

Adventure World magazine

WINTER 2026

OZARK ADVENTURE

How the 2025 USARA Adventure Racing National Championships Took Northwest Arkansas by Storm

ADVENTURE WORLD MAGAZINE

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Skiing Everest

by Red Bull







Grinder Nationals

2026

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Red Bull Polish athlete Andrzej Bargiel has made history as the first person ever to climb Mount Everest (8,849 meters) without supplementary oxygen and then complete a full ski descent to Everest Base Camp. Already renowned as the only athlete to ski from the summits of all the Karakoram eight-thousanders including the first and only full ski descent of K2 (2018) - without supplementary oxygen, Bargiel now becomes the first person in history to extend that legacy to the world's highest mountain.

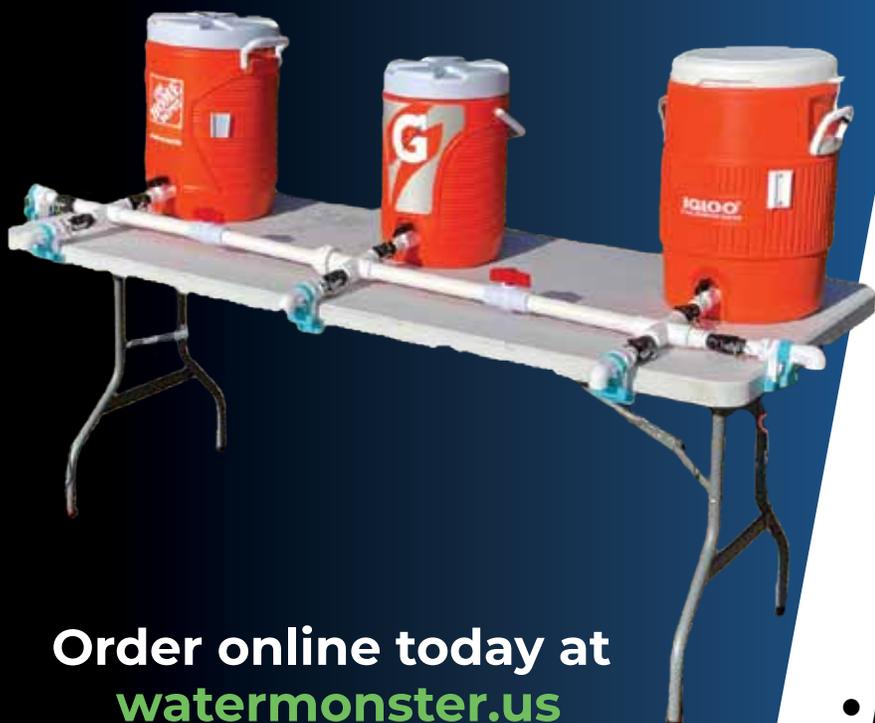
After climbing from Camp IV for nearly 16 hours in the mountain's "death zone", above 8,000 meters, he clipped into his skis at the summit and descended via the South Col, reaching Camp II by nightfall. The night arrival at Camp II made safe navigation impossible, so Andrzej rested for the night. The following morning, he resumed skiing, navigating the treacherous Khumbu Icefall before arriving safely at Everest Base Camp.



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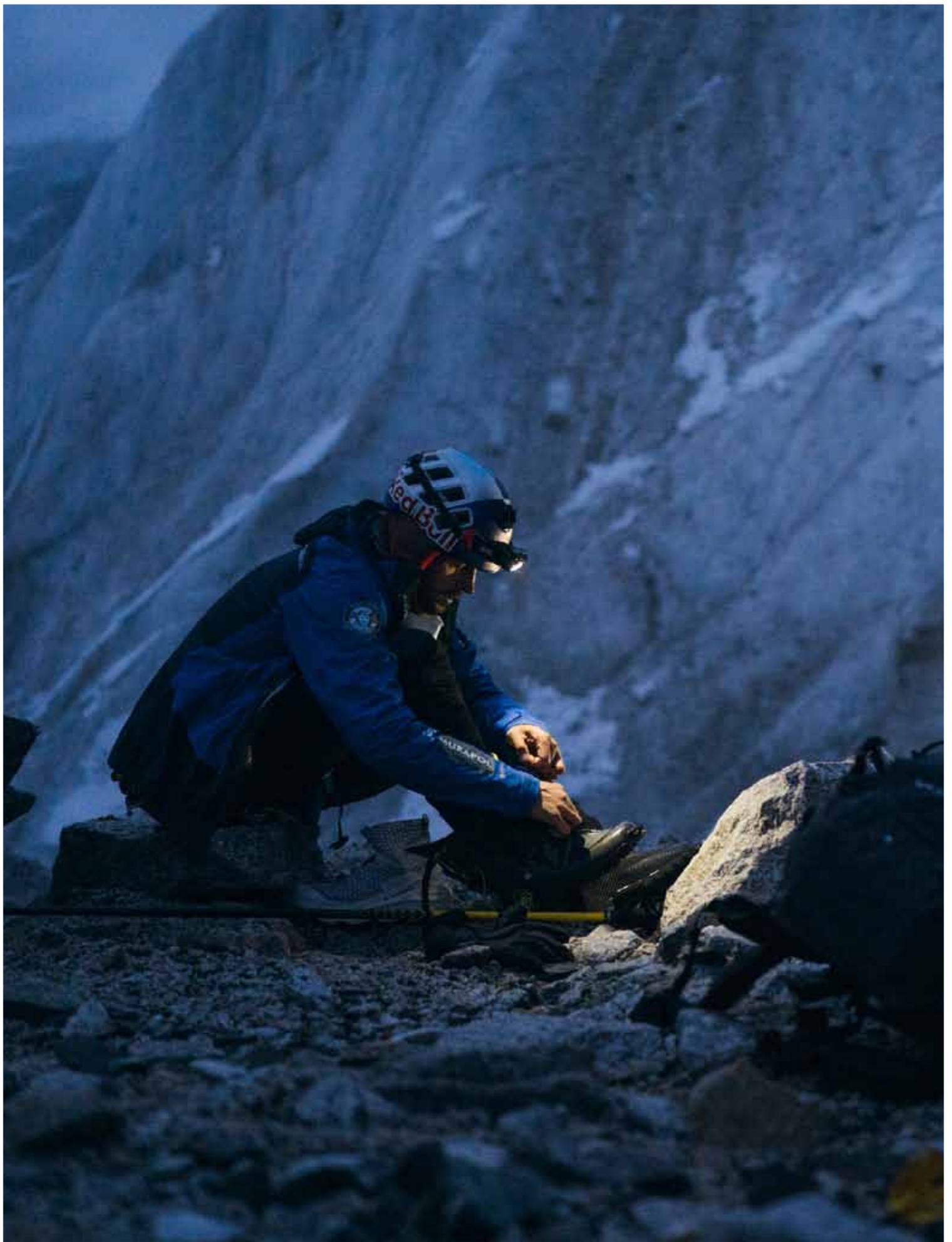


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Route Overview and Timeline

Total Time: 4 days, 4 hours, and 15 minutes

Everest Base Camp to Camp IV: On September 19th, Andrzej Bargiel left Everest Base Camp at 04:30 local time and followed an acclimatization protocol, making several ascents and descents between the camps. This gradual rotation through Camps I, II, and III allowed him to adapt to the extreme altitude before establishing himself at Camp IV on the South Col (7,900 meters), ready for the final summit push.

Summit Push: On September 21st, Bargiel left Camp IV at the South Col (7,900 meters) at 23:24 local time. Due to heavy fresh snowfall, which made trail-breaking more difficult, the ascent lasted much longer than expected. He spent a total of 16 hours in the death zone before summiting at 15:17 on September 22nd, without supplementary oxygen.



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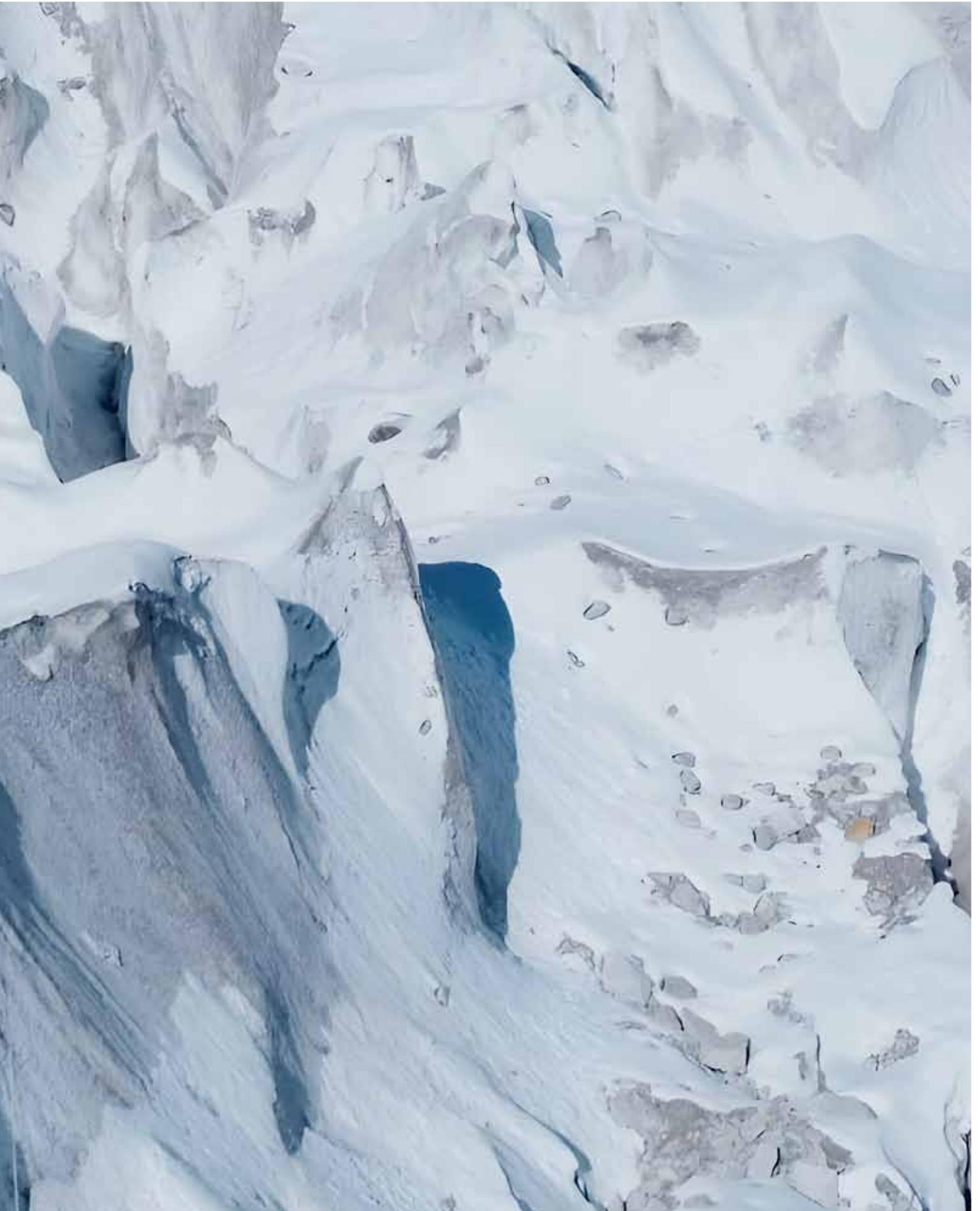
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Ski Descent (Summit to Camp II): After reaching the summit at 15:17 local time, Bargiel spent only minutes on top before clipping into his skis and beginning his descent. By 15:35, he had passed below the famous Hillary Step, continuing on towards the South Summit. At 15:45, he was seen riding along the ridge before reaching the Balcony and later the South Col. By 17:20, Bargiel had descended below Camp IV and continued left of the Geneva Spur en route to Camp II. He arrived at Camp II (6,400 meters) at 20:30 local time, by which point it was already dark, making continued safe navigation impossible.







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Ski Descent (Camp II to Everest Base Camp): On September 23rd, at 07:00 local time, Bargiel resumed skiing from Camp II, descending along the Mount Everest shoulder walls. By 07:50, he had passed Camp I, continuing across the slopes of Nuptse, crossing the treacherous Khumbu Icefall on skis and navigating a labyrinth of shifting ice and deep crevasses without ropes or fixed lines, guided in part by a drone flown by his brother, Bartek. He reached the end of icefall and the snowline at Everest Base Camp at 08:45 local time, completing the first-ever ski descent of Mount Everest without supplementary oxygen.

This Everest descent represents a breakthrough at the very limits of human endurance and alpine achievement. More than 6,000 people have climbed Mount Everest, but only around 200 have done so without supplementary oxygen - less than three per cent of all summit achievements.

At the altitude of Everest's summit, roughly the cruising height of a passenger jet, the reduced air pressure means climbers are breathing only about one-third of the oxygen available at sea level.

Spending around 16 hours in Everest's death zone underscored the scale of Bargiel's achievement. At this altitude decision-making deteriorates rapidly, and the risk of fatal brain or lung edema soars. Most summit pushes are kept to a fraction of this time, even with bottled oxygen. Such prolonged exposure without oxygen places immense strain on the body, making Bargiel's safe descent a remarkable demonstration of human endurance at the very edge of physiological capabilities.

He is the only mountaineer in history to have skied down both Mount Everest and K2 without bottled oxygen. **AW**





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Just a Girl Born for Adventure

by Izzy Farrar

Adventure wasn't something I discovered later in life; it was the atmosphere I grew up breathing. I was raised to explore, to take risks, to step willingly into the unknown. My parents didn't just encourage adventure, they modeled it, passing down what feels like a family gene.

My dad's love for the outdoors was forged early. Beginning in elementary school, my grandfather took him on annual winter camping trips in the Colorado mountains. They spent weeks spent hiking through snow, hunting elk and enduring the alpine cold in tents. Those trips planted a lifelong passion. As an adult, my father didn't simply dabble in adventure; he embraced it fully, becoming a scuba diver, paragliding pilot, rock climber, mountain biker, paddler and adventure racer. To say he has lived a life of adventure would be an understatement.

My mom is no less fearless. As a child, she would spend her summers traveling through Mexico with my missionary grandfather. When my parents found each other, their combined appetite for adventure only intensified. They camped their way through Mexico, trail-ran and mountain biked together, and traveled together





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to international adventure races in Spain & Mexico. In fact, they started my love for adventure so early that I technically “won” my first adventure race before I was even born, while still in the womb.



Once I was born my dad, who was an avid adventure racer, had to change his training routine now that there was a baby in the house. By 6 weeks old we were already running and biking together. Every morning, we would wake up and immediately go for a 40-minute run in the jog stroller. Post run we ate breakfast, and then departed on a 40-minute bike ride to daycare in the bike trailer. Of course, I had to get home after daycare and that was another 40-minute bike ride. One day we were riding home and while I was being towed in the bike trailer it began to rain. My dad glanced back to check my reaction to the rain, only to find me looking at him for a cue on how to respond to this unexpected change in weather. Knowing that my reaction would stem from his, and wanting to avoid any tears, my dad said “Rain! Woo-hoo!”, causing me to yell “Rain! Woo-hoo!” over and over again. In fact, once it stopped raining, I began chanting “More rain! More rain!” the rest of the bike ride home. According to my dad, that’s when he first knew I would be an adventurer. Our experiences in life shape our perspective and character; and just as I mirrored my dad’s excitement for the rain, I continue to mirror both of my parents’ thirst for adventure.



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From my earliest memories, my brother and I were encouraged to be bold. Family vacations weren't about resorts or sightseeing buses; they were about hiking, canyoneering, zip lining, rock climbing, mountain biking, white-water rafting, surfing, scuba diving, sailing and ATVing. Our vacations weren't about sleeping in, and tanning; no, they were built on a packed itinerary of every outing you could imagine, and then a few more.

One summer in Colorado, when I was about ten and my brother was eight, we were hiking in the mountains near a large lake. My dad challenged us to swim across the lake, offering a tempting reward: twenty dollars in souvenir money, each! Without hesitation, we accepted. We stripped down to our underwear and plunged in. The water was so shockingly frigid it instantly stole my breath, likely the coldest I had ever felt; but turning back wasn't an option. Twenty dollars was on the line, and we had already committed.

We swam the entire length of the lake, gasping for air, driven purely by determination, and those twenty bucks. When we finally climbed out on the other side of the lake, we lay shivering on a

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sun-warmed rock, letting feeling return to our bodies. That half hour of thawing in the sun felt better than any hot shower I've had since.

My parents didn't limit their encouragement of adventure to vacations alone. They applied the same philosophy to our futures. They urged me toward a career in aviation, nudging me to become a pilot and see the world from above. They encouraged me to try aerobatics, supporting my dreams of competing, and one day performing in aerobatic competitions – Red Bull Team are you paying attention? Because of that support, I've flown aircraft in ways few people ever will, learned niche skills, and experienced moments in the cockpit that feel almost unreal.

I'm endlessly grateful to my parents for fostering such a strong spirit of adventure and exploration in me. I know I've already lived a lifetime of adventure, and I'm certain there's far more waiting over the horizon. Not everyone is so blessed to be raised to be an adventurer at heart, but it's never too late to start. I encourage everyone to get outside, explore new places and activities and find their own adventures! **AW**



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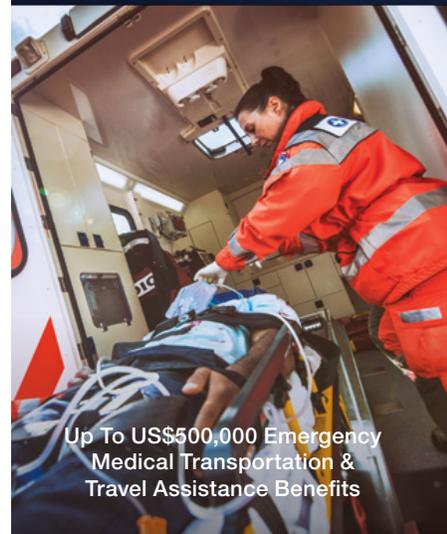
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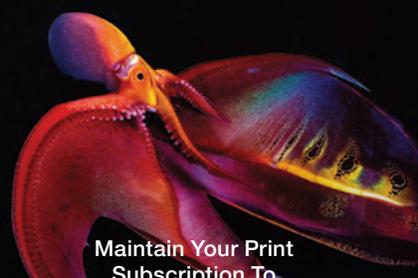
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Ozark Adventure

How the 2025 USARA Adventure Racing National Championships Took Northwest Arkansas by Storm

by Stephanie Ross

photos by Weston Kruse & Kai Caddy







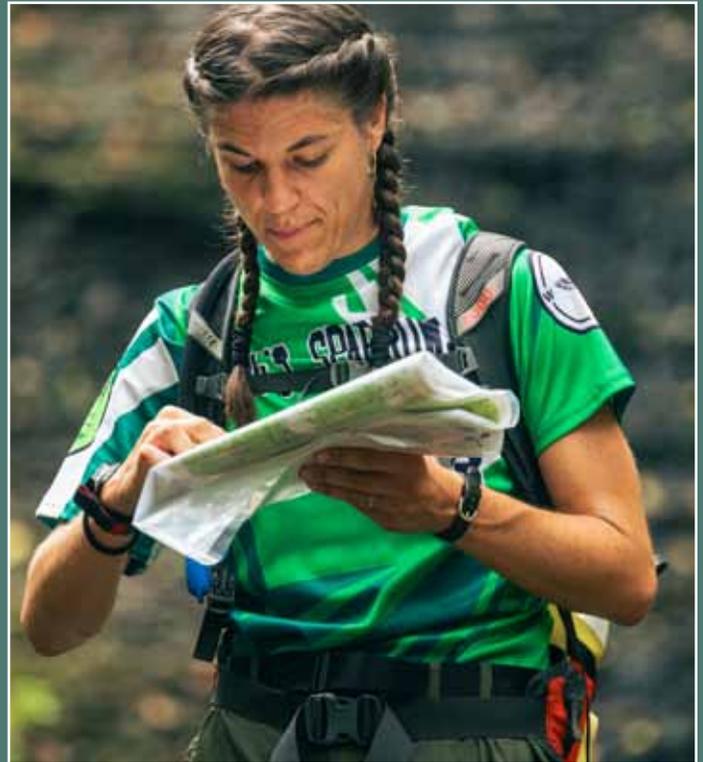
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If you asked a random traveler what makes Northwest Arkansas truly unforgettable, they might talk about its award-winning mountain bike trails, vibrant arts scene, or even its world-class craft beer. But on the weekend of September 12–13, 2025, this corner of the Ozarks became something even bigger: the ultimate proving ground for America’s toughest and most resourceful outdoor athletes. The 2025 USARA Adventure Racing National Championships rolled into Bentonville with a 30-hour, nonstop test of endurance, navigation, and sheer team power that left racers, volunteers, and spectators talking long after the last team crossed the finish line.



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What Is Adventure Racing, Anyway?

Before we jump into the action, let's break down what adventure racing actually is. It's not a run-of-the-mill marathon, a mountain bike race, or a flatwater paddle. It's all of those — and then some. Adventure racing blends trekking, mountain biking, and paddling into one epic course that requires teams to navigate rugged terrain using only a map and compass. Forget GPS — teams rely on old-school tools and modern grit to find checkpoints located across forests, rivers, and bluffs.



Arkansas: The Natural State

This year was historic — the first time in USARA's 26-year history that the National Championships were hosted in Arkansas, earning "The Natural State" a well-deserved turn in the adventure racing spotlight. Race organizers partnered with the Ozark Foundation and Visit Bentonville to showcase not just a race course, but a landscape worthy of it — limestone bluffs, rolling prairies, and nearly endless trails that tested racers' bodies and minds alike.

With the race based out of Bentonville's bustling trail hub, competitors and fans alike were treated to a town that lives and breathes outdoor culture — from world-class mountain bike infrastructure to craft beer breweries, public art installations, and friendly restaurants. The kind of place that makes you want to stick around even after the race ends.





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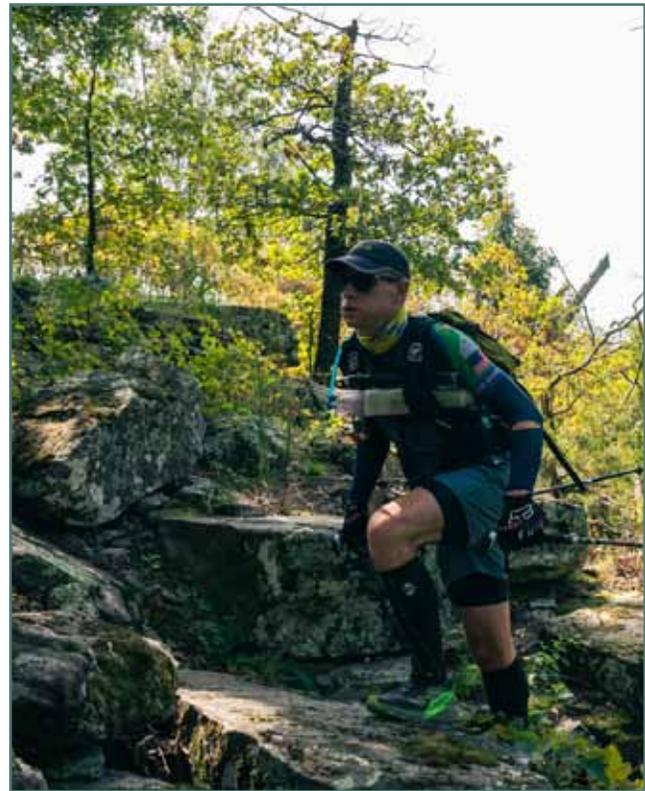
The Race: 30 Hours of Pure Challenge

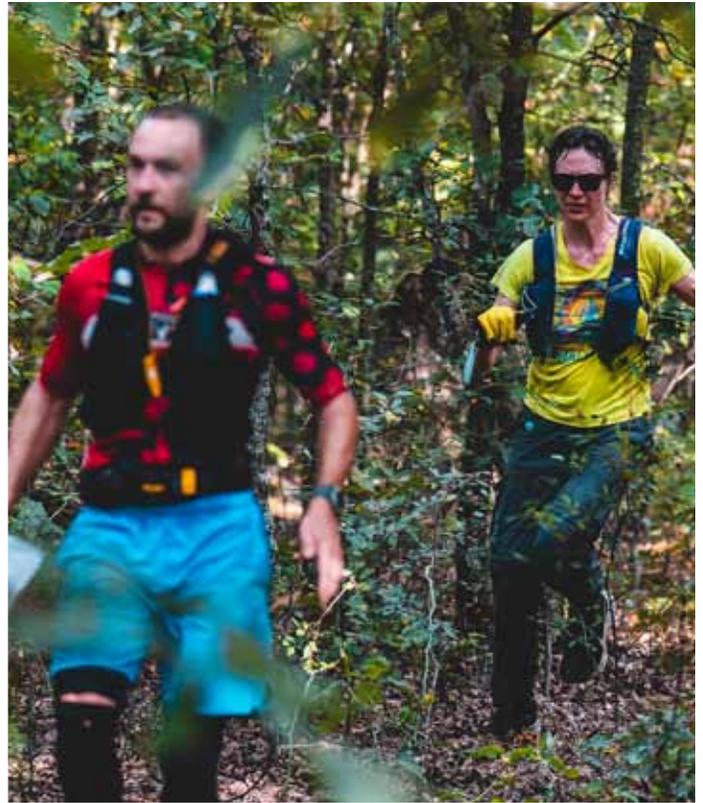
At 9 a.m. on Friday, 75 teams of three toed the starting line at Lake Wedington Recreation Area. Unlike conventional races where routes are posted weeks in advance, the USARA Nationals keep the course a secret until race morning — providing maps just hours before the start. It's part strategy, part adrenaline rush, part tactical puzzle.

Over the next 30 hours, teams transitioned between paddling canoes, pedaling miles of unrelenting gravel roads and technical singletrack, and pounding out rugged trekking sections that wound teams back north to the finish in downtown Bentonville. The heat took a toll early on, so racers didn't mind so much if they capsized in the rapids at Siloam Springs Kayak Park and WOKA whitewater park on the splendid, spring-fed Illinois River. Teams had the opportunity both to trek and bike through the immaculate WOKA trail system maintained by the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust.

A short urban photo orienteering leg in the sweet city of Siloam Springs was popular with racers, as was the "chuckwagon" at the University of Health & Performance culinary center. Racers were treated to a pancake breakfast while their teammates collected checkpoints on this overnight navigation relay leg. The last leg of the race highlighted some 35 miles of the purpose-built singletrack in the Back 40 and Little Sugar trail systems in Bella Vista, before teams made their way down the Razorback Greenway and to the finish line on top of the Ledger - the world's first bikeable building!

And it wasn't just about finishing — special honors like the "Wizards of OZ" award for fastest trekking leg and the "Blazing Paddles" title for the fastest paddle leg kept competitors striving for glory in every discipline.





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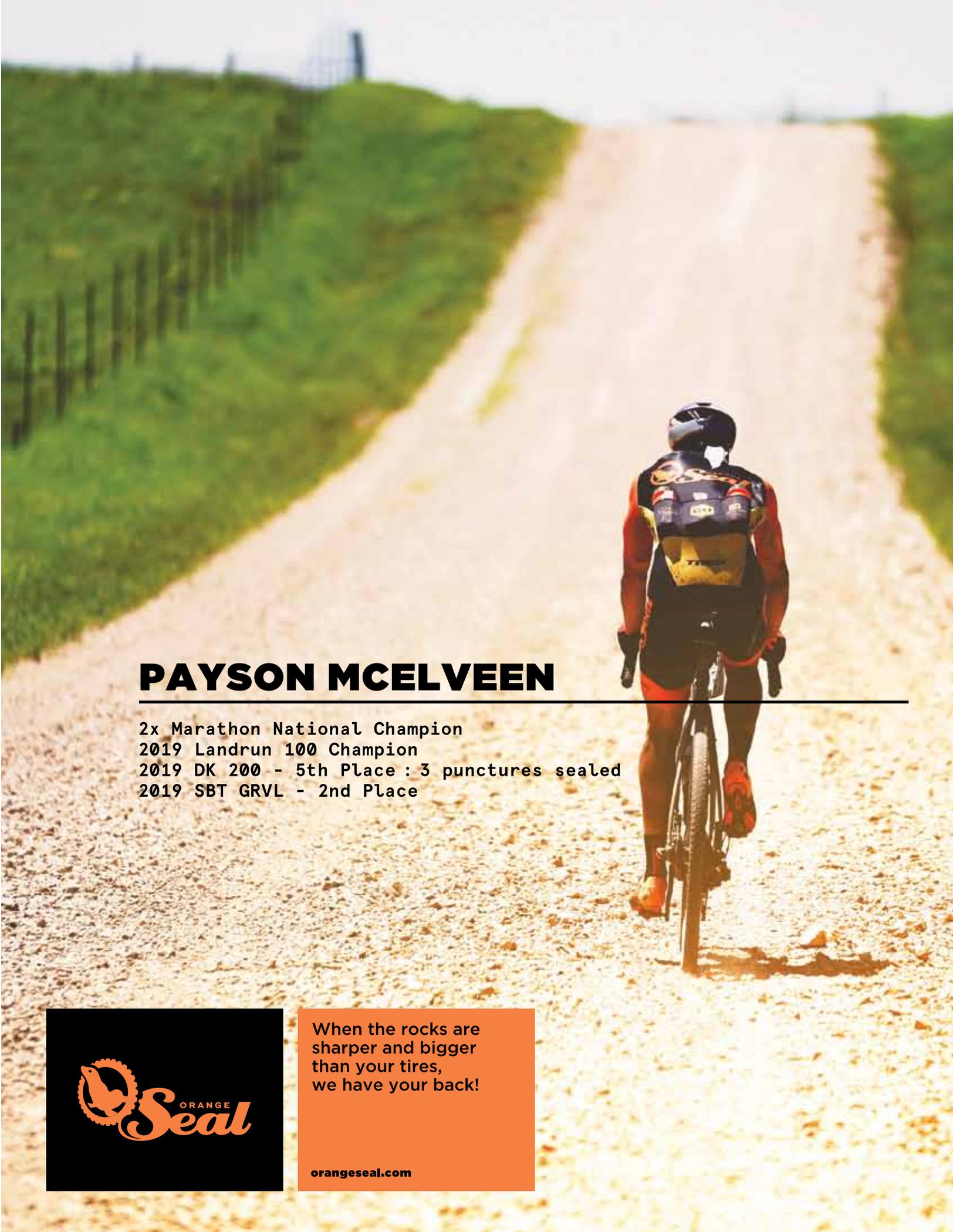
SGAR

Legends and New Heroes

When the race finished Saturday afternoon, stories emerged that felt like scenes from an outdoor adventure film: racers navigating under starlit skies, teams opting for daring route choices that paid off (or spectacularly didn't), and friendships forged under the weight of collective exhaustion.

The defending champs, mixed-gender powerhouse WEDALI — Justin Bakken, Brian Mayer, and Mari Chandler — lived up to their reputation with a performance that blended tactical savvy and unrelenting pace. The Women of AR - Britt Mason, Karyn Dulaney, and Nicki Driscoll - successfully defended their title against a competitive roster of 10 all-female teams, while local favorites Team Ozark - Jason Bettis, Phil Nicolas, and Ira White - took first in the all-male division. Odyssey Adventure Racing- Ronny Angell, Sara Dallman, and Eric Olsen - were recognized as the top Master's team across all divisions.



A cyclist in a red and black jersey is riding away from the camera on a wide, light-colored gravel path. The path is flanked by green grassy hills. The cyclist is wearing a helmet and a backpack.

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The Ozarks Leave Their Mark

In the end, the 2025 USARA National Championships weren't just a race — they were a showcase of why people adventure race in the first place: to discover beauty in challenge, to trust in teamwork when the going gets tough, and to explore the wild with nothing but a compass, a map, and unshakable determination.

For 2026, the race will travel to the high desert of Central Oregon, where renowned Race Director Jason Magness of Bend Racing will be designing a course sure to be worthy of the National Championships.

More information at www.usara.com. **AW**





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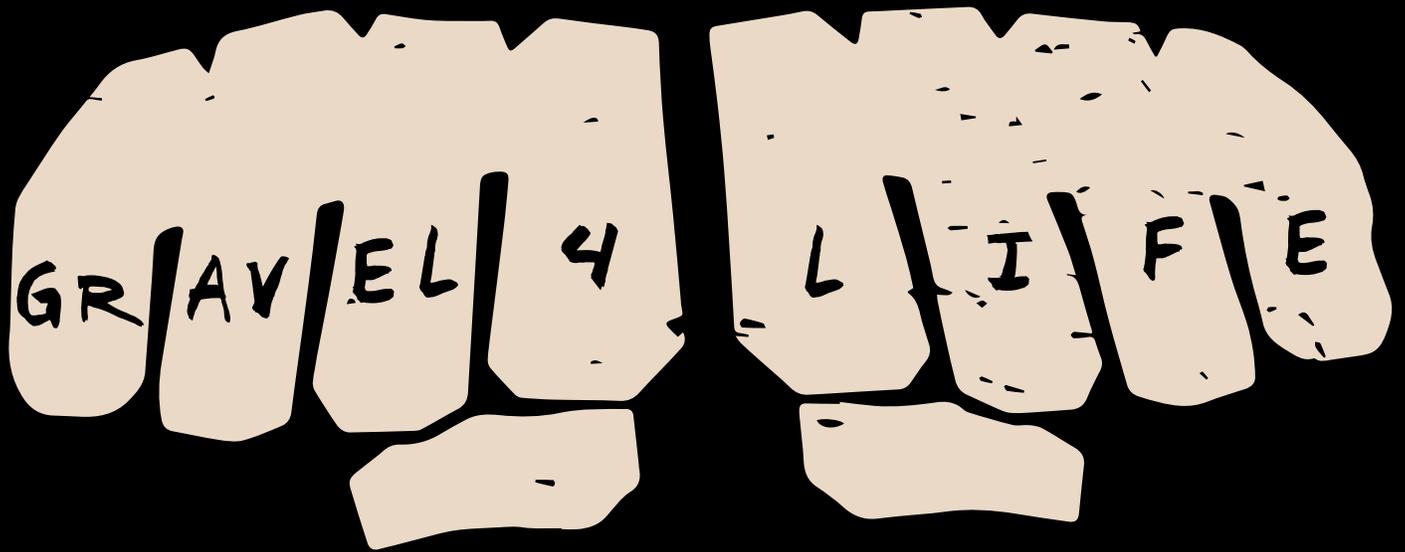
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GrinderNationals.com
2026



by Troy Farrar

I stopped by the Gun Storage Solutions booth at the SHOT show this year to get a better understanding of their products and I was impressed. I don't know a single gun owner who does not need more room in their safe, and the Gun Storage Solutions Rifle Rods Gun Rack System solves this problem. It is amazing how much room can be gained by using this system. They also have handy solutions for storing pistols, magazines and other accessories that will help you utilize all available space in your safe.

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#2 Slide Rifle Rod into Gun



#3 Place Gun in Desired Position in Safe



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GUN REVIEWS

WINTER 2026

Gun Storage Solutions Rifle Rods Gun Rack System

The Rifle Rods Gun Rack System is a versatile solution that will significantly increase the storage capability of your safe. The system allows you to condense rifles and shotguns into a much smaller space, making room for more guns. Gun Storage Solutions uses individual rifle rods that lock each gun into an upright position using a sturdy Velcro system that makes adding and removing guns easy. The US made 16 inch injection molded plastic rods will not damage your barrels, fit rifles as small as .22 caliber and are available in black or orange packs of 5, 10, 20, 30 or 40. They also have smaller rods available for .17 caliber rifles. The kit includes Velcro shelf liner that can be stapled to the underside of your shelves insuring a secure anchoring medium for the rifle rods. The Gun Storage Solutions Rifle Rods Gun Rack System is a must have product as it solves a problem we all have by significantly increasing the storage capability of your gun safe. www.storemoreguns.com



Gun Storage Solutions

Rifle Rods Tags

The Gun Storage Solutions Rifle Rods Gun Rack System. The 1 inch x 2 3/4 inch orange plastic tags clip onto the rifle rods and can be folded down 90 degrees if desired. The 10 pack of tags can be written on directly or you can apply the supplied white labels, which make gun identification a snap.

www.storemoreguns.com



Gun Storage Solutions

Carry Optics Handgun Hangers

The Gun Storage Solutions Carry Optics Handgun Hangers are an additional way to maximize your gun safe's storage capacity. The pistol hangers are vinyl coated with a chamfered end to protect the barrels of your pistols. The hangers utilize space under shelves to securely hang pistols with carry optics as small as .22 caliber. The 2 pack of pistol holders is also available in a version for pistols that do not have carry optics and will increase your safes capacity.

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