



# Adventure World

## magazine

WINTER 2023

# SNOW DAY

There is No Certainty- There is Only Adventure



# ADVENTURE WORLD MAGAZINE

**EDITOR** Troy Farrar

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Rae Zurcher

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Steve Chapin  
Izzy Farrar  
Troy Farrar  
Jennifer Opiela-Miksich  
Kevin Reece  
Kevin Smith

14

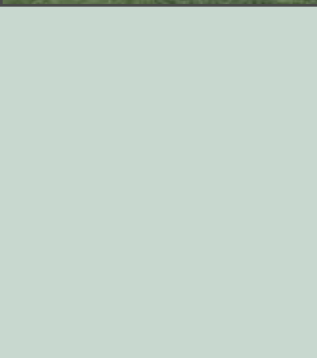


36



# Contents

WINTER 2023



- 05** Adventures with Izzy:  
Trying Something New
- 09** Product Reviews
- 11** Rollercam
- 14** Bonaire - Adventure  
Above and Below the  
Water
- 31** RV Product Reviews
- 33** Must Have Power  
Upgrades For Your Trailer
- 36** Snow Day
- 47** Heated Gear
- 55** Hunting Product Reviews
- 57** Purpose Driven Defense  
Optics
- 62** MGM Targets



# PEDAL WITH PERMETHRIN.

Meet Sawyer Permethrin, your ultimate defense against ticks and insects. Simply spray on gear and fabric, reapply every 6 weeks or 6 washings, and enjoy critter-free riding.



**Sawyer**

Find a retailer near you at [Sawyer.com](https://www.sawyer.com)



# Trying Something New

by Izzy Farrar

Trying something new can be more than a little intimidating, but often times it is well worth the reward. This year I made a lot of new friends at school and my little group of friends became super close. The group would get together to play sand volleyball, go to the movies, have cooking competitions or just hang out 4-5 days a week. Everyone in my new friend group has something in common - they are all soccer players, that is everyone but me.

I was a little frustrated as soccer was the one sport I had never really played, even though my dad had both played and coached collegiate soccer. I couldn't help but question why he hadn't made me play soccer. This was a little disappointing so I asked my dad, "Poppa, why didn't you teach me to play soccer? His reply, "I wanted you to pick the sports that you loved, not the sports that I loved." OK, that is a fair answer, but it still does not help fix my problem - I really want to be on the team and play soccer with all of my friends.

We had so much fun during the first semester of school, hanging out all the time and doing things together. I played volleyball and ran cross country in the fall, so I missed a few of the outings due to games or meets, but I was able to make the majority of the get togethers. A couple of the other kids in the group also ran cross country, so at least we got to hang out at the meets. They are actually the way I got into the group, because they let me tag along to a couple of get togethers and before I knew it I was in the group.

I realized when soccer season started in the spring, I would not see my friends nearly as much. Between before and after school practices, Tuesday and Friday





night games and general school work it would be pretty tough to spend much time together. After thinking about this problem for a little while, I could only come up with one solution – I would join the soccer team. YAY - problem solved! So, I went to my dad and asked him if he could teach me the skills and train me to become a soccer player. His response, “It’s too late and these kids are too far along technically for you to catch up – it would take years of training.” BOO – problem not solved.

A few days later my dad asked me, “what do you think about becoming a goal keeper.” My response, “A goal keeper? I don’t know anything about goalkeeping.”

My dad replied, “that’s not exactly true, you have been training to be a goal keeper for several years, you just didn’t know it.” My dad went on to explain that all of the skills I had developed in volleyball as a Defensive Specialist and Libero were very similar to the skills I would need for goalkeeping. Skills like moving your feet to get your body behind the ball, being quick and aggressive, diving for balls and throwing your hands at the ball. There would be some soccer specific techniques I would have to learn like catching the ball instead of passing it, but a lot of the basic skill set were the same. My dad’s next question was, “When are try outs?” My response, “Three weeks.”

My Dad replied, “Well, 3 weeks is not a lot of time but if you are willing to put in the work, I am willing to train you. We are going to need to train 1-2 hours every day for the next 3 weeks.” My response, “OK Poppa I’m in!”





Each school is different, at my high school sports are very competitive. Starting a brand new sport your sophomore year with no experience is pretty much unheard of. I had the motivation – I wanted to play soccer with all of my friends. The big question was could I learn the skills and gain the confidence to make the team? I knew it was a long shot, but I wanted to try?

So, I started training every day at the soccer fields with my dad. Some days it was just us two, some days my mom and brother came along to help shag balls, and most days some of my friends came to help. They would serve crosses and take shots on me while my dad coached technique and made corrections. This was great as I was getting to hang out with my friends even during soccer training. A few of the days were wet and plenty of them were really



cold, but my friends kept showing up to help – they probably have no idea how much they helped. Early on my dad told me that I was doing great – he thought I was progressing quickly. My friends were also very encouraging and this helped me to grow in confidence – maybe I could make the team.

Tryouts came quickly and I wasn't the most confident player on the field, but I figured I'd give it my best shot and whatever happens.....happens. After all, I didn't have a lot at stake, I had only been officially playing soccer for three weeks. So, I showed up for tryouts and I gave it my best effort. I may have looked a little goofy at times, but all of that training paid off - I made the team! I have to admit, when I really think about it, it is a bit of a shock.

I am really glad for the opportunity to learn this new sport and to grow closer with my friends. Our season has just begun, but so far, we are having a lot of fun at practice and the games. I am able to hang out with my friends so much more than if I was not on the team – YAA! I have also made some new friends with other players that are on the team. I am still working hard to improve, because making the team was just the beginning, now I want to become the best goal keeper that I can become. So, if you want to try something new – I say, “Go for it!” What the worst that could happen? **AW**



# SKIN IN THE RACE?



## ***Be Chafe & Blister Free!***

Adventure Racing is thrilling, challenging, fun-filled  
- through water and mud, shredding,  
rappelling, ripping and more.  
You can do it chafe free  
and blister free!

**YOU GOT THIS®**

**body  
glide®**  
PROTECTIVE  
SKINCARE

PROUD SPONSOR OF  
**USARA**  
UNITED STATES ADVENTURE  
RACING ASSOCIATION



## Muck Chore Farm Leather Chelsea Boot

Muck's Chore Farm Leather Chelsea Boot is a new leather boot that looks great but is also designed to the tough as nails standards found in Muck's rubber and neoprene boots. The 100% waterproof Leather Chelsea is stylish enough to wear just about anywhere and comfortable enough for a long day of hard work. The slip resistant outsole is both oil & gas resistant and the memory foam, dual density footbed is ultra-comfortable. The Leather Chelsea features a breathable mesh lining and two pull on straps making it easy to don the boots. Available in black or caramel Muck's Chore Farm Leather Chelsea Boot is sure to become your daily favorite for life on the ranch. [www.muckbootcompany.com](http://www.muckbootcompany.com)



## Bite Away

Bite Away is a simple solution for itchy and painful insect bites or stings. The small pen sized device will deliver up to 300 applications on a pair of AA batteries, and is safe for children, expectant mothers and users with sensitive skin. Here is how Bite Away works, when bitten or stung the insect leaves saliva or venom trapped in your skin which causes an itching or stinging sensation. Your body releases histamines to try and flush away the toxin, but the histamines increase blood flow to the area which can increase swelling, irritation and pain. Bite Away safely applies heat up to 124°F, which is enough to provide pain relief without burning your skin. Simply place the ceramic contact surface on the bite or sting, hold for 5 seconds, and enjoy immediate relief. The FDA cleared device is chemical free and works entirely by applying concentrated heat. The next time you are bitten or stung, grab your Bite Away and get immediate relief. [www.takethebiteaway.com](http://www.takethebiteaway.com) **AW**



# GRINDER *Nationals*

MAY 13, 2023

Loudoun County, VA

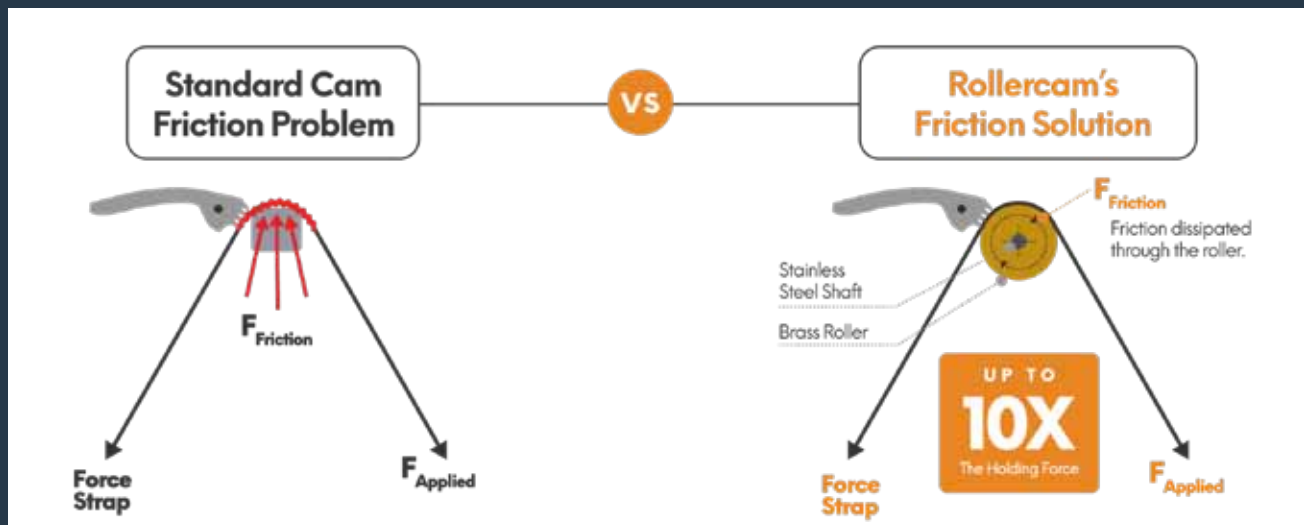


[www.GrinderNationals.com](http://www.GrinderNationals.com)





Rollercam is a classic example of building a better mouse trap – and this mousetrap will keep your gear secure. How many times have you pulled on a standard cam strap with all of your might only to end up with a subpar loose strap that really does not secure anything? Physics is working against you - as you are pulling on the strap, a frictional force is generated between the body and the webbing, reducing the overall ability to securely tighten a standard cam. The patented Rollercam Technology reduces the frictional force and allows the webbing to be tightened with ease and at a much higher force allowing you to get the strap nice and tight, securing your load.



Rollercam built a far superior cam strap and offers them in a multitude of configurations assuring there is a Rollercam for just about any situation. They offer most configurations in both Polypropylene (PP) and Polyester (PE), but what is the difference? Polypropylene (PP) straps do not absorb water, which means they will float and do not become slippery when wet. Polyester (PE) straps have similar strength characteristics as Polypropylene (PP), but will absorb water, which means they will become a little slippery when wet. The absorption of water also means that the Polyester (PE) straps should be dried out if they get wet. All Rollercams use 1 inch webbing and feature the patented Rollercam buckle with ergonomic thumb release, dual stainless-steel shafts, a brass roller, triple-bar tack stitching, t-135 polyester thread and a 350-pound working load. Here are the available configurations.



38.75169, -90.47541

**OUTDOOR  
LIVING  
MADE  
EASIER<sup>TM</sup>**

**WWW.CAMP-ZERO.COM**



## Rollercam Loop End

The Rollercam Loop End has 2 parts, one has a loop sewn onto one end of the strap and the cam buckle on the other end of the strap. The second part is a straight strap with a loop sewn into one end with woven in length so you can easily tell the length of the strap. When the strap is looped through itself, it is impossible for the strap to come undone. The Polyester version is available in 4, 6 or 9 foot straps with a choice of Yellow, Red, Blue, Green or Black straps. The Polypropylene version is available in 4, 6 or 9 foot straps with a choice of Expedition Graphite or Classic Blue straps.

## Rollercam Hook End

The Rollercam Hook End has 2 parts, one has a 1 inch hook sewn onto one end of the strap and the cam buckle on the other end of the strap. The second part is a Straight strap with a 1 inch hook sewn into one end and woven in length so you can easily tell the length of the strap. The Polyester version is available in 4, 6, 9, 12, 15 or 20 foot straps with a choice of Yellow, Red, Blue, Green or Black straps. The Polypropylene version is available in 4, 6, 9, 12, 15 or 20 foot straps with a choice of Expedition Graphite or Classic Blue straps.

## Rollercam Carabiner End

The Rollercam Carabiner End has 2 parts, one has a carabiner sewn onto one end of the strap and the cam buckle on the other end of the strap. The second part is a Straight strap with a carabiner sewn into one end. The Polypropylene strap is available in 6, 9, 12, 15 or 20 foot straps with a choice of Expedition Graphite or Classic Blue straps and woven in length so you can easily tell the length of the strap.

## Roperoller

The Roperoller is a rope cam that uses the same great Rollercam technology for applications that require rope such as canopies, tents and awnings. The Roperoller has a handy carabiner styled end, works with 3 mm & 4 mm rope or paracord and features a brass roller, stainless steel springs and shafts, a corrosion resistant cam and is available with 10 feet of reflective accessory cord. The Roperoller can be purchased with or without the of reflective accessory cord and is available in 2, 6 or 12 piece sets. [www.rollercam.com](http://www.rollercam.com) **AW**







# Bonaire

## Adventure Above and Below the Water

by Jennifer Opiela-Miksch







# Riders, Welcome to Loudoun!

Home of the 2023 USE Gravel Grinder National Championship



**VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
BIKE  
LOVERS™**

*Visit*  
**LOUDOUN**  
DC's Wine Country®

  
**LOUDOUN**  
SPORTS TOURISM

**VisitLoudoun.org**  
**#LoveLoudoun**









# NEW ENHANCED MEMBERSHIP

A higher level of benefits to meet the needs of today's active divers and travelers.

[DAN.org/Enhanced](https://DAN.org/Enhanced)

## MEMBERSHIP COMPARISON

	REGULAR Membership	ENHANCED Membership
Emergency Medical Transportation & Travel Assistance Benefits	Up To US\$150,000	Up To US\$500,000
Alert Diver Magazine Subscription	Digital Only	Print + Digital
DAN TravelAssist® Benefits	Regular	Enhanced
Global Security Evacuation	✗	✓
Search & Rescue Coverage	✗	✓
Access To Purchase DAN Dive Accident Insurance	✓	✓
24/7 Emergency Hotline	✓	✓
Medical & Safety Consultations	✓	✓
New Severe Infectious Disease & Quarantine Coverage	✗	Up To US\$5,000
Annual Individual Membership	US\$40	US\$75
Annual Family Membership	US\$60	US\$100

\*Regular Membership includes access to the digital edition of Alert Diver only.

DAN membership includes automatic enrollment in DAN TravelAssist®. Emergency Medical Transportation and Travel Assistance Benefits are available for both diving and non-diving emergencies, with an aggregate benefit limit for Regular Membership up to \$150,000 (\$100,000 for residents of NY) and an aggregate benefit limit for Enhanced Membership up to \$500,000. Enhanced Membership not available for residents of NY. DAN TravelAssist® benefits are provided by DAN, Travel Guard, and other service providers depending on the benefit. To access these benefits or to request emergency medical transportation or a severe infectious disease evacuation, you must contact DAN TravelAssist for assistance. Emergency medical transportation and severe infectious disease evacuation transportation arranged directly by you may not be reimbursed. Emergency Medical Transportation and Travel Assistance Benefits and Severe Infectious Disease and Quarantine Coverage Benefits are insured benefits underwritten for residents in all states except New York, by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., a Pennsylvania insurance company, with its principal place of business at 1271 Ave of the Americas FL 37, New York, NY 10020-1304. It is currently authorized to conduct insurance business in all states and the District of Columbia. NAIC No. 19445. For residents of NY, Emergency Medical Transportation and Travel Assistance Benefits insurance is underwritten by The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York, NAIC No. 70106 domiciled in the state of New York, with its principal place of business of 28 Liberty Street, Floor 45th, New York, NY 10005-1400. This is only a brief description of the coverage(s) available. The Policy will contain reductions, limitations, exclusions, definitions and termination provisions. Coverage may vary by state or may not be available in all states.

UFIC-SM-12299-2022UJ

New Search & Rescue And Global Security Evacuation Coverage

Up To US\$500,000 Emergency Medical Transportation & Travel Assistance Benefits

New Severe Infectious Disease & Quarantine Coverage

**ALERTDIVER**  
THE MAGAZINE OF DIVER ADVENTURES

MICHAEL AW: PHOTOGRAPHY WITH A PURPOSE  
ROATAN RETROSPECTIVE | PROTECTING FLOWER GARDEN BANKS  
HELP IN JEOPARDY | WRECK HAZARDS

Maintain Your Print Subscription To  
Alert Diver Magazine\*



# “You’re going to Bonaire?? Where’s that?”

When I tell people that I am going to Bonaire, that is usually the first question I hear. My answer is, “It’s a little island just north of the Venezuelan coast, near Aruba and Curacao.”

This description only scratches the surface of all that is Bonaire. Because of its location just 800 miles north of the equator, Bonaire has a dry and mild climate - temperatures remain between 77-90 degrees throughout the year. Bonaire has a total area of 113 square miles, just 17 miles from north to south, and between 3 to 7 miles wide, much of it flat, volcanic rocks covered in limestone.

A variety of cultures have called the island of Bonaire home. There is evidence of Arkaiko and Caquetios Indians dating back to 2500 BC on the island. The Spanish explorers claimed Bonaire for Spain in 1499, later transferring ownership to the Dutch. Over 80% of the current 20,000 residents of Bonaire are Dutch nationals. The official language is Dutch, with the locals speaking Papiamentu (a mix of Dutch, Spanish, French, English and Portuguese). English is also widely spoken on the island.







# ***RECOVERY SANDALS***

● ● ● ● ● ● with trusted Powerstep® support



With built-in arch support for extra cushion and support to counter foot and leg fatigue.

**Powerstep®**

888-237-3668  
[www.powerstep.com](http://www.powerstep.com)











# tailwind<sup>®</sup>

NUTRITION

## NUTRITION FOR ANY ADVENTURE

[TAILWINDNUTRITION.COM](http://TAILWINDNUTRITION.COM)





Each month, over 15,000 visitors arrive in Bonaire by air or on a cruise ship stopover. Both cruises and the Flamingo Airport arrivals land in the capital city of Kralendijk. From there, all sorts of adventures are possible!

Bonaire is known in the scuba diving community as the “Shore Diving Capital of the World.” This is because over 60 dive sites around the island are clearly marked by yellow painted stones. There are many guide books and YouTube videos describing access to the sites by road, great maps of the reef to explore and the best way to enter and exit the waters. Truck and scuba tank rental is widely available in Bonaire. Divers can grab their gear, put their scuba tanks in the back of their truck and hit the water. Many resorts offer boat diving as well, enabling divers to reach the reefs without all the hard work of shore diving, with a guide to lead the way.





# WE ARE EXPLORERS

EDUCATION & LESSONS

YEAR-ROUND TRAVEL

EQUIPMENT SALES

EQUIPMENT SERVICE AND  
REPAIR



GARMIN



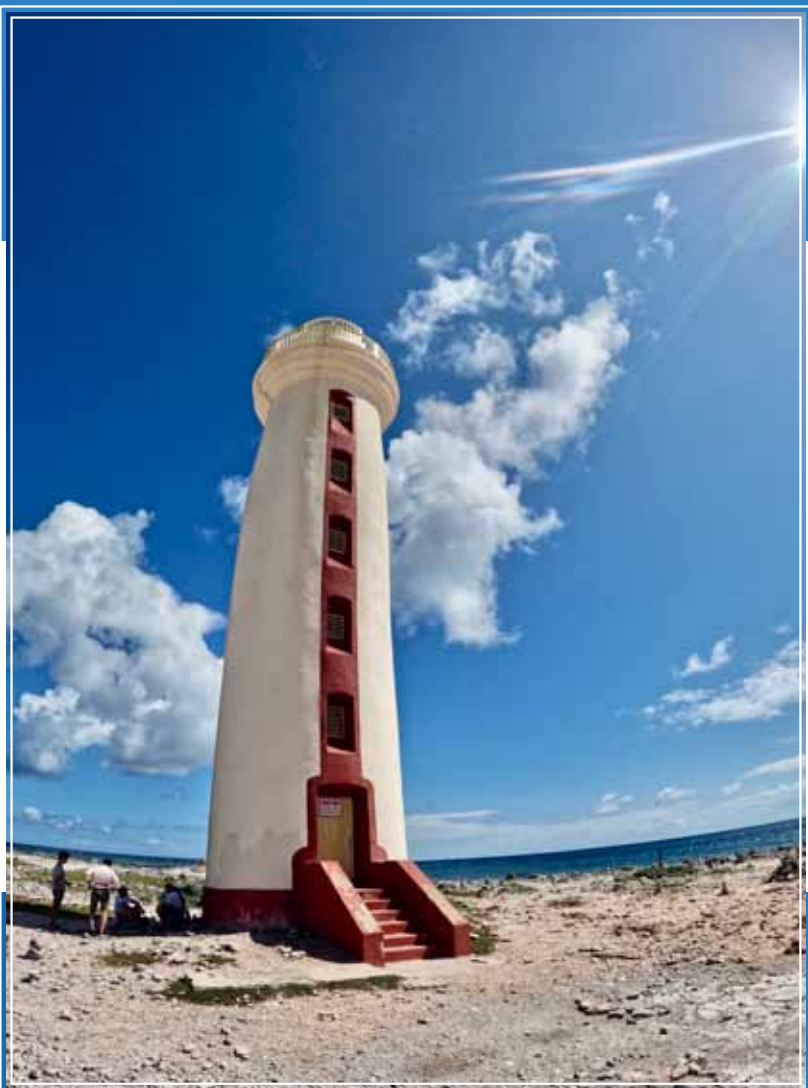
[www.aggielandscuba.com](http://www.aggielandscuba.com)  
979-703-7949



The reefs of Bonaire are healthy and thriving due to the management of STINAPA (Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire). STINAPA was founded in 1962 and manages Bonaire's nature parks on behalf of the Bonairian government. STINAPA manages the Bonaire National Marine Park, founded in 1979 which covers all the waters surrounding Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, from the high-tide mark to 60 meters (200 feet) of depth, and Washington Slagbaai National Park, the land-based park in the north.









STINAPA collects an entry fee from all divers, snorkelers, and park visitors. They also require all divers to participate in an orientation and a checkout dive before air tank rental. This orientation covers the rules of the park, as well as reminders of safe diving practices to protect the coral and animals of the marine park. Snorkelers can also easily enjoy the reefs, as many of the reefs begin within feet of the shoreline.

Bonaire has plenty of activities and adventure above the waterline as well. Visitors can rent trucks, motorcycles, or even golf carts to explore the island. The capital city of Kralendijk has a historical walking tour, as well as dining and shopping within easy reach. Once you leave Kralendijk, head south to visit the Salt Works, where sea salt is harvested and shipped around the world. It's also worth stopping at some of the five lighthouses and slave huts around the island to appreciate the history and views.



# TA4

Thin **Air Performance Socks**

Thin Air® Performance Socks with 4 zones of graduated, light compression featuring breakthrough, patent pending Skin Thin™ construction to move air in and out keeping feet cool and protected.

## Features:

- Increased air flow
- Improved performance & recovery
- Heat release, Skin Thin™ zones
- Ultra thin, light, breathable profile



*Thin Air*®  
SKIN THIN™ DESIGNS

Contact us or ask your rep. about our Partner Programs.

**OS1<sup>st</sup>**.com • 844-413-5457



Visitors can head to the east side of the island to Lac Bay. More adventurous divers can head out of the bay to dive the windward side of the island, home to the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, expect to see lots of sea turtles on every dive. Windsurfers and kite boarders will enjoy the continuous winds and waves on Lac Bay. You can also sit back on the beach, relax and soak up the sun while eating lunch at one of several restaurants. There are even two ranches on Bonaire that offer horseback riding tours of the island, sometimes allowing a quick swim on horseback in the bay.

For an all-day excursion, visit Washington Slagbaai National Park. The park sits on the northern 17% of the island. Once you have rented your truck (as many rental cars are forbidden to be taken into the park), travel through the city of Rincón to the park entrance. Make sure you have brought plenty of water and snacks, as there is no place to purchase them once inside the park. Park guides will provide a map of hiking trails and scenic vistas to enjoy along the way. Much of the road is unpaved, and there is sometimes two-way traffic on a narrow road. Along the route you may encounter flamingoes, iguanas, Karakara, and many blue whiptail lizards. The terrain is rough and wild with volcanic upwellings, cacti, rocky shorelines and blowholes. Several beaches along the way provide a place to rest and enjoy the views, or entry to the water to cool off with your snorkeling gear.

Bonaire is definitely one of the Caribbean's best kept secrets for beauty and adventure! **AW**



## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BONAIRE:

All Things Bonaire  
[www.infobonaire.com](http://www.infobonaire.com)

Sea Turtle Conservation, Bonaire  
[www.bonaireturtles.org](http://www.bonaireturtles.org)

Bonaire National Marine Park & Washington Slagbaai National Park  
[www.stinapabonaire.org](http://www.stinapabonaire.org)





**One light  
for all your adventures.**



### **Blika RX 7 Smartcore**

With the Lupine's FrontClick quick-change system, your lighting will be more flexible than ever before. You can turn your headlamp into a helmet lamp, or swap your headlamp from one helmet to another in seconds, without tools.



**[lupinenorthamerica.com](http://lupinenorthamerica.com)**



## Hatchlift Bedlift

The Hatchlift Bedlift is a must have item for RV and camper under bed storage. Hatchlift utilizes a hydraulic gas spring system to safely and securely hold your mattress platform up while you store or retrieve items. The system makes raising and lowering the mattress platform a snap and they have a system for just about any size or configuration of mattress platform. The system comes with all the necessary screws, mounting hardware, wood spacer blocks, hydraulic gas springs and instructions and takes around 1 hour to install. The Hatchlift Bedlift is an amazing accessory that will make your life much easier and leave you wondering how you ever lived without it. [www.hatchlift.com](http://www.hatchlift.com)



## CAMP-ZERO Cargo Cases

The CAMP-ZERO Cargo Case is a great way to store your gear and protect it from the elements. These ultra-tough dustproof roto-molded cases are water resistant and built to withstand abuse while protecting their precious cargo. Featuring a 250-pound load capacity, a heavy duty coated stainless steel latching system, a commercial grade sealing gasket and a reinforced lid with a molded secure fit design for securely stacking multiple cases. There are 53, 76 and 82 liter versions without wheels and 122, 162 and 240 liter cases with easy roll wheels which aid in moving heavy loads. The puncture resistant shell protects your gear while the comfort grip handles make it easy on your hands when carrying loaded cases. Available in black or grey, the cargo cases have a five-year limited warranty and even come with a built in stainless steel bottle opener. Whether it's overland exploring, world traveling or even summer camp adventures, CAMP-ZERO has your gear covered with the versatile Cargo Case. [www.camp-zero.com](http://www.camp-zero.com) **AW**





**CREATE@SEVENCLAY.COM**

**WWW.SEVENCLAY.COM**



**With custom screen print, laser, and embroidery, we have the tools and ideas to help make your event stand out. Shirts start at \$5.42 each at 288 or more, \$5.62 each at 144 or more, \$6.06 each at 72 or more for 1 color art.**



Must Have

# Power Upgrades

For your Trailer

by Troy Farrar

The Bright Way Group has a whole category of great products to improve your RV, Camper, Enclosed Trailer or Dump Trailer experience. These products will keep you safe on the road, give you the reliable power you need and insure your batteries are charged and ready for your next adventure. We recommend pairing the Bright Way Group plug in charger, solar charger and battery to insure your trailers battery is charged and ready for your next outing. [www.BWGLLC.com](http://www.BWGLLC.com)



**Bright Way Group Switch Mode Battery Charger**  
The Bright Way Group Switch Mode Battery Charger is the perfect way to keep your RV, Camper, Enclosed Trailer or Hydraulic Lift / Dump Trailer's battery charged and ready to go. The easy to install smart charger can be mounted inside the trailer or inside the hydraulic pump box and the provided shore power plug with a durable plastic cover allows you to simply plug in an extension cord to charge the battery. Once plugged in, the AC-to-DC switch mode charger quickly charges and maintains your battery. The charger has a handy LED display which shows the charging status of your battery with the push of a button. The switch mode charger cuts the power when your battery is fully charged to prevent overcharging and extend your batteries life. The charger is 6 inches long x 3 3/8 inches wide x 2 1/4 inches tall and provides an output wattage of 7.5 watts. Get a Bright Way Group Switch Mode Battery Charger, plug it in and know that your battery will be ready for your next outing.

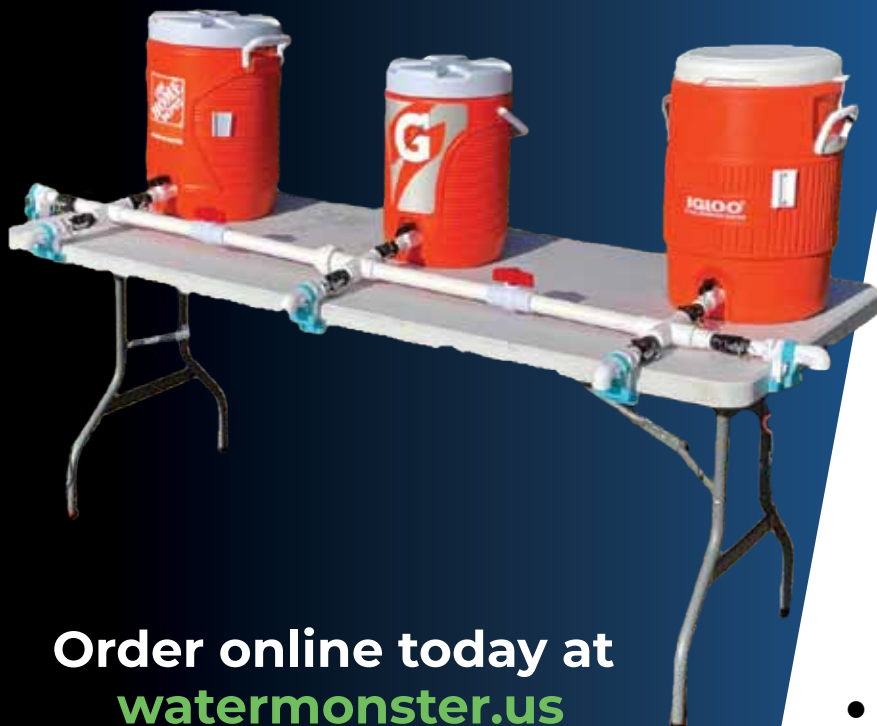


**Bright Way Group Solar Battery Charger**  
The Bright Way Group Solar Battery Charger is the Perfect tool for keeping your RV, Camper, Enclosed Trailer or Hydraulic Lift / Dump Trailer's battery charged during storage or when you are off the grid. The durable 7.5 Watt solar panel connects directly to your trailers battery and trickle charges your battery. The one-way diode charger prevents reverse discharge, which could drain your battery. The durable and lightweight solar panel measures 9 inches x 10 1/4 inches x 1/8 inch thick, comes with a 16 foot wiring harness and is made from weatherproof, impact resistant materials with metal grommets for securely mounting the solar panel to your trailer. The charger also features a red LED light that indicates the charging is working. A perfect companion for the Bright Way Group Switch Mode Battery Charger, the Bright Way Group Solar Battery Charger will maintain and charge your battery when you do not have access to power so it is ready for your next big adventure.

# WaterMonster™

Mass Hydration Solution

**HYDRATE**  
**SAFER**  
**EASIER**  
**GREENER**



Order online today at  
[watermonster.us](http://watermonster.us)

**HANDS-FREE  
HYDRATION  
SOLUTIONS  
OF ALL SIZES!**

- **MULTIPLE ACCESSORIES  
TO FIT YOUR EXACT NEEDS**
- **GREAT FOR CAMPS,  
FESTIVALS, SCHOOLS, AND  
ATHLETIC EVENTS**
- **BETTER FOR THE PLANET**







### Bright Way Group Trailer Breakaway Kit

The Bright Way Group Trailer Breakaway Kit will give you peace of mind that your trailer will be safe if it were to disconnect from the tow vehicle. The system is for single-axle or tandem-axle trailers with electric braking systems and activates your trailers electric brakes when the breakaway cable detaches from the switch, bringing your trailer to a safe stop. The Bright Way Group Kit comes with a durable plastic battery box which can be mounted directly to the trailer frame, a 5-amp-hour battery, a switch and the breakaway cable. The Breakaway Kit has a rubber O-ring to keep moisture out of the battery compartment and a handy charging status button that provides lighted, easy to read charging status. The Bright Way Group Trailer Breakaway Kit is a must have item on every trailer and will insure your trailer is safe while being towed down the road.



### Bright Way Group DC 24-6

The Bright Way Group DC 24-6 Battery is a great way to power your trailer's needs. The DC 24-6 is a sealed, deep cycle, flooded lead acid battery. The 75 amp, 12 volt battery will provide plenty of power for travel trailers or dump trailers and is a perfect mate for the switch mode and solar battery charger. The triple threat of a Bright Way Group's plug in charger, solar charger and DC 24-6 battery insures your trailer battery is always charged and ready to go. The rugged, durable and powerful Bright Way Group DC 24-6 Battery is a great choice and will provide years of dependable service for your trailing needs.



### Bright Way Group DC 27-6

The Bright Way Group DC 27-6 Battery is the perfect choice for those who require a little extra power, such as dump trailers. The DC 27-6 is a sealed, deep cycle, flooded lead acid battery. The 85 amp, 12 volt battery will provide a little more power than the 75 amp DC24-6 which translates into a couple of extra dumps for your dump trailer before requiring recharging. The DC 27-6 mates seamlessly with Bright Way Group's switch mode and solar battery charger, insuring your battery is charged and ready to go at all times. The Bright Way Group DC 27-6 Battery is a powerful, durable and dependable battery that is a must add upgrade to your trailer's electrical system. **AW**

# Snow Day

by Steve Chapin

photos by Joel Sunderland & Justin Balog









100<sup>est. 1917</sup>  
YEARS

**MOTOREX**  
Oil of Switzerland

# WHEN FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION!



MOTOREX is a proud sponsor of the «Yeti Factory Race Team» and Richie Rude, 2Time World Enduro Champion

Clean, lubricate, grease and bike care, all from one brand. No matter what the demands or materials are, road bike, mountain bike or city-bike – MOTOREX products always work perfectly.

**NEW US Importer: euroline inc.**

5 Old Town Park Road, Unit 51

New Milford CT 06776

[www.eurolineusa.com](http://www.eurolineusa.com)

phone: 860-354-1177





## THERE IS NO CERTAINTY; THERE IS ONLY ADVENTURE

We awoke on the second morning of our Sisters, OR, trip to a snowstorm and 17 degree temps. With forecasts not predicting rising temps of any significance, we didn't anticipate a ride of any real duration. That being the case, we generally welcome over-ambition in the context of exploration, so we happily set off for our adult snow day, embracing the conditions and whatever they might bring.

## CHANGING DIRECTIONS

One of the keys to successful - and happy - exploration and adventure is flexibility. Sure, we go into each adventure and ride with a planned route, allowing what we believe to be adequate time, plus additional time for the unexpected surprises. We also pack enough food, water, and supplies to (hopefully) keep us out of any real trouble. Calling audibles mid-ride is not part of the plan, but allowing yourself the freedom to do so can certainly make the journey more enjoyable. We'd even go as far as saying the more unplanned diversions you take, the better. It's often the surprises along the way which become the most memorable aspects of the trip.





## MOUNTAIN MISCHIEF

With almost no traction on pavement, we quickly found the gravel roads to be nearly as bad. Within the first 15 minutes, we'd already each crashed more than once; the kind of crashes which don't necessarily hurt, but happen so quickly that you're on the ground and wondering what happened without having any real idea why other than the obvious culprit of ice lurking underneath the snow.

We quickly aborted our planned riding route, and found ourselves chasing each other through trails, jumping over logs (Joel won), testing our wheelie skills (we all lost), and acting like kids riding dirt bikes for the first time. It was a blast.

## CALLING AN AUDIBLE

The games, single track trails, and exploratory bushwhacking kept us entertained, and something slightly warmer than freezing, for a few hours. Several theatrical crashes proved both entertaining and humorous, though ultimately, the lure of lunch and the opportunity to thaw our frozen bodies led us back to the house, where we discussed alternative adventures with more secure footing for the afternoon.

[tripsforkids.org](http://tripsforkids.org) | 415.458.2986 | [national@tripsforkids.org](mailto:national@tripsforkids.org)

## Start *or* Fund a Trips For Kids Program!

**Many kids never leave their own neighborhood to enjoy the beauty of nature.**

That's why we started Trips for Kids, an international non-profit organization that provides mountain bike rides and environmental education for disadvantaged youth. You can start a Trips for Kids<sup>®</sup> chapter in your area. We'll assist you, at no charge, by supplying bikes, helmets and support ... based on 25+ years of experience.

You can also make a difference by donating money, bikes or equipment (new or used). All donations are tax-deductible. Want to get involved? Consider volunteering or otherwise supporting a chapter in your area.

**Make a difference: [tripsforkids.org](http://tripsforkids.org)**



interbike



CLIF



SGAR



Adventure Medical Kits





## ALTERNATIVE EXPLORATIONS

As a precautionary back-up, we'd packed snowshoes should the weather thwart our intentions to ride. We figured they would cover our bases and allow adventure of some variety

regardless of weather. After a quick lunch, we drove south of Sisters as far as the forest service road was plowed of snow. Twenty minutes later we set out on snowshoe for Three Creek Lakes, at the NE foot of Broken Top, an extinct, glacially eroded volcano sitting at 9,171 feet.

## SOLITUDE

Being alone in the woods on snowshoes was almost as much fun as an escape on bike. Surrounded by a blanket of falling snow and an absolute silence aside from our own breathing, we felt far removed from any thoughts or distractions of our daily lives. Solitude often rewards one with a sense of freedom, heightened by the effort it often takes to reach your destination.



## ORDER TODAY AT

MATT@STRIKENOW.COM  
303-242-6444



### \$975 INCLUDES:

\$785 × FULL COLOR TEAM 10x10 TENT + FRAME

\$190 × FULL COLOR SPONSOR BACK WALL

FULL COLOR FITTED TABLECLOTH

FULL COLOR 12' FLAGS (QTY: 2)

FULL COLOR SIDE WALLS (QTY: 2)

Larger Package Deals Available



### STARTING AT \$999

#### Start/Finish Line Arches

- ARCHES AVAILABLE IN SCREEN PRINTED & DYE SUBLIMATED
- BLOWER, TIE DOWNS, CARRYING BAG INCLUDED
- ARCH SIZES 10' UP TO 50'



### STARTING AT \$68

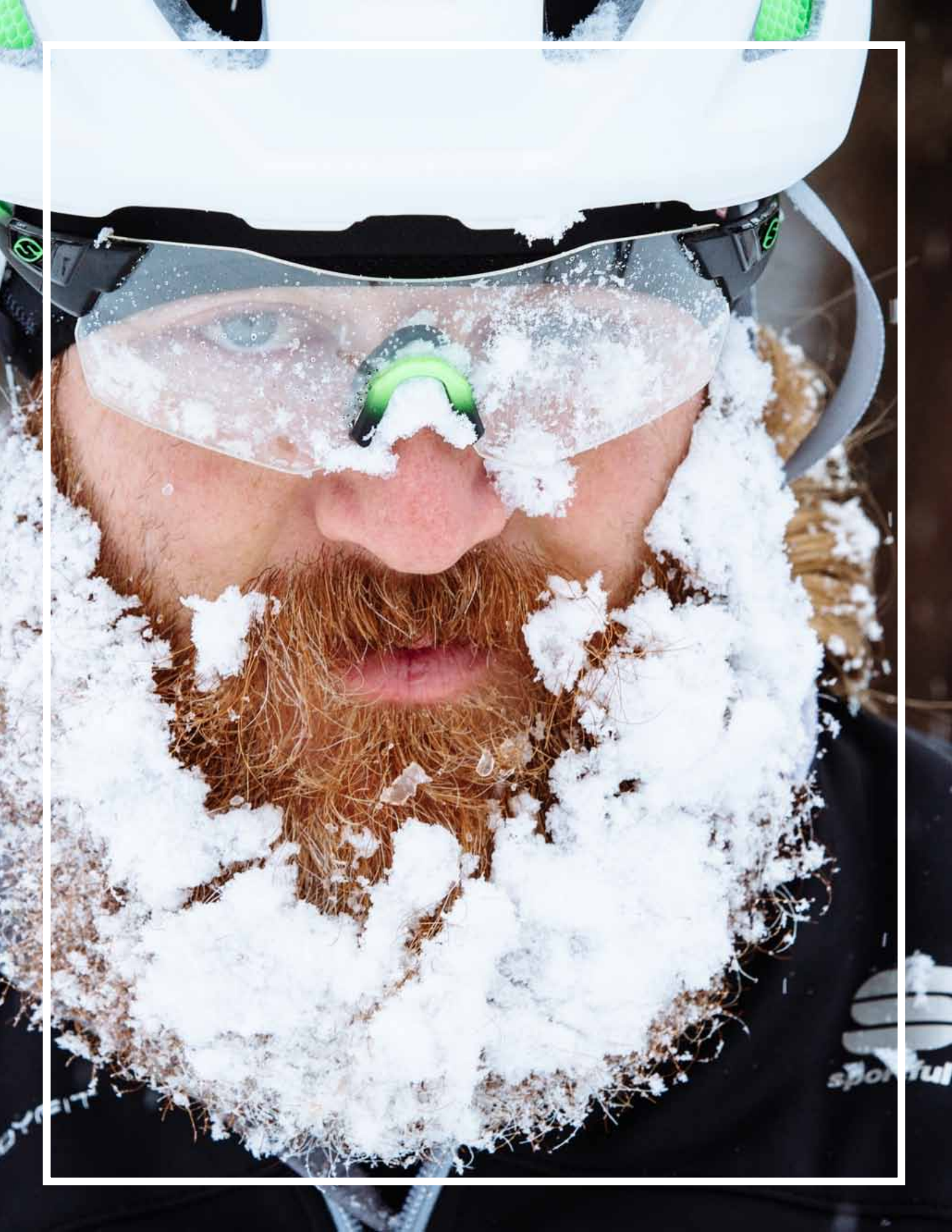
\$152 × FULL COLOR 8' DOUBLE SIDED FLAGS

\$171 × FULL COLOR SMALL POP OUT BANNERS

\$68 × FULL COLOR 8'X3' VINYL BANNERS

- FLAGS IN 8', 12', & 15" SIZES AVAILABLE
- POP OUT BANNERS IN SMALL, MEDIUM, & LARGE SIZES
- CUSTOM PRINTED BANNERS IN ALL SIZES









# Grinder Nationals

May 13, 2023 | Loudoun County, VA

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

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



VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
**BIKE**  
LOVERS



*Visit*  
**LOUDOUN**  
DC's Wine Country





## VIEW DENIED

If it hadn't been for the storm, we would have had an incredible view of the Three Sisters, but the solitude and quiet of the falling snow proved a fair trade. During our 3-hour jaunt, we didn't see or hear anyone else.

## EYES OPEN

We made it back to our vehicles as darkness began to settle around us, and again headed back to the house for a final evening of eating, drinking, storytelling and dreaming of our next trip. Our ragtag team of adventurers will always be about the bike, but our alternative snowshoe journey was a great reminder of the possibility of extracurricular exploits.

With a bit of additional planning and preparation, we realized an expanding potential for adventure surrounding our rides. As Jawaharlal Nehru stated: "We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open."

Let our eyes be open as we plan for the next adventure... **AW**



IT'S HARD TO SEE  
THE FINISH LINE WITHOUT  
CLEAR VISION.



**GUTR®**

**THE SWEATBAND THAT NEVER QUILTS™**  
EASILY ADJUSTABLE, COMFORTABLE FIT  
CHANNELS SWEAT AWAY FROM EYES AND GLASSES  
SLIM DESIGN FITS SMARTLY UNDER HELMETS  
MADE IN TEXAS

AVAILABLE AT [SWEATGUTR.COM](http://SWEATGUTR.COM)



# Cold Weather - No Problem

Winter is upon us and even though the days may be cold, there are plenty of outdoor activities still taking place. The secret is to have the right gear so you can enjoy these cold weather activities without freezing to death. Some of this gear can be used for both active and stationary outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, watching sporting events, sitting in a hunting blind or hanging out at the campsite. No matter what activities you choose rechargeable heated gear is perfect for keeping you warm in the coldest environment and will give you the freedom to enjoy outdoor activities in cold weather.

## Cozee

The Cozee is a portable rechargeable heated blanket that will help keep you warm and toasty at your next outdoor event. The battery pack will heat the blanket in less than 5 minutes and provide 3+ hours of continuous heat. The exterior of the Cozee is water and wind resistant and the micro plush interior is warm, soft and helps retain the heat even after the battery is turned off. The Cozee features 3 temperature settings, 2 USB ports which can be used to charge devices and is even machine washable. The 60 x 60 blanket has heated hand pockets, a battery pocket and comes with a carrying case, a wall and car charger, a 36 inch battery pack extension cord and a battery. Charge your Cozee, wrap up tight and enjoy the warmth and comfort of a heated blanket at your next outing. [www.lifegivingwarmth.com](http://www.lifegivingwarmth.com)



## Volt Tactical Leather 8v Heated Gloves

The Volt Tactical Leather 8v Heated Glove is an all around, low profile heated glove that is perfect for lots of activities. The thin glove features a mostly nylon back combined with an all leather palm and a soft tricot fleece lining. The glove does not have any internal insulation in the palm keeping it thin, light and providing maximum dexterity. The heating elements are located on the back of the glove and extend the length of each finger combined with 120 grams of waterproof/breathable insulation providing full coverage to the back of the hand. The durable leather palms have a touchscreen compatible fabric on the thumb and forefinger of each glove. The Volt Tactical Leather 8v Heated Gloves also feature a Velcro cuff cinch and a waterproof zippered battery pocket on the palm side of the glove. The palm side location make the battery virtually unnoticeable to the wearer. The gloves come with a dual charger and a pair of ultra slim and lightweight 2500 mAh rechargeable batteries that weigh less than 3 ounces and measure 2 ¾ inch long x 1 ¾ inch wide by ½ inch thick. Batteries will fully charge in 3-4 hours. A 3 level rubberized control switch on the back of the hand controls the heat (Red = High 2+ hours, Blue = Medium 3+ hours, Green = Low 4.5 + hours). The Volt Tactical Leather 8v Heated Gloves are perfect for early and late winter or for activities that require a slimmer less bulky glove and will keep you mitts nice and toasty for hours. [www.voltheat.com](http://www.voltheat.com)



A cyclist wearing a red and black jersey and a helmet is riding away from the camera on a wide, light-colored gravel path. The path is flanked by green grassy hills. The cyclist's shadow is cast on the path ahead of them.

# PAYSON MCELVEEN

---

2x Marathon National Champion  
2019 Landrun 100 Champion  
2019 DK 200 - 5th Place : 3 punctures sealed  
2019 SBT GRVL - 2nd Place



When the rocks are  
sharper and bigger  
than your tires,  
we have your back!

[orangeseal.com](http://orangeseal.com)





### Volt 5v Heated Seat Cushion

The Volt 5v Heated Seat Cushion uses 3 heating panels to provide up to 130 degrees of warmth. The comfortable cushion utilizes a winning combination of low-density foam for comfort and high-density foam for support. The cushion is covered with a durable non-slip vinyl which has a carrying handle, a removable shoulder strap and a 3 position, color coded push button controller to regulate the temperature (Red = High, Blue = Medium, Green = Low). The Volt 5v Heated Seat Cushion has Zero Layer Technology which uses both conduction and radiant heat transfer to keep you warm and toasty. The 16 inch x 13 inch x 3 inch seat cushion comes with a 5v USB rechargeable battery which will provide up to 9 hours of heat. The Volt 5v Heated Seat Cushion is the perfect answer for cold metal bleachers, park benches and even those frigid gyms. Grab a Volt 5v Heated Seat Cushion and enjoy a warm, dry and comfortable seat. [www.voltheat.com](http://www.voltheat.com)



### Hüga Heated Seat Cushion

The Hüga heated seat cushion is perfect for keeping you warm and toasty on a cold day. The durable, water resistant, marine grade vinyl cover comes in anchor grey, marine navy and white wedding and the cordura cover comes in steel or camouflage and provides a warm and comfortable cushioned seat. The 14 inch x 16 inch Hüga heated seat cushion features quick release webbing straps that can be used as a backpack for hands free transport or used to attach the cushion to other gear. Available with a USB rechargeable 6+ or 10+ hour battery, which has extra ports for charging your mobile devices. Simple toggle through the color-coded temperature settings of low / green 85-95°, medium / blue 95-105° and high / red 105-120°. The Hüga heated seat cushion keeps the cold away at games on metal bleachers, at outside dinners on wooden chairs and in back country campsites. The seat cushion can also be used for hot weather activities without the battery. [www.hugaheat.com](http://www.hugaheat.com)



# HEADSWEATS®



## CUSTOM HEADWEAR

PERFORMANCE TRUCKERS RACE HATS SUPERVISORS BEANIES MORE!

### SEMI CUSTOM DESIGNS

36 Units Minimum / 2-3 Week Turnaround



### FULL CUSTOM FACTORY DESIGNS

50 Units Minimum / 60-90 Day Turnaround



### FULL CUSTOM APPAREL

24 Units Minimum / 4-5 Week Turnaround



### HOW TO ORDER

Contact to get your designs  
and order setup

Magui Account Manager

Tel: 970-208-8658

Magui@headsweats.com

[WWW.HEADSWEATS.COM](http://WWW.HEADSWEATS.COM)





### Fieldsheer Premium 2.0 Merino Heated Socks

The Fieldsheer Premium 2.0 Merino Heated Socks will keep your feet warm allowing you stay out in the cold weather longer. The left/right designed Merino wool/poly blend over the calf socks are breathable, moisture wicking and odor-resistant. The non-slip Premium 2.0 Merino Heated Socks feature a battery compartment, arch support, heavy cushioning in key areas and a reinforced heel and toe. A pair of comfort contoured Micro USB rechargeable Powersheer Micro BT 3.7-Volt Lithium-Ion batteries provide up to 10 hours of heat with 3 different levels to choose from. The Bluetooth socks can be controlled using the included wireless controller or the MW Connect App which allows users to toggle through and adjust the heat on all connected Fieldsheer powered by Mobile Warming technology garments while providing real time battery levels. Slip on a pair of Fieldsheer Premium 2.0 Merino Heated Socks and say goodbye to cold feet. [www.fieldsheer.com](http://www.fieldsheer.com)



### Fieldsheer Premium BT Heated Insoles

The Fieldsheer Premium BT Heated Insoles provide a nice cushion for your feet while keeping them toasty and warm. The 3.7 volt rechargeable lithium ion battery will provide 150°F of heat on high for up to 2+ Hours, 140°F of heat on medium for up to 3.5 hours and 115°F of heat on low for up to 7 hours. The ultra-thin insoles have the heat zone located under your toes to best protect you from cold and frozen surfaces. The Bluetooth insoles can be controlled using the MW Connect App which allows users to toggle through and adjust the heat on all connected Fieldsheer powered by Mobile Warming technology garments while providing real time battery levels. The Fieldsheer Premium BT Heated Insoles come with a split USB charging cable and are flexible enough for temperatures ranging from early winter to a raging blizzard. [www.fieldsheer.com](http://www.fieldsheer.com)



### Ewool Heated Sock Covers

The ewool heated sock covers are a revolutionary way to keep your feet warm on those chilly outings. The heated sock covers have an open heel design to prevent bunching and provide the perfect fit for all types of boots. The rugged waterproof sock covers are machine washable. A 10-watt rechargeable battery provides 3 hours of heat on high, 5 hours on medium and 8 hours of heat on low. You can double the heat time by adding a second battery. The covers have a unique proprietary haptic feedback technology which vibrates to confirm you have changed temperature levels. The SnapConnect charging is as simple as snapping the plug onto the magnetic contacts for easy recharging. Great for skiing, hunting, hiking or watching a sports event, the ewool heated sock covers will keep your feet warm allowing you to stay out longer. [www.ewool.com/en-US](http://www.ewool.com/en-US)

# SERIOUS HYDRATION

FOR SERIOUS ADVENTURE RACERS

**What's your biggest challenge?**

- Cramps
- Headaches
- Overheating
- Endurance

**The Right Stuff®**  
is what you need

Athletes typically lose 1-3 liters of sweat per hour. That sweat contains 1500-3500 milligrams of electrolytes. Over 90% are Sodium and Chloride (salt).

This NASA-developed sugar-free formula delivers the levels needed without any GI issues.

**The Right Stuff** is used by many adventure racers and ultras as well as colleges and pro teams (NFL, NBA, MLB NHL, etc.)

Published studies show **The Right Stuff** is far superior for:

- 1) fighting symptoms of dehydration; cramps, headaches etc.
- 2) improving core thermoregulation; protecting the body from overheating
- 3) increasing endurance over 20% more than any other NASA-tested formula



**THE RIGHT STUFF**  
Electrolyte Liquid  
Drink Additive

[TheRightStuff-USA.com](http://TheRightStuff-USA.com)

**SAMPLE OFFER:** Email us at [samples@wellness-brands.com](mailto:samples@wellness-brands.com) (include your name, mailing address and phone number) to test it yourself. Remember to mention USARA (Limit one per household)





### Volt Torso 7v Heated Vest Liner

The Volt Torso 7v Heated Vest Liner is a lean, mean heating machine. The vest is a thin, light weight rip stop nylon shell with stretchy side panels which provides a slim, barely notice that you have it on fit. This makes the vest perfect for wearing under other garments without causing a bulky overstuffed feel. The zippered vest has an internal and external zippered battery pocket which gives you options for storing your power source. The included 7.4v rechargeable lithium battery comes with a wall charger and locks onto the vest cord to insure a good connection even during rigorous activity. The battery is equipped with a built in 4 level controller and provides over 150 degrees of heat for 2 hours and up to 10 hours of heat on the lowest setting utilizing the upper and lower back and dual chest heating panels. The next time you head out into the cold, slip on a Volt Torso 7v Heated Vest Liner and keep the cold at bay so you can enjoy your time outdoors. [www.voltheat.com](http://www.voltheat.com)



### Fieldsheer Peak BT Vest

The Fieldsheer Peak Bluetooth Heated Vest is a great base layer, but can also be worn as an outer shell in early winter. The moisture wicking, light weight breathable vest is water and wind resistant and has 1 heating zone on the back and 2 heating zones on the chest which are designed to keep your core warm. The Peak BT Vest is powered by a micro USB rechargeable, Powersheer 7.4-volt Lithium-Ion Battery which charges in under 4 hours and has 3 heat settings. On high the vest will provide up to 2 hours at 135°F and the vest will provide 10 hours of 90°F heat when set on low. The waterproof touch control button allows you to adjust the heat level and features a multicolored LED indicator. The Bluetooth vest can also be controlled using the MW Connect App which allows users to toggle through and adjust the heat on all connected Fieldsheer powered by Mobile Warming technology garments while providing real time battery levels. The four way stretch softshell is comfortable in any position making the Fieldsheer Peak Bluetooth Heated Vest a versatile heated garment that is perfect for just about cold weather activity. [www.fieldsheer.com](http://www.fieldsheer.com) **AW**



MGM Targets has been creating world class targets since 1994. Our experience in both the shooting industry and steel fabrication enables application of this unique combination of knowledge to create products that are practical, affordable and exceptionally durable. We build targets, target systems and structures to accommodate rimfire handguns up to 50 BMG machine guns and everything in between.

Proudly made in the United States of America!



Mini Erickson Triple Auto-Popper



Double Auto-Popper

Use  
Coupon Code:  
COUGAR1523  
15% Off

Find more  
AR550 Steel Poppers  
on our website at  
[www.MGMTARGETS.com](http://www.MGMTARGETS.com)



# Hunting Product Reviews

WINTER 2023

## Nomad Cottonwood NXT Jacket

The Nomad Cottonwood NXT Jacket was made to battle cold weather. The fleece jacket has a contoured offset zipper to keep it from bunching up when sitting and gusseted underarms providing unlimited freedom of movement. The jacket features a pair of zippered pass through hand pockets, a zippered rangefinder pocket and a zippered chest pocket. The Cottonwood NXT has a water resistant DWR coating paired with a water and wind resistant mid-layer to keep you both warm and dry in any environment. The Cottonwood NXT utilizes a High pile sherpa fleece exterior and interior to provide plenty of warmth on the coldest day. A safety harness pass through and a 3 way adjustable hood round out the features making this jacket perfect for any kind of cold weather hunt. The Nomad Cottonwood NXT Jacket is a super warm and super quiet jacket making it perfect for stalking or sitting for extended periods in cold weather. [www.nomadoutdoor.com](http://www.nomadoutdoor.com)



## Nomad Cottonwood NXT Hat

Round out your protection with the windproof Nomad Cottonwood NXT Hat. The Berber fleece interior, under visor and ear flaps were put there for 1 reason, to help you retain heat and keep warm. The cap features an adjustable snap strap so you can dial it in for the perfect fit. As the day grows warmer the earflap can be folded up and out of the way. The Nomad Cottonwood NXT Hat is a must have addition to your cold weather gear and will keep your head toasty and warm on the coldest day. [www.nomadoutdoor.com](http://www.nomadoutdoor.com)

## Pnuma Pursuit Pant

The Pnuma Pursuit Pant are a great warm to mid weather option packed full of features. The durable nylon 4 way stretch fabric is tough enough for any environment and the articulated pattern provides for a great range of motion when bending, squatting or climbing. The pursuit features removable knee pads and a reinforced non-slip overlay making the knee area tough enough for any terrain. Twin front hand pockets, twin front zippered pockets and a zippered rear pocket provide plenty of secure storage for your gear. The quick drying Pursuit Pant features the Caza cammo pattern and are comfortable enough for a long day of scouting. If you are looking for a great all-around hunting pant, the Pnuma Pursuit Pant should check all of the boxes. [www.pnumaoutdoors.com](http://www.pnumaoutdoors.com)



## Nomad Cottonwood NXT Pant

The Nomad Cottonwood NXT Pant were made to battle cold weather alongside the Cottonwood NXT Jacket. The fleece pants are super warm and super quiet making them perfect for stalking or sitting for extended periods in cold weather. The Cottonwood NXT has a water resistant DWR coating paired with a water and wind resistant mid-layer to keep you both warm and dry. The pants feature a pair of lined hand pockets, a pair of snapped thigh pockets and a pair of open side pockets, providing ample space to store your gear. The Ever-adjustable waist band is easy to adjust and great for layering or loosening while sitting down. The Cottonwood NXT's main weapon is the High pile sherpa fleece exterior and interior to provide plenty of warmth. Belt loops, removable elastic suspenders and the zippered legs make donning the pants a snap. For an ultra-warm and quiet pant look no further than the Nomad Cottonwood NXT pant. [www.nomadoutdoor.com](http://www.nomadoutdoor.com)



## Vulcan V9-E Flamethrower

The Vulcan V9-E Flamethrower is a useful tool that can also be a flaming ton of fun. Perfect for ground clearing, weed control in rocks or gravel driveways, igniting burn piles, melting ice, fence line weed control and awesome pyrotechnics displays. The aluminum flamethrower has an electric ignition, holds 2 quarts of fuel and will provide a continuous spray for 1 minute. Simply fill the Vulcan V9-E with fuel, flip on the power switch, point in the desired direction and push the ignition button for flaming awesomeness. The V9-E is powered by a Milwaukee cordless drill battery and runs on a gasoline or gasoline and diesel fuel mix. Using a 60% gasoline / 40% diesel mix will give you a maximum spray distance of around 30 feet. The Vulcan is 27 inches long x 6.5 inches wide, weighs in at 13 pounds, comes with a charger and cordless battery and is available in stealth black, jungle green and a patriot flag finish. Vulcan has some nice accessories for your flamethrower including a 2 gallon single tank backpack which will extend your burn time to 4 minutes and a 4 gallon double tank backpack which will extend your burn time to 8 minutes. They also offer a hard case and an extra standard or extra-large battery. The Vulcan V9-E Flamethrower is a well made, land clearing tool that will also provide hours of fun around the campsite. [www.vulcanflamethrowers.com](http://www.vulcanflamethrowers.com) **AW**





# Purpose-Driven Defense Optics

by Kevin Reese



As a mechanism for equality between predator and victim and the rightful preservation of one's life, firearm ownership should be considered. While owning, keeping and carrying firearms comes with distinct responsibilities, most lawful citizens are willing to accept these responsibilities. However, government entities continue to mine for stricter gun control laws, including bans and confiscations. Unfortunately, such strategies disarm the law abiding public while leaving predators armed and unphased. Moreover, considering today's dated yet continuing pandemic mandates, unemployment and our global economic climate, some people are primed to take more desperate measures. This unsettled dynamic makes it more important than ever to plan and equip for your personal defense measures, including knowing your laws, owning personal and home defense firearms, setting them up properly, and training for defensive situations.

## ***In the home***

---

Popular home defense firearms include handguns, semi-automatic rifles and shotguns. With respect to handguns, revolvers are popular, however more gun owners choose semi-automatic handguns with larger magazine capacities—revolvers typically hold 5-6 rounds. Currently, there are no magazine restrictions, leaving the option open for your defense weapon to hold as many rounds as necessary to neutralize a threat. For this reason, detachable-magazine semi-automatic rifles like AR-15s and PCC9s are also very popular. For simplicity's sake... and for the internationally recognized sounds of a pump action or semi-auto model chambering a shell that tends to turn criminals away, shotguns continue to enjoy immense popularity.

My personal preference at home and to keep distance while still taking productive more accurate shots is an AR-platform semi-automatic rifle. Both the AR-15 and my personal choice, the PCC9 - an AR style rifle chambered in 9mm, are excellent options for home defense at further distances such as across a large room or across the length of a house. A rifle system of some kind, coupled with an optic that delivers solid low light performance and rapid target engagement, is preferred.



At closer distance, including in smaller rooms, a handgun is better suited. Until my son grew up, I stationed a handgun in a biometric vault in his closet. In case of a home robbery, my first area of defense would be my son's bedroom. I did not want to be in a position of getting to my son's room without something to protect him. While he never had access to the handgun, I could access it in seconds. For rapid access in close quarters, I have always had a

9mm handgun in close proximity to our bed, as well as a rifle incase the opportunity to engage a threat can be had at a greater distance than them breaking through my bedroom door. I may also have a handgun or rifle conveniently hidden in an open area like our living room. In either case, sights or optics compatible with low-light shooting are important components.

For me, shotguns come in last for home defense. Not because they aren't great defense options, but because of the lackluster ammo capacity. Given a worst-case scenario of a violent home robbery with several actors, my greatest leverage rests in how I am able to react and how many rounds I can employ to stop the threats. If two robbers are armed with 9mm pistols with 15-round magazines, I want more than three shotgun shells to fight for my family's lives. Of course, beyond a numbers game, when bad things happen picking and committing to the right firearm for your home defense job is also subjective. Comfort, magazine capacity, ease of use and personal preferences all come into play.

## ***On the go***

---

Fortunately for some carrying handguns for personal defense is legal and it is hard to argue against the rationale of too much over too little. In the heat of a moment, nobody wants to be short on anything that keeps a citizen in the fight... and ultimately surviving the encounter. In a debate over magazine capacities I was once asked, "How many rounds do you really need?" My answer was simple, "as many rounds as it takes to stop the threat." Nobody can or should answer that question for you.

Looking at the dwindling percentages of residents who feel safe, who feel that criminal rehabilitation is working or who feel that police responses are adequate are all important factors when determining what is best when taking responsibility for your own security - again this is subjective. The only bad answer is to do nothing or wait for others,



including police officers, to protect you. After all, the old adage is true – the police are not there to protect you from crime, they are there to investigate a crime after it happens. When seconds count, you or another nearby citizen may be the first or only responder.



## ***Choices, choices***

---

Choosing the right optics for in home and personal defense can be daunting. There are as many optic choices as there are types and models of firearms and like firearms, most are often purpose driven. Using a hunting riflescope on a home defense rifle may not yield the results you hope for if things go bad. It is tough to focus on a bad guy at 3x magnification power when he is standing 15 feet away. For in home defense, as well as personal defense, your best option is always going to be true 1x magnification (none) or as close to 1x as possible. Longer outdoor shots may justify higher-powered magnification but we are not discussing those here except to say a 3x or 5x fold to side magnifier can also be a great solution in longer range environments. Mounted iron sights, including flip-up models can be important if an optic fails. Finally, the ability to co-witness an optic to a front site can be important.

Sightmark offers an array of premium performing, ultra-dependable red dot and reflex optics perfect for defense rifles and pistols of all shapes, sizes, purposes and forms of carry. Some red dot and reflex sights, like the optics listed below, boast parallax free or parallax corrected lens systems—the benefit being that even when perfect sight alignment and sight picture are not achievable, the rounds are still on target at the reticle's point of aim. This makes them a perfect

lens system for home and personal defense that facilitates optimum balance of speed and precision. Sightmark also carries several models of flip to side magnifiers perfectly compatible with Sightmark optics, as well as with other brands of optics, for longer range shooting with compatible defense style sights.

## ***Red dot sights***

---

Red dot sights are tube style optics of varying sizes. Compact sights are great for interior and exterior shooting environments, including low light, and can be great solutions for close quarters shooting. Red dot optics like Sightmark's MTS or Volta are equally suited for indoor defense and outdoor shooting events. MTS and Volta sights feature integral solar power, Sightmark's Eclipse Light Management technology and true 1x fields of view. The MTS features 200,000 hours of battery life and the Volta offers up to 400,000 hours. Both sights are built to stand up to harsh environments with IP67 waterproof, shockproof, fogproof and dustproof construction. MTS and Volta sights also boast parallax-free, scratch-resistant, anti-reflective glass and digital controls.

New for 2022, Sightmark also unveiled two micro red dot solar powered sights for compact and subcompact pistols. Mini Shot M-Spec M2 (RMR) and Mini Shot M-Spec M3 (RMSc) Solar Red Dot Sights include 3-MOA red-dot reticles, coated glass, 1x field of view and up to 20,000 hours of battery life.



## ***Reflex sights***

---

Reflex sights are by far the most popular close quarters optics in the tactical world of defense and professional up-close operations. Moreover, reflex sight shooting can easily be extended to several hundred yards via a 3x or 5x



flip-to-side magnifier like Sightmark's T3 models (more on magnifiers in a bit). Built for rapid daylight and lowlight shooting and compatible with picatinny and weaver rails, Ultra Shot reflex sights like the M-Spec model are perfect for semi-automatic rifles. My personal home defense rifle, a Lead Star Arms PCC9, includes a full size Sightmark RAM Series Ultra shot M-Spec Reflex Sight – the rig is my primary go-to for longer-range home defense.

At close range, pistols are perfect and can be topped with a compact reflex sight for more precise shot placement, especially during a low-light engagement. The popularity of compact sights as optic tools for home and personal defense continues to grow. Optics like Sightmark's Mini Shot M-Spec Reflex Sight offer the premium performance and rugged reliability of the Ultra Shot M-Spec in a compact platform perfect as a primary or secondary sight on a rifle, shotgun or handgun. Some shooters choose a primary full-size reflex sight and use a compact sight mounted at a 45-degree angle as a secondary optic.

The Mini Shot's standard mounting footprint for full size handguns is Weaver / Picatinny; however, numerous mounting plates also are available to mount the Mini Shot on scores of other pistols. The Mini Shot M-Spec features a 3-MOA red-dot reticle, parallax-free field of view out to 25 yards and scratch-resistant, anti-reflective glass.

## ***Being Prepared***

---

Being prepared is more than just buying a firearm and having it close at hand. Choose the firearm you feel will function the best in a home defense situation for your specific home. Important factors include your environment and your comfort level with the firearm. Insure you are familiar enough with the firearm to operate it in the dark and put in some time regularly training with the firearm at the range. Practice accessing the firearm in the dark and even practice some dry fire training at home. All of these steps will help prepare you to protect your family in a worst-case scenario home invasion. **AW**





MGM Targets has been creating world class targets for almost 30 years. The Owner has a background in metallurgy and worked for a shop that rebuilt locomotives. In 1994, he decided to take his knowledge of both steel fabrication and shooting and put it to use building targets. The result has been a string of creative and durable targets that are built to take punishment and keep performing. MGM Targets has also been a pioneer, developing some of the first AR500 and AR550 targets. There are MGM Targets for rimfire, handguns, machine guns and centerfire rifles up to 50 BMG. For high quality, steel portable targets look no further than MGM Targets. And the best thing about MGM Targets is they are proudly made in the United States of America!

### The MGM Targets Mini Erickson Triple Auto-Popper

The MGM Targets Mini Erickson Triple Auto-Popper is a unique target that will help enhance your shooting and transition speed. The unique 3 target auto popper is made from MGM's super durable 3/8 inch HEXALLOY 550 HEXPLATE and is backed by MGM's Forever Warranty. The target is rated for shotgun (shot & buckshot), .22 long rifle and pistol and centerfire pistol at 15 yards or further. It is also rated for centerfire rifles at 150 yards or further. The Mini Erickson Triple Auto-Popper is perfect for practicing transitions and follow up shots with a pistol, transitions with a shotgun and follow up shots with a rifle. We tried the target with various firearms at various distances and came away with the same conclusion – this target is super fun and really challenging. It is a target that you will look forward to using and a target that will improve your shooting transition speed. It is also a target that will give you years of enjoyment due to the heavy duty, high quality construction. For a super durable, fun and challenging target that will really improve your shooting skills look no further than the MGM Targets Mini Erickson Triple Auto-Popper.



### MGM Targets Sniper Legs

The MGM Targets Sniper Legs are a must have addition to the Mini Erickson Triple Auto-Popper. The Sniper Legs raise the target 6 inches off the ground and the combined weight of the target and sniper legs eliminate the need to stake the target down. The MGM Targets Sniper Legs make the target easier to see and help provide a stable base making them a mandatory accessory to the Mini Erickson Triple Auto-Popper.

### MGM Targets MLS T-Post Hanger

The MGM Targets MLS (Modular Locking System) T-Post Hanger is an effective way to hang targets on your home range. The hanger quickly bolts to an inexpensive T-post and provides a heavy-duty stable platform for hanging steel target plates. The single T-post hanger is perfect for uneven ground or placement on hillsides. The MLS T-Post Hanger was designed for hanging MLS designated steel target plates. The MLS T-Post Hanger is an inexpensive, simple to use, rock solid MLS steel target plate hanger that will give you years of shooting enjoyment. [www. MGMTargets.com](http://www.MGMTargets.com) **AW**

