

# Adventure World

magazine

FALL 2016



**GODZone**  
ADVENTURE LIKE NO OTHER

Presented By:



## USARA National Ranking System

# USARA National Rankings

1	Rib Mountain Racing	133.00
2	Rev3Adventure	102.00
3	Adventure Capitalists	97.00
4	Strong Machine	97.00
5	Checkpoint Zero	96.00
6	WEDALI	95.00
7	Journey Racing	93.00
8	Off-Course Navigation	86.00
9	Silent Chasers	81.00
10	Layer 3	74.00
11	Alpine Shop	70.00
12	Toporadicals	63.00
13	NYARA	55.00
14	Good'Nuff	49.00
15	Control Freaks	46.00

# Contents

FALL 2016



**02** 2016 USARA National Ranking

**04** USARA News

**07** AIR-15

**15** The Science of Camouflage

**23** Optics Reviews

**28** Hike Across Madagascar

**40** GODZone: *Adventure Like No Other*

**49** Product Reviews

**54** The Pillar of Wisdom

**60** Shooting Sports Reviews

**67** While You Are Sleeping: Part 2



Editor:  
Troy Farrar

Assistant Editor:  
Debbie Farrar

Graphic Designer:  
Rae Zurcher



## USARA National Ranking System

### New USARA Ranking Rules

The USARA has adopted new point values for the National Ranking System to create a more equitable ranking system.

The main changes under the newly adopted rules are that regional qualifying races will provide five bonus points and the expedition race points have been adjusted. The USARA Adventure Race National Championship will also have a new point structure that rewards the top 20 finishing teams with ranking points.

For more information on the updated USARA National Ranking System visit the ranking page at [www.USARA.com](http://www.USARA.com).

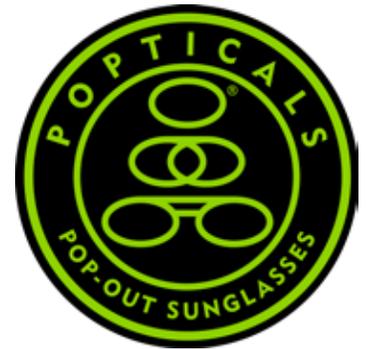
### Popticals to manage USARA Adventure Race National Championship Coverage

Popticals, the official sunglasses of the USARA, will be sending in their media team to manage the live coverage of the USARA Adventure Race National Championship.

Troy Farrar, President of the USARA commented, "We are excited about the partnership with Popticals and the fact that the Popticals media team will be quarterbacking the coverage of the USARA Adventure Race National Championship.

The Popticals coverage will really keep the viewers that are not able to attend the championship plugged into the event and promises to be the best coverage we have ever had for the national championship."

Follow team profiles, developing stories & all of the USARA national championship action on the USARA national championship website and the USARA facebook site.



## 2016 USARA Adventure Race National Championship

The 2016 USARA Adventure Race National Championship in Columbia County, Georgia on October 14-15, 2016 is shaping up to be one of the best national championships to date. The race directors at Rev 3 Adventures have developed a challenging and beautiful course that is sure to create some fantastic national championship memories. Support from The Columbia County CVB will insure that the 2016 USARA Adventure Race National Championship is an event that should not be missed. Categories are available for Coed, Coed Masters, Collegiate & Open (all male or all female) teams and Coed Masters, Collegiate & Military teams do not have to qualify. Be sure to get your team qualified or sign up if you are in a category that is not required to qualify as racers can expect a great course followed by an excellent time at the awards banquet.

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



# Exclusive ADVENTURE RACING GEAR

made by  **Champion System**

Fully customizable apparel: #Beyourownbrand



## APEX WEATHER GUARD S/S JERSEY

A High end, weather resistant, and highly breathable jersey that can be fully printed. The fabric is wind proof and weather proof. Get the same protection as the pros demand whilst keeping your design and brand consistent - no matter the weather. Made entirely from Italian fabric.



## WEATHER GUARD L/S JERSEY

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



## APEX ENDURO RUN SHORTS

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



endorsed  
by



[sales@champ-sys.com](mailto:sales@champ-sys.com)



718-383-8855



[champ-sys.com](http://champ-sys.com)



---

---

# AIR-15



---

---

by Troy Farrar

We set out to build an ultra-light weight AR-15 without sacrificing quality for weight. The build had to be light, but it also had to be a quality rifle that would function correctly and that we would not be embarrassed to carry to the range. We wanted to use over the counter parts so our readers could replicate the build, taking this in mind, no specially machined custom parts or exotic components that are no longer in production would be considered. When attempting a super light build, every ounce counts and all of those saved ounces add up to several pounds. After weeks of research & double checking weights with manufacturers, we came up with an awesome rifle that weighed in at a paltry 63.92 ounces, hence the name AIR-15.

## 2A Armament Balios Lite Upper & Lower Receiver



2A Armament has produced the lightest aluminum receiver set on the market, designed specifically for 3 gunners or shooters who desire a light rifle. The lightweight 2A receivers are not light on design, featuring a textured & flared magazine well, an integrated light weight trigger guard and a tapered charging handle ramp which eliminates wear marks. The Balios Lite features an integrated tensioning screw to insure a tight fit and the upper receiver has M4 style feed ramps. The made in the USA 2A Armament receiver set is the perfect combination of form & function giving the shooter a well-designed receiver set that both looks & works great under any circumstances. The Balios Lite receiver set is the perfect starting point when building a light weight AR-15.

[www.2a-arms.com](http://www.2a-arms.com)

## Faxon Firearms 16" PENCIL, 5.56 NATO, Mid-Length, 416-R Stainless Steel QPQ Barrel



The Faxon Firearms pencil barrel is the lightest 16" barrel available on the market period. The completely US made stainless steel improved barrel provides longevity, accuracy and is balanced perfectly providing excellent performance in any circumstance. Faxon

fully stress relieves the barrels and then puts each barrel through a battery of tests including air gauge testing, magnetic particle inspection and checking the headspace using precision hardened gauges to insure quality. The 11 degree targeted crown pencil barrel comes with a 1:8 barrel twist and is completely QPQ coated for corrosion resistance & durability. The Faxon Firearms Pencil barrel is the only real player in the game when building a light weight AR-15.

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

## JP Enterprises Ultra Aluminum LMOS with Enhanced Bolt



The JP Enterprises Ultra Aluminum LMOS with Enhanced Bolt is the standard for light weight competition bolt carrier groups and the lightest BCG on earth. The 7075 T6 aluminum LMOS requires a little more maintenance than your standard plug & play

BCG, however the benefits are amazing. When used with an adjustable gas block the LOMS will virtually remove any recoil making those follow up shots lighting fast and dangerously accurate. The LMOS uses a precision ground 1 piece gas ring that insures perfect bore to gas seal fitment and minimizes friction which increases reliability w h e n fouling occurs. JP Enterprises has covered everything as the LMOS also features a titanium firing pin which eliminates the possibility of a slamfire at high bolt velocities. The JP Enterprises Ultra Aluminum LMOS with Enhanced Bolt is an ultra-light high speed bolt carrier that will improve your accuracy.

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

## Next Intent Tactical Adjustable Titanium Gas Block



The Next Intent Tactical Adjustable Titanium Gas Block is so light that I tied a string to it in case it floated to the ceiling when I unpacked it. The clamp on gas block is available in .625 or .750, is infinitely adjustable and can be locked into the desired setting using a dual set screw design. Made from aerospace grade titanium, the Next Intent Tactical adjustable gas block is lighter than most nonadjustable gas blocks. Available in a both raw bead blasted Ti finish or black, the Next Intent Tactical Adjustable Titanium Gas Block will let you dial in your rifle to perfect operating specs.

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

## Tacom ULW Compensator

The Tacom ULW Compensator is the lightest aluminum compensator on the planet with 3 removable top porting adjustment screws. The shooter can remove the adjustment screws to compensate for clocking or upward muzzle rise. The ULW Compensator is available in .625 or .750 and will both lighten your load & increase your accuracy.

[www.tacom3g.com](http://www.tacom3g.com)



## Tacom Carbine Recoil System & Enhanced Rifle Spring

The ultra-light Tacom Carbine Recoil System is designed to be used with the Tacom Enhanced Carbine Spring and an adjustable gas block to reduce the recoil when using a light weight BCG. Tacom created this easy to install recoil system to aid the shooter by reducing recoil which allows for speedy & accurate follow up shots. This is a must have system for 3 gun competitors and other light weight AR users.

[www.tacom3g.com](http://www.tacom3g.com)



## Elftmann Tactical Ultralight 3 Gun Trigger

The Elftmann Tactical 3 Gun Trigger features all of the proven benefits of the original Elftmann 3 Gun Trigger in an ultra-lightweight body. Elftmann is known for their use of aerospace grade sealed bearings which produce a smooth & fast trigger pull providing both speed & accuracy to the shooter. The pull weight of the Elftmann trigger can be easily adjusted from 2 ¾ lbs – 4 lbs without removing the trigger from the receiver. The short pull, crisp break and quick reset provide the shooter with lightning fast follow up shots. This US made ultra-light trigger is 100% drop safe, available in a straight or curved shoe and comes with a lifetime guarantee.

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



## Magpul MOE K Grip

The Magpul MOE K Grip was designed as an upgrade for the Mil Spec AR-15 pistol grip and boasts an ultra-light, thin compact polymer design that provides a steeper grip angle. The steep grip angle makes the MOE K Grip the perfect choice for a personal defense weapon and for shooters with a smaller hand. Featuring front & rear serrations along with TSP texturing, Magpul insured that you will retain positive weapon control even in wet and slippery conditions.

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



## Magpul M-LOK Polymer Rail

The Magpul M-LOK Polymer Rail is a quick and easy way to attach accessories to M-LOK compatible hand guards. The lightweight made in the US rails are composed of a durable injection molded composite and feature beveled ends to prevent unintended snagging.

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



FOLLOW US ON:



# GUN CORPS

- FIREARMS
- GLOCK ACCESSORIES
- AR ACCESORIES
- OPTICS
- CUSTOM CERAKOTE
- SILENCERS



**GUN-CORPS.COM**

**979.450.3811**

**2501 TEXAS AVE. S, SUITE C-108  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77840**



## Bobro Engineering Low Rider BUIS

The Bobro Engineering LowRider BUIS are the lightest sights available and boast an extremely thin & low profile when folded down. Bobro Engineering's low profile design insures that the rear BUIS will not interfere with your optic. The Lowrider sights flip up easily and provide a positive detent so they stay in place once deployed. The peep rear sight features a lockable windage adjustment and the front sight features a lockable elevation adjustment. Bobro Engineering has produced the lightest & thinnest set of foldable back up sights while maintaining excellent quality providing a superior upgrade for any rifle.

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



## Strike Industries Enhanced Ultimate Dust Cover

The Strike Industries Enhanced Ultimate Dust Cover is constructed of a high density polymer making it lighter & more durable than Mil Spec dust covers. The dust cover features a true seal lip which provides a tight seal and a spring loaded detent rod with a cut out window for easy installation. The Enhanced Ultimate Dust Cover is available in multiple designs & colors which will never fade or deform and features a built in adjustable detent screw to compensate for wear on the receiver.

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



## Smoke Composites Open Shoulder Stock

The Smoke Composites carbon fiber open shoulder stock in short pull length is the lightest stock ever produced. Smoke Composites also offers a carbon fiber stock with a closed shoulder plate which weighs just a hair more than the open stock. The Smoke Composites stocks are functional pieces of art, which are beautifully handcrafted and tough as nails. All of their stocks can be custom built to any desired length. Smoke Composites offers an ultra-light weight carbon fiber buffer plate & aluminum castle nut to keep your rifle light and round out your custom build.

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



## Smoke Composites Handguard

Smoke Composites newest carbon fiber handguard is one of the lightest handguards on the market but they do not sacrifice quality to shed weight. The sturdy handguard will not flex and retains its shape even under the most strenuous use. The ergonomic handguard is compatible with Magpul M-LOK rails and can be configured to handle any accessories you desire. Smoke Composites carbon fiber handguards are efficient heat dissipaters making them a great choice for any shooter who sends lots of rounds down range or utilizes a suppressor. Smoke Composites can custom make your handguard to any length and once you get your mitts around one of these handguards, you will wonder how you ever got by without one.

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





*CT*

CHRISTIAN TAYLOR  
2015  
WORLD CHAMPION

# ROAR BACK

Recover from pain faster with Tiger Balm.

Whether you're a world-class athlete or just a weekend warrior, you can trust Tiger Balm for proven, pill-free pain relief. Made from a blend of herbal ingredients, it's the safe, smart way to beat pain at its own game. Visit us at [facebook.com/TigerBalmUS](https://facebook.com/TigerBalmUS) or [tigerbalm.com](https://tigerbalm.com) for your nearest retailer.



**TIGER BALM®**  
**Works Where It Hurts**



A



B



C



### V7 Weapon Systems

V7 Weapon Systems is your one stop shop for the lightest & best made parts for your upper & lower receiver. The majority of the upper & lower receiver parts for our light weight AR build were V7 Weapons Systems parts. Our extensive V7 list includes the aluminum pivot & rear takedown pin (A), ultra-light bolt catch (B), magazine catch release button (C), Ti buffer retainer pin (D), pistol grip screw (E), Ti trigger pins (F), charging handle (G) & the hybrid 90 degree safety selector with Ti core (H). V7 has a motto "The cure for the common AR" and they hit the nail on the head. If you want to upgrade your rifle with light weight quality parts look no further than V7 Weapon Systems.

[www.vsevenweaponsystems.com](http://www.vsevenweaponsystems.com) **AW**



D



E



H



G



F

# INNOVATION | QUALITY | HERITAGE | SERVICE



These are the words that best describe the Faxon Firearms family of products. Faxon firearms is quickly becoming the industry leader and industry changer.

At Faxon, we deliver products like the ARAK platform rifle system that combines the best of the AR-15 and the AK-47 into one hybrid innovation. With the edition of high-end Houlding Precision Rifles, a full line AR-15 barrel manufacturing division and a soon-to-be announced gas impingement line of AR rifles, the Faxon family of products continues to become the innovators of the firearms industry.



11101 Adwood Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45240  
Phone: 513-674-2580  
[www.faxonfirearms.com](http://www.faxonfirearms.com)



Faxon manufactures the some of the finest in Black Rifle barrels to outfit everyone from the home based builder to the most discriminating of shooters. A great value barrel without sacrificing quality is what we are all about. You can purchase any Faxon Barrel from one of our dealers or directly online from the factory. Faxon Barrels are Button Rifled and made from top-quality steel.

Produced in our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Cincinnati, OH, all of our barrels are 100% Made in the USA and 100% Mag Particle inspected before shipping. From the basic .223 models to our high-end Gunner Series and Flame Fluted barrels, you can expect nothing but the best from Faxon barrels.

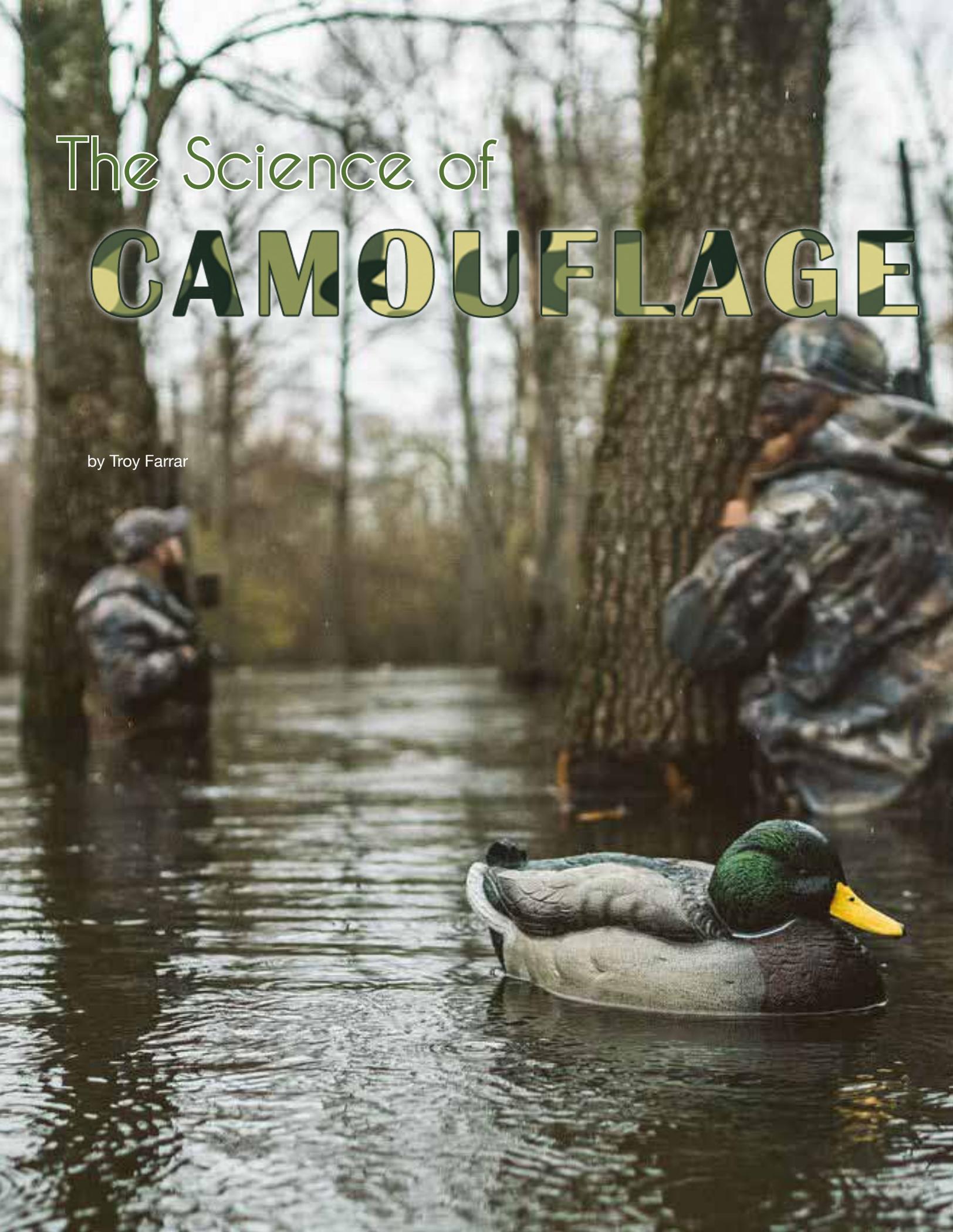


11101 Adwood Drive Cincinnati, OH 45240  
Phone: 513-674-2580

To purchase direct visit:  
[www.faxonfirearms.com](http://www.faxonfirearms.com)

# The Science of **CAMOUFLAGE**

by Troy Farrar



# SERIOUS HYDRATION FOR SERIOUS ATHLETES™

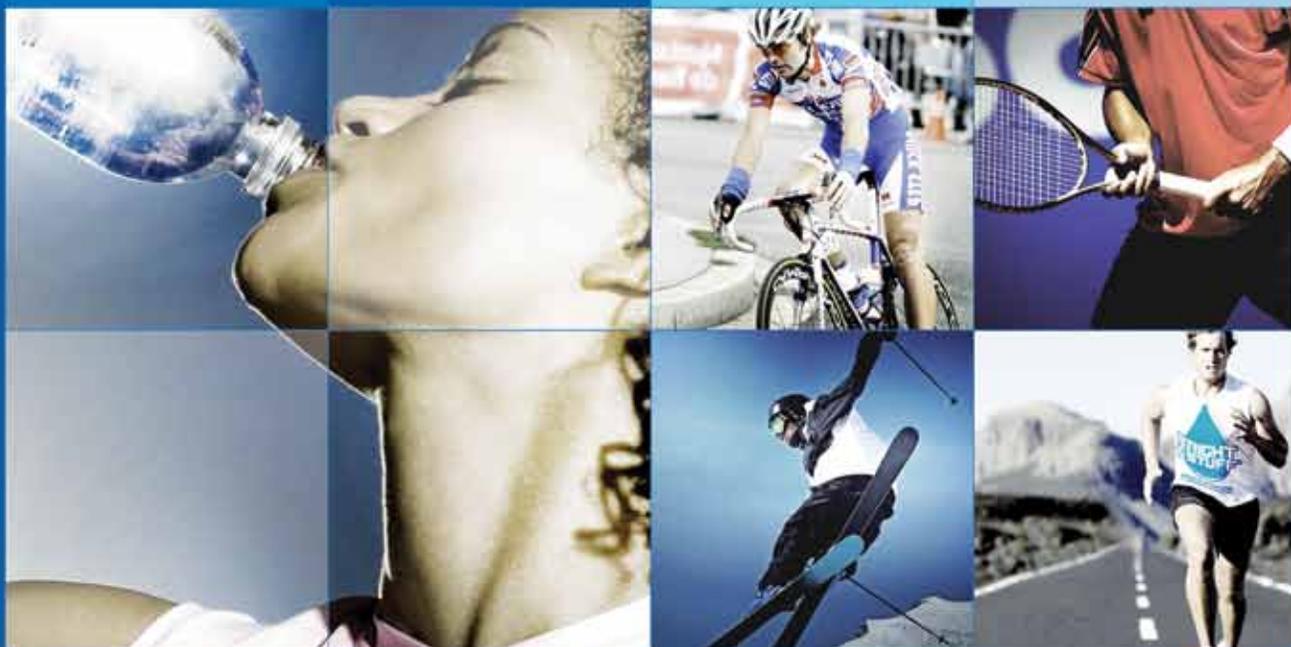
**THE RIGHT  
STUFF**

Zero Carb Electrolyte Liquid Drink Additive



**NASA**

Scientist Developed  
Astronaut Tested  
Athlete Proven



Cramps, headaches, muscle fatigue and light-headedness are just some of the symptoms caused by dehydration. Exertion, sun exposure, humidity and high altitude all contribute to the body's loss of water and electrolytes.

Numerous studies show, this NASA-developed formula is far superior for:

- Fighting cramps, headaches, muscle fatigue due to sweating and electrolyte loss
- Improving core thermoregulation; protecting the body from overheating in times of high exertion and in high heat settings
- Increasing endurance over 20% more than any other NASA-tested formula

The Right Stuff® helps optimize athletic performance in all sports, from football to golf; water sports to motor sports; running to cycling! The Right Stuff is hydrating players in all major professional sports leagues and college teams, from NAIA to Division I.



Certified for Sport®

## SAMPLE OFFER:

Contact us at [samples@wellness-brands.com](mailto:samples@wellness-brands.com) to find out if you qualify to receive free samples to test with your athletes. Please provide your name, phone, email, mailing address, name of organization (e.g., college, club, team) and number of athletes supported.

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

Sitka Gear in partnership with GORE has recently released their new Optifade Waterfowl Timber pattern camouflage. Sitka Gear's approach to developing new camouflage patterns is much more scientific than having an artist come up with a cool design that they believe will hide the hunter from their prey. Sitka Gear has previously teamed up with GORE to develop Optifade Open Country Camouflage clothing which is designed to conceal the hunter from horizontal viewing and Optifade Elevated II which is designed for disguise from prey that is looking up into the forest. Let's explore the science that actually went into the development of Sitka Gear's new Optifade Waterfowl Timber camouflage pattern.

Most camouflage is designed to mimic the environment that humans see when they look at their surroundings. Most waterfowl patterns are also designed from the perspective of the bird being on the ground and looking across a field. Both approaches are unscientific and produce less than desirable results, unless you want to hide from your hunting buddies, then they will work great.

Sitka Gear recognized that many waterfowl hunters spend hours in an environment where they are standing in the trees with water up to their knees. This style of hunting requires a dedicated system of gear and a specific camouflage pattern to confuse the waterfowl's vision in these unique situations. Sitka Gear partnered with GORE who had done years of research, study, design, and testing in flooded timber environments. The scientific approach

involved collaboration between animal vision scientist, concealment experts & textile designers all with the same goal of creating the most effective timber camouflage.

The process started by focusing from the perspective of the prey's vision and how





**IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, WE'RE WITH YOU.™**



*Still Made In*  
**VERMONT USA**  
GUARANTEED FOR LIFE  
— #DarnTough —

Proud Sponsor of the USARA National Championships

to conceal the hunter from detection by the prey. Most waterfowl have a 300 degree view of the world but this amazing peripheral vision actually causes them to have diminished sharpness of vision or visual acuity. The team had to identify how the waterfowl's brain would perceive the camouflage pattern, how the waterfowl's eyes would focus in on the pattern and how the contrast sensitivity of the pattern related to the bird in flight. Birds are very sensitive to details, so the team realized that the micro pattern would play a huge role in having the birds ignore possible threats by using the micro pattern to disrupt the human shape. The design phase also had to take into account that unlike ground prey, birds cannot stop to look intently at perceived threats. Birds are in motion and have a different angle of engagement with the hunter. The Timber camouflage was optimized for engagement at distances of 10 to 40 yards and for the color



perception of birds in the dark timber. The pattern was designed to inhibit the stimulation of waterfowl's visual spatial awareness and object identification as they drop through holes in the canopy, and that is how Sitka Gear Optifade Waterfowl Timber camouflage was developed.



### Sitka Boreal Beanie

The Sitka Boreal Beanie was specially designed to protect the waterfowl hunter during long blind sessions in the water and timber. The Boreal Beanie features a Gore WINDSTOPPER shell that completely blocks the effects of wind and a berber primaloft silver lining that will keep you warm and focused on your quarry in any temperature. The beanie can be worn over the ears for maximum warmth or easily slid up for uninhibited hearing. The Boreal Beanie is just one of the new Sitka products that utilize the Optifade Waterfowl Timber pattern camouflage.

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

# The Shooter's Paradise



## JP BLUE STEEL RANCH

SHOOTING INSTRUCTION • MATCH VENUE  
LE/MIL TRAINING • PRIVATE SHOOTING EVENTS



**INFO & BOOKING**  
[bluesteelranch.us](http://bluesteelranch.us)

**JP ENTERPRISES**  
[jprifles.com](http://jprifles.com)



Once the Waterfowl Timber pattern was developed it did not take Sitka Gear long to do what they do best, design hunting gear to support the new pattern. Sitka Gear produced a full system of gear focused on the needs of hunters in the timber environment including mid layers, jackets, pants, hats, gloves & back packs. So as you get ready for this year's waterfowl season will you be wearing gear that hides you from your buddies or gear that is scientifically designed to keep you comfortable, protected and invisible in the timber environment? **AW**

# BRAVING THE COLD?

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



**YAKTRAX®**  
Warmers

Share how Yaktrax® helps you **#conquerwinter**

facebook.com / yaktrax

twitter.com / yaktrax

instagram.com / yaktraxtraction

FOR THE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST



### HIKER

For enhanced comfort  
and stability



**WOOL**  
For insulation and  
temperature regulation

HIKING BOOTS // TRAIL RUNNING SHOES // SKI BOOTS // SNOW BOOTS

Journey<sup>®</sup> insoles were designed specifically for use on rugged terrain. The unique designs stabilize the foot along uneven surfaces and provide long-lasting comfort while hiking, walking and running. Motion control, along with targeted cushioning, helps absorb shock at impact to reduce stress on the feet, ankles and other joints. Versatile styling fits in a variety of trail running shoes, hiking boots, and ski and snow boots. So go ahead and take that journey...we'll support you every step of the way.



1-888-237-3668 | [www.powerstep.com](http://www.powerstep.com)

Official Insole and Sponsor of the



RED DOT

# OPTICS

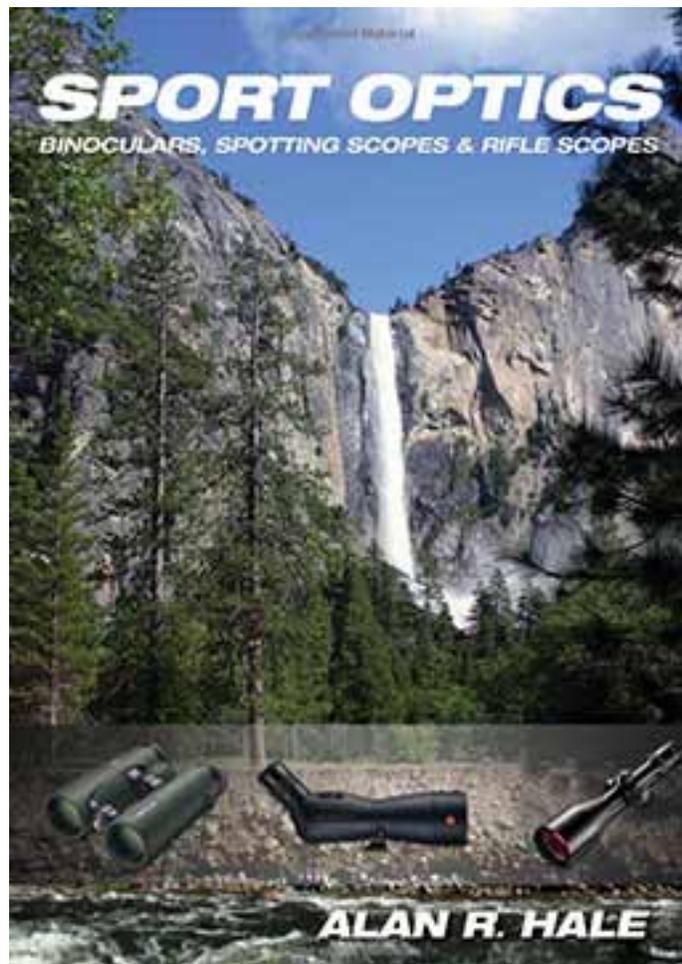
by Troy Farrar

There is a virtual sea of red dot optics available for consumers in today's marketplace. Many of these optics developed their pedigree in military operations but are now available to the sport enthusiast. We have identified a few of the top options along with a great reference book for those who are in the market for a red dot optic.

## Sport Optics by Alan Hale

Sport Optics by Alan Hale is an easy to understand guide to the most commonly used sport optics such as rifle scopes, binoculars & spotting scopes. Alan was the CEO of Celestron and has over 50 years in the optics industry and now he has shared his vast experience in this invaluable guide. The comprehensive book covers everything from choosing the correct optic to how the optic actually functions and everything in between. A must have guide and educational tool for anyone who uses optics, Sport Optics will pay huge dividends when you make your next optics purchase. Understanding the finer points of optics can be staggeringly confusing, however Sport Optics presents the information in an organized and easy to understand format making it a must have guide.

Available at Amazon.com



# HOLOSUN

PRECISION ◦ PERFORMANCE ◦ INNOVATION

**MILITARY GRADE OPTICS... WITHOUT  
THE MILITARY GRADE PRICE.**

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

## Sig Sauer Romeo 4C

The Sig Sauer Romeo 4C is an extremely well built solar & battery powered parallax free red dot sight. The side loading 50,000 hour battery has a motion activated option which powers up when it senses motion and powers down when static to extend the functional life of your battery. The solar panel provides a backup source of power and guarantees that the sight will keep working even when batteries are not available. The Romeo 4C provides a dual reticle option of a 2 MOA red dot or a 2 MOA red dot with a 65 MOA circle and features 10 daytime illumination settings and 2 night vision settings. The durable Romeo 4C is IPX-7 rated up to three feet of submersion, comes equipped with flip open lens covers and is housed in a light weight aircraft aluminum body. Available with a low profile mount or an absolute co-witness riser mount, the Romeo has 50 MOA of total adjustment. Sig tops the package off with a no matter how it happened, infinite repair guarantee.

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



## Trijicon MRO

The Trijicon MRO is a parallax free, sealed reflex sight contained in a durable 7075 aluminum forged housing. The MRO features a large aperture which maximizes the viewing area and decreases the tunnel vision effect, increasing situational awareness and providing lightning fast target acquisition with the 2.0 MOA red dot. The conveniently located top center ambidextrous illumination knob is perfect when using a magnifier and provides 6 daytime & 2 night vision illumination settings with a handy mid-position off which will provide 5 years of continuous use on 1 battery. The surface flush adjusters on the MRO prevent snags or accidental adjustment and provide 70 MOA of total adjustment. Available with low, full co-witness & lower 1/3 co-witness mounts, the Trijicon MRO is dry nitrogen filled to eliminate fogging & waterproof down to 100 feet.

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



## HoloSun HS503GU

The HoloSun HS503GU is a light weight, parallax free red dot sight with unlimited eye relief protected by a durable aluminum housing. The HoloSun provides dual reticle options of a 2 MOA red dot or a 2 MOA red dot with a 65 MOA circle that can be switched by simply holding down the minus button for 3 seconds. The dual reticle features 10 daytime and 2 night vision illumination settings that are push button adjustable allowing the operator the flexibility to choose the perfect setting for optimal target acquisition. The motion sensor automatically turns the sight on when moved and off when static which extends the battery life past the advertised 2 years of continuous use. The shrouded adjusters of the HoloSun have a protective cap to prevent accidental adjustment and keep you snag free while on patrol. The HoloSun is waterproof to 3 feet and comes with both a low mount and 1/3 co-witness mount.

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





# Got Poison Ivy? Get Zanafel. It Works.

---

*Zanafel® gets at the cause of the problem by removing the poison ivy, oak or sumac toxin (urushiol) from the skin ANYTIME after outbreak of the rash while relieving the itching within 30 seconds.*

---

- The use of Zanafel allows the poison ivy, oak or sumac affected individual to return to normal activities sooner, in an itch-free and healing state.
- Zanafel will help people heal quicker and avoid the side effects associated with steroids and sedating antihistamines.
- Zanafel is also extremely effective for pain and itch associated with:
  - Mosquito and Chigger Bites
  - Bee, Wasp and Hornet Stings
  - Fire Ant and Black Ant Bites
  - Other Insect Bites and Stings
- Zanafel is available through chain and independent pharmacies.



Welcome to Zanafel!

**ZANFEL** 

For more information call 800-401-4002  
or visit [www.zanafel.com](http://www.zanafel.com)



## EOTech EXPS3

The EOTech EXPS3 is a red dot holographic optic that was designed for two eyes open shooting giving the operator full situational awareness. The increased height of the EXPS allows for iron sight co-witness and the optic comes with a quick release lever for easy rail removal. The EXPS3 can be ordered with a 1 MOA, 2 MOA, or 4 MOA dot reticle inside of a 68 MOA circle and has 20 daytime and 10 Gen I-III night vision settings which all provide the operator with speedy target acquisition. The side adjustment buttons provide easy access when using with a magnifier and a 123 lithium battery will provide up to 600 continuous hours of use. The EXPS3 is housed in a durable aluminum case and the inset adjusters on the EXPS3 prevent snags or accidental adjustment while providing 40 MOA of total adjustment. The EXPS3 features a 4 or 8 hour automatic shut off which will extend your battery life and the optic is rated for submersion down to 33 feet.

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

## Vortex Sparc AR

The Vortex Sparc AR is a lightweight & durable parallax free red dot optic set in aluminum housing at a great price. The Sparc AR features a 2 MOA red dot and has 10 illumination settings including 2 that are night vision compatible. The power & illumination controls are rear facing allowing the operator to view them from a shooting position. The elevation & windage adjustment are shielded by the body & protected with aluminum caps to prevent snags or accidental adjustment. Both will provide 90 MOA of total adjustment. The Sparc AR features a 12 hour shutdown and will run up to 5000 hours on a single AAA battery. The Sparc AR comes with all the mounts for a lower 1/3 co witness or an absolute co witness and also features tethered lens caps that nest together to keep them out of the way.

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



## Magpul MBUS

The Magpul MBUS is a great back up sight for rifles using red dot optics. The spring loaded folding MBUS can be deployed from either side in seconds should your primary sight have a failure. Once deployed, strong detents keep the sights in place but allow them to fold down upon accidental impact. These made in the USA sights are constructed from lightweight impact resistant polymer and can take whatever abuse you throw their way. The rear sights feature a protected dual same plane .5 or .7 MOA flip aperture with a large easy to use detent knob for adjusting windage. Unlike most other folding sights, the MBUS can be folded down with either aperture in place. The front sight has a protected spring locking A2 front sight post with elevation adjustment. Get yourself a set of Magpul MBUS and insure you are always on target even if your optics fail.

[www.magpul.com](http://www.magpul.com) **AW**





# HIKE ACROSS MADAGASCAR

by Troy Farrar

photography by Suzanna Tierie

Ash Dykes is no stranger to adventure. Last year at the ripe old age of 23 he became the first person in history to complete a solo and unsupported trek across Mongolia. Ash has also cycled the length of Cambodia and Vietnam and cycled across Southern Australia on previous adventures. We caught up with Ash after he completed his quest to be the first person to traverse Madagascar, summiting its eight highest peaks along the way.

**AWM:** You were the first person to walk across Madagascar, how was this adventure born?

**AD:** It was actually when I walked across Mongolia; I trekked solo and unsupported across the country from the Altai Mountains, Gobi Desert and through the Mongolian Steppe. An absolutely beautiful country with incredibly hospitable locals along the way, Mongolia is the third sparsely populated country in the world. I wasn't coming across many locals in between and that's when I decided that I want my next expedition to be in a place where I'd be stumbling upon more locals on route. I like the idea of learning their ways, hearing their story and seeing how they survive in often remote locations, so that's when Madagascar sprung to mind.



THE GROUNDBREAKING  
**LIFESTRAW STEEL**

ADVANCED TWO-STAGE WATER FILTER

**LIFESTRAW.COM** | 1-888-451-6752

**LifeStraw**   
STEEL WATER FILTER

- > Filters 1,000 liters (254 gallons)
- > Removes 99.9999% bacteria
- > Removes 99.9% protozoa
- > Reduces chemicals & pesticides

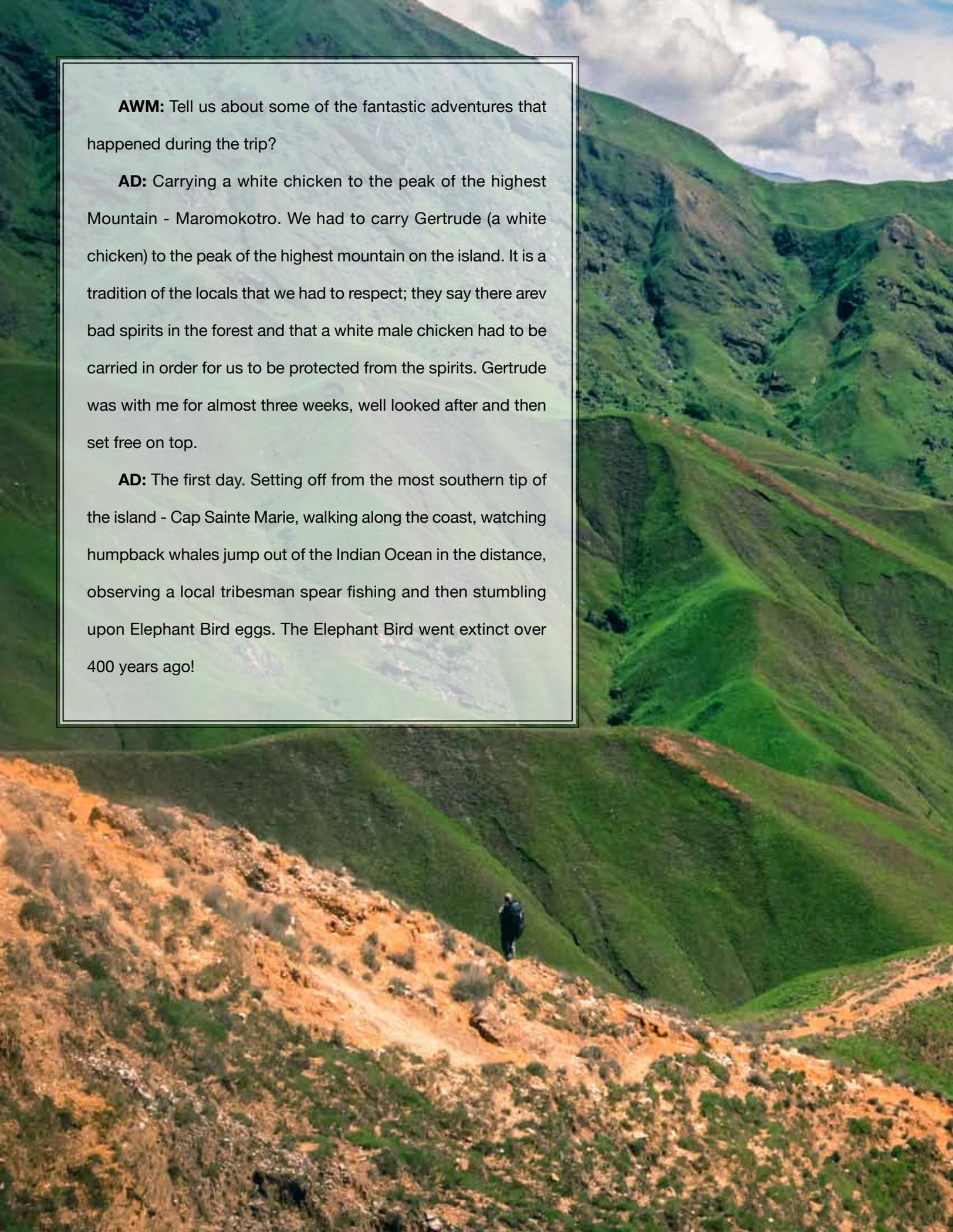




**AWM:** During the day-to-day grind of the trip, what do you do to deal with the constant mental struggle? What helps you to stay positive and to keep moving forward?

**AD:** Before you set off for any expedition, you know the hardships and challenges that you'll ultimately face. I guess this mentally prepares you ahead of the game, so when you do face them they don't catch you off guard, because of course, you expected it along the way anyway. Don't get me wrong, sometimes the challenges would almost break me. But it is all about learning to thrive, picking yourself up and pushing on, no matter what.





**AWM:** Tell us about some of the fantastic adventures that happened during the trip?

**AD:** Carrying a white chicken to the peak of the highest Mountain - Maromokotro. We had to carry Gertrude (a white chicken) to the peak of the highest mountain on the island. It is a tradition of the locals that we had to respect; they say there are bad spirits in the forest and that a white male chicken had to be carried in order for us to be protected from the spirits. Gertrude was with me for almost three weeks, well looked after and then set free on top.

**AD:** The first day. Setting off from the most southern tip of the island - Cap Sainte Marie, walking along the coast, watching humpback whales jump out of the Indian Ocean in the distance, observing a local tribesman spear fishing and then stumbling upon Elephant Bird eggs. The Elephant Bird went extinct over 400 years ago!





A TRIMBLE COMPANY



MAP  
YOUR WAY

## START WITH A GREAT MAP.

Get navigation-ready topographic and satellite maps.

Add helpful map layers too. Like:

- private & public land borders
- USFS roads & trails

Maps ship within 24 hours. [MyTopo.com](http://MyTopo.com)

**10%** Your next map order. Use  
**OFF** Promo Code: **ADVRACER**

USARA Race Directors: Order race maps at  
50% off. Call: [877-587-9004](tel:877-587-9004)





**AWM:** What were some of the biggest challenges that happened during the trip?

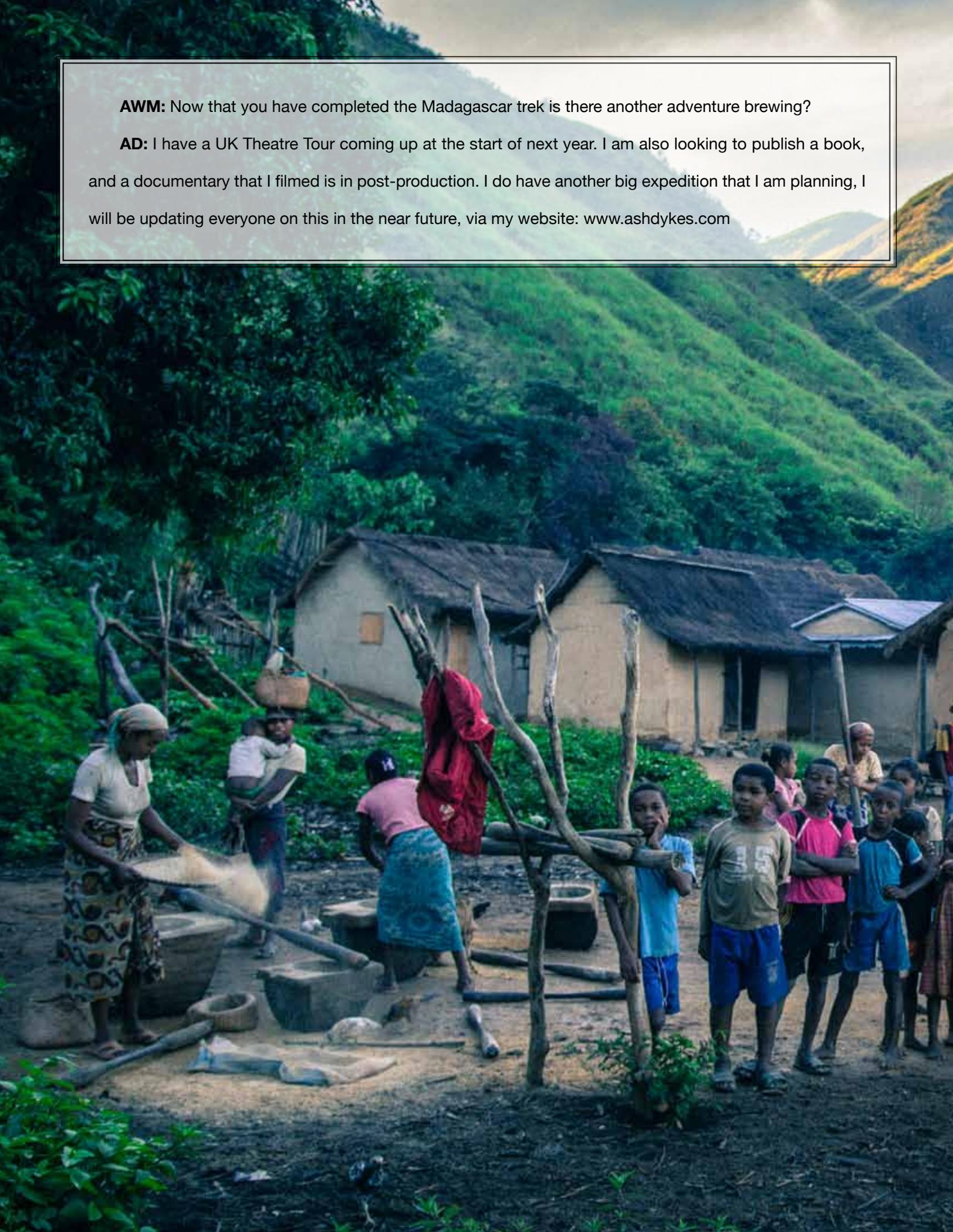
**AD:** Facing Malaria! I was suffering with what I thought was heat exhaustion. Five days later it got much worse, to a point where I had to leave the village I was at and use local transport to evacuate myself to the nearest city which was three hours away. It turned out that I was actually suffering from the deadliest strain of Malaria. I was in a bad way, but six days later the doctor had eradicated it completely out of my system & I was able to continue. A couple of days later I was trekking up the second highest mountain on the island, Pic Boby, and felt strong again.

Facing the jungles up North! Trekking through the seemingly impenetrable jungles. On one occasion we had to back track for three days to reach the previous village in order to try and find a different route up the particular mountain peak we were trying to summit. I was bitten by a spider, attacked by leaches and mosquitoes, and constantly being hit by tail end cyclones, but had to persevere.

River crossings! We had many rivers to cross, sometimes ones with crocodiles in them. Towards the end of the trip the rivers were fully flooded making them really tough to cross. Sometimes we would have to wait for them to mellow down. One occasion had us building a raft using natural resources in order to cross. Another time, when I was joined by a photographer and her porter, we had a nighttime river crossing, in which we almost lost them!

**AWM:** Now that you have completed the Madagascar trek is there another adventure brewing?

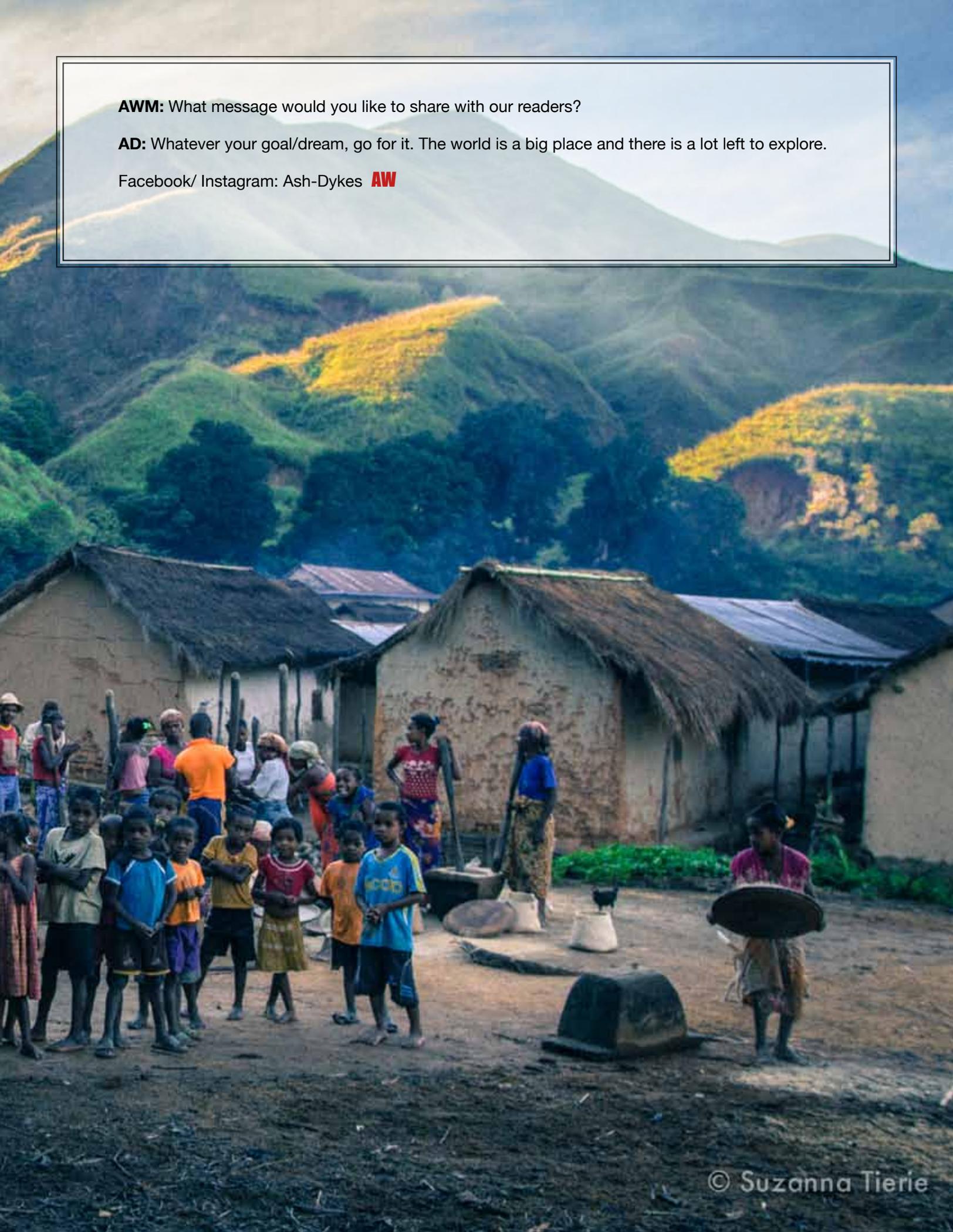
**AD:** I have a UK Theatre Tour coming up at the start of next year. I am also looking to publish a book, and a documentary that I filmed is in post-production. I do have another big expedition that I am planning, I will be updating everyone on this in the near future, via my website: [www.ashdykes.com](http://www.ashdykes.com)

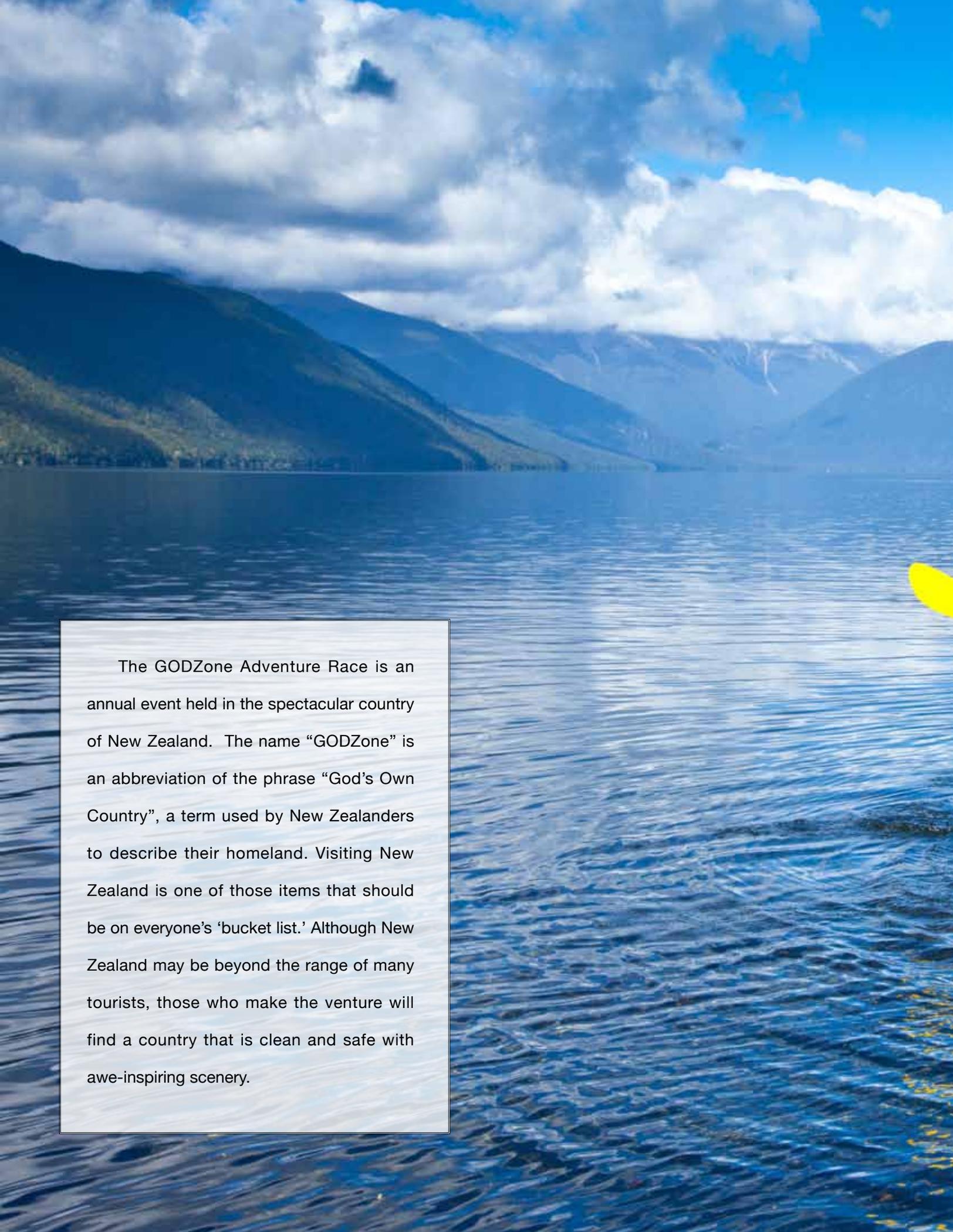


**AWM:** What message would you like to share with our readers?

**AD:** Whatever your goal/dream, go for it. The world is a big place and there is a lot left to explore.

Facebook/ Instagram: Ash-Dykes **AW**





The GODZone Adventure Race is an annual event held in the spectacular country of New Zealand. The name “GODZone” is an abbreviation of the phrase “God’s Own Country”, a term used by New Zealanders to describe their homeland. Visiting New Zealand is one of those items that should be on everyone’s ‘bucket list.’ Although New Zealand may be beyond the range of many tourists, those who make the venture will find a country that is clean and safe with awe-inspiring scenery.

# GODZone

ADVENTURE LIKE NO OTHER

story and photography by Andrew Conway





The GODZone adventure race is held in a different location every year but always provides the most stunning and varied terrain. This year, Nelson, located at the top of the South Island was the base for this epic expedition style adventure race.

There are 3 National Parks in Nelson, all spectacular in their own right with differing geography. Like many parts of New Zealand, you can experience vastly differing landscapes in the same geographic region.

One of New Zealand's most recognized and stunning beaches, Kaiterteri Beach, is located at the southern end of Abel Tasman National Park. This beach was the start and finish for this event.



# SKIN IN THE RACE?



## *Be Chafe & Blister Free!*

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

**YOU GOT THIS®**

**body  
glide®**  
PROTECTIVE  
SKINCARE

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



# TRUST ON THE TRAIL™

Trail footwear | Established 1964



© 2016 Vasque. All rights reserved.

@vasquefootwear

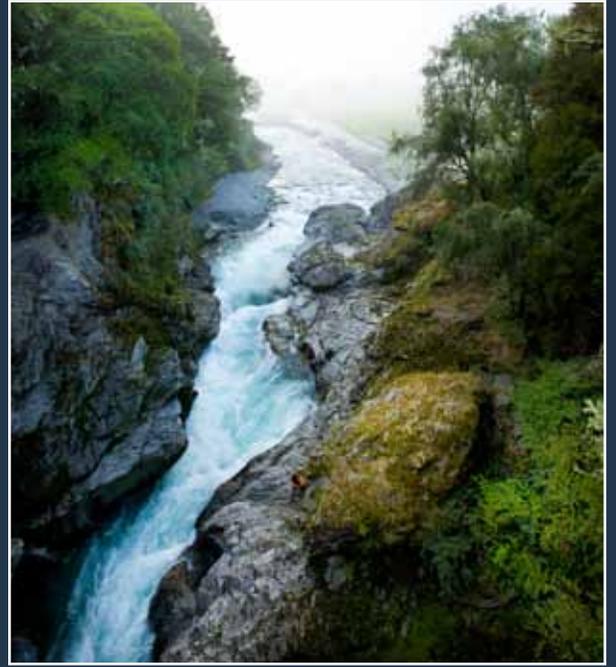


vasque.com



In between these challenging but epic race legs, the event passed through several rural communities consisting of farmland and orchards. The welcoming nature of the people was demonstrated in many ways such as the apple bins on the side of the road with 'Help yourself GODZone' written on the side. There was a farmer handing out chocolate bars for the passing cyclists, and even a restaurant that served free pizzas to any of the cyclists that wanted to stop on the gruelling 140 km final mountain bike section.







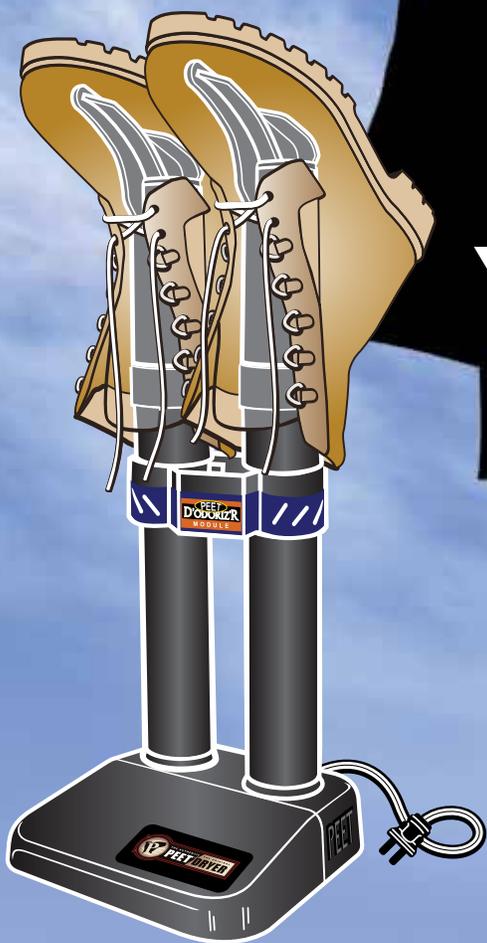
There is no doubt the combination of rich and rewarding challenges, stunning views and friendly locals which make up the GODZone left an indelible mark on the competitors. You should consider building a team or making the trip for an awe inspiring vacation as New Zealanders are right when they say this is GODSZone. **AW**



★ PROFESSIONAL FOOTWEAR DRYER & DEODORIZER ★



**Use PEET®.  
Your feet won't  
fail you now.**



Original PEET® EFM

**① Dries Wet & Sweat**  
Start every challenge your  
best in dry, fresh comfort

**② Best Foot Health**  
Kills contaminants that  
cause infections

**③ Destroys Odor**  
Ozone science  
obliterates odor



- Shop at [www.peetdryer.com](http://www.peetdryer.com)
- At checkout enter promo code USARA
- 40% is deducted from entire purchase

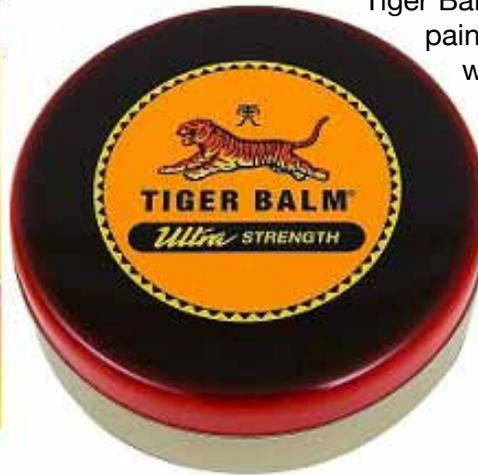
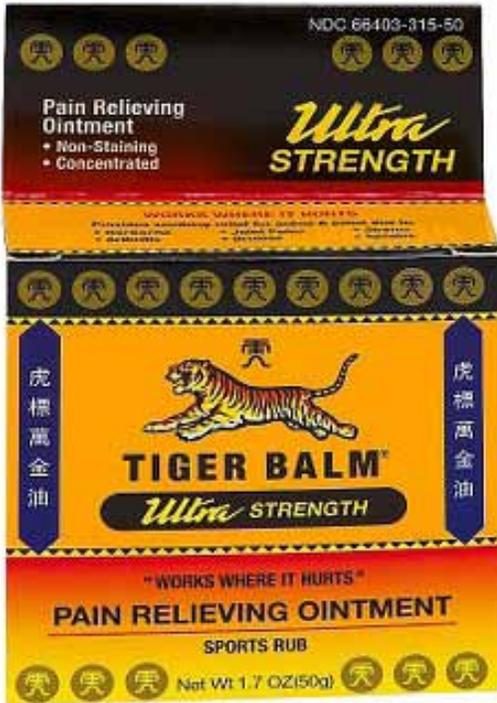
One order per customer.  
Valid until Dec. 1, 2016



[www.peetdryer.com](http://www.peetdryer.com)  
800.222.7338

## *Tiger Balm Ultra*

Tiger Balm Ultra is a super strength pain reliever for joint & muscle pains. Ultra contains the strongest concentration of Tiger Balm's herbal ingredients to provide penetrating heat to muscles & joints in a non-staining ointment. The fast acting Ultra will provide comforting relief from muscle pain and can be used as a pre activity warm up. As they say at Tiger Balm, When you're ready to nuke the pain, you're ready for Tiger Balm Ultra. [www.tigerbalm.com](http://www.tigerbalm.com)



## *Body Glide Foot Anti Blister Balm*

Body Glide Foot is the perfect formula for anyone who hikes, jogs or plays sports. The anti-blister balm will protect your feet, heels & toes from hot spots or rubbing that can cause blisters. Body Glide Foot is a dry, non-greasy formula in stick form that is easily applied and provides the protecting your feet deserve all day long. Body Glide foot will also soften & restore dry or chafed feet keeping you ready for your next adventure. Body Glide Foot is an essential gym bag or back packing item that will keep you on the trails no matter what conditions you face.

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



# Product Reviews



## *Lifestraw Mission*

The Lifestraw Mission is the perfect solution for back country camping and group outings where there is no potable water. The Mission is a gravity powered water purifier that removes virtually all virus, bacteria & protozoa. Just fill the roll top bag, and start filtering. The Mission will filter 4750 gallons of water at a rate of 2.5 – 3 gallons per hour. The Mission features a water level window and comes with a shoulder strap which makes it easy to hang the bag from a tree. Lifestraw's socially responsible Follow the Liters program will provide 1 child in developing countries with safe clean drinking water for one year for every product sold. So what are you waiting for get yourself a Lifestraw Mission and insure that your water is safe & clean.

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

## *Hydration PEET Dryer*

PEET Dryer, the guys who keep your shoes dry and stink free have now added the hydration bladder dryer to their stable. PEET's easy one step solution helps keep your hydration bladder clean & sanitary for years of use. No more bending clothes hangers to try and dry out bladders and no more nasty tasting moldy bladders. Just pop your bladder on the PEET dryer, plug it in and let the thermal convection dry your bladder & neutralize the bacteria. The Hydration PEET Dryer is silent and a must have for any sports enthusiast.

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





## *Stinger 5-in-1 Insect & Mosquito Zapper*

The Stinger 5-in-1 Insect & Mosquito Zapper features a powerful combination of insect lures such as the NOsquito octanol lure, an adjustable black UV light, a constant green light and a thermal lure all designed to give you hours of insect free outdoor freedom. The Stinger is durable & weatherproof and will provide insect protection for a 1 acre area. Use the Stinger 24 hours a day or save energy with the sundowner sensor which automatically turns the unit on at dusk and off at dawn. Perfect for yards, farms or RV trips the Stinger 5-in-1 Insect & Mosquito Zapper will let you enjoy a bug free outdoors every time.

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



## *Deter Natural Insect Repellent*

Deter Natural Insect Repellent is a safe, natural and DEET free insect repellent. Deter repels mosquitos for over 6 hours as well as many other biting insects such as ticks, chiggers & biting flies. Say goodbye to the greasy chemical based repellants that leave you smelling like a toxic oil spill. The all natural non greasy ingredients of Deter are biodegradable and have a fresh spearmint scent. Perfect for campers, hikers, fisherman and just about anyone else that want to spend time outdoors without being bitten.

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



## *Zanfel*

Zanfel poison ivy, oak & sumac wash is a safe and effective topical solution for exposure to toxic plants. Zanfel is the only product known to remove urushiol, the toxin which causes the reaction when exposed to Poison Ivy, Oak or Sumac. Zanfel can be applied to any body part and is safe for children & pregnant mothers. Say goodbye to itching and pain as they are relieved almost immediately. Zanfel can also be used after a known exposure to prevent an outbreak.

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



# Product Reviews



## *Voice Booster AK 38*

The Voice Booster AK 38 is a compact, inexpensive and versatile portable PA system packed full of great features such as a 25 watt amplifier for plenty of sound even on those windy days. The AK 38 comes with a shoulder strap and hands free headset which gives you the ability to make announcements on the move. Featuring a small LCD control screen, a built in FM radio, a USB port, a SD card port, a MP3 cable and a MP3 line in port the AK 38 is ready to provide hours of music at your special event. The Voice Booster AK 38 comes with rechargeable Lithium batteries that will provide 12-16 hours of continual use. Perfect for presentations, special events, beach parties or performers the AK 38 will insure your voice is heard. [www.voicebooster.com](http://www.voicebooster.com)

---

## *North Face Borealis*

The North Face Borealis is the hands down perfect carry on traveler's back pack that can be used for just about any occasion. Built around the new Flex Vent suspension system for added comfort, the Borealis has padded shoulder straps, a padded mesh back panel, a removable waist belt, a sternum strap, side compression straps and a padded carry handle. The 28 liter Borealis features a padded laptop sleeve in the main compartment and a cell phone & tablet sleeve in the front compartment for protecting all of your electronics. The front compartment also features a zippered inner pocket and several sleeves for pens, pads and just about anything else you need to keep handy. The Borealis exterior has two elastic mesh side pockets, a zippered fleece lined pocket, an external bungee cord and webbing loops which allow you to lash down any external gear. The North Face Borealis is an ultra-functional back pack and the perfect travel pack whether you are a business traveler catching the red eye or an adventurous globe trotter headed to the outback.

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



## *Mountain Khakis Camber 109*

The Mountain Khakis Camber 109's are also known as the playboy and once you slip them on you know why they earned this moniker. The performance stretch and articulated knees give you the freedom for any activity from a day of hiking the Mayan ruins to a night on the dance floor. These classic fit jeans are super comfortable and true to the Mountain Khakis tough as nails quality we expect. Get yourself a pair of Mountain Khakis Camber 109's and enjoy your next adventure in stylish comfort.

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



## *Showers Pass Gravel Shorts*

The Showers Pass Gravel Shorts are light weight, breathable & rugged cycling shorts that are the perfect gear for cycling to the farmers market or an afternoon adventure on the high mountain trails. These shorts feature 2 Velcro hand pockets, a zippered back pocket & zippered side vents along with a double snap & zippered fly. The Gravel Shorts are made to be worn with removable liner shorts and the adjustable waist cinch & stretchable hip area insure a perfect fit every time. The quick drying fabric features 50+ UPF protection and DWR rain protection making these the perfect short for any weather. The Showers Pass Gravel Short is a nice mix of fashion & function and will get you where you are going in comfortable style.

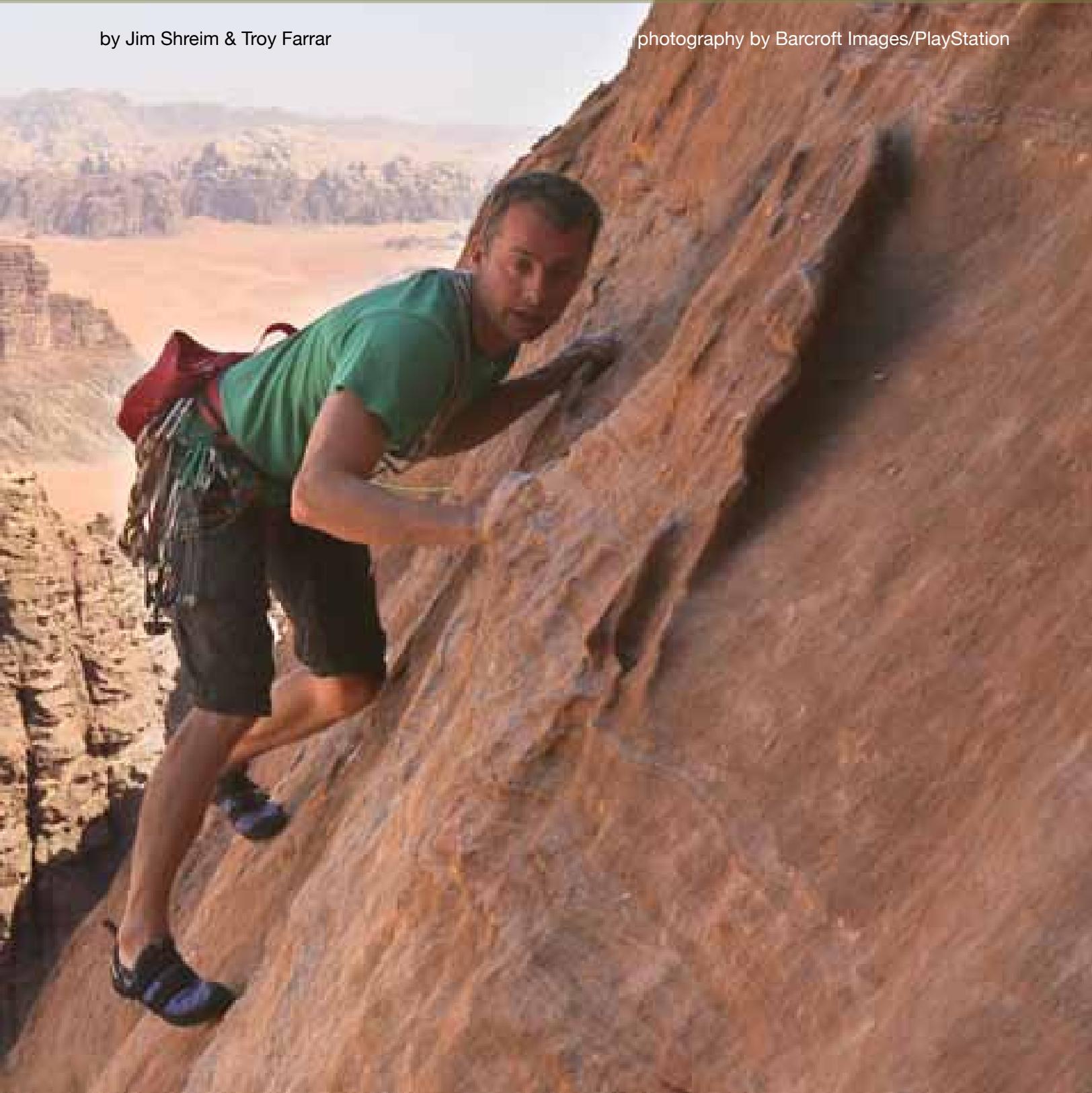
[www.showerspass.com](http://www.showerspass.com) **AW**



# UNCHARTED TERRITORY: The Pillar of **WISDOM**

by Jim Shreim & Troy Farrar

photography by Barcroft Images/PlayStation



 **MOUNTAIN  
KHAKIS**  
JACKSON HOLE • WYOMING



Photo: Ray J Gaedd

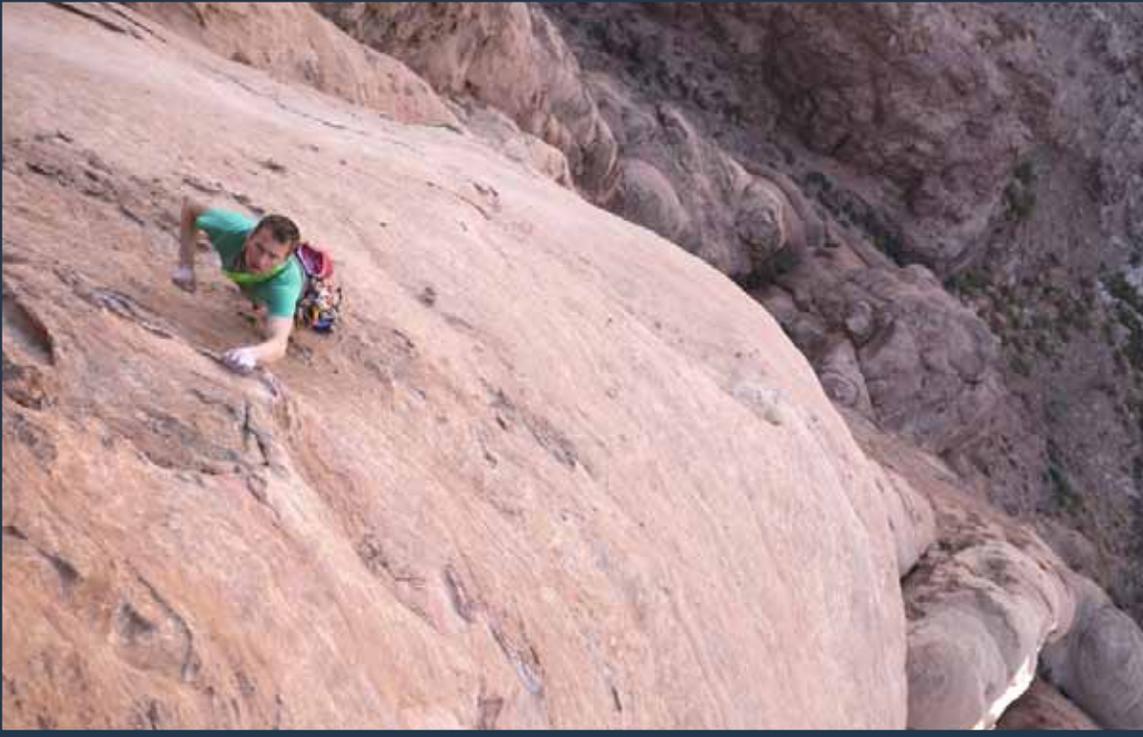
[MountainKhakis.com](http://MountainKhakis.com)

Leo Houlding from Cumbria, England has made the first solo ascent of the sandstone Pillar of Wisdom, also known as the Valley of the Moon in Wadi Rum, Jordan. The adventure was inspired by Playstation's new series Conquer the Uncharted, to mark the release of the action adventure game Uncharted 4: A Thief's End. To celebrate the release of Uncharted 4, Playstation asked Leo to come up with his own epic uncharted adventure. Leo had been to Wadi Rum a few years ago with his dad and done this amazing route, and he thought while he was on the route, it would be amazing to make this climb solo.

The Valley of the Moon in Jordan stands at 350 meters - higher than the Eiffel Tower. Leo comments that one of the really unique things about Wadi Rum is just how complex it is. Inside these big rocks there is an amazing network of canyons. The 350 meter climb was one of the biggest challenges Leo has ever tackled, the breathtaking natural structure is a notoriously challenging climb. Renowned as a 'free climber', Leo's initial plan was to scale the Pillar of Wisdom's immense cliff face without ropes, but the crumbling sandstone rock was simply too dangerous for a complete free climb. Leo free soloed most of the route, but was forced to use a rope on a few sections where the rock was really loose or really hard. The ethos of Uncharted 4 and Conquer the Uncharted is 'every treasure has its price' and the British daredevil took every step to ensure that the price was not his own life.

Leo is also at the forefront of the new discipline of Para-Alpinism, which involves climbing up a mountain and then parachuting down. He says his thirst for thrills has been with him from a very young age. "The spirit of adventure





has been innate within me since I was born. Even when I was really little, I was always the kid that would climb the highest in the trees. I just love being outside. I grew up in the countryside so I was always playing in rivers, climbing trees, climbing over barbed wire fences. I have been super fortunate in that now it's my job and I get to go on really hardcore adventures like this one. In this day and age very few people get to go places where no one's ever been before. I mean deep-sea divers, cavers and climbers; we are the only people that get to go into truly Uncharted territory."

"Being up on a face like that so big and so remote, so exposed, alone, not tied into the cliff it's a really powerful feeling. There are summits here that very few people have ever been to and vast areas of them are still uncharted. To be out there in this ancient landscape really has an authentic feel to it. Connecting to that environment and being up there, up on that huge wall, is a lifetime accomplishment. Pulling over the top, bear in mind the last section is the very hardest section, was extremely scary. There is a perfectly flat top and the view from the top is epic - it is up there with the top 10 views I have ever seen anywhere in the world." **AW**



# SHOOTING SPORTS

REVIEWS

## Under Armour Ridge Reaper 23 Jacket

The Under Armour Ridge Reaper 23 Jacket is a perfect early season jacket or a mid-layer for late season hunting. The Versatile Ridge Reaper 23 features zippered hand pockets and a removable hood and sleeves providing multiple options when adapting to changing weather. The Ridge Reaper camo pattern effectively blocks the prey's ability to distinguish complete forms and the quiet poly outer keeps you stealthy silent when moving through the woods. The 23 features a water resistant, lightweight & breathable PrimaLoft fill and a water repellent finish making this performance jacket the perfect choice for any type of weather conditions. Slip into the Under Armour Ridge Reaper 23 Jacket and you will be slipping up or your prey as easy as 1-2-3!

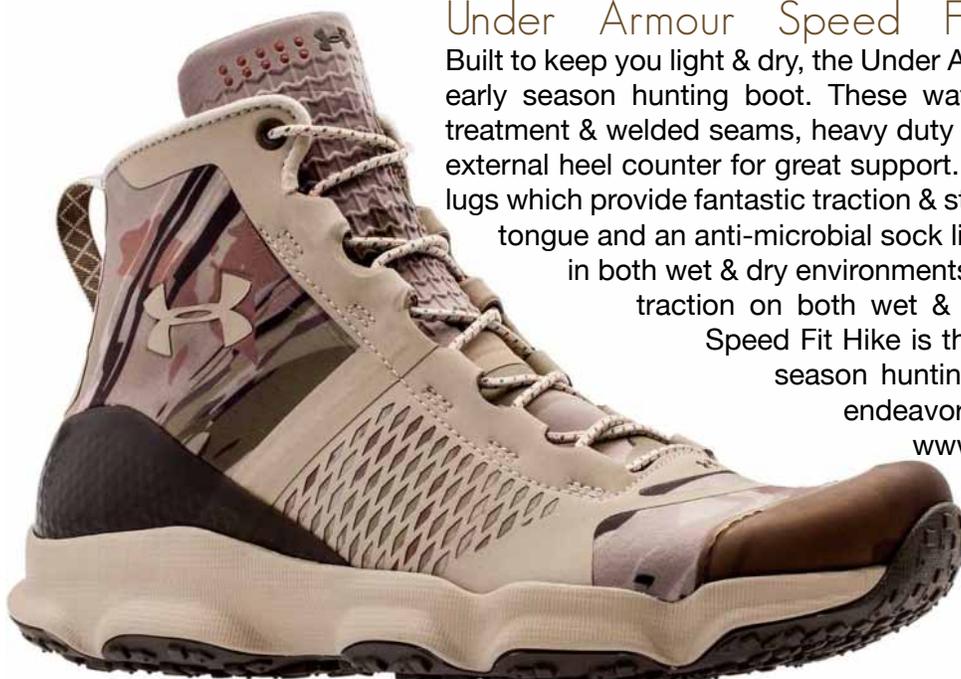
[www.underarmour.com](http://www.underarmour.com)



## Under Armour Speed Fit Hike

Built to keep you light & dry, the Under Armour Speed Fit Hike is the perfect early season hunting boot. These water repellent boots utilize a DWR treatment & welded seams, heavy duty toe caps for impact protection and external heel counter for great support. The Speed Fit features aggressive lugs which provide fantastic traction & stability, a one piece molded sewn in tongue and an anti-microbial sock liner. These boots were comfortable in both wet & dry environments, easy to run in and provided great traction on both wet & sandy terrain. The Under Armour Speed Fit Hike is the perfect boot for summer & early season hunting as well as just about any other endeavor you choose in the outdoors.

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





### Fremont Farson Blade

The idea for the Farson Blade comes from an ancient multi-functional tool that could be used to cut, chop, slice and skin. Fremont adapted the idea to create a light weight, versatile and compact stainless steel knife that will handle just about anything you throw its way. The six inch long Farson blade is strong enough to be used as a hatchet but delicate enough to chop up the dinner veggies. The ergonomic design keeps the Farson firmly in your hand and keeps your fingers protected from its super sharp blade. The 550 paracord wrapped handle provides a good grip and the paracord can be removed if needed for another use. The Farson blade comes with a handy carrying case and is the perfect tool for your next outing. [www.fremontknives.com](http://www.fremontknives.com)



### Fremont Farson Hatchet

The Fremont Farson Hatchet is the natural progression of the Farson Blade. The carbon steel Farson Hatchet has a smaller 5.5 inch cutting area which keeps the tool both compact and functional. Perfect for chopping up kindling, the Farson Hatchet can also be used as the camp kitchen knife. Complete with a 550 paracord wrapped handle & a carrying case, the Fremont Farson Hatchet is a compact but powerful camping & survival tool. [www.fremontknives.com](http://www.fremontknives.com)

### Celestron Elements Thermo Torch 5

The Celestron Elements Thermo Torch 5 is a 3 in1 flashlight, hand warmer & power bank. The 3 level flashlight can provide 60, 100 or 300 lumens and will last between 4-22 hours depending on brightness level. The hand warmer can last up to 6 hours at temperatures up to 114 °F and the power bank can be used to charge phones, tablets & cameras. Just plug the Thermo Torch 5 into a USB port to recharge the Lithium battery which can be linked to other Celestron power banks. The Thermo Torch 5 is a flashlight with an amazing skill set that is a must have for any outdoorsman. [www.celestron.com](http://www.celestron.com)





# POPTICALS

## POP-OUT SUNGLASSES



**PERFORMANCE MEETS  
PORTABILITY**

**OFFICIAL SUNGLASSES SPONSOR  
FOR USARA ADVENTURE RACE SERIES.**

Available in five introductory styles and 25 colors.

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



## ShockEater Shooting Shirt

The ShockEater shooting shirt is the perfect platform for your ShockEater recoil pad. Just slip your ShockEater recoil pad into the shoulder sleeve and you are ready for a pain free day of shooting. The ShockEater shooting shirt is available in multiple colors and fabrics ranging from cotton, moisture wicking polyester, long sleeve & polo shirts for both right and left handed shooters.

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

## ShockEater Recoil Pad

The ShockEater Recoil Pad uses Nano-Poly technology to disperse the energy or recoil from your firearm, significantly reducing the dreaded kick. The ShockEater is light weight & ultra-thin recoil pad which does not increase your length of pull, but despite its small size, the ShockEater provides stellar shock absorption. Perfectly named, once you experience the ShockEater's amazing shock eating abilities, we are sure you will toss your old recoil pads to the wayside. Great for both competition shooters and occasional hunters, the ShockEater will fit most shooting vest & shirt shoulder pockets and will keep you shooting pain free all day long. [www.shockeater.com](http://www.shockeater.com)

## Kryptek Centurion Shotgun Case

The Kryptek Centurion shotgun case is built for protecting your shotgun on just about any adventure. The one inch thick super padded & brushed lined sides and bottom will keep your shotgun protected from accidental dings and the water resistant poly outer is strong & durable enough to provide excellent protection over a lifetime of rough use. Available in Typhon black or Highlander camo, the 52 inch Kryptek Centurion features a zippered outer pocket, heavy duty carry handles with a padded hook & loop cover and lockable heavy duty zippers. The Kryptek Centurion is perfect case for keeping your firearm safe in the toughest environments. [www.kryptek.com](http://www.kryptek.com)





INTRODUCING  
THE ADVENTURE 180



RIDE WITH US

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

1-800-466-8366



## Sitka Timberline Jacket

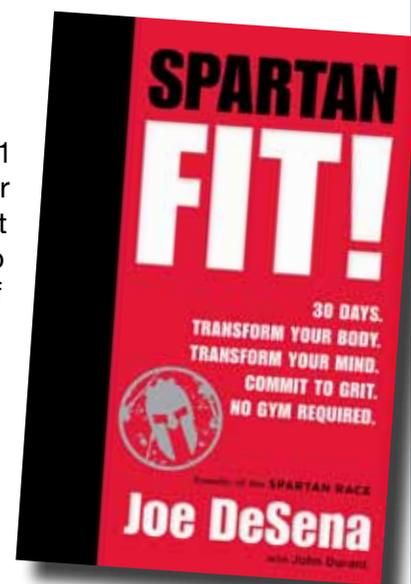
The Sitka Timberline jacket has a new design and Sitka hit the nail on the head with these functional upgrades. The Timberline is a light weight jacket with heavy weight protection in the form of seam-taped Gore Windstopper & body mapped micro fleece insulation to keep you warm in any situation. Storage possibilities abound with dual zippered hand pockets, a zippered interior pocket & a zippered chest pocket making access to all of your gadgets quick & easy. The Timberline features stretch cuffs, elastic waist draw cord, a fitted hood and reinforced shoulders & sleeves allowing you to button down in the heaviest of winds and stay toasty warm. The Optifade Open Country camo pattern was scientifically developed to both break up the hunter's body shape and match the background making you virtually undetectable to the preys vision. The Sitka Timberline jacket is a must have light weight shell that will provide bulletproof protection from just about anything mother nature can send your way while making you invisible to your prey.

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

## Spartan Fit

Spartan Fit! By Joe De Sena is a 31 day journey to prepare your mind & body to compete in a Spartan Race or conquer any other insurmountable obstacle that may come your way. Spartan fit provides both the motivation and the means to transform your body & mind to accomplish limits that were never previously imagined. Built around 7 pillars of endurance, strength, athleticism, recovery, nutrition, mind and code, this step by step plan will guide you into a life of fitness and a mental outlook that allows you to go beyond your limits. Inspired by the legendary Spartan Warriors, De Sena lays out a plan that will work for anyone who has the will power to stick with the program without needing a gym membership or tricky dietary plans. Get Spartan Fit and transform your life into an adventure that knows no limits.

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



## Tenzing SR 48 Rifle Case

The Tenzing SR 48 Rifle Case provides hard case protection with the convenience of a soft rifle case. Tenzing's protection starts with a one inch brush lined soft foam interior that will mold to your rifle and then they double down with high impact foam on the exterior sides for added protection. Tenzing rounds out the protection with a hard EVA foam bottom that wraps around the sides and a water resistant outer shell. The SR 48 also features an exterior zippered pocket, heavy duty padded carry handles, dual lockable zippers & glove friendly easy grip zipper pulls. No matter how rough the journey is, the Tenzing SR 48 will give you the confidence to know that your rifle has arrived at the hunt in the same condition it left home.

[www.tenzingoutdoors.com](http://www.tenzingoutdoors.com) **AW**





**Kettle & Fire**  
PIONEERING HEALTH & WELLNESS

**100%**  
Certified Grass-Fed Bones

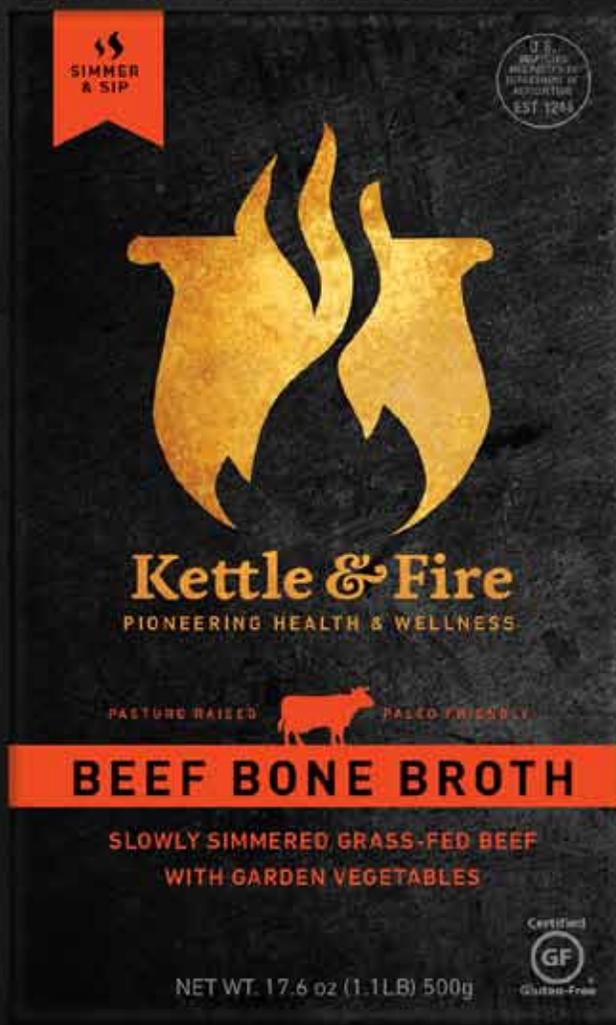
**100%**  
Organic Veggies

**Non-GMO**

**Gluten Free**

**0 Additives**

**0 Preservatives**



**High protein**



**Great for  
digestive, skin,  
& joint health**



**Packed with  
critical  
amino acids**

Collagen, glucoasime, arginine, glycine, and more

**24 MONTH SHELF LIFE**

# BEEF BONE BROTH

Check us out at [www.kettleandfire.com](http://www.kettleandfire.com)

# While You Are Sleeping

I'm racing Arabian horses across the Sierra Nevada (Part 2)

by Zoe Whittall

## **Pearl Moon and a Series of Setbacks**

Pearl Moon is a grey Arabian mare with a sweet and willing attitude and a desire to please. She is well-built and mid-sized if not a little small. Horses are measured in the ancient and economical unit of a human hand. At her shoulder, Pearl is about 14.3 hands high (5 and ½ feet high). I knew from the moment I saw her, after travelling the length of California with my dad in search of the right horse, that she was the ideal size and temperament for me and would be my perfect endurance horse. After training for about six months together, we set off on our first LD. My dad crewed for me and we slept that night under the stars next to Pearl and the trailer. She did a great job the next day and seemed to enjoy both the ride camp and the ride itself. Having just finished my junior year in high school, I started making plans to take a gap-year between high school and college to campaign her for a full year on the US endurance circuit. Just a week after our first ride, however, I learned what countless other endurance riders before me have learned – in this sport, the trail is the final arbiter of your plans. Pearl tore her suspensory ligament and was out for a year and a half. I put aside my riding ambitions and went off to university in Scotland, once again thwarted in my dreams of riding and racing with my father.



Because you love your bike.™

*..kūat..* / SHERPA™ 2.0  
(koo-at)

KUATRACKS.COM





## **Me and Pearl**

My father continued to train while I was in school, conditioning and strengthening a now fully recovered Pearl in the Oakland and Berkeley hills. I hoped that when I came home for summer breaks, I could enter some endurance rides with Pearl. With any luck, my dad would find a horse to ride as well, and we would finally compete together again. As the semester drew to a close, I looked forward to these potential miles together, and studied the AERC ride calendar. But, once again, my plans were dashed. A little over a month before my flight home, my mom sent me a message saying she wanted to have a family Skype. I logged in, and knew straight away that something was wrong.

“Honey, I have some bad news. Your father was in an accident riding Pearl. She spooked and threw him. His back is broken.”

I was shocked. Pearl? Pearl had bucked him off? She had never been a bucky horse when I rode her. At first, I thought my mom was playing some kind of trick on me, but I knew she couldn't possibly joke about such a serious thing. Slowly, the story came out – Pearl had spooked when my dad, in an effort to practice desensitizing her to new things, reached for his jacket from a fence post to gently lay it on her back. The swishy sound of the water-resistant fabric sliding over her back scared her, and she panicked. The break, for a broken back, wasn't too serious – it was a compression fracture in the last vertebra, and my father has since recovered entirely. In fact, he celebrated his recovery by signing us up for the Auburn triathlon with my brother. Once I was sure that he was really back on track, I turned my attention away from my father and back to Pearl. Without a rider for a month, I didn't think she would be



**Aix** Group™ – We Do Program Business Better.



Collaboration  
Focus  
Results

A member of The Hanover Insurance Group  
[www.aixgroup.com](http://www.aixgroup.com)



ready for a 50, and my dad was not in shape yet to ride a horse. Somewhat sadly, I set aside my plans once again and rode Pearl on my own around the trails near our house that summer, conditioning her for a ride, and hoping to ride endurance with my dad the next summer, once he had recovered.

But, yet again, before the end of that summer, another disaster struck. I had conditioned Pearl and believed that she and I were both in shape and ready for a ride, but the situation at home was not good. My father's company was being disbanded, and he was suddenly jobless. With my dad temporarily unemployed and busy interviewing and me away at university, Pearl would have no rider. Living in a stall with no exercise is no life for a horse. We made the gut-wrenching decision to sell her and I cried as I watched the back of a foreign trailer pull away from our barn with the sound of her whinnies filling the air.

### **2015 – A Second Chance**

"She's quitting. Zoe's out, she's done with this. She's tired of working!" I grinned into my sleeping bag, hearing the joking voice of Robert Ribley, horse trainer, nine-time AERC West Region Champion and three time AERC National Champion. It was about 5:30 in the morning in late June, and we were in his Airstream trailer along with his wife, Melissa, at the ride camp for the Wild West, a three-day 155-mile endurance ride which the couple puts on every year. This year, I was helping them. I had been riding their horses periodically in endurance rides since the summer before,



photo by Baylor/Gore and Dean Moon

and this year I had bartered my labor in exchange for rides. The more time I spent with them, the less the labor seemed like work – the two are full of smiles, jokes, and cowboy stories, and I learned more about endurance riding from a week with them than ever before. That morning, they were both up and eating breakfast and I was still lying in my sleeping bag on the couch. I sat up and yawned, then slowly stood: time to work.

I had been staying with them for a week in order to set up for the event. Marking 155 miles of trail, strategically stationing water troughs along the course, handling all the ride entries, coordinating with park rangers, writing up all the rider cards, catering lunches and dinners for riders (I have been to a ride where the caterers didn't show up) and finding space for everyone's trailer in the



camp is a massive logistical operation. After rolling off the Airstream's couch, I dressed, went outside, and grabbed a bagel. A few minutes later, Robert came out too. "Get your helmet and gloves. We've got to clear some trail," he said, pulling on his own worn workman's gloves and trading his signature cowboy hat for a helmet.

A few minutes later, we were rolling down the trail on his Suzuki 350, a chainsaw tied into the scabbard under my left leg, a bag of ribbons attached to the handlebar on my right. I clung to the back of the bike and, as he accelerated around a turn, grinned for the wind in my face and the speed over the uneven dirt road. We continued along the trail for a while until we came to a section overgrown with dense bushes, scrubby plants, and saplings. Then we stopped and he unstrapped the chainsaw, pulled it to life, and started to methodically cut back the brush. I followed behind at a distance, avoiding the flying leaves and tiny wood chips rising in a plume behind him, and pulled the cut branches off the trail, tossing them over to the side and out of the way.

The air was hot and dry, and I could feel sweat trickling down my face and into my eyes. Dust and plant debris got stuck in my hair and itched under my shirt, and my throat was dry. Nonetheless, I was happy. There is a satisfaction that comes only with hard physical work, and despite being dusty and hot, I couldn't think of anywhere else I'd rather be. After a couple hours, we had cleared enough to make the trail passable for horses, and, hopping back on the bike, we rode back to ride camp. Once there, we parked the bike, Robert traded his helmet for the wide-brimmed hat, and we climbed into the water truck and set off again, this time to fill up the water tank and then drive out on the trail to distribute and fill the water troughs. Once that task was done, we had a quick lunch then leapt back onto the bike to go find a log that a mountain-biker informed us was obstructing the trail. When we found it, Robert brought out the chainsaw and cut it into rounds, which I struggled to roll off the trail. With the log cleared, we took the bike along a different section of trail, putting up ribbons to mark the direction so riders wouldn't get lost. Finally, the



You can change the lives of children.

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

## Start or Fund a Trips For Kids Program!

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

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

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

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



SPECIALIZED FIRST GEAR

interbike



CSTires.com

CLIF



SOAR



Adventure Medical Kits

day's work done, I sank, dirt-streaked and sweaty, into a folding chair. We continued this routine each day until the event, and afterwards we retraced our steps to pull down the ribbons and remove the water troughs we had set up. Before I arrived and after I left, the Ribleys continued to work on the trail and take care of the paperwork and organization necessary to pull off a safe, professional ride of this magnitude.

A couple days after hanging the ribbons, I was trotting down the trail of a fifty-mile course on the Ribleys' bay mare Sakajawea. I had ridden her in a couple other fifties and we got along well. She's very motivated and just wants to go. Horses gaits are like gears and Sacajawea always has her mind on the next one, preferring to jig softly between a walk and trot rather than to walk and preferring to trot rather than jig. She is well mannered and well trained, though, and we travelled easily through the dirt trails, between trees, around rocks, and up the mountain at speed. I slowed her to her jig to give her a rest after a long trotting stretch and admired the scenery. All was going well, and we were nearing the halfway point vet check at thirty miles. The trail leading into the ride camp passed through a thin single-track peppered with rocks and roots, and I knew I had to watch Sakajawea's footing here. I slowed her again to her bouncing jig, but she sensed the proximity to camp, heard other horses calling the promise of hay, and surged

# DETER! Natural Outdoor Skin Protection

## Proven Long Lasting Deterrent



Insect Repellents

Sunscreens

Lip Balms

And More!

855-310-9462 | [www.deteroutdoor.com](http://www.deteroutdoor.com)

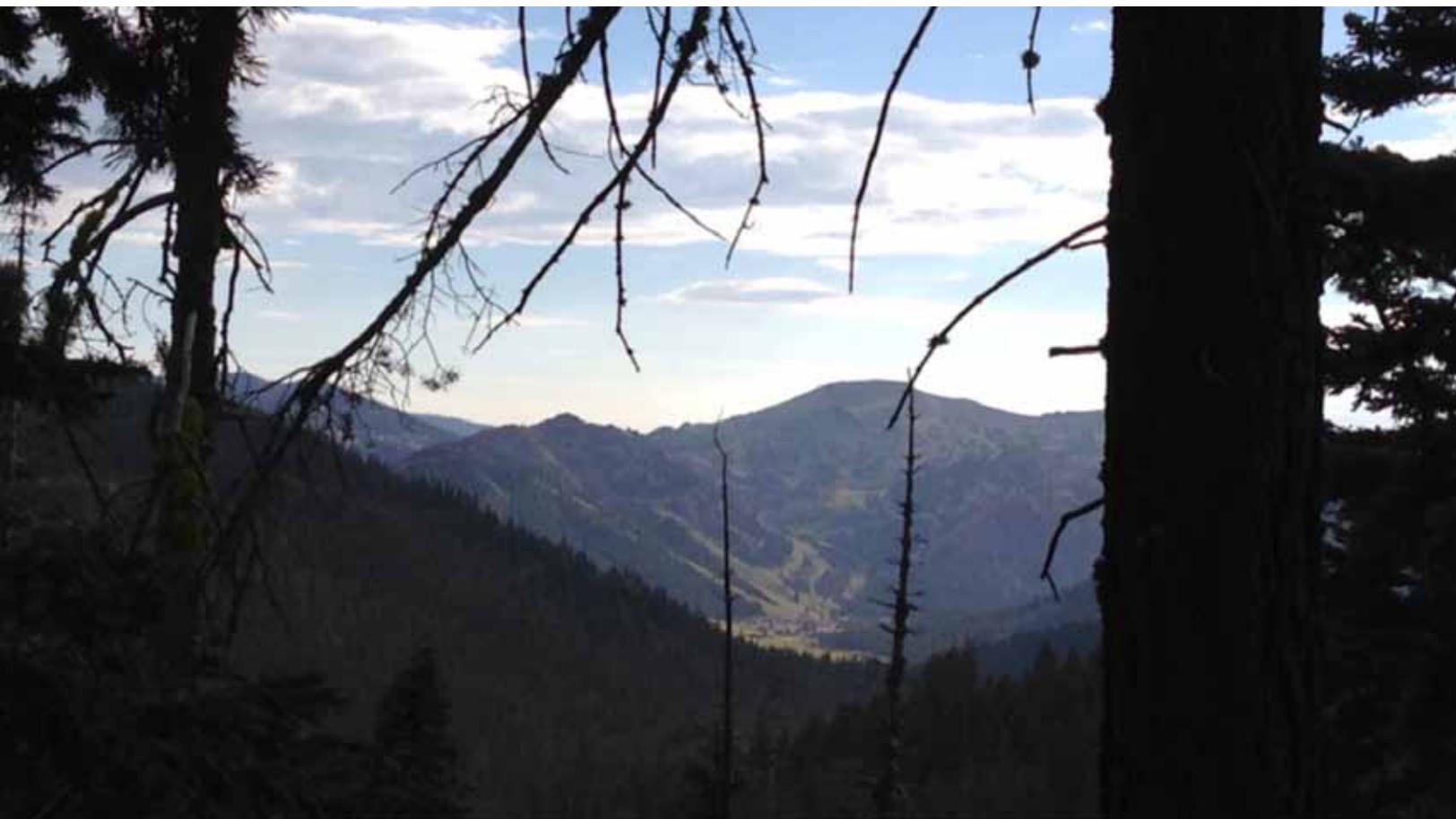


ahead. Ahead, then down. She tripped on a root and stumbled badly, falling almost but not quite to her knees. I slowed her once more and peered anxiously at her front legs as she jiggled on, seemingly unfazed by the trip. She seemed all right. She didn't feel off. Then again, the terrain wasn't smooth so it wasn't easy to tell whether she had hurt herself or not. I dismounted and walked, along with another woman I was riding with, into ride camp and got in line for the vet check. Sakajawea looked sound walking into camp, but after standing still in line, when I went to trot her out for the vet (Melissa Ribley) to check her gait, she was clearly lame (limping). Our ride was over, and I experienced my first pull.

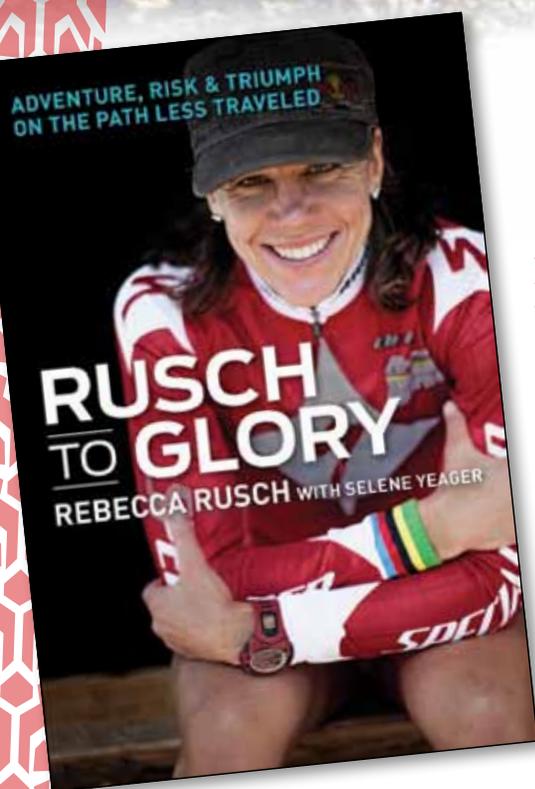
In the pursuit of miles, every rider experiences a disqualifying pull. When you're going for so many hours over such varied terrain over so many miles, it's just something that happens. Many riders joke about "that rock that has your name on it", and at every ride somebody will inevitably find that rock (or, in my case, that root). No amount of training can ward it off, and the inevitability of the experience makes the riding all the more intense. Every rider knows that, among those who started, up to half won't finish, and every rider does everything possible to be in the finishing half.

As I walked Sakajawea slowly back to the trailer after the first thirty miles of Wild West, after my first pull, Melissa looked at me and said: "Welcome to endurance riding."

I couldn't help but smile at that. I had finally made it, despite the many set-backs. I wasn't riding with my dad, but I was still riding endurance. The bittersweet journey has been well worth the result, and maybe, someday, my father and I will cross the finish line together. **AW**



# QUEEN OF PAIN



**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**<sup>®</sup>

AVAILABLE in bookstores, bike shops, and online. PREVIEW the book at [velopress.com/rusch](http://velopress.com/rusch).



**BORN**  
*to*  
**RIDE  
MORE**



FOR THOSE OF US WHO LIVE TO RIDE MORE,  
THERE IS NOW A TIRE SEALANT BUILT BY RIDERS  
TO DO JUST THAT.

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE EVOLUTION OF TUBELESS • [BORNTORIDEMORE.COM](http://BORNTORIDEMORE.COM)



# USARA Adventure Race National Championship

Columbia County, Georgia: October 14 & 15, 2016



PRESENTED BY



Krista Griesacker	8/6/16	Hamburg, PA
The Bitter Pill	8/6/16	Bolton, VT
Never Summer Adventure Race	8/6/16	Grand Lake, CO
Calleva	8/7/16	Poolesville, MD
Search & Rescue AR	8/20/16	High Falls, NY
Thunder Rolls	8/20/16	Mt. Carroll, IL
Bend AR	9/10/16	Bend, OR
Mighty Mo	9/10/16	Beatrice, NE
No Sleep Adventure	9/10/16	Eddyville, IN
The Cauldron	9/10/16	Hawthorne, FL
Black Bear Adventure Race	9/10/16	McHenry, MD
Howl at the Moon	9/17/16	Hobe Sound, FL
CIA Central Indiana Adventure	9/17/16	Indianapolis, IN
Island Quest	9/24/16	San Juan Island, WA
Pisgah 26.2 AR	9/24/16	Marion, NC
Coosa River Challenge	10/1/16	Wetumpka, AL

## *For 2017*

Happy Mutant Arkansas	10/28/16	Hotsprings, AR
The Fig	11/5/16	Slade, KY
Florida AR Championship	12/3/16	Titusville, FL
Raid The Rock Adventure Race	12/3/16	Little Rock, AR
Happy Mutant Nevada	1/13/17	Laughlin, NV

## REGIONAL SPONSORSHIP

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