

# ALPACKA RAFT OWNER'S MANUAL

#thisispackrafting



**ALPACKA RAFT**

**2019 Ultralight Series**



Sheri Tingey and her son Thor built the first Alpacka Raft by hand in their Chugiak, Alaska basement in October of 2000. Their goal was to create a lightweight backpackable raft that could withstand the rigors of the Alaskan wilderness, like the 600-mile traverse of the Brooks Range that Thor and four friends had completed that summer. From that very first raft, Alpacka Raft has been the industry standard for design and innovation, materials, quality, and Made in USA manufacturing. From everyone at our factory in Mancos, Colorado, thank you for choosing Alpacka Raft!

This owner's manual and additional resources are available at [www.alpackaraft.com](http://www.alpackaraft.com).

# SCOUT FEATURES



## Features Description:

- **Hull:** 9.2-inch Classic Hull
- **Bow:** Front of the packraft
- **Stern:** Rear of the packraft.
- **Scout Seat:** Inflatable Scout Seat attaches to floor.
- **Grab Loops:** For attaching grab line. 1 on stern.
- **Valve:** Lightweight inflation assist valve allows inflation and deflation with a 1/4 turn of the valve core. Works with inflation bag and tempering by mouth.
- **(Optional) Cargo Fly:** Airtight Ti-Zip Superseal zipper allows internal gear storage. Keeps gear dry and improves weight distribution and stability. Not compatible with Internal Dry Bags.

# CARIBOU FEATURES



## Features Description:

- **Hull:** 11.7-Inch Classic Hull with Late Rise Bow
- **Bow:** Front of the packraft.
- **Stern:** Rear of the packraft.
- **Classic Seat:** Inflatable Classic Seat attaches to floor.
- **Handle:** Allows easy dragging up on shore or carrying from the front.
- **Grab Loops:** For attaching grab lines and gear. 2 on stern.
- **Valve:** Lightweight inflation assist valve allows inflation and deflation with a 1/4 turn of the valve core. Works with inflation bag and tempering by mouth.
- **(Optional) Cargo Fly:** Airtight Ti-Zip Superseal zipper allows internal gear storage. Keeps gear dry and improves weight distribution and stability. Internal Dry Bags sold separately, but cannot be clipped in place.
- **Strap Plates:** 1-inch wide slot for attaching straps. 4 on bow oriented to secure a bicycle to the bow.

# SAFETY WARNING

Packrafting can be dangerous and physically demanding. The user or purchaser of packrafts & accessory equipment should understand that participating in packrafting might involve serious injury or death. You are responsible for your own actions and decisions. The fabric used to manufacture our packrafts is selected with lightweight and packability being the most important factor. Lightweight raft fabric can easily be punctured and this risk must be a constant consideration during raft use. Individual paddlers assume all responsibility for keeping their boats from being punctured or damaged by any of the obstacles and dangers present on rivers, lakes and oceans. The individual paddler is responsible for deciding whether it is safe to float in or across a body of water or float down a river. The individual paddler is responsible for the safe and appropriate use of accessory equipment, and for not using it in situations that the individual cannot control the boat safely. Do not float in any water in which you are not prepared to swim. A punctured tube will result in an immediate immersion in the water and you must be prepared to deal with the resulting danger. Familiarize yourself with your boat's capabilities and limitations. Due to the wide variability of water conditions and obstacles, Alpacka Raft makes no claims as to Alpacka rafts suitability for or durability against specific bodies of water and physical obstacles.

The following safety standards are recognized by the National Paddling Sports Association, and we recommend all users of this product adhere to these standards:

- Get paddle sports instruction specific to this type of craft.
- Obtain certified first aid training and carry first aid and rescue/safety equipment.
- Always wear a nationally approved personal flotation device.
- Always wear a helmet where appropriate.
- Dress appropriately for weather conditions; cold water and/or cold weather can result in hypothermia.
- Check your equipment prior to each use for signs of wear or failure.
- Never paddle alone.
- Do not paddle in flood conditions.
- Be aware of appropriate river water levels, tidal changes, dangerous currents and weather changes.
- Scout unfamiliar waters; portage where appropriate.
- Do not exceed your paddling ability; be honest with yourself.
- Consult a physician prior to your paddle sports training.
- You must not use alcohol or mind altering drugs prior to using this product.
- Follow the manufacturer recommendations for use of this product.
- If additional outfitting is added to this craft, use manufacturer's approved materials only; do not impair entry or exit access.
- Read owners information package prior to using this product.

The user of this product acknowledges both an understanding and an assumption of the risk involved in paddle sports. Alpacka Raft, LLC has no way to screen the experience, judgment, or abilities of buyers. Therefore, we recommend that all users adhere rigorously to these safety guidelines.

# ULTRALIGHT SERIES BASIC SETUP & INFLATION

**Seat Installation:** The Caribou includes a Classic Seat and the Scout Seat is an optional upgrade on the Scout. Install the seat by inserting the oval toggle attached to the floor of the boat through the plastic D-ring attached to the seat with the inflation nozzle facing up. Inflate the seat and push into place before tempering to desired firmness.

**Bicycle Installation (Caribou Only):** The Caribou bow is designed specifically to carry a bicycle. It has 4 strap plates oriented to secure the bike with ski straps with the top tube on the bow, the chainstay on the left and the fork on the right. The wheels can be secured to the top of the bike with additional straps. A Titan-Straps custom bike tie down kit is available as an upgrade on all Caribou models.

**Folding | Rolling:** There is no right or wrong way to roll or fold your boat for transport. Do whatever fits best for your use and carrying method. We recommend the following ways:

- For a wide thinner roll, fold in half lengthwise and roll from the bow.;
- For a narrower thicker roll, fold into thirds lengthwise and roll from the bow;
- For a relatively square fold, try folding into quarters lengthwise and then folding in 1-foot length sections from the bow and secure with a strap.

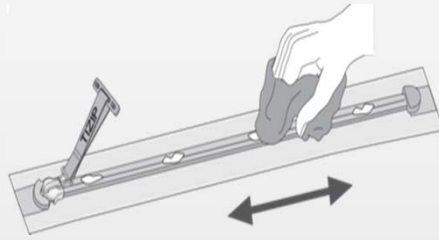
**Valve:** Our Temper Assist Valve minimizes air loss while inflating and improves your ability to increase the air pressure in your packraft. It is not a true one-way valve that other inflatables may have, which requires a pump to engage the spring and allow air to pass through. The new valve is a complement to our lightweight inflation bag and to the air capacity of your lungs.

- Keep the valve clean and free of sand and other debris.
- Make sure the gasket is seated in the valve cap, an extra gasket is included in your basic repair kit.
- Colder weather may affect how the plastic flap engages.
- The valve itself does not fully seal, the valve cap with gasket will do this.
- As your boat ages, the performance of the valve may or may not decrease due to a buildup of sand or improper storage in the open position

## **Inflation:**

- To inflate, turn the blue dial counterclockwise to the closed position and thread the inflation bag onto the valve.
- While using the inflation bag, the internal flap will close and prevent air loss as you near capacity. The flap will not engage until there is enough internal pressure to push against the flap. Remove the inflation bag after you have added as much air as you can with it. A hiss of air may still escape at this point.
- Blow directly into the valve by mouth until you have added enough pressure to make the tubes of your boat firm. Thread the valve cap onto the valve to make an air tight seal. Before you launch, temper your boat in the water and add air until the pressure stabilizes, this may take a few times depending upon water temperature and the volume of your boat.
- To deflate, turn the blue dial clockwise to the open position to release air.
- Store your boat with the valve in the counterclockwise closed position. This will release the pressure on the flap and prevent it from creating a memory from the open position.

# CARGO FLY CARE & MAINTENANCE



## You must clean, dry, and lubricate your Cargo Fly Zipper after every trip and often while in the field!

**MAINTENANCE KIT:** You will need a small (about 3x3") clean rag, zipper lubricant, and a small brush. You can use old t-shirts to make new rags. Old toothbrushes make great cargo fly brushes. Keep your kit with you in the field and maintain often.

**CLEANING:** If you are having trouble getting your zipper to close, it is most likely due to an obstruction in the chain (i.e. the teeth). Therefore, you need to keep your zipper chain clean and free of sand, dirt, and debris. Because lubricant attracts sand, we do not recommend applying lubricant direct to the chain. If your zipper needs cleaning, start with a small brush and use warm soap and water for more difficult cleaning.

**LUBRICATION STEPS:** Your zipper should always run smooth and easy. If your zipper is difficult to move or feels sticky, it needs lubrication. Always make sure the zipper chain is clean before lubricating.

1. With the zipper CLOSED apply a lube to the rag and use the rag to work the lube into the urethane laminated exterior of the zipper. Do not apply lubricant directly to the zipper teeth!
2. Continue to use the rag to until all exterior surfaces of the closed zipper are coated.
3. Wipe down the zipper until all excess lubricant is removed. Excess lubricant will attract dirt and sand.
4. Open the zipper and use the rag to lightly lube the chain and sealing edges.
5. Apply a small amount of lube to the docking end.
6. Open and close the zipper several times, it should slide smoothly and close easily. Repeat the above steps if necessary.

The goal is to regularly maintain a very thin coat of lube along the length of the zipper allowing the head to slide freely and dock easily.

**STORAGE:** After each use, leave the zipper open and allow to dry thoroughly. Failure to dry will cause the zipper to rot and crack, which is not covered by warranty! If you need to travel home with a wet packraft, leave the zipper on the outside where it can breathe.

### TROUBLESHOOTING:

- **Separating Behind Zipper Head:** If the zipper separates behind the head, it will self heal by pulling the zipper head behind the separation and reclosing. You may need to follow the cleaning and lubrication steps to make it reseal. If necessary, close the zipper by hand through the problem area.
- **Separating at Zipper Base:** If the zipper separates at the base, you will need to clean the area and manually close the first 3cm of the zipper by hand and then back the head over the closed area to reset.
- **Leak at Zipper Base:** Sometimes the zipper will close, but leave a small gap at the zipper base due to an obstruction in the teeth. You will need to separate the zipper by hand at the base, clean the area, and then reclose following the steps above.

**WARRANTY & REPLACEMENT:** Only the installation, not the Ti-Zip zipper, of the Cargo Fly is covered by our Warranty Policy. We offer a reduced cost replacement fee of \$100 for all Cargo Fly zippers through our Repair & Retrofit Services.

# STORAGE | CARE | MAINTENANCE

## Alpacka Rafts are Low-Fuss and Low-Maintenance

Our packrafts are designed for people who are hard on gear. Part of our goal has been to build boats that don't need a lot of attention either on the river or off it. Your boat will endure a lot of abuse. Very little is needed to keep your boat in good shape from year to year. However, simple preventative care will lengthen its life and keep it beautiful.

**IN THE FIELD:** Other than Cargo Fly Zipper care, very little needs to be done to keep your packraft in good working order while in the field.

Generally attaching your packraft to your back (or bicycle) in a way that it can fall off (this has happened) or is subject to excessive abrasion.

### AT HOME:

- **Clean Your Packraft:** Washing with mild dish soap helps keep your boat clean and prevent the spread of invasive species across waterways.
- **Air Dry Your Packraft:** If your boat is stored wet, it will damage the Cargo Fly zipper and can develop a strong cat urine odor which can be very difficult to remove. In addition, a wet packraft can spread invasive species. We recommend hanging your boat to dry after every trip before storing.
- **Storing Your Packraft:** After it is clean and dry, we recommend storing your packraft in a cool dry place with good air flow. Hanging, loosely rolling or folding are good methods. We do not recommend storing your packraft in its stuffsack. To reduce UV aging, do not store your packraft in direct sunlight.
- **We recommend periodic Seaworthiness Checks:** These should be done when pulling the boat out after a period of storage, after any non-design use (ex: using it as a tarp or gear-sled), or after any event that might have damaged the boat.
- **Do not use "UV-Protectant" or similar sprays on your packraft:** These sprays create a hard outer coating that prevents repair materials and glue from sticking to the packraft. If you do accidentally use a UV protectant spray on your boat, it will wear off after use but you will have trouble with repairs or gluing any attachments to the boat until it does wear off.



# REPAIR GUIDE

**Always bring a repair kit and know how to use it.** Almost all field repair is about knowing how the repair materials you have work and thinking through the repair that you need to perform. Most repair mistakes are made by not knowing the repair materials or rushing the repair. Be patient and use an extra pair of hands if available!

## Common Repair Materials:

- **Alcohol Wipes:** Used to clean and prep surfaces before repair.
- **Patch-N-Go:** A strong, easy, and effective repair tape. Great for most tube and floor repairs.
- **Tyvek® Tape:** The easiest field repair material on the market. Be sure to remove Tyvek® Tape repairs soon as the tape will bond to the boat fabric if left for long periods.
- **Tenacious Tape®:** A strong repair tape for the uncoated side of raft and spray-deck fabrics and pinholes on the packraft.
- **Gorilla Tape®:** For backing the inside of tube repairs and quick spray-deck repairs, or a temporary tube or floor repair.
- **Aquaseal®:** Aquaseal is an air-curing adhesive sealant. It's great for patching small holes, reinforcing stitches, sealing seams, and much more. Minimum 8-hour cure or 2-hours with Cotol accelerant.
- **Aquaseal® UV:** Instant curing version Aquaseal, but less durable.
- **Carmo PVC-PUR SEAL® Glue:** Great for valve repair as well as bonding fabrics together.
- **Urethane tube and floor fabric:** Patch fabric is included in your repair kit. These can be cut to shape and glued on with Carmo glue in the field for long lasting repairs.
- **Clifton 1-part:** This is not a field repair material, but is an ideal glue for performing home repairs and attaching additional tie downs to your packraft.

## Pinholes and Small Tube (<1") Tears

- Clean and dry the affected area.
- Effective repair materials are Tyvek Tape, Tenacious Tape, Patch-N-Go, Aquaseal UV, and Aquaseal
- Our preferred method is either (a) Aquaseal UV; or (b) Tyvek Tape to get you back on the water and a replace with Aquaseal overnight.

## Medium (1"-3") Tube Tears

- Clean and dry the affected area.
- Effective field repair materials are Tyvek Tape, Patch-N-Go, Aquaseal, or a full fabric patch with Carmo PVC-PUR
- Our preferred field method is either (a) Tyvek Tape to get you back on the water and a replace with Aquaseal overnight; or (b) Patch-N-Go.

## Large (3+") Tube Tears

- Clean and dry the affected area. Back with Tenacious or Gorilla tape.
- Effective field repair materials are Tyvek Tape, Patch-N-Go, Aquaseal, or a full fabric patch with Carmo PVC-PUR
- Our preferred field method is either (a) Tyvek Tape to get you back on the water and replace with a full patch when you get finished with your trip; (b) Patch-N-Go; or (c) a full fabric patch with Carmo PUR-PVC.

## Floor Damage

- Clean and dry the affected area.
- Effective field repair materials are Tyvek Tape, Patch-N-Go, Aquaseal, or a full fabric patch with Carmo PVC-PUR

## Uncoated Fabrics (Seats and Dry Suits)

- Clean and dry the affected area.
- Effective field repair materials are Aquaseal, Tenacious Tape, and Aquaseal UV.

# LIMITED WARRANTY

## Limited Lifetime Warranty

Except as otherwise set forth herein, Alpaca Raft, LLC warrants its products to be free from manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship for the life of the product. This warranty only applies to the original owner and is not transferable. Original proof of purchase is required. Claims under this warranty must be made directly to Alpaca Raft, Box 1091, Mancos, CO 81328. The customer's sole and exclusive remedy under this limited warranty will be for Alpaca Raft, LLC to repair or replace the defective product, at Alpaca Raft, LLC's sole discretion. Except as described herein, Alpaca Raft, LLC makes no other warranties, guaranties, or representations of any type (express or implied), and all warranties (including any implied warranties of reasonable care, merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose) are hereby disclaimed.

## Local law

This warranty statement gives the customer specific legal rights. The customer may also have other rights which vary from state to state (USA), from province to province (Canada), and from country to country elsewhere in the world. To the extent that this warranty statement is inconsistent with the local law, this warranty shall be deemed modified to be consistent with such law, under such local law, certain disclaimers and limitations of this warranty statement may apply to the customer.

## Limitations of Liability

To the extent allowed by applicable law, except for the obligations specifically set forth in this warranty statement, in no event shall Alpaca Raft, LLC or its third party suppliers be liable for direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages.

## Limitations of Warranty

- Cargo Fly Zippers:
  - Cargo fly zippers require specialized care and maintenance to operate correctly. Failure to keep your Cargo Fly zipper properly maintained will void your Cargo Fly installation warranty.
  - Cargo Fly zippers are covered by a 1-year warranty for defects in materials and workmanship solely with respect to the installation of the zipper. The Ti-Zip zipper is not covered by this warranty.
  - We offer a reduced cost replacement fee of \$100 for all Cargo Fly zippers through our Repair & Retrofit Services.
- This warranty does not apply to products that have been modified or altered, except for modifications specifically authorized in writing by the manufacturer and performed to the manufacturer's specifications.
- This warranty does not apply to damage to the product caused by accident, improper care, abuse of the product, noncompliance with manufacturers specifications of usage or any other circumstances in which the product has been subjected to uses, forces or loads beyond its design.
- This warranty does not apply when the hull number or production code has been deliberately altered, defaced or removed.
- This warranty does not apply to normal wear and tear, including but not limited to wear and tear to seams, tubes, and floors. Wear and tear parts are subject to damage as a result of normal use, failure to maintain according to Alpaca Raft, LLC's recommendations and/or usage in conditions or applications other than recommended.
- Spray decks, seats, and all attachment points are covered by a 1-year warranty in materials and workmanship. These items are designed to be lightweight at the expense of durability and longevity under normal use.
- This warranty shall not cover damages caused by the use of parts of different manufacturers.
- This warranty shall not cover damages caused by the use of parts that are not compatible, suitable and/or authorized by Alpaca Raft for use with Alpaca Raft's products.
- This warranty shall not cover damages resulting from commercial and rental use.
- **Scout and Caribou tube fabrics are covered by a 5-year warranty in materials and workmanship. After this warranty period expires, we will not warranty any defects in materials and workmanship on the Scout and Caribou tubes, but we may (in our sole discretion) offer a repair or replacement at a reduced cost.**

# SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Whether you have questions about your boat, need assistance with a repair or warranty claim, or just want to share some pictures of your latest adventure, you can contact us for assistance at:

Alpacka Raft  
P.O. Box 1091  
192 S. Main Street  
Mancos, CO 81328

Phone: 970-533-7119

Email: [workshop@alpackaraft.com](mailto:workshop@alpackaraft.com)

For specific repair questions, you can contact our repair specialists at [service@alpackaraft.com](mailto:service@alpackaraft.com)

