

Product Reviews from Bike and Surf California trip

By Scott Paynton

Read about the trip here: www.phoresia.org/?p=307

We received a lot of amazing products for the trip and I want to let others know how they worked. For the purpose of this article, I'm going to stay focused on the surf equipment rather than the cycling equipment. The reviews below are all positive, which is a testament to the ability to make sustainable equipment that is durable and works well.

Quiver Kaddy and Equinox Trailers

All I can say about these two trailers is that we were fortunate to get the BEST bicycle trailers on the market for our purposes. The Quiver Kaddy is specifically designed for towing surfboards/watercraft, while the Equinox Trailer can carry surfboards and up to 600 lbs. of gear. Both worked flawlessly. We beat them up on rough, narrow roads and they held up without a problem. They were both totally stable, and other than climbing hills, we could hardly tell they were there. If you want a trailer simply for carrying boards, the Quiver Kaddy is a great choice. If you want to carry boards, but use the trailer to carry gear, or people, the Equinox Trailer is amazing.

<http://www.equinoxtrailers.com/>

Biofoam boards shaped by Ned McMahon

Both Mike and I have ridden a significant number of boards and have a pretty good feel for subtle differences in materials and size. First, it's amazing to get a board shaped by a true expert. Ned has shaped 30,000 boards over thirty years, and I could tell this right away when I first started paddling into the lineup. For our boards, he used Biofoam for the core and glassed them with bamboo, silk, and eco-friendly resin. These represent the latest in sustainable board manufacturing. They are light, responsive, and very strong. I have no hesitations recommending boards shaped with Biofoam. They are becoming easy to find, so support your green board shapers.

<http://www.homeblownus.com/>

Matuse Wetsuits

I surf in northern California not far from the Oregon border. I usually surf in a 5mm or 6mm suit. When the really thin 4mm Matuse arrived, I had my suspicions about keeping warm. The first day I tried it the air temperature was 36 degrees and the water temperature was 49 degrees. I surfed for two hours and never got cold. The neoprene is made from limestone byproducts

rather than petroleum and has a ridiculous amount of stretch to it. It's easy to get in and out of and dries really fast. I've only had it 3 months so I can't comment on its longevity, but so far, the suit is holding up fine and doing its job. It's nice to have so much flexibility and warmth at the same time. The Matuse essentially acts like a skin.

<http://www.matuse.com/>

Wave Tribe Board Bags and Leashes

What can I say about these products? They're great. The board bag is made from hemp and recycled plastic. It's well padded, has a lot of storage pockets, and fits two boards. Being on the road towing your board behind a bike opens your boards up to a lot of damage potential. The boards came through the trip without a mark on them. Both boards also were held to our ankles with Wave Tribe's leashes. These leashes are made from recycled materials and are strong as can be. Needless to say, my future leashes and board bags are coming from Wave Tribe.

<http://www.wavetribe.com/>

Matunas Eco-Wax

When I first got the Matunas wax I was a bit bummed, but not for long. I put on a fresh coat of Matunas Eco-Wax and headed into the water. I noticed that it got slick really quick. I thought that it was the wax so I put on a coat of wax from a bar of standard wax. The same thing happened. It wasn't the wax from Matunas, it was the weather. After that first trial, I've used nothing but the Matunas wax and I love it. It goes on really easy, stays on, and keeps me stuck to the board. In fact, the other day I finished my session and was about to flop onto my belly to ride the whitewater into shore. I couldn't do it because my foot was literally sticking to the board. Again, I will only buy Matunas Eco-Wax from now on.

<http://www.matunasco.com/>

Trunq

If you're like most surfers, you use a Rubbermaid tub to store your suit and rinse it out. If you're like most surfers, you also have to fumble around bags to find wax, sunscreen, fin keys, etc. Well, Trunq has solved this and solved it well. They are producing a rubber tub made from recycled plastic and manufactured right here in California. The Trunq is so strong you can actually stand and sit on it. Inside is a tray that fits nicely on the top to store all of the little items you need. It also comes with a matt to change on. It is amazingly handy. They also have a lock so you can lock the lid and keep things a bit more secure. Using a model like Patagonia, the Trunq is meant to stand up for the long haul so you don't have to keep buying plastic tubs, which save you money and helps the environment. While they cost considerably more than going to

Wal-Mart and buying a standard rubber tub, the convenience of the storage, the lock, the recycled nature of the product, and its longevity make it all worth it. Buy one.

<http://www.trunq.com/>

DocksLocks

Around our area, most people don't lock up their boards on their cars when they're not using them. This usually isn't a problem, but people do get their boards stolen now and then. DocksLocks totally solves this problem. Whether you have a longboard or shortboard, it's easy to lock your boards up with DocksLocks. In fact, on the trip we locked our bikes using this lock, as well as our boards, when we weren't around our bikes. It's well worth the small cost of this item to know your boards are secure.

<http://www.dockslocks.com/>

Finisterre

Finisterre sent us a couple of their Merino base layers. I can't say enough positive about these things. We wore them under our jersey's when cycling and they kept us incredibly warm despite how thin they are. On the flip side, when it got hot, they also breathed so well you could still wear them to protect yourself from the sun. Now, here's the best part, you can also use them as a base layer under your wetsuit. So, rather than a traditional rashguard, throw one of these on and you'll keep warm much longer in the water. I swear, it's like a magic material. One of these combined with the Matuse wetsuit and you can surf until your arms give out.

<http://www.finisterreuk.com/>

Reviews compiled by Scott Paynton

<http://www.bikeandsurfcalfornia.com/>