

Adventure World magazine



**2014 USARA
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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

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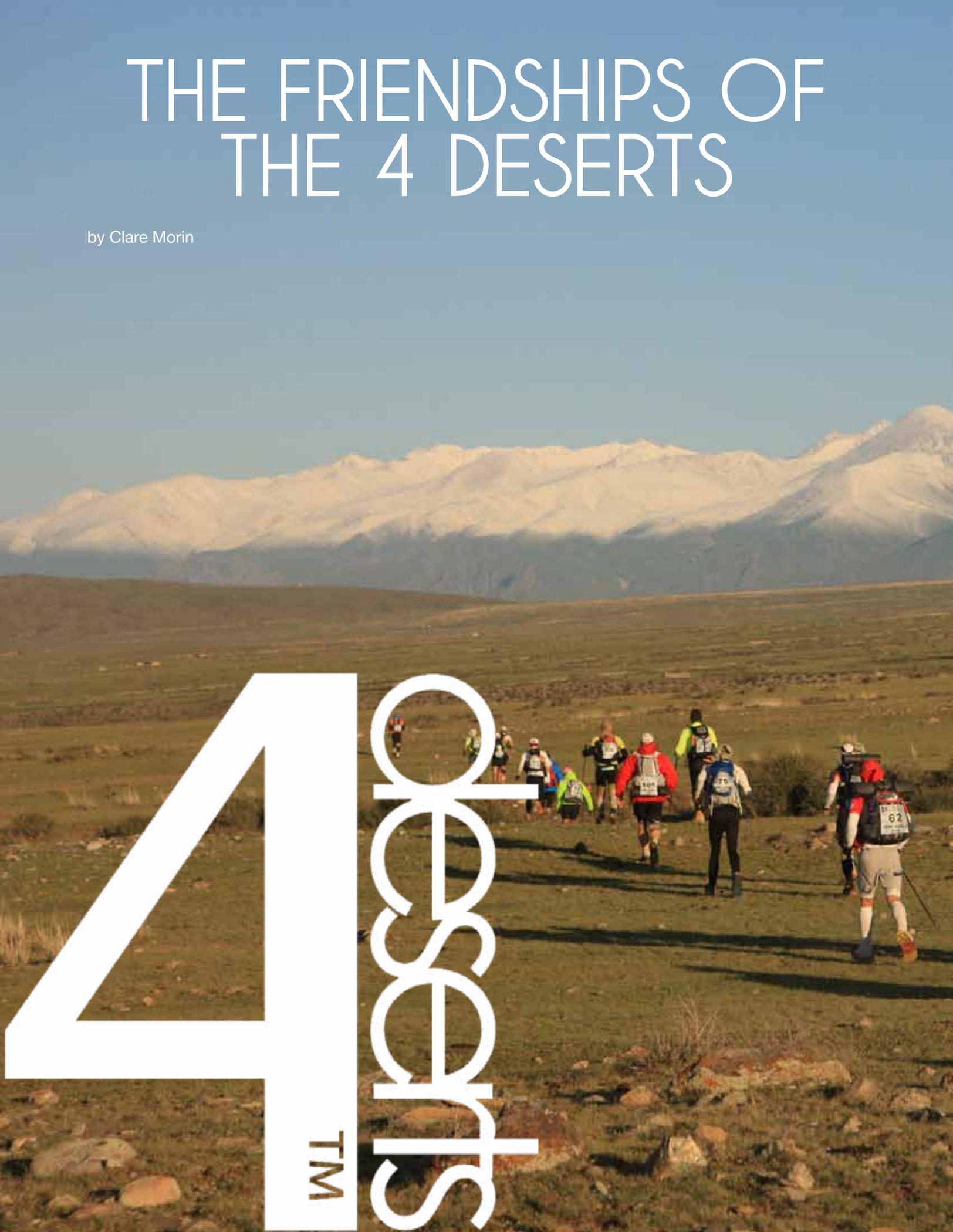
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THE FRIENDSHIPS OF THE 4 DESERTS

by Clare Morin



4
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deserts

The 4 Deserts Series of rough country footraces takes competitors to some of the most intriguing, far-flung locations on Earth. Spanning the Atacama Crossing (Chile), Gobi March (China), Sahara Race and The Last Desert (Antarctica), the races also attract an incredible range of individuals. Two of this year's races, the Gobi March (China) and the Atacama Crossing (Chile) - drew a pair of young American racers with enormous, generous spirits.





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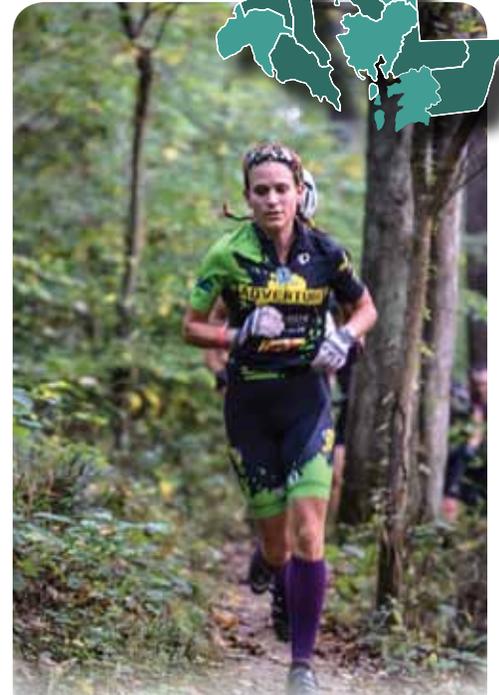
Serve it Up Local Farm Foods Festival
High Mountain Sports Flatwater Kayak Race
August 16

The Inaugural Savage World's Whitewater Festival
Deep Creek Lake Art & Wine Festival
September 5-7



Photo by: Tim Jacobsen

MOUNTAIN BIKING



TRAIL RUNNING



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ROCK CLIMBING & RAPPELLING



Photo by: Tim Jacobsen

RIVER RAFTING

THE GOBI MARCH: GREG NANCE

It was Greg Nance's first 4 Deserts race when he arrived in the remote mountains of far northwestern China this June. The American had flown from his home in Shanghai—where he is the Founder and CEO of Chase Futures, the world's fastest growing admissions consulting platform. He was here to take on the Gobi March, a 250 kilometer rough country footrace through the Gobi Desert.

At the age of 26, Greg Nance had already built up one of the most impressive resumes you may ever read—a youth community leader with extraordinary business acumen. As well as helming Chase Futures, he's the founder of Moneythink, a not-for-profit mentoring organization that was recognized by the Obama Administration as a "Champion of Change". He was also named a "Globe Changer" at the 2011 Jefferson Awards for Public Service.

Born on Bainbridge Island in Washington State in the United States and raised by humble but adventurous parents, Nance says he found running in high school. "Runners are cool people," he explains. "They're focused; they're dedicated. They have a spiritual ethos about them that I didn't find in previous communities."



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His racing and adventuring continued throughout his college years in the United States and United Kingdom, and ever since he founded his award-winning business in China in 2012, he's kept adventure high on the priority list, leading a life that is cleanly divided between being an entrepreneur and an adventurer

"I've got a lot of friends in the entrepreneurship world," explains Nance. "And one of the pieces of advice from the more experienced ones was to take care of your body, take care of your soul and you can work so much more sustainably."

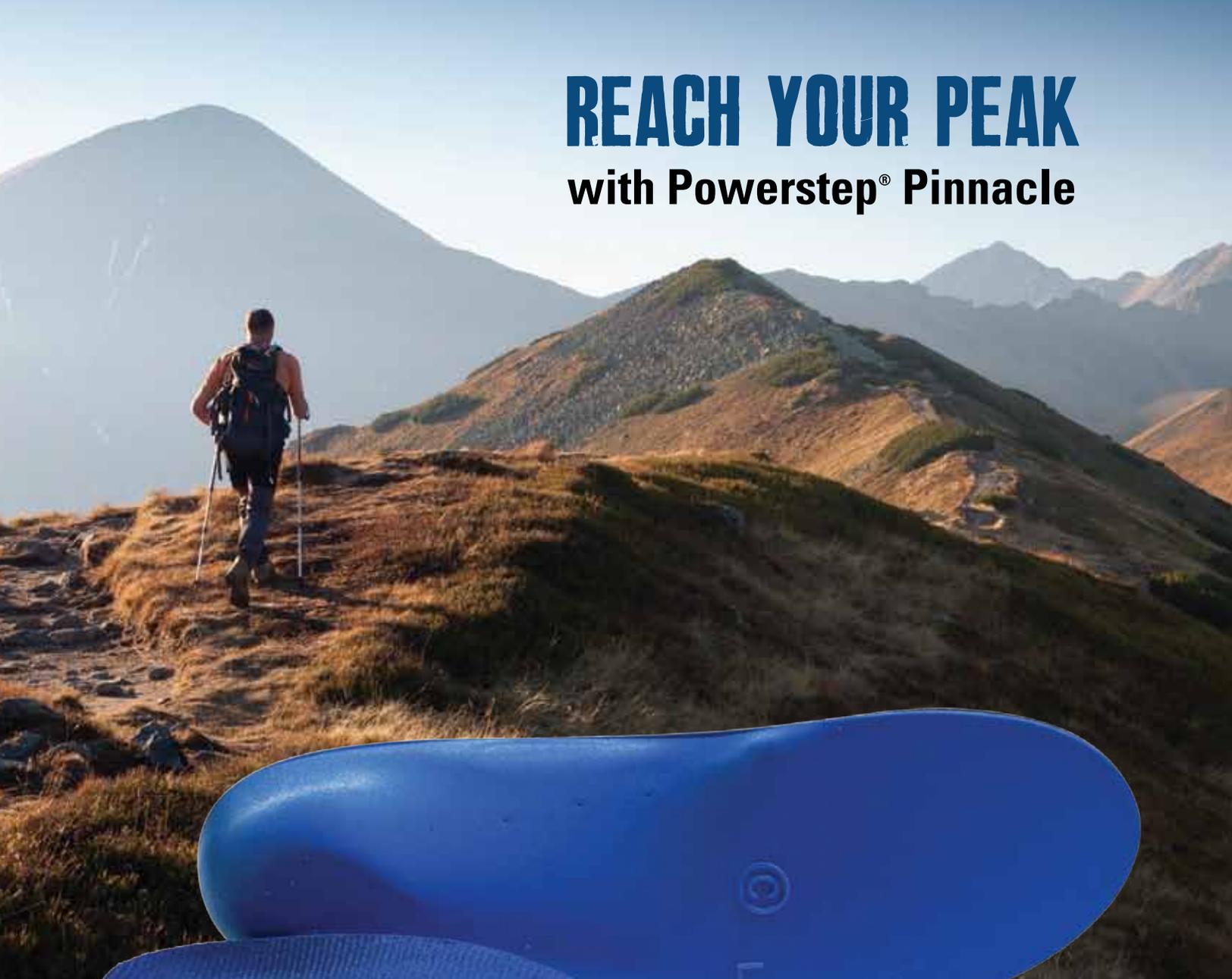
When he arrived in Xinjiang, Nance says he was equally struck and intimidated by the wild beauty of the region. "We were flying over it in this tiny airplane, looking down at jagged mountains and it was so beautiful, these surreal moonscapes," he says. With the snow-capped Altai Mountains in the backdrop, the 112 competitors from 41 countries set out on the six-day course through some of Xinjiang's most remote areas and former Genghis Khan stomping grounds. The course was truly varied through grasslands, over dusty and stony desert, farmlands, riverbeds, and deep into mountain alpine valleys.

Nance says he found a remarkable support group as the race progressed, with his fellow tent mates who shared a yurt at the end of every stage. "Within days, we were sharing food, sharing coffee, keeping each other strong," he says.

The race began strong for the 26 year old and by the end of the third day he was holding ninth position.

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But then, on Day 4, fate took a twist—as can so often happen on a multi-stage event. “I was in a stream, in two or three feet of water, when I stepped on a slick rock and twisted around,” he reminisces. “Before I knew it, I felt a shooting pain in my knee.”

Nance was supported by the medical team at the next checkpoint, and they helped him to complete the rest of the course despite the injury. Nance says that it was this run-in with his injury and the sheer willpower needed to push on through that uncovered a tremendous potential within—which ended up being a highlight of the entire experience.

“My spirit came out in a way I wouldn’t have predicted,” he muses. “I think when you face real adversity, both on the course and in life, the people around you are there to support you and it gives you the jolt you need. The medical team was world-class and I would not have made it through the race, without their support.

“The competition are fellow weekend warriors out there,” he adds. “They’re keeping you spirited; they’re keeping you motivated and are encouraging you. Even when you come down with a bad knee, there is a tight knit support group. It’s a sorority of 156 people.”



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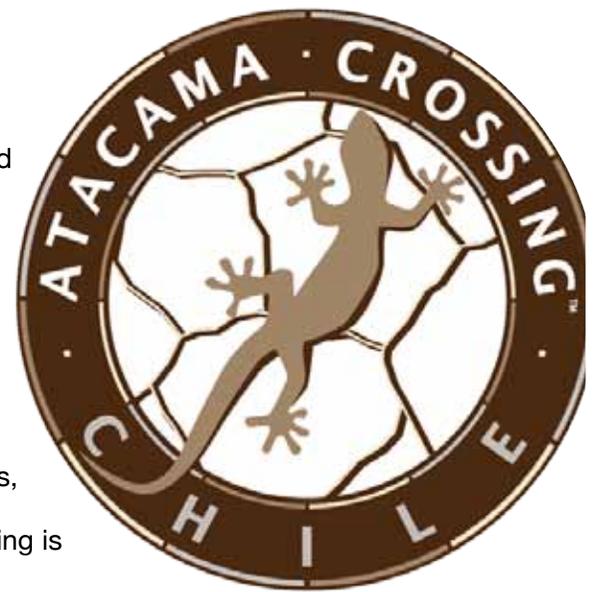
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THE ATACAMA CROSSING: ERIN LEIGHTY

Five months later, on the other side of the planet in the elevated plateaus of the Atacama Desert, another group of 165 competitors from 36 nations were congregating in the scenic adobe town of San Pedro de Atacama for the Atacama Crossing.

This year was the tenth anniversary of the 250 kilometer odyssey. With its extraordinary lunar beauty, its challenging terrain of brutal salt flats, and high altitude with huge temperature contrasts, the Atacama Crossing is one of the most challenging races.

American competitor, Erin Leighty had come here to take on her first 4 Deserts challenge as a racer, although she had worked as a volunteer on the race the year before, so she had a sense of what was in store for her. A wild land firefighter for the United States Forest Service, the 29-year old was drawn to the race at the invitation of the blind Brazilian competitor, Vladmi dos Santos—who had invited her to be his guide.



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“I volunteered at the Atacama Crossing in 2013, and I befriended Vlad,” explains Leighty. “I interviewed both blind competitors [in that race], and there was a connection between Vladmi and I that I can’t express in words. After I volunteered, I knew I wanted to run the race. Almost all year, I trained as if I was going to race solo but in August I received an email from Vlad asking me to guide him because his sponsor could only support one person’s entry. When I received his message, I immediately said, ‘Yes, yes, yes’. There was no question in my mind.”

Vladmi dos Santos is an admired, Brazilian athlete who has finished two 4 Deserts races and 24-hour ultramarathons, and has competed in the Paralympic Games for triple jump and long jump. Competing as a pair, they say they found a truly interdependent relationship emerge in the lunar landscape of the Atacama—where they ran for six days straight with a piece of string holding them together.

Leighty’s experience in fighting fires kicked in, with her knack of carrying heavy packs and a fearless capacity to endure long hours out in the field. While Leighty offered the sight, the pair shared their strength and spirit in equal measure to help one another through.



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“When he feels weak one day, I have strength, and when I feel weak, he has strength,” she explains. “It’s a symbiotic relationship. It’s more than just respect or admiration, it’s like we’ve become part of each other’s being. When he struggles, I really feel it. When I feel confident, the force spreads to Vlad and he can feel it too. “

The pair decided that they were going to simply aim for a finish—and let go of any lofty ideals of race times. “We decided early on that this race for us was not going to be about achieving a certain time or getting a certain place,” explains Leighty. “It is about the struggle, the experience, the camp life... For me, it is soul nourishing. It is difficult mentally and physically, but it has been so rewarding.”

The pair finished the 250 kilometers and were so inspiring in their example that the race organizers bestowed Erin the Sportsmanship Award. Vladmi dos Santos explains that for him, the 4 Deserts races offer an equal playing field for all people—it’s not so much a race between individuals, but an attempt for each person in the field to take on the limits of their human spirit.

“People here are family,” he says. “I feel so normal because although I am blind, the competitors, volunteers, and doctors treat me as if I wasn’t blind, as a normal man. In Brazil, people see me as needing help, but here I am treated equally... At the 4 Deserts, nobody is better than anyone.” **AW**



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Wandering Around the Wonders of The Adventurers Triangle



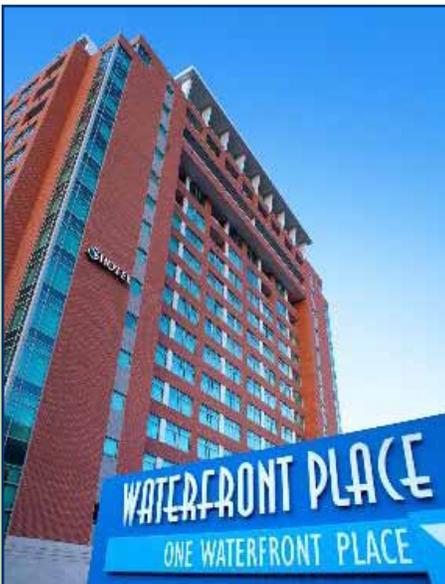
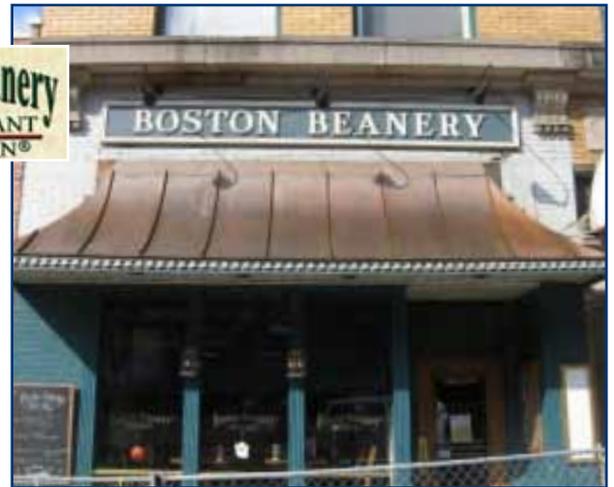
by Troy Farrar

If you are looking for the perfect family adventure we have just the spot to satisfy all of your wonder lust needs. Western Maryland, West Virginia & the Laurel Highlands area of Pennsylvania make up what I call “The Adventurers Triangle”. There are enough activities and amazing areas to keep your family waist deep in adventures for years. From caving to skiing to white water rafting, this is an outdoorsman’s paradise. Come wander with us as we explore a few of the wonders in The Adventurers Triangle.

Morgantown, West Virginia

Boston Beanery Restaurant

The Boston Beanery Restaurant is patterned after old Boston pubs from the 1800’s, which at that time were called Beaneries. A Morgantown classic, the Boston Beanery offers casual dining in a fun atmosphere. The Boston Beanery serves lots of delicious pub styled food, the hardest thing is deciding what to order. Be sure to try the french fries and the crab cake sandwich, it will knock your socks off – no pun intended for you sox fans!



Waterfront Place Hotel

The Waterfront Place Hotel is an oasis in Morgantown and the perfect launch site for your West Virginia adventures. A boutique style hotel, the Waterfront Place has elegant rooms, casual dining, indoor pool and an onsite spa. Overlooking the picturesque



Monongahela River, there are miles of rails to trails for running or biking that follow the Monongahela River right outside your door. You can also take a 5 minute walk down the trail to a couple of Morgantown’s best restaurants. The Waterfront place is the perfect place to lay your head after a full day of adventures in West Virginia.

Morgantown, West Virginia (continued)

Coopers Rock State Forest

Coopers Rock State Forest is only 20 minutes away from Morgantown and has lots of great trails for exploring.



I recommend Raven Rock, which is about 4 miles out & back. It is a fun and beautiful hike with a great jackpot at the end, Raven's Rock which provides a spectacular view of the Cheat River Canyon!



Tugboat Depot Playground

The Tugboat Depot Playground is a community built playground in the Star City district of Morgantown. Tugboat Depot is an awesome fort styled playground that will keep your little ones busy for hours. Tugboat Depot sits adjacent to the Monongahela River Rail Trail and has tables available for picnicking and modern restrooms.



Oliverio's Ristorante

Oliverio's Ristorante is located in Morgantown's Warf District and is only a few minutes' walk from the Waterfront Place Hotel.

Oliverio's lived up to their family's reputation as we experienced great Italian cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere. Oliverio's does it the old fashioned way, starting with homemade pastas & sauces which are an integral part of the time tested family recipes.

The atmosphere is relaxed but elegant and they even have an outdoor deck overlooking the Monongahela River. If you like good Italian food Oliverio's Ristorante is a must while in Morgantown.



Mountain State Brewing Company

The Mountain State Brewing Company is the largest full-scale microbrewery and distributor in the state of West Virginia. This local landmark is also the largest scale maker of delicious and unique wood fired sandwiches & flat breads, also known as pizza. I'm not going to make any suggestions when it comes to the food because everything was delicious. The Mountain State Brewing Company is a great place to spend a relaxing evening with family or friends after a long day romping around the woods.



Hovatters Wildlife Zoo

Hovatters Wildlife Zoo is located less than 30 minutes from Morgantown and features over 30 different species of exotic animals. Get a firsthand experience as you feed many of the animals including the giraffes, which is an awesome experience. Located in a beautiful wooded setting, Hovatters Wildlife Zoo is a great place to spend a few hours with your family.



Children's Discovery Museum of West Virginia

The Children's Discovery Museum of West Virginia is located in the Mountaineer Mall. The museum offers exhibits for children of all ages including a section dedicated to toddlers. Children and adults will love discovering together through interactive play, crafts and experimentation at the science stations. Be sure to check the calendar for special events before you bring your family to the Children's Discovery Museum of West Virginia.



Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort

The Nemacolin Woodlands Resort is a beautiful property located on 2000 acres with an eclectic list of available activities. You could easily spend a couple of weeks at Nemacolin without ever leaving the property, partaking in a long list of activities such as golf, the shooting academy, fly fishing, zip lining & climbing, disc golf, horseback, dog sledding, mountain biking, the Jeep off road driving academy, the wildlife academy, bowling, tennis, paintball and finish the days off with a visit to the spa.



We chose the Safari Tour and Nemacolin lived up to their slogan of “expecting the unexpected.” We had an up close and personal experience with many of the amazing animals in the zoo. Our guide was very knowledgeable and our kids were even able to feed lions, tigers, wolves, mountain lions & bears. We followed the Safari Tour with the Nursery tour which was equally as amazing. The kids got to interact & feed many of the animals. There were some amazing creatures such a porcupines, sloths, alligators, badgers and even a skunk. The Safari & Nursery tours were the highlight of the entire trip and should be added to your bucket list.

I also attended the Jeep Off Road Academy which was awesome. The instructor guided me through the practice course preparing me for a true off road experience on Nemacolin's 20 plus miles of rugged trails. We spent over an hour off-roading in the Jeep Rubicon and which including doing things I never thought possible. Fun & exciting, I cannot wait until I am in this neck of the woods again to take an extended version of the driving academy.

Nemacolin has several great eateries ranging from casual to formal with one common theme – great food. Our time at Nemacolin was fantastic and I would highly recommend a trip to Nemacolin where you can truly “expect the unexpected.”

Ohiopyle Falls & Cucumber Falls

Ohiopyle Falls is located in Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania and is a beautiful waterfall in a great mountain town. There are lots of great cafes and coffee shops along with several rafting outfitters located in Ohiopyle. Just a few miles away you can make the short hike to Cucumber Falls, which is beautiful. There are several other great hiking trails and activities in the Ohiopyle area which will help build your adventures in the laurel highlands.





Laurel Caverns

Laurel Caverns is the largest cave in Pennsylvania with over 3 miles of passages. The traditional tour lasts over an hour and is perfect for families. The traditional tour is fully lighted and requires about 3000 feet of walking. For the more adventurous traveler there are spelunking tours in the upper and lower sections of the cave. Be prepared to get wet and sandy to experience a true adventure as you explore off the beaten path in the Laurel Caverns. Cave rappelling is also available on the weekends. Laurel Caverns are a beautiful and exciting day trip that will awaken your inner adventurer, no matter what your age.



Living Treasures Animal Park

You will experience up close and personal encounters with the animals at Living Treasures Animal Park conveniently located in Donegal, Pennsylvania. During your self-guided tour you can feed many of the animals. One of the highlights for our children was feeding the monkeys using a bucket on a rope & pulley system. The big cat enclosures feature a large window which allowed our kids to get inches away from tigers and lions and made for some interesting photos. Living Treasures Animal Park has a large variety of animals and is a must see activity in the laurel highlands.



Seven Springs Mountain Resort

Seven Springs Mountain Resort is a summer & winter playground with something for everyone. Featuring activities such as skiing, horseback, canopy tours, alpine slide, summer tubing, bowling and of course a spa. The Seven Springs activity bracelet allows you a full day of activities at 1 cost and is a bargain for families seeking a variety of adventures. Nestled in the mountains, Seven Springs has the feel of a traditional ski lodge and is a perfect destination for summer or winter excursions.

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Deep Creek, Maryland

Wisp Resort

Located in McHenry Maryland, the Wisp Resort is a great headquarters for your western Maryland adventures. Wisp is a ski resort with tons of activities for those non winter months. Adventurers can get their fill on the mountain coaster, mountain biking trails, zip line / canopy tours or try your skills on the spider monkey adventure course. There is even a course for the little ones, the Chipmunk Challenge. Wisp offers a first class golf course, casual dining and easy access to many other activities.

Adventure Sports Center International

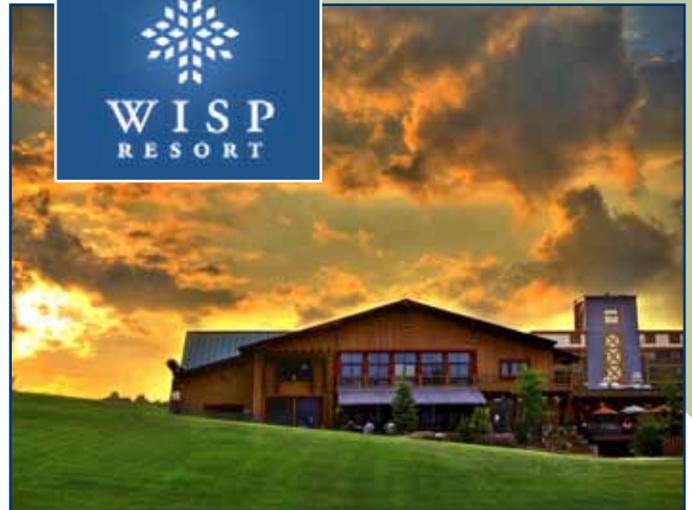
The Adventure Sports Center International is located just up the mountain from the Wisp Resort. ASCI is the world's only mountaintop whitewater course and offers a fun and safe way to take your family white water rafting. ASCI also provides geocaching, mountain biking and rock climbing tours and instruction.

Deep Creek Lake State Park

Located just minutes away from Wisp on Deep Creek Lake, the Deep Creek State Park offers hiking trails, mountain biking, horseback riding, swimming, camping sites and a boat launch.

Casselman River Bridge State Park

Casselman River Bridge State Park is a great side trip. Be sure to take a hike down the river while you are there. The 80-foot span was erected in 1813, and was the longest single span stone arch bridge in the United States. The Spruce Forest Artisan Village is located at one end of the bridge. The village's historic log buildings were moved from various locations in Western Maryland and restored on the site. They currently serve as studios for a variety of artists. **AW**



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BLACK GUN RISING

by Troy Farrar

The rise of AR-15 ownership in the United States has been attributed to many different factors. Threats of a government ban may have led the early charge to purchase an AR-15, but close behind is the fact that the AR is a fun rifle to shoot. There are a variety of shooting contests, from 3 gun competitions to run & gun contests that all require efficient handling of an AR-15. The light weight AR is easy to use, has a low recoil and can be customized in just about any configuration making the AR a great gun for shooters of all backgrounds. Below is a sampling of the accessories available to trick out your AR-15. Grab yourself an AR, trick it out to fit your needs and start having some fun with America's gun.

PISTOL GRIPS

Ergo Flattop Tactical Deluxe

The rubber over molded surface of the Ergo Flattop Tactical Deluxe has a firm feel and provides great grip due to the stippling. The Ambidextrous palm swell is perfect for medium to large handed shooters. The Flattop Tactical Deluxe is an American made beauty that will help keep your hand where it belongs, on your rifle. Ergogrips.net

FAB Defense AGR-43

The FAB Defense AGR-43 features a multi textured rubber over molded design to enhance your grip. The back of the grip features small studded bumps, rough "moon surface on the sides and the finger grip is equipped with textured grooves which result in a sure grip in any condition. The beaver tail & finger grooves compliment the multiple textures allowing for a firm hold. Finish it off with a hinged storage area and FAB Defense has built a great all around grip.

Themakogroup.com

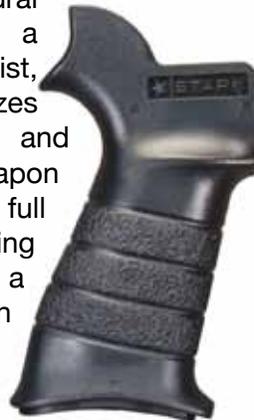
Stark SE-1 ANG Pistol Grip

The Stark SE-1 ANG Pistol Grip has a more natural angle, allowing a straighter wrist, which minimizes fatigue and maximizes weapon control. The full surround stippling provides a confident grip in all conditions. Focusing on shooting mechanics, the SE-1 provides an upper back strap that locks the shooters hand in place, providing the same angle for your trigger finger every time. Stark's grip includes a molded plug which has storage places for your batteries.

Starkequipment.com

Hogue Rubber Grip Beavertail with Finger Grooves

The Hogue over molded beavertail grip features side stippling and finger grooves for improved grip. The beavertail version provides extended length of pull as well as added support. A trigger guard filler rounds out this functional grip. Hogueinc.com



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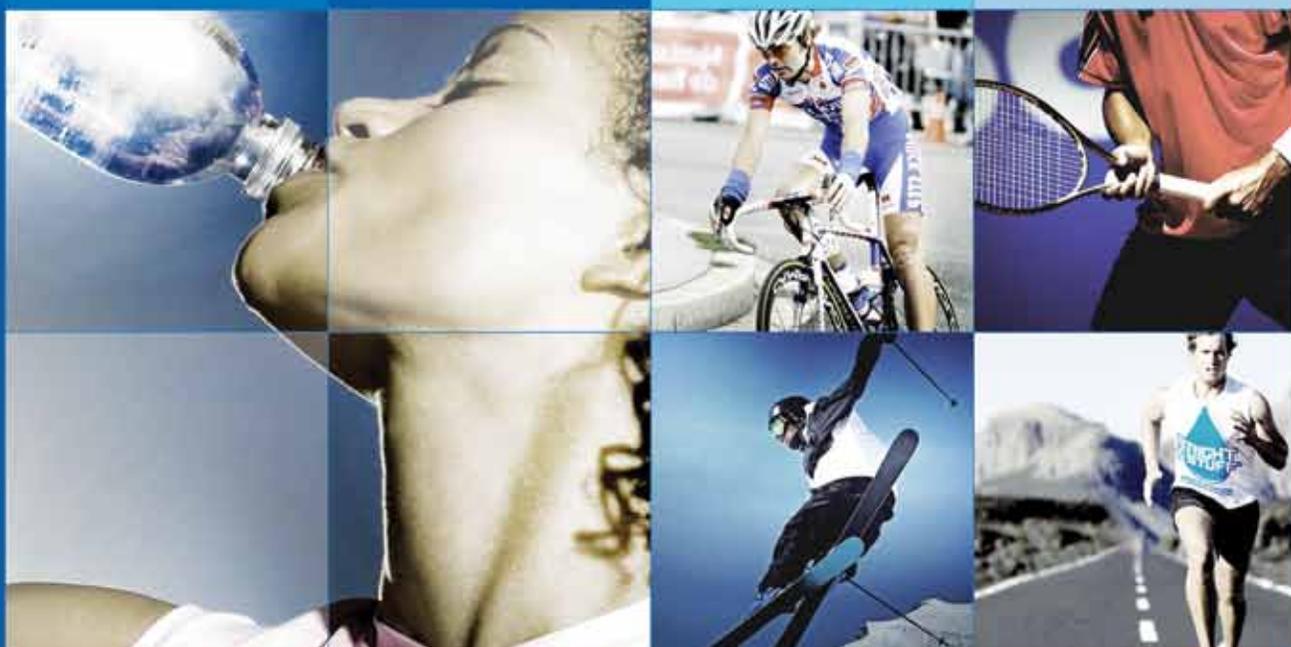
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TheRightStuff-USA.com

FRONT GRIPS

Command Arms FVG5

The Command Arms FVG5 is a polymer molded 5 position vertical grip. The grip has a screw down clamp locking system for a no-nonsense, non-rattling secure front grip. The side push button allows quick and easy switching between grip positions. A plugged storage compartment makes this grip an overall winner.

Commandarms.com



Ergo Straight Broom Handle Xpress

The Ergo Straight Broom Handle Xpress is an over molded rubber grip that will provide solid anchoring in all situations. The anodized base provides a solid foundation and the quick release allows you to attach the fore grip without removing other rail accessories. The grooved broom handle provides a sure grip and the threaded cap reveals an ample storage area.

Ergogrips.net



Fortis Shift Vertical Grip

The Fortis Shift Vertical Grip is one part function and one part art. This beautifully made vertical grip is a one piece billet design made from hard coat anodized aircraft grade aluminum. The hybrid design functions as a vertical grip or a hand stop depending on your application. The slotted screw attachment provides a solid foundation and the hollow design brings the grip in at a measly 3.4 ounces.

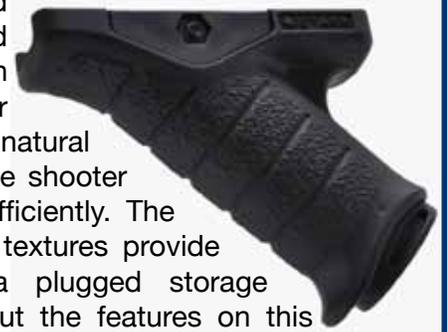
Fortismfg.com



Stark Express Grip

The Stark Express Grip was specifically designed for shooters that operate with the support hand well forward on the hand guard. This forward support hand design allows the shooter to remain in a more natural position and helps the shooter drive the gun more efficiently. The stippled and grooved textures provide fantastic grip and a plugged storage compartment round out the features on this light weight polymer grip.

Starkequipment.com



BMC Gunfighter Front Grip

The BMC Gunfighter Front Grip has a spring loaded clamping system which provides a secure fit. This flexible grip can be mounted forward to provide a more natural wrist angle or mounted in reverse to increase control. Side stippling combined with front and rear grooves provide excellent grip. The Gunfighter is made from impact resistant polymers and the hinged water proof storage compartment top off the features in this US made front grip.

Bravocompanyusa.com



FAB Defense T Grip

The FAB Defense T Grip is a light weight polymer fore grip with an integrated tactical light holder. The unique trigger switch with a safety allows the user to activate any tactical flashlight with a tail cap switch. An ergonomic grip provides front & rear stippling and finger grooves for a rock solid grip. The T Grip features a push button quick release with locking screw to allow for quick installation and a hinged storage compartment.

Themakogroup.com



LWRCI Vertical Folding Grip

The LWRCI Vertical Folding Grip is a compact 2 position vertical grip that can be folded flat into a horizontal position. The grip has a spring loaded deployment button that allows for easy transitions and the serrated polymer provides stable grip in both the vertical and horizontal positions.

Lwrci.com





skins.net

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STOCKS

Hogue Over Molded Collapsible Buttstock

The Hogue Over Molded Collapsible Buttstock comes in both Mil-Spec and commercial versions. The over molded cheek and butt pad contact surfaces are fantastic. Featuring several integrated swivel sling mounting locations and easy length of pull adjustment this light weight stock is fantastic.

Hogueinc.com



Safariland Superstock

The Safariland Superstock fits both Mil-Spec and commercial AR-15's and features 6 adjustment points. The unique cam locking system allows the shooter to lock the stock in place and eliminate any movement. Removable butt pad with both a quick detachable mounting point and sling loop round out the US made Superstock.

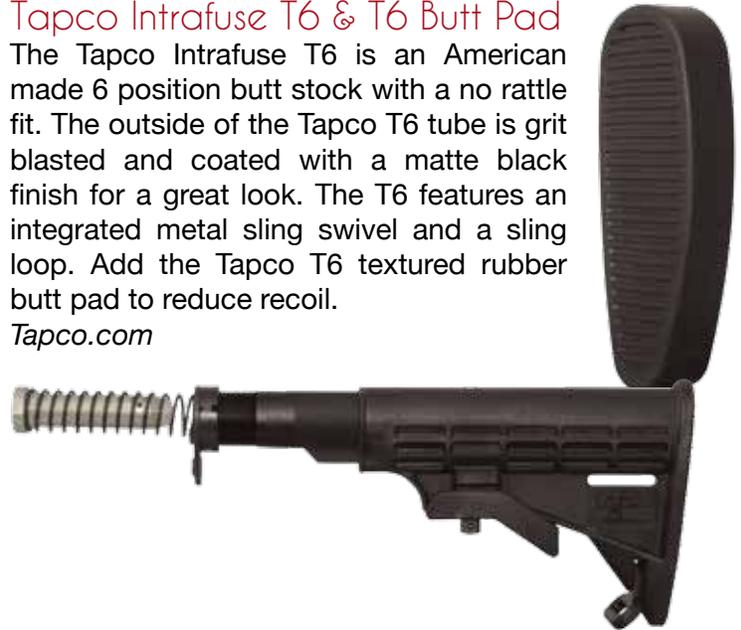
Safariland.com



Tapco Intrafuse T6 & T6 Butt Pad

The Tapco Intrafuse T6 is an American made 6 position butt stock with a no rattle fit. The outside of the Tapco T6 tube is grit blasted and coated with a matte black finish for a great look. The T6 features an integrated metal sling swivel and a sling loop. Add the Tapco T6 textured rubber butt pad to reduce recoil.

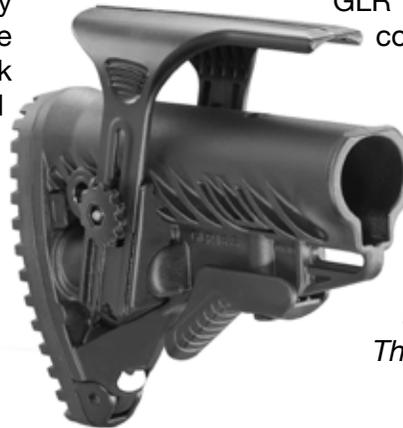
Tapco.com



FAB Defense GLR 16 CP

The FAB Defense GLR 16 CP features an adjustable cheek rest for increased comfort & accuracy. The patented "anti-rattle" mechanism will secure the GLR 16 CP on both Mil-Spec & commercial tubes. A non-slip rubber butt pad conceals the hinged & sealed storage compartment. Top it off with 3 sling attachments and a quick detach swivel connector and this is an all-around solid performer.

Themakogroup.com



Magpul URB

The Magpul URB (Utility / Battle Rifle) is a 7 position butt stock with an integrated preset preferred position option. The two piece URB butt stock offers the stability of a fixed stock because the lower half moves to adjust the length of pull while the upper half (cheek weld) remains stationary. The Magpul URB features a flexible storage compartment which allows you to install the door on either side or even completely removed. A removable butt pad, 2 quick detach swivel connectors and a sling attachment complete the American made work horse.

Magpul.com



HAND GUARDS



Hogue Over Molded Forend

The Hogue Over Molded Forend is a free float aluminum tube with rubber over molding for superior grip. The rubber over molding also provides insulation for your hand during heavy fire scenarios. This rifle length forend comes with several detachable rail combinations, a swivel stud and a wrench.

Hogueinc.com



Noveske NRS Rail

The Noveske NRS Rail is the smallest, lightest and most durable free float forend. Featuring a continuous top rail and key mod system allowing for easy installation of just about any accessory your heart desires, the Noveske NRS Rail is available in a variety of lengths. The rail includes a steel barrel nut.

Noveske.com



ATI Carbine Length 2 Piece Forend

The ATI Carbine length 2 piece forend is a durable, easy upgrade to your AR-15. Sturdy anodized aluminum form the skeleton of this 6.75 inch long, 8 sided forend. The ATI Carbine length 2 piece forend comes with several detachable Picatinny rails allowing for maximum customization. Made in the USA the ATI is a solid performer.

Atigunstocks.com



Rock River Arms TRO

The light weight Rock River Arms TRO free float rail is made from durable anodized aluminum. Available in a variety of sizes, the continuous top rail provides the freedom to accessorize. Additional detachable rail sections are available if the need for more furniture arises.

Rockriverarms.com



Viking Tactical Alpha

The Viking Tactical Alpha Rail utilizes a low profile locking mechanism which offers great strength and stability. Fashioned from hardened aircraft aluminum and finished in MIL-SPEC Type III Hard Coat Anodizing, the VTAC is both durable and functional. The VTAC Alpha features a continuous top rail with several detachable rails for unlimited mounting options. *Vikingtactics.com*

HAND GUARDS (CONTINUED)

Command Arms Accessories TRM3 Triple Rail System

The Command Arms Accessories TRM3 Triple Rail System is a quick and easy way to add Picatinny rails to a standard AR-15 handguard. The high density polymer rail system provides a 3 inch lower rail and two 2.5 inch 45 degree rails. The TRM3 installs on standard handguard vent holes and no gunsmithing is required.

Commandarms.com



PRI GenIII Free Float Fore Arm

The PRI GenIII Free Float Fore Arm is composed of light weight carbon fiber and aluminum providing a light weight forearm that does not sacrifice strength. The carbon fiber reduces the amount of heat transferred to the forearm during high volume scenarios. The PRI Gen III comes with an 8.5 inch top rail and three 3.3 inch rails which are all removable.

Precisionreflex.com



Midwest Industries Gen 2 SS Series

The Midwest Industries Gen 2 SS Series is a light weight and super slim free float forearm. The 1.5 inch outer diameter is perfect for the minimalist. The MI Gen 2 SS comes with a full length T- marked top rail and three additional 2.5 inch rail sections (one even includes an anti-rotational QD socket). A barrel nut and barrel nut wrench are included in this American made beauty.

Midwestindustriesinc.com



Lancer Systems LCH5 Carbon Fiber Hand Guard

The Lancer Systems LCH5 Carbon Fiber Hand Guard is an amazingly light free float forend. The large slots allow ample barrel cooling and the 2" top rail is perfect for front sights. Additional rail sections can be added to the LCH5 and the receiver extension features 2 QD sling swivel sockets. Lancer really knocked it out of the park with the light weight and beautifully made carbon fiber LCH5.

Store.lancer-systems.com



Alexander Arms Composite Handguard

The Alexander Arms Composite Handguard is a rigid, feather weight handguard with virtually unlimited rail options. The handguard has threaded inserts that make adding 3 inch Picatinny rail sections a snap. Alexander Arms advanced G10 fiberglass composite provides superb heat resistance and the multiple vents are spaced to reduce mirage and provide rapid cooling. The Alexander Arms Composite Handguard is a light weight heavy duty performer.

Alexanderarms.com





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SLINGS

Blackhawk Rapid Adjustment 2 Point Sling

The Blackhawk Rapid Adjustment 2 Point Sling provides fast transitions from carrying to shooting position. A pull on the quick adjustment lanyard adapts the 1 inch nylon sling to meet your situational needs. The Blackhawk Rapid Adjustment 2 Point Sling is made in the US and transitions to a 2 inch nylon shoulder section for comfortable and secure carrying. Blackhawk.com



Magpul MS1 Sling

The Magpul MS1 Sling is the most versatile 2 point sling available. A unique feature to the MS1 is that there are not any adjustment tails or loops that could snag on other equipment. Magpul's MS1 slider allows the operator to quickly adjust the sling length for their immediate need. This 1.25 inch wide sling can also be modified to a 1 point sling with the addition of optional adapters. Magpul produces sling adapters for just about any platform conceivable, making the US manufactured MS1 the sling for any occasion. Magpul.com



Viking Tactics Padded Sling

The Viking Tactics Padded Sling is a versatile and dynamic sling that was created specifically for the collapsible stock AR-15. A pull on the textured free running end provides quick and simple adjustment to this 1 inch padded nylon sling. The US built closed foam padded shoulder sling is a great addition for heavier rifles providing comfort on those extended treks. Vikingtactics.com



Blue Force Gear Vickers Sling

The Blue Force Gear Vickers Sling was developed from years of real world combat experience by former Delta Operator Larry Vickers. The color contrasting pull tab quick adjuster allows the Vickers Sling to be efficiently adjusted for any situation. The durable US made Vickers Sling is equipped with light weight acetal hardware and boasts a limited lifetime warranty. Blueforcegear.com



Specter 2 Point Tactical Sling

The Specter 2 Point Tactical Sling was specifically designed to fit rifles with a side mounted front sling swivel. The spring loaded, self-locking steel rapid adjust cam buckle is easily manipulated for your immediate need by simply pulling the adjustment lanyard. The Specter features a comfortable 1.5 inch shoulder webbing which transitions to a 1 inch adjuster strap. The US made Tactical Sling also features an emergency release buckle in case your rifle gets hung up during a tactical situation. Spectergear.com



Specter Sling Pad

The Specter Sling Pad is a durable 1000 denier closed cell foam pad designed specifically for Specter 1.5 inch slings. This 17 inch long pad is made from moisture wicking breathable material and features an inner mesh to prevent slippage. The American made Specter Sling Pad can be attached without removing the sling using 3 velcro attachment straps. Spectergear.com



SMITH & WESSON M&P 15-22 ACCESSORIES

The Smith & Wesson M&P 15-22 is a 22 long rifle variant of the S&W AR-15. The 22 version is perfect for recreational shooting, "plinking," and hunting small game. The M&P 15-22 is an inexpensive alternative for training with an AR-15 as both the rifle and ammunition are a fraction of the cost. The low recoil make the M&P 15-22 a great



rifle for easing new shooters into the sport, allowing them to familiarize themselves with AR-15 controls without the fear of excessive

recoil or noise. Below are several great options for tricking out your M&P 15-22.

Slide Fire M&P Kit

The Slide Fire Solutions stock allows you to bump fire your M&P 15-22 for great plinking fun. The M&P kit allows a semi-automatic rifle to rapid fire at a rate that is equivalent to an automatic weapon without all of the hassles and costs of owning an automatic weapon. The US made Sure Fire kit comes with a stock, a CMC 3.5 pound trigger and a recoil enhancer for the barrel. The stock & trigger can also be used on an AR-15 to produce the same awesome result.

Slidefire.com



Plinker Tactical 35 Round Magazine with Load Assist

The Plinker Tactical 35 Round Magazine extends your trigger time between reloading sessions. When it is time to reload, utilize the included load assist, which makes for easy & fast magazine loading. These polymer magazines are impact resistant and perform as well as the factory S&W magazines. Made in the USA and backed by a lifetime guarantee.

Plinkertactical.com



Black Dog Machine 50 Round Drum

The Black Dog Machine 50 Round Drum provides unmatched plinking time. This polycarbonate drum worked like a champ and is a must have for plinkers who would rather shoot than load magazines. Includes a built in load assist so you can be back in action in no time. The Black Dog Machine 50 Round Drum is a made in the USA must have addition to your M&P 15-22.

Blackdogmachinellc.net



Plinker Tactical Charging Handle

The Plinker Tactical Charging Handle is a 100% aluminum replacement charging handle for the M&P 15-22. The Charging handle has an oversized steel ambidextrous latch and is a great upgrade from the standard plastic S&W charging handle.

Plinkertactical.com



ACCESSORIES (CONTINUED)

NDZ Performance Mag Release Button

NDZ Performance Mag Release Button is a billet aluminum, easy to install M&P 15-22 upgrade. The NDZ two piece mag release button is designed to keep the magazine catch properly seated even if the mag release button is fully depressed. The US made mag release button is larger & extended for quick and easy magazine release.



NDZperformance.com

NDZ Performance Charging Handle

The NDZ Performance Charging Handle is an aircraft grade billet aluminum replacement handle for the S&W MP 15-22. The NDZ charging handle is hard coat anodized and includes a tactical latch.

NDZperformance.com



Tacticool 22 S&W M&P15-22 Free

Float Handguard Converter

The Tacticool 22 S&W M&P15-22 Free Float Handguard Converter allows you to match the look and feel of your M&P 15-22 to your AR platform. Designed exclusively for the M&P 22, the threaded adapter allows you to install any threaded AR handguard. The kit comes with a barrel wrench, barrel vise jaws, hand guard converter nut and hand guard converter wrench. The



US made Tacticool 22 Converter is black hard coat anodized billet aluminum and comes with a no questions asked lifetime guarantee. Tacticool22.com

Hilljak M&P15-22 Quickie Loader

The Hilljak S&W Quickie Loader is a real finger saver. Designed exclusively for S&W MP 15-22 magazines with load assist buttons, the durable polymer Hilljak Quickie Loader will save you lots of time & pain. Hilljak also makes the Magbar for magazines without load assist buttons.

Hilljak.com



True Shot Technologies 1522 Complete Kit

The True Shot Technologies 1522 Complete Kit contains everything you need to replace the M&P 15-22 stock forend with a free floating forend. Using the kit, you can set up your M&P 15-22 so it mirrors your AR-15 and save lots of money on training rounds. The 1522 complete kit comes



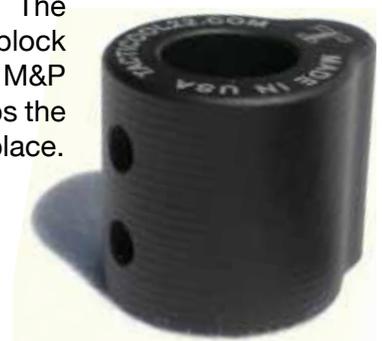
with a Mil-Spec A2 Sight base, a Mil-Spec hand guard end cap and a custom aluminum flash hider. Trueshottechnologies.com

Tacticool 22 Two Piece Hand Guard Converter

The Tacticool 22 Two Piece Hand Guard Converter allows you to install standard 2 piece handguards to your S&W M&P15-22. The non-functioning gas block was designed for the M&P 15-22 and securely keeps the hand guard end cap in place.

Tacticool22.com

AW



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(ENOUGH SAID)



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USARA ADVENTURE RACE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

by Shane Hagerman

2014

The Odyssey Adventure Racing team came to Nationals sure that 12 + teams could be in the top 10 and at least eight of those could podium.

I really believe at nearly every race we do, we can win. Right or wrong, I made decisions in the first half of the race with that mentality and that hurt us in the end. With the clarity of post-race hindsight I should have been more conservative, but my focus was to position us to make the podium cut. Here is the story of our adventure...

This year, Odyssey fielded two teams again. Sara, Mark and I made up the Masters team and Andy, JP and Kim were our “Young Guns”. We arrived on Thursday afternoon to the Deep Creek Wisp Resort. We quickly checked in, grabbed some food and did the pre-race briefing. After that, we went over to the condo we were sharing with the TOG/AAS team, hung out with Mike Sero and got some rest.





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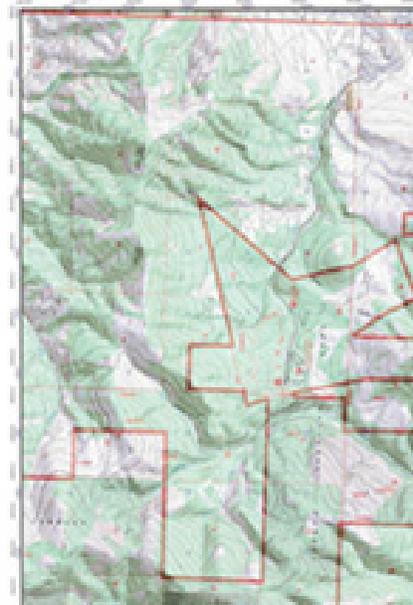
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Friday morning came early. We received our maps and rules of travel, and got to work strategizing on the best way to attack this rogaine style course.

GO!

We ran about 20 steps and then walked and speed hiked straight up the ski slope. It was really steep and we warmed up right away. Once we summited at the Adventure Sports Center, it was a circus as one person from each team got ready to do some serious boogie boarding and a bit of white water swimming.

We were at the "...only mountaintop recirculating whitewater course in the world." Each team would boogie board a total of three laps. Like us, most elected to have each teammate do one lap. However, some decided to have one or two teammates do all of this section. Prior to the race this section was a definite

concern by everyone. Would it be hard? Would we get hurt? Was it smart? All sorts of questions related to how it could affect our race. Afterward (like so many things in life) it was...Awesome!!! With hindsight, I wish I had done two laps and Mark could have looked at the maps the entire time.

Mark went first, followed by Sara. Then it was my turn, and my lap was unforgettable. After a short struggle to get into the flow of the current it was drop after drop. I had a fast line, but after the first small waterfall I spent a lot of time underwater and only got one or two breaths during each of the next two drops. It wasn't until I was nearly done



that I realized the safety person had tightened my PFD so much it was severely inhibiting my ability to take a deep breath. Ugh. No harm, no foul – race on! I managed to stay out of all the eddies and not get bashed into any of the rocks. Then I was in the big circulating pool. It was time for some aggressive swimming and then it was over. Back to my teammates, a run down the mountain, a quick TA and we were off on the first bike session. It started with a time trial right back up the ski mountain to the white water center. After that, we had to go get three checkpoints in the Dry Run trail system. We mapped out a route and got them all without too much difficulty. Then, it was a long road ride back to the TA at the Wisp resort. We stowed our bikes and grabbed our paddling gear and headed out at a quick one mile jog to the boat put-in/takeout. We got to our boats in the top 12 or 15 and got out on the water.

We identified the paddle as one of two cruxes of the race. It was long, and there was a foot trek/o-section in the middle of it. If you thought ahead of time that your team wouldn't clear the course, the two farthest paddle points were definitely the points to drop. I believed the course was clearable, and to podium, you had to go after those points. You could do the paddle points in any order and you could get the foot section early and then get more paddle points or you could knock out all the long paddle points and then do the foot section on the return to the put in. Given the time of day and the impending bad weather, we elected to get all the long points first. I reasoned the weather would get worse and with a 7-10 mph headwind already, it would make paddling to the far away points later nearly impossible.



Of all those assumptions, there were only two that were correct: 1. The course was clearable. 2. To podium you had to go after those points. Ugh. The weather was definitely bad, the paddle was tough going and although we were putting out a ton of effort, we weren't moving nearly as fast as we needed to. When we finally had the wind to our back on the return leg, the wind died down! As the front rolled in, there was the literal calm before the storm and anyone that did the foot section first benefitted from a much easier subsequent paddle. Grrrrr...

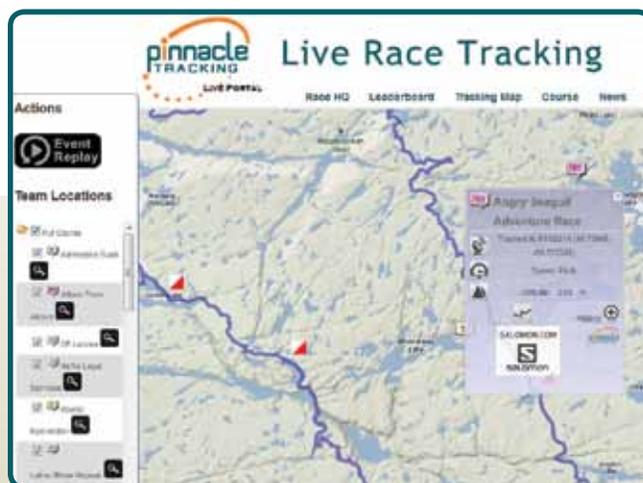
With the hardest and longest part of a strenuous and trying paddle behind us, we were finally on our feet. Mark crushed the navigation on this loop section and although my knee was hurting, we still made relatively good time. Back to the boats and the final haul back up the lake to the put-in/take-out.

We did a short trek back to the main TA and got out of all our wet clothes. As the rain really started and the sun set we prepped for the next 18-20 hours of racing.

We started with a fast road section and made good time with a lot of descending and relatively easy ups (you know as your experiencing it, you'll pay for it later somewhere...). We had our groove on and as we moved to the double track and mud, we were ticking off CPs efficiently. Since this was a rogaine, teams were all attacking the race differently. In a cool stroke of luck, we ran into the other Odyssey team out in the middle of the first bike section on the only point we had trouble on. We re-attacked it together, bagged the CP and were all off on our separate, merry ways. It was good to see them; they were in great spirits and moving really well. It seemed like the GOALS team



Pinnacle Tracking, a Maine based company that was born from the needs of Adventure Racers, is pleased to be the Official Tracking System of the USARA.



Founded by longtime adventure racer and Untamed Adventure Race Director, Grant Killian and professional guide and adventure company owner Russell Walters, Pinnacle Tracking supplies handheld inReach™ satellite trackers, manufactured by U.S. based DeLorme, along with airtime and integrated mapping capabilities for a variety of races and events ranging from 1 – 10 days duration.

Utilizing the Iridium satellite network, the lightweight DeLorme inReach™ tracking devices provide 100% global coverage and will automatically transmit regular GPS location reports to a **web based event portal**. The portal enables race organizers, supporters and friends to closely follow each team's location accurately on a map from anywhere in the world.

In addition to their sophisticated GPS tracking and location capabilities, the inReach™ devices provide the added security of **24 / 7 SOS alerts and two-way satellite messaging** to racers, enabling teams to communicate in real-time with organizers and emergency personnel without having to carry bulky and expensive satellite phones.

The tracking devices can be programmed to transmit their location at intervals ranging from 1-minute to 8-hour intervals and are delivered to event organizers fully programmed, ready to use.

Already **proven** at Canada's Wilderness Traverse, Untamed New England, the SCI Maine Mountain Challenge and used at the 2013 Adventure Racing World Championships in Costa Rica, let us send you a quote to support your next "off the grid" event.



For more details see
www.PinnacleTracking.com
call us at (877) 486-8263
or find us on Facebook
at Pinnacle Tracking.

had a similar plan for that section of the race as we did and we spent a lot of time going back and forth with them until the next trek section.

This trek section was a strategic math problem overlaid on a topographic map. There were a multitude of checkpoints and each one had a different value attributed to it. Rather than visit every checkpoint, we only had to accumulate 100 points. So, we had to figure out which subset of checkpoints to go after. In the pre-race brief they had told us to plan for a lot of time on this section. We had another fast TA, and tried to warm up as we devised a plan. We left the TA, warmed up and started a slow jog out the most distant CP. Just before we attacked off the main road, we confirmed our location on a kiosk map. The map showed the locations of the campsites relative to the terrain and roads. Off we went. When we returned after picking up that CP, everything went wrong. What we originally thought was fortuitous, proved to be our undoing. The map wasn't correct, so as we used the campsites as our attack points we were not on the correct features. Since the terrain was countless repeating features, we were stuck in a faulty decision making loop until Mark started looking only at where the river paralleling the road was crossing under it. After a frustrating bit, we were dialed back in. Unfortunately, that error put us too far behind our drop dead timeline for clearing that section. So, we made the tough decision to only get 65 total points and to start heading back.

Another TA, and we were off on our bikes for the long ride to the finish, picking up several CPs along the way. The wind was whipping and as we biked some of the high exposed ridge lines on the pavement pulling on our pace line was definitely a lot



harder than tucking back in it! Remember the beginning of the bike, flying downhill? This is the section where we paid for it, gaining all that elevation back and then some. We climbed up and rode through part of the foot section from the paddle, topping out near a fire tower. From there it was a fast ride off the back of the mountain down switchbacks, onto pavement and around the lake to the main TA.

A blazing (sub 4 minute) TA and we were off. We didn't have enough time left to pick up all the CPs on the final foot section. In fact, we weren't sure if we had enough time to get one! But, we were there to race so we ran, shuffled and power hiked up another part of the ski resort mountain. Mark lasered us to the point, we punched and ran all the way back to the finish. With less than 20 minutes left on the clock we were done!!!!



“Adventure racing builds such great relationships. The experiences that I have from racing with my friends through many parts of the world are some of my best life memories. To me every race is not just an opportunity to push myself and compete at a high level, it is also a time to make great memories with friends and family and see beautiful places that most people would never dream of seeing. I really consider it a gift to have the physical ability, the desire and motivation to race and to have the chance to race with friends and teammates like you and Mark.”

- Sara Dallman



QUEEN OF PAIN



ADVENTURE, RISK & TRIUMPH
ON THE PATH LESS TRAVELED

RUSCH TO GLORY

REBECCA RUSCH WITH SELENE YEAGER

REBECCA RUSCH IS THE QUEEN OF PAIN, relentlessly fast on her feet, on the water, or racing a bike. But before she became one of the world's great endurance athletes, she was a normal person like you and me—just tougher, more determined.

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

RUSCH TO GLORY is set in the exotic locales and extreme conditions that forged an extraordinary athlete from ordinary roots. Known today as the Queen of Pain for her incredible perseverance against all odds, Rusch tells her story of transformation to inspire anyone to discover their own greatness.

 **velopress**[®]

AVAILABLE in bookstores, bike shops, and online. PREVIEW the book at velopress.com/rusch.

Ultimately, we did not make our goal of getting on the podium. We did however; take 2nd place in the Masters Category! And most importantly, as Sara so eloquently portrayed, it is about the relationships we build and all the incredible things we get to experience. From that optic, the 2014 USARA Adventure Race National Championship was certainly an unforgettable experience.



Thanks to all the people and companies that made this possible like our sponsor Ronny and Odyssey Adventure Racing. Thanks to the USARA for putting on the event and the heroic efforts of the race director to put all this together. Lastly, thanks to all our friends and families for supporting us as we chase our passion and continually push our limits.

See you outside. **AW**

USARA #1 Nationally Ranked Team



Congratulations to Rev3 Mountain Khakis for earning the title of #1 Nationally Ranked Team for the 4th straight year!

Rev3 Mountain Khakis held the #1 spot in the USARA National Rankings for a good part of the year and they have proven to be a consistently competitive team. Four years as the #1 ranked team is quite a feat and a record that could stand the test of time.

2015 USARA Adventure Race National Championship host site announced

The USARA is proud to announce that the 2015 USARA Adventure Race National Championship will be held in Pine Mountain State Resort Park, Kentucky. We are excited to have Stephanie Ross of Flying Squirrel Adventures as the race director. Stephanie produced an epic national championship course in 2011 and we expect the 2015 course will also be a course to remember. Stephanie's experience as an international adventure racer, a navigational guru and a respected race director are the winning ingredients that will produce an epic 2015 event.

Stephanie Ross on directing the USARA National Championship, "Beginning with Flying Squirrel Adventures' first USARA Adventure Race National Championship at Cumberland Falls in 2011, Kentucky State Parks has been an incredible partner in our mission to bring adventure racing to the bluegrass state.

We are really excited to be back in southeast Kentucky for 2015. This part of the state is rugged, remote and spectacularly beautiful. Pine Mountain State

Resort Park lies on the southeast side of a rocky, narrow ridgeline dotted with inviting gaps. The fascinating geologic formations, wide open vistas, huge hemlocks, and historic CCC structures are just a few of the notable sights within the park. The Cumberland River snakes through the town of Pineville below, and just a few miles south is Cumberland

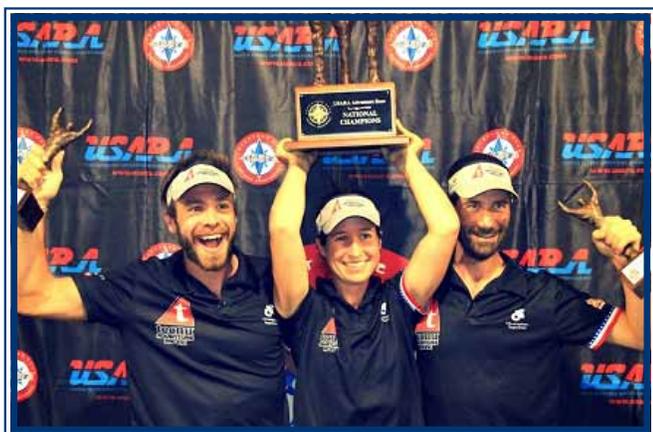
Gap, a passageway through the Appalachians used by native Americans and later by pioneers traveling west into Kentucky.

An important point along the Wilderness Road, these are Daniel Boone's stomping grounds. As racers tackle the relentless, steep slopes, I hope they'll be inspired and motivated by thoughts of those early, hardy trailblazers.



2014 USARA Adventure Race National Champions

Congratulations to the following teams who persevered through grueling conditions, fierce competition and an epic course to emerge as the 2014 USARA Adventure Race National Champions.



Coed – Tecnu Adventure Racing



Coed Masters – Rev 3/MK (Masters)



Open – Richmond ASR: Raging Burritos



Collegiate – The Adventure Sports Institute at Garrett College

New rules for the USARA National Ranking System

The USARA National Ranking System will be adopting a few rule changes for the 2015 year.

The length of events has been adjusted and will be based on advertised time (previously based on winning time). The new advertised race times are as follows: Sprint Adventure Races will be 0 – 9:59, Adventure Races will be 10 – 35:59 and Expedition Adventure Races will now be 36 hours plus.

The points awarded for finishing have also been modified for the 2015 year. Visit the ranking page at USARA.com to view all of the updated ranking rules. **AW**

Product Reviews



Guideline Eyewear Keel

The Guideline Keel polarized sunglasses are built for the water, providing amazing glare protection for fisherman, boaters & outdoor enthusiast. The Keel's frames are made from Grilamid BTR which consists of sustainable, recyclable materials. The polarized polycarbonate lenses are tough and provide 100% UV protection. Lastly the rubber brow and nose pads provide a secure fit so your Keels will stay in place and not end up on the bottom of the lake. The Keel are a great pair of eyewear for the outdoorsman.

Maui Jim Spartan Reef

The Maui Jim Spartan Reef are named for one of the outer reefs of Kanaha on the Central Maui coastline near Paia known for producing big surf and long sessions. The durable nylon Spartan Reef frame wraps around the face providing fantastic sun protection for those long days on the water or long hikes the dunes. The Spartan Reefs' are comfortable, durable and stylish sunglasses that are built to last and will be sure to make your buddies drool.



Maui Jim North Point

The Maui Jim North Point are inspired by the North Shore of Maui, looking out towards Molokai. The North Point are an updated aviator style which are perfect for flying, driving down the coast or just swinging in a hammock. The matte finish alloy frame is both strong and saltwater safe. The classic look of the North Point provide the versatility of use from black tie events to a day at the beach. Great look, great product.



Under Armor Igniter 2.0

The Under Armor Igniter 2.0 sunglasses feature frames that are built from a combination of titanium & Grilamid which provides both flexibility and strength. A 3 point grip system with an adjustable nose piece keeps the Igniter 2.0 in place and airflow technology prevents overheating. The super strong polycarbonate lenses are coated to prevent both scratching & smudging and provide UVA, UVB & UVC protection. Stylish & functional you will find the Igniter 2.0 deliver what they promise.



Product Reviews

Winter 2015



West



Bolt

Club Ride Pure West & Bolt

The Club Ride Pure West & Bolt are the definition of functional fashion. The lightweight, quick dry wicking fabric is perfect for any outdoor activity. They boasts a UPF 30 stretch fabric which does not restrict movement and the underarm & side panel mesh help keep you cool. These amazing shirts feature a hidden front zipper and two zippered rear storage pockets which include a media port. The pearl snaps are the icing on the cake and really add a distinctive highlight on these shirts. The Pure West & Bolt are the perfect travel shirt and will hold their own while biking, hiking or dancing the night away.

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Canada Goose HyBridge Lite

The Canada Goose HyBridge Lite is a super light, super warm, super cool jacket. The flexible fabric sides make the HyBridge Lite comfortable and allow for maximum movement in any activity. The HyBridge Lite Features 2 zippered hand pockets, an internal pocket and thumb holes. The 800 fill goose down will keep you plenty warm and you will be amazed at how small the HyBridge Lite will pack down. Perfect for that back country hike or the urban excursion, the Hybridge Lite will become your go to light jacket.

.....

Darn Tough Hiker 1/4 Sock Cushion

The Darn Tough Hiker was built to withstand the worst conditions the great outdoors can dish out without compromising comfort. The Merino Wool Hiker is a fast drying all season sock featuring great cushioning without the bulk. The Darn Tough Hiker is an antimicrobial sock which means it repels bacteria and odor. Both in men & women's sizes, the Hiker is a great sock for just about any activity. The Hiker 1/4 is backed by Darn Tough's lifetime warranty.



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The Pendulum connects burly, protective footwear with a supple, sensitive racing flat. You can have it all.

Trail Running



MEN'S 7592



vasque.com

Product Reviews

Winter 2015



ENO Guardian SL

The ENO Guardian SL is 20% lighter than the Guardian and perfect for the ultralight backpacker. The no-see-um netting will protect you from all those creepy crawlers and the Guardian SL fits all ENO hammocks. The simple and quick set up are key in high insect areas and the Guardian comes with a stuff sack. The ENO Guardian SL is a perfect addition to your hammock rig.

ENO Pro Nest

The ENO Pro Nest is the smallest and lightest hammock from ENO weighing in at a measly 13 ounces. The Pro Nest packs down to the size of an orange leaving plenty of space in your pack for those other essentials. The Pro Nest is light on weight but still provides all of the great features you have come to expect from ENO. The High-strength, breathable woven nylon and triple interlocking stitching guarantee years of reliable use and the attached stuff sack is practical. If size and weight are a factor you cannot go wrong with the ENO Pro Nest.



Holland's Lightning Strikes Fire Starter

Holland's Lightning Strikes Fire Starter is a beautiful piece of CNC machined aluminum which will draw any man's attention like a moth to light. The Lightning Strikes has a built in tinder storage compartment which holds enough tinder for over a dozen fires. The flint is replaceable and the fire starter is simple to use. The Lightning Strikes was appropriately named giving off massive amounts of scorching sparks making this fire starter effective even on wet days. Get one for your camping kit and never worry about going cold again.

Product Reviews

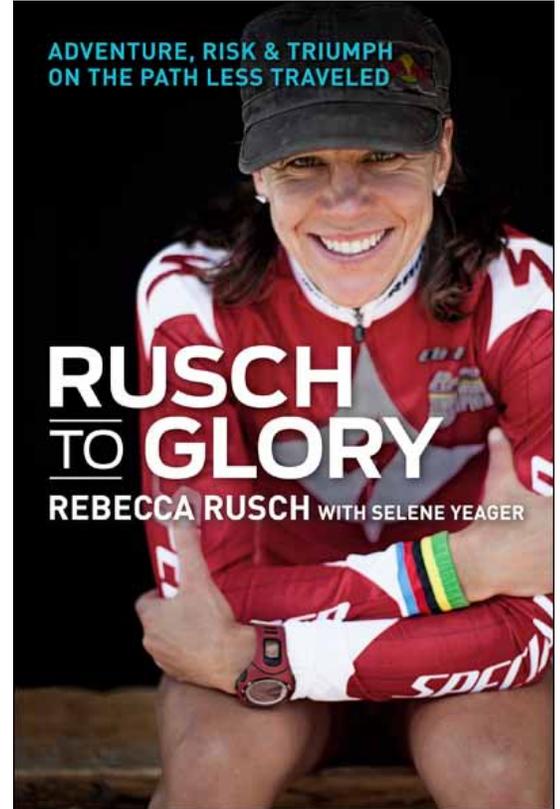
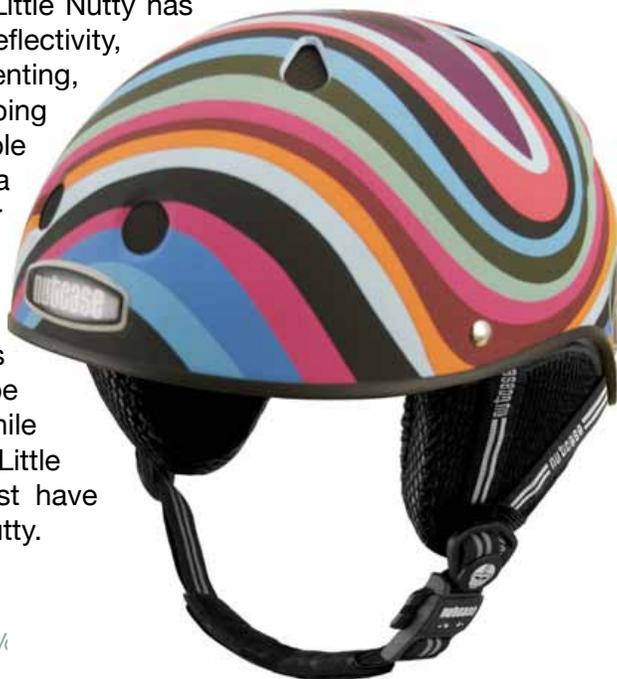


Sand Alive Deluxe Set

Bring the beach into your living room with the Sand Alive Deluxe Set. Sand Alive provides all the fun of sand sculpting without all of the mess. The kit comes with a large plastic tray with legs, 4 pounds of sand and 13 molding tools. Sands Alive never dries out and will provide years of fun. Cultivate your child's creativity with a Sands Alive set.

Nutcase Little Nutty

The Nutcase Little Nutty is a kid-specific snow and bike helmet. These little helmets have the same awesome designs we have come to expect from NutCase. The spin-to-fit dial makes adjustment easy and the magnetic buckle eliminates pinching. The Little Nutty has 360-degree reflectivity, front & back venting, a shock-absorbing liner, removable ear pads & a fleece liner for those extra cold days. Built to protect your little guy's noggin and to be comfortable while doing it, the Little Nutty is a must-have for your little nutty.



Rusch to Glory

In her new book *Rusch to Glory: Adventure, Risk & Triumph on the Path Less Traveled*, Rebecca Rusch weaves her fascinating life's story among the exotic locales and extreme conditions that forged an extraordinary athlete from ordinary roots. Rusch has run the gauntlet of endurance sports over her career as a professional athlete, from climbing, adventure racing, whitewater rafting, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking, racking up world championships along the way. But while she might seem like just another superhuman playing out a fistful of aces, her empowering story proves that anyone can rise above self-doubt and find their true potential.

Known today as the Queen of Pain for her perseverance, Rebecca was a normal kid from Chicago who abandoned a predictable life for one of adventure. *Rusch to Glory* is a fascinating journey into a life of adaptation and perseverance that molded Rebecca Rusch into one of the greatest endurance athletes of all time.



Yeti Hopper 30

Yeti has introduced a soft cooler, the Hopper 30 to their stable. The Hopper 30 stays true to the indestructible, super hero toughness that characterizes the Yeti bloodline. The Hopper boasts welded seams and a tough 840 denier nylon interior & exterior. Four sewn handles, a removable shoulder strap and six reinforced D-rings provide carrying and anchoring options for all occasions. Now for the kicker, the Hopper is leak-proof. Turn the hopper upside down, shake it, flip it and it stays dry as a bone. The Hopper comes with a 3 year warranty and is a must have item for all adventurers.

The Explorers

The Therma Cell Hunters Starter Kit is a must have for any outdoorsman. The kit features a mosquito repellent appliance, a holster and enough refills for 36 hours of protection. The butane cartridge vaporizes the repellent putting it into the air. This will keep mosquitoes, black flies, and no-see-ums at bay by creating a 15 foot by 15 foot barrier. The Therma Cell is silent and does not produce any smells that would scare away game while hunting. Perfect for use in the woods, at the beach or for tailgating, the Therma Cell is truly a product for everyone.



Scrubba

The Scrubba is a modern day washboard built for the modern day explorer. The Scrubba has hundreds of nodules that efficiently clean your clothes in minutes giving you a machine quality wash when you are off the grid. Weighing in at 145 grams the light weight Scrubba can also double as a dry bag. It is as simple as popping in your clothes, adding a little soap and water, giving them a quick scrub and you are done. A must have item for the modern day explorer. **AW**



Shared Vision

by Brandon Bargo



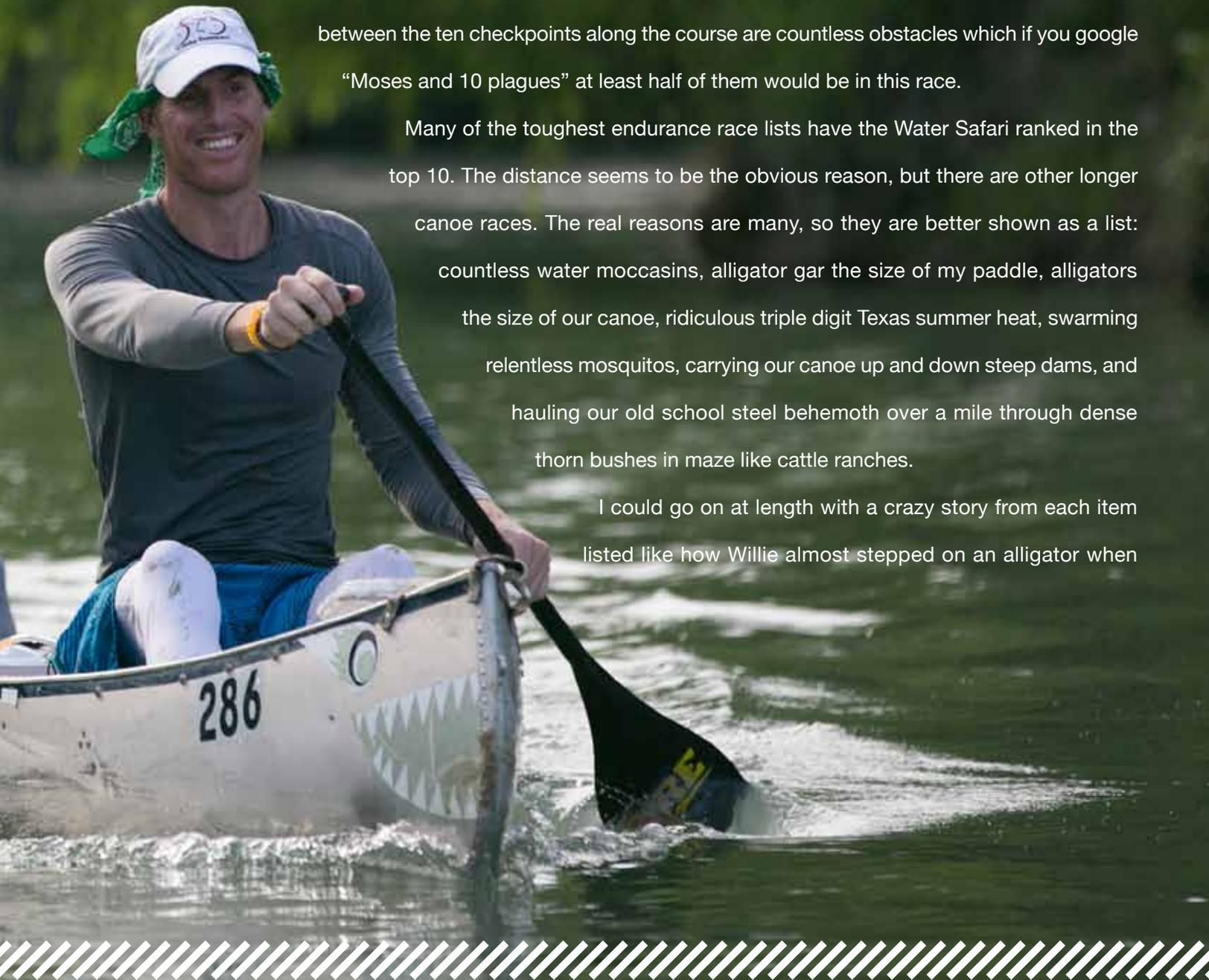
If I jump out now it will all be over. That was one option. The other possibility was smashing him with my \$300 carbon fiber paddle. Too expensive there has to be a third option. We were less than three miles into the 262 mile Texas Water Safari canoe race, which is often called the toughest boat race in the world, and my partner and I were yelling at each other like a couple of school girls fighting over who gets to date Justin Bieber.

We will call my canoe partner “Willie” since we are talking about a Texas canoe race and my partner has red hair. I guess I could also call him Little Richard, but I will try to keep things civil. The first Texas Water Safari race was held in 1963. It was tough then and it is tough now. The race starts in San Marcos, Texas in the beautiful crystal clear waters of Aquarena Springs, winds its way through the Cypress tree-lined San Marcos River and finishes in the no-nothing tiny fishing bay-town of Seadrift, Texas.

In order to make it to the ocean finish my partner and I were given a 100 hour cut-off. In between the ten checkpoints along the course are countless obstacles which if you google “Moses and 10 plagues” at least half of them would be in this race.

Many of the toughest endurance race lists have the Water Safari ranked in the top 10. The distance seems to be the obvious reason, but there are other longer canoe races. The real reasons are many, so they are better shown as a list: countless water moccasins, alligator gar the size of my paddle, alligators the size of our canoe, ridiculous triple digit Texas summer heat, swarming relentless mosquitos, carrying our canoe up and down steep dams, and hauling our old school steel behemoth over a mile through dense thorn bushes in maze like cattle ranches.

I could go on at length with a crazy story from each item listed like how Willie almost stepped on an alligator when



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Cameco Cowboy Tough Expedition Adventure Race

Buffalo, WY
July 16-19, 2015

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Bartram's Wildwood Adventure Race

Columbia, GA
November 7-8, 2015

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getting out of the boat, or how I fell in the water and got out as quick as possible to avoid getting bit by the water moccasin swimming beside me, or the hundreds of alligator gar smashing into our boat, or the shark fin gliding past us as we entered the ocean for the first time. But there is no need to talk of these things because there are two challenges in this race that are far superior to the aforementioned. NO SLEEP and WILLIE.

If the safari allowed a reasonable amount of time, let's say 6 or 7 days to finish, and I had a somewhat agreeable partner I would say the Safari may have been a breezily, enjoyable time out with a nice companion. These however were not the terms. Instead my race felt like an inescapable steel coffin hurtling down a river with constant babble coming from the front of the canoe and no escape.

I was told over and over by Water Safari veterans this race is one of the toughest things in the world a person can do, and even tougher is finding a good partner to get along with. They said by the end of the race my partner and I would either be friends for life or would never talk again.

I had the brainy idea of trying to get someone with very little outdoor experience and no paddling experience to compete with me. I own an outdoor adventure business and have taught leadership and team development for years. I thought this would be a great way to prove to myself the skills I have accrued over the years. I could then use it for years to come in my talks and programs to show what a great leader I am. Good in theory, but oh



how things change when the storms begin.

Willie and I had a plan; we were going to get first in our category. We had been training for months and had even taken second place in a preliminary race a month before. We were set and both of us felt good, but things changed.

We were three miles into the race and just behind the leading team in our category when Willie noticed the team ahead was paddling in a different way. He thought they were being more efficient and using less energy. He said we should be paddling the same way and he did not want to use the paddle stroke we were using because he would become too tired and wouldn't be able to last the entire race. I was blown away. How can we change our plan and strategy on the day of the race just because an opponent's method seems to be better?

The worst part about it is no matter how hard I tried to convince him he would not budge. He decided to change



Florida Sea to Sea
72 Hour Adventure Race

March 5-8, 2015
Meets in Cedar Key, Florida

Hosted by Florida Xtreme Adventures

FloridaSea2Sea.com

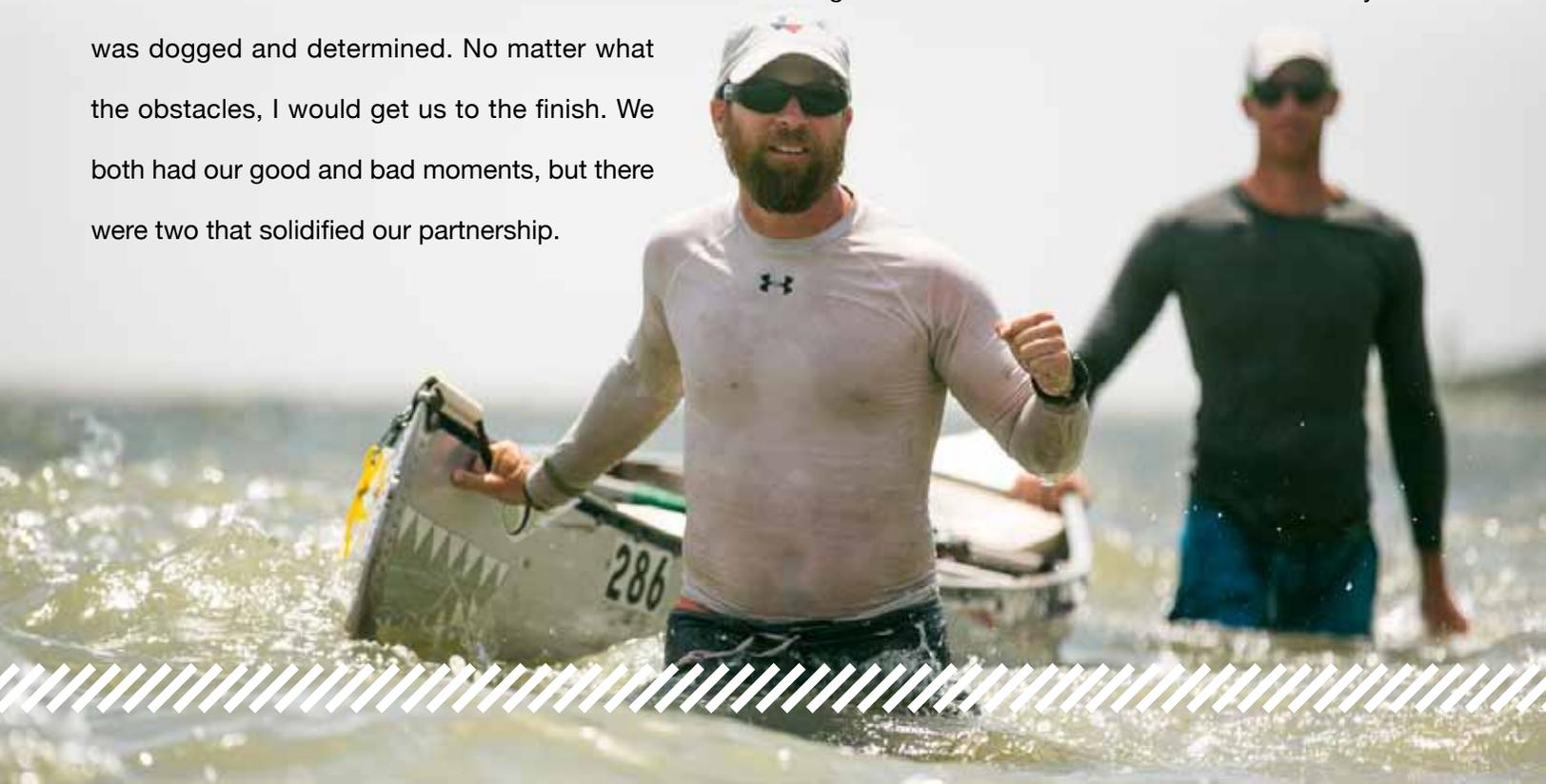
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his paddle technique and there was nothing I could do about it. The canoe connected us literally, anything he did affected me, and anything I did affected him. This meant ultimately both of us would suffer. I had to cover for him and do more work. While we were arguing I felt the energy drain from my body. Something needed to change. Not only would we not get first, we would be lucky to finish. I was having a flash back to conversations about picking a good partner. I have ruined a perfectly good friendship, because I am never talking to this guy again after the race I thought to myself.

I wish I could say things got better. They didn't. But something interesting kept happening throughout the race. The more frustrated I got with Willie the more I realized how much I needed him to finish. He has a way of keeping things lighthearted while maintaining a smile no matter the circumstance. It was the reason I asked him to be my partner. I knew he was athletic, but it was his attitude that drew me to him. He also needed me. I was dogged and determined. No matter what the obstacles, I would get us to the finish. We both had our good and bad moments, but there were two that solidified our partnership.

The first was about 75 miles into the race. I wasn't sure what was happening, but I began to feel queasy. I started throwing up and my body was shutting down. I started assessing my situation and realized I was overhydrated. Just two years before a man died from over hydration. This thought started playing with my mind and I began thinking, I am in the middle of nowhere, it's just a matter of time before I seize up and die. I pushed the morbid thought aside and asked Willie if I could try to sleep it off in the back while he paddled. He jumped into action. Every time I woke up from my stupor I was amazed at how fast he was paddling. All my frustrations with him washed away with each gaze from my haze even if it was fleeting.

The second time came at the end of the race. Willie and I were nearing the ocean. We had been paddling for 3 days straight with only 1 hour of sleep. We had continued to argue on and off throughout. Mostly due to the forced drug like state we created for ourselves to stay in the





QUEST ADVENTURE RACES

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July 25th-Kulshan Quest AR

Bellingham, WA

*Pacific NW qualifier for US Adventure Racing Association
National Championships.



September 26th-Island Quest AR

San Juan Island, WA

QuestAdventureRaces.com



hunt of the race. The winds were horrendous as soon as we entered the bay. We had a spray skirt to cover our canoe but it wasn't sealing properly. Instead our canoe was quickly filling up with sea water. We paddled to the other side of the bay, just barely making it. Willie was done. He didn't want anything more to do with the race. I told him I would attach a rope to the canoe and pull it along the shore while he catches his breath. I did this for what seemed to be hours, but was more like an hour. I should have been angry that Willie was giving up at the end of the race and making me do all the work at the worst possible time. I was instead invigorated that we were nearing the end and I would do whatever it took to get us both to the finish. I also wanted to pay him back for the hard work he put in when I felt bad and he paddled us without complaint.

I remember hearing of the Water Safari nearly 15 years ago and began dreaming about competing, finishing and winning the novice category. I talked about the dream with Willie while we were on trail runs and swept him up into this grand vision.

All strong teams must have a compelling shared vision. A team can be a two man canoe or a corporation of a thousand people. One person may have started with the dream or vision but if it is not shared with equal enthusiasm the vision will lose momentum and eventually fade away. When trying to obtain a shared vision there will always be tension. Big visions always have tension. Some tension is good and some is bad. The bad tension will pull you down towards your current comfortable

reality. The good tension will pull you up towards the huge requirement needed to achieve the big vision.

Without a shared vision, a team lacks purpose and direction. A corporation will continue to struggle to reach its monthly sales goals because no one understands the company's vision for the future. A sports team will talk about winning, but will never win with regularity because no one on the team can explain what vision they all share without clichés and general sports talk.

Willie and I had a strong compelling shared vision to finish and win the Texas Water Safari novice category. It was spelled out clearly before and during our training runs. Tension was constant. From the non-stop natural obstacles, the bickering of how the vision should be carried out, to the huge goal we set to win our category. If the shared vision wasn't compelling enough or held equally, the bad tension would have been too overwhelming and one or both of us could and would have quit. Sometimes the bad will try to overtake the good but as in our case, the good overwhelmed the bad and our vision for the future triumphed and pulled us up to a respectable 78 hour third place finish. **AW**



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Sea level to 8848

by Rona McKay and Robert Porter

Around March this year, sitting on my couch in Peebles, we looked at a map of the world and considered where we would go if we had limitless time and money was no concern. We would walk the Great Wall of China. We could travel the Trans-Siberian Railway. We would buy an old VW van and drive it to and through Africa. We could trek in the Himalayas, visit Everest Base Camp. Base camp? But why trek to the base of a mountain? We would climb Everest!

At some point during this discussion, it became apparent that my boyfriend Robert was taking this suggestion entirely seriously. He went a step further; he proposed climbing the mountain from sea level at the Bay of Bengal, to ensure we gained the entire 8848m under our own power. We both agreed it would be an amazing challenge, and the subject was dropped. But an idea had taken root.

Two weeks later, and we found ourselves coming back to the same idea. We researched online, and discovered Tim Macartney-Snape had successfully ascended Everest from sea level in 1990. So it could be done: 1200km due North across India and through (and up!) Nepal to Everest. Robert was convinced, not only was the expedition theoretically possible, but more practically speaking, we could do it. And we could raise money for charity as well. I wasn't quite so sure.

8848

I could think of at least half a dozen reasons why it would be a very bad idea. Ultimately though, I couldn't resist the challenge. "Let's go for it", I finally agreed in a Skype conversation. 0 to 8848 was born.

Hi, our names are Rona McKay and Robert Porter. Through this column, we want to bring you with us on our expedition from sea level to the summit of Everest. Over the next two and a half years, we will show you everything we are doing to make this a success. From our fitness regimes, training climbs, and technical practice, through to organization, fundraising, and gathering sponsorship. We don't expect it to be easy, but with some luck and a lot of perseverance and hard work, we hope to not only make it happen for us, but to give you an insight into what goes on behind the scenes to make such an expedition happen. There are no guarantees in this. We can't be sure we will get the publicity, the sponsorship, the fitness, or the weather to be able to achieve all we want to, but we have committed to doing everything we can to make this expedition happen.

We are normal people; Robert, a 34 year-old PhD student based in the Netherlands and Rona, a 30 year old veterinarian. We have decided to try and make this epic expedition a reality. Both of us are from Scotland, and we love hill walking, climbing, trekking and in general being outdoors. What we certainly are not, is elite athletes. Both of us have friends who could easily beat us in any physical challenge you cared to set. We are starting from zero in more ways than one. Not only are we going to start from sea level, but we have no training or experience in extreme mountaineering, fundraising, publicity, or any of the other skills we are almost certain to need (like writing columns). Over the course of our preparations, we are going to have to become fitter, stronger, smarter, and more skilled.

So, what exactly is the plan? You can't just turn up to Everest and start walking. Either legally (you need a permit from the government) or physically (without appropriate training, you wouldn't make it too far). We have created a provisional timetable for our major training trips. These include Mount Rainier (May 2015), Aconcagua (Winter 2015/16), Denali (Spring 2016), Cho-Oyu (Winter 2016/17), followed by beginning our walk at the Bay of Bengal in February 2017.

We have read about dozens of expeditions that sounded amazing. Crossing Antarctica, climbing the 7 summits, walking/cycling/canoeing around the world. When we read about these activities, we found we had two emotions, jealousy and curiosity. Jealousy is pretty easy to explain, these expeditions sounded amazing, and we would have loved to go on any of them. But we were also curious about how these expeditions actually ended up happening. How did they get money? From who? What was the training? Did they have special contacts? Previous experience? Did you have to be a professional athlete? None of these questions ever seemed to get



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The Solite



The Solite proves that not all headlamps are created equal. Capturing the spirit of innovation and industrial design; the Solite effectively functions as a headlamp, a flashlight, a lantern, a bike light, and even a helmet light. At a mere 112 grams with up to 40 hours run time, the Solite offers more performance and features than any light on the market: regulated output, battery status indicator, Micro-USB rechargeable - this is the go-to light for your next adventure.



Headlamp



Helmet Light



Flashlight



Bike Light

answered, and that is something we want to do our little bit towards fixing. Through this column, and on our website, we will give all the information we can about who we have contacted, for what, why, and when, along with the texts of emails we send out and details of any agreements we reach. Our hope is that these can provide a basis for others to see how they could do something similar if they wanted. We certainly wish it existed already.

As well as the grueling physical challenge, we hope to raise £200,000 to provide scholarships, safe houses, counseling, and skill development to victims of child prostitution and trafficking through Bantuan Coffee (www.bantuancoffee.org). This is a foundation that Robert helped to establish in 2012, which provides much-needed assistance to victims of child prostitution and trafficking in Indonesia. There are approximately 70,000 victims of child prostitution every year in Indonesia alone, so there is a lot still to be done. Hopefully, at the end of this expedition, we will be able to provide a lot of care to a lot of children.

We hope that you will enjoy reading along with us, and if you have any questions we will do our best to answer them. You can post comments or questions and keep up to date on a more regular basis at www.0to8848.org or by following us on twitter (@0to8848). The next step is getting a training plan, and a vaguely accurate cost estimate, and a schedule, and a route, and sponsorship...

We have a lot of research to do and emails to write. In the next column you can find out how many of these things we have achieved. It's going to be a busy couple of years. **AW**



8848

USARA Adventure Race National Championship

Pine Mountain State Resort Park, Kentucky - October 1-3, 2015

The Frigid Infliction	2/28/15	Bolton Valley, VT
Sunshine Sea to Sea	3/5/15	Crystal River, FL
Palmetto Swamp Fox AR	3/14/15	McClellanville, SC
Physically Stoving Adventure Race	3/14/15	Quincy, IL
Break Up Adventure Race	3/21/15	Milford, KS
Lightning Strikes Adventure Race	3/22/15	Mount Carroll, IL
The Breakdown	4/11/15	The Breaks, VA
Off Road Rage	4/18/15	Salina, KS
Shenandoah Epic Adventure Race	4/18/15	Front Royal, VA
Smith Rock Spring Sting	4/26/15	Bend, OR
MISSION Adventure Race	5/9/15	Brownstown, IN
Wild Wonderful Adventure Race	5/17/15	Oak Hill, WV
Blue Ridge Mountain Adventure Race	5/30/15	Blue Ridge, GA
The Jersey Inferno	June TBA	Northern, NJ
All Out 24	6/6 /15	Bishop, CA
Gold Rush Summer Challenge	6/6/15	Sonora, CA
Uwharrie 18	6/6/15	Troy, NC
Plot, Pedal, Paddle Adventure Race	6/13/15	Dixon, IL
Run, Row, Rock & Roll Adventure Race	6/13/15	Fairbury, NE
The Cradle of Liberty	6/20/15	Wagontown, PA
Stubborn Mule	6/27/15	Wausau, WI
Expedition Alaska	6/28/15	Eagle River, AK
REV3 Casper Strong	7/12/15	Casper, WY
Cameco Rev3 Cowboy Tough AR	7/16/15	Casper, WY
Sheltowee Extreme	7/18/15	Laurel City, KY
Kulshan Quest	7/25/15	Bellingham, WA
Krista Griesacker Memorial Race	8/1/15	Hamburg, PA
State Games of America	8/1/15	Ashland, NE
The Bitter Pill	8/1/15	Bolton, VT
Pisgah 26.2 Hour	8/8/15	North Carolina
The Hogback	8/8/15	Ocoee, TN
The Thunder Rolls Adventure Race	8/22/15	Mt. Carroll, IL
Bend AR	8/29/15	Bend, OR
Longest Day and Night Adventure Race	9/1/15	New Paltz, NY
Howl at the Moon	9/1/15	Hobe Sound, FL
Tahoe Big Blue	9/1/15	Lake Tahoe, CA
Coosa River Challenge XIII	10/1/15	Wetumpka, AL
Bartram's Wildwood Epic AR	11/7/15	Columbia Couty, GA
Sky Island Challenge	11/7/15	Tucson, AZ
The Fig XIII	11/7/15	Slade, KY
Huntsville Hammer	11/14/15	Huntsville, TX



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Regional Sponsorship

The first place coed team from each regional qualifying race will receive a \$400.00 sponsorship, provided by the regional qualifying race, to be applied to the team's entry fee for the 2014 USARA Adventure Race National Championship™.