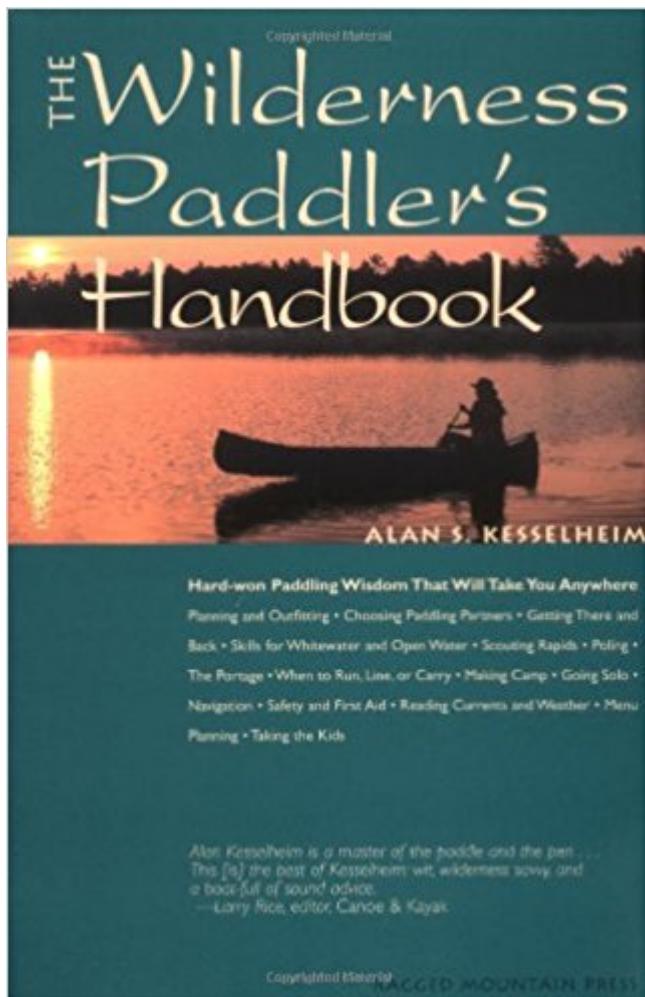


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# The Wilderness Paddler's Handbook



## Synopsis

This book by America's preeminent canoeing author combines evocative wilderness writing with nuts-and-bolts coverage of all practical aspects of canoe tripping. Alan Kesselheim uses the lessons he's learned first-hand over thousands of miles of wilderness paddling to create a context for conveying everything a new or experienced paddler can expect to encounter, on any type of water. Kesselheim's unsurpassed expertise—gained by paddling under every condition imaginable—speaks clearly to readers looking to acquaint themselves with the essentials of traveling by canoe. Helpful sidebars, interspersed throughout the book, provide step-by-step instructions on all critical considerations, such as how to plan, pack, equip, and modify a canoe for weekend or extended trips. The *Wilderness Paddler's Handbook* is surely a classic-in-the-making and must-reading for serious canoeists and outdoor book enthusiasts alike.

## Book Information

Paperback: 284 pages

Publisher: Ragged Mountain Press; 1 edition (January 30, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0071354182

ISBN-13: 978-0071354189

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,314,485 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Tango #166 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature Travel > Adventure > Canoeing #645 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Kayaking

## Customer Reviews

"Alan Kesselheim is a master of the paddle and the pen . . . This [is] the best of Kesselheim: wit, wilderness savvy, and a boat-full of sound advice."--Larry Rice, editor, *Canoe & Kayak* Welcome to simplicity. You are holding the only wilderness paddling guide that tells you not just what gear you need, but what to leave behind and how to judge the difference. Welcome to discovery. This guide equips you to design and plan your own expedition instead of slavishly following a trip mapped by an "expert." Welcome to experience. Any good book can outline the requisite skills for backcountry paddling. This one also shows by example when and why to use them. Here are the keys to canoe

tripping, whether for expeditions of one to one hundred days. Alan Kesselheim is both a master paddler--with 25 years and more than 10,000 miles of wilderness paddling behind him--and a writer of uncommon grace and skill. He has created here a book of concentrated wisdom that is so pleasurable to read you may scarcely realize how much you're learning. The *Wilderness Paddler's Handbook* packages rich nuggets of experience in stories that entertain while they instruct. Most how-to books are written either to grow into or to outgrow. Not this one. You can start with *The Wilderness Paddler's Handbook*, and you can keep going. You can paddle right off the map. "Alan Kesselheim's mix of paddling experiences and superb writing skills make him ideally suited to dispense this highly personal and entertaining look at the how-tos of canoe tripping."--Michael Peake, editor, *Che-Mun: The Journal of Canadian Wilderness Canoeing* "Alan Kesselheim is a first-rate writer who flat out knows what he's talking about. This is a book that will enrich your days on the water."--Jerry Dennis, author of *From a Wooden Canoe* "As an explorer whose heart is ever lost to the next river bend, Kesselheim inspires canoeists to seek the wilds. In *The Wilderness Paddler's Handbook*, he is merciless to paddlers who've maintained that their ignorance has kept them home. It's all here!"--Jan Nessel, former editor-in-chief, *Canoe & Kayak*

Alan Kesselheim is a contributing editor to *Canoe & Kayak* and has written for *Backpacker*, *Outside*, and *Sports Afield*, among many other leading magazines. He is also a columnist for *Big Sky Journal* and the author of six critically acclaimed books, including *Threading the Currents*, *Water and Sky*, *Going Inside*, and *Silhouette on a Wide Land*. His 10,000 miles of wilderness paddling have been accomplished alone, with groups, with his wife, Marypat, and with his three children from their infancy. He has completed two trips of more than a year's duration, including a 420-day expedition with Marypat across northern Canada.

This is the best canoeing book I own. Here's why:1) The book is full of great advice for both the beginner and advanced paddler, including DIY projects that are really innovative (canoe spray deck, solo saddle, etc). There are tons of ideas on how to make the trips more efficient and easier (this book convinced me to start dehydrating my own meals - haven't looked back since)!2) The book's writing style is straightforward and non-intimidating.3) There are anecdotes throughout the book that really immerse you in Alan's wilderness experiences, and serve as an inspiration for future trips. Awesome book. I bought it four years ago, and read it about 4-5 times since. I've learned something new each time.

i need it to change , very recommend . very patient and helpful. just fine, Great Price for a Very Sharp Bread product.

While not as extensive as Cliff Jacobson's book on expedition canoeing, its main advantage is that it makes wilderness canoeing seem less a daunting and complicated task, but more an exciting possibility (with some careful planning, of course). In addition it gives clear advice on aspects from planning the trip, who to take in the group, and family trips. The text is interesting to read with both funny and not-so-funny anecdotes. More often than not I turn to this book in my hours of despair when my the planning just gets too much. Life can be too complicated (and gimicky) sometimes. Not so with this book.

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