# Advanture World magazine

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414

**WINTER 2019** 







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### EXPLORING PALO DURO CANYON

#### by Debbie Farrar

You should consider adding Canyon, Texas, and the Palo Duro Canyon to your must-see bucket list. Palo Duro Canyon State Park encompasses 29,182 acres of the northern-most portion of the Canyon. Palo Duro Canyon was formed by water erosion from the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River combined with wind erosion which gradually widened the canyon.



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### www.GrinderNationals.com

Palo Duro Canyon is the second largest canyon in the United States after the Grand Canyon. Palo Duro Canyon is 120 miles long and spans 20 miles wide at its widest part, reaching a maximum depth of more than 800 feet compared to the Grand Canyon, which is 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and 6,000 feet deep.

Early Spanish Explorers are believed to have discovered the canyon and are given credit for the name, "Palo Duro" which means "hard wood" in Spanish and refers to the abundant mesquite and juniper trees in the area. Before the

explorers, early settlers of the canyon were nomadic tribes that hunted bison and other large game animals. Apache Indians lived in the canyon for a short while but were soon replaced by the Comanche and Kiowa tribes who lived in the area until 1874.

In 1874, former Union Army Colonel Ranald Mackenzie was sent to the area to relocate the Native Americans to reservations in Oklahoma. Colonel Mackenzie had fought in several major battles during the Civil War, including the Second Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, and Petersburg. General Ulysses S. Grant wrote in his memoir that he regarded Mackenzie as the most promising young officer in the army. Colonel Mackenzie and his 4th Cavalry, composed of



African Americans called Buffalo Soldiers, had fought in many battles during the Indian Wars, including the Battle of Blanco Canyon, the Battle of the North Fork and the Dull Knife Fight, which helped bring about the end of the Black Hills War.

Mackenzie and his 4th Cavalry were able to defeat the Kiowa Indians led by Chiefs Lone Wolf and Poor Buffalo and in the process capture 1500-2000 horses belonging to the tribes, along with all of their supplies. The cavalry burned the





In 1876, Charles Goodnight opened the JA Ranch. The ranch boasted more than 100,000 head of cattle during its peak years. Goodnight operated the ranch until 1890 and the JA Ranch remains a smaller but working cattle ranch today.

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed most of the buildings and roads still in use by park staff and visitors today. On July 4, 1934, Palo Duro Canyon State Park opened to the public and the canyon continues to amaze and thrill visitors to this day.

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#### Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Palo Duro Canyon is an amazing sight to visit. Featuring over 30 miles of trails, it is a great place for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. There are hikes of varying distances for everyone from kids to experienced explorers, and all will enjoy the canyon's rugged beauty and colorful history. You can bring your own horses or



take a guided tour from the local outfitters. There are primitive campgrounds for tents, sites with power and water for RV's and even cabins available for rent at the park. Don't miss a chance to explore the natural beauty of Palo Duro Canyon. www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/palo-duro-canyon

#### Panhandle Plains Historic Museum

The Panhandle Plains Historic Museum is located on the West Texas A&M University campus in Canyon, Texas. The PPHS tells the history of West Texas from dinosaurs to modern times. Boasting the moniker of the largest history museum in all of Texas, the Panhandle Plains Historic Museum is an amazing way to spend an afternoon. There are Paleontology exhibits, firearms collections, windmills, automobiles, geology and petroleum exhibits, and a reconstructed pioneer town which was our kid's favorite exhibit. Founded by Hattie Anderson, who summed up the purpose of the Panhandle Plains Historic Museum, "It is the sacred duty of ours to collect the record of life here and hand this on to the children of the



future." The Panhandle Plains Historic Museum is a definite must-see item when in the Canyon/Amarillo area. www.panhandleplains.org



#### **TEXAS Outdoor Musical**

**TEXAS** Outdoor Musical opens as a lone horseman carrying the flag of the great state of Texas appears atop a 600 foot cliff in Palo Duro Canyon. The horseman then gallops across the rim as more than 60 actors, singers and dancers take the stage to kick of the show that has entertained millions of fans from around the world. Celebrating its 54th season, TEXAS is set in the beautiful outdoor Pioneer Amphitheater, which is carved out of a natural basin in Palo Duro Canyon. The family-friendly show gives viewers a glimpse into history as the show's fictional characters bring to life the stories, struggles and triumphs of the settlers of the Texas Panhandle in the 1800s. TEXAS features singing, dancing, and humorous dialog along with some fun special effects and an awesome fireworks display. The show only runs during the summer months, from early June to mid-August, and generally happens rain or shine. Don't miss this fun family musical when you visit Palo Duro Canyon. www.texas-show.com









# President George H W Bush We Salute You

by Troy Farrar

George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, led quite a remarkable life. I got a glimpse into his amazing accomplishments when I visited the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in our town

of College Station, Texas, after his recent passing in December 2018. I started by taking my 9 and 12-year-old children to see the 4141 train engine bring President Bush from Houston to his final resting place. It was a gloomy, cold, rainy day as we parked and walked to the tracks with thousands of others wishing to pay their respects.

We decided to walk down the tracks to get away from the crowds, which afforded us a nice private area to view the train. As the train passed, we saw President Bush's coffin draped in the American flag in a special railcar outfitted with a large viewing window.







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After the train passed, my daughter commented it was nice that the extended Bush family (inside the attached passenger railcars) waved to the crowd and held up thank you signs – I thought it was a kind gesture during this time of sorrow. 41 would be proud.



When Former President George W. Bush emerged from the train in College Station, he waved and flashed a "Gig 'Em" (thumbs-up) sign to all of the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Aggies who were gathered in support for



the memorial. Both former and present Aggies have embraced the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and are proud that it is in College Station. At the opening of his library at TAMU in 1997, President George H.W. Bush wrapped up his speech stating, "I don't know if Lou Gehrig, my

great idol, said it first, but I do know that he said it best. Today I feel like the luckiest person in the world." Therefore, it was fitting to hear the Aggie Band perform the Aggie War Hymn (the TAMU fight song) as the President's casket was unloaded from the railcar and taken to his final resting place. Members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets lined the roadway and saluted the President's funeral procession as it made its way to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

George H.W. Bush began his life of service after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, when he decided to postpone attending college and enlisted in the US Navy on his 18th birthday. He became one of the youngest pilots in naval history, eventually piloting the Grumman TMB Avenger as part of a torpedo squadron flying off the USS San Jacinto light aircraft carrier. While flying a raid on the Japanese installations at Chichijima, Bush's airplane was struck by flak. With his plane on fire, Bush successfully released his bombs and then flew several miles away from the island where he ejected from the airplane. Unfortunately, the other crewmen did not survive. After parachuting into the ocean, Bush climbed into his survival raft where he floated for hours until he was rescued by a submarine, the USS Finback. Bush remained on the Finback for the next month, aiding in the rescue of other aviators before returning to the USS San Jacinto. Bush flew in a total of 58 combat missions and was awarded three air medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery in action. As twenty-one FA-18 Hornets and Super Hornets flew over his memorial service in December, one plane pulled up and out to form the missing man formation, and it made me reflect on how George H.W. Bush must have felt sitting in that raft alone after losing his crewmates.



After being discharged from the Navy, President Bush attended Yale, where he graduated in two-and-a-half years with a degree in Economics while playing both rugby and serving as the first baseman and captain of the Yale baseball team. Bush was on the team that represented Yale in the first two College World Series. Upon graduating from Yale, Bush moved to West Texas where he became a successful businessman as one of the founders of Zapata Petroleum Company.

Bush began his life in politics when he was elected chairman of the Harris County Texas Republican Party in 1963. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1966 and served until 1971. In 1971, President Nixon appointed Bush as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and in 1973 appointed Bush as the Chairman of the Republican National Committee. President Ford appointed Bush as the Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China in 1974, and later as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1976. Bush taught for a year at Rice University. During his eight years as Vice President of the United States, Bush headed a taskforce whose main objective was the War on Drugs. In 1988, George H.W. Bush became the 41st President of the United States. In 1990, Time Magazine named President Bush its Man of the Year.





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President Bush's list of accomplishments are truly amazing, but it was his willingness to acknowledge and encourage others, his refusal to quit in the face of defeat and his humble servant leadership that tell the real story behind 41. President Bush suffered his first political defeat in his first run for the United States Senate in 1964 but he continued to work and help develop the new Republican Party following the defeat. In 1970, Bush relinquished his seat in the House to run for Senate and was defeated, but was soon after serving as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Bush was defeated again in the Republican Presidential primary by Ronald Reagan but then found himself serving as the Vice President of the United States for the next eight years. When elected as the 41st president of the United States, Bush encouraged voluntary service by citizens as a means of solving some of America's most serious social problems, which he called "a thousand points of light." Later, in his report to the nation on the Points of Light movement, President Bush said, "points of light are the soul of America. They are ordinary people who reach beyond themselves to touch the lives of those in need, bringing hope and opportunity, care and friendship. By giving so generously of themselves, these remarkable individuals show us not only what is best in our heritage but what all of us are called to become."

Just as the presidential train made a lasting effect on the pennies we placed on the track, President George H.W. Bush's service to our nation had a tremendous effect on others. His legacy lives on through his children's continued service. John E. "Jeb" Bush served as the Governor of Florida for eight years, and Jeb's son, George P. Bush, has been serving as the



Texas Land Commissioner since 2015. Neal Bush is the chairman for the Points of Light organization, and Neal's daughter Lauren co-founded the FEED Projects, a nonprofit focused on feeding children around the world. Dorothy Bush Koch serves on the board of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. George W. Bush was Governor of Texas from 1995-2000, and the 43rd President of the United States from 2001-2009.

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While speaking to the Yale baseball team at his home in Kennebunkport, Maine, President Bush was asked what advice he had for current and future Bulldogs. Bush summed up the philosophy that had guided him throughout his life of service by saying, "I am not



big on giving free advice for the simple reason that it's usually viewed as being worth what was paid for it. That said, I would encourage each and every young man who might attend Yale and play ball to do the same things my mother taught me a million years ago: do your best, share credit, focus on the team. It's not fancy, but it worked for me."

I agree that it worked for you, Mr. President, and we salute you for your amazing life of service.





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# **Product Reviews**

#### **WINTER 2019**

### Body Glide Outdoor

Body Glide Outdoor is the newest offering from Body Glide, the reigning king of anti-chafing and anti-blister balms. Don't cut your next outing short because of friction hot spots or blisters when there is a simple way to protect yourself. Simple apply the non-greasy Body Glide Outdoor balm to any potential problem spots and stop trouble before it starts. The Outdoor balm forms a waterproof, sweat resistant dry invisible barrier against chafing and blisters that will last all day. Available in an easy to apply 1.5 or .8 ounce stick, Body Glide Outdoor is a non-oily dry formula with no fragrance. Body Glide Outdoor has made chafing and blisters a thing of the past allowing you to focus on your adventure.

### Showers Pass Cross Point Classic Light Weight Waterproof Socks

The Showers Pass Cross Point Classic Light Weight Waterproof Socks are a must have item for your next wet adventure. Perfect for high intensity activity, these socks provide the same great protection in a lighter warmer weather version. The fully waterproof socks feature a wear resistant knit exterior, a waterproof breathable membrane, and a Coolmax FX moisture wicking anti-bacterial lining. Keep your feet dry in any environment with the Showers Pass Cross Point Classic Light Weight Waterproof Socks. www.showerspass.com



### Vasque Trailbender II

The Vasque Trailbender II is a great trail running shoe that will provide comfortable traction on both short and long runs. The Trailbender II features a moisture wicking lining combined with a stabile cushioned chassis that does not sacrifice comfort, insuring your shoes will not be the problem on your next endurance run. The AxisGrip rubber sole provides sure footing on any surface making the Trailbender II a perfect choice for just about any environment. Functionality aside, the Vasque Trailbender II is also a great looking shoe making it the perfect choice to double as your favorite pair of beating around town kicks. Whether its on the trail or at the local coffee house the Vasque Trailbender

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**WINTER 2019** 

### Powerstep Pinnacle

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### Pro Trek PRW3500

The solar powered Pro Trek PRW3500 features energy efficient sensors with improved accuracy that are 95% smaller than previous versions making the Pro Trek 3500 a compact timepiece. The new Triple Sensor provides altitude, barometric pressure, and digital compass along with 12 or 24 hour Multi-Band Atomic Timekeeping that receives up to six time calibration radio signals per day which keep the displayed time accurate. Water resistant up to 200 meters the watch features a Barometric Pressure Tendency Alarm which alerts the wearer to sudden changes in pressure caused by incoming weather events. The Pro Trek PRW3500 also features a thermometer, stopwatch, countdown timer, sunrise and sunset data, alarm, auto calendar and fully automated LED backlight display illumination. The battery will last 7 months on a full charge without exposure to sunlight. The Pro Trek PRW3500 is a watch made for those who seek the path less taken and provides all of the tools you need to get you through your next adventure. www.protrek.casio.com



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# **Product Reviews**

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### O-tus BlueTooth Combo

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### Orange Seal Tubeless Tire Sealant

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to your bike. Compatible with most bike tire systems, the ecofriendly Orange Seal will keep you in the saddle by sealing large punctures up to 1/4 inch and slices up to 3/4 inch. The convenient injection system makes it easy to add sealant to your wheels and refill bottles are available in 4 oz and 8 oz sizes. Orange Seal even has a comprehensive Tubeless Conversion Kit which includes everything that you need to convert your wheels to a tubeless system. What are you waiting for, get your bike set up with Orange Seal and as they like to say at the shop. push yourself not your bike! www.orangeseal.com



### Motorex Dry Power Chain Lube

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# **Product Reviews**

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### Club Ride Gunslinger

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### Alpha by Sony Pictures

Alpha is the story of Cro-Magnon tribe that embarks on their annual bison hunt. Fate leaves a young boy critically injured, alone and fighting to survive. His survival instincts kick in and he makes a new friend during this epic adventure. The boy and wolf form a bond as they rely on each other to survive and conquer overwhelming odds as they attempt to find their way home before the deadly winter arrives. www.sonypictures.com





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### 2018 USARA Adventure Race National Championship

by Richard Lee Sparks

#### **Receiving the Map**

Friday, 6:29 am: The hotel hallway was a frenzy of eager adventure racers. Mike smartly jumped to the head of the crowd, showed his bagged-up emergency phone to the race volunteer, and was handed a huge map in exchange. He squeezed through the crowd, gripping the map in hand, and shuffled over to me and Phil. Among a sea of feet, Mike spread out this huge map on the hotel hallway floor where we claimed our space to plan our route.

Like a combination of search-a-word and whack-a-mole, as soon as Mike and I pointed at a checkpoint, Phil hastily filled in the red circles with his yellow highlighter. In no time at all, we found all of the checkpoints, including Checkpoint 20. This is important to note, because before the race had even begun, we had already made our first mistake, but I'll get to that later.



6:57 am: Time flies when you're having fun, and so did the previous twenty-eight minutes. We had managed to mark up an agreeable route, measure some critical bike leg distances, and were now darting through the hotel lobby toward the start line with just three minutes to spare!

#### The Start

7:02 am: At the starting line, we were surrounded by a lively group of racers. Phil helped me buckled the last strap of my PFD when suddenly, "BOOM!!!" The start-cannon broke through the dense fog hovering over the lake. I thought to myself, "That is one hell of a way to start a race!"

Instead of fighting our way through the tight corral of runners, Mike hung a hard left away from the pack and ingeniously led me and Phil through the hotel lobby toward the roadway. Our plan worked well. We had bypassed the majority of racers mired by congestion, and already made our way up the front of the race pack. As the road turned toward the boat launch, we barreled toward the beach.



At the beach, most teams immediately put in their canoes and began paddling eastward around the thin, but long peninsula to our north. We chose to portage 400 meters and short cut the peninsula by nearly half a mile. The game was on! Thus began an epic 30-hour jaunt into the wilderness of Bloomington, Indiana, for the 2018 USARA National Championship.

Leg 1: Canoe Paddle - 6.0 miles

The first leg of the race was estimated as a six-mile canoe paddle.

7:15 am: We set the canoe in the water and quickly situated our paddles, maps, and compasses. Daybreak was just occurring. However, you could hardly see beyond 50 feet as the lake water had given life to an impenetrable fog! Even the familiar splashes of oars dipping in and out of the water were absorbed by the dense vapor.

While we paddled, the occasional ghostly corsair with their faceless paddlers would float through the grayness



surrounding us. Moments later, they would disappear into the void. The eeriness of it all was so mesmerizing that we gave pause to our race pace. These strange apparitions were wonderful mementos to remind us of why we love adventure racing!

Since we were paddling blind, the only way to stay on course was to trust our compass. This was the first time I have ever been tasked to use a compass while paddling (as I've only had the pleasure of racing under clear skies). At one point, we discovered land on both sides of us – Not what we had wanted! We made short order of our navigational bobble, relocated ourselves on the map, and continued forth toward Checkpoint 1.

Leg 2 - Trekking - Estimated distance: 4.5 Miles

We paddled into the small cove of Pate Hollow to prepare for the first trekking section. Unfortunately, we saw the shoreline was rimmed with about twenty-four yellow canoes, which meant we were already behind quite a few



teams. It seemed our navigational slip-up cost us more than we initially thought! However, anything can happen in a 30-hour adventure race, and this was not the time for dispiritedness.

We secured our canoe in the muddy inlet and trekked our way to Checkpoint 1. There, the race volunteer gave us our UTM coordinates for Checkpoints 2-7. Phil and Mike teamed up to plot the coordinates on the map. The only help I offered was pointing out a ground wasp nest... of which we were unfortunately plotting on! Still, they plotted the coordinates with the utmost efficiency, and we ended up beating teams out of the staging area, but not before being stung a few times!

As we traversed through dry river beds and runnable forest, we started nabbing checkpoint after checkpoint. I personally loved being "The Rabbit," jumping through Mother Nature's trenches and scurrying up hilly slopes. By the time I would finish punching the passport, Mike and





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Phil had already charted a route toward the next checkpoint – Excellent teamwork! In no time at all, we gathered the checkpoints and were running on trails back to the canoes. Once we returned to the inlet, we slung on our PFDs and began paddling eastwardly with renewed confidence.

Leg 3 - Paddling/Trekking - Estimated distance: 6.5 miles of paddling/3 miles of trekking

By now, the sun had burned off most of the fog. You could easily see the shoreline and correlate the land formations to the map, which made navigating much easier! Plus, we could finally see other teams paddling ahead of us. One of the volunteers watching from the comforts of a nearby pontoon shouted out to us, "It looks like you might be in about sixteenth place!" We congratulated ourselves, "Nice work guys!" as it seemed like we had moved up a few places during the trekking section.

After about an hour and fifty minutes of grinding it out on the paddle - and really just maintaining our pace with the teams ahead of us - we landed near the easterly side of the lake. Here, we had to gather three more checkpoints on foot. At this point, I was feeling strong and ready to run. I asked Mike and Phil if I could try navigating this section. Without hesitation, Phil handed me the map and let me lead. We pushed the pace really hard, running through grassy fields and open forest, which was way more fun than the monotony of paddling. Even better, we nailed each checkpoint! After we gathered the three checkpoints, we made our way back to the shoreline where our boats were docked. I counted ten canoes. "Yes! The race is on!" I thought, as I suspected we had once again made up more ground on the other teams. Leg 4 - Paddling - Estimate distance: 7.3 - 9.0 Miles

Once we got into the water again, the mid-morning sun was in full display. We were now headed westward, back from where we just came. We slowly seemed to be getting closer to teams in front of us. However, the inherent mirage of a calm lake can easily trick you into thinking you're moving faster than you really are!

At this point in the day, navigation was easy, but we had to decide whether we should paddle 1.5 miles around a peninsula, or portage through a short, but possibly steep section of woods. After consulting with each other, we opted to portage. That decision seemed to be the right move as our biggest fan, Angela, was snapping photos of us from the shoreline, cheering us on!

Leg 5 - 'Triple-Triple' - Estimated distance: 4 Miles After stowing our boat, we ran toward the transition area for the "Triple-Triple" - a unique orienteering section where we could choose to split up and gather the checkpoints by bike, paddle, or foot. Fortunately, all three of us are good navigators. Without hesitation, I opted for the furthest four checkpoints by bike. Mike and Phil didn't even blink at the thought and told me, "Go for it!"

I was off and away on my bike, ascending and descending as quickly as I could, eager to move up in the rankings. Although my legs didn't feel like my usual mountain bike legs, I efficiently gathered my share of the checkpoints. As for Mike and Phil, they were executing their smartly conceived plan to trek separately for the other five checkpoints, but meet in the middle of their planned route to confirm they had gathered their share (so smart!)

I sped back to the transition area, where Mike and Phil were waiting for me. According to split times, we moved up one place in the ranking and were now tied for tenth place! Woo-hoo! Much better than our initial start of 24th place...

We filled our water bottles, stuffed food in our mouths, and were off on our two-wheeled steeds to hunt down other teams.


Leg 6 - Mountain Biking - Estimated distance: 33 - 40 Miles

Our mountain bike leg was going smoothly, we were efficiently gathering checkpoints, and catching a team or two along the way. Midway through our ride, we came to a junction of roads and trails. We saw other teams taking the road "to the next checkpoint," but we opted to take the trail as it seemed to be the most direct, albeit, more difficult route.

As we headed toward Checkpoint 20, the single track was often muddy at points and I wondered why there were hardly any tire tracks on the route. I thought to myself, "Are we in the top three teams? Did we make the right route choice?" When we arrived at Checkpoint 20, Mike chirped up and said, "We don't have to get Checkpoint 20!"

We were totally dismayed. No wonder why teams were taking the road at the junction!

Remember when we received our map in the hotel hallway and highlighted ALL of the checkpoints, including Checkpoint 20? Well, during the pre-race briefing the night



I take blame for this error, as I was the one taking notes during the pre-race briefing. I was totally pissed at myself for not remembering this important detail, and chalked it up to racing with a new team while not completely understanding my role within it. Needless to say, we won't make that mistake again! Thankfully, Mike and Phil took it in good stride - a testament to their class and character. After a few seconds of swearing and commiserating, we shrugged it off and muscled through the single track as best we could.

By now, the sun was lowering in the horizon. Our lights flicked on, illuminating the roots and rocks in the single track. When racing multiple-hour events, one has to always be mindful of the clock, so we pressed forward to the next transition area where an unknown trekking section was waiting for us.















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Leg 7 - 'The Dog Bone'; Trekking - Estimated distance: Dependent upon route choice

9:12 pm - When we rode into the transition area, the sun had been replaced with the moon and we replaced our helmets with headlamps.

This trekking section was referred to as "The Dog Bone," a crafty orienteering game, where teams were free to devise their routes rogue-style, but must gather checkpoints in pairs. If you took a close look at the map, the red line connecting the red circled checkpoints created simplistically drawn dog bones. Very clever.

After a few minutes, we agreed to a route choice and began trekking into the woods. For the most part, we were nailing this course and were thrilled to make our way back to the transition area in good time. However, our biggest blunder was yet to come...

The race volunteer dipped our e-punch into the electronic control unit and printed our results, but they were not what we wanted! The kind race volunteer plainly stated we were missing one pair of dog bones.

We were in disbelief and challenged him to review the print out. Unfortunately, technological errors are rare while human errors are often, and we were no exception to the shortcomings of our humanity!

I began to unfold the map to see where we had made our mistake. As I was unfolding it, the pair of Checkpoints 33A and 33B came into view. I shook my head in disbelief. I couldn't believe the map-fold had placed the last pair of dog bones out of view, and we somehow lost track of it. To lighten the situation I uttered, "Looks like we got dog-boned."

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We asked each other, "Do we go back out there and get it, or count it as a loss and move on?"

I'm all about taking risks in racing, and this moment was no exception. I encouraged Mike and Phil, "We could still clear the course, but the next eleven hours wouldn't be easy." After a very brief consult, we made the decision to go back and get those missing checkpoints.

The fastest team cleared this section in 5 hours and 16 minutes. Before our costly mistake, we were on pace to clear in (a not-too-shabby) 6 hours and 10 minutes. However, after going back into the woods for the last pair, we ended up clearing the dog bone course in 8 hours and 3 minutes. Ouch.

Leg 8 - Mountain Biking - Estimated distance: 35 - 40 Miles Saturday, 5:15 am - It was now 22 hours and 15 minutes since we had started this adventure. We were pressed



against the clock. Again, the question of clearing the course came up. At this point I'm thankful that Phil didn't show me the map as I might've been easily convinced we wouldn't be able to clear the course. However, we agreed to go for it!

We leapt on our bikes and were moving northwest toward the northern portion of the course to pick up the mountain bike checkpoints. Eventually we got to the single track section, but between the terrain and our fatigue, this section was slow going; at times it felt like we were hiking our bikes as much as we were riding them! We saw a few teams on the trail, which was reassuring to know we weren't the only crazies hopeful of clearing the course. Eventually, we finished the grueling single-track section and found ourselves back at the trailhead.

We were still within our time estimates, but we had to move... and move fast!

Somehow, I think my adrenaline injected itself into my legs as I had this oddly, new-found energy and led the way on the bike. We started catching teams along our journey back to the transition area which felt good to know that we weren't giving in, or giving up.

Leg 9 - Paddle - Estimated distance: 2.8 Miles

10:41 am - Once we entered the transition area, we ditched our bikes, grabbed our canoe, and set off toward the last orienteering section near the finish. Angela (our biggest fan) had patiently waited for us throughout the early morning hours and truly deserves the award for Best Fan Ever! We were paddling hard and passed a few teams heading toward the next transition area. It looked like we had finally found our paddling cadence!

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**TIGER BALM Works Where It Hurts**  We beached our canoe and ran the shoreline to the hotel to pick up our last punch card of the day.

Leg 10 - Trekking - Estimated distance: 3 Miles

11:41 am - Once we received our passport for the last trekking section, we headed through the same lobby that we had skirted through at the beginning – How fitting!

We only had 1 hour and 19 minutes to gather the last four check points. We needed to hustle! Our hips were so stiff from the paddle, we had to count off 20 second intervals of running/walking to squeeze out a blistering pace of 4.2 mph.

"It took us seven minutes to get to the boat launch!" Mike reported.

This was good information to know as it would help us determine if we had enough time to go for more checkpoints.

As we dove into the woods for the first checkpoint of this section, we found ourselves in the wrong re-entrant with another team. Mike slyly whispered to me, "This re-entrant is too small to even register on the map" and I agreed, adding that we might need to continue further north. However, Phil's spidey-sense was already guiding him northward over the small spur into the correct re-entrant. Bam! Got it!

Unfortunately, we bobbled the next checkpoint which put us even more against the clock. Based off of Mike's seven minute timestamp at the boat launch, I was confident we could get one more checkpoint on the way back. After running through fields and descending a cliff-like drop off, we picked up our last checkpoint of the day and started an all-out run to the finish.

"Twelve minutes to go!" I proclaimed. "We gotta run!" Sweaty and exhausted, we muscled our way to the finish line. We ended up placing 8th overall, but 1st in our division! Great job guys!



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#### **Final Thoughts**

It was a pleasure to race with Mike and Phil to claim the 2018 Open Division National Championship. The best part is, we had a blast racing together. Any blunder that occurred was met with clever puns, classy sportsmanship, and the occasional pirate joke.

People who adventure race mainly compete against the course. That's why I love the adventure racing community. You'll find us laughing with other teams in the heat of fervent competition, then huddled at the bar afterwards, mulling over our sore feet. These races are surely competitive, but they are also more like family reunions.

If you haven't tried an adventure race, I highly encourage that you sign up for one. I guarantee you'll discover a new family of intelligent, kind-hearted people who will race with you both on, and off, the course.



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by: Troy Farrar

We decided to build the ultimate 300 Blackout hog hunting gun for our Texas outings. The wish list included a light weight gun that could be carried for hours with plenty of knock down power for those big tough boars. We also wanted a compact gun that was easy to maneuver so we decided to go with a pistol format. Parts were compiled, the gun was built and our buddies at Tactical Expressions even helped us to have some fun with the project by engraving some cool graphics on the receivers and magazines. When the dust settled, I believe we hit the mark dead center with the ultimate hog gun.





#### Ranier Arms Adjustable Gas Block

The Ranier Arms adjustable gas block has a unique design that bleeds the gas out of the block and away from the shooter instead of restricting the flow like conventional adjustable blocks. The pressure is reduced to the amount required to drive the bolt carrier with the excess being bleed off resulting in a cleaner and cooler system. The 30-position removable adjustment detent is located outside of the block to prevent contamination, corrosion or possible seizing and has a safety mechanism to prevent accidental removal. The Superlative Arms adjustable gas block is a game changer and is available in four sizes: solid, clamp-on, black melonite, and matte stainless steel finishes. The Superlative Arms adjustable gas block will reduce both the recoil and the amount of gas and particle blowback you sustain when shooting suppressed firearms. www.rainierarms.com



#### RCA Titanium AR-15 BCG

The Rubber City Armory Titanium AR-15 Bolt Carrier Group is treated with an aerospace grade ARMORTI surface treatment for enhanced durability. The first thing I noticed when I unpacked the BCG was how freakishly light it was. 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 increases 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-15 Bolt Carrier Group may be light on the scales but it will perform like a heavyweight in your rifle. RCA is so confident of this fact that they back their Titanium BCG with a lifetime warranty. www.rubbercityarmory.com



#### CMC Triggers AR-15/10 Two Stage Drop In Trigger

The CMC AR-15/10 Two Stage Drop In Trigger is a great upgrade to any rifle and a must have item for the serious marksman. The twostage match triggers come pre-set from the factory with a variety of first ("set") and second ("release") stage pull weight options. The US made self-contained drop-in trigger module is available in both a flat or curved shoe and provides a crisp breaking trigger with no creep prior to firing. The positive trigger reset also allows for lightning fast follow-up shots. If you want to increase performance, a CMC trigger is the first upgrade you should make to your rifle. www.cmctriggers.com



#### Magpul PMAG 30 AR 300 B GEN M3

The Magpul PMAG 30 AR 300 B GEN M3 is specifically designed for rifles chambered in 300 Blackout and will provide the performance you expect from a Magpul PMAG. The 300 Blackout PMAGs addresses the issues that can arise from using a 5.56 magazine by creating an internal geometrythatis designed to accommodate multiple weight 300 Blackout bullets. Featuring a distinctive rib design and smooth upper texture, Magpul has made the magazine both visually and tactilely different from their 5.56 magazine. Built from Magpuls impact and crush resistant polymer, the PMAG features a removable floor plate, a paint pen dot matrix for marking and identification and a dust/impact cover. If you have a 300 Blackout make sure you have Magpul's 300 Blackout magazines. www.magpul.com



#### Magpul MOE Trigger Guard

The made in the USA Magpul MOE Trigger Guard is an enhanced polymer drop-in replacement for the AR15/M4 weapons platform. The Magpul Trigger Guard fills the gap left at the back of a standard trigger guard and has smooth rounded edges for worry-free use. The V shape provides enough room for gloved shooting and Magpul provides all necessary mounting hardware. www.magpul.com

#### Magpul AR Enhanced Magazine Release

The Magpul AR Enhanced Magazine Release provides an enlarged contact surface for quick and easy magazine changes. The bolt on Enhanced Mag Release is machined from light-weight Mil-Spec hard anodized aluminum and is easy to install. Made in the USA, the Magpul AR Enhanced Magazine Release is compatible with most 5.56 and 7.62 pattern receivers and will provide a larger contact surface for positive activation even when wearing gloves. www.magpul.com



#### Magpul ASAP QD Ambidextrous

#### Sling Attachment Point QD

The Magpul ASAP QD Ambidextrous Sling Attachment Point provides a wide range of motion, enabling true ambidextrous weapon manipulation for both left and right-handed shooters. Made from precision cast black Melonite finished steel, the ASAP replaces the standard AR-15 carbine stock receiver end plate and is designed to work with pushbutton quick disconnect sling swivels. Made in the USA, the ASAP works with both mil-spec and commercial buffer tubes. Install a Magpul ASAP QD Ambidextrous Sling Attachment Point and minimize the possibility of snagging your sling during CQB while providing easy transitions to and from your rifle and reaction side shoulders. www.magpul.com

#### Troy Alpha Revolution Carbon Fiber M-LOK Handguard

The lightweight and super-strong Troy Alpha Revolution Carbon Fiber M-LOK Handguard has all of the great features of the Alpha Rail in a stronger and lighter version. The carbon fiber rail looks fantastic and provides a cooler rail after extended firing schedules. Featuring cooling vents and a full length picatinny rail, the handguard attaches with a mil spec barrel nut. A perfect mix of form and function, Troy has knocked it out of the park with the Alpha Revolution Carbon Fiber M-LOK Handguard. www.troyind.com



#### Strike Industries Venom Flash Hider

Strike claims the Venom Flash Hider is the world's most effective flash hider, eliminating nearly 100% of your muzzle flash by quickly dispersing the burning gases exploding from the barrel. Strike Industries does this by creating instant air flow to eliminate gas combustion and the result will preserve your night vision. The functional result is a rapid sight recovery which allows for faster night time and low light follow up shots. The four pronged Viper looks great and is designed to protect the muzzle crown of your barrel. On a side note, the Viper is long enough to make 14.5 inch barrel 16 inch and comes with pre-drilled hole for pin and welding. www.strikeindustries.com









The new Strike Industries Forward Assist is the latest addition to the Strike Industries line of performance AR parts. The 0.2 ounce lightweight aluminum forward assist is available in black, FDE or anodized red, blue or grey and features a tool steel pawl to ensure a long service life and positive engagement of the ratchets on compatible bolt carriers. The Strike Industries Forward Assist includes a forward assist plunger with installed pawl, spring and spring pin. Install a Strike Industries Forward Assist and know that you have a great looking accessory that will work under any demands. www.strikeindustries.com

#### Strike Industries Ultimate Dust Cover

The Strike Industries Ultimate Dust Cover is a durable, lightweight, high-density polymer ejection port dust cover. The patent pending SI UDC enables users to attach and detach the dust cover in under 10 seconds, and Strike Industries added a cut-out window on the rod for easy removal. The Ultimate Dust Cover features an adjustable detent set screw to compensate for wear on the receiver which allows the user to increase or decrease opening power. Choose multiple colors and designs to customize your AR with the Strike Industries Ultimate Dust Cover. www.strikeindustries.com

#### Ranier Arms MOD2 UltraMatch Barrel

The Ranier Arms MOD2 UltraMatch barrel is a balance that provides accuracy while keeping the weight to a minimum. Ranier starts with a pistol gas system, stainless steel Match Grade Blank and adds contour cutouts to reduce the weight. The 10.5 inch barrel weighs in at 22 ounces and features a bead-blasted finish and a 1:7.5 twist. Ranier Arms goal is to mass produce the barrels to provide a low price while maintaining high quality, and they have literally hit their target. Ranier is so confident that you will like the barrel that they offer a "no questions asked" 90-day, 100% money-back guarantee, but I doubt you will need it. www.rainierarms.com

#### Anderson Manufacturing Upper & Lower Receiver Set



The Anderson Manufacturing Upper & Lower Receiver Set are the perfect foundation for your next build. The mil spec receiver sets are 7075 T6 forged aluminum with a black type 3 hard anodized finish. Anderson receivers are multi-cal engraved and available as a standard receiver or with numerous engraving options. Anderson also offers an RF85 nano-technology treatment that injects calcium into the molecular fabric of the metal which elongates to form a protective barrier that eliminates the need for lubrication while reducing friction by 85 percent. No matter which option you choose, Anderson Manufacturing receiver sets will lay a great foundation for your next rifle build. www.andersonmanufacturing.com



#### V7 Weapon Systems Titanium GI Barrel Nut

If you are a lightweight gun nut then the V7 Weapon Systems Titanium GI Barrel Nut is the perfect upgrade for you. Constructed from Grade 5 Titanium, the lightweight barrel nut checks in at 22 grams and is available in both a raw Titanium or an Ion bond black finish. Made in the USA, the barrel nut features V7's lifetime warranty and is the perfect part to help you build your next lightweight rifle. www.vsevenweaponsystems.com



V7 Weapon Systems Extreme Environment Gas Tube

Made in the USA, the V7 Extreme Environment Gas Tube is designed to perform under high temperature firing schedules without failure, eliminating the weak link in the gas system and insuring your weapon will function properly when needed. The 100 percent corrosionresistant gas tube features a heat-treated Inconel construction with an ion bind black finish. Available in pistol, carbine, mid-length and rifle length, the gas tube features a lifetime warranty and will give you peace of mind even under the heaviest firing schedule. www.vsevenweaponsystems.com

#### Tailhook MOD 2

The adjustable telescoping Tailhook MOD 2 takes the pistol brace concept to a whole new level. The Tailhook is a 5-position adjustable brace that provides 12.75 inches of length of pull for the shooter that is controlled with the simple push of a button. The strong and durable injection-molded brace is lightweight and can be used as a stock when folded and converted to a brace with the push of a button. The rigid foldout brace performs perfectly and can quickly be snapped back into place when not being used as a brace. The Tailhook Mod 2 comes with the brace, proprietary receiver extension, castle nut and back plate and will work with any carbine length buffer and spring. Get yourself a Tailhook Mod 2 and you will be the envy of your shooting range. www.gearheadworks.com



#### Radian Raptor SD

The Radian Raptor SD ambidextrous charging handle features a ported shaft design that redirects gasses down and forward away from the shooter's face and minimizes blowback when shooting suppressed firearms. The US made 7075-T6 aluminum Raptor SD is designed for rapid palm "blading" or finger-thumb charging of the weapon with either hand. Available in an AR-15 and AR-10 model the charging handle comes in black anodized, brown, flat dark earth, NP3 coated and tungsten gray finishes. The Radian Raptor SD charging handle is smooth, functional and effective, and will increase your control and decrease those blowback gases when shooting a suppressed firearm. www.radianweapons.com



#### Tactical Expressions Engraved Upper

Tactical Expressions are our go-to-guys for engraving on uppers, lowers or any other gun part. Tactical Expressions carries a huge selection of engraved upper and lower parts in just about any color you can imagine so you can customize your gun exactly how you like. We like to have our different uppers engraved with the calibers to prevent accidentally loading the wrong round, especially when there is more than one shooter who has access to the guns. Tactical Expressions allows you to choose your font and did an excellent job of engraving our 300 Blackout upper, lower and magazines with the flaming pig. Let Tactical Expressions help you create that unique one-of-a-kind rifle. www.tactical-expressions.com

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#### KNS Precision, Inc. Gen 2 Mod Non Rotating Trigger/ Hammer Pins



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#### Battle Arms Development Ambidextrous Safety Selector

The Battle Arms Development Ambidextrous Safety Selector broke new ground in the ambi-safety arena. These well-designed levers are machined from bar stock and provide fantastic grip. The levers come in nine different interchangeable options, giving you 81 combinations to choose from when designing your perfect rifle. The BAD – ASS safety provides a positive crisp selector that never leaves any doubt about deployment. Great for lefties, ambi-shooting and as an added safety measure that gives clear visual confirmation at the range. www.battlearmsdevelopment.com



#### Fab Defense AG-43 Pistol Grip

The Fab Defense AG-43 Pistol Grip is packed full of features that will enhance and prolong your shooting experience. The AG-43's ergonomic non-slip design improves your grip control and reduces wrist fatigue, improving your overall control during firing sequences. The extended beavertail combined with the finger grooves provide a comfortable firm grip in any condition. Available in black, olive drab green or flat dark earth, Fab Defense included a hinged storage compartment for extra batteries or any other necessary gear. www.fab-defense.com



#### Strike Industries Ultra Light Pivot / Takedown Pins

If you are looking for high performance lightweight parts, the Strike Industries Ultra Light Pivot / Takedown Pins are the perfect upgrade for your rifle. The precision CNC machined 7075 pins are available in multiple colors and feature an extended grasping surface. Improve your gun's look while shedding some weight with the Strike Industries Ultra Light Pivot / Takedown Pins. www.strikeindustries.com



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## Shooting Reviews



#### Slumberjack Incog Jacket

The Slumberjack Incog is a warm and comfortable jacket with a lot of technology under the hood. Slumberjack started with 600 Fill Dri-Down insulation in the body which provides great performance in wet or dry conditions. They followed with SlumberLoft-PRO insulation in the shoulders and collar which provide improve durability while wearing a pack. The relaxed fit makes this a perfect jacket for long days and the brushed fabric allows you to move through the forest as quiet as a mouse. The ripstop brushed poly shell is water resistant and utilizes the new Perception DST (Disruptive Shadow Technology) camo pattern which will help keep you concealed from your quarry. Packet with pockets for essential gear there are 2 internal drop pockets, a large chest pocket and you can even stuff the jacket into one of the zippered hand warmer pockets and use it for a camp pillow. Elastic cuffs and a draw cord hem help keep you warm and the para-cord zipper pulls allow for easy "gloves on" operation. The Ingog is a great jacket that is guaranteed to keep you warm and toasty on your next adventure. www.slumberjack.com

#### Slumberjack Windage Jacket

The Slumberjack Windage jacket features 3-layer breathable water proof protection making it the perfect jacket for those nasty rainy days in the mountains. Functional additions such as pit zips, water resistant PU coated zippers, a fitted full coverage adjustable hood with a built-in visor, microfiber chin guard and hook & loop adjustable cuffs will make this your go to rain jacket. Reinforced articulated elbows, zippered hand warmer pockets and a guiet brushed poly shell add to the comfort of the Windage jacket. Stay hidden on your hunting trips when you rely on the Perception DST (Disruptive Shadow Technology) camo which blends sharp outlines with blurred, shadow-like colors to effectively disrupt the human form at long range or in close guarters. An all around great waterproof jacket, the Windage will keep you dry when everything around you is soaking wet. www.slumberjack.com



#### Magpul MS4 Dual QD Sling

The Magpul MS4 Dual QD Sling quickly switches between one-point and two-point configuration providing you with a versatile 2 in 1 sling. Magpul utilizes two heavyduty push-button QD Sling Swivels along with a custom steel connection ring to allow one to two-point convertibility. Compatible with QD sling cups, the made in the USA MS4 Dual QD sling also incorporates a new low profile quick adjust slider which minimizes bulk and provides easy sling adjustment. Anti-chaff 1.25 inch wide nylon webbing is comfortable and wear resistant providing you with the durability you have come to expect from magpul. www.magpul.com

#### LimbSaver Kodiak Air Rifle Sling

The LimbSaver Kodiak Air Rifle Sling continues the excellent tool for the job reputation we have come to expect from LimbSaver. LimbSaver starts with a Universal Quick Detach System that makes it easy to install or remove the sling which is built around a stainless steel locking rod that will not rust. The flexible & breathable sling will not retain water or slip when wet, giving you great performance in any weather conditions. The soft material distributes the weight evenly by conforming to your shoulder which translates to a comfortable sling no matter how long you are hiking with your rifle. Finally the adjustable hand grip provides you with complete control of your rifle, a feature that has never been available in a sling. The future of rifle slings is here and it is the LimbSaver Kodiak Air Rifle Sling. www.limbsaver.com

#### Holland Ammo Tote

The Holland Ammo Tote has a place for your data card and elastic sleeves for 20 extra rounds which provides the shooter with one convenient pouch to store all of his all vital long-range shooting gear. The tote is constructed from tough 1000 Denier Cordura and industrial grade elastic making it tough enough to handle all your hunting adventures. Available in OD green, or coyote brown the ammo tote features a heavy-duty shock cord and closure button which allows silent access and a Molle strap making it easy to attach to a belt or backpack. The Holland Ammo tote is a great accessory for any long range shooter. www.hollandguns.com



#### Slumberjack Deadfall 65

The hydration compatible Slumberjack Deadfall 65 is a serious hauling pack with some great back country features. The Dual aluminum stay suspension with HDPE frame sheet easily handles heavy loads and the adjustable trophy carry system will accommodate just about any sized game. The easy to use forward pull waist belt provides stability in conjunction with the side compression straps and top mounted load lifters. A stowable multi-weapon carry system frees your hands and transports your bow or rifle and there are easily accessible pockets for optics and other crucial gear. The Slumberjack Deadfall 65 is compressible enough to use on minimal load days spent scouting your next area and the top loading design makes the Deadfall easy to load once you have bagged you quarry. The Slumberjack Deadfall 65 is a great back country pack, loaded with useful features and will become your go to big game hauler. www.slumberiack.com



#### Holland Ultimate Data Card II

Holland's Ultimate Data Card II Software allows the shooter to custom create the most sophisticated data card for their rifle in 4 different formats and in 4 different font sizes for us older visual challenged shooters. Choose from simple Hunter Cards to Long Range Cards designed to provide all the information necessary for any environmental condition you face in the field. Target size for range finding, drop and drift are all provided in MILS or MOA and ANY 4 uphill/downhill angles are calculated based on your exact trajectory curve in direct read and fire MILS or MOA correction. Having the perfect Data Card can make the difference between success hunt and coming home with the one that got away story. Also included are 25 video clips on improving shooting, cleaning, hunting, maintenance, and travel tips. www.hollandguns.com



#### DOA SHOOTING BENCHES PROVIDE A SOLID STABILE SHOOTING PLATFORM THAT FOLDS UP FOR EASY TRANSPORT.



### **TRIPOD DESIGN**

Our tripods are built from durable powder coated steel to prevent flexing when the shot is taken. The tripods are designed to handle a 500 lb man plus gear. Tripods measure 32" with legs folded and 37" from the ground with the legs extended. The seat rotates 360 degrees and features over 25" of vertical movement. When you are done shooting the tripod is designed to fold up on itself for a compact, easy to transport shooting platform.

### **TABLETOPS**

We offer one tabletop size (30X43) in left or right handed 14 ply Maple or Birch that will work for any firearm from a .22 to a 50BMG. Each tabletop is unique in appearance and texture.

Proudly Made in the USA by Shooters for Shooters DOAshootingbench.com | @DOAbench

#### Kershaw Natrix

The Kershaw Natrix features a stonewashed

drop-point blade and a light weight G-10 handle

making it a perfect light weight knife. The built-in flipper and SpeedSafe make one handed opening a breeze and the Sub-Frame Lock secure the blade until you are ready to close the knife. The big blade really holds an edge and the reversable deep-carry pocketclip ensures your knife is always handy. Weighing in at a mere 2.9 ounces, the Kershaw Natrix is the perfect everyday carry knife. kershaw.kaiusaltd.com



#### Rage X-treme Slipcam 4 Blade Broadhead

The Rage X-treme Slipcam 4 Blade broadhead was designed to produce large entry and exit wounds resulting in easy to follow blood trails. Rage combined a streamlined black anodize aircraft-grade aluminum ferrule with both fixed and movable blades to deliver a massive 3.1 inch total cutting surface. The 2 fixed blades in combination with the 2 wing blades provide deep penetration and massive tissue damage resulting in easy to follow blood trails and quicker kills. The broadhead features the Rage shock collar retention system and slip blade technology for rapid and reliable blade deployment. The replaceable blade 100 grain Rage X-treme Slipcam 4 Blade broadhead come with 2 broadheads per package and are sure to make your next hunt a successful one. www.feradyne.com

#### Mag Pump Mag Dump

The injection-molded polymer Mag Pump Mag Dump lets you quickly unload your mil-spec AR-15 mags. Simply insert your magazine, lock it into place and use the lever to safely eject each cartridge. No more sore thumbs and no more worrying about potential magazine spring failure caused by a fully loaded mag sitting for long periods of time. The light weight but super strong Mag Dump is built to last and will leave you wondering how you ever lived without it. www.magpump.com







#### Javelin

Made using only the best materials, the Javelin represents a major leap forward. a Lightweight Bipod that can be attached to your rifle in seconds using our Spartan Patented System. Only one Bipod is required for all your rifle platforms. There are many adapter options meaning most rifles can be converted to recieve the Bipod in a matter of minutes. Standard and long versions are available.

**Spartan Precision Equipment** is a British company based in Sussex dedicated to producing the finest hunting products in the world. Our drive comes from years of experience hunting with gear that just didn't live up to the job and knowing that the humble bipod had to get with the times.

The result is our maiden product the Javelin Bipod, featured in Rifle Shooter, American Rifleman and a huge number of other top publications.

Since our launch we've partnered with other high quality hunting industry names like Blaser and Sauer to produce branded bipods, Niggeloh to make our amazing rifle slings, and there are a couple more big names on the horizon, visit our website for more of our great products.





#### Spartan 300

The '300' bipod builds on our experience and knowledge gained from making the Javelin bipod. It answers the needs of users that require an ultralight weight bipod that can be fitted in seconds and folded & locked under the rifle. Using our patented magnetic attachment system and utilising high quality lightweight 7000 series aluminium body, carbon fibre legs & stanless steel fittings.

#### Accessories

We stock a wide range of adapters and accessories that complement our products and give additional functionality.



+44 (0) 208 0900 585 sales@javelinbipod.com The Dutch Barn, Blackham Court, Beech Green Lane Withyham, Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4DB

## 6.5 Creedmoor Sheep Gun

by: Troy Farrar



We decided to build the perfect sheep gun and called on some of the most trusted brands in the industry to achieve this goal.

The most vital piece of the puzzle was accuracy and although long shots are not always required, we wanted a caliber that was capable of reaching out there when necessary. We chose a Fierce Firearms carbon fiber barrel chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor which is capable of producing sub MOA groups and can provide more than adequate reach when needed.

The second puzzle piece was the ability to chamber a round quietly. We always keep our chamber empty while scrambling up and down the mountains and know that there will be times when we need to quickly and quietly chamber a round while in close proximity to our quarry. The goal is to efficiently stalk the animal and take a single well-placed shot, but we know that things do not always happen that way. We chose a Defiance bolt action for its quick and quiet function as well as the confidence we have in the action on those days when a follow-up shot is required.

A lightweight, tough weatherproof stock was a must when banging around the mountains during possible rainy or snowy conditions. The iota composite stocks were the perfect solution as they do not swell or change in bad weather and dings can easily be repaired. We also powder coated our actions to keep them protected during extended bad weather hunts.

A variable magnification optic rounded out our wish list. We wanted a scope that allowed us to confidently see our target on longer shots but that was not as heavy as a boat anchor. We chose the Vortex Viper PST GEN II 2-10 X 32 mounted on Badger Ordinance rings as it gave us a reliable and rugged optic setup that could handle the bumps of a hunting trip without loosing zero in a lightweight set up.

When it was all said and done we ended up with a super accurate lightweight weatherproof rifle that was more than capable of making an accurate shot in sheep hunting conditions.

#### iota Kremlin Stock

The iota Kremlin composite molded rifle stock is a combination of both a hunter and shooter stock shape resulting in a durable precision stock that increases stability from any shooting stance. Customizable to fit your exact needs, iota starts with custom machined pillars that maintain action and bottom metal dimensions and minimize stock fatigue resulting in consistent accuracy. Each stock comes with a LimbSaver AirTech recoil pad, a vertical grip and an ambi palm swell. The iota Kremlin is hand mixed and molded using a carbon fiber reinforced composite to maximize the stocks strength while keeping

the weight at a paltry 2.5 pounds. Choose from a variety of colors, action lengths, barrel channels, bottom metal configurations and molded in ports which are all hand laid. The iota Kremlin is a great carbon fiber base for your next custom rifle. www.iotaoutdoors.com



#### Fierce Firearms C3 Carbon Barrel

The Fierce Arms C3 Carbon Barrel is built using a unique three-step lay-up process that produces a stiff and accurate barrel. Fierce starts off with their match grade hand lapped barrel. They add several layers of carbon fiber in a unidirectional application manner that gives the barrel three times higher modulas (stiffness) which produces better accuracy. The second stage is a Hoop process which is a 90 degree carbon wrap that provides increased barrel strength. A controlled tension filament wind process finishes out the process producing a perfectly uniform barrel. The result is a stiff barrel with smaller vibrations and increased heat dissipation that provides reliable accuracy. The Fierce Arms C3 Carbon Barrel is a perfect choice for an accurate

custom rifle build and will not let you down when you need to make that long range accurate shot. www.fiercearms.com



#### Vortex Viper PST GEN II 2-10X32

The Vortex Viper PST GEN II 2-10 X 32 riflescope features some awesome improvements on an optic that had already proven itself as a winner. The glass brightness, resolution and clarity of the Viper are an upgrade from the previous version due to the extra low dispersion glass with multiple XR coatings. The illuminated first focal plane reticle is etched and protected by being layered between two pieces of glass. The etched reticle provides constant subtensions allowing for accurate holdover and ranging at all magnifications. The knobs are big and easy to use and the illuminated dial is easy to read in low light environments. Featuring a solid easy-to-feel click and an improved zero stop that you would expect on a premium optic, the Viper turrets are a noticeable improvement from the previous model. The 2-10 X magnification range makes this optic effective to at least 700 or 800 yards making the Viper an excellent optic for hunting or competitive shooting. The durable Viper is water proof, fog proof

and shock proof and can handle the rigors of just about adventure you can create. www.vortexoptics.com

#### Badger Ordinance Optic Rings

Badger Ordinance has been a player in the long-range precision shooting scene for a long time due to their reputation and proven performance. The Badger Ordinance Optic Rings follow this tradition and are serialized matched pairs, guaranteeing that both rings are identical and eliminating the negative effects produced by poorfitting, mass-produced rings. Badger Ordinance rings



are machined from the highest quality ordinance-grade steel and all ring hardware has been designed by Badger Ordinance and is made to their exact specifications, including the torx screws that hold the scope securely in the rings. Available in 30, 34 and 35mm with a variety of height options, the rings feature a black oxide finish and will accommodate precision rifles with medium and heavy contour barrel profiles. Badger Ordinance will make sure your optic remains zeroed even after that rough hike so you are ready for the perfect shot when the opportunity presents itself. www.badgerordnance.com

#### Defiance Machine Deviant Ultralight

The Defiance Machine Deviant Ultralight is the lightest Deviant action available and the perfect action when designing a lightweight hunting rifle. Whether you are replacing an action or building a gun from scratch, customization is a key principle at Defiance Machine and you can design your Deviant Ultralight to your exact specifications. Available in several sizes, the receiver is machined from a single piece of pre-hardened 416 stainless steel and the one-piece bolt is made of pre-hardened aircraft certified 4340 chrome moly. Choose from hinged floor plates, detachable magazines or single shot and bolt face diameters in just about any cartridge you can imagine. The Ultralight features integrated scope mounts which narrow in the center to allow top loading of BDL style magazines and remove weight while maintaining the rigidity you need to provide a stable base for your optics. Defiance Machine has provided an integral recoil lug along with a primary extraction design that significantly increases initial extraction and ensures smooth bolt cycling. Defiance Machine is so confident in the quality of their actions that they offer a "like it or we will replace it" guarantee. For a fully customizable, ultraprecise, one-of-a-kind custom action your choice bolt is Defiance simple \_ Machine. www.defiancemachine.com

## Grinder Nationals April 13, 2019 | Lawrence, Kansas

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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.





Timney Calvin Elite Custom Remington Model 700 Trigger The Timney Calvin Elite Custom Remington Model 700 Trigger is an engineering breakthrough providing a crisp trigger pull weight that can be ordered in eight different weights ranging from 8 ounces to 2.5 pounds. Timney designed this trigger for ultimate customization featuring 30 degree right and left cant adjustability and four rotatable trigger shoes (curved, flat, heeled and knurled) that can be adjusted for cast, height and length of pull. The adjustable sear engagement, pull weight and over travel allow the shooter to get a perfect straight pull at the weight he desires which will produce more consistent accuracy and a happier shooter. www.timneytriggers.com

#### Holland Radial Baffle Muzzle Brake

When the Godfather of long range shooting produces a muzzle brake you had better pay attention. Holland's Radial Baffle Muzzle Brake traps the gases and diverts them around the shooter in a rearward direction which reduces both the noise and concussion that are directed back at the shooter. While this is happening, the blank area on the bottom of the brake virtually eliminates the dust cloud ground signature and prevents dirt and debris from being

kicked up into the shooter's eyes or the rifle. The results are a significant recoil reduction, reduced muzzle rise and a reduced muzzle blast which equals increased performance. The easy-to-clean Holland Radial Baffle Muzzle Brake is machined from 17-4 stainless steel and heat-treated to a Rockwell of 42-44 on the "C" scale. When Darrell Holland offers any serious shooter the Holland Radial Baffle Muzzle Brake understand that he is making you an offer that you cannot refuse. www.hollandguns.com

#### Hawkins Precision Detachable Box Magazine Bottom Metal

The Hawkins Precision M5 Detachable Box Magazine is designed specifically for precision shooting and provides the confidence tactical and long-range shooters need to make rapid magazine changes. The DBM is CNC-machined from a billet of aluminum and incorporates a

front barricade stop to protect your magazines and a dr magazine port for rapid magazine changes. The DBM also features Hawkins patented cantilever spring release that will not open under recoil and is available with a forward Picatinny rail attachment for a bipod. The DBM fits Remington 700 actions, comes with action screws and bedding pillars and uses AICS magazines. www.hawkinsprecision.com







Spartan Precision Equipment Javelin Bipod Long The Spartan Precision Equipment Javelin Bipod Long is an adjustable, lightweight, guick-attaching bipod. Made to last a lifetime, the Javelin Long is a sturdy bipod made from aluminum and carbon fiber that can withstand the harshest conditions. The extendable legs adjust from 8.1 inches to 11.8 inches and combined with the built in cant provide a large window of variation while being compact enough to carry in your pocket. Using a strong magnet, the bipod can be attached to your rifle in a couple of seconds. Spartan Precision has a variety of adapters for just about any rifle which allows you to switch the bipod between firearms as needed. The Javelin can be placed facing forward which allows swivel, or placed backwards which locks the bipod in place. Featuring rubber and tungsten carbide feet that will insure a stable base in any environment, the Javelin Bipod Long is a lightweight, heavy-duty performer. www.javelinbipod.com

#### Spartan Precision Equipment Pouch

Spartan Precision Equipment has teamed up with Niggeloh from Germany to provide a great belt pouch for their bipods. The neoprene and leather pouch is lightweight and has a flap to keep your bipod secure. The pouch also features a webbing belt loop and is a great accessory for those who do not want to carry their bipod in a pocket. Niggeloh also makes a rifle sling and a rifle backpack sling for Spartan Precision Equipment. www.javelinbipod.com

#### Accuracy International AICS Magazines

Accuracy International was started in 1978 by a group of international target shooters, including a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist. Designed by shooters-for shooters, the Accuracy International AICS Magazine provides Remington 700 shooters with a high quality, precision-made

steel detachable box magazine. Al starts with industry-leading military grade steel with special anti-friction coatings that provide durability and corrosion resistance. The double-stack configuration features a self-lubricating, polymer follower and tempered steel spring to ensure smooth and reliable feeds without problems. AICS magazines are available in several sizes, we chose a 5 and 10 magazine for our build, and all magazines feature removable springs and risers for easy cleaning. When you want unmatched reliability choose the best and use Accuracy International AICS magazines. www.accuracyinternational.com



