

BY RONELL SMITH

Fly Gear



Here's a smattering of the exciting fly fishing gear released by companies in 2009.

Dakota Carry-On Rod & Reel Case

fishpond

This case is made of 1680 ballistic nylon fabric and has a waterproof, molded bottom and removable dividers for reels. A lidded, padded compartment holds up to four rods, and three additional see-through, spill-proof mesh exterior pockets can hold miscellaneous items.

» www.fishpondusa.com

Essence FS, FC & FW

Ross Reels

The company's three newest reels are said to be powerful and sturdy, yet lightweight. Each rod is assigned a graphite designation of R-1, R-2 or R-3 to highlight design differences, with a higher numbered R-value indicating a slightly more progressive action. All three rods are four-piece and ship with a rod sock and rod case.

» www.rossreels.com



Sil Fix Kit, Seam Grip & Aquaseal Wader Repair Kit

McNett

The company makes a number of great fly fishing-related repair kits, including Sil Fix Kit, a silicone repair kit ideal for tents, tarps, packs and outerwear; Seam Grip, a flexible urethane repair kit for everything from footwear to tents and inflatable mattresses; and Aquaseal Wader Repair Kit, which can be used for waders, inflatable boats or boots.

» www.mcnett.com

Simms Ultralight Shirt

Simms

Weighing a paltry 5.4 ounces, this technical fishing shirt has welded seams, mesh vents along the back and armpit vent ports. The shirt is made of polyester ripstop fabric, which is fast-drying, and offers 30 UPF sun protection.

» www.simmsfishing.com;

866-585-3570





Rio Santo

St. Croix Rods

Made with beginner and intermediate fly anglers in mind, Rio Santo rods offer performance and quality at a reasonable price. They are made from SCII graphite, have moderate-fast actions and come with aluminum-oxide stripper guides, stainless steel snake guides, uplocking aluminum reels seats and premium-grade cork handles.

» www.stcroixrods.com;
800-826-7042



Hellroaring Jacket

Cloudveil

This jacket is made of bonded InertiaPlus fabric that breathes, stretches and sheds moisture, making it ideal for damp, cool or windy weather. It also comes with high Napoleon pockets for large fly boxes, a vertical back pocket for easily accessing larger items and half-elastic cuffs to prevent updrafts. The jacket's articulated fit gives anglers plenty of mobility as well.

» www.cloudveil.com;
888-763-5969



Hellroaring Waders

Cloudveil

Made using five layers at the lower leg, four layers from knee to waist and three layers at the chest, these waders offer breathability without worry of leaks. The tri-point suspenders form a tight seal, the Schoeller gravel gaiters resist snags and a single front pocket stows tip-pet or tools.

» www.cloudveil.com;
888-763-5969



Hopper Dropper Storage System

Wright & McGill Co.

The company now has a complete line of tools and accessories, including the Hopper Dropper Storage System, which allows anglers to neatly store multiple fly rigs. The soft-sided, molded case holds pretied, multiple fly rigs, and removable fly boxes that hold additional flies.

» www.wright-mcgill.com;
720-941-8700



Nunya Vest

Cloudveil

The soft-shell vest sheds water like a duck, wicks moisture like no one's business and has 18 pockets. The vest closes via a zip or a clip and has a special location for monofilament refuse.

» www.cloudveil.com;
888-763-5969



Black Fly Series Boat Bag

Clear Creek

Though labeled as a boat bag, this handy tote is tough enough to bounce around on the back of a truck or be carried into the back country. The waterproof bag has an EVA foam no-skid bottom, compartments with interior pockets and dividers. The bag can even be used for saltwater fishing.

» www.clearcreek.net; 800-894-0483



PioPod fishpond

Fly fishermen looking for a handy way to discard trash would do well to carry the PioPod, a durable container that accepts everything from paper and plastic wrappers to cigarette butts. It also handles monofilament line and tip-pet with ease.

» www.fishpondusa.com

FTR



American Sportfishing Association Elects Board of Directors Members

Industry leaders will address a wide range of sportfishing issues

Six members of the American Sportfishing Association's (ASA) Board of Directors were elected or re-elected to fill three regional seats and three at-large seats. Their terms begin Oct. 1, 2009, and they will serve two-year terms. ASA's board members may serve three consecutive two-year terms.

Regional seats were secured by **Martin MacDonald**, director of conservation, Bass Pro Shops, Springfield, Mo., who will serve the South Central Region; **Bob Eakes**, president, Red Drum Tackle Shops, Buxton, N.C.,



Martin MacDonald, Bass Pro Shops



Bob Eakes, Red Drum Tackle Shops



Dick Pool, Pro-Troll Fishing Products

who will serve the Southeast Region; and **Dick Pool**, president, Pro-Troll Fishing Products, Concord, Calif., who will serve the West Region. Eakes was re-elected for a third term. MacDonald and Pool will serve their first two-year terms, although Pool previously served on ASA's Board of Directors.

At-large seats went to **John Jilling**, president, Wright & McGill Company, Denver, Colo.; **Geoff Ratte**, Water Gremlin Company, St. Paul, Minn.; and **Dave Bulthuis**, vice president of Sales, Costa Del Mar Sunglasses, Inc., Daytona Beach, Fla. Jilling and Ratte were re-elected to serve third and second terms respectively. Bulthuis was elected to his first term.

"We've got a great mix of talent, experience and perspective with the incoming Board of Directors who will compliment an already impressive

group of individuals," said Mike Nussman, ASA president and CEO. "The members of the American Sportfishing Association will be well-served by these dynamic leaders, industry veterans and steadfast advocates for the sportfishing industry. I look forward to working with everyone and thank them for their time and support."

Martin MacDonald, was elected to his first term on ASA's



John Jilling, Wright & McGill Company



Geoff Ratte, Water Gremlin Company



Dave Bulthuis, Costa Del Mar Sunglasses, Inc.

board of directors. MacDonald plans to address introducing adults to fishing, general

sportfishing education and economic vibrancy in the sportfishing industry.

Bob Eakes, who was re-elected to his third term, plans to continue to address angler access issues.

Dick Pool, an industry veteran, previously served six years on ASA's board. Pool plans to address the association's role in advocating for fisheries resources and the individual angler.

John Jilling, was re-elected to his serve his third term. Jilling has been with Wright & McGill for 36 years, the last 11 as president. He also served as International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trade (ICAST) Show Committee chairman. He plans to focus on angler access, recruitment and fisheries-resources issues.

Geoff Ratte was elected to his second term. He's been with Water Gremlin Company for 33 years. For

more than half of that time, Ratte has represented the sportfishing industry's interests on ASA committees as well as state and federal industry working groups and committees. He currently has a seat on the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council.

Dave Bulthuis, elected to his first term, currently serves as ICAST Show

Committee chairman. He plans to dedicate his time on the board to addressing issues that preserve and grow the sport and the industry.

The current members of the Board of Directors are Jeff Pontius, ZEBCO Brands (Chairman); Jeff Marble, Frabill, Inc. (Vice Chairman); Gregg Wollner, RapalaUSA, (Secretary); Peter Foley, Boone Bait Company, Inc. (Treasurer); Randy Lemcke, Plano Molding Company (Immediate Past Chairman); Thomas Dammrich, National Marine Manufacturers Association; Ed Dinkins, Boy Scouts of America; Bob Eakes, Red Drum Tackle Show, Inc.; John Frampton, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; John Jilling, Wright & McGill Company; Jim Lebson, G.Loomis, Inc.; Chip Powell, Mason Tackle Company; Geoff Ratte, Water Gremlin Company; Bruce Stanton, PRADCO-Fishing; Gary Zurn, Big Rock Sports; Ken Hammond, The Hammond Group (ex-officio); and Darrell Lowrance (ex-officio). ■