 1	Coffee	Nuts x 1kg	
Milk x 3	Musely bars 10	Tuna x 3	
Rice cakes	Port	Pasta rice packets x 6	
Mintees	Bread	Tea bags	Honey

Repair kit

Duct tape	Fiberglass repair kit	Pliers
200lb fishing line	4ml Cord	Screw Driver
Spanner	First aid kit	

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF A NOVICE

On a near perfect day during a January heat wave, I indulged my desire to paddle to Seal and Penguin Island as a paying guest of the Rivergods. For the next few months, I battled with my conscience as to whether I could justify the cost of buying a sea kayak. Finally the “Bugger it, I deserve one!” argument won. Having purchased the boat, I was then faced with the question of what next? How do I get the most out of my new toy with relative safety? I contacted Neville of the Sea Kayak Club, who was friendly and helpful; assuring me their membership included both sexes and all ages. A few days later I met Don, Les and John who discussed equipment and offered advice. The following week I joined Don, Phil, Ros, Bob and Helier for my maiden voyage in the Harvey Estuary. I was still unsure as to whether I had made a disastrous choice of boats. The general opinion seemed to be that it would be satisfactory as an introduction to the sport but may prove inadequate for carrying gear. This seemed to have more to do with its beer carrying capacity than the transport of such impractical items as food, water and camping equipment. Within minutes I found my kayak had a disconcerting tendency to travel in circles, but help was at hand and I learned my first valuable lesson. It’s absolutely essential to shave your legs before a paddle, as one never know who will be groping around adjusting your foot pedals. I felt clumsy and uncomfortable as we paddled across the glassy estuary. I found myself constantly over-compensating with the rudder and steering an erratic course. A rest stop on the far side provided an opportunity for the gadget lovers to parade their goods. My 63gm Power Bar seemed hopelessly inadequate as the others produced folding stools and opened cans of exotic food, while discussing unbelievable paraphernalia. When I fell in the water while trying to re-enter my kayak they lied tactfully, claiming it had happened to all of them. On the return trip, the wind had strengthened and I was beginning to feel the effect of my tense and unfamiliar position in a boat which I was fighting instead of wearing. My companions were supportive but I declined Don’s offer to tow me. Overall, I found the other members, both male and female very willing to share their knowledge and expertise with a novice. It’s clear to me there’s a lot to be gained from companionship and shared interests. What I am able to contribute to the club remains to be seen.
Marian Mayes

For Sale



Pitarak Sea kayak

Only \$1400.00 for this top touring boat in good condition and ready to explore the coast. The boat comes with a spray dec and paddle. Call Garry Nixon 99212344 or E-mail to glyn&gray@wn.com.au

Duck For Cover Award.....

This months Duck For Cover Award has to go to a Geraldton paddler Morris Ellery. He came out of his boat in the harbour and was terrified when a white fined shark appeared at the end of his kayak. The fright turned to embarrassment when he discovered the shark fin the be his paddle blade bobbing in the water. Of course we will never tell anyone Morrice !!!!!!!

HAMELIN BAY TRIP

JUNE 2ND – 5TH By Don Kinzett

To those members who didn't go, you missed a great weekend. Eric, Wolfgang and myself left Perth on the Friday about lunchtime in my truck, Wolfgang and I nearly fell over laughing when we arrived to pick up Eric, suffice to say, its lucky I had a 2½ ton truck to fit all of Eric's gear on board. I think his double shed was all packed on the deck. We arrived at Hamilton Bay Camp Ground about 4pm we were still checking in when Irene and Tony Smith from Albany Kayak Club arrived. We found a good spot and set up camp. The truck was handy all weekend as we had a large table to do all the cooking on. But it took about an hour to unload all Eric's gear. I had to get a new springs flitted the following week. We had a great night, with a couple of drinks and told lies about all the kayak trips we had done or planned. Ian and Neville arrived in the middle of the night along with John and Barbra Denuci.

The next morning after breakfast we launched

the boats and headed out around the islands and east along the coast. The weather was fantastic and there was not much swell. We stopped for lunch at a great little beach, Tony had a broken rudder system, but with a bit of stuffing about, and a bit of time, we fixed it o.k. We headed back towards the camping ground to meet Les and Steve paddling east to meet us. Another coupe from Albany arrived. Bev and Terry. Bev was thrilled to pick up her new mirage 5.3 that Les bought down for her.

Had a great night, sat around with a few drinks, in fact quite a few for Neville who entertained us that night. Next day our extended group headed west along a long surf beach into a strong head wind. Landed for lunch dodging around a rock to miss the surf. Eric unfortunately hurt his leg getting out of his boat and it turned out worse than first thought. We all managed to fit on top of a large flat rock for lunch. On the return trip surfing was the order of the day for some. Steve

had a fantastic wipeout. Very impressive Steve. Ian punched out through a big wave. Still don't know how he got through, but it sure looked spectacular.

Arrived back at the camping ground in time to see the famous string rays getting fed by the fisherman. They were very tame. They were eating from Les's hand. That night was ditto to the one before.

Most of us packed up the next morning and headed home. We will be going to Hamilon Bay again so don't miss out next time. This trip also highlighted a new disease creeping into the club. It is a horrible to catch mostly because of its cost. I'm referring to the gear freak. Now I'm not sure who started this. Ian thinks I started this but I really think that Neville must stand up and admit he was the main man. I know he spend his days off ferreting around camping stores and shops. Here is a man who owns 8 cookers, two kayaks. An \$800 tent, so many types of camp chairs you can't count them, about 20 dry bags, and I don't know how many paddles. His house is just over flowing with stuff. He even has a miniature coffee

machine. But there is one thing you don't have Nev. An automatic ignition on your cooker! By the way Neville Holden has a nick name (FJ... Get it). At Hamilton Bay Les blew us away with some solar panels his kayak. But Tony Smith from Albany had us all stumped. He had something given to him by his grandfather. It was first world war officers mess kit and combined with stand made a Basin for washing, with little pockets for the razor and soap. Then it turned into a miniature bath. It had a wooden frame and the rest was canvas. All who saw it were stunned. Neville thought he had us all stumped with a new toys, a folding camp chair with in built foot rest, but Ha Ha he couldn't fit it into his boat. Now it has lost it surprise value.

One of the best gadgets is something John Satterly has. It is an aluminium folding shield for your gas cooker. Keeps the wind away and you use a lot less gas. I had to get one. Wolfgang has got a small waterproof gadget that holds matches, had a compass, a signal mirror, a sling and a whistle all for \$14.95. I had to get one of those as well. I now have my eye on the ultimate toy. So watch out F.J. The cost might cause a divorce though.

