



The Chill has finally settled in. We all knew it had to come, but many of us are wondering how it was that it came so fast and from out of nowhere! It seems like only yesterday the lake temperature was hovering around 70 degrees F. Hopefully 2009 will prove to be a better paddling season and we won't be waiting so long for the temperatures to warm. A long paddling season is definitely something to look forward to!

We spent a great deal of time discussing cold-weather paddling in past issues of the newsletter. We hope that you were able to use the tips and suggestions offered to you. We were pleased to see paddlers take advantage of savings on cold weather gear in the month of October. Now that Christmas is around the corner we are entering that dangerous territory that few dare to explore. Winter Kayaking. For the most part, its time to either head south with kayak in tow or store your precious boat for the winter. If you are one of those who still look forward to paddling on the weekends, may the paddling gods be with you!

For those of you who are ready to put your kayak to rest until next spring, don't forget that Great Lakes Kayak offers Winter Storage! You can find more details in the column on the left. We are featuring an Eddyline kayak comparison chart in the newsletter this month. Eddyline has retired a few models and introduced a new one (the Journey), so it's a good time to update you on the Eddyline Fleet. Don't forget about your paddling buddies this holiday season - Great Lakes Kayak offers Gift Certificates and there's a great incentive to purchase one this month - see the coupon at the bottom of the newsletter. And if you've always wondered why Eddyline doesn't make their kayaks with rudders, then the article, "Explaining Eddyline's Rudder Free Design" will answer all your questions.

**Happy Holidays from all of us at
Great Lakes Kayak!**

Explaining Eddyline's Rudder-Free Design

From the Eddyline [Website](#)

Rudders have been used for years to compensate for inadequacies in hull performance, particularly in windy and rough sea conditions (and unfortunately to cover up a poor design effort). Beginners often like rudders because they feel they have control of the kayak more quickly, even though this actually slows skill development. Rudders come with a price. They add windage, increase wetted surface and add wave and eddy making drag.



When used to "steer" or correct for wind or unbalanced loads, the drag is significantly greater. While Eddyline has used rudders on our single kayaks in the past (double kayaks will always need rudder assistance), we are now able to create hulls that are so well balanced in buoyancy and windage that rudder control is no longer necessary.

Today, we prefer the simplicity of a retractable skeg. This is a very different animal than a rudder.

Mechanically simpler, a skeg is a tracking device, not a steering device. It can be used to correct for any unbalance in loading and allows for the creation of a "variable" performance hull. This allows us to create a balanced hull that has more inherent maneuverability with the skeg retracted and still have great tracking with the skeg down. Skegs add a slight bit of wetted surface when used, but not the windage and other drags associated with rudders. Subtle adjustments of the skeg allow the paddler to eliminate the need for correctional strokes in variable weather and wave conditions, thereby focusing energy on getting to the destination. You will notice that we do not offer skegs on kayaks under 16 feet in length. Shorter boats are so easy to control in all conditions that a skeg is simply unnecessary.

Combined Air and Water Temperature Guidelines for Safe Cold Weather Paddling!

Air and Water Temperature Combined < 120 degrees:
YOU MUST WEAR WET SUIT!

Air and Water Temperature Combined < 100 degrees:
DRY SUIT RECOMMENDED!

Minimum Protection: Layered Synthetics (always remember: Cotton Kills) under Wet Suit and a Dry Top.

Air and Water Temperature Combined < 80 Degrees:
(Paddle with caution!)
YOU MUST WEAR A DRY SUIT!