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USARA

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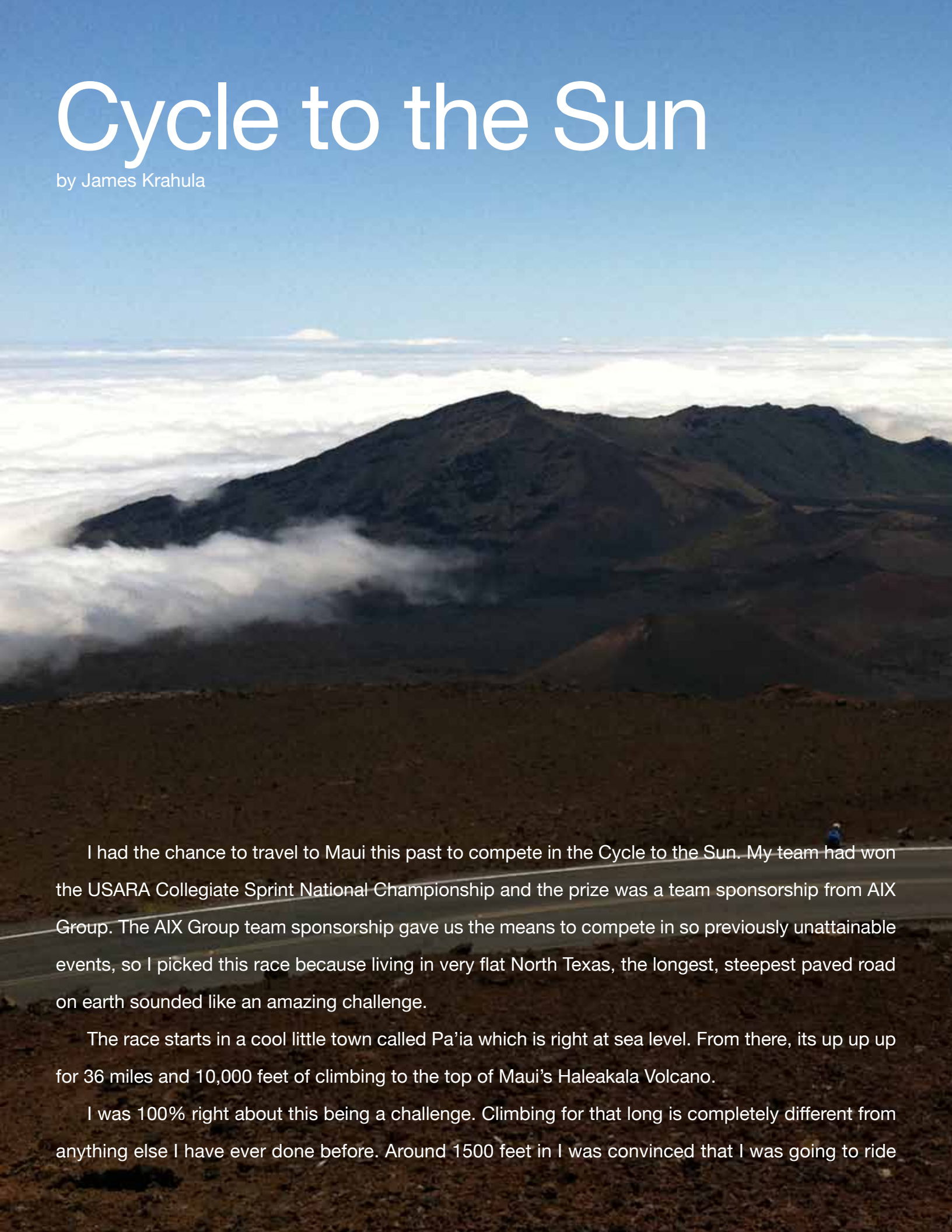
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Cycle to the Sun

by James Krahula



I had the chance to travel to Maui this past to compete in the Cycle to the Sun. My team had won the USARA Collegiate Sprint National Championship and the prize was a team sponsorship from AIX Group. The AIX Group team sponsorship gave us the means to compete in so previously unattainable events, so I picked this race because living in very flat North Texas, the longest, steepest paved road on earth sounded like an amazing challenge.

The race starts in a cool little town called Pa'ia which is right at sea level. From there, its up up up for 36 miles and 10,000 feet of climbing to the top of Maui's Haleakala Volcano.

I was 100% right about this being a challenge. Climbing for that long is completely different from anything else I have ever done before. Around 1500 feet in I was convinced that I was going to ride



to 5000 feet and turn around and call it a day. I felt awful from the pain of climbing straight up with no breaks. Finally at a point I was high enough where I could see most of the island which helped take my mind off things, it helps when you cycling in a place so beautiful. I was very excited when I saw 4000 feet knowing that this hell I put myself in would not be lasting much longer. This last 1000 feet kept going on forever, and it would not come. I was feeling very dejected until I saw 6000 feet. Apparently I had gone right on pass the 5000 foot mark and didn't notice. Feeling as I was developing a rhythm for climbing and that I was past halfway, I figure I might as well suffer for another 4000 feet.

The rhythm for climbing had kicked in around the time that I was starting to suffer from the high altitude. Dallas being only 500 feet above sea level, it's safe to say that I was going to start having

some trouble before too long. Thankfully I was going numb because of all of the pain I was putting myself through so I just kept chugging along. It was weird when I looked down and realized I was above the cloud line, something I had never witnessed before aside from being in an airplane.

Finally the last 1000 feet, I tried to make myself enjoy it as much as possible. This didn't really work until I could see the top of the mountain. It was a very very steep run to the finish, but after 4:42 minutes, I was finally at the top. All I can say is I was looking for a challenge, and man I picked a good one. This race was tough, really tough. It also had to be one of the coolest races I have ever done.

So if you are looking for a race that will kick your butt or looking for an excuse to go to Hawaii, the Cycle to the Sun is the race for you! Also, you have to do the loop around the West Maui Mountains before you leave. Probably the most

memorable ride I have ever been on. Be sure to bring some money so you can buy some delicious food when you pass through some of the smaller towns. I also need to thank Maui Cyclery for hosting a beautiful race and for supplying me with a bike and taking care of me for the entire week.

The legendary Cycle to the Sun is one of the most difficult bike climbs in the world. The ride climbs 10,000 feet over 36 miles and reaches gradients up to 18%. As a comparison, the famed Mont Ventou in the Tour de France is only a 5,336 foot climb over 13.6 miles. The race starts in Pa'ia at sea level and finishes up on top of the Haleakala Volcano at just above 10,000 feet (3048 meters). The current record is held by Ryder Hesjedal with the Garmin Pro Cycling Team in a time of 2 hours 32 minutes. Cycle to the Sun was first held in the 1984 but languished for many years. Kalima O Maui bought the rights to hold the race and brought it back in 2001. **AW**



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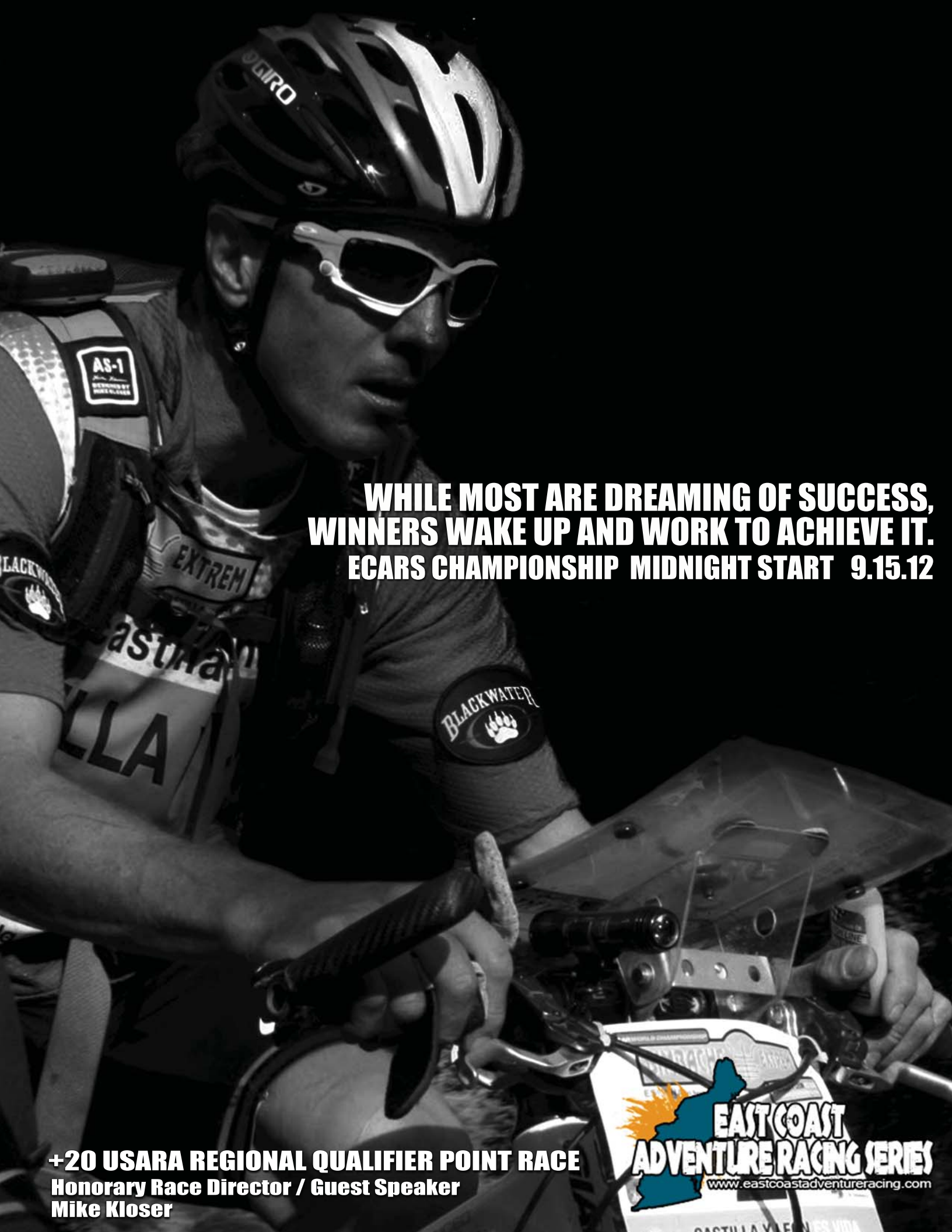


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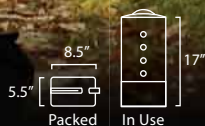
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Product Reviews

Adventure World Magazine Spring 2012

LIFESAVER Bottle

The LIFESAVER Bottle is the World's first water bottle to remove all bacteria, viruses, cysts, parasites, fungi and all other microbiological waterborne pathogens without the aid of chemicals such as iodine. This filter is easy enough for a child to use, just fill, pump and drink clean, sterile water instantly. The LIFESAVER holds 750 ml and can clean 1056 gallons of water. The name is perfect and the LIFESAVER is a must have piece of equipment for the world traveler or the back woods camper. If you get sick from drinking bad water after

reading about the LIFESAVER you are just not paying attention.



Beard Head

The first time I saw a Beard Head I laughed and then I thought, "Where do I get one of those." Beard Head's are knit beard caps which combine the comfort and warmth of a traditional knit cap with a bonus – they make everyone smile. They are machine washable and come in a variety of styles and colors fully capable of fulfilling all of your inner Viking needs. Perfect for any cold weather activity the Beard Head's are original, whimsical and functional.

Product Reviews

Knuckle Lights

The Knuckle Lights both light up the trail and provide safety for the jogger by making them visible in traffic. Knuckle lights are a comfortable way to light up the path and will not cause headaches often experienced with head lamps. Each Knuckle Light is 45 lumens and are feather making them barely noticeable. The Knuckle Lights last plenty long on a pair of AAA batteries, but if one were to go out you have a backup in your other hand.



Sportbrella XL

The Sportbrella XL is a must have for anyone who spends time outdoors. The Sportbrella XL is a perfect shelter for ball games, the beach or a lazy day in the park. The Sportbrella XL features a center pole stake along with side grommets so it can be anchored on windy days. The nine foot wide shelter provides UPF 50 relief from the sun with a built in venting system that gives you a cool breeze. Weighing in at just over 10 pounds the shelter backs up into a slender light weight case that takes up little room and is easy to carry.



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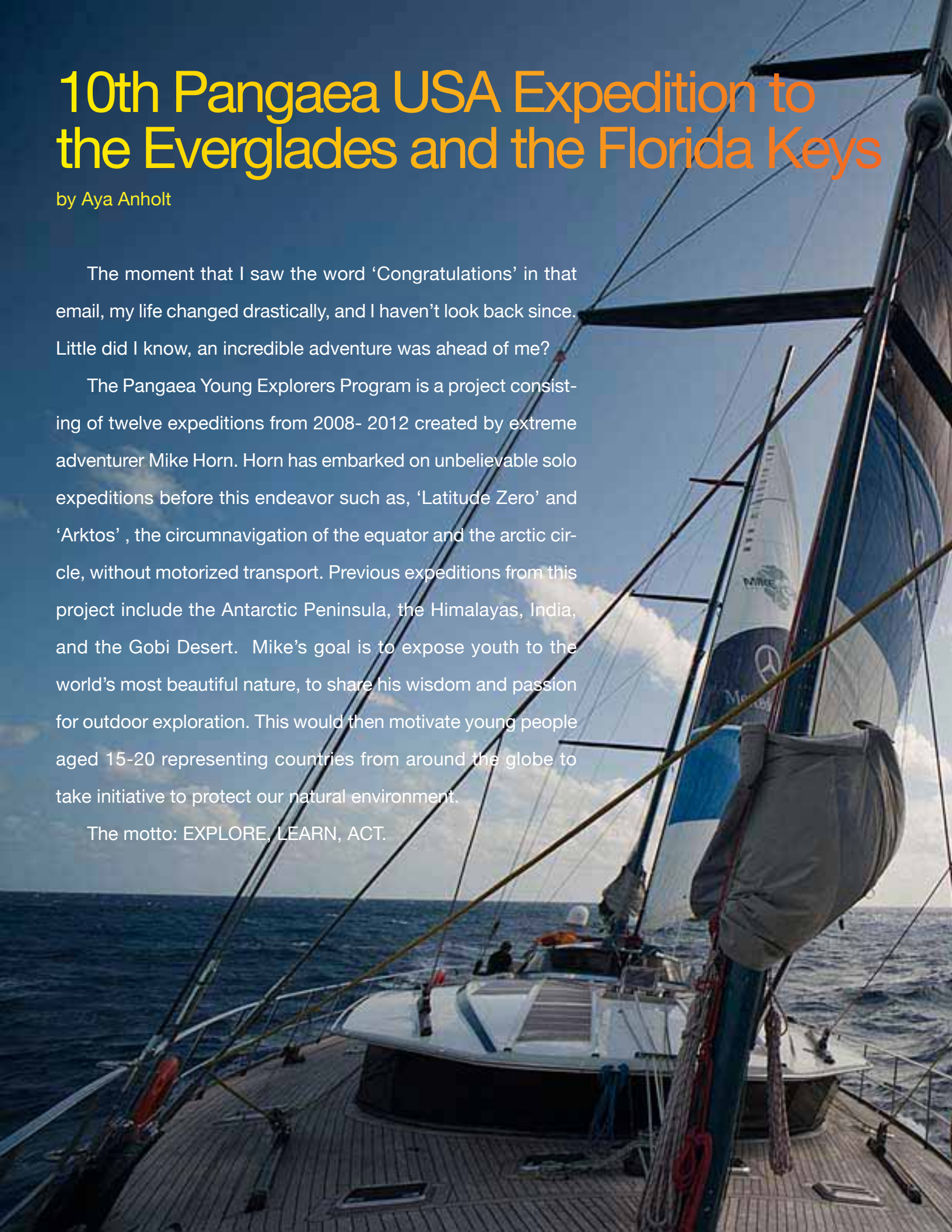
10th Pangaea USA Expedition to the Everglades and the Florida Keys

by Aya Anholt

The moment that I saw the word 'Congratulations' in that email, my life changed drastically, and I haven't look back since. Little did I know, an incredible adventure was ahead of me?

The Pangaea Young Explorers Program is a project consisting of twelve expeditions from 2008- 2012 created by extreme adventurer Mike Horn. Horn has embarked on unbelievable solo expeditions before this endeavor such as, 'Latitude Zero' and 'Arktos', the circumnavigation of the equator and the arctic circle, without motorized transport. Previous expeditions from this project include the Antarctic Peninsula, the Himalayas, India, and the Gobi Desert. Mike's goal is to expose youth to the world's most beautiful nature, to share his wisdom and passion for outdoor exploration. This would then motivate young people aged 15-20 representing countries from around the globe to take initiative to protect our natural environment.

The motto: EXPLORE, LEARN, ACT.





In September of 2011, I was flown to the location of the Pangaea Mike Horn headquarters in Chateaux D'Oex, Switzerland, along with fourteen other hopefuls. We had been selected from hundreds of youth around the world to participate in the selection camp that decides which young people would participate in the expedition. Challenges that evaluated our teamwork, personality, and attitude are what followed, testing our mental and physical potential. During that time, we took part in outdoor activities including abseiling, rock climbing, via ferrata, hiking, mountain biking, sailing and the two day raid of navigating through the Swiss Alps. As the selection camp drew to a close, I was informed that I was selected as one of the seven youth that would accompany Mike Horn on the Pangaea vessel in the Florida Coast.

There were seven youth including me, representing five other nations on the expedition: Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, New Zealand, while I am from North Vancouver, Canada. It was an honor being the only North American selected and I happened to be the youngest at fifteen years old.

The expedition jump started in November 2011, and I realized that life on the Pangaea sailing vessel was entirely different from my life back home. Being that it was a constantly moving home, I quickly learned to adapt. The sail procedures, boat and anchor watches, and deck upkeep are all tasks that are expected when living aboard the ship. A new sense of accomplishment and reward fulfilled me on the first day that we put all five human strength maneuvered sails up and solely ran on wind power.

The next challenge was the kayak expedition through the marsh lands of the Florida coast. We kayaked nearly two hundred kilometers from Key Largo, through Everglades National Park, around the southern tip of Florida and finally up to Chokoloskee Island in five days and five mosquito-filled nights. My physical limits were stretched, and mental energy was strengthened, as our group daily kayaked further than the horizon.

My first encounter with a shark in its natural habitat, took place during this Everglades trip. Our society tricks us into believing that sharks are blood thirsty,

which is actually a common misconception. Did you know that you're more likely to be killed by a lightning strike, bee sting, falling coconut or soda machine? The world shark population is declining rapidly, while this is mostly due to shark finning. An estimated 73 million sharks are killed each year by the shark finning industry. I remember that shark was within arm's reach, swimming with the fluid tail sway motion, gliding through the clear calm sea grass filled water. I had never seen a creature quite this exquisite.

The coastal saltwater mangroves are a life source for all of the existing wildlife in the region. While kayaking near the mangroves, we

managed to see countless aquatic, and flying creatures, including flying fish called mullet, flamingos, the endangered manatee, a scorpion, the great blue heron. When we were in those mangroves, we were on a mission to encounter alligators. At first, it was almost impossible to spot one, as they were well camouflaged in the murky water and vegetation that envelops them, however, we did managed to see half a dozen of these peaceful, laid back reptiles along the way. It was then that I recognized how unbelievable this journey was, to be traveling through an environment that few have had the opportunity to discover.

The Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas underwater discovery section of the expedition were truly remarkable. I was completely out of my element after learning to scuba dive a mere couple weeks before the expedition. My initial descent in the Florida Keys was a moment like no other. I sucked in a deep breath through my regulator as I took in



all the brilliant colored coral, and abundance of tropical fish. I developed my first connection to the underwater world when I came across a young endangered green sea turtle and a nurse shark on that dive.

Throughout my dives, I felt the currents and waves, was aware of the water conditions, orientating myself to the boat, while my flippers were slicing the water with precision. Diving in shipwrecks was safety discipline-based exploration. We entered confined narrow hallways, plunged down into dark rooms with no natural light, and felt our way to the exit when we faced poor visibility. It was necessary for us to develop all our senses in order to fully become a part of the fragile marine environment. The night dive we executed was the highlight of my scuba diving experience in Florida. Molasses Reef was a completely different world after sundown. The torch that I carried was the only source of light that would allow me to visually experience my surroundings. This allowed me to be completely focused on what I was seeing, and notice the small things. On that dive, I encountered four sea turtles, a sting ray, puffer fish, barracudas, and a moray eel.

It is impossible for human beings to live beneath the surface of the water. This fact is intriguing, as one knows that the visiting hours are limited. Living temporarily underwater is the most remarkable sensation. A greater respect towards the marine life was developed within me during this diving experience in the Gulf of Mexico.

Nearing the end of the expedition, we completed a beach cleanup. Surveying the ocean debris in the area



clearly illustrated the human impacts in the region. We conducted this initiative in a stretch of coastline mangroves in Key Largo, parallel to a highway. It allowed us to analyze the type of materials that people typically litter. The usual plastic bags, fishing nets, and drink cans were among the most reoccurring trash that we collected. This debris is slowly diminishing the wildlife within the ecosystem, as it's entering the natural food web. Myself, and the other young explorers learned specifically the drastic effects plastic has on five species of endangered sea turtles in Florida. The experiment clearly demonstrated how easy it would be to avoid such unnecessary waste. Reusable coffee mugs, water bottles, and shopping bags are just

three of many simple ways to take small initiatives and preserve our beautiful outdoors.

The Pangaea Young Explorers program has made me realize that young people are the leaders of tomorrow. It is necessary to build the foundation to act and to preserve our natural environment now, not later. My bond with nature was energized, new life skills acquired, and international lifelong friendships were created. This experience motivated me to implement environmental stewardship projects back home, while translating this passion to others, and ensuring that other young people take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

There are still future Panagea expeditions! Find out more at www.mikehorn.com. **AW**





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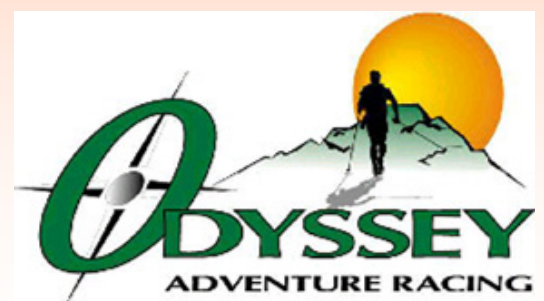
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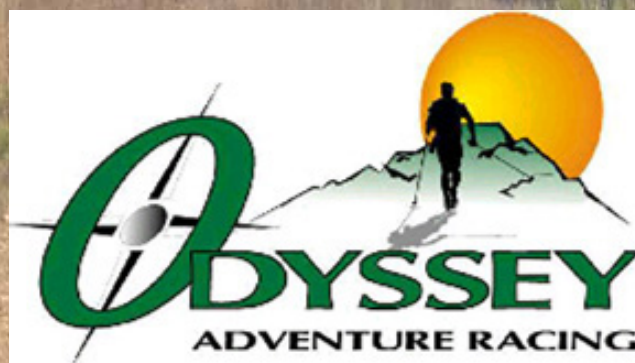
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Red Bull Stratos – Raising the Giant

by Red Bulletin

The Red Bull Stratos helium balloon holds around 850,000 cubic meters of gas, at takeoff it stretches over the wingspan of three Boeing 777s and transports Felix Baumgartner three times higher than the cruising altitude of the world's largest airliner. The logistics and precision behind the balloon lift-off are breathtaking.

Pity the meteorologist, that most common of all scapegoats. "We're always to blame," says Don Day. "It's part of our job description." Of course, the Cheyenne weatherman's modesty is misleading. A vital lynchpin of the Red Bull Stratos Team, Felix Baumgartner and co are consistently impressed by Day's uncanny accuracy. The trick? More than simply weather prediction, Day practices weather pre-calculation.

"Many factors must come together to get a balloon of this dimension off the ground," he says. "Firstly, no wind. We can't have wind of more than 3kph at ground level, and with our three weather balloons at an altitude of 60m, 6.5kph is the limit. Even in a region that is perfect for balloon starts, like New Mexico, you only get this sort of calm just before sunrise.

"Secondly, you need none or very few clouds, the lowest possible humidity. Over the entire surface of the balloon, water droplets very quickly add up to become a burden of several hundred kilos. Third, we need good visibility. And fourth, on the way up, there must not be any strong winds, which could push Felix far off course.

"Only when these parameters are met can I give the OK and Red Bull Stratos can lift off." For this, Day has data up to 40,000m altitude available to him – the highest ascertainable point for meteorology, even higher than Baumgartner will climb.

By combining computer-calculated weather simulations, data from various weather balloons at different altitudes, stored recordings, and finally a smidgeon



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of meteorological genius, it is possible to form a prognosis three days prior to the start: be prepared to lift-off on Wednesday. Beginning 24 hours before the start, the prognosis is so precise that Day can be persuaded to talk about “90 per cent accuracy”.



Whether today is the big day must be decided eight hours before takeoff. It actually takes that long to run the entire start procedure.

The man who gets the balloon airborne is Launch Crew Chief Ed Coca. While he may be an old hand in the business, he hasn't seen many ventures like that planned by Red Bull Stratos. “After all,” he says. “It's not every day you get such a huge balloon off the ground.”

How many 850,000 cubic meter balloons has he launched before? “This is my first.”

Four and a half hours before the start, Coca calls Day to find out the exact direction of any possible breezes (no more than 3kph). The balloon, the capsule parachute and the capsule are all connected in a train-like configuration – the ‘flight train’ – and spread out accordingly on the airfield in Roswell, New Mexico, with the capsule attached to a crane.

To ensure controlled launch, the light breeze permitted should ideally blow directly against the capsule, and on no account from the opposite direction or at an angle to the runway.

The Red Bull Stratos balloon is made of a gossamer-thin, transparent polyethylene film that is reminiscent of the type used for dry-cleaner bags. The thickness of the envelope wall varies, but at any given place it's substantially less than a millimeter. Construction of the balloon, as you might well imagine, is a task that requires exacting precision. There is no room for error. Moreover, there is the not so small task of building in a reflective tape so that the empty envelope that floats down to earth after the capsule detaches can be located via radar at any time. Even one hole in the balloon, no matter how small, can spell trouble. For this reason, the entire balloon (and there are two just in case) is scanned with a special black light before being taken from the long table where the individual lengths of material are glued and loaded into the transport box.

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10 HR - May 5th 2012
Ohiopyle, PA USARA RQ

PANGAEA ADVENTURE ATOMIC

30 HR - May 12th 2012
Blue Ridge, GA USARA RQ

O.A.R. WILD WONDERFUL

24 HR - May 19th 2012
Oak Hill, WV USARA RQ

N.Y.A.R.A. LONGEST DAY

24 HR - May 19th-20th 2012
Catskill Mountains, NY USARA RQ

G.O.A.L.S. CRADLE OF LIBERTY

24 HR - June 2nd-3rd 2012
Southeastern, PA USARA RQ

GLING HO ADVENTURE

10 HR - June 9th 2012
York County, PA

UNTAMED NEW ENGLAND

96 HR - June 20th-24th 2012
The Forks, ME USARA RQ

A.A.S. EQUINOX TRAVERSE

46 HR - July 13th-15th 2012
Hidden Valley, PA USARA RQ

A.A.S. LIONHEART

25 HR - August 11th-12th 2012
Ohiopyle, PA USARA RQ

ECARS CHAMPIONSHIP

18 HR - September 14th-15th 2012
Seven Springs, PA USARA RQ



GREENLAYER



So that the delicate balloon doesn't become damaged when it's spread out on the asphalt, a protective layer of Herculite, a specially selected industrial synthetic material, is placed between the ground and the balloon. There is a strict dress code for the 15 men who lay out and launch the balloon: cotton gloves; no zips; no eyelets; no jewelry.

And no force: every contact, every movement of the balloon, poses a risk that could cause a potential weak spot. And any temptation to give it a hefty pull into the correct position must be resisted – the balloon envelope alone weighs 1,682kg, as much as a medium- sized vehicle.

Once the sleeping giant is finally spread out on the ground, the detachment mechanisms are armed which, when Baumgartner has landed

safely, will sever the balloon from the capsule. In the course of this, the balloon envelope will tear along a predefined line, the helium will release into space and the balloon envelope will begin its slow descent to Earth, where a ground crew will gather it up and bring it back to Roswell in the bed of a very large truck.

But we're nowhere near this point yet: for starters, Baumgartner's airship first has to lift off.

An hour before takeoff, Mission Control OKs launch preparations.

Fifty-five minutes before takeoff, the filling of the balloon with helium begins. For this, two trucks filled with helium are needed, each has a capacity of 5,097 cubic meters. In order to fill the balloon as close to launch possible, the decision was made to use a dual- inflation method, which



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means that the helium is pumped simultaneously from two hoses into the upper end of the transparent beast.

Eventually, the balloon lifts its head and heaves itself up as a gigantic bubble. In the following minutes the bubble becomes bigger and firmer, and the arm that holds the balloon on the ground attached to a truck plays out more balloon length centimeter by centimeter.

At the other end of this giant, the polyethylene sausage still lies on the ground, and inside the capsule Baumgartner sits ready. This capsule in turn is held aloft by a specially modified mobile crane that's driven by one damn good truck driver.

The moment that the launch arm releases the balloon, it begins its initial vertical ascent, hoisting the unfilled portions from the ground. The balloon still climbs and should be headed in the direction of the crane; Baumgartner's capsule begins feeling its first twinges of tension.

When the balloon reaches somewhere around a 10 to 20-degree tilt – a rule of thumb for veteran balloon launcher Ed Coca – the crane supporting the capsule begins to move. It must now be maneuvered precisely under the balloon, which is something like balancing a broomstick on the tip of your finger, admittedly on a slightly different scale, while the balloon pulls on its load from above.

Coca guides the crane, but stands on the runway a short distance away: "Standing to the side gives you a better view and feeling for how you best maneuver the capsule under the center of the uplift."

Calm at the start is a good thing. Even in a space as big as an airfield, the amount of square mileage is not unlimited and the moment Coca gives the OK, the crew need to release the towline sooner rather than later.

In the long, long pause before the moment when Felix Baumgartner rises up into the clear morning skies above Roswell, none of those watching will dare breathe. "Even though we'll have already overcome huge hurdles at the moment of lift-off, we're not finished by a long shot," says Baumgartner. "This is just the beginning."

To read the rest of the article, download the Red Bulletin iPad app at www.redbulletin.com **AW**



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These Boots Were Made For **Walking**

Work Boots

To test the work boots we needed mud slinging, iron kicking, on your feet in a pair of boots all day long tough guys. So we enlisted a local concrete crew to put these work boots through a real life boot camp.

Caterpillar Gladstone

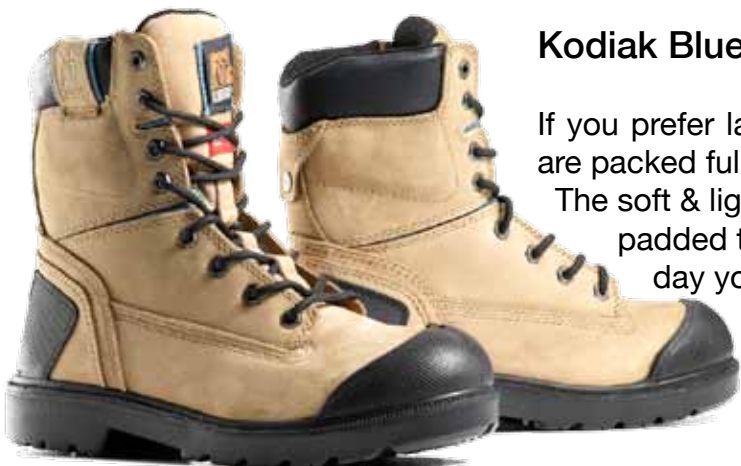
Great looks combined with iTechnology. The full grain leather upper is comfortable enough to wear all day and good looking enough for this boot to double as your Saturday night specials. The iTechnology absorbs shock and gives an energy return easing the grind from a full day on your feet. The Cat Gladstone is a comfortable tough boot with stylish good looks.



Kodiak Blue

If you prefer lace up work boots, these water resistant Kodiaks are packed full of features including a CSA Grade 1 certification.

The soft & light nubuck leather combined with anatomical padded tongue make these boots as comfortable on the day you pull them from the box as they will be three months later – no break in period needed. Tough but light weight, durable and boasting an oil resistant rubber outsole, the Kodiak Blue is a top notch work boot.



We wear them for work, play, and even fashion; when it comes to boots the uses are endless. When we slip into a pair a boots we all have different needs such as comfort, protection, functionality and of course style, but one word that never makes the list is blisters. The following boots all passed the test without the dreaded “B” word.



Wolverine Buccaneer

The waterproof full grain leather uppers were so good looking, I did not want to wear them to work. The MultiShox removable insoles which have individual compression pads are as comfortable as the day is long. Put the two together and you get a comfortable, functional work boot that may even get you a few catcalls from the ladies.



LaCrosse Wellington QC

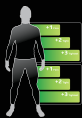
Style & Technology combined for comfort and functionality. Hyper-Dri is the waterproof barrier that lines the entire boot allowing moisture to escape while keeping water out. Quad comfort technology gives you 4 layers of cushioning for all day comfort and reduced foot fatigue. The mad boot scientists have created a winner in this comfortable, handsome and tough work boot.



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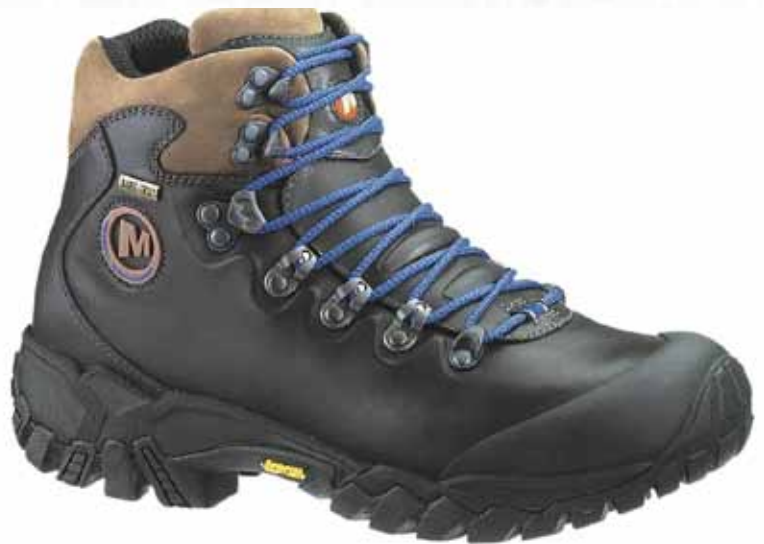
2XU
COMPRESSION

Play Boots

The boots we wear day after day on the trail and also to the local greasy spoon at night. We slapped these boots on some real trail junkies for the ultimate showdown – boot versus mountain.

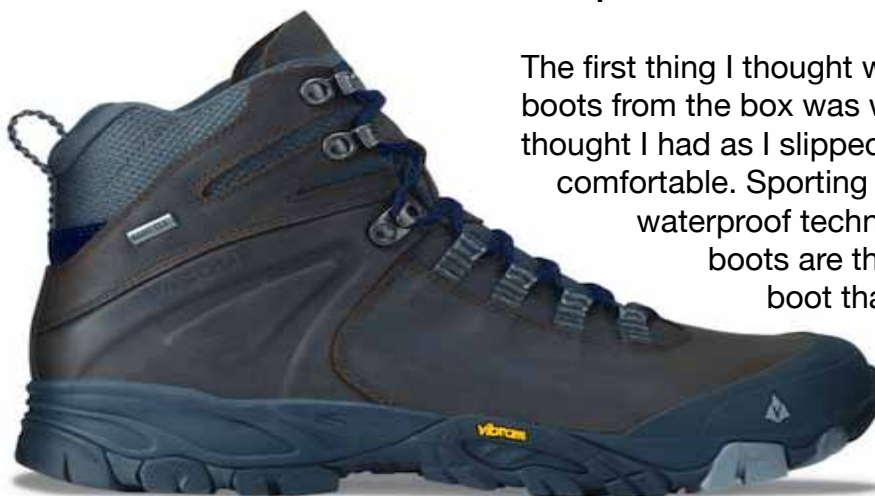
Merrell Peremeter Gore-Tex

My first impression was these boots feel durable and the full grain uppers look fantastic. I could not get them on fast enough as I wanted to see how they fared on the trail. The Vibram sole provided great traction in various conditions from snow to wet rocks to trail. The ankle support is great, even after a long day on the trail with a heavy pack and the Goretex lining kept my feet nice and dry after several creek crossings. The roomy toe bed allows for thicker socks and the easy roller ball bearing lacing system works great. The Merrell Peremeter is a durable, light weight, comfortable, all weather boot – need I say more?

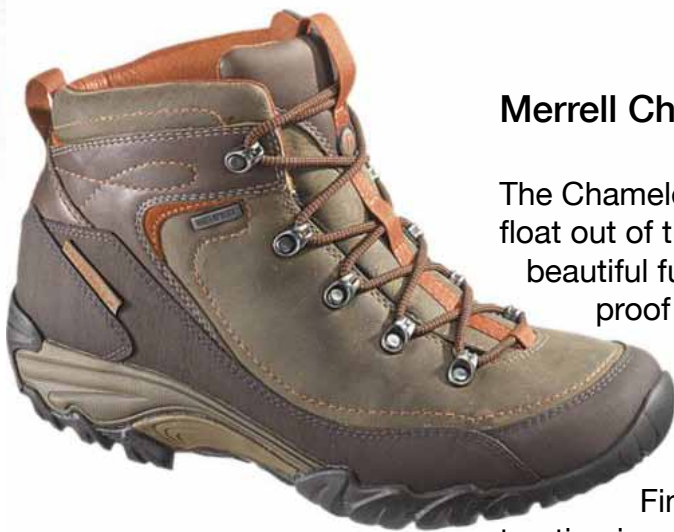


Vasque Taku GTX

The first thing I thought when I pulled these Vasque Taku boots from the box was wow, these are light. The next thought I had as I slipped them on was wow, these are comfortable. Sporting a Vibram sole, Gore-Tex waterproof technology and a great look these boots are the whole package. A solid hiking boot that will not weigh you down on that epic trip.



For the Ladies



Merrell Chameleon Arc 2 Rival Waterproof

The Chameleon Arc 2 Rival are so light they practically float out of the box. The first thing you notice is the beautiful full grain new buck leather which is water proof and provides plenty of support. The anatomical footbed, comfort midsole and air cushioned heel all pay off on those long days providing the comfort you need to stay the course on the trail.

Finally the Vibram soles provide excellent traction in any condition, giving you the confidence to tackle any terrain. Merrell knocked it out of the park with this boot.

Walking



Hi Tec V-Lite Altitude Ultra

OK ladies here is the lowdown on the Hi-Tec V-Lite Altitude Ultras. Ion mask technology, Comfort - Tech contoured cushioning base layer and a vibram sole. But what does all of this science mumbo jumbo mean? Well in laywoman's terms this is a waterproof, breathable, super comfortable boot that is as stylish as it is tough. You can kick it in these bad girls on the trail, at the local festival or even at the theater. But hey who wants to go to the theater when you can be outside.



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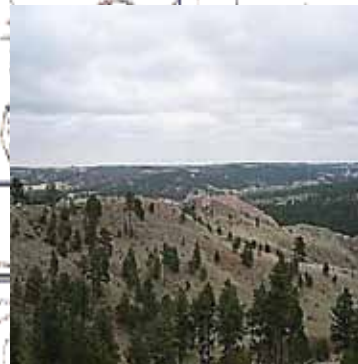
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Off Road Finnmark 700

by Tor Halvor Bjørnstad

The OF 700 takes place in Northern Norway – in a spectacular landscape during the period with midnight sun.

The offroad racing season can sometimes seem as short as the lifespan of man compared to the world's history. Soon the autumn leaves will cover the ground becoming soil; filling up the cracks between all the roots and rocks the summer rain has exposed on the trails. Every season leaves me with a special and treasured memory. This year, building a new porch made it all happen. Jon Kristian Svaland and I entered our first biathlon competition roughly at the same time, we were equally good and were on the national biathlon team for about as long. When I needed a carpenter who could receive payment off the books, I

sent my old team mate a text message. When the porch was completed and I was to pay up, it turned out Jon Kristian had an alternate plan...

We were given the opportunity to compete in offroadfinnmark. I got in touch with the race manager who was absolutely stoked to have us participate, and equally eager on advising us against riding hardtail. This was shaping up to be a proper off-road race. Fourteen days later we had been riding almost non stop for 50 hours on rough trails. The third night of the race boded clear skies, yet another beautiful night under the midnight sun. We were in the middle of nowhere. The race was organized similarly to a dog sleigh race, three hours behind us a local team who knew the area like their own back pockets were toiling to catch up. This was such a constant grind on the nerves that even my usually stoic dad was following our GPS trackers online real-time. He was observed



photo by Guro Storskjaer

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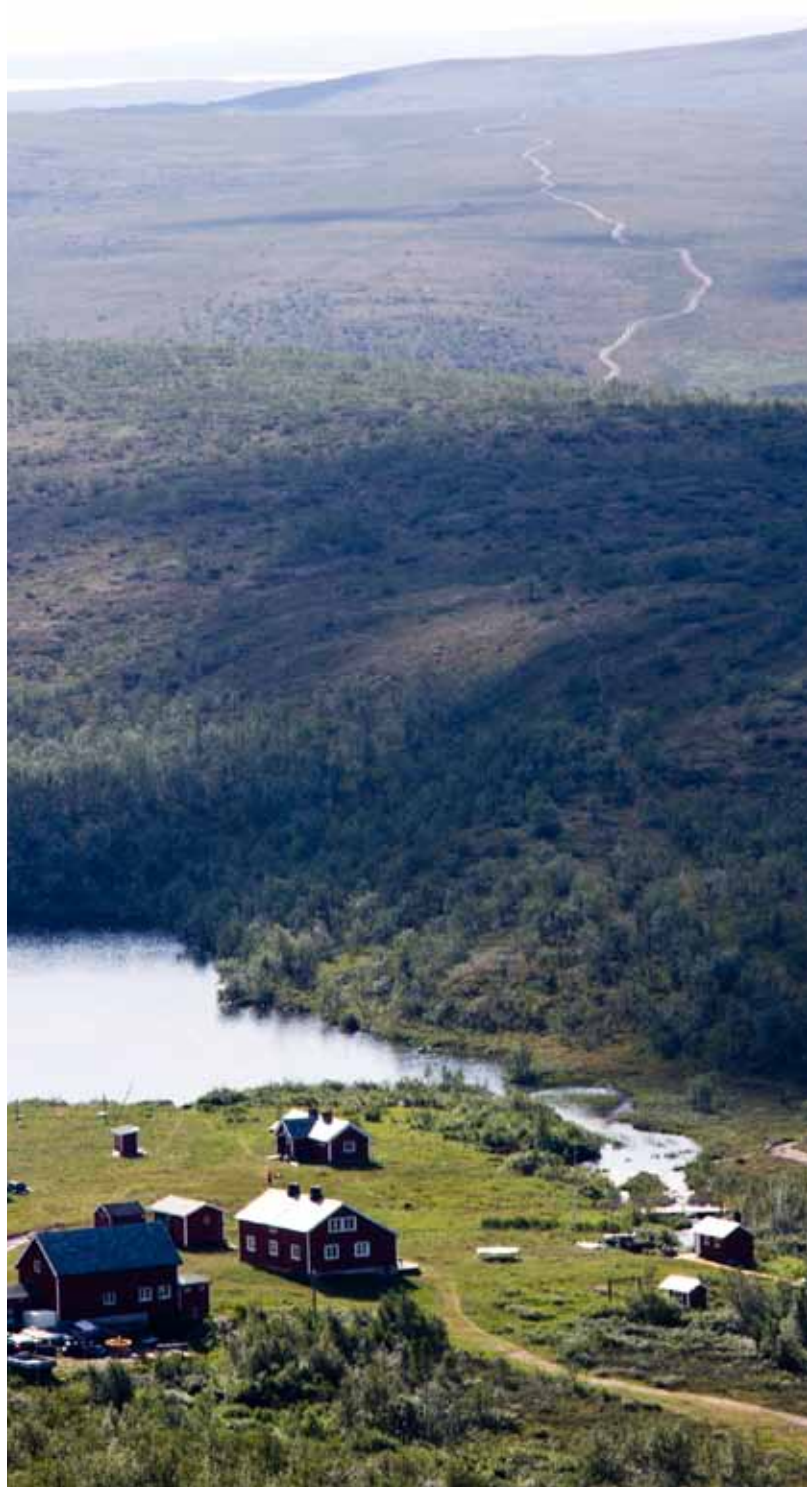
Gear Aid™ makes more than 100 care & repair products including Seam Grip®, ReviveX®, Freesole®, Aquaseal®, MiraZyme™ & Tenacious Tape™

McNETT

sleeping with his laptop on his lap that night.

Jon Kristiand and I both knew that we were having the moment of our rather short cyclist careers. The sun hang low in the horizon. The ground was seeping fog from the previous day's rain showers, and millions of dew drops were glittering in the shrub. We were on a technically demanding trail and had been for hours on end. I suddenly realized what was the driving force behind the race and our participation. It was nature. The nature kept me going.

Shortly before 4am the phone in my backpack rang. "It's the end of the world as we know it" by R.E.M was the ring tone. We both started laughing, after participating in offroadfinnmark life simply isn't the same anymore. The race is so extreme, so beautiful, so tough and such a strong experience it really does change your perspective and outlook on life. It's moving across an extreme distance (700 kilometers/434.9miles) with the competition on your tail. The closest I came to



a parallel must have been when members of the resistance had to escape across the border with the German soldiers chasing after them.

We arrived in Alta completing the race in 69hrs and 30 minutes. By then we had been criss-crossing all over the mountain plateau of Finnmark, even crossing the border at Valjok all the way to the east. The checkpoints had been the homes of





photo by Losvar

people living in the middle of nowhere, tents and local mountain lodges. The race was planned and executed without a glitch, the media was following the race closely; a colleague had even heard my name being mentioned on the Sami radio several times during the race. The rush and the excitement of having completed the race was immense. I can't even imagine what this summer would have been like without my offroadfinnmark experience.

So this is the tale of how paying for a porch being built landed me on an offroad race in Finnmark. Jon



Kristian was an amazing team mate, and at the moment I've got a cold and a big smile on my face having completed the last race of the season, Ultrabirken. The season is over. The winter months will be spent on slow trips on forest trails, finished off with cigars and whiskey in front of the fireplace. **AW**



photo by Hermod Finnjord



photo by Losvar

2012 Tecnu / Darn Tough USARA Adventure Race National Championship



The 2012 USARA Tecnu / Darn Tough Adventure Race National Championship will be held in the Catskill Mountains just outside of Ellenville, New York. Honor's Haven is the host hotel and is one of the few remaining grand hotels from the 1930's.

The area is amazing and will provide the competitors with challenging terrain set in a stunning scenic backdrop. These are just a few of the elements racers deserve when competing for the USARA Adventure Race National Championship.

The event will be produced by the New York Adventure Racing Association, NYARA, who have earned a reputation as one of the premier adventure racing production groups in the nation. The combination of the Catskill Mountains with NYARA as the race directors ensures a course deserving of the national championship moniker.

2011 USARA Adventure Race National Championship Receives Bloom Award

The 2011 USARA Adventure Racing National Championship, headquartered out of Cumberland Falls State Resort Park and directed by Flying Squirrel Adventures, has won the Tour Southern & Eastern Kentucky's "BLOOM Award" for "2011 Sporting Event of the Year." The BLOOM awards were created "to honor those who have gone above and beyond to make the visitor's experience outstanding." Nominations were made by tourism professionals across TOUR SEKY's 47 county region.



All Male & All Female Teams Can Qualify For Nationals

The USARA will be adding an Open division to the 2012 USARA Adventure Race National Championship. The top 4 open teams (all male and all female) from each regional qualifying race will qualify to compete in the USARA Adventure Race National Championship in the open division. There are so many single gender teams competing throughout the year that we felt it was important to have these teams represented at the USARA Adventure Race National Championship.

Adventure Race Series Receive Bonus Ranking Points

The following state and regional adventure race series will receive bonus USARA national ranking points for the series finals.

USARA Regional Series:

Ten (+10) bonus points will be added to a Regional Series final ranking points.



East Coast Adventure Race Series
www.eastcoastadventureracing.com

USARA State Series:

Five (+5) bonus points will be added to a State Series final ranking points.



Texas State Championship Adventure Race Series
www.terrafirmaracing.com



Unbridled Adventure Race Series
www.flyingsquirreladventures.com

**If the series final is a regional qualifying event, teams will also receive the ten (+10) regional qualifier bonus ranking points. (Example: If the Regional Series final is a USARA regional qualifier teams will receive a total of twenty (+20) total bonus ranking points).*

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2012 USARA Regional Qualifiers

May Day at Wayway	May 5, 2012
Yough X-treme	May 5, 2011
Atomic Adventure Race	May 12, 2012
MISSION Adventure Race	May 12, 2012
Wild Wonderful AR	May 19, 2012
Chadron Adventure Race	May 19, 2012
Longest Day and Night AR	May, 19 2012
Cradle Of Liberty	July 2, 2012
Crux and Crucible	June 9, 2012
Run, Row, Rock & Roll	June 16, 2012
Untamed New England	June 19-24, 2012
Alaska AR Regional Championship	July 7, 2012
Equinox Traverse	July 13, 2012
Sheltowee Extreme	July 14, 2012
Greenridge Adventure Challenge	July 21, 2012
Odyeesy One Day Adventure Race	July 21, 2012
Warrior Challenge	July 21, 2012
Krista Griesacker	July 28, 2012
The Bitter Pill	July 28, 2012
Lake Tahoe 36	August 4, 2012
Lionheart 24 HR	August 11, 2012
Expedition Idaho	August 12, 2012
Dusk to Dawn AR	August 25, 2012
Thunder Rolls	August 25, 2012
The Shag	September 8, 2012
East Coast AR Series Championship	September 14, 2012
Tahoe Big Blue	September 15, 2012
Terra Firma Adventure Race	September 22, 2012
San Juan Island Quest Ar	September 23, 2012
Raid the Rock Urban Adventure Race	October, 2012
Wilderness Challenge	October 5, 2012
Lewis & Clark Ozark Adventure Race	October 20, 2012
The Fig	November 3, 2012
Dave Boyd AR	December, 2012



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The winning team members at each regional qualifying event will be presented with a Merrell USARA Regional Champion Jacket.

AIX Group proudly awards each Regional Champion team a \$100 sponsorship to be used towards the team's entry fee into the 2012 USARA Adventure Race National Championship.



Regional Sponsorship

The first place coed team from each regional qualifying race will receive a \$400.00 sponsorship, provided by the regional qualifying race, to be applied to the team's entry fee for the 2012 USARA Adventure Race National Championship™.

EVERGLADES CHALLENGE 2012

by D. Angus Shropshire

The Everglades Challenge is a 300 mile unsupported expedition-style challenge for small boats. It covers a course from Tampa to Key Largo, including the 10,000 Islands area of the Everglades, with a deadline of eight days. EC 2012 presented the most difficult and challenging weather in the history of the event; of the 78 boats that started, only 24 finished.

Dawn was late, perhaps foreboding
The sun behind the mist, aglow
Challengers milled about, stomachs turning
Boats lined up, ready to go

The mournful sound of a bagpipe wailing
Called along a beach of shell
“Step up now, Lads and Lassies,
and claim you own 8 days of hell.”

The Bay and Gulf were white and choppy
Wind at the nose, with danger fraught
“Come now she cried, try to best me;
I will teach you the wisdom of not”

And several, the wiser, heeded her warning
Turned their backs and left her cold.
But the hard & the dumb proceeded with launching
Paying the price of being called bold.

Can you tack in a gale, paddle through swells?
Can you right your little capsized boat?
Can you bail with abandon, pray while reefing?
Perhaps I will leave you afloat.

But make it most did, through that first day
Though not a single boast were they singing.
Scattered and splattered, to no one they asked
“What the hell was I thinking?”

EC2012

Ten thousand islands and ways to get lost
Mind your rations and water
Paddle, navigate, eat and repeat
The going only gets harder

Blisters and blood, broken bones and rigging
Adapt, endure, and survive
A challenge you wanted, a challenge you're given
Treasure the fact you're alive.

Win, Place, or DNF
An ounce of difference, it matters not.
The meaning lies in accepting the challenge;
The doing, not just the thought.

So when you're done, go back home,
Consider nothing as regrettable.
Rudyard taught us long ago
Some things are inevitable

For as surely as water will wet us
As surely as fire will burn
To next year's Everglades Challenge
Most of them will return.

**A GAZELLE WAKES UP AND KNOWS IT MUST RUN FASTER THAN THE FASTEST LION.
A LION WAKES UP AND KNOWS IT MUST OUTFRAN THE SLOWEST GAZELLE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU ARE A LION OR A GAZELLE...
WHEN THE SUN COMES UP, YOU'D BETTER BE RUNNING.**



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