Actually, it's not. It's a pleasure. To be honest, when we got together back in the 70's, gave up our day jobs (those of us that had them) and decided to make boats for a living, we never thought we'd be here. But sure enough, our passion turned into a business. It just so happens that we get to paddle a lot because of it. So we wear the fact that we've introduced more paddlers to kayaking and paddled more miles than any other boat maker as a badge of honor. But you'll never see us resting on our past accomplishments. That's why you watched us pioneer the modern rotomolded kayak and push the envelope with new materials like Exolar and Airalite. So while you'll always find an adventure in every boat, you'll also find the most innovative technologies and designs put to good use.

But don't worry: we'll always stay true to our roots and the people who got us here. These days, a lot of paddlers think of us as the granddaddy of paddling, and we've learned that with age comes a boatload of wisdom – and innovation. Perception is one old man who's been running circles around all those paddling companies that we've seen come and go. So know that we were there in the beginning, and we'll be here long into the future.
THE GREAT THING ABOUT PERCEPTION® INNOVATION? IT NEVER STOPS.

At least within these doors, it doesn't. So know that when we bring you new materials, outfitting or boat designs, we immediately go back to the drawing board to out-do ourselves for the next year. And that's exactly what 2005 brings you. In addition to Camlok™ adjustable backbands and self-inflating AirCore™ lumbar and thigh supports, we're introducing LiquiCell® seats that give massive amounts of comfort and performance in a lightweight, non-bulky package. With the exclusive return of Exolar™ Hyper-Density Resin (the first of its kind), Perception® boats continue to be stronger, stiffer and more impact-resistant than any boat out there. But don't forget about Airalite™, which is light and stiff like Kevlar® but tough and cost-effective like plastic.

Take all these new features and materials and add new performance-enhancing designs in all of our boats – from the new fishing sit-on-top, the Caster, to the world's most popular family of day touring kayaks, the Carolinas – and you unmistakably will find yourself in a Perception® kayak, to which we say, "thanks."
SPACE AGE MATERIAL IN A KAYAK?

Why not? NASA would be proud of what we’ve done with Airalite. After all, the breakthrough material that is revolutionizing the kayaking industry is something that we helped grow from an idea into reality. So now there’s finally a material in existence that is sexy and stiff like composite kayaks and tough as plastic. But before you even climb into one of these boats, you’ll notice that glossy shine. For the scientifically curious out there, Airalite is a co-extruded, high-impact acrylic over premium impact ABS. And the best part? It’s actually priced closer to a plastic boat than a composite one. So not only is it easy on your back when you’re hauling it to and from the water, but it’s easy on your bank account as well.

For 2005, we’ve selected six boats from our expedition, day touring and rec categories that are designed to show-off what Airalite is all about. Find out for yourself what the future of paddling feels, looks and performs like. Because Airalite is already here.
Flushmount Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
These sporty-looking hatch covers make for an uncluttered deck, low wind resistance and easy access to your gear. Sturdy neoprene seals keep the elements out.

Ratchet Adjustable Backband
Easily hone in on your own comfort level with ratchet buckles that allow quick, secure adjustment of your backband. It’s comfort that enhances performance.

Bulkhead System
Our bulkheads are made with stiff microcell foam sealed twice with industrial-strength sealant that flexes (and doesn’t break the seal) on impact. Plus, they keep your gear safe and dry.

FasTrak™ Aluminum Rudder
Rudders like this one can come in handy when you’re taking on strong winds and currents. This redesigned foil-shaped beauty barely drags and provides better directional control than standard rudders. Plus, it’s made out of aluminum so it’s both strong and light.

Integrated Thighbraces
Performance-enhancing braces help stiffen the cockpit rim as well as give you the leverage you need for maneuvering or rolling. We’ve padded them with thick, customizable neoprene so they’re as comfortable as they are effective.

H-Channel Construction
An H-channel seal runs from bow to stern and ensures a very dry boat without any added width or weight.

DVD
Start Right DVD Video With Every Boat
All kayaks come with the new Start Right DVD with useful tips on safety, outfitting and paddling.
ECLIPSE AIRALITE™

This phenomenally capable expedition kayak – that knows no equal – just happens to be made of that revolutionary material you know and love. Designed with a flared midsection for improved secondary stability when loaded down, the upswept bow takes big swells with confidence. A FasTrak™ rudder offers solid tracking while two dry storage compartments with flush mounted hatches make sure you can pack all the long-term gear you need. Making sure the journey is most of the fun is the Comfort Fit System™ featuring integrated thighbraces and a thermoformed ergonomic seat. Yes folks, the Eclipse is in it for the long haul. Care to come along?

ECLIPSE 17.0 AIRALITE™

LENGTH: 17' (5.18m) • WIDTH: 22.25' (67cm)
WEIGHT: 64 lbs. (29.0kg) • COCKPIT: 34/19' (86/48cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 13' (33cm) • MAXIMUM LOAD: 425 lbs. (192kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 8850in³ (151L)

ECLIPSE 17.0 AIRALITE™ FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermoformed Ergonomic Seat
- Ratchet Adjustable Backrest
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™ Footbraces
- Integrated Thighbraces
- FasTrak™ Aluminum Rudder
- Flushmount Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD
CAROLINA AIRALITE™

Take a look at the boats that started it all in the day touring world. And the added benefits of Airalite™ have only made them better. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned paddler, you'll appreciate how the Carolinas cruise with efficiency and paddle with ease - not to mention track like a champ (and even more so with an optional Yakima® rudder). Airalite™ brings added durability while increasing acceleration and performance for impressive speed. An upgraded Comfort Fit System™ is icing on an already tempting cake featuring goodies like integrated thighbraces and a thermoformed ergonomic seat. The best in the kayaking world keeps getting better.

CAROLINA 14.5 AIRALITE™
Bigger is better - especially for the larger paddler.

- Length: 14.5' (4.45m) + 155 lbs. (69kg) + Cockpit: 34 x 16" (86 x 41cm)
- Deck Height: 13.75" (35cm) + Maximum Load: 400 lbs. (181kg)
- Storage Capacity: 600 cu in (10L)

CAROLINA 14.5 AIRALITE™ FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermofomed Ergonomic Seat
- Ratchet Adjustable Backrest
- Thermofomed Seat Pad
- Sliding Adjustable Keeper® Footbraces
- Integrated "Thighbraces"
- Yakima® Rudder (optional)
- Flushmount Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
- Bow and Stern Deck Rigging
- Value Rattle
- Start Right DVD

NEW CAROLINA 13.5 AIRALITE™*
A shorter length for the smaller paddler.

- Length: 13.5' (4.17m) + Weight: 24.25 lbs (10kg) + Cockpit: 34 x 16" (86 x 41cm)
- Deck Height: 12" (30cm) + Maximum Load: 335 lbs. (152kg)
- Storage Capacity: 600 cu in (10L)

CAROLINA 13.5 AIRALITE™ FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermofomed Ergonomic Seat
- Ratchet Adjustable Backrest
- Thermofomed Seat Pad
- Sliding Adjustable Keeper® Footbraces
- Integrated Thighbraces
- Yakima® Rudder (optional)
- Airalite™ Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
- Bow and Stern Deck Rigging
- Value Rattle
- Start Right DVD

* Ideal for women and smaller-framed paddlers. Smaller, lighter and designed to fit.
SONOMA AIRALITE™

It was our goal to make day tourers grin from ear to ear with the 13.5. And we consider that mission accomplished. The ideal size for women and smaller paddlers, this sleek and slender boat is great for workouts – especially for those seeking true straight-line tracking. And any workout will be a comfortable one with the Comfort Fit System™ rounded out with a Thermofoam seat pad, integrated thighbraces and a ratchet adjustable backrest. Day tourers...enjoy.

SONOMA 13.5 AIRALITE™

LENGTH: 13.7 ft (4.2m) • WIDTH: 22.5 in (57cm)
WEIGHT: 45 lbs (20.5kg) • CDORR: 33.25 x 18.75 in (84 x 48cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 12.5 in (32cm) • MAXIMUM LOAD: 250 lbs (113kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 4700 in³ (77L)

SONOMA 13.5 AIRALITE™ FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermoformed Ergonomic Seat
- Ratchet Adjustable Backrest
- Thermofoam Seat Pad
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™ Footbraces
- Integrated Thighbraces
- Airalite® Hatch Cover with Integrated Pad
- Bag and Frame Deck Rigging
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD
SONOMA AND SUNDANCE AIRALITE™

So what do these two recreational boats have in common? Well, the short list is: the innovation of Airalite™, thermoformed seats, Keepers™ footbraces, Thermofoam seat pads and a water bottle. But that's where the similarities end and the fun begins. Both are distinct in their own right, and if you care to read a little more, you'll find out why.

SONOMA 10.0 AIRALITE™ *

A true recreational wonder, this boat boasts a short length and less weight which makes it worth taking out for a fun-filled day on the water again and again. And again, for that matter.

LENGTH: 9'11" (3.01m)  
WIDTH: 26.25" (67cm)  
WEIGHT: 35 lbs. (16kg)  
COCKPIT: 36x21" (96x53cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 12.25" (32cm)  
MAXIMUM LOAD: 400 lbs. (181kg)

SONOMA 10.0 AIRALITE™ FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System
- Thermoformed Seat
- Adjustable Hi-Back Backrest
- Thermofoam Seat Pad
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™ Footbraces
- Stern Deck Rigging
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD

SUNDANCE 12.0 AIRALITE™

An ideal boat for fishing, bird watching and photography because of its excellent stability and efficient glide, the Sundance’s large cockpit provides easy entry and exit while giving you easy access to your photography equipment and fishing tackle.

LENGTH: 12'3" (3.73m)  
WIDTH: 25" (64cm)
WEIGHT: 44 lbs. (19.9kg)  
COCKPIT: 54x21.5" (137x55cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 12.75" (32cm)  
MAXIMUM LOAD: 400 lbs. (181kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 440cu. in. (7.3L)

SUNDANCE 12.0 AIRALITE™ FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System
- Thermoformed Seat
- Hi-Back Adjustable Backrest
- Thermoform Seat Pad
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™ Footbraces
- Airalite™ Hatch Cover with Integrated Seal
- Bow Deck Rigging
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD

* Ideal for women and smaller framed paddlers. Smaller, lighter and designed to fit.
EXPEDITION TOURING KAYAK SERIES

YOU CAN'T KEEP THEM IN A CAMERA.

Your own journeys are too big for that. They can’t be relayed to others in stories or souvenirs. They’re more personal than those things. Because only you know what it took to get there. Only you know exactly how the wind was affecting the roll and pitch of the sea. Only you remember every stroke of your paddle and every image that you laid eyes on. That’s why we’re here. To help you find that journey and make it your own. Sure, Perception® expedition kayaks are made with comfort and performance in mind, but they’re also made for you to enjoy the biggest and smallest experiences that you’ll come across in your boat. So not only will you find subtle design enhancements in this year’s models, but you’ll also feel what’s new with an upgraded Comfort Fit System™ featuring a durable, lightweight and extremely comfortable LiquiCell® seat and new, durable aluminum FasTrak™ rudder that has less drag and better control than any rudder out there. You’ll never hear us tell you what you should find in your own journey – that’s up to you. But we will always take great pride that you chose to bring us along, because it’s our privilege to be part of personal journeys all around the globe.
Thermoformed Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals

When you’re in it for the long haul, the little things matter. Keeping that in mind, we designed low-profile hatch covers that not only grant you easy access to your gear, but also make for an uncluttered deck and low wind resistance. Sturdy neoprene seals keep everything nice and dry.

Ergonomic Seat with LiquiCell® Technology

Our expedition boats are made to put in the miles and our outfitting is no different. We designed an ergonomic seat that cradles your body with leg lifts and rounded edges. A LiquiCell® seat pad uses shear-reducing technology for additional comfort and reduction of lower back stress.

Precision Adjustable Thighbraces

Comfort and control with two inches of fore and aft adjustability. And all this without sacrificing stiffness.

FasTrak™ Aluminum Rudder

Designed to give you maximum efficiency with minimum effort. For precision tracking, just lower the newly designed rudder. If you’re in a situation where maneuverability is more important, then raise it. It’s just that easy.

Camlok™ Adjustable Backband

Combining solid boat control with easy adjustability and extreme comfort, we recessed the cam buckles into the thighbraces so you can adjust them quickly from the cockpit. Non-slip webbing is routed from the buckles to both sides of the backband and elastic straps keep it firmly in place.

Bulkhead System

Our bulkheads serve a dual purpose: (1) Keep your gear dry with stiff minicell foam sealed twice with industrial-strength sealant; and (2) Make for a stiffer, more efficient boat.
Perception® is proud to play a key role in Jon Bowermaster’s Oceans 8 project. A world renowned explorer, Jon set out in 1999 to explore the world’s eight oceans from the seat of his Perception® sea kayak. As a result, he has written about adventure, the environment and exotic corners of the world for a variety of national and international publications, ranging from National Geographic to The New York Times, The Atlantic Monthly to Outside. All the while, he maintains his goal to “inform myself, and my various audiences, as best I can, about how the world works today. An avid interest in history and indigenous cultures means that today my expeditions are less about adventure-for-adventure’s-sake (which I think is still a fantastic goal!) and more about what the map of the world looks like early in the 21st century.” So far his travels have taken him to six continents and have included two-person sledding across Antarctica, sailing a 60-foot sailboat across the Atlantic, and first descents of rivers from Chile to China. Those adventures and others have resulted in eight books, including three with renowned polar explorer Will Steger. Find out where he’s headed next at www.jonbowermaster.com.
AVATAR SERIES

We love obsessive-compulsive employees. They'll tweak and tweek a boat until it's perfect. The proof is in people like Brent Reitz and our crew of touring boat designers who make sure that boats like the Avatars can handle the tiderips, rock gardens and surf – regardless of your paddling experience. Multi-chined Greenland style hulls are made to squeeze every knot of speed and agility possible out of these amazing boats and tracking is a snap with features like a retractable skeg and a low profile deck to take strong winds out of the picture. The hatches are flush on both the stern and bow and when you open them up, you'll find ample room for any kind of load you want to keep safe and dry. Each Avatar gets its own Comfort Fit System™ with LiquiCell® technology, so be sure to check out the specs and find the right fit for you. Sporty, sleek and versatile, what more could you ask for in an expedition kayak? How about Exolar™ – a plastic known for its strength, performance and low maintenance.

AVATAR 16.0

Medium-to-large paddlers, this is the Avatar for you. The cockpit's a little roomier to suit a larger frame and it has ample space for your longer legs as well. So, basically it's the Avatar, super-sized:

LENGTH: 15'10" (4.83m) • WIDTH: 22.75" (58cm)
WEIGHT: 56 lbs. (25.4kg) • COCKPIT: 34x19" (86x48cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 11.5" (29cm) • MAXIMUM LOAD: 300 lbs. (136kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 7500in³ (123L)

AVATAR 16.0 FEATURES:
• Comfort Fit System™
• Thermoformed Adjustable Ergonomic Seat
• Camlock™ Adjustable Backband
• LiquiCell® Seat Pad
• Sliding Adjustable Keepers™ Footstraps
• Precision Adjustable Thighbraces
• TruTrak™ Skeg
• Flushmount Hatch Covers
• with Neoprene Seals
• Security Bar
• Water Bottle
• Start Right DVD

AVATAR 15.5

More nimble than its big brother, the 15.5 is a great choice for those who want all the features the Avatar is known for in a lighter, shorter package. (Not to mention it's easier to cartop.)

LENGTH: 15'5" (4.7m) • WIDTH: 23.25" (59cm)
WEIGHT: 54 lbs. (24.5kg) • COCKPIT: 34x19" (86x48cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 11.5" (29cm) • MAXIMUM LOAD: 275 lbs. (125kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 7000in³ (115L)

AVATAR 15.5 FEATURES:
• Comfort Fit System™
• Thermoformed Adjustable Ergonomic Seat
• Camlock™ Adjustable Backband
• LiquiCell® Seat Pad
• Sliding Adjustable Keepers™ Footstraps
• Precision Adjustable Thighbraces
• TruTrak™ Skeg
• Flushmount Hatch Covers
• with Neoprene Seals
• Security Bar
• Water Bottle
• Start Right DVD

* Ideal for women and smaller-framed paddlers. Smaller, lighter and designed to fit.
ECLIPSE SERIES

Unparalleled touring performance and comfort that’s in perfect conjunction with unparalleled beauty. You’ll see what we mean with the long, streamlined hulls designed for fast rides and upswep ted bows and sterns that taper into low-profile midsections for all conditions volume and lift with minimal weathercocking. Track with confidence using your trusty FasTrak® rudder and you don’t have to pack light when you’ve got huge cargo space and hatches that allow you to get that gear in and out with ease. To round these popular boats off, we designed custom-made Comfort Fit Systems™ featuring components like LiquiCell® seat pads, Camlok™ adjustable backbands and Precision Adjustable thigh braces, just to name a few.

NEW ECLIPSE 17.0

Built for the long haul, this durable, affordable Exo lar® piece of paddling perfection will log some serious expedition miles with those serious expedition paddlers.

LENGTH: 17’7” (5.32m) • WIDTH: 23.25” (59cm)
WEIGHT: 68 lbs. (29.9kg) • COCKPIT: 34”x19” (86x48cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 13” (33cm) • MAXIMUM LOAD: 425 lbs. (193kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 1150 cu. in. (19L)

NEW ECLIPSE 16.0

Smaller expedition paddlers can use this Perception® favorite’s shorter length and incredible maneuverability to easily negotiate anything from big swells to picturesque, glassy waters.

LENGTH: 16’1” (4.89m) • WIDTH: 22.1” (56cm)
WEIGHT: 62 lbs. (29kg) • COCKPIT: 34”x19” (86x48cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 13” (33cm) • MAXIMUM LOAD: 325 lbs. (147kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 1150 cu. in. (19L)

NEW ECLIPSE 17.0 Airlite

All the good stuff you know the Eclipse for – but with the added benefits of Airlite®. For example, Airlite® is still like a composite boat, but tough as plastic. Plus, the noticeably glossy sheet will last as long as the boat does – which is a very, very long time. Find out more on page 6.

LENGTH: 17” (5.18m) • WIDTH: 22.35 (56cm)
WEIGHT: 64 lbs. (29.5kg) • COCKPIT: 34”x19” (86x48cm)
DECK HEIGHT: 13” (33cm) • MAXIMUM LOAD: 425 lbs. (193kg)
STORAGE CAPACITY: 1150 cu. in. (19L)

ECLIPSE 17.0 FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermoformed Adjustable Ergonomic Seat
- Camlok™ Adjustable Backband
- LiquiCell® Seat Pad
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™
- Footbraces
- Precision Adjustable Thigh Braces
- FasTrak® Aluminum Rudder
- Flushmount Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
- Security Bar
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD

ECLIPSE 16.0 FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermoformed Adjustable Ergonomic Seat
- Camlok™ Adjustable Backband
- LiquiCell® Seat Pad
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™
- Footbraces
- Precision Adjustable Thigh Braces
- FasTrak® Aluminum Rudder
- Flushmount Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
- Security Bar
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD

ECLIPSE 14.5 FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermoformed Ergonomic Seat
- Hatchett Adjustable Backband
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™
- Footbraces
- Precision Adjustable Thigh Braces
- FasTrak® Aluminum Rudder
- Rotomolded Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
- Security Bar
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD

ECLIPSE 17.0 Airlite FEATURES:
- Comfort Fit System™
- Thermoformed Ergonomic Seat
- Hatchett Adjustable Backband
- Sliding Adjustable Keepers™
- Footbraces
- Integrated Thighbraces
- FasTrak® Aluminum Rudder
- Rotomolded Hatch Covers with Neoprene Seals
- Security Bar
- Water Bottle
- Start Right DVD

Ideal for women and smaller-framed paddlers. Smaller, lighter and designed to fit.
Top 5 World Class Expedition Kayaking Destinations

Submitted by: Jon Bowermaster of OCEANS 8
Learn more at www.jonbowermaster.com.

The Channel Islands, California, North America
Just 15 miles off the coast of Southern California, once out on these windswept islands you could be in the center of the South Pacific. Standing on isolated Anacapa, after a paddle through the fog, looking north towards the horizon, battered by a sunset wind, it was hard to imagine the challenge – and fun – to come when we returned to Ventura, through 12-15 foot swells.

Fakarava, the Tuamotu Archipelago,
French Polynesia, Oceania
The third largest coral reef atoll in the world, halfway between Australia and South America. Kayaking the interior lagoon, from motu to motu (sand spits, washed up on the reef) was truly like discovering, or at least exploring, Paradise. Out of our boats, we dove to 160 feet with coral reef sharks, and grays and lemons as well. Living off caught fish and coconuts for weeks on end, it was as ‘out there’ as you can get.

Green River, Utah, North America
I suppose the 80-mile run down to the Colorado could be done in a sprint, but we took a leisurely 6 days to explore the slow-moving river and the massive canyons that line it. Long days of paddling under a hot sun, incredible afternoon climbs into the desert, beautiful moonlit nights, it was all easily accessed from Moab.

Hudson River, New York, North America
This is the waterway in my backyard; I live just 10 miles off the Hudson, an incredibly underused recreational river. Flowing 100 miles from my house, down to New York City, it is an ever-evolving, tidally-influenced river with remarkable options: reed-filled bays, the tight squeeze that leads past West Point, historical mansions and lighthouses. Traveling north, it gets more and more isolated as you close in on Lake Champlain.

Gabon, Africa
Last spring we took four kayaks up the coast of Gabon, right on the equator, an incredible first. No one had kayaked the coastline before. We spent long days on the ocean, eight and nine hours of paddling, not wanting to risk the growing midday surf to take a break. By day’s end, we were ready to get out of our boats. But then, just at sunset, as we began to paddle in, the big animals – elephants, hippos, buffalo, crocodiles – all began to emerge onto the beach, like some kind of real-life Disney World. So we sat, patiently, in the surf zone, watching as the sun set behind us, happy to be on the sea.
DAY TOURING KAYAK SERIES

HOW WILL YOU SPEND THIS DAY?

Some might think otherwise, but each day is filled with choices. So we’d like to ask you how you’ll spend this day. Is it filled to the brim with conference calls, fluorescent lights and responsibilities? There’s nothing wrong with that. But maybe it’s time to redefine “me time.” So tomorrow, if you wake up dreading the day, then may we suggest you reach for a paddle instead of your briefcase.

The big, open spaces are waiting. And with open water and a cleared mind, our day touring boats can get you where you want – or need – to go. This year, the most popular family of day touring boats ever – the Carolina series – is back with an enhanced Comfort Fit System™ featuring new self-inflating AirCore™ technology. These upgrades add to the already impressive responsiveness of these versatile boats. We know that for most of the world, everyday can’t be a day on the water, but it’s our goal to make those few precious days some of the most memorable you’ve ever had. All that’s missing is you.