



Along for the **RIDE**

Anywhere in Canada people spend their summer weekends boating, tubing has become a popular pastime. It's really no surprise. The learning curve is minimal - making it the perfect fun activity for boaters from a broad age range. Each year, inflatable towable manufacturers strive to come up with new eye-catching designs offering more versatility and new unique ways to ride. Here's a preview of several ingenious new tubes shore-side spectators will see whizzing by this summer. Hopefully, it will give you and your family a few exciting ideas of how to fulfill your need for speed on those hot sunny afternoons on the lake.

AIRHEAD G-FORCE II

New for 2013, Airhead's G-Force delivers a wild face-first, deck-style ride for up to two thrill seekers. To help overcome centrifugal force as you hit sharp turns, the G-Force provides a pair of topside stabilizer fins. Decked out in a sharp electric blue cover with edgy black-and-white graphics the G-Force is an excellent blend of style and excitement. Add to that its sub-\$200 price tag and you realize you're getting excellent bang-for-your-buck. The G-Force comes equipped with four deluxe nylon-wrapped handles with neoprene knuckle guards for a confident and comfortable grip. Inside, the unit has a tough heavy-gauge PVC bladder, fully covered by a durable double-stitched nylon cover. The unit measures 64 inches by 60 inches (deflated) and comes with the Airhead's simple-to-hook-up Kwik-Connect Tow Point system. A speed safety valve makes launching and storing the G-Force hassle-free.

About: \$180



AIRHEAD FUSION

The Fusion is one of Airhead's perennial favourites. For 2013, the Fusion debuts a new explosion-themed graphics package more indicative of its name. The three-rider unit features a center cockpit sandwiched by two deck riding positions with comfortable neoprene pads. The cockpit provides the perfect spot for introducing little ones to tubing, while still allowing them to feel more secure sitting on the inside. The cockpit's nylon-covered inflatable floor and headrest provide a little extra comfort as well. By contrast, teenagers and adults will appreciate the wild ride offered by the outside deck positions. Two inflatable fins in the back corners help riders stay on board in the quickest of turns. Airhead's Kwik-Connect and speed safety valve make starting and ending your day on the water quick and convenient. The Fusion has a durable 30-gauge PVC bladder that's fully covered by rugged 840-denier nylon. Deflated, the unit measures 71 inches by 87 inches.
About: \$310



AIRHEAD BOB BOOSTER BALL

Airhead's BOB Booster Ball is designed to improve the quality of your ride by keeping your towrope out of the water. This serves to reduce drag, rope spray and downward tugs. It features a heavy-duty full nylon cover, self bailing drain vent and speed safety valve for fast and easy inflation and deflation. The booster ball also comes with a 60-foot long line with a 4,100-pound break strength.
About: \$120



AQUAGLIDE AIRPORT CLASSIC

Aquaglide is another one of those inflatable water toy manufacturers that has been pushing the design envelope. Its Aquaglide Airport Classic takes up to three passengers for a close-to-the-water deck style ride. The Airport Classic has a generous 90-inch by 90-inch surface and doubles as a swimming platform or lounge when not on the rope. Adding to that versatility, Aquaglide offers the optional SoftPack backrest, which has three large built-in coolers for those quieter days in the sun when you want a snack or drink within arm's reach. SoftPack easily connects to the Airport Classic using webbing straps and ladder lock buckles. If you desire a reprieve from the sun, an adjustable Bimini top is optionally available as well.
About: \$435 (Airport Classic SoftPack: \$250 Airport Bimini Top: \$286)





AQUAGLIDE LANAI COMBO

Catering to boaters who appreciate a little down time as much as the fun found at the end of a tow rope, Aquaglide's Lanai Combo doubles as a lounge and towable. Its large hexagon-shaped platform measures an impressive 98 inches by 98 inches, providing space for four riders or plenty of space to stretch out and catch some rays. Its integrated backrest comes with a built-in cooler that can also be used as storage. At its center, the Lanai has a rugged 26-gauge PVC two-chamber bladder that's wrapped in an 840-denier nylon. For extra protection from the sun, the Airport Bimini Top is a compatible option with this model as well.

About: \$558



AQUAGLIDE MULTISPORT 270

Aquaglide's Multisport 270 is one of the most intriguing models in this grouping. In addition to being used as a two-person inflatable deck tube, the 270 can be configured as a sailboat or windsurfer as well. Included with the 270 is a keel, rudder system, six-point harness, three-batten Neil Pryde sail and an adjustable boom system. If that's not versatile enough, add the optional kit to turn the unit into a sit-on-top kayak complete with backrest and paddle. In sailboat configuration, the 270 can accommodate up to three people on its 102-inch long by 59-inch wide inflatable base. For easy transport, a handy roller transport bag is provided. The 270 Multisport weighs in at 60 lbs.

About: \$995 (Kayak Kit \$95)

SPORTSSTUFF GYRO

Faster than a speeding bullet will likely come to mind the first time you see someone shoot by in Sportsstuff's Gyro. When it comes to thinking outside the box, Sportsstuff really hit a home run with this design. The red and yellow, semi-transparent solo tube sends the rider tumbling into barrel rolls with every turn of the boat thanks to a stainless steel swivel on the towrope. Inside, the rider can watch all the action through the porthole at the front of the tube while fully protected from water spray. The Gyro is constructed of heavy-duty K80 PVC featuring a speed safety valve for fast inflations and deflations. Riders hang onto a molded PVC handle located inside the front of the tube. The Gyro is 56 inches by 37 inches deflated and 56 inches by 38 inches inflated.

About: \$160



SPORTSSTUFF SUPER CUBE

Anyone who has been tubing before knows it's an experience best shared with others. Sportsstuff's Super Cube takes up to four riders for an exhilarating spin. Even with a full complement, the Super Cube delivers a quick, lively ride thanks in part to its rocker-bottom's drag-free design. Passengers can sit facing each other – perfect for witnessing each other's unforgettable reactions – with their feet tucked in the middle. However, the unit's surplus of double webbing foam handles with knuckle guards, enables various riding positions. An air cushioned floor and EVA foam seating pads keep everyone onboard comfortable and coming back for more. The Super Cube is blanketed in a heavy-duty full nylon cover with self-bailing drain vents and features the company's quick connect tow point to make attaching and detaching the tow rope a snap. It measures 76 inches by 76 inches deflated and 62 inches by 62 inches inflated.

About: \$240





SPORTSSTUFF CHARIOT WAR BIRD 2

When it comes to leading edge towable designs, Sportsstuff is at the forefront. Towable toy companies have been pushing to deliver ever-more versatile models to boaters each year, and Sportsstuff's Chariot War Bird 2 is a prime example. By switching between its dual tow points (front and back), the Chariot War Bird 2 essentially becomes two completely different tubes. One direction provides a secure lounge-style ride for up to two, while the other places passengers on their knees for a chariot style ride. Chariot War Bird 2 has a high backrest and EVA foam seating pads for comfort. This is great for those less interested in falling off when hitting big waves or tight turns. When not on the rope, the unit serves as the perfect floating lounge to kick back and catch some sun. Inflating and deflating is fast and easy with the company's speed safety valves and aluminum quick connect system. It measures 80 inches by 96 inches deflated and 78 inches by 90 inches inflated.

About: \$500

SEA-DOO AQUABLAST

New for 2013, the Sea-Doo Aquablast is a one-passenger design offering two different riding positions. Passengers have their choice between a kneeling or forward-facing riding position close to the water. This smaller, nimble design offers a different riding feel than larger tubes. Heavy-gauge PVC construction is complemented by double-webbing soft foam handles with neoprene knuckle guards. Additional neoprene pads in chest and knee areas have been added for extra comfort. The Aquablast measures 69 inches by 40 inches when inflated.

About: \$130



SEA-DOO GRAPHIC DECK TUBE 2

Personal watercraft manufacturer, Sea-Doo, once again offers a variety towable toy designs for fans of the brand. The Graphic Deck Tube 2 takes up to two passengers for an exhilarating face-forward deck-styled ride. Its four-point reinforced tow hook provides a durable connection, while its soft foam handles provide riders a comfortable grip. Graphic Deck Tube 2 delivers a fun and exciting ride, and does it in style. The unit features a sporty contemporary blue, green, white and black graphics design on its rugged 420-denier nylon cover, which wraps around the heavy-gauge PVC bladder within. A self-bailing drain vent makes drying off and packing up easy at the end of the day and the included puncture repair kit is a thoughtful addition. It measures 62 inches by 63 inches inflated.

About: \$170

SEA-DOO GX4

A perennial favourite from Sea-Doo, the four-person GX4 offers two styles of ride. Placing two passengers facing forward and two backwards, riders have their choice of seeing every approaching turn or waiting for the surprise. Or for a little variety, ride the GX4 chariot style. Passengers are provided eight neoprene knuckle-protection handles and four neoprene seating pads for comfort. The unit has a heavy-gauge PVC bladder covered by an 840-denier rugged nylon cover and a self-bailing drain vent. A three-point reinforced tow hook connection point ensures a reliable ride. It measures 92 inches by 84 inches when inflated.

About: \$450

