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USARANational Rankings

1	Good'Nuff	77.00
2	Team Disoriented	76.00
3	Rev3Adventure	49.00
4	Rib Mountain Racing	45.00
5	Mike's Hike & Bike Shop	43.00
6	Alpine Shop	25.00
7	Only MOSTLY Lost	25.00
8	Layer 3	25.00
9	Michigan Racing Addicts	24.00
10	Team Lupine Racing USA	24.00
11	Team BOR	23.00
12	Storm Troopers	23.00
13	Topo Adventure Sports	22.00
14	Nature Calls	22.00
15	No Sleep Adventures	21.00

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ARKANSAS WILD

Bike Touring Northwest Arkansas' Adventure Towns

by Jenny Willden

Cycling from brewery to brewery, kayaking through rapids, and mountain biking on world-class single-track trails. Is this really Arkansas? Before visiting, I only knew Arkansas as the worldwide headquarters of Walmart. But it's quickly becoming a center for outdoor adventure—meaning there's plenty more to do than tour the five-and-dime turned museum that launched Walmart's global empire.

You can't talk about Northwest Arkansas without talking about Walmart. A brand people love or loathe, they've made the small town of Bentonville their home. And thanks to an influx of funds from the founders' Walton Family Foundation, a new network of trails and recreation areas has rejuvenated the region, turning it into an outdoor adventure capital.

To best experience this shift, rent or bring a bike and ride through Northwest Arkansas' thriving towns. From Fayetteville, the happening college hot spot, to Bentonville, a real-life reincarnation of Pleasantville, cycling on the paved, 37-mile Razorback Regional Greenway for a day or two is the best way to see it all.



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Fayetteville: Ale Trail

Tucked in the Ozark Mountains, progressive Fayetteville is the site of the University of Arkansas' campus and the starting point for the Razorback Regional Greenway. Fuel up with trendy staples like cold-brewed coffee and avocado toast at Arsaga's before taking to the Greenway to explore the Fayetteville Ale Trail by bike.

Start on bustling Dickson Street and follow the Frisco Trail roughly two miles to Poplar Street toward Fossil Cove

Brewing Co. Fayetteville's first production microbrewery, Fossil Cove specializes in canned beers featuring dinosaur-themed art distributed throughout Northwest Arkansas. Sample their flagship brew, the nutty Belgian La Brea Brown, decorated with a beer-toting, snaggle-toothed dino. Or dine at their shipping container kitchen before continuing on past glittering Lake Fayetteville to Arkansas' street tagueria capital, Springdale.

Springdale: Taco Touring and Brew Tasting

A town in the midst of revival, diverse Springdale is the birthplace of Tyson Chicken and the mid-point of the Razorback Regional Greenway. A master plan for renewal is underway that's brought a locally owned coffee shop, bike shop, and a brewpub downtown.

Cycle along this creek side path and pit stop at Trailside Coffee for a kale smoothie or coffee, or sample Arkansas beer next door on Core Brewing Public House's Greenway-facing patio. Try unique flavors like Toasted Coconut or Raspberry Lager, or stick to the classic Arkansas Red. Not a beer fan? Swerve off the Greenway and visit Arkansas' only cidery, Black Apple Crossing, for flights of their gluten-free, fresh-pressed apple ciders in inventive varieties like Gingerbread.









Next, refuel on a self-guided Taco Tour through town. Sample authentic flavors from eight locally owned taquerias, starting with Taqueria Don Güero, a family-run shop across from the bike trail. Hit Taqueria Mexico second for Springdale's cheapest tacos (\$1.29 a piece) and unlimited refill agua frescas when you dine in. Then hop back on your bike, following creek-crossing bridges past Lake Springdale toward Rogers.

Rogers: Mountain Biking Mecca

Ditch the Greenway's pavement and venture into Rogers, a mountain biking hub on its way to becoming one of The Natural State's best places to master off-trail techniques.

Just five miles from the Greenway, Railyard Bike Park, is a place all ages of riders can learn BMX riding. The free space is funded (again) by the Walton Family Foundation and is named for the recycled train cars used as course obstacles and its location adjacent to the Arkansas-Missouri Railroad.

Choose from beginner to expert loops with walls to climb, whale tales to ride, and concrete lips to jump, then send your kiddos on trails with mini obstacles designed to challenge, not overwhelm, them. If a day isn't enough, overhead lighting means the whole family can keep riding long after the sun sets.

Want to test your park skills in the real world? Follow a path from the Railyard to Lake Atlanta, Arkansas' newest mountain biking hot spot. A favorite for fast single track amidst wooded scenery, newbies, intermediates, and skilled off-road riders can loop the lake, whizz past trees, and climb hills on 10 miles of MTB trails. A four-mile concrete path running through the system gives you an easy out if you get over your head in the woods.





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Bentonville: Bike Town USA

You'll swear you've walked onto the set of Pleasantville's sequel when you enter charming Bentonville. Established in 1836, this idyllic American town seemingly hasn't changed much since then. Home to Walmart's Home Office, Bentonville is centered on a grassy town square where live music plays surrounded by local boutiques, 'round the world cuisine, and gear shops opened to support the booming outdoor culture.

Across from The Square, visit the original Walton's that started Walmart's rise to retail dominance. Travel back in time by sipping on a milkshake at the adjacent old-timey Spark Café and Soda Fountain.

From here, catch the Greenway out of town for quiet riding on trails surrounded by woods and wildlife. Uniquely, a soft surface path runs alongside the paved trail so you can ride off-road—even when cycling with a skinny tire friend. Follow signs to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and pop into the beautifully designed, free-to-visit space to see the country's biggest collection of American Art from renowned artists like Andy Warhol.

For tougher MTB riding, follow the Greenway to Slaughter Pen, an unpleasantly named but fun to ride trail circuit with flowy single track trails, wooden bridges to cross, and challenging features like teeter toters and drop-offs.

Park your ride for the night at 21c Museum Hotel, a bike-friendly hotel built along the Greenway that's known for its free art museum boasting ever-changing, surprising exhibits. Amenities such as free bike valet, rentals, and safe storage for your ride make 21c an ideal home base for bikecations. End your night here with drinks at The Hive, a classy cocktail bar known for its inventive seasonal recipes.





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Side Trip Siloam Springs: Paddle Paradise

Got a day to spare? Trade your bike for a kayak and venture off the Razorback Greenway to Siloam Springs, a quaint town with a walkable Main Street on the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line. Saddle up to 28 Springs horseshoe bar for seasonally-changing Arkansas' eats like chicken fried steak and grits before driving four miles to the Illinois River, the site of Siloam Springs Kayak Park.

Here kayakers, rafters, and tubers hone their whitewater skills paddling and surfing the Class I and II engineered rapids. Free for anyone to use, beginners to experts flock here to practice their paddling. But you can lounge in the calm riverbank pools if you're not big on adrenaline rushes. Even if you're totally new, it's easy to get the hang

Jenny is a freelance writer based in Salt Lake City and the editor of Outdoor Sports Guide magazine. When not hiking or snowboarding in Utah's Wasatch Mountains, you'll find her traveling the world in search of unique

of navigating the rapids and learning to paddle in an environment more controlled than a wild river.

Relax afterward at Creekside Taproom, a hyperlocal joint serving only Arkansas wine and beer. Beer flights are presented on Arkansas-shaped trays, and their sunny patio's the perfect place to challenge a friend to a round o' cornhole.







JUNE 24, 2017

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- ✓ Spectacular and unique geologic formations

There's so much more to share, but we don't want to give away all of the course secrets. You'll have to qualify and race to experience the rest!

Categories are available for Coed, Coed Masters, Collegiate & Open (all male or all female) teams. Coed Masters, Collegiate & Military teams do not have to qualify. Be sure to get your team qualified or register if you are in a category that is not required to qualify as racers can expect a great course followed by an excellent time at the awards banquet.

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Shooting Reviews

Caldwell Universal Pistol Loader

The Caldwell Universal Pistol Loader is a sore finger saving, fast and efficient pistol magazine loading must have item for the serious shooter. Just as the name implies Caldwell designed this universal

loader to work with both single and double stack magazines and most pistol ammo (9mm, 10mm, .357, .40, 45acp and most 380). Simply insert your magazine, tighten the lock knob, insert a round and squeeze the aluminum handle, with a little practice you can become very quick & efficient at loading your magazines. Built to last, the simple and efficient Caldwell Universal Pistol Loader will make your life easier, save your fingers and leave you wondering how you ever lived without it. www.btibrands.com

Double Click Holsters Safe Carry Ranger

The Double Click Holsters Safe Carry Ranger features a non-mechanical double retention system to prevent accidental extraction of the firearm from the holster. No buttons, springs or snaps to fail, just simply push the safe carry thumb retention release towards your body and draw the pistol. The Safe Carry Ranger features double retention points at the trigger guard and the top of the pistol insuring your firearm will remain in the holster during any activity. These beautiful & functional kydex holsters are handmade in the USA and feature a lifetime guarantee. www.doubleclickholsters.com



KRĬ/PTEK*

Kryptek Tactical Pistol Case

Kryptek continues to expand their excellent line of cases with the Tactical Pistol Case. The hook and loop design allow you to rearrange the modular case in an infinite number of designs. The tough 600D polyester Tactical Pistol Case includes a universal holster, adjustable double mag pouch, eyewear pouch, two accessory pouches, zippered mesh interior pouch and features padded sides to protect your contents. Kryptek rounded out the 10 x 13 x 2.5 inch black Typhon case with reversible zippers and a padded handle. The Kryptek Tactical Pistol Case is a functional pistol case that can be configured exactly how you want and will be the envy of all your shooting buddies. www. kryptek.com

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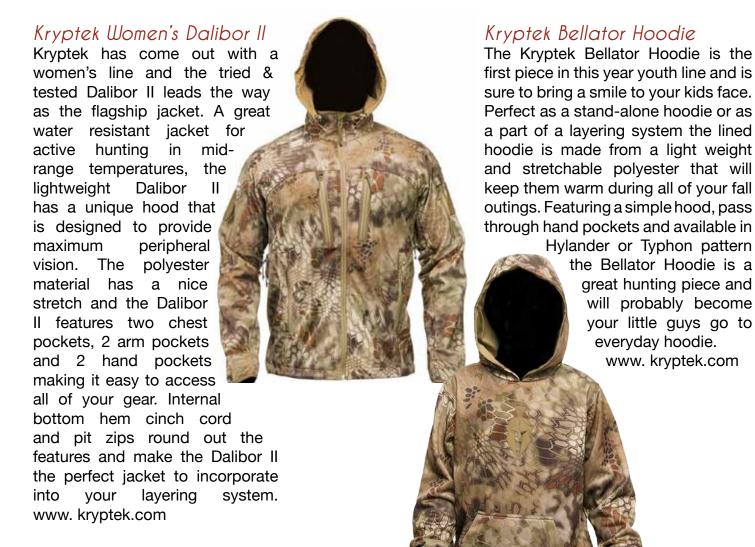


CRKT Homefront FDC

The CRKT Homefront EDC features a revolutionary "Field Strip" technology that allows you to disassemble, clean and reassemble the knife in a few simple steps without any tools. To field strip simply close the knife, flip the lever and rotate a wheel and in less than 10 seconds the knife is apart. Clean the parts and reverse the order and you are back in business. The Ken Onion design is available in 4 models , the EDC features a 3.539 inch blade, glass reinforced nylon handles, a lifetime warranty and weighs

CRKT

in at 4.3 ounces. The CRKT field strip is cutting edge technology and will make your Homefront EDC your new favorite knife.



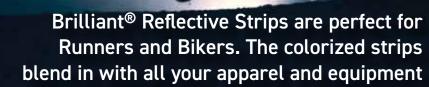


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Magpul Mansfield

The Magpul Mansfield is a quick drying, moisture wicking shirt that is perfect for work or play. Featuring cool snap front & chest pockets, a hidden interior chest pocket and split side seams for a relaxed fit. A unique feature is the location of the shoulder seams which reduce chaffing when wearing a back pack. The Magpul Mansfield is a great everyday shirt and will quickly work it's way into your regular rotation. www.magpul.com



Magpul Bonnell

The Magpul Bonnell are a quick drying, lightweight nylon stretch pant that are comfortable enough to wear for days. Featuring an antimicrobial treatment to prevent the stink; two zippered back pockets, a zippered thigh pocket, a hidden zippered hip pocket & 2 hand pockets provide ample storage for all of your necessities. In typical Magpul fashion, the Bonnell pants are built to take on the rigors of just about any activity with tough reinforced knees & heels to take whatever you need to throw their way. The Magpul Bonnell pants are great looking, tough, functional & comfortable making them an unbeatable combination. www.magpul.com



Sitka Stormfront Glove

The Sitka Stormfront Glove is a 3 in 1 system that can be used for just about any condition Mother Nature throws your direction. The removable inner fleece liner is perfect for those dry early winter days and the GORE-TEX outer shell provides protection when the weather turns windy & wet on those early winter days. As it gets colder, just slip the liners into the outer shell and you have a great cold, wet & windy weather all-purpose glove. You can also layer by mixing other Sitka liners with the outer shell. The Stormfront feature an elastic cuff combined with a draw cord to keep the wind & water out, a finger pull off tab for easy removal, a tough nylon waterproof exterior and a leather palm which provides excellent grip even in wet conditions. www.sitkagear.com



Sitka Bomber Belt

Appropriately named, the Sitka Bomber belt is a sturdy 1 5/8 inch nylon webbing belt that will keep all of your necessary gear secure. This rigid belt is great for holding your heavier gear and the unique aluminum quick release buckle combines style with function. Perfect for your next outing, whether it is a 10 day excursion or dinner & the movies, but be careful because the Sitka Bomber Belt is a show stopper. www.sitkagear.com





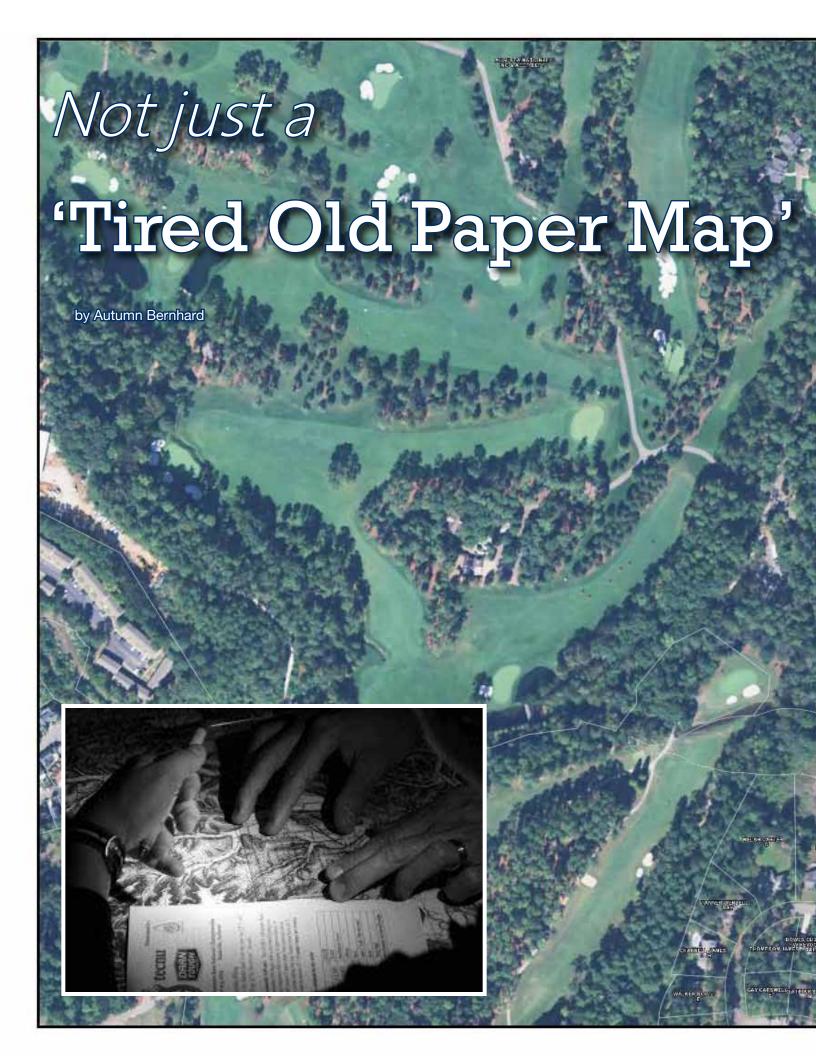
Sitka Stealth Belt

The Sitka Stealth Belt is the slimmer & lighter version of the Bomber Belt. The Stealth is perfect for an everyday belt or for that outback trip. The light weight nylon belt & minimal aluminum buckle make them ideal for wearing while backpacking without worrying about them digging into you because of pressure from the pack belt. Good looking and functional the Sitka Stealth Belt is a great accessory. www.sitkagear.com

Tenzing TX 14

The Tenzing TX-14 is a great hunting daypack with tons of features to keep you organized. Weighing in at less than 2 pounds, the 1600 cubic inch pack has 2 main storage compartments for all of your larger gear, a small compartment for things like keys, cell phone or glasses, four compression straps and is designed to carry a hydration bladder. Dual side pockets give you quick access to things like your binoculars and nine internal compartments insure there is a place for everything else you need. The air cooled back pad, adjustable padded shoulder straps and a sternum strap make this a very comfortable pack. Featuring Tenzing's limited lifetime guarantee, the TX 14 is available in 3 color patterns and the soft tricot fabric is both guiet & burr resistant. Once you get your hands on the Tenzing TX 14 you will quickly understand why this is the perfect archery stand or rifle hunting day pack. www.tenzingoutdoors.com AW







While working at a geographic information systems mapping shop in Montana, Paige Darden noticed one common trend: People asking for customizable maps. After some thought, she came up with an answer: MyTopo.

The problem with topographic maps was each map was of one U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quad. This meant a property can be a part of four different quads, forcing someone to buy four different maps. Darden, MyTopo marketing manager, knew there had to be a better way.

"We realized if we put all the 56 USGS quad maps into one database, we could make it so people could custom center the map and only cover the exact amount of area they needed," Darden said. "You don't have to cut and paste maps together like you used to."

Started in 1999, MyTopo gives customers the opportunity to create their own map online and have it shipped to their door within a few days.

"With us, you can get any area on one map sheet, no matter how big or how small," Darden said. "We allow you to get exactly what you want."



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Another problem MyTopo solves is the availability of maps in general.

"First off, not many stores stock maps, but if you do find one that has maps, you can't buy a pre-made map centered on your property," she said. "We solved the problem of it being hard to find maps, and when you did find them, having to buy a bunch of them."

MyTopo has steadily grown since its beginning. Customers range from property owners and big ranch owners to hunters to adventure racers.

"Adventure racers love our maps because of the waterproofness of the paper," Darden said. "They value that it is a true to scale, real map that is centered on the course. Hunters have to be where people aren't so they are in unpopulated areas where they need a map. Big game hunters are probably the ones that rely on us the most.

"Then there's some people who just like a beautiful picture of their property on their wall," she said. "The more people are aware of maps and how cool they are, the more they want a printed map for their wall."

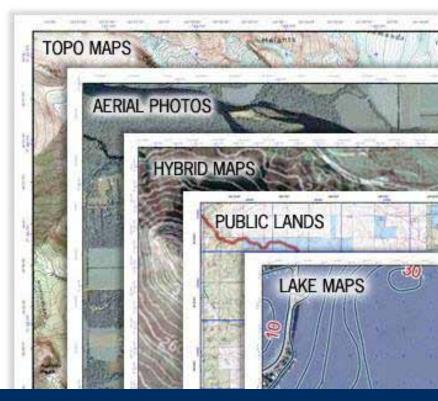
MyTopo strives to continue their success with new ideas.

"We are constantly innovating," she said. "It's not like we are just in tired old paper map products. We are adding to them, enhancing them and making them more valuable to consumers."



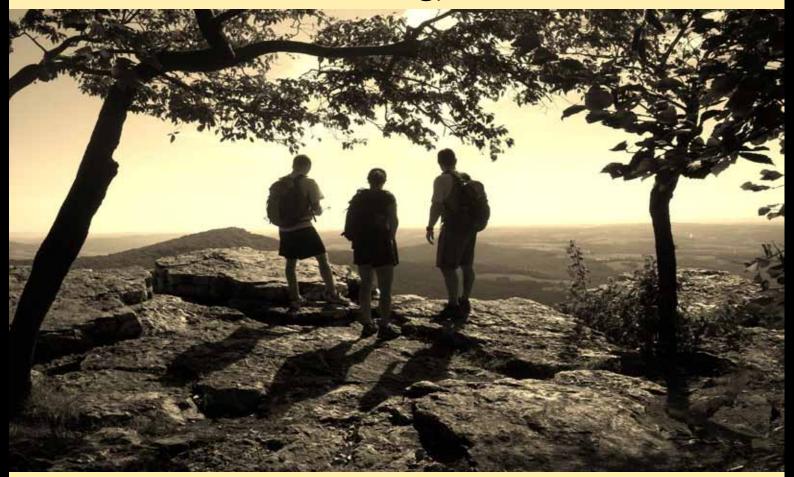
HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN MYTOPO MAP

- VISIT WWW.MYTOPO.COM, CLICK ON THE RED BUTTON THAT SAYS "FIND A MAP."
- SEARCH FOR YOUR MAP AREA by place or address, USGS quads, hunting area, GPS coordinate or upload a GPX file.
- FIND THE CENTER OF YOUR MAP: (Find the exact location you want a map of and place it in 3 the center of the screen). This will be the center of your map.
- BUILD YOUR MAP: This is where you will actually choose what your map will look like. 4 a- Select a base map- topo map, standard aerial, premium satellite, hybrid topo/photo. b- Add premium overlays- private property lines and public land boundaries.
 - c- Choose map area- paper size and orientation and map zoom.
- VIEW YOUR MAP IN FULL DETAIL BEFORE CONTINUING
- 6 CHOOSE MAP FINISH: Pick which paper type you would like your map to be. a- Waterproof "Outdoor"- This tear-resistant paper is what MyTopo is known for. It lasts a long time with waterproof paper and ink. They come rolled or folded. b- Laminated- This allows you to use dry-erase markers on your map as well as protecting it from water and dirt. They only come rolled.
- PERSONALIZE YOUR MAP: Give your map a title, owner's name and choose your navigation 7 arids.
- PREVIEW YOUR MAP BEFORE PLACING 8 YOUR ORDER.
- ADD THE MAP TO YOUR CART AND 9 CHECK OUT. If there's something you wish to change, go back to the editing process and make your alterations.
- YOUR MAP WILL BE PROCESSED, 10 PRINTED AND SHIPPED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF YOUR ORDER. You can expect it within two or three days. AW



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Traveling in Pakistan

Traveling from Taftan to Quetta, Pakistan

by Magy Tsenova

We are two people who have been traveling for a year now – Magy and Mr. Shushtari. We started our current journey from Bulgaria, through Turkey and Iran. We travel by hitchhiking, and sleep in a tent or with locals when invited. Here is the story about our trip from Taftan to Quetta accompanied by military convoy next to the border with Afghanistan.

We are on the border between Iran and Pakistan and we pass it easily. The people in Pakistan are quite different; they wear long beards and typical Muslim caps and kurta-pajamas. After we enter, we are taken to a small fort in the border town Taftan. Time here seems to flow so slowly- like it has almost stopped. Nobody cares for anything. Now we start our real journey in Balochistan.

We travel in the jeeps of Levies, a special escort through the desert. When we reach a checkpoint, we stop in order to change cars and it usually takes some time in order for this to take place. Outside is really hot – almost 105 degrees and the silence is deafening. Every time we get in the next car we are accompanied by the driver and two armed policemen from the Levies. People from the escort are really nice and give us bread and water often. All is calm and languid. The road is often covered with sand. We see dunes and sometimes pasturing camels. The scenery consists of yellow sand, black rocks, sometimes green bushes and the always present impressive mountains. The width of the desert is grand and invokes unexplainable feelings. It is 105 degrees but it is better than 120 they often experience in







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July. Inside the people's houses, made of sun-dried bricks, it is cool and the water that people keep in their pitchers is surprisingly cold. Around us feeble goats eat plastic and rocks and from time to time we see a single ginger, one-hump camel pasturing near the road. I can't imagine what it will be like to enter deep into the desert. In my opinion you will bite the dust regardless of how much water you bring on. I don't know where the bandits hide in these areas, or how they survive here. The traveling is slow as there are check points every 20-30 miles where we must stop and write our personal data into a notebook. We also change escort jeeps every 50 or so miles which slows us down additionally. Almost all the buildings we pass by are made of clay and sun-dried bricks, and most of them are forts or military structures. The first 200 miles after the border, there are not many villages; it is mostly just sand and rocks. Around 7 o'clock in the evening we reach Dalbandin, a small town where we stop for a rest.

The moment we arrive the fun begins. They drive us to a hotel where we are supposed to pay \$10 per night. This is a very high price for Pakistan so we say we will pitch our tent in the yard or we will sleep near the police station as we often did in Iran. The policemen say that it is impossible because I am a woman. After some arguing the manager lowers the price to \$5 and we finally agree to take the hotel room, the armed escort Levies leave and two





local policemen stay with us to guard us. The policemen follow us closely everywhere we go inside the hotel and finally they sit in our room and start chatting with us. All of a sudden a guy shows up and says the room will costs 600 not 500 rupees and then the policemen report that we also have to pay for their dinner, which is another – 500 rupees (\$5). This drives us nuts and we tell them that we will go outside and pitch our tent and that we don't need their rooms whatsoever. In the end we are tired of everything. We have barely eaten anything for 2 days because of the constant hurry so we decide we will sleep in the room. This presents another problem as we don't have Pakistan rupees and the dollars we have are in \$100 bills. The situation outside is wild, all the people look to us like Taliban (though we think that is how the Balochi people normally look), with long beards, turbans and shawls all over their faces. It turns out we can't exchange money outside and the oily owner of the hotel offers us really low rates and says this is the normal rate for this region. We have no option

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WEATHER GUARD L/S JERSEY

Block the wind, and keep the heat in! Made entirely from Italian fabric the long sleeve weather guard jersey is perfect for high wind and cooler conditions. Designed with air permeable venting helps manage moisture while you sweat. The best part? It can be fully sublimated!



APEX ENDURO RUN SHORTS

The APEX Enduro Run Short is perfect for those who need extra storage during training or races. It features extra pockets for your gear, food and valuables. Mesh side panels offer increased ventilation and keep you comfortable at all times. The leg length is perfect for on the trail and also hanging out at the coffee shop after your run.











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and we give him our money losing at least another \$10 from the "deal". My mood is really bad now and we just want to go to bed. After we pay, everyone is happy except us. The policemen keep hanging around in our room and keep talking in their broken English. One of them is 27 years old and has 5 children; the other one has 9 children. Finally they leave, we take a shower and crash in our beds without even having a dinner.

In the morning the Levies are here, waiting for us to get up so we pack quickly and leave without having breakfast. At noon we stop at a small house and eat chapatti (flat bread. We dip them in one big bowl full of lentils, it is really delicious and everyone takes really good care of us. One of the guards shows us some papers. The papers are his "license to kill", a special document that says (in English) that he can shoot at people with his Kalashnikov gun without orders in case of emergency. He explains to us that this is because their bases and the Iranian buses full of pilgrims are under constant threat. The road we are on from Taftan (the border between Pakistan and Iran) to Quetta (the capital of Balochistan) passes close to the border of Afghanistan. Some of our guards claim that the threat comes from Afghanistan Taliban, others say that the road is totally safe for tourists and one of them tells us the Balochi people are the real terrorists. To summarize: the situation is obviously unclear here. In my opinion, the

guards take very good care of us and their comrades. They do their job very well. The escort is free from Taftan to Quetta (400 miles), you don't have to pay for the ride and they give you food & water for free all the time. In the notebooks at the checkpoints we see that westerners pass by every two or three days and the attacks aimed at tourists have been very rare over the last 10 years. However, the assaults on churches, Shiite mosques and government buildings considerable, but overall the risk is small enough for travelers. We see more and more grazing camels near the road and we enter the sand desert. We notice some big lakes at the horizon but it turns out they are just mirages. Some parts of the road are very good while others have huge potholes and the jeep swerves around them through the desert to make the ride less rough. Our nightmare starts in the early afternoon as the escorts change more and more often and the villages along the road become less. The jeeps are exchanged for pick-ups that are older and slower and we have to ride outside in the bed. The







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guards drive like crazy and the wind is hitting us hard in the face. Lucky for us that some of the pick-ups are covered with cloth, providing refuge from the fury of the sun's blaze. Sand is all over us, despite the fact that we are fully wrapped up with shawls. I feel the sand in my mouth constantly and I start shaking from exhaustion. The last 12 miles are terrible as we change cars 5 times. At last we reach the outskirts of Quetta, but the madness is not over yet. There is one part of the road just before entering the city that we have to pass on motorbikes.

My husband and I get on a motorcycle with our rucksacks on our backs and two other motorbikes come with us as guards. The guards driving in front of us hold their Kalashnikovs ready for action and look around like crazy. There are three other guards dressed with bulletproof vests on the motorbike behind us. I think everybody in town knows we are coming. The guards drive recklessly through the chaos of tuk-tuks (something like a motorbike with a rooftop), pedestrians and trucks. We catch a glimpse of Afghanistan women dressed in burkas with nets covering their eyes. When we get off the motorbike my legs are shaking. I beg the guards to take a rickshaw for the next leg of the journey and this is how we get to the hotel. It looks like a military fort and has special admission rules which basically say that you can't leave the hotel, especially now when it is dark outside. The requirements in the city are even more

heightened compared to 2013-2014 when tourists could take a bus from Taftan (the border) to Quetta. Now you are required to travel with an escort and when you are in the city you must stay at the hotel. Most people come here by car or motorbike, it is rare for people travel without their own vehicles.

Summary Balochistan, Pakistan:

This is one of the most amazing places we have ever been. It is another world, and the risk was worth it (though the risk of being killed by some reckless driver on the highway is quite high in my humble opinion). This is the most staggering journey we have ever taken and one of the most impressive and differing worlds we have ever seen. The desert, the hundreds of miles of wilderness, the cities, the people... it is unimaginable. I highly recommend this trip for those who can endure the journey.







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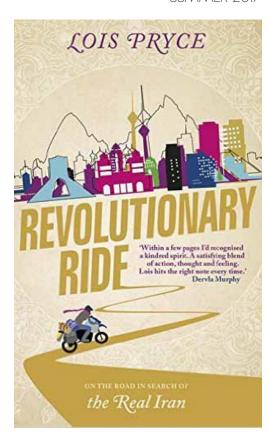
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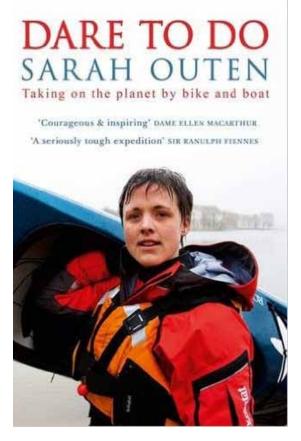


SUMMER 2017

REVOLUTIONARY RIDE: On the Road in Search of the Real Iran By Lois Pryce

REVOLUTIONARY RIDE: On the Road in Search of the Real Iran is the story of a people and a country. Religious and hedonistic, practical and poetic, modern and rooted in tradition - and with a wild sense of humor and appreciation of beauty despite the comparative lack of freedom - this is real contemporary Iran seen through the eyes of a female adventurer. In 2011, at the height of tension between the West and the Iranian governments, travel writer Ms. Lois Pryce found a note from an unknown Persian man left on her motorcycle outside the Iranian Embassy in London, asking that she journey to his hometown to find out what Iran is really like. Intrigued, Lois decides to ignore the official warnings against travel (and the warnings of her friends and family) and set off alone on a 3,000 mile ride from Tabriz to Shiraz, to try to uncover the heart of this most complex and incongruous country. Along the way, she meets carpet sellers and drug addicts, war veterans and housewives, doctors and teachers, people living ordinary lives under the rule of an extraordinarily strict Islamic government. www.loisontheloose.com





DARE TO DO: Taking on the Planet by Bike and Boat by Sarah Outen

DARE TO DO: Taking on the Planet by Bike and Boat is more than her adventure story. It is a story of the kindness of strangers and the spirit of travel; a story of the raw power of nature, of finding love in unexpected places, and of discovering your inner strength. It is about trying and failing, and trying again, and about how even when all seems lost, you can find yourself. Rower and adventurer Sarah Outen set off in her kayak from Tower Bridge for France. Her aim was simple: to circle the globe entirely under her own steam - cycling, kayaking and rowing across Europe, Asia, the Pacific, the Americas, the Atlantic and eventually home. A year later, Sarah was plucked from the Pacific Ocean after tropical storm Mawar, her boat broken, her spirit even more so. But that wasn't the end. Despite ill health and depression, giving up was not an option. So Sarah set off once more to finish what she had started, becoming the first woman to row solo from Japan to Alaska, as well as the first woman to row the mid Pacific from West to East. She kayaked the treacherous Aleutian chain and cycled across North America in winter, before setting out on the Atlantic, despite the risk of another row-ending storm. www.sarahouten.com

Thermacell Backpacker

Thermacell has added the Backpacker to their mosquito repelling camping devices and the Backpacker is a compact, lightweight mosquito repelling dynamo. Just slide in a repellant mat and hook the 4 oz Backpacker up to any isobutene canister and it will create a 15 foot by 15 foot bug and odor free zone. The Backpacker uses DEET free mats treated with Allethrin a compound found in the Chrysanthemum flower to repel insects. The fuel efficient Backpacker has a built in piezo starter and will run for 90 hours on a 4 oz canister. 180 hours on a 8 oz canister and 360 hours on a 16 oz canister. Get yourself a Thermacell and stop fighting those pesky Backpacker insects on your camping & picnicking outings. www.thermacell.com



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SUMMER 2017

Yeti Hopper Two 30

Just when you thought it was impossible, Yeti has actually improved the design of their Hopper soft sided cooler. The Yeti Hopper Two now has a side zipper which makes access much easier than the original design. The zipper is still completely leak proof so you don't need to worry if the cooler turns over in your car during your adventure. The Hopper Two also features ColdCell Insulation to keep everything ice cold, multiple tie downs to secure your cooler in just about any situation and their waterproof tough as nails DryHide outer shell. Available in 3 sizes the Hopper Two will become your go to cooler for all of your outings. www.yeti.com





Toob Travel Brush

The Toob Travel Brush incorporates a tooth brush and tooth paste into one compact package. The toothpaste reservoir stores in the handle of the tooth brush and is designed so you can refill it with your favorite brand at home. Toob also has replacement heads for the tooth brush to keep you going no matter how long you are on the road. Compact, convenient and efficient the Toob Travel Brush will keep those pearly whites clean on overnight jaunts or month long adventures in the outback. www.yourhealthysmile.com



SUMMER 2017

Kershaw Launch 7

The Tim Galyean designed Kershaw Launch 7 has a unique aluminum handle and a gray & black two tone industrial look that make this a very unique automatic knife. This made in the USA automatic features a reversible pocket clip, push button open & lock release and a 3.75 inch blade. The black CPM 154 blade accents the knife perfectly and features a tough corrosion resistant DLC finish. Weighing in at 3.2 ounces, the Kershaw Launch 7 is a great everyday carry knife. www.kershaw.kajusaltd.com/knives/knife/launch-7



Carson VP 832

The Carson VP 832 are a great 8 x 32 full sized binocular that are perfect for all around use including general glassing, sporting events and hunting. Featuring BAK-4 prisms and multicoated lenses, the VP 832's are both water proof & fog proof making them effective in any weather conditions. The 8 times magnification is crisp & clear making this versatile binocular dependable in just about any situation. The Carson VP 832 comes with a neck strap, pouch, lens covers & cloth and they will quickly become one of your pieces of mandatory gear. www.carson.com

Powerstep Endurance Insoles

The Powerstep Endurance Insoles are a low profile insole which provide a light arch support for endurance activities. The Endurance insoles feature VCT Variable Cushioning Technology with targeted cushioning at the high impact areas such as the ball and heel to protect your feet. The water resistant insoles have a slim profile and a flexible arch support which is super comfortable. The Powerstep Endurance Insoles are perfect for increased support during running, cycling, skiing or just about any other activity that keeps you on your feet. www.powersteps.com





SUMMER 2017

Carson HookUpz 2.0

The Carson HookUpz 2.0 allows you to attach your smart phone to binoculars, spotting scopes, rifle scopes, telescopes, microscopes & a myriad of other scopes. Once attached the HookUpz gives you the ability to digitally record your subject and then easily share with your friends using email or

social media. The HookUpz is a universal adapter and will work with smartphones up to 3.75 inches wide and will fit any scope with an eyepiece between 25mm and 58mm. So get yourself a Carson HookUpz 2.0 and start making some awesome videos & photographs to share with your friends. www.carson.com



Lupine PIKO 4

Lupine has released the new generation of the Piko 4 bike light which has increased peripheral illumination and increased range from the previous model. The Piko 4 features a 55 gram light weight compact 2 bulb head which has 6 brightness levels ranging from 40 – 1500 lumens. The waterproof Lithium Ion battery is tough as nails and has a run rate of 1:45 hours to 80 hours depending on the light setting. Recharging takes less than 3 hours and combined with the flexibility of 6 different brightness modes, the Piko 4 will meet any demand you need from your bike light. www.lupinenorthamerica.com



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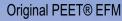
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SUMMER 2017

North Face Rolling Thunder

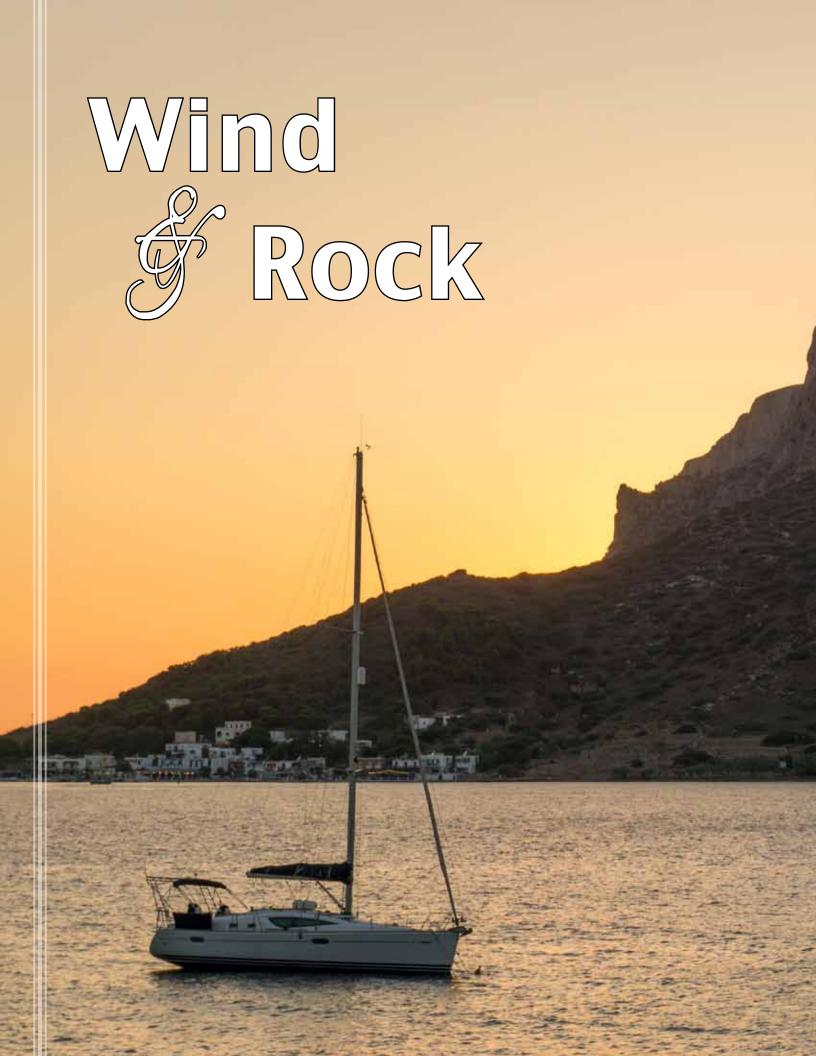
The appropriately named North Face Rolling Thunder is a lightweight monster of a roller bag that will easily haul a huge load of gear to your next adventure. The 36 inch bag holds 155 liters of gear, yet weighs in just north of 10 pounds giving you a the perfect light weight / high capacity combination. The poly / nylon outer material is super tough and the Rolling Thunder comes equipped with dual interior compression straps, a large interior zippered mesh pocket, a large zippered external pocket, interior & exterior daisy chain loops, dual exterior compression straps and handles on every side to ease lifting. The Rolling Thunder features a huge opening for easy packing plus a top zip stash pocket for essentials and a second zippered pocket to keep dirty gear separate from your clean gear. Get yourself a Rolling Thunder and start packing for that next big adventure. www.thenorthface.com

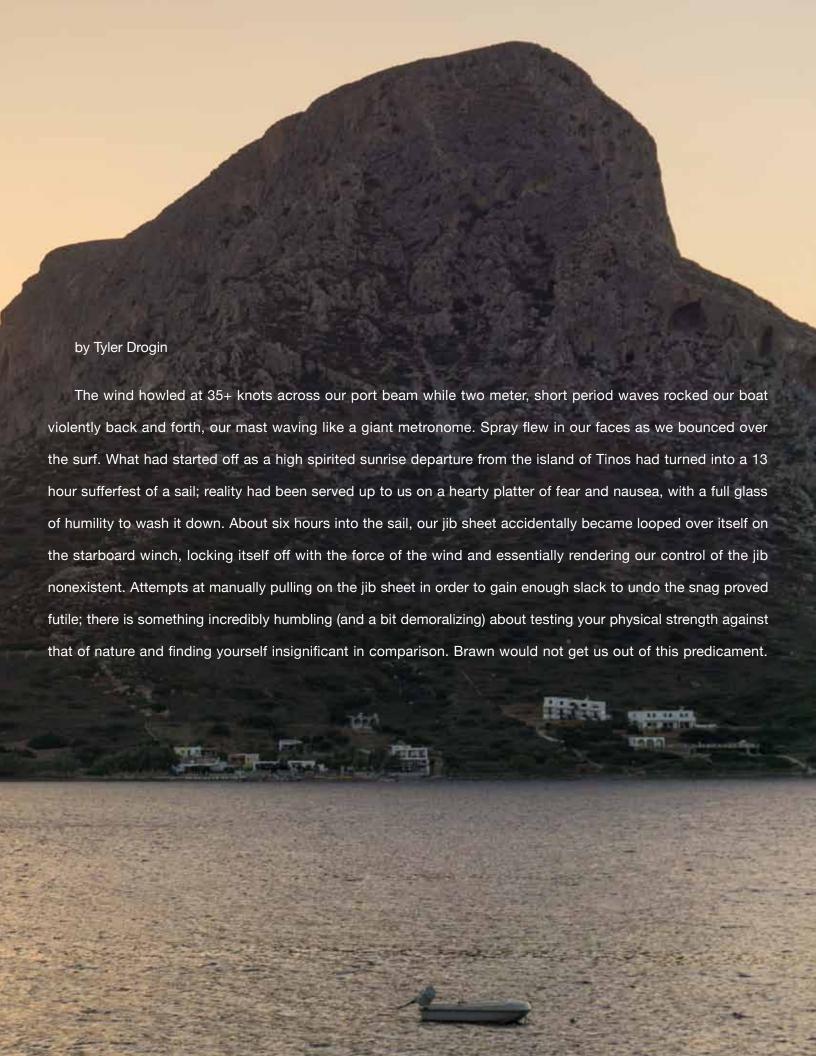


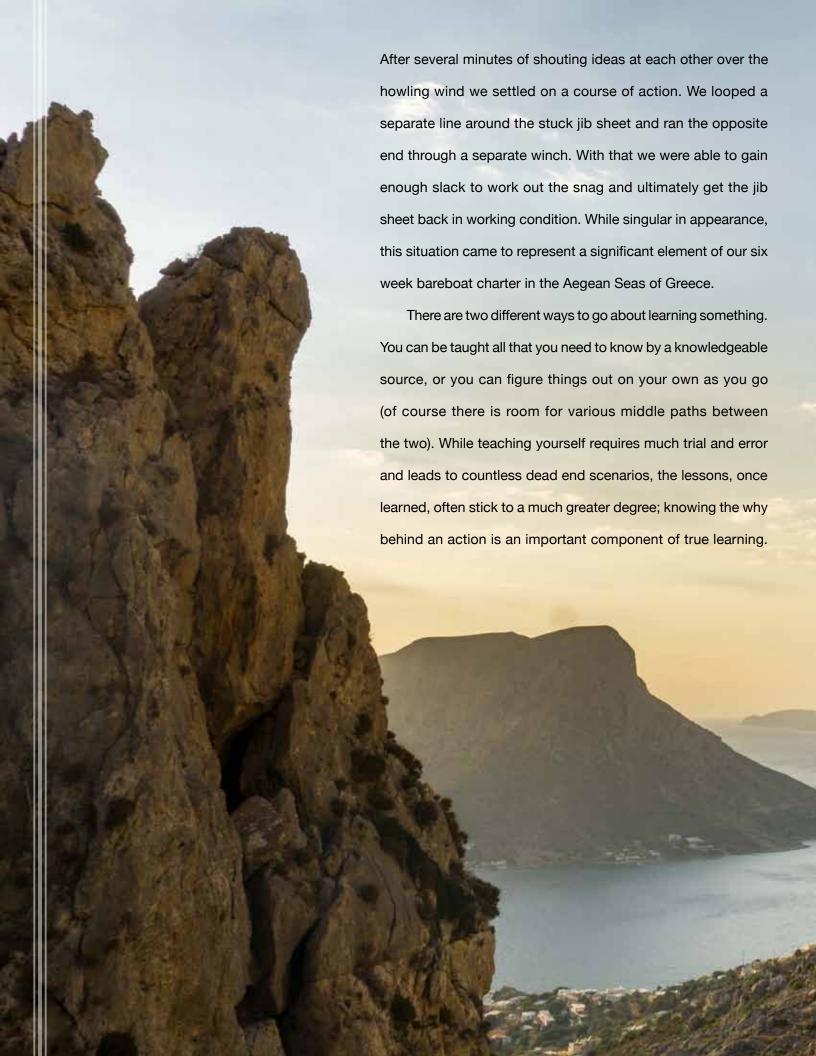
Kelty Siro 50

The Kelty Siro 50 is a 3 pound, 50 liter internal frame backpack featuring a new unique design that addresses a common access issue and provides a simple and functional solution. The Siro features a Shark's mouth opening for easy loading and a unique front panel zipper which allows you to access the entire contents of the loaded pack without unloading a thing. An external hydration sleeve, two huge stretch mesh shove it pockets, dual stretch water bottle pockets and two large zippered hip belt pockets provide easy access to all the essentials you need such a food, water, camera or GPS during your hike. The Siro features Kelty's FeatherFIT suspension system with a suspended air mesh back panel, integrated lumbar support, padded shoulder straps, sternum strap, padded hip belt and load lifter straps which all combine to provide a comfortable day on the trails even when you are loaded with 25 - 30 pounds of gear. Dual trekking pole attachments, 4 compression straps and a small external zippered top pouch round out the features of this lightweight dynamo. The unique functional design of the Kelty Siro 50 put it at the top of the list for those long weekend light backpacking trips. www. kelty.com AW













POPTICALS

POP-OUT SUNGLASSES









Going into the trip our collective knowledge of sailing was just enough to enable us to legally charter a yacht in Greece. Our group was made up of five close friends, all in our 20's. Brothers lan and Tyler, siblings Anna and Aaron, and Spencer. lan and Spencer had undergone an eight day sailing course several weeks before we departed for the trip, but beyond that our experience was severely limited; some of us had never set foot on a sailboat prior to a one day test run we did right before taking off for Greece. We had come up with the idea to spend six weeks sailing and rock climbing in the Aegean Sea two years prior, more out of fantasy than any real skill set in sailing or climbing. Any shortcoming in skill would have to be made up by quick thinking and a rational approach of trial and error.

It was apparent early on in our voyage that an eight day course can teach you the basics but not prepare you for everything that comes your way while living on a sailboat. At first our efforts and actions were disjointed and poorly coordinated, not to mention a bit nerve wracking. The first test of our abilities in a situation of consequence came during our first attempt at med mooring. Med mooring entails facing away from the quay, dropping anchor and reversing back to the quay where the stern is tied off. Approaching the crowded, windy harbor of Mykonos we did several large circles to buy ourselves some time

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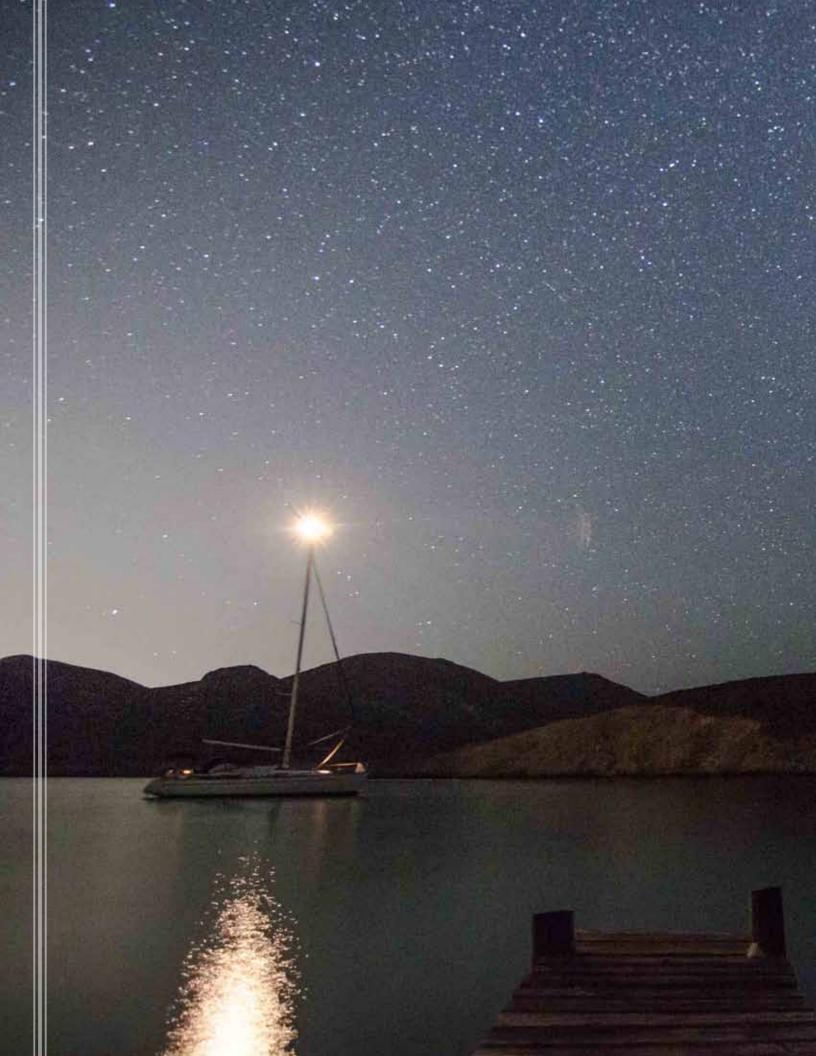


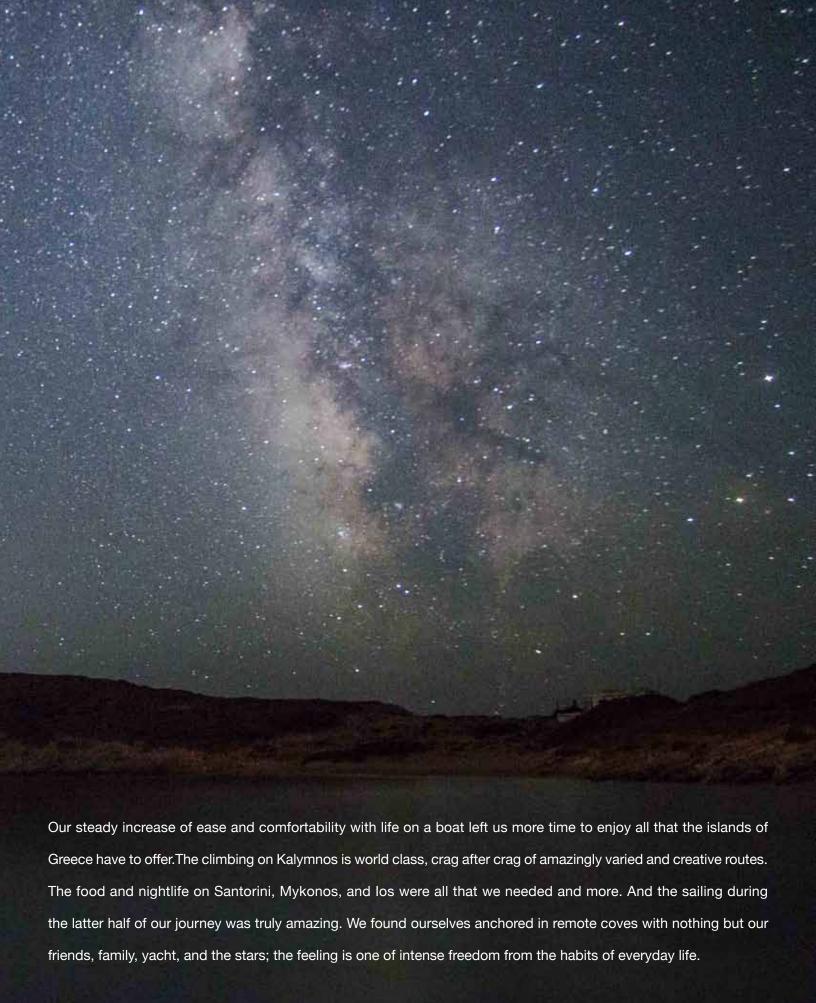


to discuss our plan of action and prepare our boat. The maneuver was made more difficult as the only space available was one boat width wide and the wind was blowing a steady 20 knots, making it difficult to reverse without getting blown off course. A mistake could result in damage to our boat or those of others, or get our prop tangled up in a neighbor's anchor chain (while this never happened to us, we did witness it later on in our trip pulling into the los harbor). While we had seen med mooring done once before and had it explained to us, none of us had actually piloted a yacht in the procedure. After much shouting, several attempts, and many tense moments we found ourselves securely tied off in the Mykonos harbor. The sense of satisfaction that came with successfully passing a small test on our own served to fuel the fire to learn more and test ourselves further.

Our thirteen hour crossing from Tinos to Patmos was a turning point of sorts for our education as sailors and our functionality as a team. We came out of it with a healthy respect for the power of the wind and waves, but also a confidence that we were able to keep our cool and figure out unexpected situations as they presented themselves. Each new scenario that we faced brought about a conversation as to how we might improve our process in that given scenario but also how we might work together as a team more effectively. The next time we faced something unexpected (a broken engine which left us bobbing on the waves with no wind) our reaction was more measured and calm; we came to understand that the frame of mind with which you approach a problem has a large bearing on how well that problem gets solved.









Climbing El Cap, trekking through Borneo, mountain climbing in Patagonia, navigating the rivers of Vietnam, racing bikes across the Andes—every challenge forced Rusch to reinvent herself and grow stronger.

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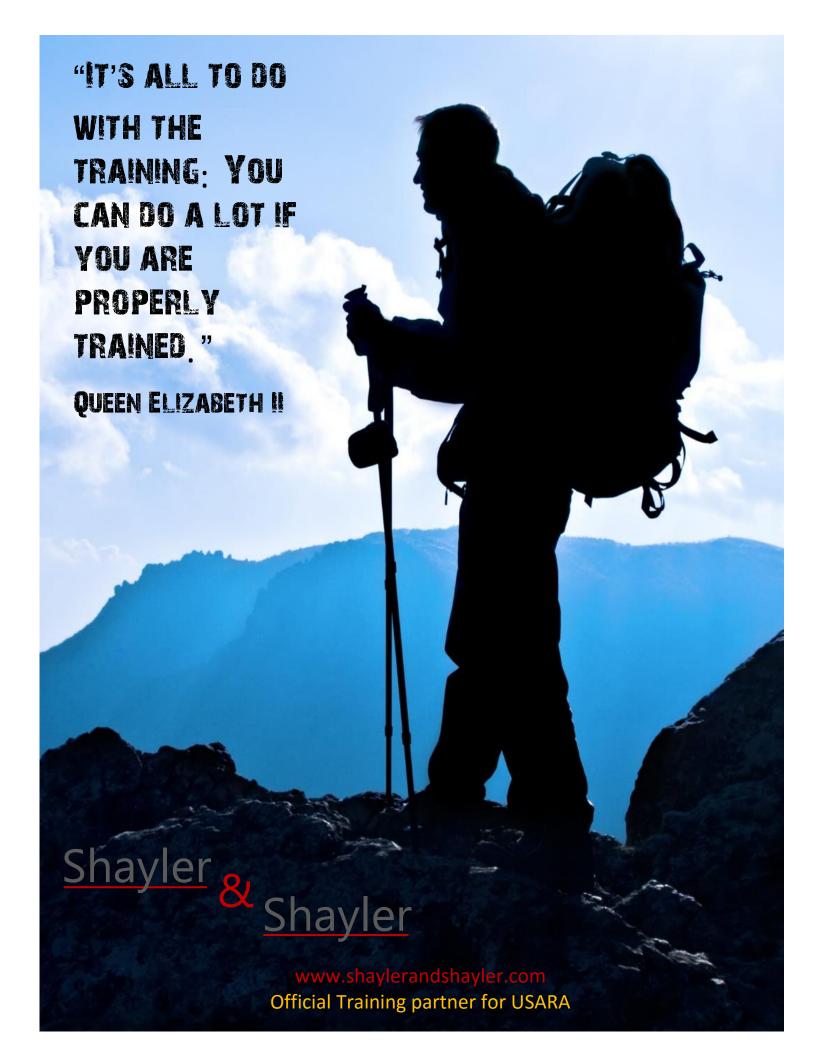


REBECCA RUSCH WITH SELENE YE

As we cruised into the harbor in Athens at the end of our voyage, it felt like we had come a long way in our education as sailors and climbers. Our trip was the perfect combination of adventure and ease; we had plenty of moments of uncertainty that forced us to learn in the moment and truly figure it out for ourselves, but nothing that put our lives in serious jeopardy (although simple missteps at the wrong moment could have resulted in vastly different outcomes). We had come through the many scenarios that sailing presents on our own gumption, for the most part, and learned the lesson that with the right combination of free critical thought, creativity, and follow through you can go farther and do more than seems reasonably possible at first glance.

To learn more about our voyage, visit our website www.windandrock.com





Why I Do What I Do

by Guitar Ted

A while back I had a surprise visitor at the Guitar Ted Productions Headquarters. I won't get into who it was, and what the reason was for the visit, because it isn't anyone else's business. However; something came out of the discussion we were having that rang true, and it reminded me of the conversation I had only a week ago with my friend MG. I felt compelled to share something about those two conversations that maybe is obvious to some folks, but then again, maybe it isn't.

This whole gravel road cycling thing has been going on for a while now and there are a lot of events happening. Several of these were once, or are now of the "free to enter" type: Almanzo 100, (and attendant events), Westside Dirty Benjamin, Trans Iowa, I could go on and on. These events have turned gravel racing into the defacto "grassroots cycling" movement of the U.S.A. Why is that? Is it just that these events are free to enter? Partly. Yes, that is one reason, but I think there is a whole lot more depth to it than just a lack of monetary barriers.



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Barriers to inclusion can be all sorts of things, and a few of us out there that have been sweating the details and doing this for a while are committed to breaking down as many of those as possible. Some of those things are obvious, like the money deal, or no license requirements. Some of these things are not very obvious- at first glance- but if you care to look deeper, you'll

see what I mean.

When I used to race XC mountain bike stuff in the 90's, it was pretty much accepted that racing off road was "friendlier" than doing road bike events, but let me tell you- those events weren't very friendly. Before I even knew what gravel racing was all about, and way before the culture of the gravel events developed, or the whole "adventure" thing connected with gravel events happened, I was pretty turned off by the "every man for himself" attitudes and the cold, self-absorbed nature that many of the participants conveyed to me.

Now- that's my experience. But in comparison to what I have witnessed, been a part of, and told by others, the gravel road racing scene isn't like that, (for the most part), at all. Not even close.

Maybe it is the "all inclusive" nature of gravel events. You could show up on a real klunker of a bike, or something totally not right, and folks would be okay with talking with you



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TIGER BALM Works Where It Hurts and not taking you to task for being a "newb". They wouldn't look down their nose at you, but more than likely, they'd be willing to help you out, if you wanted that. At the very least, they would be very encouraging toward you. That's what I've seen, and that's what I've heard.

These are the same folks that would, after they won the event, come and pick up a DNF'er out on the course because the event director was tied up elsewhere. (Ask me how I know that!) These are the folks that after a top ten in the event offer you a cold one, and sit down and share the day's events with you, and want to hear about you and your experiences, even if you didn't finish. These are the folks that aren't bitching about what the race director didn't do for them, but are standing in line to shake his/her hand, offering encouragement, and doing unasked for things in support of said events. In other words, these are the folks you want to get to know, to ride with, and cannot wait to do that again with them.

Anyway, you get the picture. I am not saying this doesn't happen at road races, mountain bike races, or whatever.

I am saying that in my experience, and in that of almost anyone else I can think of that has done gravel events, this has been the experience, and I've only scratched the surface.

The big point brought up by my conversations with these two folks recently was that without gravel road events,

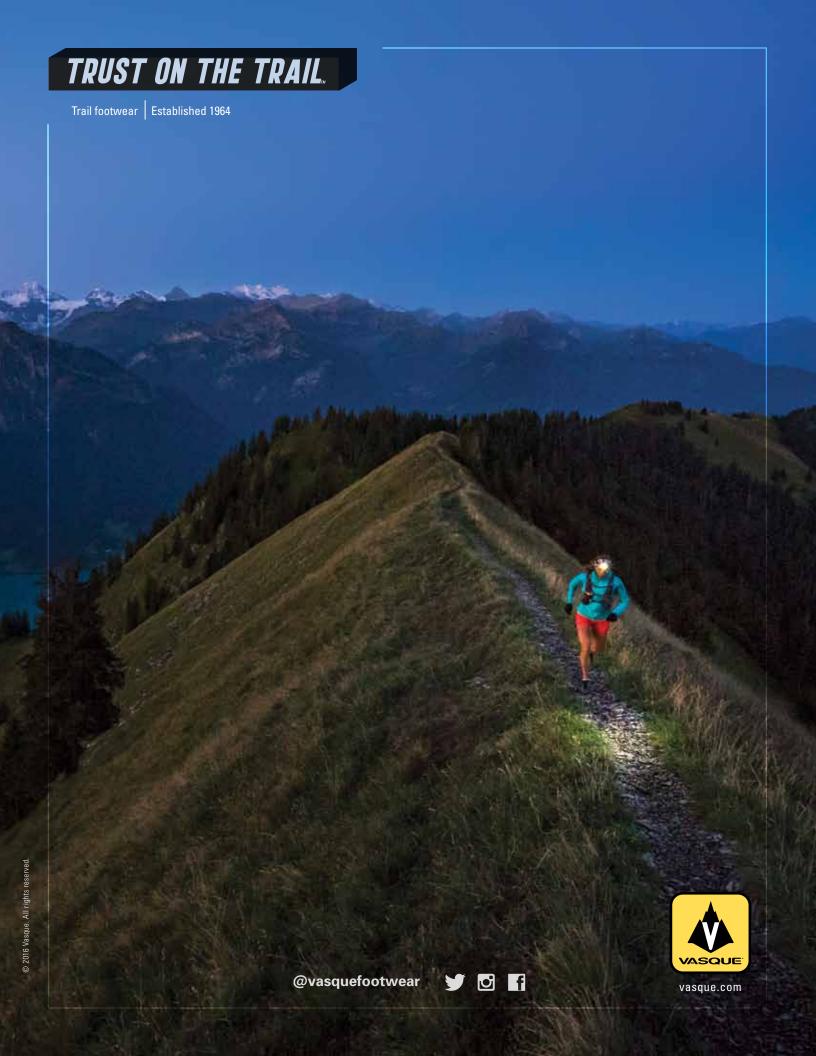
and them being the way they are, there would be so many fewer friendships, opportunities, and special memories that are associated with those events. I don't think that you can say any one thing led to this- not the "free" racing thing, not that these events are on gravel, nor that they are easy to attend. I think it runs deeper than that. It is about the people, the spirit of the events, and lasting relationships that come out of them that make the gravel racing scene so attractive and so... powerful.

Yes, I just said that.

I think it is true, and if the deep, heartfelt



conversations I have had in the past week are any indication, I am dead right. I know a lot of popular media types, bloggers, and talking heads will poo-poo all this, but that's okay. I say, come on down and get dusty, look around you, and see if you don't see it as well. Then we'll talk.



AR Trigger Review

by Kevin C. Smith

We tested and reviewed some AR-platform triggers from CMC Triggers, Elftmann Tactical, Hyperfire, and Trigger Tech. The process was greatly simplified by the use of a trigger jig by Strike Industries. Instead of installing each trigger into an actual AR lower, I used the skeletonized AR lower with quick insert trigger retaining pins and fire selector (safety).

Aftermarket AR triggers come in two basic styles: drop-in and OEM. The drop-in style triggers come in a module that simply "drops in" and just needs the two OEM trigger retaining pins to be reinstalled. It truly is "drop in" and installation is generally very easy. OEM-style triggers typically have several parts such as a hammer subassembly and trigger subassembly. Therefore, you must install "parts and pieces" and this is generally more involved.

One other major design characteristic of triggers is single-stage vs. two-stage. Single stage triggers release in a single pull. The shooter applies increasing pressure to trigger shoe until it releases. The shoe generally does not move aft as pressure is applied. If the shoe does move aft during this stage, it is called trigger "creep." Creep is generally considered undesirable.

Two-stage triggers are associated with military firearms. Two-stage triggers feature a two-movement release. In the first stage, the shooter applies pressure to the shoe and the shoe physically moves aft until it stops. At that point, the trigger effectively becomes a single-stage. The shooter continues to apply pressure until it releases.

As always, a bench top with good lighting along with a basic set of gunsmithing tools is helpful. Add in a small vise for use as a third hand and you will be a semi-pro. At a minimum, you need a punch to remove the retaining pins and an Allen wrench to loosen the pistol grip to relieve the tension on the fire selector detent spring.

In the past, a common complaint was creep before release. All the triggers we tested performed well with absolutely no creep noted, which is a testament to the current state of design and manufacturing in these triggers. Replacing your trigger with a high quality aftermarket trigger is one of the best investments you can make in your AR-15 which will insure a continuing return of faster follow up shots and improved accuracy.



There is a category for everyone: from high school to those who are a little longer in the tooth.

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Strike Industries AR Trigger Hammer Jig

The Strike Industries AR Trigger Hammer Jig is a great tool for adjusting and testing AR-15 triggers before assembling them in your rifle. The jig comes with a rubber hammer bumper to protect your trigger when dry firing and 2 quick release trigger pins which make installing a trigger a snap. By installing a safety and pistol grip the jig will function exactly the same as your AR-15 allowing you to adjust trigger pull and dry fire without damaging the trigger. The Strike Industries AR Trigger Hammer Jig's cut away design allows you to see the sear, hammer & disconnector engagement points making it a great tool when training AR trigger replacement or for demonstrating how an AR-15 trigger works. www.strikeindustries.com



CMC Triggers UMG222ST

The CMC Triggers UMG 222ST is a straight shoe, drop-in, two-stage trigger with an advertised 2.0/2.0 pull weights. The installation was very easy as the module bottoms out on the receiver when installed; there are no set screws to bottom out on the receiver. The package also includes replacement trigger retaining pins with screws on each end for a custom look. The instructions were clear and easy to follow. The first stage was consistent at 2 lbs and the second stage had no creep with a crisp release between 2 ½ and 2 ¾ lbs. If shooting with gloves, care must be taken not to press too quickly through the first stage as the second stage is fairly light. If you must shoot with bulky, cold weather gloves, you might choose a trigger with a heavier pull. www.cmctriggers.com



The Elftmann Elf Match is a curved shoe, drop-in, single-stage trigger with adjustable weight of pull. The installation was easy. Set screws on the bottom of the module are extended so as to bottom out on the receiver to stabilize or lock down the module and lock screws are installed on top of the set screws to anchor the set screws. The instructions are clear and easy to follow. Be advised you need to use Blue Thread locker on the set screw threads. The Elftmann Match trigger has no creep with a crisp release. The adjustment screw has a large travel. The lightest was 2 3/4 lbs. and the heaviest was around 4 ½ lbs. If the screw was turned further, the trigger would not release. I noticed no issues with gloves, just adjust the pull weight as necessary for safety. www.elftactical.com



Hiperfire Hipertouch 24E

The Hiperfire Hipertouch 24E is curved shoe, OEMstyle, single-stage trigger with light, med-light, and med trigger springs included. The installation was much more involved than a drop-in trigger. A vise to hold the lower makes the installation much easier. It comes in two major subassemblies. You install the trigger subassembly first followed by the hammer subassembly. There is significant tension on the retaining pins during installation. This trigger can be installed with safety installed unlike the drop-in modules tested. Once the subassemblies are installed, you must install the spring assemblies. Again, a vise and punch set made this task easier. The blue springs give a pull weight of 3 \(^4\) to 4 lbs. The vellow springs came in at 3 \(^4\) lbs. The plain springs were unique in that they gave a pull weight of 2 ¾ lbs, while providing an advertised 35% more hammer energy than the other sets of springs. Adjustments in the field would be tricky since you would need to compress the springs and their retainer. It would be easy to lose a flying spring or retainer, thus rendering the firearm unusable. Better do all this in the shop. Regardless of the spring installed, the trigger release was crisp with no creep. I preferred the lightest pull springs with increased hammer energy - it felt strong. Shooting gloves posed no problems. www.hiperfire.com



Trigger Tech Adaptable AR-15 Primary Trigger

The Adaptable AR-15 Primary Trigger is a straight shoe, drop-in, two-stage trigger with adjustable weight of pull. It is advertised as a "short two-stage." More on that later. The installation was easy as the Trigger Tech uses set screws to lock down the module inside the receiver. The instructions were clear and easy to follow. The first stage is, indeed, a short, very light ½ lb. "take up." The second stage was crisp with a release at 3 lbs. and no creep. Adjustments were positive with "clicks". Full travel of the adjustment screw varied the weight of pull from 2 ½ lbs. to 4 ½ lbs but did not affect the hammer force. The first stage is so light and short that the trigger functions very much like a single-stage trigger and it was easy to go right through the first stage and not know it. www.triggertech.com AW



USARA Adventure Race National Championship

Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania: September 22 & 23, 2017





PRESENTED BY



Shenandoah Epic Adventure Race	4/22/17	Front Royal, VA
Kulshan Quest	5/13/17	Bellingham, WA
MISSION Adventure Race	5/13/17	Columbus, IN
Blue Ridge Mountain 24 Hr	5/19/17	Blue Ridge, GA
Blue Ridge Mountain 8 Hr	5/19/17	Blue Ridge, GA
Olmitz Miner	5/20/17	Chariton, IA
Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge	5/27/17	Wausau, WI
The Nomad 48 Hours	6/1/17	Colorado Springs, CO
Uwharrie 18	6/3/17	Troy, NC
The Savage 12 Hour AR	6/4/17	Wagontown, PA
No Sleep 8 Hr	6/10/17	Harrisburg, IN
No Sleep Adventure 24 Hr	6/10/17	Harrisburg, IN
Special Operations AR (SOAR)	6/10/17	Highlands, NC
Gold Rush Summer Challenge	6/17/17	Sonora, CA
Maine Summer AR	6/24/17	Jefferson, ME
Stubborn Mule	6/24/17	Cable, WI
Teton Ogre	6/24/17	Driggs, ID
Sheltowee Extreme	7/15/17	Laurel County, KY
The Cauldron	7/15/17	Jasper, FL
Never Summer Adventure Race	7/22/17	Granby, CO
Krista Griesacker Memorial Adventure F	Race7/29/17	Hamburg, PA
Calleva Adventure Race	8/6/17	Poolesville, MD
The Bitter Pill	8/12/17	Bolton, VT
Search & Rescue AR	8/19/17	High Falls, NY
The Thunder Rolls Adventure Race	8/19/17	Mt. Carroll, IL
Longest Day & Night	9/2/17	Syracuse, NY
Berryman	9/9/17	Rolla, MO
Mighty MO Adventure	9/9/17	Beatrice, NE
Bear 24 Hr	10/717	Blairsville, GA
Bear 8 Hr	10/7/17	Blairsville, GA
Pisgah 26.2 Hour	10/21/17	Brevard, NC
Howl at the Moon	Oct TBA	Hobe Sound, FL
Coosa River Challenge	10/7/17	Wetumpka, AL
CIA - Central Indiana Adventure	10/14/17	Anderson, IN
The Fig	11/4/17	Slade, KY
Florida AR State Championship	12/2/17	Titusville, FL
Raid the Rock	12/9/17	Little Rock, AR

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 USARA Adventure Race National ChampionshipTM.