

# Adventure World magazine

FALL 2019

An aerial photograph of a canoe race on a river. Several canoes are visible, each with one or two paddlers. The water is dark blue with whitecaps. The canoes are in various colors, including black, green, and yellow. The paddlers are wearing white shirts and hats. The river is surrounded by green trees and vegetation.

**Texas Water Safari**  
The World's Toughest Canoe Race



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FALL 2019



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# TOP 5 NATIONAL PARKS FOR 2019

Compiled by RV Trader

We know first-hand - there's nothing like packing up the RV for another adventure; but sometimes, the hardest part of RVing is deciding where to go. Luckily, the United States is filled with some beautiful national parks - and we've narrowed them down to the top 5 that we think you need to visit this year. So it's time to take a journey across the U.S. to see which is your personal favorite.

# 1

## Acadia National Park, Maine

This park is the oldest park east of the Mississippi River and is often referred to as the crown jewel of the North Atlantic Coast. In its entirety, this park encompasses more than 40,000 acres of land, giving you plenty of room to roam.

### ***Why it made our list:***

Acadia National Park is quintessentially Maine. The park is lined by miles of jagged coastline and lighthouses - making it an ideal place for taking in ocean views.

### ***Not to miss:***

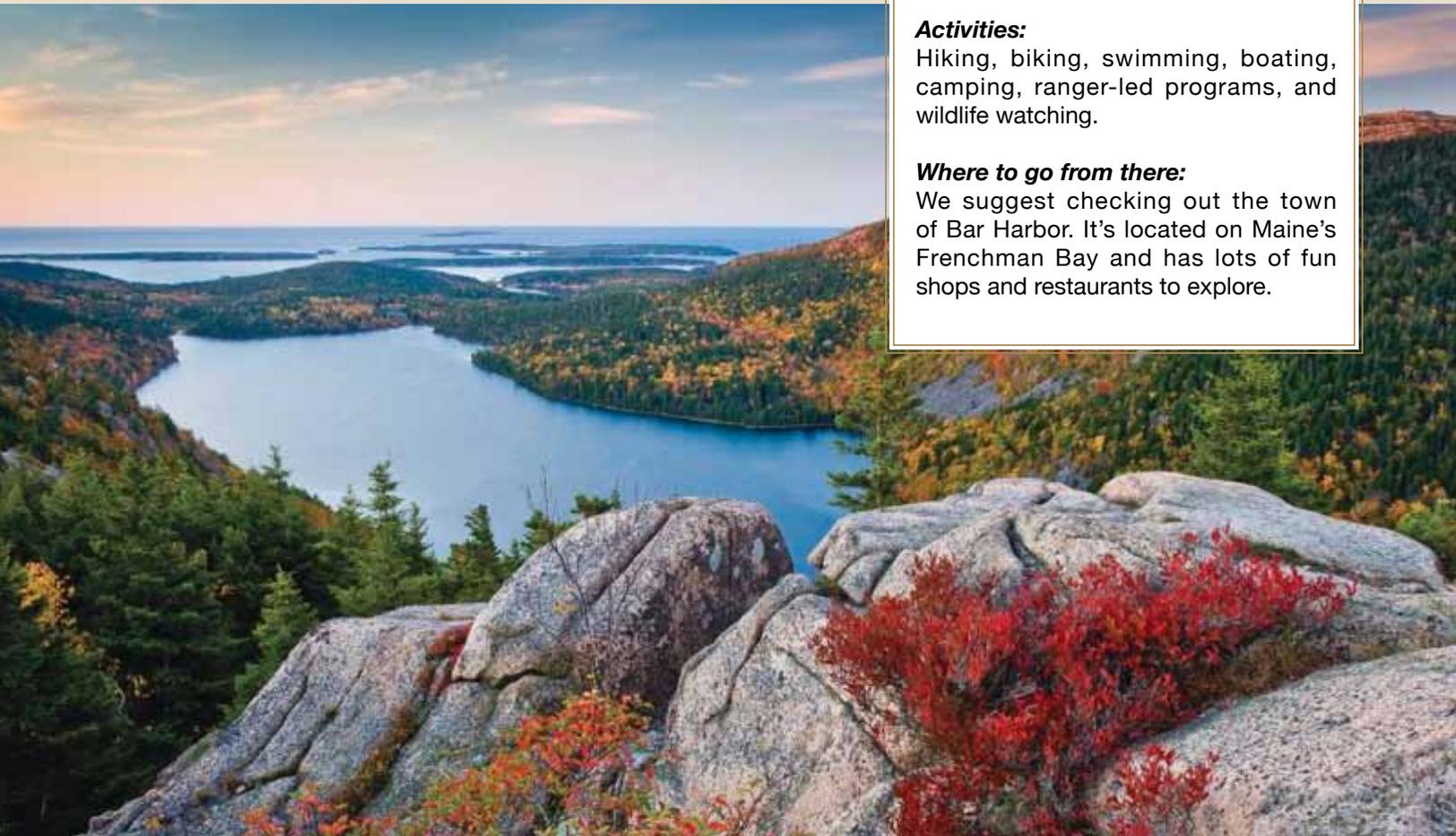
Thunder Hole. When the tides are just right, the surf rushes into a narrow cavern and forces out air from beneath the cliffs, creating a thunderous sound.

### ***Activities:***

Hiking, biking, swimming, boating, camping, ranger-led programs, and wildlife watching.

### ***Where to go from there:***

We suggest checking out the town of Bar Harbor. It's located on Maine's Frenchman Bay and has lots of fun shops and restaurants to explore.





# Grinder Nationals

April 18, 2020 | Lawrence, Kansas

See what you are made of as you race across a challenging and scenic course as part of the USECF Gravel Grinder National Championship.

USECF Gravel Grinder National Championship jerseys will be awarded to winners in each category.



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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee

This is America's most visited national park and is home to more than 100 species of trees and 1,600+ types of flowering plants. This park straddles the North Carolina and Tennessee border. So if you're trying to check a few states off your bucket list, Great Smoky might be just the place for you.

### ***Why it made our list:***

If you're looking for a mountain getaway, this is the national park we suggest. People come from across the country to take in its views, especially during the fall when the foliage is bright and beautiful.

### ***Not to miss:***

Clingman's Dome. This is the highest point in the park, standing at 6,643 ft above sea level. The observation tower boasts incredible 360° views for those who want to make the trek to the top. On a clear day, you can see for up to 100 miles across seven states.

### ***Activities:***

Hiking, camping, fishing, wildlife watching, biking, viewing fall foliage, and ranger-led programs.

### ***Where to go from there:***

The Blue Ridge Parkway is 469 miles long and considered "America's favorite drive". It's adjacent to the park (in North Carolina) and you can break up the drive by taking in views of the Appalachian Highlands throughout.



*CT*

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# 3

## Glacier National Park, Montana

This park has more than 700 lakes, a variety of waterfalls, two mountain ranges, over 1,000 plant species, and miles of trails. If you're looking for adventure, Glacier has you covered.

### ***Why it made our list:***

Glacier is known as "The Crown of the Continent" and for good reason - no matter where you go in the park, you're sure to take in an incredible view.

### ***Not to miss:***

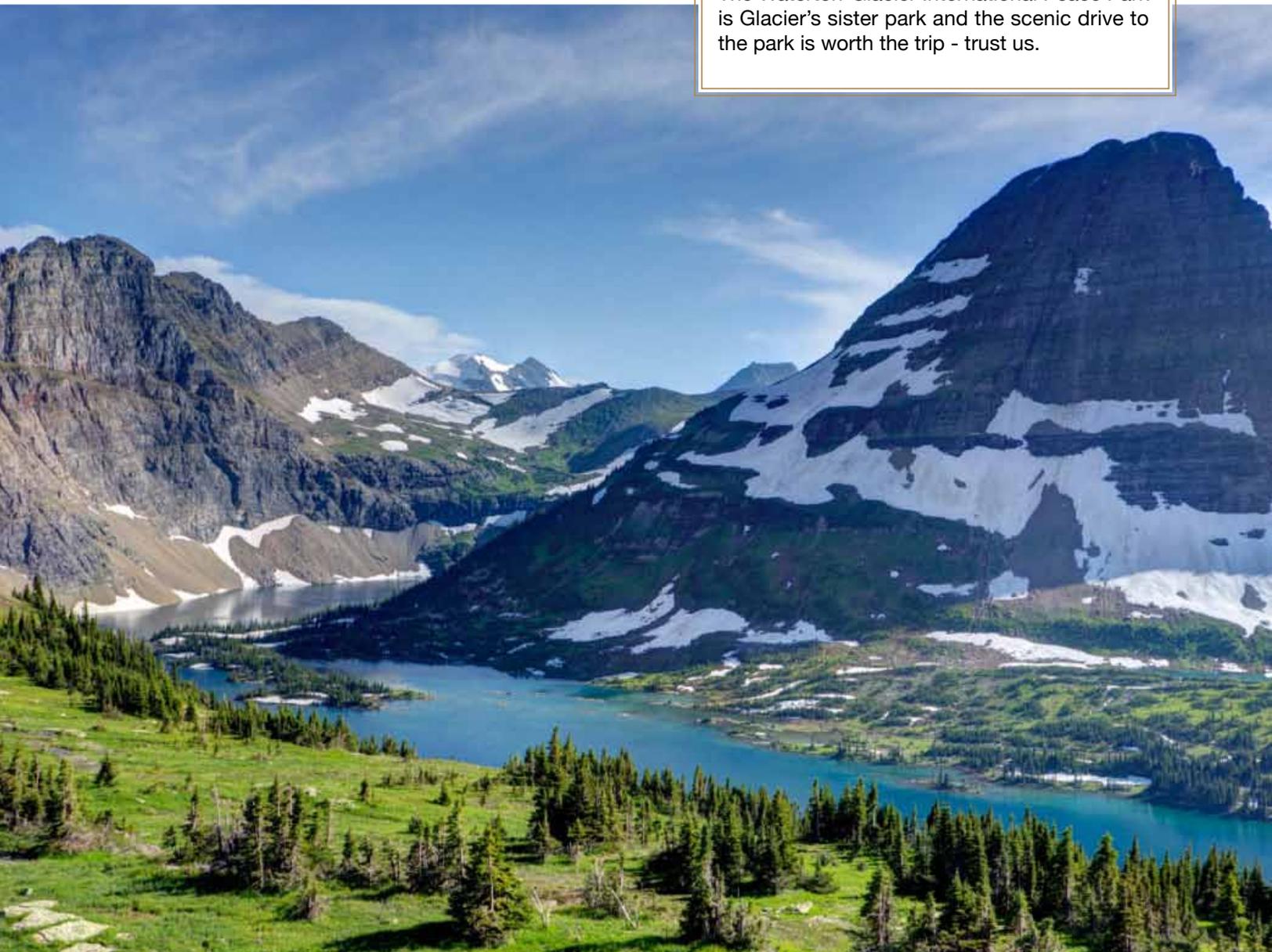
Highline Trail. One of the most popular hiking trails in Glacier, this 11.8-mile hike follows the west side of the Continental Divide. There are options to hike only a portion of the trail, so don't be deterred by the length.

### ***Activities:***

Hiking, scenic driving, rafting, ranger-led programs, camping, and nature watching.

### ***Where to go from there:***

The Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is Glacier's sister park and the scenic drive to the park is worth the trip - trust us.



# 4

## Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Located in the northwest corner of Wyoming, this park is home to 310,000 acres of meadows, streams, and incredible views of the Teton mountain range.

### **Why it made our list:**

Grand Teton is known for its vast amount of hiking trails - 242 miles to be exact.

### **Not to miss:**

Mormon Row. This line of six uniform buildings settled in the 1890s by Mormons from the Salt Lake region is a famous/historic spot located in the southeast corner of the park.

### **Activities:**

Hiking, rafting, fishing, ranger-led programs, boating, wildlife watching, biking, and camping.

### **Where to go from there:**

Yellowstone National Park is only 10 miles south of Grand Teton National Park - so if you're looking to hit two major parks on your trip, this is the place for you.



# 5

## Arches National Park, Utah

Home to over 2,000 sandstone arches, the largest concentration in the country, this is one of the country's most famous national parks. **AW**

### **Why it made our list:**

You can't find a national park like this one anywhere else in the U.S. The thousands of bright orange and red sandstone arches are truly breathtaking, giving the park its own unique beauty.

### **Not to miss:**

Delicate Arch. This arch is the most famous and popular arch in the park. It also happens to be the park's largest free-standing arch - and you'll probably recognize it from Utah's license plates. This is a popular photo-op spot that can't be missed.

### **Activities:**

Hiking, camping, photography, nature watching, ranger-led programs, and scenic driving.

### **Where to go from there:**

Arches is in close proximity to a few of Utah's other famous national parks known as the "Mighty 5". We suggest checking out Zion, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, and Capitol Reef while you are nearby.



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# TRICKING YOUR RV/TRAVEL TRAILER

We searched the marketplace for must have accessories for your RV or travel trailer and compiled the following list. We were amazed at some of the creative and unique solutions available that will add to your camping experience. So have some fun while you trick out your RV.

## Awning Accessories

### Carefree Anti Flap Kit

The Carefree Anti-Flap Kit is designed to clamp onto each side of your awning canopy, making the awning tighter while eliminating excessive canopy movement that can damage the awning hardware. The Anti Flap Kit uses an easy twist knob that adds rigidity and support to your awning while eliminating annoying and noisy flapping. The Kit is available in black or white and to work on both manual and powered 8-foot awnings. [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)



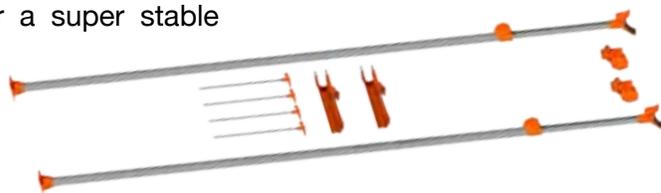
### Carefree Curved Rafter

The Carefree Curved Rafter adds rigidity and support to your trailer awning. The rafter installs on 8 foot awnings with roller tubes in seconds by hooking directly to your awning rail and extends with the turn of a knob. Available with black or white hardware, the rafter includes a utility slot to hang side blockers, side panels or other awning accessories. [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)



### Carefree HD Awning Stabiliz'r

The Carefree HD Awning Stabiliz'r is Carefree's latest heavy-duty version of the Awning Stabiliz'r pole kit and provides vertical support by anchoring your awning to the ground. Designed for both box awnings and awnings with roll bars, the kit comes with a stakes and tie-downs to secure the poles to the awning and anchor everything to the ground. For a super stable awning get the Carefree HD Awning Stabiliz'r. [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)



## Towing Accessories

### Hayes Sway Master

The Hayes Sway Master will help keep you safely on the road when towing a trailer. The Sway Master system uses state-of-the-art technology to virtually eliminate trailer sway, preventing sway before it starts. The system activates immediately upon detection of sway, providing simultaneous braking to all trailer brakes on one to four axle trailers. Additionally, the Sway Master utilizes a solid-state gyroscope to detect any potential swaying issues, as well as GPS to determine the accurate speed of the trailer. The made in the USA Sway Master is easy to install, comes with a 5-foot pigtail and has a status light to confirm connection and that the device is working while driving. Keep your family, your trailer and other motorists safe with the Hayes Sway Master. [www.hayesbc.com](http://www.hayesbc.com)



### TireMinder TM-77

The TireMinder TM-77 4 Tire Pressure Monitoring System features a large display to make monitoring your RV or trailer tires as easy as pie. The 3.25-inch rechargeable display monitors your tires and provides visual, audible, and blow-out alarms. The system checks for tire issues every 6 seconds and provides low/high pressure alerts and high-temperature alerts. The TireMinder will also provide fast and slow leak alerts (3 PSI or more in 2 minutes and 6 PSI or more in 10 minutes). The Tire Minder includes the monitor, 4 brass transmitters, 1 hard-wired signal booster with alligator clips, mounting bracket, batteries, 1 micro USB cable and DC charger, 4 locking nuts, 1 wrench with valve core tool, 4 additional O-rings and a handy storage bag. [www.minderresearch.com](http://www.minderresearch.com)



### Fastway Zip

The Fastway Zip will keep your emergency break away cable safe and out of harm's way. Say goodbye to frayed cables and sliced fingers on the day you install the Zip. The Zip is easy to install and will keep your cables off the ground and in great shape while towing your trailer. [www.fastwaytrailer.com](http://www.fastwaytrailer.com)



### Fastway Chain Up

The Fastway Chain Up is the perfect way to keep your chains from dragging on the ground when pulling a trailer. Available in a fixed ball mount and for adjustable ball or weight distribution hitches, stop twisting your chains and install a Chain Up to prevent chain wear from dragging. [www.fastwaytrailer.com](http://www.fastwaytrailer.com)

### Stromberg Carlson Hitching Post

The Stromberg Carlson Hitching Post is a unique way to hang your chains and towing plug when not in use. Keep your chains and tow plugs out of the dirt, mud and ant beds and in an easy to access location with the Stromberg Carlson Hitching Post. [www.strombergcarlson.com](http://www.strombergcarlson.com)



## Propane Accessories

### Viking Cylinders

Viking Cylinders is the North American brand from Hexagon Ragasco, the world's leading producer of composite LPG cylinders. Viking Cylinders are lighter, safer, and more durable than any other propane cylinder on the market. How light? About 50% lighter than your steel tank, I could not believe how light they were when I unboxed the cylinders. The Viking Cylinders are also translucent so you can forget about ever running out of propane again because you can actually see how much propane is in the cylinder. Viking Cylinders are also noncorrosive so they will not rust even if you spend extended time in saltwater environments. Choose from red, blue or orange 17-pound cylinders or black 22 pound cylinders. The Viking Cylinders are much more aesthetically pleasing than steel cylinders and feature a two-year warranty against manufacturing defects. [www.vikingcylinders.com](http://www.vikingcylinders.com)



### Viking Cylinders RV Mount Tray

The Viking Cylinders RV Mount Tray is designed to securely support Viking Cylinders. The Viking tray is required when using cylinders with a trailer because Viking Cylinders have a wider base than traditional steel cylinders. The Viking Cylinder mount is an easy swap and was designed to replace your existing mount when upgrading to Viking Cylinders. [www.vikingcylinders.com](http://www.vikingcylinders.com)

### Camco Propane Quick Connect

The Camco Propane Quick Connect Kit is a must have accessory for the RVer who likes to run any extra propane driven devices. Once installed, just hook up your grill, lantern or propane campfire using the quick connect fitting and you can use the propane from your main bottles for fuel. Say goodbye to carrying extra cumbersome tanks or expensive small bottles on your outings. The kit also includes a shutoff valve for safety when not in use. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)



### Torklift Fortress GasLock

The Torklift Fortress GasLock securely locks down your expensive propane tanks when mounted to trailers and RVs. The military grade aluminum lock has a high impact powder coating and is designed for dual tanks. The US made GasLock installs in seconds with no tools and does not interfere with LP filling or use. Get a GasLock and know your propane tanks will stay where they belong. [www.torklift.com](http://www.torklift.com)

### Flame King 1 Lb Refillable Cylinder

The Flame King 1 Lb Refillable Cylinder will pay for itself in a very short period of time as the refills are much less expensive than disposable tanks. Save time by refilling your 1 lb cylinders at home before your next big adventure - perfect for RVing, tent camping, hunting and even paint ball guns. Most people spend around \$3.00 for a disposable cylinder, just to be able to use about \$0.30 worth of propane in the cylinder. You can buy multiple refillable cylinders and celebrate your choice to save money and reduce pollution with Flame King! [www.flameking.com](http://www.flameking.com)



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## **Kitchen Accessories**

### **Progressive Microwave Small Bacon Grill with Lid**

The Progressive Microwave Small Bacon Grill with Lid is perfect for cooking bacon, frozen snacks, sausage links or reheating pizza in your RV. The 10" x 7" grill is a snap to clean, has an easy drain grease reservoir and cooks 4-6 strips of bacon at a time. The vented cover prevents grease splatters in your microwave when you are frying up breakfast. <https://progressiveintl.com>



### **Progressive Microwave Multi-Mat**

The Progressive Microwave Multi-Mat has a raised edge that helps protect microwaves from messes and spills when cooking. The 12" Multi-Mat is dishwasher safe and can also be used to lift out hot bowls or as a food cover to guard microwaves from splatters. <https://progressiveintl.com>

### **Progressive Microwave Fish and Veggie Steamer**

The Progressive Microwave Fish and Veggie Steamer allows you to create a dinner that's delicious and healthy when you are away from home. The BPA free, 1 Quart steamer has an adjustable vent and is a convenient way to steam fish and vegetables in seconds. <https://progressiveintl.com>



### **Progressive Thinstore Collapsible Storage Bowls**

The Progressive Thinstore Collapsible Storage Bowls are a RVer's dream for preparing food or storing leftovers. The set comes in red, green and cornflower blue and includes a 1.5, 3 and 5 cup container with leak resistant lids that use very little space when stored away. <https://progressiveintl.com>

### **Progressive Collapsible Over the Sink Colander**

The Progressive Collapsible Over the Sink Colander is the perfect tool for rinsing fruits and vegetables in your trailer. The 6-quart colander has a specially designed hole pattern that allows water to drain quickly and is rigid enough to stand on its own. The Colander collapses to 1/3 its original size for easy storage and the arms extend up to 24" to reach over the sink when in use. <https://progressiveintl.com>



### **Progressive Microwave Rice and Pasta Cooker**

The Progressive Microwave Rice and Pasta Cooker is the easiest way to make rice in an RV. Just add your food and water, then pop it all in the microwave and enjoy perfectly steamed rice, tender pasta or steamed vegetables. The BPA free set makes up to 8 cups of cooked rice and includes the cooker with a locking lid, a pasta draining insert, a vegetable steaming insert, a measuring cup and a rice paddle. <https://progressiveintl.com>

## **Bathroom Accessories**

### **Thetford Staytion Combination Suction Kit**

The Thetford Staytion Combination Suction Kit includes several key bathroom products in one kit. The kit includes a storage staytion basket, a 2 toothbrush staytion, a soap bar staytion, a shower head staytion and a hook staytion. All of the staytions feature heavy duty suction cups that stick to any smooth, non-porous surface and have a holding power up to 20 pounds. The staytions even have a patented red line warning system that will let you know if the staytion begins to lose suction. [www.thetford.com](http://www.thetford.com)



### **Stromberg Carlson Extend a Shower**

The Stromberg Carlson Extend a Shower turns your cramped RV shower into a roomy shower. The specially designed curtain rod extends your shower's width when in use and folds out of the way when not in use. There are 2 sizes to choose from in satin, chrome or rubbed bronze. No need to use the public showers anymore when you have the Stromberg Carlson Extend a Shower. [www.strombergcarlson.com](http://www.strombergcarlson.com)



### **Thetford Soft Swab Toilet Brush**

The Thetford Soft Swab Toilet Brush has soft fibers that are perfect for cleaning porcelain or plastic RV toilets in a compact design. The long-lasting brush is chemical resistant, reusable and includes a cone that removes water and covers the brush for storage. [www.thetford.com](http://www.thetford.com)

## **Cleaning Accessories**

### **Camco Collapsible Laundry Basket**

The Camco Collapsible Utility Basket conveniently stores with a small footprint but is ready for deployment at a moment's notice. Perfect for laundry or extra storage, the basket collapses flat for storage. The easy to clean waterproof basket is 14-1/2" W x 19-3/4" L; 2-1/2" tall collapsed and 10" tall expanded. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)



### **Performance Tool 600 Watt Shop Blower**

The Performance Tool 600 Watt Shop Blower is a compact, easy to handle blower that is perfect for the campsite. Clean the leaves away before you set up or clean your patio rug when you return from a hike. The blower includes vacuum bag, has a large handle with a lockable trigger and produces 75+ mph air flow and 16,000 max RPM. Available at your local hardware store or online.



### **Thetford StorMate Garbage Bag Holder**

The Thetford StorMate Garbage Bag Holder folds down to a compact 14-1/2" x 11-1/2" x 2" for traveling and then quickly and easily sets up to hold a 13-gallon or larger kitchen trash bag. Perfect for indoors or outdoors these holders are small enough to carry a couple in your RV. [www.thetford.com](http://www.thetford.com)



### **Thetford StorMate Broom**

The Thetford StorMate Broom is collapsible enough to fit into the compact storage spaces of your RV but rugged enough all of your camping adventures. The broom has a 3-section aluminum shaft with twist locks and telescopes from 27 inches up to 50 inches. The broom bristles expand to full size with the twist of a wrist and the broom comes with an integrated dustpan. [www.thetford.com](http://www.thetford.com)



## Water and Sewage Accessories

### Camco RV RhinoFLEX

The Camco RV RhinoFLEX 15' Sewer Hose Kit has a burly bayonet fitting with four prongs for a super secure fit when connecting your sewer hose and boasts the toughest hose you can buy. Camco also includes an easily detachable 4-in-1 translucent elbow adapter for fitting to 3-inch slip or 3 inch, 3-1/2 inch and 4-inch threaded pipes to make dumping easy. The 4-in-1 adapter is removable, and the hose compresses down to 56 inches and includes storage caps for easy storage in 4-inch bumpers. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)



### Renator Adjustable Water Pressure Regulator

The Renator Adjustable Water Pressure Regulator will protect your RV from over pressure while allowing you to get the maximum safe pressure. The lead-free regulator comes preset to 45 PSI and is adjustable to 160 PSI. The Renator Adjustable Water Pressure Regulator has a very accurate oil filled gauge which greatly increases the life of regulator. Get one today and stop worrying about over pressuring your RV. <http://renator-usa.com>

### Stromberg Carlson Hose/Cord Caddy

The Stromberg Carlson Hose/Cord Caddy makes dealing with RV hoses or cords a snap. The 17-inch-wide caddy will hold 75 feet of hose or your 30- or 50-amp power cord. No more tangled cords or hoses with the Stromberg Carlson Hose/Cord Caddy. [www.strombergcarlson.com](http://www.strombergcarlson.com)



### Camco Evo Water Filter

The Camco Evo Water Filter will reduce bad taste, odors, sediments, bacteria and chlorine from your drinking water. RVing has its risks and hooking up to water supplies without knowing the quality is a big risk. The Evo solves that problem and includes the filter housing, one extension hose and one replaceable premium spun polypropylene filter cartridge. The result is fresh, clean, great tasting drinking water. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)

### Camco Water Filter Stand

The Camco Water Filter Stand is the perfect accessory for your Evo and helps keep your water filter upright while in use, reducing hose kinking to maximizing your water flow rate. The durable, UV-resistant plastic universal design will fit most 4-inch filters and the three legs help keep the stand stable on most types of level ground. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)



## Ventilation Accessories



### Camco RV Insulated Dual Vent Cover

The Camco RV Insulated Dual Vent Cover lets air in or blocks it off depending upon what you desire. The cover can disperse air in four directions, reducing draft or completely block the flow. The vent cover also catches condensation, rain and outside dust when the vent is left open and helps block sunlight in the early morning. Insert the reflective surface insulation and block 100% of the sun's damaging rays. The cover includes dual clips and screws to install into existing 14" x 14" vent mounting holes. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)

### Camco Vent Insulator

The Camco RV Vent Insulator has a reflective surface that blocks 100% of the sun's damaging rays and keeps your RV cooler in summer and warmer in winter. The insulator fits snugly in standard 14" RV vent openings and provides 2.75" of foam insulation to help stop heat transfer. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)



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## Trailer Set Up Accessories

### Camco Bullseye Level

The Camco RV Bullseye Level is a round domed level that reads 360° at once making it quick and simple to level your RV. The Bullseye level has a large fast settling bubble and can be mounted to your trailer or used free standing. Get the Camco Bullseye and say goodbye to the days of sliding into uncomfortable positions while trying to sleep because of an unlevel trailer. [www.camco.net](http://www.camco.net)



### Fastway Flip Jack Foot

The Fastway Flip jack foot will save you time and effort on all of your RVing trips. The Flip has two times more contact surface area than other jack feet and extends your trailer jack by six inches, saving you 50 cranks both up and down every time. No more searching for wood blocks, just flip the jack foot down and you are ready to go. The Flip installs in seconds, with no tools needed for most applications, and fits most round or square 2-1/4" tongue jacks. [www.fastwaytrailer.com](http://www.fastwaytrailer.com)

### Fastway One Step Chock

The Fastway One Step Chock positively locks both wheels securely in place, allowing you to freely move around in your trailer, with virtually no wheel movement. The One Step Chock is named correctly and installs in seconds eliminating any rocking and providing a stable trailer. [www.fastwaytrailer.com](http://www.fastwaytrailer.com)



### Lynx Levelers Starter Pack

The Lynx Levelers Starter Pack has just about everything you need to start RVing. The pack starts with 10 interlocking levelers, a storage bag, 2 stop N Chock wheel guides, and a Lynx Cap which is useful for long term storage. The pack also includes a portable 450 lumen Camp Rite Light, a 3 LED interior lite with a motion sensor, a 12 LED lite with motion and daylight sensor and a pack of Stay Put Hangers. The Lynx Levelers Starter Pack will get you well on your way to your first outing with a great collection of useful tools. [www.trilynx.com](http://www.trilynx.com)

### Ultra Super Grip Chock

The Ultra Super Grip Chock is a must have item to eliminate rocking and swaying in your trailer. The heavy-duty steel chocks adjust from 1 – 10.5 inches, come with an easy ratchet and anchors the opposing wheels of tandem axle trailers. The chock has pivoting louvers for a sure tire grip and can be padlocked to deter theft. [www.ultra-fab.com](http://www.ultra-fab.com)



### Ultra T-Slot Scissor Jack Drill Attachment

The Ultra T-Slot Scissor Jack Drill Attachment is a great little tool that will make setting your trailer up a snap. The zinc plated steel T-Slot Scissor Jack Drill Attachment fits into a cordless drill to make raising and lowering scissor jacks as easy as pie. [www.ultra-fab.com](http://www.ultra-fab.com)



## Outdoor Living

### Carefree Dura-Mat

The Carefree Dura-Mat is advertised as the strongest and most durable mat available. The 8 x 20 mat is made from colored vinyl strands and reinforcement fibers which are loomed into a woven fabric then compacted and bonded for exceptional strength and durability. The strands allow dirt and water to filter through the mat keeping the mat nice and clean. The Dura Mat is hemmed on the edges, available in 4 colors, has grommets for staking, comes with a storage bag and features a 5-year warranty. [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)



### Outland Mega Firebowl

The Outland Mega Firebowl is the granddaddy of propane fire bowls. The large diameter Mega Firebowl has plenty of room for all your friends to gather around and the pit is durable enough to give you years of RVing service. You can also use the Mega Firebowl on your patio when you are not RVing. The heavy-duty Firebowl is made from powder coated high-quality steel and includes a UV + weather resistant cover, a pre-attached 10' hose and regulator, a natural lava rock set and a propane tank stabilizer ring. There is a simple adjustable flame knob and the Mega Firebowl puts out 58,000 BTU/HR. Say goodbye to gathering wood, time consuming camp fire starting procedures

and smoke in your eyes, just grab your Mega Firebowl and some friends and start swapping tales deep into the night! [www.outlandliving.com](http://www.outlandliving.com)

### Outland Mega Firebowl Carry Bag

The Outland Mega Firebowl Carry Bag is an easy and convenient way to transport your Mega Firebowl. Just let the Firebowl cool off, drop it in the bag and zip it up – now you are free to safely transport the Mega Firebowl without worrying about dust or debris. The Heavy-Duty UV and weather resistant Polyester Dacron 400D bag has a Polyurethane Lining and easy to use loop handles. Outland even included a pocket for your wand lighter in this must have accessory for your Mega Firebowl! [www.outlandliving.com](http://www.outlandliving.com)



### Rumpl NanoLoft Puffy Blanket

The Rumpl NanoLoft Puffy Blanket is a synthetic alternative to down and a must have around the campsite. Perfect for around the campfire, on the couch or down by the lake. The 100% post-consumer recycled NanoLoft insulation is made up of tiny circular clusters of fiber that mimic the properties of down clusters. This technology traps warmth inside small pockets of air to efficiently preserve heat, regardless of conditions. Grab your Rumpl NanoLoft Puffy Blanket and stay cozy! [www.rumpl.com](http://www.rumpl.com)

### O2 Cool Treva Smart Power Fan

The O2 Cool Treva Smart Power Fan is the perfect accessory for RVing. Plug the fan in with the AC or DC adapter, use D cell batteries or use the built-in rechargeable batteries, there is even a USB power port for charging your cell phone. The O2 Cool tilts for directional air flow and features a stable base, a convenient flip-up handle and a powerful 2 speed 10-inch blade. The fan also has smart power technology which allows it to automatically select the lowest cost power option. [www.o2-cool.com](http://www.o2-cool.com)



### GCI Roadtrip Rocker



The GCI Roadtrip Rocker is a marvel of engineering and the perfect addition to your RV furniture. GCI has combined the comfort of a rocking chair with the portable convenience of a bag chair. The full-size rocker quickly and easily folds up to fit inside a carry bag for transport. Weighing in at just over 13 pounds, the rocker will support 250 pounds. The powder-coated steel framed Roadtrip Rocker is available in 4 colors and features spring action rocking technology, ergonomic armrests, a beverage holder and a mesh backrest. [www.gcioutdoor.com](http://www.gcioutdoor.com)

### Presto Fit Aero-Weave Breathable Outdoor Mats

The Presto Fit Aero-Weave Breathable Outdoor Mats are made of PVC-coated polyester mesh. The mesh mats allow air, dirt and sunlight to flow through, keeping them clean and dry. Aero-Weave Breathable Outdoor Mats also feature UV Protection to prevent sun damage and fading, brass grommets for easy stake-down and come with a zipper-bag with strap handles for compact and convenient storage. Available in 2 sizes and 3 colors, get a mat for your trailer and enjoy the cool afternoons under your canopy. [www.prestofit.com](http://www.prestofit.com)



### Presto Fit Patio Rug Stakes

The Presto Fit Patio Rug Stakes make it a snap to secure your patio rug to the ground. The rust-resistant nickel-plated steel low-profile stakes ensures a smooth walking surface and keep your rug in place in the strongest winds. [www.prestofit.com](http://www.prestofit.com)

### Thermacell Patio Shield

The Thermacell Patio Shield Mosquito Repeller effectively repels mosquitoes by creating a 15-foot zone of protection. Perfect for RVing, the Patio Shield uses a repellent mat and 12-hour fuel cartridge to create an odor free mosquito barrier. Available in red, green, teal and gray, grab a Patio Shield and say goodbye to mosquitos. [www.thermacell.com](http://www.thermacell.com)



### Thermacell Radius Zone Mosquito Repellent - Gen 2.0

The Thermacell Radius Zone Mosquito Repellent - Gen 2.0 chases away mosquitos with one touch of a button. Powered by a lithium-ion battery rather than Thermacell fuel cartridges, the Radius is air travel-friendly and fully operational at any elevation. The USB rechargeable radius features a battery life indicator, will run for 6.5+ hours on a single charge and can operate while charging. The Thermacell Radius Zone Mosquito Repellent - Gen 2.0 repels mosquitoes for up to 40 hours on a single refill creating a scent free safety zone. [www.thermacell.com](http://www.thermacell.com)

### Tikki Tunes

The Tikki Tunes portable 5-watt speaker provides hours of continuous playtime from any wireless compatible device. Connect up to two speakers from a maximum distance of 30 feet using the dual sync capabilities for a true stereo-sound. The Tikki also emits a flickering atmospheric light providing the perfect ambiance for romantic evenings under the stars. The micro USB rechargeable battery provides 6 hours of play time and the speaker is water resistant with an IP65 rating. So grab your gal, grab your Tikki Tunes and enjoy the night. <https://limitlessinnovations.com>



### Presto Fit Ruggids Door Mats

The Presto Fit Ruggids Door Mats have deep treads that trap dirt at the door and help to keep your RV clean. The Presto Fit Ruggids Door Mats are available in 3 colors and are made with high-quality olefin with a solid rubber backing to help keep them in place. The 19 x 30 mats are finished on all edges and feature UV protection for all-weather durability. Keep the dirt out with Presto Fit Ruggids Door Mats. [www.prestofit.com](http://www.prestofit.com)

# BRAVING THE COLD?

**Yaktrax® Warmers** are a welcome source of heat for any situation. Once exposed to oxygen in the air they work quickly, providing several hours of steady warmth. They are the choice of outdoor enthusiasts, athletes, adventurers, and spectators. Whatever you do outdoors, don't let cold slow you down.



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## Electrical Accessories

### Southwire Surge Guard 34931

The Southwire Surge Guard 34931 will give you total electrical protection from faulty park power and electrical issues inside the RV. The Surge Guard monitors and displays voltage and amp draw (RMS) and provides low and high frequency protection. The Surge Guard features a commercial-grade brass receptacle, Easy-T-Pull handles, a LCD display and includes an on cord anti-theft lock ring. Get the Southwire Surge Guard 34931 and have the confidence to forget about power surges, open ground or neutrals, elevated ground line current, reverse polarity, low and high voltage or a mis-wired pedestal. <http://rvpower.southwire.com>



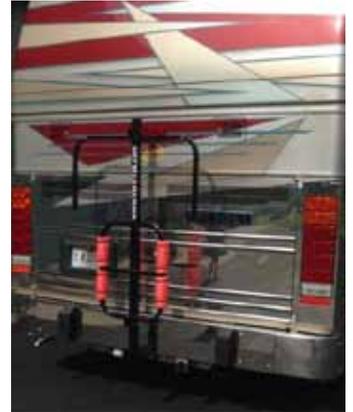
### Southwire LCD Display 40301

The Southwire LCD Display 40301 is compatible with the Surge Guard 34931 and automatically detects the Surge Guard. The wireless display has a range of 100 feet, provides detailed information on voltage, amp draw, frequency, kilowatt usage, connection status and has a fault log of the previous four faults. The Display provides a visual alert of faults and includes an optional mounting bracket. The Southwire LCD Display is a must have add on for the Surge Guard. <http://rvpower.southwire.com>

## Miscellaneous Accessories

### Vertiyak

The Vertiyak solves a huge problem for RVers – how can I take along my paddle boards or kayaks? The Vertiyak is a vertical hitch mount kayak carrier for kayaks up to 12 feet in length. Just slip the Vertiyak into your receiver hitch, stick one end of your kayak into the 11 1/2" X 17" lower hoop, secure with two ratcheting straps and you are ready to roll. This is a must have rack for anyone who loves taking their boards or kayaks along on their camping trips. <https://vertiyak.com>

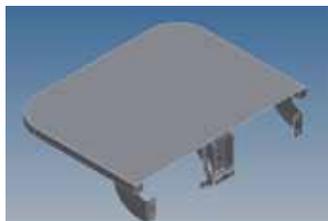


### LW Engineering KeBloc

The LW Engineering KeBloc is an amazing system that uses KeBlocs as anchors for mounts and other accessories for your RV. Simple mount the KeBlocs where you want the bracket and then attach the bracket to the KeBloc. If you have a TV that you want to use in the bedroom and outdoors, just mount a KeBloc in each area and move the TV to other KeBloc locations when desired. This is an amazing system because removing or attaching a bracket or table to a KeBloc can be done in a few seconds. [www.lw-eng.com](http://www.lw-eng.com)

### LW Engineering Tilting Swing Arm Mount with KeBloc

The LW Engineering Tilting Swing Arm Mount with KeBloc is a double swing arm TV bracket for your RV. The powder coated steel bracket has up to 15 degrees of downward tilting adjustment and considerable side to side adjustment. The bracket has a positive lock when the swing arms are in the closed position or when attached to the KeBloc base. [www.lw-eng.com](http://www.lw-eng.com)



### LW Engineering KeBloc Table

The LW Engineering KeBloc Table is a handy attachment that can be used outdoors or indoors with the KeBloc system. The 9 x 14 inch powder coated steel table has a positive lock when mounted to the KeBloc base. The LW Engineering KeBloc Table is perfect for cooking outside or creating an extra place to stack books or other knick knacks. [www.lw-eng.com](http://www.lw-eng.com)



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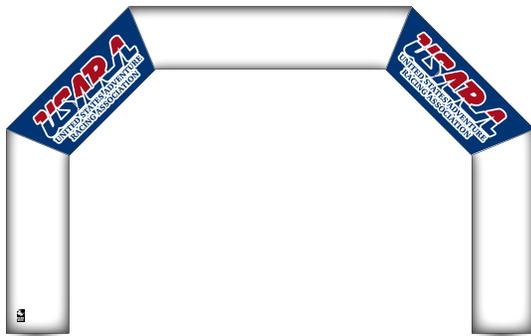


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### Life is Good Daisy Spare Tire cover

The Life is Good Daisy Spare Tire cover tells everyone that hey – Life is Good! The cover is made from a weatherproof PVC Vinyl Exterior and has a woven lined interior to protect your spare in any weather condition. Available in tons of sizes and designs, have some fun with this whimsical tire cover that has a great positive message. [www.lifeisgood.com](http://www.lifeisgood.com)



### Superflow MV90 Air Compressor

The SuperFlow MV-90 Air Compressor is an awesome air pump powered by a direct drive, 45amp, 12-volt motor. The Superflow is perfect for filling RV and trailer tires and can generate an impressive 6400 cubic inches of airflow per minute. The MV-90 is powered by a heavy duty 10-foot cord that attaches to your battery with alligator clips and the air compressor comes with a 24-foot self-coiling air hose with quick connect Type M air fittings. The air hose is equipped with an in-line air gauge, easy twist brass inflator, optional clip-on air chuck, two adapter nozzles, a ball inflation needle and a nylon carry bag. Get the SuperFlow MV-90 Air Compressor before you head out on your next adventure and know you have the power to inflate just about anything. <https://superflowair.com>



### TempMinder 4 Zone Temperature and Humidity Station

The TempMinder 4-Zone Temperature and Humidity Station will keep you informed even when you are off the grid. The station includes 3 remote sensors and 1 indoor display station to monitor both temperature and humidity of 4 separate zones. Simultaneously monitor the interior and exterior temperature, your fridge and the plumbing in the lower compartment of your RV. The easy to read monitor has a range of 165 feet and displays Max/Min temperature and humidity. [www.minderresearch.com](http://www.minderresearch.com)



### Stayhold Ultimate Pack

The Stayhold Ultimate Pack is the perfect setup to help keep things in place while rolling down the road in your RV or car. The Stayhold cargo organizers stick to the carpet or rubber liners in your vehicle and have straps to keep everything in place. Great for trunk items, groceries or just about anything else, Stayhold will keep them in place while you roll down the road. [www.stayhold.com](http://www.stayhold.com)

### Trimax TDL3010 Dual Loop Cable

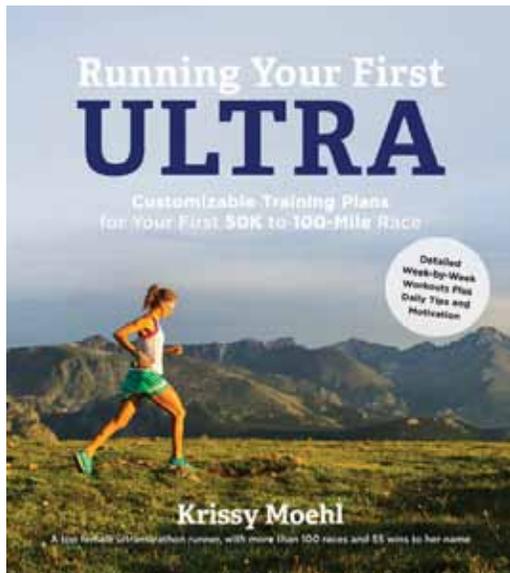
The Trimax TDL3010 Dual Loop Cable will ensure your valuables stay put when you are away from the campsite. The 10 mm TRIMAFLEX cable is 30-foot long and features loops at each end. Run the heavy-duty cable through kayaks, bicycles, BBQ grills or anything else that is outside and at risk of theft and know they are secure. [www.trimaxlocks.com](http://www.trimaxlocks.com)



### Trimax TPL1251S Lock

The Trimax TPL1251S Lock is a heavy duty hardened 64mm solid steel padlock. The Trimax pairs perfectly with the Trimax Dual Loop Cable and one look at the hefty lock will send thieves off looking for an easier target. The lock is rekeyable and will give you the peace of mind that your treasures are secure. [www.trimaxlocks.com](http://www.trimaxlocks.com) **AW**

# Product Reviews



## Running Your First Ultra By Krissy Moehl

Krissy Moehl had a great career in ultra-running which spanned over 15 years and now she is sharing her hard earned knowledge to help you run your first ultra. Learn everything you need to know with sections on tricks of the trade, injury prevention, gear selection, training your brain, recovery and race day preparation. The meat of the book is a 47-week training schedule that will help prepare you to successfully meet your goals. This is an effective and easy to follow guide written by one of the top female ultra-runners with the experience to train you for your first ultra. So grab the book, lace up your shoes and run your first ultra! <http://krissymoehl.com>

## Arctic Zone Self Inflating Cooler

The Arctic Zone self-inflating cooler is a unique piece of gear that is great for just about any outing. Just unroll the cooler, open the self-inflating valve and voilà you have a lightweight cooler. The 32 quart cooler measures 14.25 L x 9.5 W x 11.25 H when inflated, will hold 52 cans and keep ice for a couple of days. The Arctic Zone features a removable, leak proof liner with Microban to protect against bacterial odors and stains, an exterior zippered front pocket for keys and other necessities and an adjustable shoulder strap. When deflated the Arctic Zone packs down to almost nothing and can be stored in a flat or rolled position. When inflated the cooler is ready for any adventure. It even floats, in case you lose it overboard. [www.arcticzone.com](http://www.arcticzone.com)



## Native Eyewear Eddyline

The Native Eyewear Eddyline are an all around great looking pair of sunglasses that are packed with functional technology. The glasses feature N3 polarized lenses which block 90% of harmful blue light and provide 100% UV protection. The N3 lenses will protect your eyes while providing crisp definition and great contrast. The lightweight double injection frames are super tough and have cam action hinges that stay locked in place when open. The frames have hypoallergenic Cushinol™ non-slip grip built into the nose pads and temple tips that will ensure your glasses stay in place no matter how wet or sweaty you get during your outing. Featuring Native's limited lifetime warranty the Eddylines come with a hard and soft case that doubles as a lens cloth. Get into a pair of Native Eddylines and watch your adventure unfold. [www.nativeeyewear.com](http://www.nativeeyewear.com)



## Kershaw Launch 8

The Kershaw Launch 8 has the look and feel of a classic Italian stiletto with a modern twist. The push button automatic opens to reveal a beautiful knife with a 3.5 inch stonewashed CPM 154 blade. The gray anodized aluminum handle features a carbon inset with built in finger guards and a reversible pocket clip. The Launch 8 blade is corrosion and wear resistant and holds a great edge. Get your self a Kershaw Launch 8 and step back in time with a classic look while enjoying all of the modern conveniences. <https://kershaw.kaiusaltd.com> **AW**





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# 2019 TEXAS WATER SAFARI

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# WILL AND ALL HEART!

by Veronica Ramirez and Jim Crigler

The Texas Water Safari (TWS) is called “The World’s Toughest Canoe Race” for a lot of reasons. Starting with 265 miles of paddling that includes whitewater rapids, portages, log jams and the stifling Texas summer sun. The course travels on Texas rivers starting at the headwaters of the San Marcos River and ending in Seadrift with a paddle through the San Antonio Bay in the Gulf of Mexico. Racers have 100 hours to complete the course. And the grand prize? Bragging rights for finishing the World’s Toughest Canoe Race!

Legend has it that in 1962, Frank Brown and Bill “Big Willie” George decided to take their V-bottom boat, without a motor, from San Marcos to Corpus Christi. They accomplished their mission in about thirty days and decided that other people should have the opportunity to experience the same journey. In 1963, they set up the first Texas Water Safari, and it has been drawing adventure seekers ever since that initial event.



My name is Veronica Ramirez and my partner for the Texas Water Safari was Jim Crigler. About ten years ago, I was close to competing in the TWS, but my partner was tired of listening to me say “hut” and backed out near race time. I was devastated, but got over it! My former partner did end up being part of our support crew this year, so in my mind he made up for it! I asked my good buddy Jim Crigler, who is a canoeist, to race with me. I had to get this race off my “Must Do Adventure” bucket list.

Crigler is a retired Vietnam veteran, business owner, published author and someone I have always admired. I am proud of his honorable sacrifice and for what he has accomplished post military, both in business as well as giving back to service members and their friends/families who dealt with losses. Crigler is the best storyteller I know, which was perfect for long days on the river! He is 69 years old (21 years older than myself), but I never saw our ages as a factor of completion. He questioned it, but I knew his internal power and his heart, and he knew mine. Carrying that, he said yes, and we literally jumped into the deep end!

### **Preparation and Training:**

Starting from scratch, it took us months to prepare and gather all the equipment and canoe needs that would be necessary for this race. We attended the February 9th, TWS QandA seminar in Luling, TX. This was very helpful as every piece of equipment had to be correct or it could derail your race. Also, we can’t emphasize enough that paddle time with your race partner on the San Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers is extremely important. Crigler and I lived 1200 miles apart, so needless to say we did not do near enough of this type of training. Crigler shared that he was not a white-water paddler and usually portaged around most rapids that he encountered. I know that I would have to really work hard on gaining his trust since I was at the stern. We took “on water” lessons from Holly Orr, an expert coach and paddler for the TWS. Crigler felt that her lessons were critical as she taught him how to draw the canoe to the right or left, this turned out to be critical in the rapids and on many sweeping turns along the river. Holly also supported us with gear knowledge, advice on approaches, and supplied us with a spray skirt that ended up being a “lifesaver!” She also made some recommendations on lighting systems and our water pump set up. You will later read about our “big bummer” mechanical issues.

### **Day Before Race Day:**

The day before the race, we attended the mandatory 4 p.m. meeting. It was really hot in the tent but the mood was full of



excitement as hundreds of racers were ready to get their paddles in the water. The heat was a prelude for what was to come in the days ahead. That night we had a big Italian pasta dinner packing in as many carbs as we could eat.

### **Race Day:**

It was tough to sleep the night before this race, but we both got around four or five hours of sleep. Then we were up at 5 am to get ready. We were at the race start by 7:30 a.m., and ready to go. Unfortunately, as we were in line to put our canoe in the water, we discovered that we forgot our spray skirt back in the RV, which was miles away. Panic! Our team captains (support crew) raced back to the campground and searched the RV until they found the skirt. We were lucky as this was a critical piece of equipment that we definitely needed during this race.

At 8:40 a.m. we put our bright yellow Wenonah Sundowner 17 Foot fiberglass canoe in the water at San Marcos Springs and took our assigned place on Row 14. We were in awe that this moment was finally here. We felt ready even though there was a nervousness building during the time we had to wait for the race to begin.

At exactly 9 a.m., the horn blew. One hundred eighty-six canoes, kayaks, and even a stand-up paddle board with 5 paddlers took off with the splash of 300+ paddles hitting and churning up the water. In 150 yards we hit our first portage on the right. Our age, combined with me not having good arm strength, cost us some time, but we were meant to be the tortoise and not the rabbit.

Then on to the first rapids, more portages, more rapids. We handled all of the rapids very well until we got to Cottonseed. I'm not sure what happened here as we started over the rapids sideways, but we balanced perfectly as I hollered "draw right" then "draw left" then "draw right". And suddenly we were through the rapids with the crowd cheering us on. I yelled from the back of the stern "Right on Crigler! We rock!" This phrase would be repeated later at night when we inadvertently went over the wrong side of "Son of Ottine Dam" and did not break the canoe or our spirits. "Right on!" reverberated along the banks and into the night.





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This was Crigler's first ever canoe paddle at night, as well as on a river with sweeping turns. There was no time to hesitate or question your path - his gut reactions were perfect! This was especially important given that our lights were not bright enough, and in many cases we had to guess at the correct approach to a turn. By 5:30 a.m. the next morning, we had made it through the first night and were at the mandatory portage at Gonzalez Dam. It was a dangerous mud pit. However, with a lot of determination, effort, and grit we made it up the bank and over the 150 yards to the put in point down river.

### **Day Two:**

By 10:30 a.m. it was a steamy 103 degrees and we saw a DNR boat and a Sheriff's boat pass us looking for paddlers in trouble. By noon the heat was really affecting us, and we were both cramping up in several areas of our body. This happened in spite of the fact that we were drinking lots of fluids. The heat was taking its toll. We finally realized that we might be experiencing heat stroke. We pulled over to a shallow bend in the river and immersed ourselves in the water for 10 minutes to cool our bodies down. This technique worked to lower our body temp and we did this every hour for the next 4 hours. Our cool down sessions cost us some time, but they kept us alive and paddling.

Crigler's exhaustion was really getting to him. In fact, he fell 4 times while we were hauling the canoe out of the water. Unfortunately, I was little help because of my lack of arm strength. Finally, our support team forced us to sleep on the ground for an hour or two and then fed us oatmeal and energy drinks. With that, we both recovered our strength and paddled on.

### **Day Three:**

Canoe butt sets in. At the race starting point bathroom, we saw many guys slathering Desitin diaper rash ointment all over their rear ends. Although we had Desitin with us, we did not think to do this before a rash appeared. Bad decision. By day three we both had severe Canoe butt. Think of the worst diaper rash you've ever seen, then add a little poison ivy to the mix. Canoe butt did not stop us - it just added to the pain and occasionally made us forget about the cramps and other exhaustion.

We made it to Hochheim checkpoint at 5 p.m. Taking a brief break, one of our support team was enthusiastically advising us that we had 2 easy paddles ahead as the next check point was only 16 miles downriver. Then only another 16 miles to the next checkpoint. Foolishly we did not check the map as the co-captains and support were in mileage agreement. Off we went, paddling hard knowing that in 4 hours or so we could sleep for an hour. Sixteen miles later Crigler heard a familiar question from me: "Are we there yet?". Then 17 miles. Then 18 miles. At first, I chalked it up to my GPS being off a mile or two. By mile 20 we both knew something was wrong - our Co-captains had miscalculated the mileage. Instead of 16 miles, our route was 25 miles! With our strength sapped, this miscalculation impacted





us immensely. The two extra hours seemed like an eternity. It affected both of our attitudes, and was the first time during the trip that we each had a meltdown. By the time we hit checkpoint 6 at Cheapside bridge we were dead tired. But this was a terrible place to rest, so after a very brief stop we continued on to Cuero 236.

At Cuero 236, we continued as the next checkpoint was 38 miles away and we hoped to make it before dark. We made it to Victoria in 8.5 hours just as the sun was setting. Crigler was not in good shape. We planned on a two hour sleep at this checkpoint, and we were both nice and dry and ready to lay in the grass. However, as Crigler went to pull the canoe up the boat ramp, he lost his balance and fell backwards into the river. Bryan Crigler, son and Co-Captain jumped in instantly to help him out. He fell four times and he was soaked. This was not how he wanted to rest, but he had no choice. At 11 p.m. we had some oatmeal, honey and energy drinks. After Bryan gave us the medical go-ahead, we set off for Checkpoint 9 at Swinging Bridge.

At Checkpoint 9, my exhaustion level was catching up to me. We took a brief rest at Swinging bridge, and then it was off to the last checkpoint. However, there was danger ahead! A log jam was blocking the entire river and an unexpected portage was required - we had heard that the portage was up to a half mile long. However, when we got there, we found a shorter portage that worked well for us. An hour later we were hit with a rainstorm. At first, Jim was ecstatic as we had not had a shower for three and a half days, but the downpour just got stronger and stronger. Suddenly we had four inches of water in the canoe, and had to pull over to the riverbank



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and bale water like crazy. Lightning struck so close that it blew Crigler's hair back. I was cold, tired and a little scared. There was nothing we could do except hold on to a root and bail and pray that we were not struck by lightning. Crigler bailed for over an hour,



while I started putting on the spray skirt. I also became very cold, as the rain was chilling to the bone. Next, we found the river blocked by a large limb that had fallen during the storm. We figured out a route to get us through without portaging.

There was no time to sleep or rest at this checkpoint. It was now 5:45 p.m. and we still had a five hour paddle to the finish line. The crew welcomed us. Bryan made us warm Ramen noodle soup and gave us each an avocado sandwich. By 6 p.m. we were back in the boat and heading towards Traylor Cut. When we reached Mission Lake another storm came up that gave us rough waters as we paddled across this very shallow lake to San Antonio Bay. This gave Crigler problems as he had pulled his stomach muscle two days prior. All of these one to two foot waves were straining his stomach muscles with every paddle stroke. We just paddled on, but canoe butt was getting harder to deal with for both of us.

After a brief break, we continued to the Cut Islands in San Antonio Bay. We had six miles to go, but now it was getting dark. The bay is shallow, especially near the Cut Islands, and it is teeming with fish. They were everywhere. Large fish bumping our boat and little ones literally jumping onto my lap. This did not help my attitude. It was very dark, lightning storms surrounded us, and the Cut Islands seemed to go on forever. The good news is the bay was flat and calm, and San Antonio Bay is NEVER flat and calm - for us it was a real blessing. About 10 p.m. I was convinced that we did not know where we were on the course. Crigler had made a strategic error in not going over the map and final strategy with me as he was in a hurry at the last checkpoint. It was a bad move. Funny things can happen when you don't sleep and paddle for four days straight. It was catching up to us both. Being in the stern and not knowing the route was frustrating. I wanted to be done, and I was getting frightened. Finally, we made the turn and saw the lights of Seadrift. It was such a relief!



A TRIMBLE COMPANY

A hand holding a red and black trail shoe over a map. The shoe is positioned diagonally across the frame, with the sole facing the viewer. The map is a topographic map with contour lines and a grid. The background is a blurred landscape with mountains and a blue sky.

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At about a mile out, Crigler and I were not connecting. It was exhaustion (and probably a little canoe butt). We both took a deep breath and paddled to the finish line. We had done it. We completed the Texas Water Safari on our first attempt!

Starting with 186 boats, the rapids, the crowds, portages, going over Cottonseed Rapids sideways and recovering, 103 degree heat, mud, exhaustion, paddling at night, fighting the bay and our exhausted attitudes. When you complete this race - the toughest canoe race in the world - it will not soon leave you. If you are able to finish, you have accomplished something special indeed.

We had an excellent support team: Dennis Brown (Vietnam Veteran and three-time racer), and Co-captain Bryan Crigler (yoga instructor, wilderness first responder, black belt, and excellent leader). We also had 2 other backup supports: Jim Elmore (retired extreme sport athlete) and Herb Koenig (Vietnam Veteran). Support seems like such a small word for what they did for us strategically, physically and emotionally. We will forever be grateful for their support.

This race can either strengthen or destroy a relationship with your paddle partner. Crigler and I strengthened ours. I know that with our will and our hearts, there is nothing he or I cannot take on together. We did it Crigler! **AW**



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# PADDLING

# GEAR

Here are a few awesome paddle sport items and accessories that we feel are must have items for the enthusiastic paddler. So grab your paddle and head out for some fun!

## Yolo Board Hammerhead XT ▶

The Yolo Board Hammerhead XT is an ultra-durable fiberglass Stand Up Paddleboard that weighs in at a measly 31 pounds. The Hammerhead is a great all-around board for both beginners and intermediate paddlers and features an integrated bumper guard and an easy LiftSUP handle. This EPS foam core wrapped in an ABS thermo-formed plastic is crazy tough – don't believe me, just watch the video of them whacking the boards with a baseball bat. Available in 4 colors the Yolo Board Hammerhead XT can handle anything your adventure dishes out. [www.yoloboard.com](http://www.yoloboard.com)

## Sawyer Mana Glass SUP Paddle ▼

The Sawyer Mana Glass SUP Paddle is a functional work of art. In historic Sawyer fashion, the laminated wood blade with reinforced fiberglass looks like a fine piece of furniture, but don't let that fool you. The Mana Glass is a serious SUP paddle. Available with a Rip 90 or Rip 100 fan profile blade with dual scoop dihedral power, this paddle provides powerful strokes. Choose between a fixed or adjustable length and a wooden or carbon fiber handle. The 11-degree bent shaft Mana Glass also features a Dynel Tough Edge to protect the blade along with the fiberglass shaft. Weighing in at 24 ounces, the Sawyer Mana Glass SUP paddle is lightweight, super strong and very easy on the eyes – just like you, right?! [www.paddlesandoars.com](http://www.paddlesandoars.com)



## Red Paddle Carbon 50 ▲

The Red Paddle Carbon 50 is a compact and durable paddle that will easily travel to your next adventure. The Carbon 50 breaks down into 3 easy pieces making it compact enough to take anywhere in the world. The adjustable length carbon handle has a sturdy cam lock that keeps it in place in any conditions. Red Paddle uses a teardrop paddle blade with a single dihedral which allows water to flow evenly off both sides for a smooth stroke. The double concave design helps center and stabilize your paddle while providing quick explosive strokes. The Red Paddle Carbon 50 is a durable and light weight paddle that will become your new travel buddy for your next adventure. [www.redpaddleco.com](http://www.redpaddleco.com)

### Suspenz Ceiling Under Deck Rack ▼

The Suspenz Ceiling Under Deck Rack is designed to safely store your kayak, SUP or surfboard. The rack mounts to your ceiling joists or under a deck and provides a sturdy and secure spot for your watercraft. The padded steel arms can be mounted in any direction, extend to 32 inches and are adjustable to accommodate thicker watercraft such as kayaks and thinner boards simultaneously. The arms can also be adjusted to one or both sides of the rack. The possibilities are unlimited, and the powder coated steel frame will hold up to 100 pounds and is built to last a lifetime. So, clean up your garage or shed and store your boards securely with the Suspenz Ceiling Under Deck Rack. [www.suspenz.com](http://www.suspenz.com)



### Suspenz Ceiling Rack Expansion ▼

The Suspenz Ceiling Rack Expansion is a heavy duty add on that allows you to add an extra kayak or board to your Suspenz Ceiling Under Deck Rack. The kit includes a set of padded powder coated steel horizontal arms and all necessary hardware. So if your fleet is expanding, make sure your Suspenz Ceiling Under Deck Rack is also expanding! [www.suspenz.com](http://www.suspenz.com)



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### ▼ Suspenz 6 Paddle Rack

The Suspenz 6 Paddle Rack is a perfect addition to the ceiling rack and a great way for any canoe, kayak or SUP paddler to clean up their garage. Available in 2, 4, 6 or 8 paddle versions, the heavy-duty indoor or outdoor paddle rack will provide years of faithful service. Simply slide your paddles between the two arms, which are covered with a protective rubber, and know your paddles are safe until your next outing. [www.suspenz.com](http://www.suspenz.com)



### Hi Port 2 Adjustable Multi SUP and Surf Ceiling Storage ▼

The Hi Port 2 Adjustable Multi SUP and Surf Ceiling Storage is a heavy duty steel rack that will free up your garage. The adjustable two-sided rack will hold 150 pounds of gear and the padded arms will fit SUP's up to 36 inches. You can even drop the extension post which has adjustment holes and 1 inch intervals and stack your boards as high as 18 inches. The Hi Port 2 is available with 25- or 30-inch arms which provide a safe cradle for your boards. The Hi Port 2 is a durable rack that can be used outdoors and will provide a safe storage solution for your boards while giving you some extra space in your garage for other toys. [www.storeyourboard.com](http://www.storeyourboard.com)



### MTI 16 G Inflatable Belt Pack ▼

The MTI 16 G Inflatable Belt Pack is a great low-profile designed PFD for stand-up paddle boarding. The compact belt pack includes a whistle, removable D-ring attachment point, a CO2 cylinder and a red oral inflator tube. Simply buckle the belt around your waist, pull the inflation handle and pull the attachment strap over your head and you are in business. The Type V USCG approved PFD provides up to 16.5 pounds of flotation with a pillow style bladder. Strap on a MTI 16 G Inflatable Belt Pack for your next paddle trip and have the security without the cumbersome annoyance of a PFD. [www.mtiadventurewear.com](http://www.mtiadventurewear.com)



### MTI Bob PFD ▼

The MTI Bob PFD is the perfect performance PFD for your little guys. The low-profile pullover style jacket features padded adjustable shoulder and waist straps, a fleece hand warming tunnel, front and back D-rings, signal whistle, zippered pocket with mesh drain and reflective piping. There is a mesh portal on the back of the PFD that provides ventilation and can also be used as a grab handle. The USCG Type III PFD provides almost 12 pounds of buoyancy and is designed for youth ranging from 50-90 pounds. Know your little ones are safe and secure by putting them in a MTI Bob PFD on your next outing. [www.mtiadventurewear.com](http://www.mtiadventurewear.com)



### Perception Hi-Fi Life ▼

The Perception Hi-Fi Life is a high-backed PFD that will give you hours of comfort on your next paddle outing. The Hi-Fi Life features an easy to slip into front zipper design, breathable mesh back and side panels that provide both drainage and ventilation and two self-draining zippered pockets for all of your necessary gear. The USCG Type III PFD has a 200-denier nylon shell that is tough enough for any adventure and there is reflective piping on the front, back and shoulders for safety. Perception's Hi-Fi Life is a great looking, tough and functional PFD that will share your adventures while keeping you safe for years. [www.perceptionkayaks.com/us](http://www.perceptionkayaks.com/us)





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## Riverside by Seattle Sports SUP Carrier Kit ▼

The Riverside by Seattle Sports SUP Carrier Kit is the perfect way to transport your paddle board to your next adventure. The SUP Carrier is compatible with all racks or can be used directly on the roof of the car for safe transport. The kit comes with everything you need to transport your board, or you can use the stacker blocks for multiple boards. We stacked four boards high using extra stacker blocks and were able to safely transport all four boards. The kit includes two 9-foot block straps and two 15-foot straps with cam buckles. The next time you head out on an adventure, strap your boards down with the Riverside by Seattle Sports SUP Carrier Kit and know that all of your equipment will get there safely. [www.seattlesportsco.com](http://www.seattlesportsco.com)



## Speaqua Barnacle Vibe ▼

The Speaqua Barnacle Vibe is a rechargeable waterproof speaker with built in storage for over 1000 songs. The seven-watt blue tooth compatible Vibe features dual pairing so you can link two speakers, 4GB of on-board memory and 8 hours of play time in a virtually indestructible waterproof speaker. The 4-inch x 4-inch Vibe comes with a removable suction cup for SUP and Kayak mounting and will float if you accidentally drop it in the water. Available in two colors, Speaqua even has a handy bicycle mount so you can take the Vibe anywhere you want to go. [www.speaqua.com](http://www.speaqua.com)



## Speaqua Barnacle Pro ▼

The Speaqua Barnacle Pro is the latest addition to the Speaqua line and provides music anywhere independent of a smart device, with audible underwater play. This fully waterproof iTunes compatible speaker features 8GB of memory – that's 2,000 songs, a built-in mic, a shuffle option and it floats speaker side up if dropped in the water. The micro USB rechargeable Barnacle Pro provides five watts of power, has true wireless dual speaker pairing and comes with four mounting options from a Go Pro mount, suction cup, built in carabiner or threaded accessory port. Take your music anywhere and don't worry about bad weather or wet conditions ruining your phone with the Speaqua Barnacle Pro. [www.speaqua.com](http://www.speaqua.com)

## Kanulock ◀

Kanulock lockable and steel reinforced roof rack straps ensure your gear stays where it should – on your roof. The padded heavy-duty straps will not allow your board to be slid out, and the reinforced stainless steel straps prevent cutting with a knife. Available in 8, 11, 13 and 18 foot lengths, the padded straps reduce wind noise and the easy to use lockable buckles give you the confidence that your board will stay put until you are ready to hit the waves. [www.surfhardware.com](http://www.surfhardware.com) **AW**





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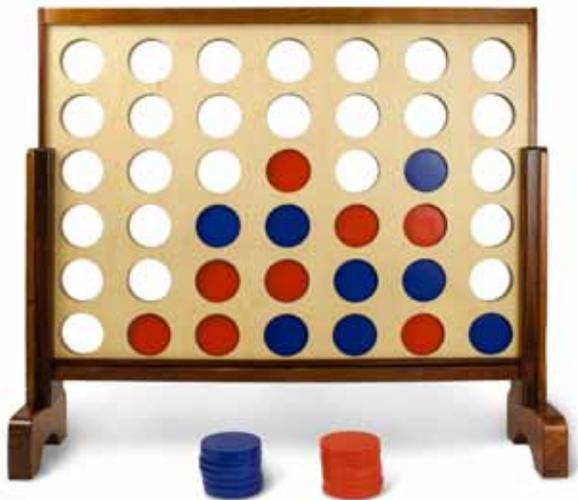
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# OUTDOOR GAMES

by Debbie Farrar

Whether its summer, winter, spring or fall, at the beach, tailgating or in your back yard, everyone loves outdoor games. We found some of the best made games around that promise to deliver hours of fun for your crew. So grab a couple of games, call up your gang and let the backyard Olympics begin!



## Yard Games Giant Connect 4

You remember Connect 4 from your childhood? Yard Games has a blown-up version. Perfect for indoor or outdoor fun, the Yard Games Giant Connect 4 is played exactly like the name implies, connect 4 discs and win! The board is 3 feet by 2 feet and comes with 21 red coins, 21 blue coins and a convenient carrying case. Players alternate dropping coins from the top until they get 4 in a row. So what are you waiting for? Grab a set, grab a friend and connect 4! [www.yardgames.com](http://www.yardgames.com)

## Tenalach Night and Day Bocce Ball

The Tenalach Night and Day Bocce Ball is a new twist on a very old game. Designed with light up balls, the Tenalach Bocce Ball set can literally be played at any hour of the day or night. This high-quality set includes 8 weather-resistant, regulation-size LED bocce balls, 1 white weather-resistant LED jack ball, 1 retractable measuring tape and a heavy duty canvas carrying case. Day or night, get your Bocce on with the Tenalach Night and Day Bocce Ball set. [www.Tenalach.com](http://www.Tenalach.com)



## Yard Games Giant Ring Toss

Yard Games Giant Ring Toss is a blown-up version of an old carnival game. Toss rings while trying to accumulate points by hitting the target posts. Players receive 3 points for the middle post and 1 point on the outer posts. Played with 2 or 4 players, the Yard Games Giant Ring Toss will give you hours of fun! [www.yardgames.com](http://www.yardgames.com)



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### Yard Games Giant Yard Pong

Yard Games Giant Yard Pong will take you back to the carnival games of your childhood. Set up six buckets on each end and take turns tossing the balls in an attempt to sink one in a bucket. This game is harder than it looks, and will have your group tossing and laughing into the night. The buckets and balls are heavy duty plastic and store inside of each other for a compact travel set that includes a carrying case. The Yard Games Giant Yard Pong is perfect for the neighborhood, school carnival, or just plain old family fun. [www.yardgames.com](http://www.yardgames.com)

### Yard Games Bottle Bash

Yard Games Bottle Bash is great fun for the whole family. The portable game sets up in less than a minute and will give you hours of fun. Build eye hand coordination by throwing the flying disc at your opponents' bottle and pole to score points while the defending team tries to catch the disc and bottle before they hit the ground. The game comes with a disc, mesh carrying bag, 2 sets of heavy-duty bottles, 2 poles with spikes and pole caps. The perfect game for backyards, the park or the beach. Get a Yard Games Bottle Bash and start bashing! [www.yardgames.com](http://www.yardgames.com)



### Wild Sports Tailgate Toss XL Platinum Edition

Wild Sports Tailgate Toss XL Platinum Edition is the Ferrari of corn hole games. Play like the pros with this heavy-duty wooden game which has regulation sized 2 feet by 4 feet boards and 16 ounce bean bags. A great family game for kids, seniors and everyone in between, the Wild Sports corn hole game will provide hours of fun. The Wild Sports Tailgate Toss XL Platinum Edition comes with 2 boards and 8 bean bags. Available in just about any pattern or team you desire, grab yourself a Wild Sports Tailgate Toss and get ready for a great time at the beach, tailgating or in your back yard. [www.wildsports.com](http://www.wildsports.com) **AW**



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# THE WONDERS OF North Carolina

by Troy Farrar

We set off on a two-week adventure in North Carolina and found our days were packed full of great activities. This is one beautiful place and I highly suggest adding a trip to the Northwest part of the state to your bucket list.

## Asheville Area

### Buffalo Creek Vacations

Buffalo Creek Vacations is a must see for anyone with kids. There are cabins for rent but I suggest that you start your adventure by staying in one of their renovated railroad cabooses – where there is room for two adults and two kids. Our kids thought this was the coolest hotel they had ever stayed in - they were ready to move in for good! Watch the daily feeding of the Bison heard from an elevated platform that puts you right in the center of the action. You can feed the goats, ponies, donkeys, rabbits and even a turkey. Make sure you take the hike to the playground / fort and then continue up to the top of the hill for the tire swing and tether ball court. We had a great time at Buffalo Creek watching the fireflies at night and sitting by the campfire where you can roast marshmallows. Only 30 minutes from Asheville this is a must do bucket list item for anyone with small kids or couples looking for a romantic getaway. [www.buffalocreekvacationsnc.com](http://www.buffalocreekvacationsnc.com)



### Wheels Through Time

Wheels Through Time is an awesome museum for the American motorcycle aficionado but is also a great place for anyone who loves history and wants to enjoy a piece of Americana. There are some really rare and amazing motorcycles dating back to the early 1900's. You will see bikes



from just about every era, some really interesting memorabilia and even a few rare and amazing cars - they even have one of Evel Knievil's motorcycles. Wheels Through Time has an amazing collection of American motorcycles and is well worth the visit. [www.wheelsthroughtime.com](http://www.wheelsthroughtime.com)



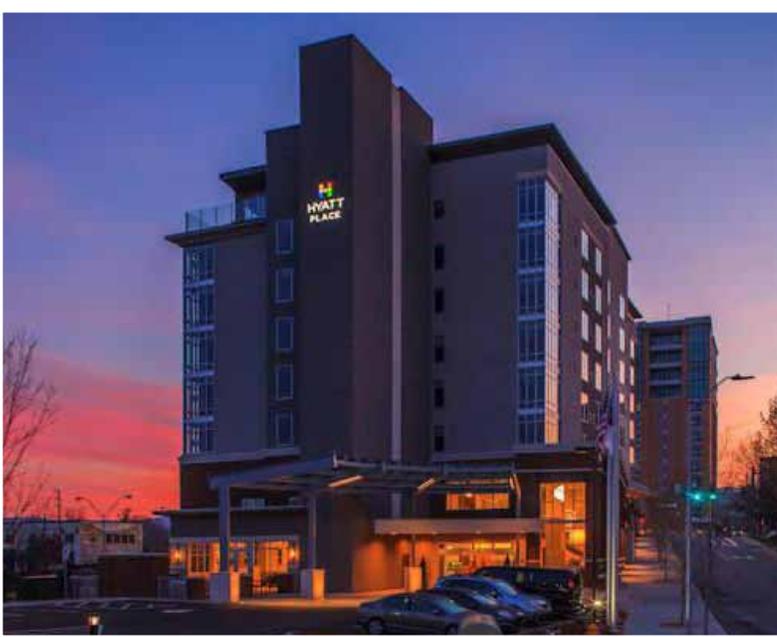
### **Hotel Indigo Asheville**

Hotel Indigo in downtown Asheville is a great place to set up camp for your Asheville adventures. A unique feature of Hotel Indigo is that no 2 properties are alike. While you will receive the same great service and amenities, each property reflects the local flavor on their menus and in their design. The Hotel Indigo Asheville features a delicious restaurant and bar, valet parking, a workout room, stylishly designed rooms and fantastic views of downtown Asheville and the surrounding area. The pet friendly location is within walking distance of any downtown destination and provide the perfect launching pad for our wandering downtown walks. [www.hotelindigo.com](http://www.hotelindigo.com)



### **Asheville Fun Depot**

The Asheville Fun Depot has the perfect name because there is nothing but fun times at the Depot. We started by playing video games, laser tag, putt putt golf and having fun on the rock wall. We followed that up with the ropes course, indoor and outdoor go carts, bumper cars and mini bowling. They also have a full diner with great burgers, fries and homemade shakes. Make sure to budget plenty of time because there are so many activities that you can easily spend half a day or more before you know it. For great family fun with lots of options visit the Asheville Fun Depot. [www.ashevillesfundepot.com](http://www.ashevillesfundepot.com)



### **Hyatt Place – Downtown Asheville**

The Hyatt Place in downtown Asheville is a beautiful hotel conveniently located in the heart of downtown Asheville. You can walk to any downtown location in just minutes, giving you access to hundreds of local shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. The hotel features valet parking, a workout center, an indoor pool, 24/7 dining with a complimentary breakfast and a rooftop restaurant that has amazing views of downtown Asheville. The Hyatt Place in downtown Asheville is the perfect place for your next Asheville outing. [www.hyatt.com](http://www.hyatt.com)

### **Soco Waterfall**

Be sure to hike to the Soco Waterfall just a few miles from Maggie Valley. It is an easy hike and ends with a beautiful waterfall. Take time to cool down by playing in the creek or just enjoying the cooling mist from the waterfall – and don't forget your camera!

### **Asheville Pinball Museum**

The Asheville Pinball Museum is like stepping into a time machine that is permanently set for the 80's. The whole place is decorated with retro items that will bring back lots of memories for anyone who grew up in the 70's and 80's. There is an amazing collection of arcade and superhero items that surround the main players – the pinball machines and video games. The best part is that your entry allows you unlimited play on any of the pinball machines or the large collection of retro video games. The machines all have placards with interesting facts about their origins and history. The Asheville Pinball Museum is an interesting must see attraction and guaranteed to be the most fun you will ever have at a museum. [www.ashevillepinball.com](http://www.ashevillepinball.com)

### **Hot Springs Rafting Company**

The Hot Springs Rafting Company is a great outfitter for your next river adventure. They are a smaller company, which means you will receive friendly customized service and not get lost in the crowds. We started our rafting trip a little earlier than all of the other outfitters which meant we had the whole river to ourselves for a peaceful and exciting trip. Our guide provided interesting facts and funny jokes throughout the trip that kept us entertained during our adventure. We stopped to jump off cliffs, bailed out of the rafts to swim through a rapid and paddled our raft through some amazing sections of the river. Our ten and twelve-year-old had a blast and their only complaint was that we couldn't keep going for the rest of the day. The Hot Springs Rafting Company offers half and full day trips and will definitely be a highlight of your trip. [www.hotspringsraftingco.com](http://www.hotspringsraftingco.com)





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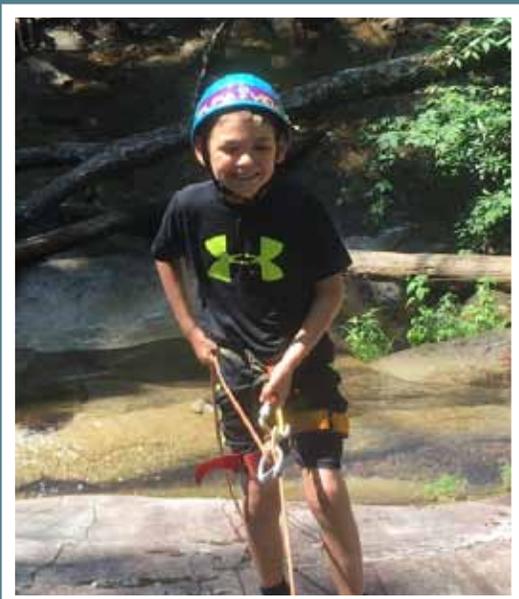
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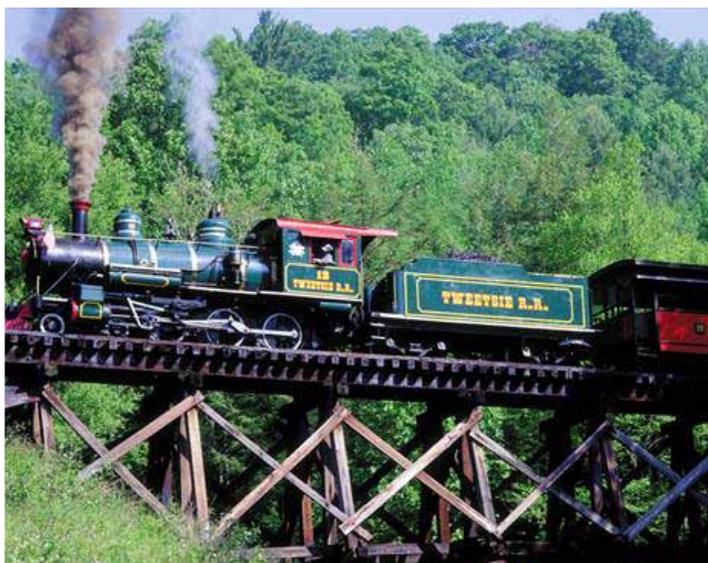


# Pura Vida

## Pura Vida Adventures

Pura Vida Adventures was the highlight of our summer vacation. Owner Joe Moerschbaeher has a long history in outdoor teaching and experiences and his enthusiasm for outdoor adventures is contagious. Joe guided us through a great rappel training session with plenty of practice until everyone was comfortable and proficient. They even trained our 10 and 12-year-olds! Then we were off to the waterfalls for some rappelling and a great time. The kids were confident and did an amazing job under the instruction of the Pura Vida guides. I was really excited to see my little guys rappelling down the waterfall on their own. On the hike out, we stopped off at a natural water slide and added another activity to our adventure. Overall, it was a great day and we are thankful that Pura Vida gave us this lifelong memory. The next time you are in the Brevard area make sure to look up Pura Vida Adventures and let Joe and his staff take you on an exciting outing. [www.pvadventures.com](http://www.pvadventures.com)





## Boone Area

### **Linville Caverns**

The Linville Caverns tour provides an exciting glimpse into a beautiful underground cavern in Northwest North Carolina. Discovered in the early 1800's, the Linville Caverns have been open for touring since 1937 and are the only caverns open for touring in North Carolina. The tour is suited for visitors of all ages from young children to seniors and the guides provide interesting historic facts and insights about the cavern. Finish the tour with a visit to the gift shop and with great memories of a real natural wonder. [www.linvillecaverns.com](http://www.linvillecaverns.com)

### **Tweetsie Railroad**

The Tweetsie Railroad was a hoot and one of my sons' favorite activities. They have carnival rides, fun song, dance and magic shows and of course the Tweetsie Railroad. The train ride is built around a story of train robbers and Indians attacking the fort and the train stops along the route so you can experience the live action firsthand. We rode the train several times and experienced several different stories – which were the highlight of my son's day. There are several food options, so plan to spend the majority of the day at Tweetsie Railroad. [www.tweetsie.com](http://www.tweetsie.com)

### **Mountain View Speedway**

The first thing I noticed at the Mountainview Speedway was that they said a prayer before the races began and that everyone stood for the National Anthem and cheered after it was done – we were off on the right track. We watched as local amateur drivers battled it out on the Mountain View Speedway – also known as North Carolina's ¼ Mile Clay Bull Ring! There was some rubbing and bumping during the events and some great dirt track racing. The Mountain View Speedway is a family friendly event with no alcohol allowed and they even have a nice snack bar in case you get the munchies during the races. The Saturday night races provide several hours of entertainment as you watch multiple races from a great bird's eye view and camping is available if you want to make a weekend out of it. [www.mountainviewspeedway.webs.com](http://www.mountainviewspeedway.webs.com)

### **The Blowing Rock**

The Blowing Rock is the only place in the world where snow falls upside down. The unique cliff forms an upward flume that will often return light objects that are thrown over the cliff. Expect to see magnificent views of Hawksbill Mountain, Table Rock, Grandfather Mountain and Mount Mitchell. The beautifully kept grounds feature a waterfall that flows into a pond with turtles, an observation tower, several picnic areas, multiple viewing areas, a couple of trails and of course the Blowing Rock. You can eat lunch or grab a snack at the snack bar and they also have a nice gift shop. No trip to Blowing Rock is complete without a trip to see the Blowing Rock. [www.theblowingrock.com](http://www.theblowingrock.com)

### **High Gravity Adventures**

High Gravity Adventures is a fun and challenging experience on a high ropes course. You are hooked into a safety harness the entire time and can go at your own pace and take on the challenges that you enjoy most. If you don't like a challenge, just take a different route. We enjoyed moving along the course together and encouraging each other during the event. This is a great family activity and one that can be enjoyed by just about any age as long as you have an adventurous spirit. Perfect for birthday parties, youth groups or just families that love adventure. [www.highgravityadventures.com](http://www.highgravityadventures.com)

### **Grandfather Mountain**

Grandfather Mountain is a great place to spend the day with lots of activities for everyone. Start by visiting the nature museum and animal habitats where you will get an up-close view of bears, eagles, elk, mountain lions and river otters. Grab a bite to eat at Mildred's Grill or pick up a meal for a picnic lunch. Don't forget dessert from the Fudge Shop! Enjoy views for miles and some great photo opportunities from the mile-high swinging bridge at the top of Grandfather Mountain. The suspension bridge spans 228 feet and connects 2 peaks at 5,946 feet above sea level. There are 11 different trails that provide opportunities to take fun hikes or have a picnic throughout the park. Grandfather Mountain is a beautiful and fun park with plenty of activities for the family. [www.grandfather.com](http://www.grandfather.com)



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### **Mystery Hill**

Mystery Hill is a one stop shop for lots of adventure. Start with Mystery Hill where balls roll uphill and people change size right before your eyes. The slanted floor room is the highlight and lots of fun. Next visit Doc Rocks Gem Mining and pan for gems. When you are done, one of the staff will go through your gems and teach you all about them. Take a fun photo at Professor Finnegan's Old Time Photo Parlor and do a little shopping in the gift shop before continuing the fun. You can explore the Native American artifact museum – which is second only to the Smithsonian and finish the tour by trying your hand at some tomahawk throwing. You can also tour the 1903 Dougherty House Museum and explore the Appalachian Fossil and Dinosaur Museum. Budget several hours as there are lots of activities at Mystery Hill to experience. [www.mysteryhill.com](http://www.mysteryhill.com)

### **Hawksnest Ziplines**

Hawksnest Ziplines is a great adventure to add to your schedule. The professional guides will lead your group through an exhilarating time on one of their 3 courses. You will experience some awesome views and thrilling rides as you zipline from tree to tree on your course. Some of their lines are over 2000 feet long and they have a total of over 4 miles of ziplines. This is a must do activity, so be sure to add Hawksnest to your bucket list. In the winter, Hawksnest has snow tubing which is another must do activity when you are in the area. <https://hawksnestzipline.com>

### **Linville Falls**

Start at the visitor's center and take one of the two trails to some amazing views of Linville Falls. This is the most popular waterfall in the Blue Ridge Mountains because of its accessibility and beauty. You do not want to miss the 3-tiered waterfall that plunges hundreds of feet into the Linville Gorge. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) **AW**





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# Shooting & Hunting Reviews

## Sitka Gear Mountain Jacket

The Sitka Gear Mountain Jacket is a must have essential jacket and one you will reach for hunt after hunt. Featuring a durable water repellent finish that is anchored by GORE-TEX INFINIUM™ with WINDSTOPPER®, the form fitted Mountain Jacket will keep you warm and dry on those windy and misty days. The ultra-quiet brushed polyester face stretches with you to remain comfortable in any position. Dual zippered mesh hand pockets and a zippered mesh chest pocket provide plenty of storage space for those essential items. You will be amazed at the durability, flexibility and functionality of the Mountain Jacket. The Sitka Gear Mountain Jacket is light enough to take on any excursion and a real heavy weight when it comes to protecting you on those cold windy mountainsides. [www.sitkagear.com](http://www.sitkagear.com)



## Sitka Gear Traverse Pant

The Sitka Gear Traverse Pant are designed to handle long days in the mountains in total comfort. A water repellent coating will keep the morning dew from soaking through and the quick drying material is great for when you do get wet after crossing a creek. The super comfortable stretch polyester material is durable and moves with you no matter what your position. Featuring a pair of traditional open front pockets, a zippered back pocket and dual zippered cargo pockets, the Traverse has a place for all of your essential gear. The pockets are all mesh lined to keep you cool by providing ventilation on those warmer days and the front pockets have reinforced knife anchor points. Available in Optifade Open Country or Optifade Subalpine the Sitka Gear Traverse pant is a light and versatile pant that is great for early season hunting and by simply adding a layer will take you through to the end of the season. [www.sitkagear.com](http://www.sitkagear.com)

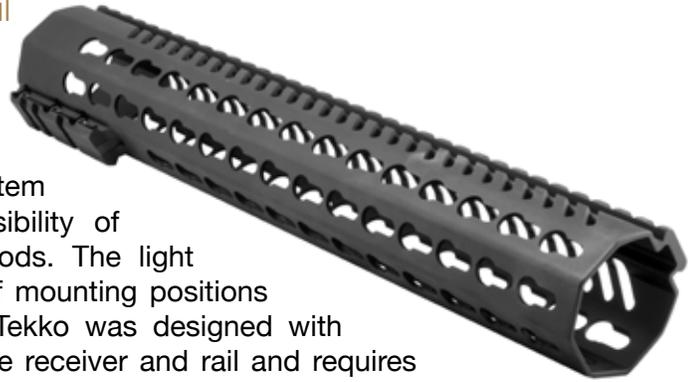


## 2A Regulated BCG

The 2A Regulated Bolt Carrier Group is the Ferrari of BCGs. This ultra-light weight BCG has a built-in regulating gate that allows you to tune the gas system for different scenarios such as adding a suppressor to your rifle. The Regulated BCG can be adjusted from fully open to fully closed to anywhere in between giving you the ability to tune the gas system to perfection with the simple turn of a T-6 Torx screw through the port door. The made in the USA BCG features a QPQ nitride coating and weighs in at a paltry 7.9 ounces. Light weight, ultra-tunable and reliable, 2A has hit another grand slam with the Regulated Bolt Carrier Group. <https://www.2a-arms.com>

### Mission First Tactical Tekko Free Float Keymod Rail

The Mission First Tactical Tekko Free Float Keymod Rail is the perfect upgrade for your rifle, or a great platform for a custom build. MFT heralds this as the easiest free float rail to install and the free float design will instantly improve your rifles accuracy. The Keymod attachment system provides a secure mounting base for an unlimited possibility of accessories such as lights, lasers, vertical grips and bipods. The light weight 6061 aluminum handguard provides a large range of mounting positions in addition to the 3, 6, 9 and 12 o'clock positions. The Tekko was designed with a monolithic styled top rail to eliminate the gap between the receiver and rail and requires a low profile gas block. MFT has provided several options for the Type 3 hard coat anodized Tekko which is available in 7, 10, 13 and 15 inch rails with a choice of black or scorched dark earth. [www.missionfirsttactical.com](http://www.missionfirsttactical.com)



### Mission First Tactical Battlelink Minimalist Milspec Stock

The Mission First Tactical Battlelink Minimalist Milspec Stock is a great upgrade for your existing rifle. This minimalist stock weighs in at a mere 5.8 ounces while retaining all of the standard functional requirements of a stock. The Battlelink features an angled non-slip rubberized buttpad which allows for speedy presentation, even with a coat or body armor. MFT included multiple single point sling slots and an ambi quick detach sling mounting point. The Minimalist stock has an enhanced cheek weld and requires a mil spec buffer tube. The tough, lightweight and functional Mission First Tactical Battlelink Minimalist Milspec Stock is a fantastic upgrade for your rifle. [www.missionfirsttactical.com](http://www.missionfirsttactical.com)

### Zero Tolerance 0022

The Zero Tolerance 0022 is the smallest knife ever made by ZT. Although the knife is tiny in stature, measuring 3 inches when closed and just under 5 inches when open, the ZT 0022 is mighty in function. Designed by Tim Galyean, the blade is a CPM 20CV steel which is super hard, corrosion and wear resistant, and provides excellent edge retention. The KVT ball-bearing provides lightning fast opening and a pair of deep finger contours provide a sure grip even in messy conditions. The ZT 0022 has a great looking combination of a stonewashed Ti back and a carbon fiber front handle with a handy pocket clip. This little knife is big on performance and will not weigh you down. <https://zt.kaiusaltd.com> **AW**



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DOA SHOOTING BENCHES PROVIDE A SOLID STABLE SHOOTING PLATFORM THAT FOLDS UP FOR EASY TRANSPORT.



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Our tripods are built from durable powder coated steel to prevent flexing when the shot is taken. The tripods are designed to handle a 500 lb man plus gear. Tripods measure 32" with legs folded and 37" from the ground with the legs extended. The seat rotates 360 degrees and features over 25" of vertical movement. When you are done shooting the tripod is designed to fold up on itself for a compact, easy to transport shooting platform.

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We offer one tabletop size (30X43) in left or right handed 14 ply Maple or Birch that will work for any firearm from a .22 to a 50BMG. Each tabletop is unique in appearance and texture.

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# 6.5 Grendel

## *Strike Industry Style*

by: Troy Farrar



We decided to build a special varmint gun that would be compact, lightweight and a bit unique. We decided to use Anderson Manufacturing for our receivers and then we contacted our friends at Strike Industry who were more than happy to supply the majority of the upper and lower build parts. We were excited as this was our first build using a unique BSF carbon barrel and our first time to utilize a Maxim Defense brace. Several other quality brands chipped in for the build and the result was an amazing little 6.5 Grendel that was a sub MOA shooter. After performing well on the range, we are looking forward to getting the varmint gun in the field for some real-world testing. The 6.5 Grendel is a perfect caliber for hogs, coyotes and prairie dogs and the Hornady 123 grain SST is a great round for any of those hunts.

### *BSF Carbon Barrels*

We chose a 12-inch BSF Carbon Barrel for our 6.5 Grendel build. You may notice that BSF carbon barrels look different than others, which is due to their unique manufacturing process. After turning down the barrel, BSF jackets the 416R stainless steel match barrel in a roll-wrapped carbon fiber sleeve and loads it under tension (95% of the carbon fiber does not touch the barrel). BSF machines holes in the carbon fiber allowing air flow around the barrel which aids in venting heat quickly without any delamination issues. The BSF barrel also has a vibration dampening effect meaning the carbon absorbs the shock and vibration providing for more consistent groups. The combination of the free float and tension design help the barrel retain superior stiffness and strength while keeping the barrel extremely lightweight. The US made BSF Carbon Barrels are unique in both look and function and will insure you have sub MOA groups. [www.bsfbarrels.com](http://www.bsfbarrels.com)



### *Anderson Manufacturing Upper and Lower Receiver Set*

The Anderson Manufacturing Upper and Lower Receiver Set are the perfect foundation for your next build. The mil spec receiver sets are 7075 T6 forged aluminum with a black type 3 hard anodized finish providing a durable and reliable foundation for your rifle. Anderson receivers are multi-cal engraved and available as a standard receiver or with numerous engraving options. Anderson also offers an RF85 nano technology treatment that injects calcium into the molecular fabric of the metal which elongates to form a protective barrier that eliminates the need for lubrication while reducing friction by 85%. No matter which option you choose, Anderson Manufacturing receiver sets will lay a great foundation for your next rifle build and keep you shooting in any conditions. [www.andersonmanufacturing.com](http://www.andersonmanufacturing.com)



### *Maxim Defense CQB Pistol PDW Brace*

The 7075 Aluminum Alloy Maxim Defense CQB Pistol PDW Brace is the Ferrari of pistol braces. The brace collapses to a very short 5.375 inches and has three additional lengths with a maximum extension of 9.24 inches. Maxim produces four choices of buffers (standard, H1, H2 and pistol) or you can run the JP Enterprises Silence Capture Spring System with the brace. The compact brace makes transport and CQB a snap and features dual QD mounts. Maxim Defense has crafted a piece of functioning art in the CQB Pistol PDW Brace that will be the envy of every other shooter. [www.maximdefense.com](http://www.maximdefense.com)



### *RCA 6.5mm Grendel Standard Mass-M16 Profile Complete BCG*

The Rubber City Armory 6.5mm Grendel Standard Mass-M16 Profile Complete BCG is the perfect engine to drop into your 6.5 Grendel build. The precision craftsmanship of the RCA BCG starts with a standard dimension firing pin that is custom matched to the firing pin hole. RCA's Bolt Carrier Groups are Black Nitride coated which will increase the strength and durability of the BCG while decreasing the wear as well as extending the time between required cleanings. The enhanced radius type II BCG is equipped with a durable 4140 pre-hardened billet gas key. The BCG is the heart of your rifle, so ensure yours will give you reliable performance in any environment with a RCA BCG. RCA is so confident of in their BCGs that they back them with a lifetime warranty. [www.rubbercityarmory.com](http://www.rubbercityarmory.com)





### *Elftmann Match Trigger*

The Elftmann drop in match trigger is specifically built for the high-performance shooter. Elftmann produces the only AR-15 trigger that uses aerospace grade sealed bearings to provide a no creep, crisp glass break and short take up for lightning fast follow up shots. Available with a straight or curved shoe, the trigger pull weight can be adjusted from 2 3/4 to 4 pounds without removing the trigger from your lower receiver. The Elftmann Match Trigger is absolutely drop safe regardless of pull-weight and the double wound hammer spring and heavy hammer ensure proper ignition of any ammunition. Elftmann is so confident in the 100% US made Match Trigger that they back it with a lifetime guarantee. [www.elftactical.com](http://www.elftactical.com)



### *ASC 6.5 Grendel Magazine*

The ASC 6.5 Grendel Magazine is a fast and durable magazine that is reliable in any environment. ASC uses a heat-treated 410 stainless-steel alloy which is chemically treated with Marlube to provide corrosion resistance for the magazine body. Marlube is a wear-in, not wear-off, coating that burnishes in the surface providing self-lubricating properties. The magazines also feature enhanced anti-tilt polymer followers with PTFE, chrome silicon springs and 300 Series Stainless Steel floor plates with a black oxide coating for corrosion resistance. The ASC magazines are available in 5, 10, 15 and 25 round counts with 3 color choices. We had Tactical Expressions engrave our magazines with 6.5 Grendel for a customized look. For a durable and reliable long-life magazine, choose ASC! [www.ammosc.com](http://www.ammosc.com)



### *KNS Precision, Inc. Gen 2 Mod Non Rotating Trigger/ Hammer Pins*

The KNS Precision Non Rotating Trigger / Hammer Pins will prevent pin creep or rotation which can wear larger holes in the lower receiver of your rifle. Great for weapons using suppressors, full auto, and semi auto weapons, the stainless-steel pins are super strong and the MOD 2 side plates look great. The set is easy to install and comes with 2 allen wrenches and an installation tool which is everything you need to install the pins. The KNS Precision Non Rotating Trigger / Hammer Pins set are a great upgrade to your rifle. [www.knsprecisioninc.com](http://www.knsprecisioninc.com)



### *Superlative Arms Adjustable Gas Block*

The Superlative Arms adjustable gas block has a unique design that bleeds the gas out of the block and forward away from the shooter instead of restricting the flow like conventional adjustable blocks. The pressure is reduced to the amount required to drive the bolt carrier with the excess being bled off resulting in a cleaner and cooler system. The 30-position removable adjustment detent is located outside of the block to prevent contamination, corrosion or possible seizing and has a safety mechanism to prevent accidental removal. The Superlative Arms adjustable gas block is a game changer which is available in 4 sizes, solid and clamp on and black melonite or matte stainless-steel finishes. The Superlative Arms adjustable gas block will reduce both the recoil and the amount of gas and particle blowback you sustain when shooting suppressed firearms. [www.suparms.com](http://www.suparms.com)

### *Tactical Expressions 6.5 Grendel Engraved Upper & Magazines*

Look no further than Tactical Expressions for custom engraving on uppers, lowers or any other gun part. They carry a huge selection of engraved upper and lower parts in just about any color you can imagine so you can customize your gun exactly how you like. We like to have our different uppers engraved with the calibers to prevent accidentally loading the wrong round, especially when there is more than one shooter who has access to the guns. Tactical Expressions allows you to choose your font and did an excellent job of engraving our 6.5 Grendel upper and magazines. Let Tactical Expressions help you create that unique one of a kind rifle. [www.tactical-expressions.com](http://www.tactical-expressions.com)



### *Strike Industries Rail AR-15*

The Strike Industries Rail AR-15 is a functional piece of art. This lightweight rail is durable and has a built-in anti-rotation feature. The MLOK compatible rail also features a tough as nails reinforced steel mounting nut and bolt. Featuring a 1.57 internal diameter to accommodate suppressors and available in five sizes and four colors there is a Strike Industries rail for any project you can imagine. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



### *Strike Industries Link Curved Fore Grip*

The Strike Industries LINK-CFG (Curved Fore Grip) was designed to offer barricade stop functionality, ensuring your hand stays where it should. The light weight 6061 aluminum fore grip features Strike Industries LINK system which is mountable to both M-Lok and Keymod rails. Available in 4 colors, the Strike Industries LINK-CFG provides multiple grip options and will ensure your rifle is stabilized in any environment. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



### *Strike Industries Enhanced Lower Receiver Parts Kit*

Strike Industries Enhanced Lower Receiver Parts Kit is a conveniently packaged high quality upgrade package for your AR15 build. This kit includes all the basic lower parts that you will need for your next AR-15 build and is available with or without the trigger and hammer. Grab a kit for your next build or to enhance an existing rifle. You can't go wrong with the Strike Industries Enhanced Lower Receiver Parts Kit. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



### *Strike Industries Venom Flash Hider*

Strike claims the Venom Flash Hider is the world's most effective flash hider, eliminating nearly 100% of your muzzle flash by quickly dispersing the burning gases exploding from the barrel. Strike Industries does this by creating instant air flow to eliminate gas combustion and the result will preserve your night vision. The functional result is a rapid sight recovery which allows for faster nighttime and low light follow up shots. The four-pronged Viper looks great and is designed to protect the muzzle crown of your barrel. On a side note, the Viper is long enough to make 14 1/2" Barrel 16" and comes with pre-drilled hole for pin and welding. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)





*Strike Industries Hex Selector Switch 60/90 degree 3 in 1*  
The Strike Industries Hex Selector Switch 60/90 degree 3 in 1 provides lots of options and can be configured to fit your preferences. The heat-treated machined safety can be configured to short throw or in the conventional setting. The Ambi safety has grooves for a secure grip and will insure you are safe when in the field. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



*Strike Industries Viper Enhanced Pistol Grip*  
The Strike Industries Viper Enhanced Pistol Grip lineup is available in three different angles to suit just about any shooter's desires. Choose between 15, 20 or 25 degrees for a custom fit to your style of shooting. Strike also assures you will have a positive grip in any environment with various aggressive textures on the grip. The tapered grip also ensures an extended range of motion for the firing hand when accessing the controls. Comfortable during extended firing sessions, the grip features a beavertail and a secure storage area with a rubber endcap. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



*Strike Industries Forward Assist*  
The new Strike Industries Forward Assist is the latest addition to the Strike Industries line of performance AR parts. The 0.2 oz lightweight aluminum forward assist is available in black, FDE or anodized red, blue or grey and features a tool steel pawl to ensure a long service life and positive engagement of the ratchets on compatible bolt carriers. The Strike Industries forward assist includes forward assist plunger with installed pawl, spring and spring pin. Install a Strike Industries Forward Assist and know that you have a great looking accessory that will work under any demands. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



*Strike Industries Ultimate Dust Cover*  
The Strike Industries Ultimate Dust Cover is a durable, light weight high-density polymer ejection port dust cover. The patent pending SI UDC enables users to attach and detach the dust cover in under 10 seconds and Strike Industries added a new feature which is a cut-out window on the rod for easy removal. The Ultimate Dust Cover features an adjustable detent set screw to compensate for wear on the receiver which allows the user to increase or decrease opening power. Choose multiple colors and designs to customize your AR with the Strike Industries Ultimate Dust Cover. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)

### Strike Industries ARCH-EL Charging Handle

The Strike industries ARCH-EL Charging Handle has an extended latch which is easy to manipulate in any condition. The T-6 7075 forged hard anodized aluminum charging handle is light weight and yet it will not wear your receiver as fast as steel latches. Easy to find in the dark, on rainy days or in just about any situation life throws at you, the ARCH-EL Charging Handle will ensure your rifle is functioning when you need it. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



### Strike Industries Fang Billet Aluminum Trigger Guard

The Strike Industries Fang Billet Aluminum Trigger Guard is an awesome piece of furniture that will add both great looks and function to your rifle. The lightweight Aircraft grade aluminum construction features the FANG magazine reload assist for faster and cleaner reloads. Stand out in a crowd with the Strike Industries Fang Billet Aluminum Trigger Guard. [www.strikeindustries.com](http://www.strikeindustries.com)



### Hornady 6.5 Grendel 123gr SST

The Hornady 6.5 Grendel 123gr SST is a deadly round for small game hunting. The SST has a secant ogive boattail profile which creates the optimum blend of ballistic efficiency and bearing surface for flatter shooting and less drag. The 123gr SST (Super Shock Tip) has a muzzle velocity of 2580 and is designed to deliver tremendous shock on impact while expanding quickly to create a large wound channel and ensure an ethical hunt. Flat shooting, accurate and reliable, you can expect consistent results from the Hornady 6.5 Grendel 123gr SST. In fact every round of Hornady Custom ammunition is hand inspected before packaging to ensure the highest levels of quality control. [www.hornady.com](http://www.hornady.com) **AW**

