

Adventure World

magazine

WINTER 2018

Dancing
on the Volcano



Presented By:



USARA National Ranking System

USARA National Rankings

1	Rootstock Racing	210.00
2	Good'Nuff	171.00
3	Rib Mountain Racing	142.00
4	GOALS ARA	133.00
5	Team Disoriented	129.00
6	WEDALI	123.00
7	Journey Racing	115.00
8	Team Lupine Racing USA	114.00
9	Adventure Medical Kits	112.00
10	Topo Adventure Sports	110.00
11	Checkpoint Zero	108.00
12	Team Kuat	108.00
13	Adventure Enablers	102.00
14	Mike's Hike & Bike Shop	102.00
15	NYARA	90.00

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Congratulations to the 2017 USARA National Ranking System Finalists



Rootstock Racing



Good'Nuff



Rib Mountain Racing

Congratulations to the 2017 USARA Adventure Race National Champions!



Coed – Rootstock Racing
(Abigail Perkiss, Brian Reiss, Jim Driskoll)



Coed Masters – Checkpoint Zero Masters
(Michele Hobson, Allen McAdams, Bill Fletcher)



Male – Sic Ubu Sic
(Peter Miller, Greg Schmidt, Chris Obara)



Female – 361 Adventures Chickpoints
(Karen Clark, Casey Hill, Jess Evans)



King of the Mountain – UntamedNE.com
(Dave Lamb, Britt Mason, Chris Melwes)



The O Team – Rootstock Racing
(Abigail Perkiss, Brian Reiss, Jim Driskoll)



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2018 USARA Adventure Race National Championship

The USARA is excited to announce that the 2018 USARA Adventure Race National Championship will be held in Bloomington, Indiana on September 28 & 29, 2018. The national championship race will be produced by DINO, who has a long history of producing fun and exciting events including previous USARA Adventure Race National Championships. Qualifying for the national championship is already taking place so be sure to find a qualifier and get your team to the 2018 championship. www.USARANationals.com

Women of AR Scholarships!

A group of private backers are sponsoring the Women of AR Scholarships. They will be awarding \$300 scholarships to the first 10 all women teams that qualify for the 2018 USARA Adventure Race National Championship. Contact the USARA for more information.

The USARA Board would like to announce the following new USARA programs and policies:

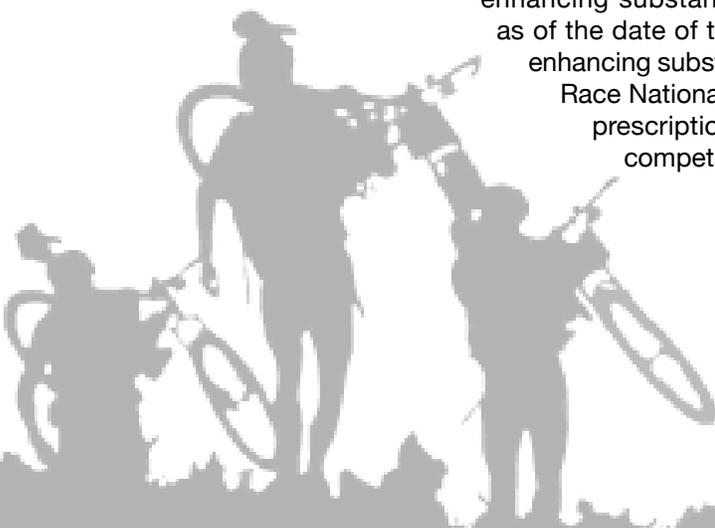
USARA fees waived for qualifying sprint races

The USARA will waive USARA racing license fees for short beginner friendly adventure races that are held in conjunction with a longer adventure race. Events must be 5 hours in length or less, agree to provide participants with a welcome to adventure racing flyer and the beginner adventure race must be run in conjunction with a longer adventure race (either on the same day or the same weekend) to qualify for the waiver.

The USARA board believes this program will contribute to lower initial participation cost by reducing the financial burden placed on first time adventure racers. The welcome to adventure racing flyer will also give the beginner adventure racer information on where to find other adventure races as well as resources to help the beginner adventure racer prepare for longer events.

Drug Ban Policy

For purposes of the USARA Adventure Race National Championship, the USARA will honor a suspension or ban from competition imposed by another sport's governing body as a result of an athlete's use of an illegal performance enhancing substance. If an athlete is suspended or banned from competition as of the date of the National Championship for using an "illegal performance-enhancing substance," the athlete may not participate in the USARA Adventure Race National Championship, regardless of whether he or she possessed a prescription for the substance. The intent of this policy is to protect the competing athletes and the integrity of the competition. **AW**





Grinder Nationals

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

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



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5 Cool Weather Hikes in the Southwest

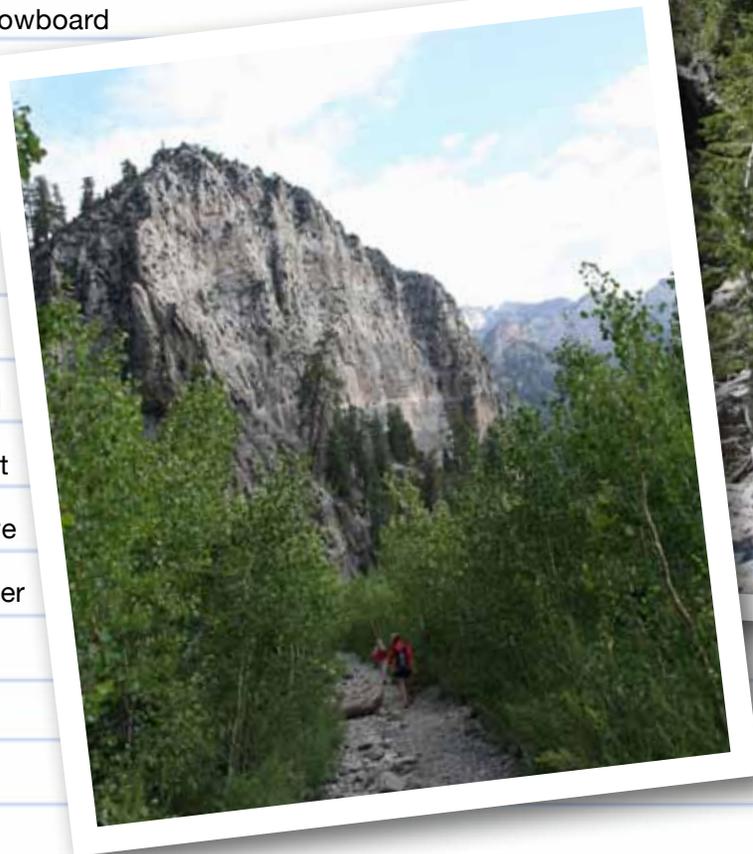
by Deborah Wall

During the summer months, the Southwest is generally too hot to comfortably hike its trails or camp in its backcountry. But like most generalizations, this one has exceptions -- great outdoor places with cool summer weather! And while some such places are rather well-known, you might also consider these often-overlooked gems.

Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, Nevada

Head up to the Mt. Charleston area on a scenic one-hour drive from Las Vegas. Hiking trails of all lengths from easy to difficult, with elevations in the park ranging from 4,500 feet to 11,918 feet at Mt. Charleston Peak. Look for wild burros along the main roads and wild horses at the base of Lee Canyon Ski and Snowboard

Resort. Start your visit at the Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway. Depending on location of the trail you choose, expect temperatures more than 20 degrees lower than in Las Vegas.

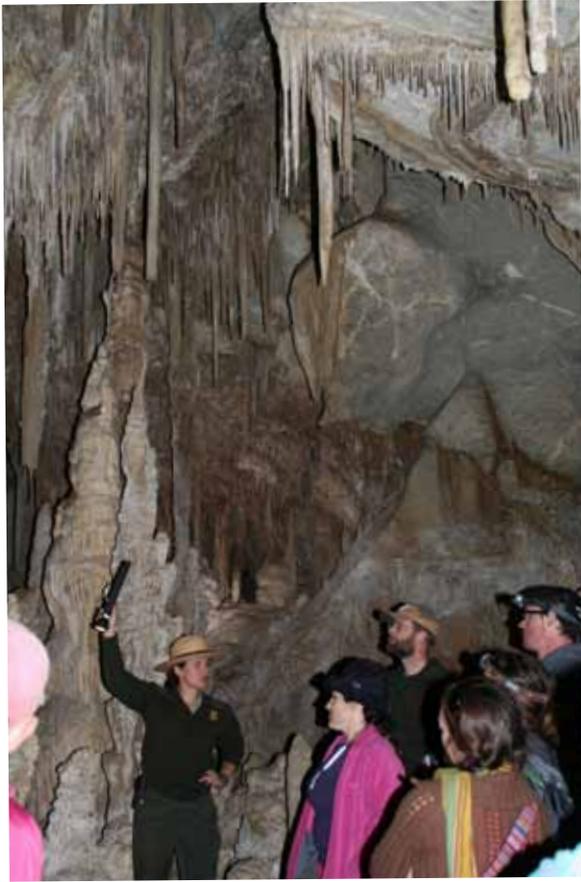




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Great Basin National Park, Nevada

Nevada's only National Park offers a triple treat: Cool temperatures for hiking; some of the darkest skies in the United States, for stargazing; and Lehman Caves. Elevations in the park range from 6,200 feet to 13,063 feet at Wheeler Peak. Lehman Caves is actually a single limestone cavern, where there are daily underground ranger-led tours, 60 or 90 minutes long. Great Basin is an International Dark Sky Park, where visitors can see the Milky Way galaxy and its neighboring Andromeda galaxy with the naked eye, an experience increasingly rare in over-illuminated North America. Through early fall there are ranger-led astronomy programs with telescopes provided for guests.

Grand Canyon's North Rim, Arizona

At a higher elevation than the South Rim, this area of the park receives twice as much precipitation as does the South Rim, and boasts lush wildflower displays along the road in summer. Enjoy aspen groves, wide grassy meadows, ponds and dense woodlands of ponderosa pine, white fir, Englemann spruce and blue spruce. At 8,800 feet you will enjoy cool average daytime high temperatures in the 70s and lows in the 40s. Far less crowded than the South Rim, the North offers its own extraordinary views from short hikes at multiple viewpoints. Currently, you can look for the large herd of hybrid bison that roam the meadows just after the entrance station.



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Capitol Reef National Park, Utah -- A geologic wonder with superb hiking to arches, waterfalls and slot canyons but an added bonus of more than 3,000 fruit trees. This is the largest historic

collection of fruit orchards in the national park system. The average picking season starts in mid-June with cherries, followed by apricots, then peaches and pears through late September. Finally there are apples, whose season runs from early September to mid-October. Ladders, bags and basket pickers are free to use, and there is a small charge per pound of fruit on the honor system.

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Cedar Breaks National Monument, Utah

This is the highest elevation park in the National Park Service. Located at about 10,000 feet elevation on the Markagunt Plateau, The Breaks are a natural amphitheater, three miles wide, and 2,000 feet deep, its orange and pink landscape filled with the grotesque, tall formations



called “hoodoos.” Lush wildflowers peak in late July, especially along the Alpine Pond Trail. Look for a herd of elk in the meadows behind the campground; they usually appear just before sunset.

The high elevations at some of these public lands might affect your experience because of altitude sickness. The ideal way to avoid this malady is to spend a day or two at some elevation intermediate between your customary abode and the high destination. But if your schedule doesn't allow that, avoid strenuous activity in your first day at a high location. Stay hydrated, because you lose water faster at high altitude, and use sun block religiously. Before setting out on a high-altitude hike, be aware of the symptoms: Headache, dizziness, nausea, insomnia, and shortness of breath on exertion. Taking an immediate break may prevent them getting worse. Symptoms usually disappear quickly after a retreat to lower elevations, but if they don't, seek immediate medical treatment. Afternoon thunderstorms are common at all these parks as well, but usually don't last too long. **AW**

Deborah Wall lives in Las Vegas and has spent her life enjoying all forms of outdoor sports including hiking, sailing, canyoneering, rappelling, kayaking and winter camping. Wall has been a columnist since 2005



for The View Newspapers in Las Vegas and has published over a hundred feature articles – which include her photographs – in numerous Southwestern books and publications. Her newest book, *Base Camp Las Vegas: 101 Hikes in the Southwest* was released on August 8, 2017. To learn more about Wall, visit www.basecampguides.com

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The LED Lenser SEO 7R is a lightweight USB rechargeable dynamo that is packed full of high tech features that will provide you with the perfect functioning light for your next adventure. The Advanced Focus System (AFS) combines a reflector and a lens providing the ability to have a focused beam for long-distance viewing and a homogenous spill-beam for up close reading. The adjustable 20-220 lumen SEO 7R features 8 light programs and the Smart Light Technology provides both an energy saving mode and a constant current mode which provides electronically controlled variable light output.

The unique OPTISENSE technology adjusts the brightness of your light based on your environment saving valuable battery life. The SEO 7R will last between 5 and 20 hours depending upon light level and features a red light and a swiveling head that allows the user to direct their beam in any direction. LED Lenser pulled out all of the stops on the SEO 7R so pick one up to insure you're not left in the dark during your next adventure. www.ledlenserusa.com



ABUS Key Garage

The ABUS Key Garage takes a proven idea from the real estate industry and provides a great solution for the outdoor enthusiast. Gone are the days of lost keys on the trails or hiding keys behind your tire while you go on a trail run. Just pop your keys into the ABUS Key Garage, attach to your hitch, roof rack or bike rack and hit the trails. The Key Garage features a plastic coated solid metal housing, a 4 digit settable locking cover and room enough for 20 keys or 14 code or credit cards. Perfect for outdoor activities or for leaving house keys for guests the ABUS Key Garage will keep your keys safe until you need them. www.abus.com



OTTOLOCK

The OTTOLOCK is a light weight, tough as nails bike lock that is perfect for the protection you need in the urban jungle. Weighing in at a paltry 120 grams, the OTTOLOCK is so light you will not even notice it in your bike jersey. Available in 18, 30 & 60 inch lengths, the multi-layer steel and Kevlar bands are bolt cutter resistant and perfect for a quick layer of protection. The OTTOLOCK features a 3 digit settable combination, a non-scratch coating and a strap to keep the cinch lock coiled when traveling. Get yourself an OTTOLOCK cinch lock and quit worrying about the safety of your gear. www.ottodesignworks.com

Maui Jim Kuma

The Maui Jim Kuma is a minimalist dream that start with a stylish ultra-light weight frame. The combination of adjustable nose pads and hinge less earpieces provide a perfect fit as well as keep your glasses firmly in place even during extreme movement. Finally the impact resistant Polarized



Plus 2 lenses eliminate glare and harmful UV rays while providing brilliant color & crisp details of your surroundings. The Maui Jim Kumas are light enough to take on any excursion and will keep you protected and seeing clearly while looking great. www.mauijim.com

Sea to Summit Aeros Pillow Premium Traveller

The Sea to Summit Aeros Pillow Premium Traveller is a must have product for anyone who flies more than once a year. This lightweight travel pillow packs down into a case about the size of an Altoids box which stows away easily in a purse or backpack. A couple puffs of air and you are in business and deflating the pillow is a cinch with a large dump valve. The soft brushed poly material is comfortable and the Premium Traveller features a narrow center to reduce pressure on your neck along with oversized arms that provide great support for your head. Believe it or not, I was actually able to get the pillow packed back into the case on the first try. Sea to Summit has done it again and the Aeros Pillow Premium Traveller will significantly increase your comfort level on those long flights. www.seatosummitusa.com



Muck Edgewater II Mid

The Muck Edgewater II Mid has all of the great features Muck has built its reputation on in a lighter low cut boot. Perfect for warmer weather the Edgewater II features a breathable airmesh lining and an angled top that fits snug around your calf but allows the boot to be easily removed. The burly waffle tread offers great traction in any conditions and the extended rubber upper provides protection against rough brush and terrain.

The Muck Edgewater II features comfortable protection down to 25 °F and will quickly become one of your regular go to boots. www.MuckBootCompany.com



Kuhl Spyfire Jacket

The Kuhl Spyfire ultralight down jacket is a new and improved solution to an old problem. Kuhl used thermal body mapping and different sized baffles to provide warmth where you need it without giving you that bloated marshmallow puffy jacket look. The protection starts with a water resistant and windproof shell and is followed by a double layer front panel for durability and finished off with an ultra-soft interior. Kuhl added reflective zipper tape which also prevents zipper snag, light weight underarm knit panels that help regulate temperature, five zippered pockets and an interior mesh pocket to hold all of your essentials. The Kuhl Spyfire is an 800 fill technical jacket that can handle just about any abuse you can throw its way while giving you a stylish alternative to the traditional puffy jacket. Available in six Kuhl colors the Spyfire has set a new standard. The trim fitting Kuhl Spyfire would be at home on a runway in New York, on a date at your local micro-brewery or in the mountains on a back country climbing weekend. www.kuhl.com

Kuhl Jetstream Pant

Say goodbye to those baggy, poor fitting trash bags you used to wear as Kuhl has redefined waterproof rain pants with the Jetstream. These lightweight breathable pants are waterproof, fast drying and stretchable for comfortable movement. Taped seams keep you dry as a bone and the Jetstream feature twelve inch zippered legs with ankle snaps which make them easy to get on or off. Dual front and rear zippered pockets and a zippered thigh pocket provide ample room for all of your must have items and a low profile boot hook helps seal out moisture & wind. The gusseted crotch and ergonomic fit make the Jetstream look and feel like just another pair of ultra-comfortable britches. The Kuhl Jetstream pants are stylish enough to wear on a first date yet rugged enough for any wet & windy weekend outing. www.kuhl.com



The North Face Ventrrix Jacket

The North Face Ventrrix Jacket solves the problems associated with temperature changes during aerobic activities or activities that require rapid elevation loss and gains. The trim fitting Ventrrix is a light weight water resistant jacket with synthetic dynamic venting insulation that aids in regulating your fluctuating temperature during activities. The Ventrrix features micro laser perforations under the arm and on the back which expand and dump heat as you warm up and the forearms have a durable high denier fabric that can take a beating. Dual zippered hand pockets and a zippered chest pocket keep your gear safe during excursions and the hem cinch cord locks out the cold. Available in 11 colors the Ventrrix is a stylist lightweight jacket that will keep you at the right temperature during your next adventure. www.thenorthface.com





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Cauldryn Fyre Mobile

The Cauldryn Fyre Mobile provides a mobile option for heating beverages in a quick and easy to use package. The Fyre Mobile starts with a 16 oz stainless steel vacuum insulated mug that will keep your drinks hot or cold for an extended period of time. Cauldryn added a modular base to the mug which allows it to be connected to the battery pack or base unit and quickly heat liquid to 4 specific temperatures from boil, brew, extra hot & hot. Just charge up the battery pack using the enclosed power cord and the Cauldryn Fyre Mobile is ready to boil your liquid or maintain the same temperature all day long without being connected to a power cord. Or use the base which requires a power cord to keep your drink warm and have the ability for unlimited boils. The battery pack also features 2 USB outputs which can be used to charge your devices and the mug lid features a sipping opening and a pouring or guzzling spout. Perfect for the RV, the office or anywhere else that you want to have a hot drink, the Cauldryn Fyre Mobile provides unlimited abilities to heat liquids. www.cauldryn.com

Grove Life Silicone Ring

The Grove Life Silicone Ring is a perfect addition to your active lifestyle. Wear your wedding band during any outdoor activity without worrying about catching it on another surface or losing it. The low profile silicone Grove Life ring features breathable grooves & air ports to keep your finger from sweating and is available in a multitude of colors and styles. Perfect for traveling and the active lifestyle get your grove on with a Grove Life Silicone Ring. www.groovelife.com



Zing Airhunter Z-Curve Bow

The Zing Airhunter Z-Curve Bow is a toy that will give your little guys (and big guys) hours of entertainment. The easy to use bow can be used by both right and left handed shooters and is simple to load and shoot. Just hook the arrow, aim at your target and let it fly. The Airhunter Z-Curve Bow comes with 2 long range foam arrows and a suction cup arrow that really sticks to windows. We recommend purchasing an arrow refill pack to extend your arsenal. This is a can't miss toy that will provide both boys and girls with tons of fun as they shoot targets that are 125 feet away with this super accurate bow. What are you waiting for get your little one an Airhunter Z-Curve Bow – and pick one up for yourself why you are at it. www.zing.toys



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USARA Nationals: Girl Power!

by Casey Hill

Jess Evans, Karen Clark and I arrived in the Poconos around 4pm on Thursday to get checked in where we immediately saw the other 361 Adventures team of Shawn, Matt, and Doug. This will be a recurring theme throughout the rest of the weekend. Once checked in, we went to get our bikes staged which was nothing out of the ordinary: front bike light, red blinkie, tire pressure, chain lube, bike bottles ,yada yada yada, eat chips, and talk to our friends. Then we went to settle in at the team house that I affectionately referred to as, "The Real World Poconos."

0340: I was first up in the house because I hate rushing and I like to drink a cup of coffee by myself or silently beside dear friends. Everything was packed and laid out the night before, but I ended up repacking my clothes and added even more fuel just in case. We all loaded up and made the short drive to race headquarters, got maps and began plotting. Well, Karen and Jess started plotting while I read all the instructions. After everything was plotted we made our strategy based off of how much time we wanted to spend on each leg. Then we were on to the busses for our 45 minute ride out to the start.

Off the busses we went to stage our boats then assemble at the top of a small hill for the national anthem and race start, except the PA system was not working to play the anthem. It was 9:02, and we were ready to race.



We had trained, tapered, traveled, and meticulously planned our gear and race strategies. It was time. I heard, “Oh say can you see,” before I joined in to sing our national anthem. The further we got into the Star Spangled Banner the more the volume grew, until the entire race field was singing acapella. I was grateful that Jess was to my right and singing beautifully and hopefully drowning out my lack of key. This was by far my favorite race start. Then Ben fired the starting cannon and we dashed to our boats to portage them to the water.

I am at the back of our boat, Karen is in the middle and Jess at the front. I was glad we were starting in the boats and relieved that there was not going to be a night paddle. We set off at a sustainable cadence to get our first punch. I love paddling with Karen and Jess. We have good chemistry in the boat and great communication. Karen is our lead navigator and gives me the feature to aim for, I get there by following the pace set by Jess and call out what I need from them to keep us on line. Karen put us right to our paddle points 1, 2, 5 and 3. Just when I started thinking I was a bit over paddling we got out of the boat to head to the first orienteering section. One hour and 25 minutes into the race I was in water halfway up my thigh as we trekked up the waterway to get CP 4 and maps. Once we had our maps we divided up the points, giving Jess the heavier portion, as she would move faster than Karen and I.

It felt odd to split apart, but was allowed on this one section of the course. The O course went by quickly. Karen and I overshot our first point, so we got all the others and snagged the missed one on the way back to Jess. Jess had about 15 minutes to fuel, get interviewed and contemplate life before we got back to her and take off for the boat. Back in the boats, we paddled past TA 2 to get CP 7 then a short turn and burn back to the TA to turn in our orienteering passports, return our paddle gear and head to the water source.

As we walked up the hill, the 361 men’s team came soaring down on their bikes looking strong. We cheered for them like wild banshees and wondered if we would



see them again during the race. Mr. Popticals and Troy asked us what we thought of the paddle as we got our bikes. I said something to the effect of, "It was gorgeous, Bob Ross stuff out there," and we left for a wee road ride. CP 10 took us to the riverside to punch aaaaaand then we were sent walking up the river to reach the actual river crossing. It was at this time that I stopped to put my pack in a dry bag, my bike bottles in my bra...not sure why I did not just keep them in the bottle cages. I inched my way and did my best not to slip on the slick river rocks. Water was up to my chest when Brian Grafton of team Topo walked by with his bike over his head. "Engage your core, Brian," I heckled.

After swapping the maps around we took a short hike a bike up to Jim Thorpe (a town, not a person, as it would sound) where we crossed the street and got our time check



to start King of the Mountains, a horrific bike section that if you completed in the fastest time would then be crowned, "King of the Mountains." We had already decided pre-race to drop a number of those points and headed up the road to CP 16, which was on the peak of Mount Pisgah. We made a left turn into an intensely steep large rock gravel road that would take us to said peak. So it was time for some bike pushing. I was READY. I LOVE a good bike push. I thought I was an EXCELLENT bike pusher. Once at the top we had a short hike up to CP 16, which also awarded a stunning view of the Poconos. It was one of those moments that you know you need to remember. We were racing in the Pocono Mountains, with our friends, it is beautiful and now we get to go downhill...glorious moment. Well, I only road very brief sections of the descent because of how steep it was and I could not get back behind my seat. The glory was short lived. CP 17 led us onto the switchback trail, which had some fun rideable single track, finally. I was so relieved to be riding my bike just in time to get off my bike and push it over some larger boulders. Honestly, much of that trail was rideable for someone comfortable navigating large rock gardens. I was doing my best at ratcheting my pedals to avoid catching rocks on a down stroke, but could not keep enough speed to roll over the rocks I needed to; this resulted in more bike pushing. I felt like I was holding Karen and Jess up, but knew walking my bike took less race time than wrecking my bike.

Only a few minutes later Tribe 321 emerged. It was great to see another all female team. We have had the pleasure of getting to know these ladies over the past year and a half after we met at Sheltopee Extreme 2016, where we were the only all female teams. We spun and spun and spun, took a walk break and spun some more until we



WOMEN OF AR

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The first TEN all-female teams to qualify and register for the race will receive a \$300 sponsorship. Details at www.usaranationals.com.

reached the top and had a nice little coast into 21. Karen picked us a lovely flat gravel /dirt ride for sunset on our way to CP 22.

We set off for a planned bike whack up a mountain to access the trail to check point 25. This led us to walking our bikes through a boulder field. "This is one of those times that I know I am doing something I have never done, but that I can do it, I can push through it, this won't last forever, I am an ADVENTURE RACER," over confident and undertrained self pep talk. After about 15 minutes of executing countless clean and presses of my obese mountain bike ("Fat Pat"), I was more than relieved to have Karen name a rock ahead for a break. It was past midnight at this point and we were fatigued. We ate, drank and got back up to keep inching the bikes up the mountain side. We saw other teams walking with their bikes on their shoulders. I knew that wasn't happening with Fat Pat. I saw Karen lift her bike to her shoulder and make a good gain in a few steps, but quickly set her bike back down. She later told us it was too steep to keep her balance while also traversing the boulders. Karen's advance motivated Jess, but she did



stay within one step of me. If Jess took a step I took a step. Then I went to the dark place where I think of everything I'd rather do than what I am currently doing. It usually starts with, "I paid someone money to let me do this." I usually keep this all in the confines of my own mind, but finally had to let it out. In a matter of fact tone, I told Jess, "I would rather pass a human through my body than do this, I can't even quit here, they would not extract me from this boulder field for being a pouty tired racer." Jess smiled. She said, "We will take our time, we have all night, if I have to I will get my bike up then come back down to help you with your bike." That was all I needed.



It took us a bit to find CP 25 since we were not on the section of trail that we had originally thought we were, so after that we opted to drop CP 26 and make our way to the manned CP 27. It was at this point that I wanted to drink my second Energize, but couldn't find it. Karen and Jess ate some chocolate covered espresso beans and that seemed to be the ticket for them. We also got to see another all female team, Dirty Skirts. I was laying on the ground at this point, but it sounded like they were in good spirits and moving well through the night.

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We had a short road ride before hitting another canal loop that would bring us to the ruins of a lock on our way to the next manned CP, a river crossing at 2am. I was already starting to get cold and had put on my rain shell. The thought of another water crossing and trying to rewarm was not appealing. We opted for



a road route that would add only 3 more miles of riding. We still had to hike down the steep bank and followed a trail of glow sticks to the manned punch. We got a look at the swift moving river and were glad to not be in it. So we took off on our bike down the canal loop to reach the road when Karen started getting really tired. Jess told us about the conversations and tricks they used to stay awake during their 6 day race at the world championship. She told us about her and Jim Benton singing 80s music and this was most appealing at the moment. I almost always have a song in my head. Now was my time to shine. Nothing. Blank. I could barely think of song titles let alone the actual lyrics. Karen likes David Bowie, but none of us could remember the words to any of his songs. I love the song, "Under Pressure," but all we could muster was "mm ba ba de, Um bum ba de, Um bu bu bum deUnder Pressure." The final song of our "Stay awake don't wreck your bike" set was "500 miles," by The Proclaimers. Screaming "Da da da (da da da)," at 3am outside, stone sober, with two of your best friends is a special thing.

After finally reaching the TA, I went to sit in the tent where they had a space heater and light to take my pack apart and find those energy powders. It was also burrito time. A volunteer offered to warm it up on their heater and I gladly took him up on it. I stumbled behind, to the left, and to the right of Karen and Jess as we started the 20 point orienteering course. I saw the orange and white posts that cross trail heads and thought I was seeing a house that had slides inside of it...literally the best description I can give you. I wouldn't say that I was hallucinating, but that my vision was blurred and my depth perception was impaired. I was also tired in an intense way I had not ever



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experienced. So, if Karen and Jess stopped walking for 2-3 seconds to look at the map, I would lie flat on my back... no words, just lie down and when they started to walk, I would pop up startled like an alarm went off. Karen had come alive with the O map in her hand and took us right to the first few CPs. Then we all got super tired when we were going after CP 4 of the O course. I was already lying down when Karen suggested we all lie down for 5 minutes. We slept three in a row in the middle of the trail; well Jess looked at the stars and her watch until it was time to wake us up. Karen's persistence got us CP 5 after she took a bearing off a boulder for the third time. We were so excited. The next two hours are a complete blur. I just kept my hand on Jess' pack and an eye out until the sun came up. We were getting points 7 and 8 when Jess realized we mispunched, so we would need to factor in the 20 minute time penalty into our strategy. We left the O course with 15 CPs in roughly 7 hours. We had the opportunity to give this update via Live Stream on Facebook.

Back at the TA we topped off our fluids, I changed shirts, pants, socks, and a fresh coat of RunGoo and we were ready to go. We got one of the trek points before getting on our bikes. My feet were hurting and swollen at this point. At least some pressure was off my feet while I was on the bike, but I definitely was not comfortable in the saddle. Jess to the rescue again, "At first your body will reject being back on the bike, but soon enough it will accept it." We had fairly easy trail riding to get CP 42 in our last boulder field of the race, and then a nice little trail that took us to 43 and the road that we would ride to CP 44 at Split Rock. We rolled into the finish and dropped our bikes.

We got to cheer in our 361 Adventures teammates. Tribe 321 was there enjoying a beer. We had no idea how we had finished compared to the rest of the race field. We took one last ride on the bikes back to the race start to load the bikes and drive back to The Real World Poconos. I could not decide if I wanted a beer, a shower, or food. I tried to think of what I could eat in the shower.

"Casey, we are going to leave for the awards soon if you want to get up." You are lucky to have someone as nice as Jess Evans wake you up. We headed to race HQ and there were the sheets posted with the results.



I saw our 361 Adventures Chickpoints listed first, then the other three teams. I thought for a split second that we had won the all-female division. I was excited. Then I saw under "Number" that we only had 54, while the other teams had 55, 56, and 57 CPs. We were last. I was disappointed. Then someone (Karen or Jess) pointed to the right and said, "No Case, we won." I had ranked us based on our bib numbers... we were the very first all-female and the 2017 USARA National Champions. **AW**

Dancing on the Volcano

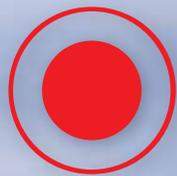
story by Gerhard Czerner

photos by Martin Bissig



Nine volcanic islands loom in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean just 870 miles from the most western point of the European mainland. The smallest island is only 6 square miles and the largest stretches to 290 square miles. Sounds like the perfect place for scuba diving, surfing, and swimming, but biking?





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The plane lands just briefly after having taken off. The shortest flight of our lives lasts a mere 15 minutes and takes us to San Miguel on the largest island of the Azores, Santa Maria. About 5000 people live on this easy to grasp island. Two of them are Andre and Miguel. They welcome us in proper style at the airport with a Land Rover and a minivan. With us is Luis Melo, who grew up on San Miguel and knows the island like no other. He's the perfect companion for our trip over the next few days being a passionate biker of the first hour himself. The enthusiastic teacher works in tourism and now he wants to further develop biking on the Azores.

On the way to the hotel my travel partner Jenny and I learn from Andre that there are over 20 trails on the island. He tells us that the Pico Alto is the highest point at 7700 feet. He also says we surely won't have enough time to see everything and we look at each other in surprise. We're not supposed to have enough time in two days to see everything in an area that covers 37 square miles? We don't have much time to wonder because we reach the hotel just a few minutes later as distances are pleasantly short on a small island.

We assemble our bikes and make our way to a small, well-visited bar to have breakfast. We make our first, typical tourist mistake and order a cappuccino. It comes from a bag and not from the tempting, glistening coffee machine behind the counter. We have to order "Pingado," espresso with a shot of milk, Andre lets us know. We take a bite





out of our sandwich with cheese from the farm across the street as Luis excitedly rushes to us. The mail man is here, Nuno Aguiar and we have to meet him. Luis tells us that Nuno hadn't simply delivered lots of mail in the past, he also brought biking to the island. He came from Sao Miguel a few years ago and began clearing old paths from the sprawling vegetation with a shovel and pick to be able to continue pursuing his passion, downhill biking. Bikers profit from his efforts to this day, even though Nuno now has little time left to take care of the trails. Now it is up to other bikers to care for the trails. Nuno has to go and deliver the mail after an inspiring talk about the development of biking on the island, we can hardly wait to shred our first trails.



As we expected, we shuttle to the highest point on the island, the Pico Alto, and the further we climb the denser the vegetation gets. The thick green completely entraps us. Trails keep crossing the street and we begin to imagine the potential danger for bikers. Once we get to the top we start immediately with a quick push as we dive into the thick, jungle-like forest. Luis accelerates right away, being a local he knows every stone and each corner. We need to get used to the soft floor that's spread with roots so Luis waits for us at every crossing to insure that we don't get lost. The paths are like a spider web covering the mountain. Santa Barbara, our trail that leads into a town with the same name, zig zags through the dense brush but also gives us a few views of the green island. Luis warns us to be careful at the next stop. The following part of the trail passes through

a barely shoulder-wide, nine foot deep mini canyon that gets very slippery when it's wet. This doesn't allow for many moves or mistakes. And yes, the drop into the tunnel like passage is strewn with slippery stones. The only way down is to let go of your brakes and head into the fun. I slip and slide, my handlebar touches the wall of the canyon twice until it spits me out into a meadow. We stop and breathe. I begin to notice my surroundings and see the first houses of Santa Barbara lying in a thick green as my pulse begins to slow.

The colorful windows form a stark contrast to the white facades of the houses. We learn that the color used to be a sign of wealth of the families living here. We sit down in front of the impressive church in the center of town and take in the rural charm of the little town until our shuttle arrives after a few short minutes. We climb on board and head back up the Pico Alto for our next run.

We're massively impressed by the variety of the paths. They're laboriously taken care of by hand and some passages are optimized for biking. Banked curves, small drops, jumps, and short pedaling sections fit the surroundings perfectly and almost feel like they grew naturally. All trails have a name and most of them also have a small story. The Aeroplane got its name from an airplane crash in 1989 for example. A Boeing 707 crashed on Pico Alto and a commemorative plaque reminds of the terrible incident.

The next day also passes much too fast. We bike along steep paths down to lonely bays and cross the Barreiro de Faneca. A soft and flowy landscape made of red clay sediment also known as the Red Desert. The diversity of the track is unbelievable. We





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take a break at noon on the Praia Formosa, one of the most beautiful beaches on the island. The annual music festival, Mare de Agosto, takes place here. You can experience a week of typical Azorean music, jazz, rock, and pop as well as other cultural performances. Thousands of visitors from around the globe come to this otherwise dreamy bay with its colorful bars.

We have to say that Andre and Miguel were right as we say our goodbyes at the airport that evening. Two days were much too short to get to know this unique island with all its possibilities. Time seems to pass a bit slower here and the short flight back to San Miguel isn't nearly enough time to process the plethora of collected experiences of the past days.

The next morning begins just as impressive. After a short bus ride we reach our starting point high above the Lagoa do Fogo, the Sea of Fire. It lies far below us, in the middle of a crater. We seek shelter from the howling wind to watch the sun rise and we don't have to wait long until we see the red, glistening sun on the horizon. It immerses the lower lying landscape in warm light, what an amazing spectacle of nature! We get to enjoy a magnificent view of large parts of the island from up here.

We chose this outlook not just because of the spectacular sunrise but also because it is the beginning of the so-called Cathedral trail at the highest point. A firework of impressions explodes around us as we enjoy the longest trail on the island. Good riding technique allows for enough time to take in the magnificent views at the beginning of the path at the crater rim. Seagulls scream loudly as they



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circle above and follow us for a while. Farther down we dive into the thick green and the silence of the forest that surrounds the mountain. The fun and varied trail leads all the way to the ocean and alone is reason enough to bring your bike to the island. We indulge in a late breakfast in a small bar with huge grins on our faces.

We visit the tea manufacturer Chá Gorreana on our way back which is a 45 hectare large tea plantation on the north coast. The family run company lies idyllic and far from any industry even though they produce about 40 tons of tea annually. The plants that grow here are raised without any pesticides or herbicides thanks to the special climate and around 30 workers manually process the tea to this day. A captivating smell surrounds us as we are cordially welcomed. We stroll through the production site and watch the workers and then we enjoy the freshly processed tea in a special parlor free of charge.

The most well-known enduro race on San Miguel is the FAIAL DA TERRA ENDURO FEST. Eight different stages are ridden over the course of two days. We don't want to miss the mecca of enduro sports on the island and visit the town Faial Da Terra on the south-east coast. The closer we get to the place the more excited Luis gets. He points outside the bus in all direction and counts umpteen different trails and their combinations, many of them are part of the enduro race.





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Our heads spin as we get out of the car. The fresh, clean air helps stop the carousel of thoughts in our minds and brings us back to reality. We discover a wooden sign that reads Pico Grande on the other side of the road and on it is a pictogram of two mountain bikers. We start pedaling unhurriedly. “We built a few new jumps, but it’s all possible,” beams Luis, full of anticipation in my direction. He is here a lot and basically knows every rock. Shortly after the trail drops steeply we see a riverbed with a jump over it. Luis accelerates and whirls through the air. The rest of the crew rides around the ramp. I usually don’t like jumping over gaps that I wasn’t able to scout before, but I pluck up my courage and give it a go, motivated by the waiting team. I scan my surroundings in a rush, and then comes the moment when it’s too late to brake so I clench my teeth and jump. I land softly after a few meters in the air. “Built perfectly,” I think with a huge smile on my face. The continuing path is optimized for biking without being too artificial, providing a banked curve or a jump every now and then. The fun ends in Faial Da Terra. High Five! We’re full of adrenalin.

The Pedra Torta, a stoney and completely natural path is on the program before noon and the descent puts broad smiles on our faces. We sit on a wooden patio in the middle of town as Luis cordially greets a man in jeans and shirt. We learn that it’s Paulo Nazare, the mayor. He sits down with us and tells us about the development of biking in his region. Enthusiastic

about biking himself, he supports anything that helps improve the sport and is in accordance with environmental protection. A network of trails has developed here over the years which are cared for by the community and are constantly enlarged. All trails have been equipped with signs over the past years that mark their beginning for better orientation.

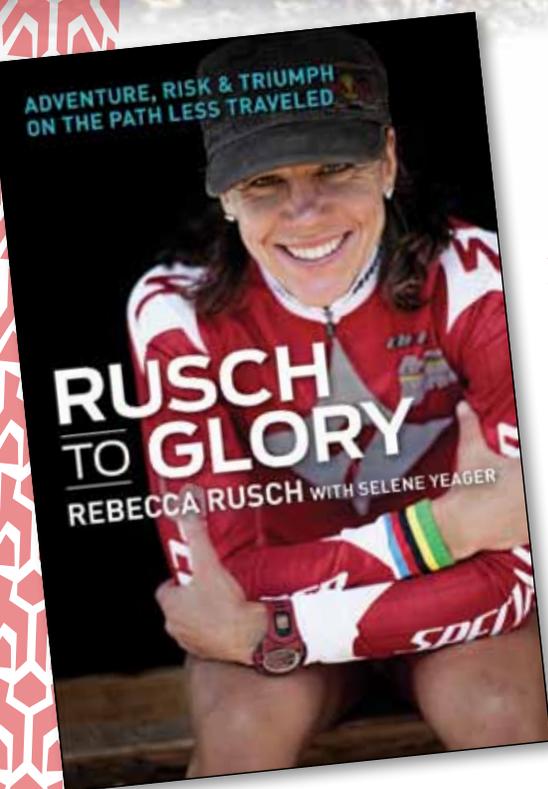
We make the best of the stormy weather the next morning and take a walk along the beach. The spray of the breaking waves is huge and the wind pulls at us. I find it fascinating to feel the power of nature over and over at this close range.

Sun, rain, wind, and fog constantly take turns here on the Azores. It's possible for fog to spread over the plains in the morning, to have the sun shine in the afternoon, and to experience a short downpour in the evening. These changes aren't unusual as the Azores sit in the middle of the Atlantic, close to the equator. Nature profits from the consistent climate and the warm rain as the unique flora and fauna of the Azores flourishes year round. There are no heat waves or cold snaps and snow only falls on the highest mountain of the Azores, the Pico. The forecast promises warm temperatures, blue skies, and dry weather when a high pressure system from the Azores is on its way to Central Europe.

The shuttle arrives on time at 11am. Today we want to visit the town Furnas and it's lake with the same name. Hot sulphur springs bubble from the ground, something we usually just see in pictures from the USA. The stench of rotten eggs causes us leave the impressive natural spectacle quickly. Right next to the Sulphur springs lies a completely



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stentch less highlight for bikers. The 16 Seconds Trail, which is the scene of various downhill races, is around the corner. Banked curves, doubles, and tables are perfectly built into the compact ground in different lines. The 1800 vertical feet pass through a jungle like forest and guarantee a rollercoaster feeling. There's another trail parallel to it and a third is being planned. We're so enthusiastic that we have to ride down through the huge ferns a second time.

We find the perfect ending to the impressions of the day in truly magical surroundings. The Caldeira Velha are natural thermal springs with several pools. A waterfall feeds the top pool and serves as a shower. The temperature is 93 degrees! A little lower, a smaller pool with 100 degree water invites you to linger. We lie on our backs, look into the thick jungle surrounding the thermal springs, and feel like we're in a different world.

We let the impressions of the last days on the two islands pass before us as we lay in the warm spring water, tired but also captivated by the scenery. We bathed our senses not only in warm water, but also in amazing sights, smells, and tastes. The affectionate people of the diverse islands have impressed us immensely. The possibilities for bike racers, cross country and enduro riders are so varied that we have already booked our next trip to the Azores in our heads. **AW**





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The Azores



The Islands

The Azores are a group of Portuguese islands in the Atlantic Ocean. They are composed of nine larger and several smaller islands about 850 miles west of the European mainland and 2700 miles east of North America. The Pico, with its peak at 7700 feet, is the highest mountain in Portugal and is located on Pico Island. Sao Miguel and Santa Maria offer the best infrastructure and selection for lovers of single track. There are bike shops, shuttle services and guides on both islands. The ideal months for biking are May, June, September, and October when the temperatures are 71-75 degrees and humidity is lowest. This is also the quietest time on the islands. Biker racers and cross-country enthusiasts will all be excited as the variety of riding is amazing.

Getting there

The easiest way is to fly to Sao Miguel (Ponta Delgada, PDL) and Azores Airlines will transport bikes. Direct flights leave from Germany with a 4-5 hour duration. Small inexpensive shuttle planes fly from Sao Miguel to Santa Maria daily, will transport bikes and only take 15 minutes. www.azoresairlines.pt

On Site Services

SMATUR organises shuttles, guiding, and other outdoor activities on Santa Maria. www.smatour.pt

Azores Adventure Islands offers entire trips as well as individual tours and shuttles. All guides are top-notch enduro bikers. www.azoresadventureislands.com

Visit Azores provides information on bike tours as well as general information on the islands. www.visitazores.com

Trail Maps

Trail Forks offers maps of all trails you can find on the islands. Perfectly administered database with GPS tracks and up-to-date reports on condition and state of trails. www.trailforks.com

Hotels

There are bed & breakfast places as well as classic hotels and hostels. Most hotels are in the main towns on the islands.

Hotel Colombo is the largest hotel on Santa Maria. www.colombo-hotel.com

Pedras Do Mar is a five star hotel, resort and spa on Sao Miguel located by the ocean with great food. www.pedrasdomar.com

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Catching Breath

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A TOUR DE FRANCE veteran has smashed the speed record for cycling one of the highest roads of the Himalayas. ŠKODA AUTO brought four riders and two support cars to the grueling 40 km Khardung La route in India to try and beat the 3 hours 4 minutes 6 seconds STRAVA record, previously held by Christophe Klugge from Austria in 2012. The uphill route is known as one of the world's toughest hills, with a constant five-per-cent gradient and severe threat of altitude sickness. The Polish former pro-cyclist shaved just under 30 minutes off the previous Strava record for the 5,359 metre high challenge, which crosses through Jammu and Kashmir, in India.

As well as Bartosz Huzarski, keen cycling enthusiast Andrea Schiliro, from Milan, Italy also beat Klugge's former record with a time of 2 hours 46 minutes and 9 seconds, while Swede Eva Lindskog set a new women's record completing the challenge in 2 hours 50 minutes and 8 seconds.





Bartosz said: “Of course I was a little nervous about what to expect because on this altitude you never know what will be the body’s reaction. “From the mental side it was really hard, you know there’s not much oxygen; every move you spend extra energy, so I was mostly sitting on the bike. And approaching 6,000m it wasn’t even possible to stand up, there was so little oxygen.”



“The last part was really, really hard, the last 7km on the gravel road it was really hard but I work under pressure.”

Eva said: “On this climb the last stretch was a gravel road that is sometimes quite bumpy and you have tuk tuks overtaking you. You don’t see the full stretch, just the corners and you think, ‘Okay the next stretch or the next corner, the finish line is beyond’ - but it’s not, and then you have the next corner and it’s not there either, and the next and the next. It’s like a never-ending climb.”



“But when I passed the last corner I was met by a cheering crowd. There were so many people there and it was totally unexpected and heartwarming. It was really a fantastic feeling to go there and know that I accomplished my goal in spite of the conditions.”

On their arrival to India, the riders were greeted with blue skies and sunshine, but on the race day, the weather took a turn for the worse.



Andrea said: “For the two weeks we were there we had sun and blue skies and perfect temperatures. “On the race day it started snowing at 4,000 m. By the time we got up to 5,000 m it was a full snowstorm. “Then the day after it was super sunny. We were just really unlucky.”

For Eva, the freezing conditions nearly cost her the women’s record. She said: “My hands were so cold my fingers were numb. It was difficult to put on the jacket and to change gloves. I had to stop and I lost lots of time, I think that took maybe 90 seconds. But I had to do it. If I had continued in just the clothes I was in, I would have got too cold and the conditions affected my performance.” Opting for a steady pace, Eva knew as long as she maintained her pre-planned heart rate she would be on target to beat Klugge’s record. Eva said: “At the beginning I was aiming for about 160-165bpm and after the toll 150bpm” [where the altitude is higher]. “I also had the previous record on my Garmin device so I could look all the time and see if I was ahead or behind. I started and felt quite good and realized to my surprise I’m actually quite far ahead. And it was the same at the halfway point when I had to change. That was what saved me - I really needed those extra minutes.”

Andrea also concentrated on cycling his own race. He said: “I knew there were four of us, and Bartosz is a pro-cyclist, but I wanted to try and do my best and then just push like there’s no tomorrow.”

Bartosz’s tactic was to go hard and fast right from the outset: “I decided to do it really hard to go for a really good speed and have a record that maybe won’t be broke for another half year or a year or whatever.” The ex-pro lost his GPS signal 2 km before the finish line but didn’t let it deter or slow him down. He said: “I came to the top completely exhausted, completely tired. But I was happy that it was done and we did it – and disappointed that I had to go home!”

Having been a professional rider for 15 years, Bartosz has ridden in the Tour de France three times, the Giro d’Italia twice, and the Vuelta d’Espagne one and a half times (his last tour was cut short after breaking his collar bone and

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shoulder blade racing in 2016). The relentless cycle of travel and competing meant he often saw little more than the racetracks in each country. He said: “It was my first trip together with my bicycle where I was completely free in my adventures and I could finally see something because normally if you go for a race you see only start line, finish line, hotel and airport so finally it was time to stop.”

The riders were invited to take part in the punishing challenge by ŠKODA and We Love Cycling. While Bartosz, Andrea and Eva had time to acclimatize to the altitude, the fourth cyclist Valenti Sanjuan, from Spain, didn't arrive until just before the race date, having completed 10 IRON MAN challenges in 10 days. A feat that ultimately cost him at Khardung La pass.

The only one of the group not to beat Klugge's record, halfway up the pass, Valenti was struggling to breathe so much he had to stop and receive medical attention. Rather than give up, Valenti vowed to complete the pass, enduring snowstorms to get to the finish line where he was high-fived by his fellow riders, with a time of 3 hours 22 minutes and 54 seconds.

Valenti said: “You go there and you will try and do your best and to have as much fun as you can, and then to arrive at the top of the mountain. If you are close to the record, fantastic, and if you are really far to the record, don't worry. The experience is to go there do it in the conditions you have to the best you can.” Valenti eventually completed his ride in 3 hours 22 minutes and 54 seconds. He said: “Arriving at the top with this time and the previous racers welcoming me, it felt really wow. It was a beautiful moment, and really emotional for me.”

Bartosz Huzarski's record stands for now, but would he be tempted to return and better it? “Never ever again!” he said immediately after the race. But with time to reflect, Bartosz calculates that if he took a lighter bike he could better his record: “Maybe one minute less would be possible if there was someone behind pushing me. In this case, maybe I can come back another year and try – but I don't know if I can do that again!” **AW**



The rider's epic challenge is showcased in the film, 'Catching Breath'. To watch the full documentary visit: <https://www.welovecycling.com/wide/catching-breath/>

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Ganesha

India's Hardest Route

by Kopal Goyal

Kopal Goyal is a climber from a small village in India who dreams of becoming an adventure film maker and photographer. When asked about how she managed to pull this shoot off in the blistering heat of Badami, she told us while climbing Ganesha it was just the two of us, no one else was there to belay the climber. So I handled the belaying duties while clicking some pictures at the same time. On the day Kopal arrived she took shots of the route from different points and different angles to figure out the best shooting points along the climb. Kopal wanted to blend both the climbing process and





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provide a flavor of the local area. As if being the only person to shoot and belay in the heat was not enough, she also had to deal with the mischievous monkeys. Kopal found some good shooting points but the catch was that these points were also the favorite playgrounds for the monkeys. Kopal relayed the following story. After a lot of deliberation with Abhishek, I decided to place the camera at a good vantage point while I belayed him. No sooner than I had placed the camera, a monkey came near and I was afraid it would steal the camera. I yelled up to Abhishek, who despite being reluctant, anchored himself and started making weird sounds to divert the monkey's attention so that I could grab the camera. All this goes on to prove that huge objectives can be achieved with constant hard work and friends who believe in you. **AW**



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Bolt Carrier Groups

by Troy Farrar

There are literally hundreds of Bolt Carrier Groups or BCGs to choose from when building or customizing your rifle and choosing the right BCG can make a real difference. The BCG houses the bolt and resets the hammer as it rides back and forth within the upper. The BCG also bears the brunt of the gas pressure during operation, via the carrier key, which is attached to it. This pressure moves the BCG back to cycle the rifle's firing mechanism. We tested some of the unique BCGs available and came up with the following list of top notch BCGs that will definitely enhance your rifle's performance.

[BCG For Suppressors](#)

GEMTECH 5.56 Suppressed Bolt Carrier

The GEMTECH 5.56 Suppressed Bolt Carrier has a unique design that allows the shooter to swap between unsuppressed and suppressed shooting with a simple twist of a valve. The GEMTECH Suppressed BCG is a drop-in replacement BCG that does not require any modifications to the firearm or gunsmithing, eliminating the need for an adjustable gas block. Just set the valve, with a simple turn to "U" for unsuppressed shooting or "S" for suppressed shooting, and start shooting. The GEMTECH BCG vents excess gas at the bolt reducing the carrier speed, which reduces recoil, gas to the shooters face, and wear to the system. The GEMTECH 5.56 Suppressed Bolt Carrier is the perfect upgrade for the AR-15 owner who shoots both suppressed and unsuppressed. My only question is, when will we see a .308 version? www.gemtech.com





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Light Weight BCGs

JP Enterprises Ultra Aluminum LMOS with Enhanced Bolt

The JP Enterprises Ultra Aluminum LMOS (Low Mass Operating System) with Enhanced Bolt is the lightest BCG on earth. The 7075 T6 aluminum LMOS requires a little more maintenance than your standard plug and 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 lightning fast and dangerously accurate. The LMOS uses a precision ground one-piece gas ring that ensures perfect bore to gas seal fitment and minimizes friction which increases reliability when 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.jp Rifles.com



Fail Zero Lightweight Bolt Carrier Group

The Fail Zero Lightweight Bolt Carrier Group is guaranteed to increase your performance and the reliability of your weapon. The drop in low mass BCG has an EXO Nickel Boron coating which provides permanent lube free lubricity, increased durability and corrosion resistance, as well as being very easy to clean. Fail Zero's EXO Technology is actually harder than the substrate that is being coated, providing an 82-85 on the Rockwell Hardness Scale. Competition and tactical shooters will love the reduction in recoil provided by this 9.2 ounce BCG which allows for faster follow up shots and tighter groups. Fail Zero provides a lifetime warranty on the Nickel Boron coating making this made in the USA BCG a great upgrade for your competition rifle. www.failzero.com



AR-10 BCGS

Fail Zero AR10 (.308) BCG

The Fail Zero AR10 (.308) BCG is a full auto BCG with Nickel Boron coating providing permanent lube free lubricity, increased durability and corrosion resistance. The Nickel Boron allows you to extend the time between cleanings and makes cleaning the BCG a snap. The Fail Zero AR10 BCG is a heavy weight workhorse that is both DPMS and 6.5 Creedmore compatible and will have your rifle running as smooth as butter. Add a lifetime warranty on the Nickel Boron coating, and this made in the USA BCG is a no-brainer upgrade for your AR-10. www.failzero.com



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RCA Titanium AR-10 BCG

The Rubber City Armory Titanium AR-10 Bolt Carrier Group and is treated with an aerospace grade ARMORTI surface treatment for enhanced durability. The first thing I noticed when I unpacked the BCG was how light it was – it weighs in at a paltry 10.3 ounces and that's freakishly light for a .308 BCG. The precision craftsmanship of the RCA Titanium BCG starts with a firing pin that is custom matched to the firing pin hole. RCA's ARMORTI treatment is a patented thermal chemical diffusion process for titanium that will increase the strength and durability of the BCG while decreasing the wear as well as extending the time between required cleanings. The BCG is equipped for forward assist, has a tool steel extractor and an adjustable billet gas key for fine tuning. The RCA Titanium AR-10 Bolt Carrier Group may be light on the scales but it will perform like a heavy weight in your rifle. RCA is so confident of this fact that they back their Titanium BCG with a lifetime warranty. www.rubbercityarmory.com



Durable and Easy to Clean AR-15 BCG

WMD Guns NiB-X Full Auto Bolt Carrier Group

The WMD Guns NiB-X Full Auto Bolt Carrier Group is a great upgrade for your AR-15. The Nickel Boron is 40% more wear resistant than chrome and produces an easy to clean BCG that resists fouling and does not require lube. Great for users who shoot lots of rounds, suppressed weapons, or weapons that are used in tough environments, such as sandy areas. Available in 5.56 and .308, the NiB-X coating will allow the user to run 2-3 times the amount of rounds between cleanings. The heavier full auto BCG will add strength to your BCG making it more durable and less likely to fail. WMD Guns is so confident in their made in the United States BCG that they will guarantee the NiB-X coating forever, and that is a very long time. www.wmdguns.com



RCA Titanium Black AR-15 BCG

The Rubber City Armory Titanium Black AR-15 Bolt Carrier Group is treated with Black Nitride eliminating the need for excessive oil. The corrosion resistant treatment increases strength and hardness while reducing friction which extends the life of the BCG. RCA's proprietary treatment allows them to treat titanium BCG's which brings the weight down to only 7.8 ounces without sacrificing durability. RCA also makes a Type II 6.5 Grendel bolt that is treated and easily changed out with your existing AR-15 bolt to make your BCG 6.5 Grendel ready. The RCA Titanium Black BCG is equipped for forward assist, has a tool steel extractor and is available with an adjustable billet gas key. Extend the life of your BCG, the time between cleanings and be confident knowing that RCA backs their Titanium BCG with a lifetime warranty. www.rubbercityarmory.com **AW**





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Shooting Reviews

T3 Bolt Bag

The Trident Tactical / Technical Bolt Bag is a low profile, heavy duty rapid deployment bag that is packed full of features. Secure the bag with a removable quick release shoulder strap or the sewn on belt loops and the flap cover also features a quick release buckle. The Tough Cordura exterior features three short rows of MOLLE compatible webbing on each end of the bag, a top carry handle and three magazine pockets with Velcro flaps that will hold up to 6 M4 magazines. The interior has a large flat pocket, a second large flat Velcro pocket with a double pistol magazine pocket, a radio pouch and a large main compartment. Featuring a lifetime warranty, the made in the USA T3 Bolt Bag will ensure that you have everything you need during those first critical moments when failure is not an option. www.t3gear.com



Flambeau Tactical Cargo Range Backpack

The Flambeau Tactical Cargo Range Backpack provides you with a mobile armory for trips to the range or weekends at the ranch. The Cargo Range Backpack comes with two removable 14 inch pistol hard cases and 2 mini ammo cans which have Zerust palque to protect your firearm and ammunition from rust along with 3 zippered accessory pockets. The inside front zippered door features a waterproof pouch and a zippered mesh pouch. The outer material is a tough 1260D polyester and Flambeau doubled down with a rugged compression molded EVA bottom that will keep moisture out of the backpack. Adjustable shoulder straps, a top carry handle, dual cinch straps and a dual MOLLE/PALS system round out the features. The Flambeau Tactical Cargo Range Backpack is big enough to carry and protect everything you need for an extended day of shooting and light weight enough to make it your go to bag. www.flambeauoutdoors.com



Strike Industries Viper MOD-1 Stock

The Strike Industries Viper MOD-1 Stock is a lightweight, compact mil-spec replacement stock that won't break the bank. Featuring dual QD sling mounts, an enhanced cheek weld and an extremely high overall cool factor the adjustable Viper provides an 11.25 – 14.25 inch length of pull. Available in 5 color combinations, the Viper's unique shape allows for lightning quick shoulder mounting. Weighing in at a mere 6.6 ounces the Strike Industries Viper is a minimalist dream stock built with the high standard of reliability we have come to expect from Strike Industries. www.strikeindustries.com



Strike Industries Viper Rubber Butt Pad

The Strike Industries Viper Rubber Butt Pad is a must have add on for the Strike industries Viper MOD 1 Stock. The super light butt pad is made of impact resistant TPE integrated on a rigid polymer frame which creates a great shoulder weld. The slim butt pad measures a mere .36 of an inch but provides recoil protection while integrating nicely into the Viper Stock. www.strikeindustries.com

Leica Rangemaster CFR 2700-B

Leica has just upped the game with the release of their newest range finder, the Rangemaster CRF 2700-B. The Rangemaster is capable of precise measurement of distances up to a whopping 2700 yards and features a 7x magnification.

Leica has included an integrated microSD memory card slot

so you can upload your ballistic data into the

Advanced Ballistic Compensation System and receive specific data for your equipment. The

Rangemaster provides users with three ballistic outputs, the equivalent horizontal range (EHR),

the holdover value and the number of clicks to set on the scope. The new LED design which

adjusts to ambient light is easy to read and also features an integrated inclinometer, air pressure

and temperature sensor. Finally to aid archers, the Rangemaster provides distances in decimal

format for measurements up to 200 yards. The Leica Rangemaster CFR 2700-B provides

everything a hunter could ask for and will give you the data to help insure that your next hunt is

success. us.leica-camera.com



Odin Works O2 Lite AR-10 M- LOK Forend

The Odin Works O2 Lite AR-10 M- LOK forend provides a light weight and versatile platform for AR-10 builds. Machine from 6005-T651 aluminum the 17.5 inch forearm is available in both DPMS high and low profiles and is anodized for durability. The free floating O2 Lite improves accuracy and comes with QD sling mounts at 3 & 9 o'clock. Accessory rails can be placed on the Odin Works forend at 3, 6 & 9 o'clock positions and you can actually join them together to create a continuous rail. The Odin Works O2 Lite AR-10 M- LOK forend is a functional work of art that has been ergonomically designed for user comfort and will keep you looking good and shooting good for years to come. www.odinworks.com



GPS Tactical AR Case

The GPS Tactical AR Case is another great example of GPS Tactical's we thought of everything and put it in an AR case for your mindset. The 1000 Denier case features sewn in heavy duty webbing handles and an adjustable shoulder strap for easy carrying along with metal D rings for hanging the case. The interior is padded on all 4 sides and has over sized zippers for easy access. Outside GPS Tactical has provided 4 magazine pouches with hook & loop closures. The exterior also features a zippered pistol pouch which includes 2 pistol magazine pouches and a hook & loop pistol securing system along with a second zippered pouch with included velour lined shooting glasses & ear plug pouch. A perfect gun case for trips to the range or the ranch the GPS Tactical AR Case will become your go to case for all of your shooting adventures. www.goutdoorsproducts.com

Axeon Absolute Zero

The Axeon Absolute Zero simplifies the process of sighting in your rifle. Just attach the Absolute Zero to your scope, stick the special sticker chart on your target, place the 2 precision lasers into the boxes on the Axeon sticker chart and fire a shot. Place the lasers back into the same boxes on the chart, adjust your crosshairs to your first shot point of impact and you are zeroed. Now move to 100 yards and repeat. The dual lasers help eliminate cant error and guarantee that your rifle hold is repeatable. Axeon has developed a simple solution that makes sighting in your rifle quick & easy and provides a 100% reliable and repeatable aiming aid. The Axeon Absolute Zero will save you time, ammo and sore shoulders and is a must have item for both recreational and competitive shooters. www.axeonoptics.com



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- **Firing Pin** – Manufactured, heat-treated, hardened, chromed and certified per Government drawings.
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Kryptek Dalibor II Pant

The Kryptek Dalibor 2 Pant is a durable work horse that is perfect for cold weather hunting. The water resistant 100 % polyester softshell material is quiet even when staking through the brush and the stretch material provides flexibility which results in comfort in any position. The Dalibor II features reinforced knees with removable knee pad pockets, an adjustable waist band system and can be worn with a belt or suspenders. Kryptek included 2 front pockets along with 8 zippered pockets so there is ample storage space for all of your gear. The pants also feature a velcro cinch just below the knees. The Kryptek Dalibor 2 Pant are a great pant for mild to cold weather and will keep you warm and comfortable on those all day hunts. www.kryptek.com



Kryptek Dalibor II Jacket

The Kryptek Dalibor II Jacket is the second piece of the Dalibor 1-2 knockout punch. A perfect companion piece for the Dalibor II pant this mid weight jacket is both functional and comfortable. The 100% polyester water resistant stretch material is warm, quiet and tough enough to handle anything you can throw its way. Built for cool to cold weather, the stay put hood is designed to provide good peripheral vision and the pit zips will help regulate your temperature during times of exertion. Kryptek included dual zippered hand, chest and shoulder pockets which gives you tons of storage possibilities while on your outings. Pair the Dalibor II jacket with the Dalibor II pant and be comfortable while you turn that bad weather rough environment hunt into a fun memory. www.kryptek.com

5.11 Tactical Traverse 2.0 Pant

The 5.11 Tactical Traverse 2.0 Pant are a comfortable and versatile all around pant packed full of features. The light weight Traverse 2.0 feature dual zippered back pockets, hook and loop closure thigh pockets with inner pockets and front pockets providing ample places for all of your gear. The water resistant breathable stretch fabric is super comfortable and fast drying and the articulated knees make the Traverse 2.0 comfortable in any position. The 5.11 Tactical Traverse 2.0 Pant are perfect for a day at the range, a night on the town or a week on the trail. www.511tactical.com





Sitka Gear Women's Celsius Jacket

Sitka Gear has expanded its line to women's clothing and they have brought all of their great features to the women's line. The Celsius Jacket is a warm and comfortable nylon shell filled with Primaloft insulation that will keep you warm even on the longest day in the stand. The Celsius features a harness pass through port between the shoulder blades for bow hunting, thumb loops, dual zippered hand warmer pockets and an internal chest pocket for extra storage. The quick drying Celsius jacket has gusseted hips & forearms for a perfect fit and ease of movement when bow hunting. Use as a layering piece or as a jacket and know that the Sitka Gear Celsius Jacket will keep you warm during your hunt. www.sitkagear.com

Sitka Gear Women's Equinox Pant

The Sitka Gear women's Equinox pants are a perfect pairing for the Celsius jacket. Sitka has produced a lightweight, water repellent stretchable nylon pant that will dry quickly and allow you to stalk silently through the woods. Perfect for early season hunting, the breathable Equinox pants are comfortable in any position and tough enough to handle any environment that you throw their way. The Equinox come with a belt and feature dual hand pockets and dual thigh pockets with inset zippered pockets the Equinox has plenty of storage options for your gear. Durable as the day is long and comfortable enough to wear all day, the Sitka Gear Equinox pant will keep you covered for your next hunt. www.sitkagear.com



Tenzing TZ 1250

The Tenzing TZ 1250 is a fully adjustable lumbar pack that can be configured for any sized hunter as well as any type of hunting trip. The lumbar pack provides 16 compartments for stowing up to 1,250 cubic inches of gear without hampering your upper body mobility like a traditional pack. The TZ 1250 focuses on user comfort by providing a fully adjustable vertical suspension system, padded hip support and a channel cooled back & shoulder pads. The hydration compatible pack also features 4 exterior compression straps and dual gear loops for attaching additional gear. A fold out bow or rifle boot keeps your weapon handy and a weather guard lid covers the pack in harsh weather. Tenzing finished out the TZ 1250 with 9 exterior zippered pouches providing ample room for all of your necessary gear. Get yourself a Tenzing TZ 1250 lumbar pack and you will be able to take along all of your gear in comfort. www.tenzingoutdoors.com **AW**