

WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

FALL
CATALOGUE

EQUIPMENT

Packs, Sleeping Bags, Tents, and More

OUTERWEAR

Clothing For All Seasons

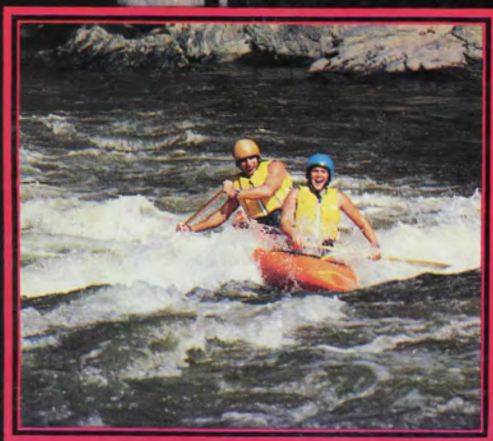
EVEREST '83

VOLCANO SKIING

Mexico

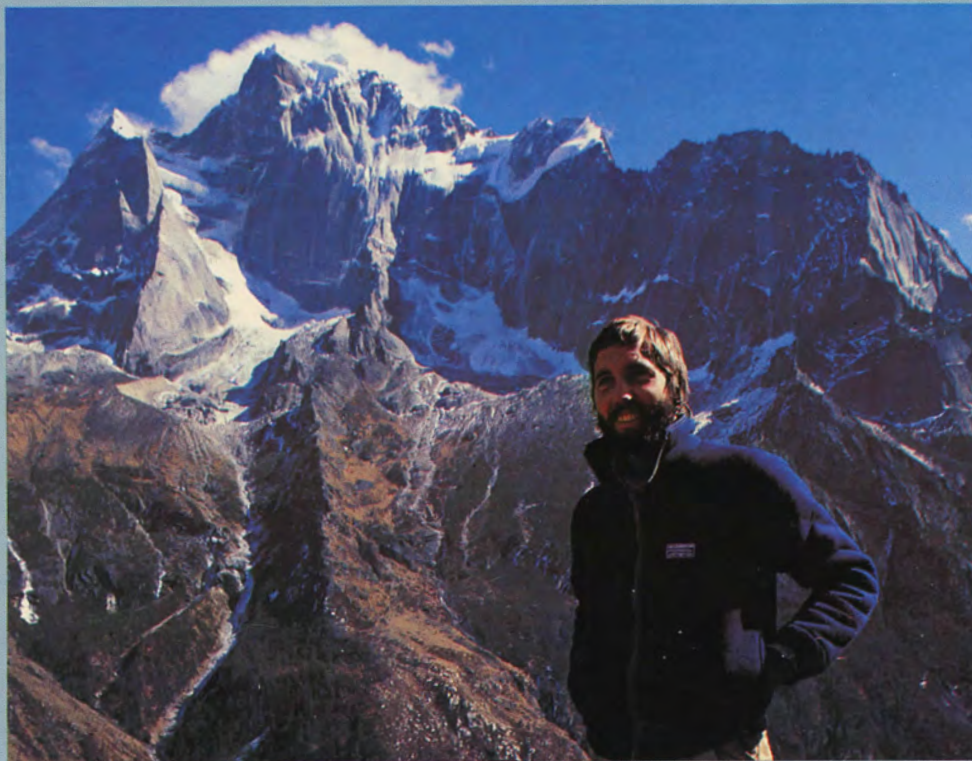
KAYAKING

The Inner World





An Invitation to the Wilderness Experience



Greg Thomsen at Mt. Sigunaing, in Central China

One of the first things we realized as we were putting the final touches to this season's catalog was that Wilderness Experience's horizons have greatly expanded over the past ten years.

We started out only supplying the needs of mountaineers, backpackers and climbers, because at that time that is what we knew best. Today we find that our personal interests have expanded into many different and exciting outdoor activities and so has our desire to create the highest quality equipment for each of these new areas.

So please relax, browse through our new fall catalog and let your imagination soar with ours.

We truly hope you will enjoy using our products as much as we enjoy creating them for you.

Sincerely,

Greg Thomsen
Designer and President



PRODUCTS DESIGNED
FOR THE
OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE

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THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

Wilderness Experience is that rare public corporation that has managed to stay in touch with its roots as it has progressed. Our first ten years of hard work and growth have produced a vibrant, dedicated organization that is able to respond to new challenges in new ways.

When it began, the aim of Wilderness Experience was to evolve into a full-service resource that helped make personal dreams into realities; we've achieved the lion's share of our aim, and we're still growing.

Our future remains intermeshed with yours, however, and we wouldn't have it any other way. We want to become part of the fabric of your life; we want to outfit your adventures, whatever they are. We know that our horizons will expand as yours do.

So far the history of Wilderness Experience has been

filled with exhaustive product testing by expeditions, climbers, skiers, mountaineers and independent laboratories. We are highly sensitive to the great responsibilities we bear in outfitting our customers, and we will not sell you equipment until it's been proven.

You, our customers, define the needs for many of our products. Often a specific problem can only be addressed with a specific equipment solution; even after such products have been produced, your input helps us refine them. In fact, your comments have affected the direction of this company significantly through the years, and for the better.

Recently a subtle change has come to Wilderness Experience. "Packs for mountaineers," we used to say, but now our product line has expanded dramatically, and we outfit a myriad of different activities. Once



KATE MOORE

Photographer Charles Abbott wearing the WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE POLARFLEECE JACKET at Lappeenranta in the Finnish Karelia. Telemarker Steve Yates at 18,700 feet Pico De Orizaba in Mexico wearing the STORM COAT with the ALPINIST II pack. Bob Graham on M

we'd learned how to do one thing well, the next logical step has been the extension of our lines to reflect a full commitment to a whole range of products for the outdoor lifestyle. But wherever we go, our high-quality and complete reliability go with us.

So today Wilderness Experience is with you when the wind is howling and your sailboard hums with speed and leaps out of the water.

We're there when you're coiling your rope after the last pitch of an arduous new climbing route.

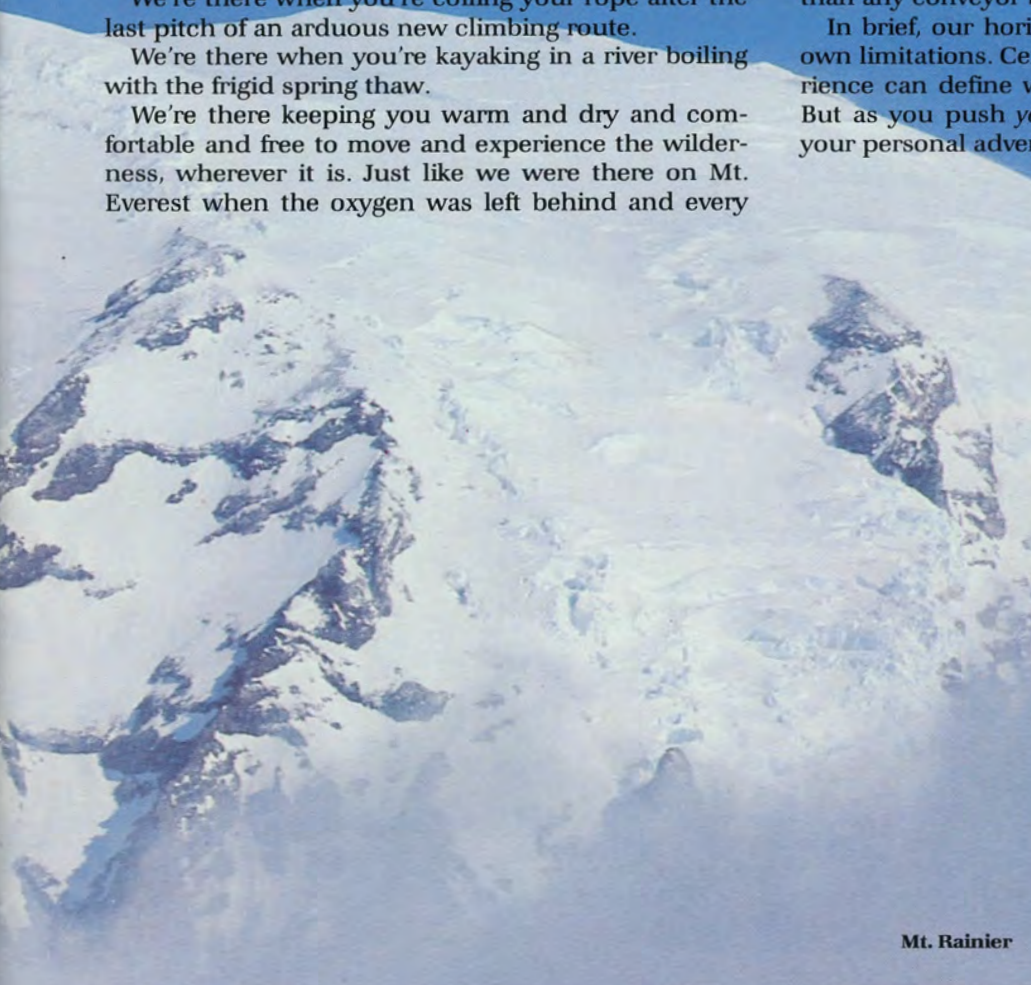
We're there when you're kayaking in a river boiling with the frigid spring thaw.

We're there keeping you warm and dry and comfortable and free to move and experience the wilderness, wherever it is. Just like we were there on Mt. Everest when the oxygen was left behind and every

piece of equipment had to be relied on absolutely to do its job, and more. And just like we were there for the crew of the sleek cat Double Bullet when it set its new TransPac record.

And, to be perfectly frank, Wilderness Experience will be happy to keep your books dry as you cycle to school in the heaviest rain. Or we'll get you through the airport gauntlet, unscathed, with luggage tougher than any conveyor belt.

In brief, our horizons are restricted only by man's own limitations. Certainly no one at Wilderness Experience can define what those are; wouldn't even try. But as you push *your* limits, we'll be there, helping your personal adventures become reality.



Mt. Rainier

OUR WARRANTY

All Wilderness Experience products are fully-warranted to the original purchaser (for his or her lifetime) against defects in materials and workmanship. In the unlikely event that a product fails due to a manufacturing defect — even after extended use — we will repair or replace it, free of charge. Products insulated with PolarGuard® or covered with Gore-Tex® will provide many years of service if properly cared for. However, the useful life of either of these is not known. Therefore, we warrant the properties and durabilities of each for three years from date of manufacture. All other Wilderness Experience components are covered by the full warranty. Complete warranty information available at your dealer or write Wilderness Experience.



STEVE YATES



DAVE MOE

Moore in the FLYWEIGHT JACKET speaking with Marta Mänty, former woman champion reindeer driver (in traditional festival clothing).
er wearing the SHETLAND PARKA. Eric Witte sailing on the HOBIE 33 with the WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE SAILING SUIT.

SCANDINAVIAN WARMTH SECRET

Clothing made from pile has long been a staple among Scandinavian fishermen. They found it to be an ideal wool substitute which maintained its insulating ability when wet, yet was much lighter in weight. Compared to wool, pile offers equal warmth at half the weight.

When pile clothing first hit American shores it was immediately embraced by mountaineers. They appreciated the weight savings and found that pile garments were also less expensive. A phenomenon was created.

Word spread rapidly that when wet, this material would dry out simply from the heat of one's body — while it still was keeping you warm. The material also proved tough. The only sign of abrasion seemed to be the fuzzing or "pilling" associated with pile.

Soon the manufacture of pile became more sophisticated as the market for the material grew. Borglite pile quickly outshined other types of pile because it incorporated Dupont's Hollofil fiber into its weave. This is a hollow fiber which allows more air to be trapped in a given area. The more air trapped the warmer the garment.

The next evolutionary step in the development of pile materials was Malden's Polarpile. Polarpile has a tightly woven backing material that answers the major failing of traditional pile — wind resistance. Now the advantages of pile were available without an outer shell to cut the wind.

Polarpile has several additional advantages. Because of its density the pile height can be shorter and provide similar warmth to bulkier material. The weaving process used in the production of Polarpile allows the fabric to stretch, making it perfect for garments used in extremely active sports. Also Polarpile is less apt to pill, eliminating the trimming usually required of pile fabrics after extended use.

Another common fabric used by Wilderness Experience is Polarfleece, again by Malden.

A garment made from pile looks as good on campus as it is warm during a day of cross country skiing in the cold. Enjoy the function and fashion that is offered by pile clothing.



Guide Jacket

European in design, the Guide Jacket promises a lot: ventilation, warmth, and flexibility. It is warm on campus or under sail, and it's ideal for the punishment of climbing.

- Warm Polarpile, a new polyester knit that is warm, dense, and flexible
- Pit zips for ventilation
- Convenient breast pockets
- Two traditional slash pockets
- Pack cloth patches at the elbow and stress points
- Heavy-duty ribbing at the cuff and bottom for long wear

Colors: Navy, Royal, Red
Weight: 1 lb., 3 oz.

Polarpile Teton Anorak

The Polarpile Teton Anorak is part of a layering system devised for skiers and mountaineers. Combined with the Gore-Tex Teton Anorak this side-zippered garment is ready protection in the coldest environment.

- Flexible, yet very dense, Polarpile
- Zippered sides for easy entry
- Drawstring hood built for good visibility
- Large kangaroo pockets
- Sturdy Packcloth patches at elbows and all stress points

Colors: Navy, Royal, Red
Weight: 1 lb., 3 oz.

Polarfleece pants are available in color combinations for all of our pile clothing.

Penguins in Antarctica



Polarfleece Jacket

The Polarfleece Jacket has a dense exterior nap which insulates and protects against the wind. Its softness, comfort, and warmth has won friends in every sport imaginable.

- Attractive flight jacket styling
- Front zipper closure
- Two slash waist pockets
- Heavy-duty ribbing at the bottom and cuffs

Colors: Grey, Navy, Burgundy
Weight: 1 lb., 3 oz.

Polarfleece Anorak

This pullover design eliminates the heat loss of zippered jackets and presents a seam-free front design for wind protection.

- Constructed of durable, brushed Polarfleece®
- Slash handwarmer pockets
- Heavy-duty ribbing at the bottom and cuffs
- Comfortable pullover design

Colors: Grey, Navy, Burgundy
Weight: 1 lb., 5 oz.

Borglite Pile Jacket

This traditional jacket is made with superior Borglite pile, the only material constructed with Hollofil. This hollow fiber insures excellent insulation in an affordable, durable jacket.

- Borglite insulates even when wet
- Handwarmer pockets
- Front zipper closure
- Heavy-duty bottom ribbing and expandable cuffs

Colors: Navy **Weight:** 1 lb., 10 oz.

Transpac

RACING THE BLUE WILDERNESS

by Lewie Wake

On July 4, 26 boats lined up at the start, just outside the Golden Gate Bridge, to sail the 2,157-nautical-mile race to Kauai, Hawaii. There were four of us aboard the brand new Hobie 33 *Robin*. We were ripping the plastic wrapping off winch handles and blocks on the way to the starting line.

Fortunately, three of the four crew had sailed previous TransPac races. There's no substitute for that kind of experience: It teaches you how to put perishable equipment (radios, charts, sextant, etc.) in Tupperware-type containers. Experience teaches you what to bring for personal comfort to keep fatigue at a minimum. A \$3 pad becomes a prized possession after eight days on hard decks. Ear plugs make the difference between sleeping and not sleeping. Wet gear that really keeps the water out determines the difference between comfort and misery.

We arrived at the starting area an hour early, and checked out the competition. Most boats were much larger than ours. The smallest was a 30-footer and the largest was *Merlin*, a 67-foot Santa Cruz custom sloop that holds the current elapsed time record to Hawaii.

During that hour, we questioned one another's sanity. Tom Kornrumpf, our cook, had been asking to sail on a Hobie 33 for the last six months. Now there was no getting off. Bob Boyes, our navigator,

was talking about how cold, wet and miserable it was going to be that night. John Wake had never sailed across the ocean and was pondering how much of it would be beating into 35 knots of wind. I was thinking all a skipper's worry-thoughts: Did we forget anything? What are we going to break in this race? Do we have enough food? How's the rudder? Will the mast stay up?

John and I were involved with the development of the boat. We knew each part intimately, yet she hadn't been tested in the "real world" of the ocean, not in such a long and demanding race.

At the gun, the weather end was favored. We managed to snatch the start about five feet from the pin and five feet back at full speed. Our glory was short-lived, as the big boats rolled us one by one. After a couple of clearing tacks, we were able to sail comparable with the 40-foot boats.

Our compass course was about 185 degrees. The straight course to Hawaii is about 225 degrees, but the fastest course is rarely the straight course. Our game plan was to drop toward the south and pick up the northeast trade winds early. This allows the boat to sail farther off the wind for more speed.

That first night was cold and wet, just as Bob predicted. Spray came over the bow every third or fourth wave. Dinner was cold spinach quiche.

Dawn was beautiful. The sight of that great big warm sun coming up was a great comfort.

The boat was performing well. We were jamming along at about nine knots. The spray subsided; only an occasional splash would buck over the bow. Our watch system brought a new man on deck every two hours. Individually, that means sailing four hours, then resting four hours. Two men on deck could do anything except jibe in heavy air.

The helmsman is responsible for making the boat go as fast as possible at all times. Each wave brings a decision. Should I go up for speed, or drop in and surf? How about the pole — can it come back? Where should the crew weight be?

The routine of sailing was established on our second day. We had only two boats in sight, *Quamichon* (44 feet) and *Blue Streak* (39 feet). We were passing them all day; they were the last boats we saw until Hawaii, except one freighter the second night. It's amazing how little one sees in the ocean. Our only tie to land was our electronics.

The third day of sailing brought less wind and warmer temperatures. We were running with the pole all the way back. Windspeed was six to ten knots; boatspeed was five to seven knots. This condition was to hold more or less steady for the next week.

We took our first showers of the trip



Double Bullet crew with their WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE SAILING SUITS

NEW RECORD SET IN PACIFIC CROSSING

The 64-1/2-foot catamaran, Double Bullet, became the fastest sailing vessel ever to make the California-to-Hawaii crossing. Its time from Los Angeles of 7 days, 7 hours, 30 minutes and 56 seconds eclipsed the 7-day, 22-hour crossing in the 1800's of the clippership Thomas B. Amy.

During the trip, Bob Hanel, the boat's owner, was also able to set a record for the most miles traveled by a sailboat in a 24-hour period — 391 miles.

Crew members all used the new Wilderness Experience one-piece sailing suits, finding them dry and comfortable throughout the long race.



Double Bullet crossing the finish line in Hawaii

on the third day, standing bare on the foredeck with a bucket and rope. The bucket is dipped quickly into the ocean and the cold water is poured over the head. Lathering with bar soap is nearly impossible. Liquid soap is the only way to go.

Life is more pleasant on a small boat than you might imagine. The bunks were comfortable and dry. The work was easy. Most of important of all, the crew was compatible. The space available is admittedly small, but a deep and satisfying camaraderie developed between the men on board. Each contributed to the effort to sail fast, stay comfortable and stay happy.

The wind began to build on the eighth day. We were fully into the trade winds with blue skies, puffy clouds and a crystal blue ocean. The long ocean waves built to 10-15 feet; the winds were 15-25 knots.

Words fall short of describing sailing a steady 10 knots, feeling the boat lift up 15 feet with the approaching swell, then having the bow incline down the wave and the boat cut loose to 15 knots, with spray shooting out the sides.

Night usually brought complete cloud cover; it got very black, impossible to see the difference between water and sky. To augment this scary situation, the wind invariably picked up. When we cut loose on those waves, we couldn't see what was ahead. The helmsman had to rely on the lighted compass to keep the course and pray there was nothing out there to hit. It was like taking a freight train into a black hole.

We made a position report each morning at 9:00. Huddled around the radio, we'd listen to other boats report their latitude and longitude, then we'd plot their positions on the chart. Strategy was discussed. Are we too far north or south? Is there more wind ahead?

The ninth day saw our longest 24-hour run: 255 miles. Since we had jibed several times during that day, our actual

distance sailed was 275 miles — an incredible 11.5 knot/hour average!

The tenth day of sailing saw the most wind and the biggest waves. Some of the swells were up to 30 feet. The surfing was beyond belief. We were sometimes picked up at the top of a wave and hurled sideways down the wave under the foaming cap of the crest. There were puffs of wind so strong we could sail down a wave, right up the backside of the next wave and down again, sailing that way for several minutes at a time.

We knew we were smoking the competition. Grins became permanent fixtures on our faces. The helmsman usually had the biggest smile, sitting at the tiller under the headphones, listening to a favorite tune while guiding the careening ship down the waves.

The last night was by far the most radical sailing. I went off watch at midnight, turning the helm over to Bob Boyes. We were blasting along at 13 knots. Hawaii was only 250 miles away. The sky was black with squalls.

I went below for some rest. Even though I was exhausted, it was impossible to sleep. I hadn't slept in two days, what with the screeching and jostling of the boat. For an hour, John and Bob never saw the knotmeter go below 13 knots.

They suggested we change to the 1.5-ounce, smaller shouldered spinnaker. By this time, we were all victims of freeway burnout syndrome, the result of going too fast for too long with too little sleep. It was all hands on deck for this maneuver, our only weak point in the whole race. It took about 30 minutes to complete a change that takes three to five minutes on a Sunday afternoon sail, and much of the time we went with main only. Still, our speed was eight to nine knots.

The new spinnaker went up with a loud crack, followed shortly by a lurch in boatspeed to 15 knots. I had a second wind, so I offered to steer awhile. After

an hour, the biggest, blackest cloud of the trip appeared behind us. I knew the cloud meant more wind. That was the only time during the race that I was really scared. (I didn't want to break anything or round up, especially after coming so far with a clean record.)

Tom was on the aft deck. We both had safety harnesses on. As the big black cloud came overhead, the wind hit at near 50 knots. The bow lifted a foot higher than I'd ever seen it. We hit 17.8 on the knotmeter. For the next half hour, it never went below 15 knots. I have never had a ride like that before.

I can't say I was enjoying the ride as much as Tom. He was hooting and hollering — I was just shaking from fear, and concentrating as hard as I could. A slip of the tiller for even a second could spell disaster. When the cloud passed, we slowed back to 12 knots, which felt very mellow.

On the last morning, we all suffered channel fever, being anxious to finish the race. Seeing the rolling hills of Hawaii after 12 days at sea is a blessing.

We arrived at Nauwiliwili Harbor at 2:00 in the afternoon. We'd sailed 2,250 miles in 12 days, four hours and 41 seconds for an average speed of 7.7 knots. We finished fifth boat-for-boat, beating all boats under 52 feet long, including some formidable racing yachts costing 10 times the price of the Hobie 33. On corrected time, we were third overall out of the 26 boats. We felt victorious and very happy. It was an experience of a lifetime that I hope I get the chance to repeat.

Lewie Wake is Director of Research and Design at Hobie Cat. He has had two wins as tactician in the Congressional Cup and is an accomplished Hobie 16A sailor.

GUARANTEED ALL-WEATHER PROTECTION

Gore-Tex began a revolution in weatherwear when it was introduced, offering the promise of outerwear that was not only waterproof, but also breathable.

Wilderness Experience now produces the largest line of Gore-Tex products made, and the promise of yesteryear is the guarantee of today. To understand why we came to believe in the worth of Gore-Tex demands knowledge of the material itself.

Gore-Tex is not a fabric but a thin film of Polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE is the same resin which produces Teflon). This film, which is laminated to the fabrics of our choice, has nine billion pores per square inch. This network of microscopic spaces acts as a semi-permeable membrane. Each pore is 20,000 times smaller than a water drop, yet several hundred times larger than a single water molecule. So, while rain cannot enter the tiny pores, they are large enough for perspiration (water molecules) to pass out.

GoreTex® is a registered trademark of W.L. Gore & Associates.

Wilderness Experience uses two types of Gore-Tex. All parkas, (except the Big Sur) and pants use a two-layer Gore-Tex in which the laminate is applied to the material without any additional backing. Combined with a lightweight lining this material produces a flexible garment with a very flexible hand.

Three-layer Gore-Tex includes the outer fabric, the laminate, and a protective inner material like tricort. A garment made in this manner requires no inner lining as the tricort protects the Gore-Tex laminate.

Wilderness Experience products are fully seam-sealed using a waterproof tape that is permanently welded using heat and pressure.

Like so many other Wilderness Experience products it is our craftsmanship and attention to detail that sets us apart from the rest. In the case of our Gore-Tex products, we can guarantee that your hiking and camping days will remain dry and comfortable.

GUARANTEED ALL-WEATHER PROTECTION



McKenzie

Around town the McKenzie is perfect for a windy evening, but take it into the wilderness, snap on the form-fitting hood, and this Gore-Tex parka stands right up to nature's challenges.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon
- Convenient, removable hood
- Underarm zippers for ventilation
- Velcro wrist closures
- Handy waist drawcord
- Factory sealed seams

Colors: Navy, Red, Royal, Grey
Weight: 1 lb., 8 oz.

Wind River

The Gore-Tex Wind River has every feature needed to make it durable, reliable, and suited for the mountaineer, fisherman, or sailor. A classic design.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon
- Double-layer elbows for added durability
- Drawcorded hood with rain bill
- Handwarmer pockets with gusseted cargo pockets
- Front zipper is protected with a snapped rainflap
- Chest pockets with Velcro closures
- Taffeta-lined throughout
- Factory sealed seams

Colors: Navy, Royal, Grey
Weight: 1 lb., 5 oz.

Gore-Tex Teton Anorak

The Teton Anorak eliminates all seams from the front, a style preferred by many skiers. This Gore-Tex anorak solves the problem of getting into pullovers by offering two side-zippers.

- Large brimmed hood with side pulls for tight fit and excellent vision
- Large rain flaps over all zippers
- Fully factory seam-tape sealed
- Velcro closures at wrists
- Kangaroo pocket

Colors: Red, Grey
Weight: 1 lb., 3 oz.

Wind River Pants

The Wind River Pants are a hardy design for tough use made from Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon.

- Elasticized drawcord waistband and suspenders
- Zippered pant legs for easy entry
- Elastic and snapped ankle seals
- Large rear pocket with zippered access to interior

pants pockets ■ Zipper fly with snap closure

Colors: Navy, Red, Royal, Grey
Weight: 1 lb.



Flyweight

No matter if the transportation is by car, plane, foot, boat or bike, the Flyweight jacket is your best choice for stowaway weather protection.

- Urethane coated ripstop nylon for total water repellancy
- Integrated drawcord hood with rain brim
- Velcro and zipper closure over front closure
- Zippered slash pockets
- Velcro wrist closures
- Includes stuff sack

Colors: Royal, Grey Weight: 9 oz.

Flyweight Rain Pants

Our Flyweight Rain Pants are the perfect companion to the jacket of the same name. The design is basic but the weather protection is complete.

- Urethane-coated ripstop nylon
- Zipper fly with snap closure
- Elastic, adjustable waistband
- Roomy pockets
- Bell-bottom with Velcro closures
- Complete with stuff sack

Colors: Royal, Grey Weight: 6 oz.

Big Sur

Strong, reliable Gore-Tex protection in an ultra-lightweight packet is what the Big Sur offers.

- Gore-Tex laminated ripstop for minimum weight, maximum water repellency
- Comfortable hood with stand-up bill
- All upper seams factory-taped sealed
- Velcro wrist seals
- Easy access, big volume pockets
- Snap and zipper front closure

Colors: Royal Weight: 15 oz.

Telemark Pants

Our most versatile pant design. Telemark Pants are our first choice for backcountry skiing or any sport where durability must be combined with an ability to put on the garment quickly and easily.

- Fully zippered pant legs for easy entry
- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon reinforced at the seat and knees with tough Packcloth
- Zipper fly with snap closure
- Elastic band on the high waist
- Twin zippered slash pockets

Colors: Red, Navy, Royal, Grey Weight: 1 lb., 5 oz.

Palisade

Our Palisade Parka gives Gore-Tex all-weather confidence and the comfort of a flexible taffeta nylon.

- Gore-Tex laminated taffeta nylon
- All seams are flat-felled stitched and factory taped for waterproofness
- Velcro wrist closures
- Snapped and zippered front closure
- Double slash pockets

Colors: Royal, Weight: 1 lb., 1 oz.

Palisade Pants

The Palisades Pants are the best of both worlds: They are lightweight and easy to pack, yet they have all the features of heavier, bulkier models.

- Gore-Tex laminated taffeta nylon for water repellency
- Zipper fly with snap closure
- Three-quarter zip legs for easy entry
- Elastic and snap ankle closures for waterproof seal
- Large rear pocket and zippered, easy side entry to interior pants pockets
- Elastic waistband and suspenders

Colors: Royal Weight: 9 oz.

Mexico

SKIING THE VOLCANIC SLOPES

By Robert Graham, M.D.

The third and fifth highest mountains in North America are in Mexico. They are generally blanketed with snow. El Popocateptl is 17,800 feet and El Pico de Orizaba (or Citlateptl) rises 18,700 feet; both are glacier-capped volcanoes. Each has a gun-barrel crater atop, and El Popo is still active enough to spew clouds of sulfur laden gases. Although the logistics for an alpine climb of these two peaks would not be technical, the thought of skiing the two giants might intimidate even the most intrepid mountaineer.

So when we arrived in Mexico City, our skis attracted some attention. Almost no one skis the volcanic mountains of Mexico. We were three Americans in a strange land, come to slide down two of the greatest peaks on the continent.

We soon set out in search of the volcanoes. The closest was El Popo, named after the Aztec god of creation, consumed in his bird-serpent incarnation by the volcano's molten fires. Prophecy ordained his return in human form.

The cratered summit of El Popo has an interesting place in Mexican history. In 1509, after scuttling and burning his ships in Vera Cruz, Cortez came through the pass between El Popo and Volcano of the Sleeping Lady, Ixtlatepetl (16,900 feet). He brought only 15 horses, 120 men and a tenacious determination to con-

quer an empire of a million people; he laid siege to Xochimilco.

In desperate need of gunpowder, Cortez sent Juan Valdez and two others up to the crater of the still active El Popo to bring out sulfur. They lowered themselves into the smoking hole on strands of jute rope. Facts of this ascent and descent are few, but, Valdez did bring back several kilograms of sulfur to attest reaching the crater.

For a time in this century, a mining operation gathered sulfur similarly. Miners would climb to the rim and descend the vertical crater barrel on precarious lifts. Eventually, a collapse killed several miners and permanently suspended mining operations.

In the early 1970s, Louis Escheveria, President of Mexico and an alpinist himself, authorized construction of a modern road nearly 13,000 feet up El Popo. At the end of the road is the village of Tlamacas, where there is a beautiful lodge and comfortable facilities. A broad trail leads up to the distant glacier, used by many people including hoards of Mexico City sightseers. The once majestic hike up through the ashy soil is now marred with constant litter and filth, sad evidence of the ignorant disdain that even the educated Mexican tends to have for nature. Any sensitive traveler

must cringe at this abundant environmental pollution.

Once we had climbed to the 14,000' level, we became concerned about the high altitude climbing; it became apparent that skiing would be more challenging than we had expected. The climb had been tiresome; we'd crossed two thousand feet of glacier. But the view from the top presented a stunning panorama of Mexico's smoggy mile-high plateau. We all experienced a euphoric feeling of accomplishment as we jointly marched to the summit. We were low on water and melted sulfur-laden snow — it tasted absolutely horrible! We became a bit anxious about skiing home. With the hard windblown snow and thin air we found the skiing difficult; the surface of the snow was thin and crusty, cracking and clattering under our skis. Falling seemed inevitable. Hazards included crevasses and occasional rock. By the time our descent ended successfully we found we had developed a great camaraderie through the exciting and exhausting day.

We enjoyed the terrific accommodations at the lodges in Tlamacas that night: traditional food, bunks, and hot showers. The next day we followed the road down to Tlachichuca; we could see El Pico almost 100 kilometers away. It

Sliding down El Popo's icy slopes.



DAVE MOE



STEVE YATES

Looking over the rim into El Popo's crater; the cross is for sulfur miners who never came out.

was a long day's dusty busride before we gazed into the darkness toward Orizaba, knowing that El Pico was beyond it in the night.

In the morning we took a 26-kilometer jeep ride up the side of El Pico with Joaquin Canchola to 13,900'. We passed Hidalgo, the last pueblo and probably the highest town in North America at 12,900'. Through the ascent toward the trailhead the environment changed from plowed fields to the terraced steep potato patches and conifer forests. On these high slopes the people farm barley and potatoes in the marvelously rich volcanic ash.

The jeep's destination was a beautiful castle-like alberge at Orizaba built for as many as 60 people. In the early 70s, a joint Mexican-American effort assembled this complement to an existing smaller quonset.

Orizaba is over six hours from Mexico City, and the trailhead is less accessible than at El Popo. The allure of the highest mountain in Mexico attracts mostly international groups and the lack of widespread litter was comforting.

The altitude preparation had allowed some adjustment time, but climbing higher than any of us had ever been provoked conservatism. Certainly El Popo had been easier, but the alberge at El Pico was spacious and the nearby spring was a wonderful improvement over bottled Mexican water.

It was the time of year for clear, comfortable and dry skies. Far above to the west rose the glaciated ascent we would be skiing. There had been only a few inches of snow in the last few months and by now it was solid windpack and ice.

Climbing was enjoyable. There was nothing technical until the time came to change the crampons for skis; and by then the air became quite thin.

Although climbed, El Pico de Orizaba is rarely skied, and as we put on our skis and launched ourselves over the edge, it was with the true sense of discovery and adventure. From the summit the slope fell away over the edge, keenly sharpening our hypoxic eyesight. Even a simple turn took several deep breaths, and high on the mountain turns-in-sequence

squeezed our concentration to ventilate, while the temptation was to hold our breaths.

Although the mountain is steep for skiing, a reasonable route off the top is not limiting. Though this was not the first ski descent of this mountain, it sure proved exciting. Between salvation and style, we carved some timid turns, some fabulous, all great.

Towards the bottom of the glacier the

snow softened and ski conditions improved, allowing for comfortable maneuvering. In retrospect, the reward of accomplishment far overshadowed the risks. An 18,000' climb can be formidable. The cold thin air and deprivation can be lethal. The stress of altitude can demoralize, devitalize, and defeat even the best climbers.

In the last ten years, hundreds of people have climbed El Pico throughout every month of the year. It is not a technical climb, and good weather made it easy. But with the snow being glacier ice, the skiing was extreme and demanding. It was a marvelous adventure seen much clearer looking back at our tracks.

The next day the jeep bounced its way back to town. The vista of those magnificent volcanoes faded into the smoke and haze as we bussed to Mexico City. But we tested one of the finest trips Mexico has to offer.

Dr. Robert Graham is practicing primary care and wilderness medicine. He lives in Fresno, California, and has climbed and ski-toured extensively from Alaska to Mexico.

El Pico de Orizaba from San Miguel Zoapan. The marketplace at Tlachichuca.



STEVE YATES



STEVE YATES

A NEW APPROACH TO SKIWEAR

The introduction of a line of skiwear by Wilderness Experience was the result of extensive research. Our tradition of excellence and commitment to quality and design utility seemed to separate us from the conventional skiwear already produced.

Our friends, whether World Cup racers, backcountry

yahoos, or speed skiers, kept saying they liked the style of the many prototypes they tested. And test they did, on steep avalanche slopes, through trees deep with powder, and on the fast corn of springtime.

Now it's your turn to enjoy. Put these garments through their paces. We're sure you'll agree with us that we should have introduced these designs long ago.



Ramar Pile Khyber

Anyone who has been out on a windy, cold day will appreciate the Ramar Pile Khyber. The tightly woven shell will keep out the strongest wind, while the Borglite pile insulates.

- Classic flight jacket design
- Borglite pile-lining interior
- Tapered construction ■ Twin zippered slash pockets

Colors: Navy, Tan **Weight:** 2 lb., 3 oz.

Seabrook Jacket

The Seabrook Jacket is equally suited for casual town wear, or when the city limits are distant and the sports are active.

- Trim fitting Taslan nylon exterior
- Warm, soft Polarfleece interior
- Tough nylon ribbing at the cuff and waist
- Twin zippered slash pockets
- Stand-up collar for wind resistance

Colors: Royal, Navy **Weight:** 1 lb., 11 oz.

Helicopter Skiing in Utah



STEVE YATES



Gore-Tex Pile Khyber

Here's the classic flight jacket made versatile enough for wear in any environment, wet or cold, big city or backcountry. A waterproof Gore-Tex shell covers a warm pile interior.

- Tapered construction with twin zippered slash pockets
- Gore-Tex Taslan nylon exterior with all flat-felled seams
- Borlignite pile interior for superb insulation from cold
- Nylon-knit cuffs and bottom ribbing
- Fully factory sealed seams

*Colors: Royal, Grey, Red
Weight: 1 lb., 14 oz.*

KT22

Named after one of the finest ski runs in the world, the KT22 fills the bill for anyone searching for a slim-fitting jacket that's versatile. Waterproofed with Gore-Tex, the KT22 is insulated with warm Polarfleece.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon exterior
- Unique yoke and front for slim fit
- Twin zippered slash pockets
- Insulated with Polarfleece
- Interior drawcord
- Factory sealed seams

*Colors: Red, Royal, Navy
Weight: 1 lb., 11 oz.*



Sontique KT22

Here's a version of our exciting KT22 Jacket just right for colder conditions. Inspired by Sontique, the warm, yet thin and flexible insulation, this Gore-Tex jacket can be counted on in the worst conditions.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon exterior
- Yoke and front design for comfort and trim fit
- Heavy-duty nylon ribbing at cuffs and bottom
- Windflap-backed zipper
- Twin zippered slash pockets
- Silky Antron nylon interior
- Fully factory seam taped

Colors: Red, Royal, Grey
Weight: 1 lb., 11 oz.

Sontique Khyber

The Sontique Khyber takes its name from the warm insulation from Dupont. Sontique gives warmth without bulk. The design, borrowed from our own Khyber Jacket, gives good looks and utility.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon
- Dressed-up flight jacket design
- Heavy-duty ribbing at waistband and cuffs
- Twin zippered slash pockets
- Soft Antron nylon interior lining
- Factory sealed seams

Colors: Red, Royal, Grey
Weight: 1 lb., 12 oz.

Park City, Utah



WATERPROOF GAITERS (A)

Designed as our standard high gaiter, the *Waterproof*, is an exceptionally durable gaiter for all round outdoor use. Made completely out of 8 oz. heavy coated nylon pack cloth with an easy to use zippered front opening, covered with a snap closed weather flap. An elastic cord seals the top while elastic tape firmly seals around the boot bottom and ankle.

BREATHABLE GAITER (B)

Made for ski touring or any active outdoor use where breathability is more important than total waterproofness.

The *Breathable* gaiter is the same design as the waterproof gaiter with the addition of breathable water resistant 65/35 cloth instead of coated pack cloth for the upper two thirds of the gaiter.

GORE-TEX GAITER (C)

Our ultimate all-round gaiter. The *Gore-Tex* gaiter combines the ruggedness of a pack cloth bottom with the breathability of a *Gore-Tex* laminated Taslan nylon on the upper two thirds of the gaiter.



BOOTIES (D)

Wilderness Experience booties are just about the best thing you can do for cold feet. Two layers of *Polarguard*® in the upper, and a closed cell foam pad covered with a layer of absorbent pile, will keep your feet cozy around the camp. The outside is tough, tightly woven nylon Taffeta, with a waterproofed Cordura sole which extends up the side for extra abrasion resistance.

Perfect for around the house, cabin or in a tent, *Wilderness Experience* also makes down booties, built just like their synthetic counterparts but instead of being insulated with *Polarguard* they are filled with goose down for greater compressibility and a little less weight.



STANDARD FANNY PACK (E)

As simple as putting on a belt, our fanny packs will offer you a variety of uses. If you need room to carry a lunch or a few extra items, our standard fanny pack will be your perfect companion. Made of the highest quality materials available, the standard fanny pack will last you a lifetime.

CROSS COUNTRY FANNY PACK (F)

The *Cross Country Fanny Pack* offers a few more extras than the standard fanny pack. Handy zippered, side flap compartments are ideal for such small items as a roll of film, chapstick, or a few pieces of candy. Accessory patches have been added to the top of the larger volume main compartment to help hold any extras you might need to strap on.



MITTS

Three styles of mitts to choose from consist of our insulated backpacker mitt (G), our light weight insulated backpacker mitt (H), and our all-round *Gore-Tex* shell over mitt (I) for use with inner gloves or mitts.

These mitts are perfect for all cold weather activities.



Sontique Telemark

A versatile Gore-Tex shell with snap-on hood has been lined with an insulating lining of Sontique to produce Wilderness Experience's Sontique Telemark.

- Gore-Tex laminated nylon shell for water and abrasion resistance
- Removable hood
- Zippered chest and waist pockets with rainflaps
- Interior storm skirt
- Soft Antron nylon interior
- Fully factory tape sealed seams

Colors: Red, Navy, Grey, Royal
Weight: 2 lb., 6 oz.

Cascade

The concept of the Cascade Parka was born in the mountain range of the same name. The cold, wet environment demanded an insulated, Gore-Tex parka for the serious outdoor person.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon
- Double-layer elbows
- Comfortable Thinsulate provides outstanding insulation while adding a minimum of bulk
- Handwarmer/cargo front pockets and Velcro closure chest pockets
- Front zipper is protected by snap rainflap
- Factory sealed seams

Colors: Royal, Navy, Grey
Weight: 2 lb., 2 oz.

Backcountry skiing in the Wasatch Mountains, U

Thinsulate® brand thermal insulation is a registered trademark of 3M Company.

MANMADE FIBERS FOR CAREFREE COMFORT

No one garment is ideal for every person, climate, or use, so Wilderness Experience has designed a full range of products for virtually every need.

Clothing for use in cold temperatures must be chosen very carefully. Here are a variety of styles using synthetic, or manmade, insulators.

The choice of insulator has been carefully made. It must match the style of use and temperature range the garment

was intended for. For instance, one jacket may use Sontique, a slim insulation that is also very flexible because it was designed for very active sports in moderate temperatures.

Whichever garment you choose, you can rest assured that each component of the jacket has been carefully designed with your comfort and protection in mind.



FRIED MCKINNEY

Storm Coat

Our Storm Coat has the rugged utility of warm Thinsulate insulation yet offers a classic four-pocket design.

- Efficient Thinsulate insulation
- Abrasion resistant 80/20 Cascade cloth exterior
- Handwarmer pockets with separate cargo pockets
- Integrated closable hood
- Zipper and snap front closure
- Interior drawcord

Colors: Navy, Tan
Weight: 2 lb., 3 oz.

Telemark

Our extremely popular McKenzie Parka had outdoors people asking for the same design with insulation. Our answer is the Telemark Parka made warmer with a lining of Polarfleece. The same Gore-Tex shell, combined with Wilderness Experience comfort.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon
- Factory sealed seams
- Interior, elasticized storm cuff
- Removable, insulated hood
- Four zippered outside pockets

Colors: Red, Navy, Royal
Weight: 2 lb., 4 oz.

WILDERNESS WORLD OF WARMTH

From beneath the feathers of ducks and geese comes the champion of insulators — down. Technology may someday surpass the performance of down, but today it remains unequaled at being both lightweight and compressible.

Down has the unique ability to be tightly compressed and then spring back to life. These resilient down particles, or plumules, cling to one another forming air pockets. This trapped air is then heated by the body's warmth. The rising heat of the body also expels the body's moisture through the breathable down.

To every garment filled with it, down imparts a body-draping softness that accentuates thermal efficiency by eliminating large air pockets. Using down in clothing also

allows for great freedom of movement because of the flexibility the material offers.

Outdoor companies have a fondness for discussing at great length the quality of their down. Our own story is quite simple. We use down which has a minimum cubic-inch-per-ounce rating of 550. We test it ourselves, and then send every batch of down we purchase out to an independent test lab. As a result of our established minimum standard, instead of the often seen average, we use down that is above the average of 550 fill.

This is our way of ensuring that a Wilderness Experience product that is down-filled will last as long as the lifetime warranty that covers it.



Dakota

The Dakota Parka is really two garments in one: a tough, wind resistant outer shell of 80/20 Cascade cloth, with a warm goose down parka beneath.

- No exposed seams or sewn-through baffling
- Fully baffled shoulder for additional warmth
- Convenient vertical chest pocket
- Hidden snaps for optional hood
- Twin handwarmer and cargo pockets and handy interior pocket
- Elasticized interior storm skirt

Colors: Tan, Navy **Weight:** 2 lb., 10 oz.

Fitzroy

When the going gets cold and wet, the goose down filled Fitzroy Parka with a Gore-Tex outer shell is what to ask for.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon exterior with no sewn through seams
- All seams have been factory taped
- Interior storm skirt
- Handwarmer/cargo pockets and an interior pocket
- Comes complete with hood
- Knit cuffs with Velcro outer closures

Colors: Royal **Weight:** 2 lb., 10 oz.

Observatory in Grindelwald, Switzerland



Sierra Vest

The Sierra down-filled vest has features that make it versatile and a design that makes it comfortable.

- Separate handwarmer and cargo pockets
- Handy, vertical chest pocket
- Zippered and snapped front closure
- Interior drawcord prevents loss of body heat
- Down filled lower back flap for extra protection

Colors: Navy, Tan Weight: 1 lb., 6 oz.

Shetland Parka

The Shetland Parka allows its downfill the chance to really perform. An ultra-light exterior shell and an original elbow design accentuate the flexibility and "warmth without weight" nature of down.

- Super lightweight ripstop nylon exterior
- Interior storm skirt
- Convenient handwarmer, cargo pockets
- Velcro wrist closures

Colors: Royal Weight: 1 lb., 2 oz.

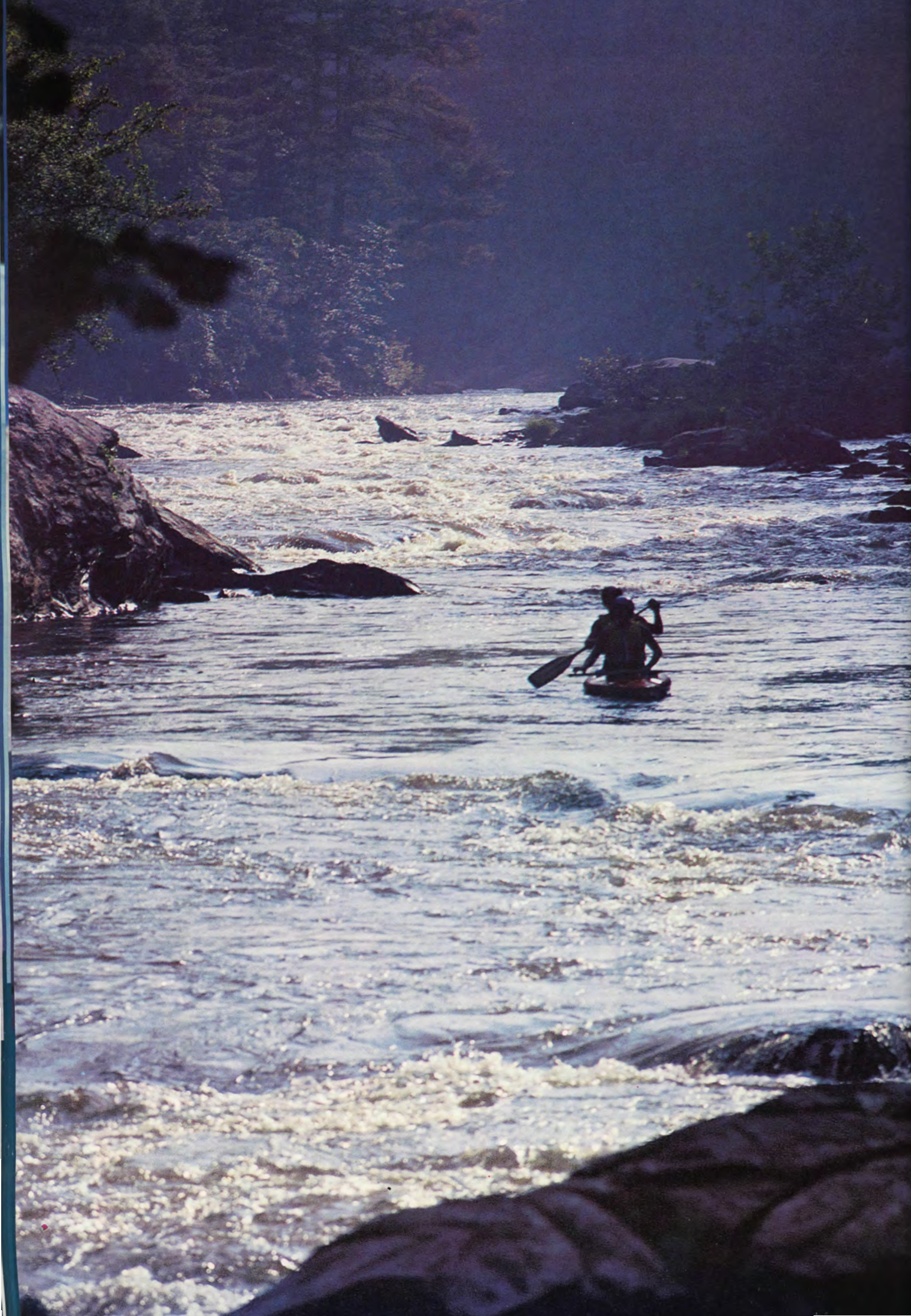
Blue Ridge

The Blue Ridge is our traditional down-filled parka with a rugged 80/20 Cascade cloth outer to guard against abrasion.

- Fully baffled shoulder for additional warmth
- Twin cargo pockets with separate handwarmer pockets
- Elasticized interior storm skirt
- Velcro wrist closures
- Hidden snaps for attaching optional hood
- Zipper covered with insulated flap

Colors: Tan, Navy, Grey Weight: 2 lb., 1 oz.

DAVID MOE



Kayaker's Inner World

by Ken Horwitz

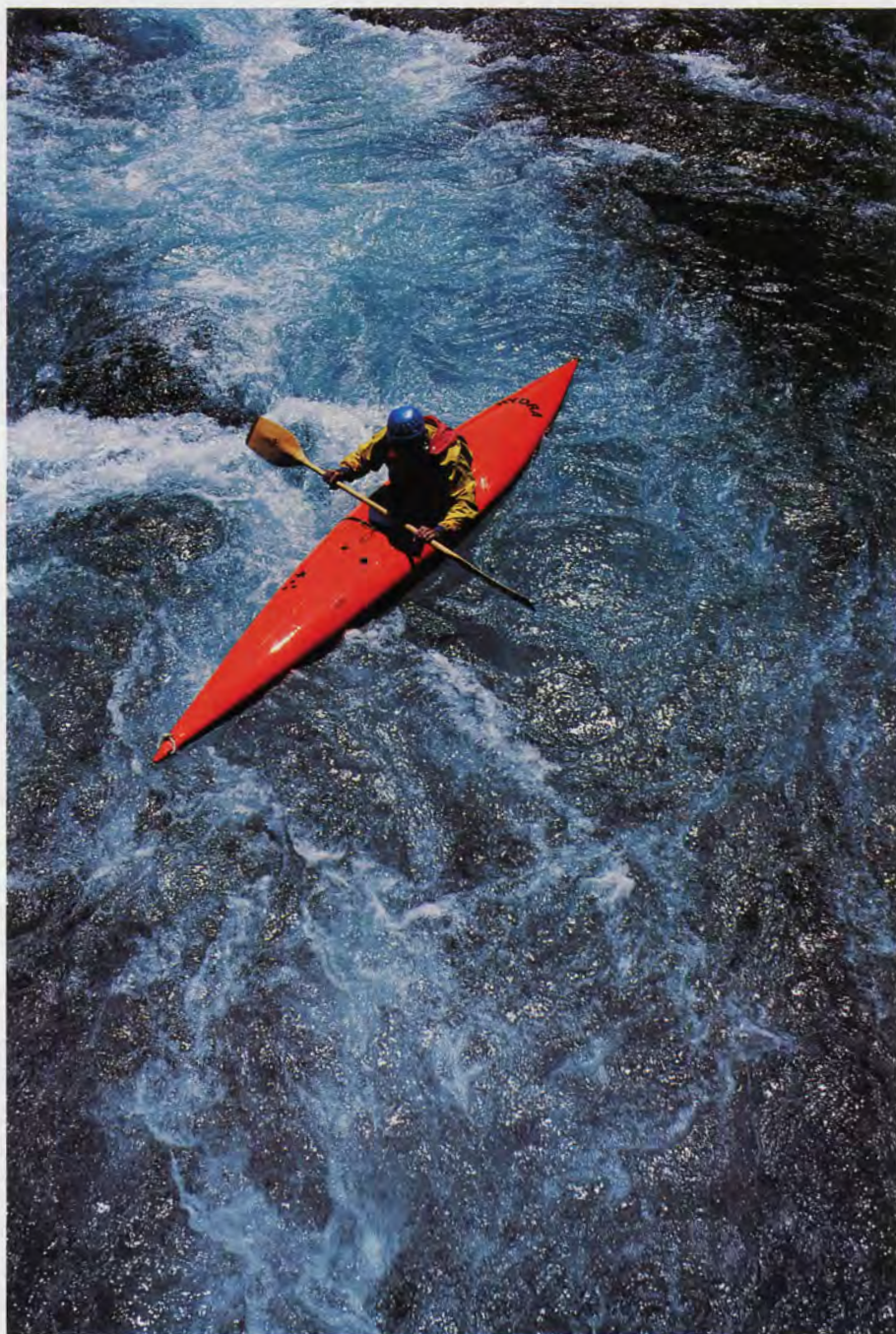
Looking skyward, I see a hawk pass through the electric glare of the sun, its wingtips are bent upwards like a dancer with fingers lifted slightly at the ends of outstretched arms. I lay back in my kayak and try to relax all my muscles, focusing on the soaring bird, feeling its motion inside of me, until I hear the sound of the next rapid downstream. My attention now refocuses on my task: guiding the eggshell craft through a winding, sometimes wild path, crowded in, now by basalt walls.

Drifting round and round, the canoe knows neither front nor back; the micro-currents in the murky desert waters quietly pitch the craft back and forth. Round and round I go, my mind rising above the high canyon walls that hide the entrenched river from the massive Columbian Plateau. It could be like this forever; no need for food or work or money. Just this steady state afloat on the river with the hawk riding the updrafts between the canyon's orange walls.

But the rivers are dynamic; the rising crescendo wakes me to an immediate reality, and the tension returns quickly, uncontrollably to my stomach and thighs. I test my roll, then test it again. The thunder in the canyon has grown palpable awesome. Adrenalin has wired my entire body by the time the rapid swings into view. It's a ledge crowded between two rock giants. I backpaddle into a backed-up pool near the edge of the drop without committing myself, scoping out the correct entry. I map a route over the ledge and off a cushion of water surging against a huge, obstructed boulder, then across several diagonal waves. A quiet pool waits beyond the whitewater stretch with a well-defined "eddy," guaranteeing a place to recover if I should miss my roll.

Working off the ledge from the slow, backed-up pool is known as a pool-drop sequence. Entering this backed-up calm, I experience the same mental sharpening I've experienced rock climbing. Peripheral vision ceases; there is only the sequence and muscle strength — the nowness of being with the situation. Nothing else exists! I am at the edge of the drop, concentrating on nothing but the rocks, the water and the first plunge.

The boat drops off the ledge, plunges bow-first up to the cockpit and shoots backwards with an explosion of buoyancy. I brace right against the wave I have imprinted in my memory, paddle hard left, then bank off that cushion of water against the intervening rock. I paddle forward to get momentum and



BOB WOODWARD

(Left) Rivers are dynamic, and adrenalin is the fuel. (Above) Solo kayaking opens up the inner world.

enjoy the huge splash from the first diagonal wave that cools my grinning face and launches the kayak neatly up and directly into the next diagonal wave — only to catch me off-guard with my brace on the wrong side.

Instinctively I swing the paddle from upper left to lower right in an attempt to roll upright. I get my head high for just a second, grab a breath, and go back under. I reprimand myself for forgetting

my teacher's words. "Take the time to set up the first time," ol' Joe Leonard would say. That was back on the Salmon River near the Sawtooths in Stanley Basin.

So try again: I run a hand along the shaft and make sure the blade is flat on the surface, slide back for extra leverage and take the over-the-shoulder sweep. Naturally it works, in the same easy, methodical, relaxed way it always does when you take the time to "set-up." Two

backstrokes on the left side pivot the craft; the large backswirling eddy invites me in out of the downriver current.

The water trickles off my face, cooled by the light up-canyon breeze. Sunbursts dance on the water's surface. It's hard to imagine being anywhere else on the planet.

drifted into a maverick beaver's favorite and very private stretch of river. In the midst of the afternoon's twenty-seventh swirl, the beaver let go with one of those envious back-flip one-and-a-half gainers, culminating in a SLAP! inches from my most sensitive inner ear. An adrenalin hypo exploded in my heart and head

You can push the limits continually, creating all the peak personal challenges you could want. There's a lot to be said for the rush that accompanies that first drop off into an untried rapid, like a skier leaving a cornice, exploding outward and down; or a climber starting his 5.9 crux; or a skydiver launching himself out



MICHAEL KEVIN DALY



**WILDERNESS
EXPERIENCE
PADDLING
JACKET**

"Endo" on the Salmon River, Idaho.

Like many others, I've contemplated the meaning of happiness many times before. I've concluded that when there's no other place in the world you'd rather be and nothing else you'd rather be doing, then you are truly, if only momentarily, happy.

Many times the quest for happiness and inner peace has sent me out with a kayak into the Rocky Mountain canyons. There's something in all the swirling and rocking, tumbling and drifting in the cool mountain water; caressing lichens on underclings inches above the water transcends all questions of career, conflict, divorce and worry for the future. The craft slithers around fallen trees, slips in and around giant rock gardens and graciously plops down short rivulets beneath oozing hot springs smelling of earthen placenta. All paddlers must meditate. Most probably never gave it a name; just drifting silently, realizing you've been looking without seeing, drifting through some inner space.

I was on the Payette once during a time in my life when conflicts between idealism and goals were waging war inside me: drifting and staring, floating and swirling once again. Delicious, euphoric. There's nothing quite like it. I was totally mesmerized, unaware I'd

and there wasn't anyone alive who could have convinced me that I wasn't the target of a crazed red-neck with a 30.06. Over I went with the largest breath possible and paddled downstream for what seemed like hundreds of yards (but was actually only ten). I could hold it no longer. If he was going to get me, there wasn't a thing I could do about it. I could come up on the opposite side of the kayak, but two walls of quarter-inch polyethylene wouldn't stop a bullet. But what the hell! I popped my spray skirt and bailed out, emerging with squinting eyes and arms in front of my face. Just in time to watch the fattest, most territorial beaver I'd ever seen waddle victoriously up a stuck log at the river's edge.

Then there was the trip down the South Fork. Could have been the South Fork of the Salmon, Boise, Payette, or Owyhee. Kind of like that favorite stretch of untracked powder, if you know what I'm getting at. Anyway, it was the trip where John Gebhards temporarily got his stern stuck into a "hydraulic" (reverse wave) and sat there in the middle of the river for more than five minutes, his kayak pointing nearly straight up as if he was about to be shot skyward to join the list of astronaut heroes.

Kayaking is anything you want it to be.

into the sky. The mental concentration is 100%: total, pure and unadulterated.

The flowing river, the cold splashing water in the summer heat, the wonderful and imposing natural solitude, everything accentuates the acute concentration of maneuvering the craft through the river's intricacies. Kayaking is unique in a plethora of wilderness sports. The added bonus is the personal philosophy that develops, the inner peace that accompanies the spirits of the river world. Whether it's the contemplation of a "water ooze," "water dipper," "teeter ass," or whatever other twenty-two names exist for that incredible little bird that walks upstream on the river bottom looking for grubs; or the pure meditative space that allures the paddler; or just the summer coolness along a secret fluid trail; kayaking will surprise, entertain and romance you as you've never been before. Find the time ... leave your mind behind ... and learn ... to swirl!

Ken Horwitz is an avid outdoorsman and kayaker, currently the marketing director for HYDRA kayaks.

Boardsailing

THE PERFECT ALTERNATIVE

by Drew Kampion

Sometimes the getting there is worth it; sometimes it's not. Sometimes you want to haul a truckload of stuff with you; other times you want to travel light. Sometimes you want to pay for your fun with hours of hiking in the heat; other times the wind feels *so* good that you'd like to be able to fly its free ride like a bird, out over the water. Sometime you ought to try boardsailing.

After the meltdown and the letdown, skiers can sometimes despair. There are draughts on the slopes some years, as we all know. But even the hiker and the kayaker and the climber might get an itch at times to fly the freedom of the open air over a broad sheet of water.

In fact, that's what's happening: more and more outdoor people are learning to boardsail (there are Windsurfer schools all over the country and at all the major resorts now). In the heat of the summer, and even in the brisk wind and water of spring and fall, boardsailing is one the greatest sources of immediate gratification for the thrill-seeker, the self-tester and the nature-lover. There's nothing like it, and it is well on the way to revolutionizing the outdoor face of America.

It's even perfect on the retail level, where hundreds of ski shops and

other sport suppliers have found it the ideal alternative/interface with any number of other action sports. The fit is natural and it's evolutionary: a lot of outdoor people are just boardsailors waiting to come out.

Many people know boardsailing by the name "windsurfing" because, like Xerox, the Windsurfer was the first brand name in the field. But the sport is called boardsailing, and it began in California in the mid-'60s when a computer programmer/surfer and an aeronautical engineer/sailor got together and combined their sideline passions. The idea never really clicked in California at the time, but it exploded in Europe in the mid-'70s. Reports are that last year in Europe over 450,000 sailboards were sold at an average price of about \$1,000US! And now it's starting in the United States as well.

The evolution of boardsailing has taken two quite specific directions: flat-water regatta sailing (very similar to any other form of conventional boating) and surfsailing (riding the sailboard on a wave, like a surfer with a sail). In general, the flat-water boards have been designed with a great deal of influence from sailboat theory, while the surfsailing boards have come to be almost identical with today's radical surfing equipment.

Last year at the World Speed Trials in Brest, Belgium, a new monohull speed record was set by a sailboard: over 30-mph. In regattas across the country and around the world, sailors are performing high-speed jibes the likes of which lake-dwellers have never seen before. In the waves of California and France and Hawaii, the top surfsailors are getting 30 and 40 feet into the air by jumping over the faces of big waves. The ocean becomes a sea of moguls in 25-knot winds. Boardsailing is truly the sport of the 21st Century, combining the high-end peaks of hang-gliding, ultralight gliding, surfing, sailing, yachting and skiing. It's a sport that's getting more and more visible in the U.S. and will soon have the status of a major recreational and athletic alternative.

But the great thing about it is that boardsailing has a universal appeal. It's the simplest, most convenient form of sailing there is; it's accessible to kids and to older people; it can be done almost anywhere there's water and some wind; and it's a vertical activity — the better you get, the more the sport will challenge you.

Drew Kampion is a surfer, boardsailor and editor of WIND SURF Magazine.

Arroyo Laguna, Big Sur



CRAIG PETERSON



WILDERNESS
EXPERIENCE
BOARDSAILING
JACKET

Everest '83

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

By Greg Thomsen

"How are the sleeping bags coming?"

"Great. You won't believe how wonderful they are. The designs have really come together. In fact, I think they're fantastic!"

"Greg, seriously, when will they get here?"

"Relax, Kim. We've been working on these designs for a year-and-a-half, and I was just finishing up with the last details. I'll get them to you in plenty of time."

"You know we leave for China in two days..."

"Everything is under control, Kim. No problem."

"It's cold up here at night, y'know."

"Relax, Kim."

"Sleeping bags are important, y'know."

"They are beautiful, aren't they? I just love a good sleeping bag design. Don't want to rush it, though. I like things to be perfect, y'know?"

"But Greg, we leave real soon!"

"No problem... Hey, Kim, any chance you'll be delayed a week?"

I think Kim Schmitz was more wor-

ried about the equipment for the '83 American Everest Expedition than he was about the climbing itself. I know I was.

ried about the equipment for the '83 American Everest Expedition than he was about the climbing itself. I know I was.

Expeditions always seem to begin the same way: hectic, frustrated, complicated, and always down to the last minute.

I had been entrusted with developing a new line of extreme gear for high-altitude mountaineering, and this Everest expedition was to be the final proving grounds. I'd begun on the designs a year-and-a-half earlier working with Kim, Jim Donini and Jack Tackle, working up prototypes in preparation for a five-man climbing expedition to Mt. Sigunaing in central China.

Although after weeks of hard work we were not successful in climbing the mountain, we were nevertheless quite happy with the refinements we'd made to the equipment and with our new, strong friendships.

These early prototype designs were then further refined at Wilderness Experience's ultra-modern design facilities, then retested and reworked to become the basic equipment used on the '83 American Everest Expedition, the final and ultimate test for Wilderness Experience's new Alpinist line of extreme gear.

In the spring of 1983, a group of America's finest mountaineers attempted a new route up Mt. Everest, from the Tibetan side. Climbing the highest mountain in the world is a major undertaking by any means, but this expedition was advancing a new style of assault: there would be no native porters and no artificial reduction of the altitude barrier at this most rarified point on earth by the use of bottled oxygen.

Thirty years ago, using a large support team of Sherpas and porters, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay stood on the top of Mt. Everest for the first time, almost 100 years since it was first found to be the highest point on the face of the earth. That first ascent of Everest in '53 was a turning point in the style of mountaineering. The highest summit had been reached; at that time it was argued that man could not climb that high without the bottled oxygen that Hillary and Norgay used.

It wasn't until 25 years later, in 1978, that Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler set a new standard for style in high-altitude mountaineering by reaching the elusive summit for the first time without the artificial use of bottled oxygen. Proving once and for



GALEN ROWELL





GALEN ROWELL

A clear day can make Everest look more accessible than it is.

all that Everest would be climbed "by fair means." Although the 1983 American Everest Expedition failed in its attempt to reach the summit of Everest by a new route, without oxygen or native porters, it did however set a new standard for future expeditions to follow.

Wilderness Experience has produced equipment for many expeditions before. In fact, the same Everest climbing suits worn on the attempted assault did make it to the summit of Everest by way of the South Col route. This separate expedition, utilizing bottled oxygen, was able to reach the top during spring of 1983.

The 1983 American Everest Expedition was the successful final test of Wilderness Experience's new line of Alpinist Series clothing systems, sleeping bags and packs for extreme grade mountaineering. All the equipment proved itself in the ultimate conditions to be worthy of the Wilderness Experience label.

Greg Thomsen is the designer and president of Wilderness Experience.

"I lived in my Ultimate Parka for two weeks straight and it kept me warm and dry the whole time. During the first ascent of Ru-dshe Konka's west face there were several nights spent in open bivouacs at 20,000 feet, and I stayed comfortable all night long. On the summit ridge, when I lost my

sleeping bag in an avalanche, my Ultimate Parka kept me alive. You make a fine and functional product—Keep it up!"

James M. Williams

"We were also able to use the Latok 1 bags and while we experienced many sub-zero nights and a lot of bad weather, the bags kept us perfectly warm and dry. My compliments to a great sleeping bag."

*Michael Covington
Director, Fantasy Ridge Mountain Guides*

"Our previous experience with the Equinox tent and the Latok 1 bags on Alaska's Mount McKinley has con-

(Below left) Kim Schmitz in his WILDERNESS climbing suit. (Right) Ice on the ridge, Everest in the background.

GALEN ROWELL



GALEN ROWELL

vinced us of "Wildy's" dependability in extreme conditions. The Alpinist II packs are the finest internal frame packs we have had the pleasure to use and you can be sure that your equipment will continue to be a priority item at Fantasy Ridge in the years ahead."

*Michael Covington
Fantasy Ridge Mountain Guides*

"After using the climbing suit on three expeditions (Mt. Foraker and two Mt. McKinley expeditions) I still love it! It is comfortable, great to put on in the morning, very functional, has good placement of zippers and pockets, and it's good looking. Everyone that sees it wants one! For cold weather climbing it's a hot item."

*Gary Bocarde
Mountain Trip, Guides to Alaska's mountains*

"The (Everest) sleeping bag was the warmest I've ever used, especially for its weight, and the (Ultimate) Parka was superb."

*Michael Graber
1983 Everest Expedition*

"The innovative new Wilderness Experience Ultimate Parka and Everest Climbing Suit (insulated with DuPont's Quallofil and Sontique insulation) made the Everest West Ridge team better clothed than any expedition I'd ever been on."

*John Roskelley
1983 American Everest Expedition*

"I kept a list of equipment failures on this long and rugged expedition. By the end of the trip it filled three pages of my diary, but there wasn't a single entry for a WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE product. I was both warmer and more comfortable using Wilderness Experience equipment than on any of my ten previous Himalayan climbs."

Galen Rowell

HIGH-ALTITUDE EQUIPMENT

The Everest Sleeping System

The Everest System is really two bags that combine to make three. The Outer Bag is filled with Quallofil that is protected from the elements by a seamless, Gore-Tex laminated, 1.1 oz. shell of ripstop nylon. The Outer has two complete #7 YKK coil zippers and mates perfectly with any bag from Wilderness Experience or other makes with the same 70-inch zipper. The Outer weighs only 3 lbs., 8 oz.

The Inner Bag is designed for summit and emergency bivouac use. The 550 cubic inch fill down bag has a Gore-Tex laminated 1.1 oz. ripstop shell and uses a slant box construction that is differentially cut. Unique among our down bags, the Inner has a Sontique torso layer on the bottom of the bag. The Sontique, while very compressible and thin, provides excellent protection against heat loss from cold ground. In a pinch the climber can be safe from conductive heat loss even without a foam pad.

Both bags have a contour-cut hood that attaches to the other bag with velcro to insure a tight fit around the face when the drawcord is secured.

Ultimate

It's name says it all. Off to Everest? Take the Ultimate, many others have. High loft Quallofil insulation and a radiant barrier makes this parka perfect for expeditions.

- Gore-Tex laminated taffeta nylon
- Underarm gussets for complete freedom of movement
- Integral hood
- Internal storm skirt, elasticized drawcord bottom
- Elbow patches for added durability
- Knit cuffs with Velcro closure



Extreme Parka

The Extreme Parka's name is a dead giveaway. Its thick, down-like Quallofil insulation and Gore-Tex shelled exterior was originally designed for the rigors of extreme climbing and skiing.

- Gore-Tex laminated taffeta nylon exterior
- Zippered dual slash pockets
- Handy breast pocket
- Flap covered internal pocket with Velcro tabs
- Storm skirt
- Knit cuffs with Velcro closures

Everest Climbing Suit

Today's world class mountaineer must have clothing protection to match the new, high risk alpine style that climbs big mountains with small teams. Already worn atop Everest, this climbing suit combines Gore-Tex with slim Sontique insulation for flexibility, warmth, and waterproofness unheard of.

- Gore-Tex laminated Taslan nylon exterior reinforced with Cordura
- Warm Sontique insulation that doesn't restrict movement
- Gusseted wind collar backs front zipper closure
- Multiple pockets for storage
- Drop seat and leg zippers
- Factory sealed seams

QUALLOFIL
TOUGH TESTED INSULATION
MATING OF DACRON/POLYESTER BY DUPONT



WILDERNESS
EXPERIENCE

CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA



ALPINIST SERIES SETS NEW STANDARDS

The Wilderness Experience Alpinist Series packs are designed to fill the demanding needs of the alpine climber in the most demanding conditions. These packs are products of an ongoing evolution in both mountaineering style and technique.

The aim of the Alpinist Series is to keep pace with needs of the mountaineering community. As these needs change, so do the packs. They are therefore in a constant state of refinement.

The Alpinist Series has been on Mt. Everest numerous times, along with having been on the most difficult routes and highest peaks in the world. A mountaineers pack must provide unquestioned reliability, comfort and safety in the rapidly changing conditions found at this level of climbing.

The shoulder harness system of the Alpinist Series is a glaring departure from earlier packs. The shoulder straps have been cut wider to distribute weight more evenly, and they have been curved to the contours of the body. This ergonomic design allows for complete freedom of movement.

The harness is adjusted by a dual parallel track system,

allowing the shoulder straps to be placed further apart where, even under extreme loads, there is no pinching of the shoulders or neck.

The waist belt is constructed of dual density foam, and is conically cut so it settles onto the hips well. Also, it is constructed of Cordura nylon so it cannot slip. All of the Alpinist Series feature multiple compression straps to keep the load aligned with the stays and harness.

Each Alpinist design allows for substantial vertical expansion, consisting of a waterproof extension skirt and a deep, crowned cap with an adjustable top pocket. This expansion system allows for either a light weekend trip or a two-month trek.

The Alpinist Series packs are constantly being subjected to the ultimate field test of high-altitude mountaineering. The resulting improvements have made these packs ideal for backpacking, climbing and ski mountaineering.

One needn't be on the West Ridge of Everest to make good use of the Alpinist Series. But, if you should happen to find yourself there, Wilderness Experience offers the technical design and practical comfort you can depend on.



The Alpinist II

The Wilderness Experience Alpinist II was designed by climbers . . . for climbers. The result is an extra-large capacity pack that is supremely comfortable and functional, intended for extreme mountaineering and extended expeditions. Quite simply . . . there is no other pack like it!

- Constructed from our unique Wilderness™ Cloth which assures a pack that will hold up for a lifetime under the most extreme load and climate conditions
- Entire pack sewn with heavy-duty, siliconized nylon thread for the ultimate in ruggedness
- Side compression straps for a secure, "wobble-free" load
- All accessory patches and crampon holders are constructed of Fastex® thermal plastic — far stronger and more durable than leather
- Double-entry, adjustable top pocket opens from both the front and rear of the pack for maximum convenience
- Sixteen-inch, waterproof

- interior extension skirt for increased loads
- Tight-sealing top compartment hood prevents water and dirt intrusion into pack
- Large capacity, gusseted mid-pocket with double-pull YKK® zippers (pocket bottom is Cordura covered to protect against ice tool punctures)
- Large bottom compartment with internal snag protection flap
- Twin ice axe loops
- Ergonomically-designed, bi-laminated foam-padded, curved shoulder straps allow unhindered, free arm swing and movement
- Highly adjustable, positive Velcro-release shoulder harness system accommodates virtually any torso length
- Forward lean and shoulder load adjustment controls
- Conically-shaped, full-circling, double foam-padded waist belt with Fastex® quick-release buckle
- Stress-spreading shoulder strap attachments for a more comfortable ride
- Large, bi-laminate foam-padded lumbar support with a Cordura nylon cover to increase stability and eliminate slippage
- Adjustable sternum and shoulder harness stabilization straps
- Three adjustable top pocket straps for secure over-packing
- Two parallel, 6061 T-6 Aluminum internal stays
- Optional side pockets available

Weight: 5 lbs. 80 oz. Capacity: 6040 cu. in. 8040 cu. in. (with bivy extension)



The Quicksilver

A large capacity, all-around mountaineering pack with divided compartments for load control and convenience.

- Constructed of extremely rugged Packcloth and Cordura nylon
- Two large compartments with YKK® coil zipper center divider
- Double-entry, adjustable top pocket
- Waterproof, nylon bivy extension for carrying larger loads
- Anatomically-designed, curved shoulder straps allow

- free arm movement
- Pack is adjustable for all torso lengths via Velcro-controlled harness adjustment and stabilization straps
- Side compression straps for a secure load
- Fastex® quick-release sternum strap prevents shoulder strap slippage
- Full-circling, conically-cut, double-padded waist belt with Fastex® buckle
- Large, double foam-padded lumbar support
- Load stabilizer controls for shoulder and waist belts
- Twin 6061 T-6 aluminum internal stays
- Extremely durable nylon reinforced stitching
- Twin haul loops and accessory patches
- Optional sidepockets available

Weight: 5 lbs. 5 oz., **Capacity:** 5440 cu. in., 6790 cu. in. (with bivy extension)



The Ice Nine

The Ice Nine is a medium-capacity, single-compartment, rucksack-style mountaineering pack designed for fast, lightweight ascents.

- Constructed from durable Packcloth and Cordura nylon — waterproof and virtually impervious to abrasion
- Double-entry, adjustable top pocket
- Waterproof, nylon bivy extension for carrying larger loads
- Tight-fitting top flap keeps pack's contents free from water and dirt
- Specially-designed, curved shoulder straps for maximum comfort and arm movement
- Six adjustable side compression

- bands maintain a secure load even after removing objects from pack
- Fastex® quick-release, full-circling, conically-cut waist belt with large, double foam-padded lumbar support for comfort
- Adjustable shoulder harness system accommodates virtually any torso length
- Load stabilizer controls for waist and shoulder belts
- Rugged nylon reinforced stitching
- Adjustable, Fastex® quick-release sternum strap increases stability of harness system
- Twin internal, aircraft-quality aluminum stays
- Two ice axe loops and accessory patches
- Optional side pockets available

Weight: 4 lbs. **Capacity:** 3495 cu. in., 4345 cu. in. (with bivy extension)

FLEXIBILITY FOR A CUSTOM FIT

Traveling on trails over rocky terrain, crossing high mountain passes, and backcountry ski mountaineering all require a stable, close-riding pack.

Our internal frame packs were especially designed for these activities and have evolved over the past ten years to

what now represents the state of the art in large volume, highly-functional backpacks. These packs have internal bars that can be bent to fit any back, making these internal frames comfortable for hiking and climbing.



The Backpacker

Made from rugged Cordura nylon, the Backpacker is a large-capacity, top-opening internal framepack designed for extended trips.

- Handy top pocket is ideal for carrying items you wish to have immediate access to, such as maps, lip balm, sunglasses, etc.
 - Flared extension at top allows overpacking
 - Roomy main compartment, plus separate zippered sleeping bag compartment
 - Fully-circular padded waist belt and wide padded shoulder straps let you carry large loads comfortably
 - Large front and side pockets
 - Integrated ski slots
 - Ice axe loop and accessory patches
- Weight:** Large 3 lbs. 15 oz. Small 3 lbs. 12 oz. **Capacity:** 4675 cu. in. (with bivy extension) Small 3975 cu. in. (with bivy extension)



The Arete

This large, front-opening pack with double-pull YKK® coil zippers is made from soft

Caprolan® nylon with double layers on the bottom for extra resistance to punctures and tearing. A perfect trail pack for a multitude of uses.

■ Fully-enclosed internal aluminum frame is bendable to perfectly fit the contours of

your body ■ Functional compression straps adjust to prevent objects from moving around inside pack when carrying a lighter load ■ Extra load capacity thanks to two large vertical side pockets (concealing ski slots) and twin, overlapping front pockets ■ Suspension system conveniently adjusts to all torso lengths ■ Wide padded shoulder straps let you carry heavy loads in comfort ■ Fully-padded, wrap-around hip belt with Fastex® quick-release buckle ■ Foam-padded, lumbar support prevents stress on lower back area ■ Adjustable sternum strap hooks between shoulder straps ■ Handy accessory and crampon patches ■ Super K-Kote® waterproofing
Weight: 4 lbs. 9 oz. **Capacity:** 4310 cu. in.



The Europa

Originally designed with European travel in mind, the Europa opens and packs like a suitcase, but carries like an excellent pack.

■ Front compression straps allow you to properly adjust load for maximum stability ■ Large vertical side pockets ■ Handy front pocket with zippers ■ Plenty of accessory patches for attaching a tent, sleeping bag, pad, or other useful items ■ Adjustable, padded waist belt channels the load away from your shoulders ■ Wide, comfortable padded shoulder straps ■ Ice axe loop ■ Available in three sizes to best fit your torso length

Weight: Large 3 lbs. 8 oz., Medium 3 lbs. 7 oz., Small 3 lbs. 6 oz., **Capacity:** Large 3750 cu. in., Medium 3250 cu. in., Small 2850 cu. in.

FRAMEPACKS ARE BIG LOAD FAVORITES

Long distance packing over non-technical terrain with heavy loads demands a Wilderness Experience "S" framepack.

External framepacks are the trail-hikers best friend because of their ability to carry large amounts of weight comfortably.

The "S" frame shape is contoured to your natural form from the curve in the small of your back to the reverse curve of your shoulder blades. The packs are sized to accommodate various torso lengths. The "S" also pulls the frame closer to the body and gives added balance, agility, and comfort. Without a doubt these are the strongest

frames on the market today, utilizing a thicker aluminum alloy tubing than other packs (.045 vs. .035).

Features common to all of our framepacks include a full circling waist belt with load control straps, a full mesh back band, a convenient map pocket accessible while the pack is on, multiple outside pockets with zipper flaps, adjustable top extension bars, and waterproof nylon construction that is sewn with sturdy nylon thread.

Compare these packs with others and it will become apparent that your comfort was the foremost consideration in our design.

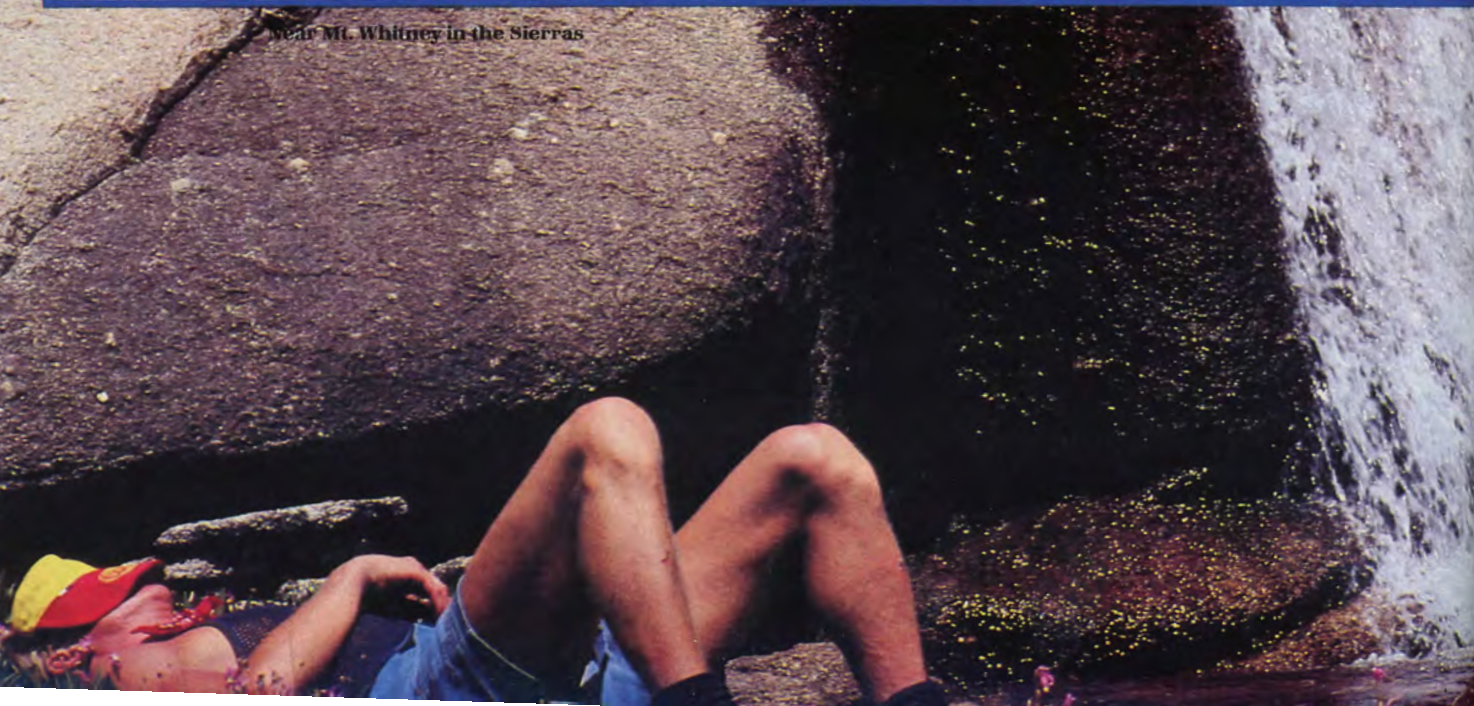
The Front Opening "S" Frame

The Front Opening "S" Frame is an excellent twin-compartment pack that eliminates the tedium of searching for items with its easy access design.



- Front openings allow access inside either compartment by way of double-pull coil zippers
 - Exterior compression bands can be used to tighten the bag when less than a full load is being carried
 - Four large side pockets provide an ideal place to put water or fuel bottles
 - Large top pocket for carrying maps, tissues, etc.
 - Top extension bar can be used for strapping a tent or pad to frame
 - Lower frame extension provides the perfect location for your sleeping bag
 - Wide padded shoulder straps and contoured waistband with full-length mesh backband
 - Sternum strap prevents shoulder straps from slipping
- Size:** SM **Weight:** 4 lbs. 13 oz. **Capacity (cu. in.)** 3675, MD 5 lbs. 2 oz. 4150, LG 5 lbs. 8 oz. 4700, XL 5 lbs. 10 oz. 5075

Near Mt. Whitney in the Sierras



The Top Opening "S" Frame

Our most popular external frame style is the Top Opening "S", a pack loaded with convenience and comfort features.



- Large top-opening design with handy drawcord closures
- Rugged urethane-coated Packcloth nylon for complete waterproofness
- Frame is constructed of aircraft-quality 6061 T-6 aluminum for a lifetime of service under the heaviest loads
- Lower zippered compartment is ideal for storing clothing — no more searching endlessly through your pack
- Four large side pockets and one front pocket (under top flap) provide plenty of space to carry handy items
- Plenty of accessory and crampon patches, made from heavy-duty Fastex® thermal plastic — far more durable than leather
- Wide, padded waistbelt and shoulder straps
- Fully-adjustable sternum strap prevents shoulder strap slippage

Size: SM **Weight:** 4 lbs. 15 oz. **Capacity:** (cu. in.) 3750 MD 5 lbs. 2 oz. 4100 LG 5 lbs. 7 oz. 4550 XL 5 lbs. 11 oz. 4850

The Little Big Man

The ideal pack to get your youngster started backpacking in comfort and style. The Little Big Man features a fully-adjustable frame that grows right along with your child.



- Made with the same type of aircraft-quality aluminum frame and waterproof nylon as our adult packs
- Large, front-opening compartment for easy packing and organizing
- Twin side pockets for easy access to needed items
- Exposed frame area under main compartment for lashing sleeping bag to frame
- Rugged, abrasion-resistant packcloth and reinforced nylon stitching to withstand generations of abuse
- Comfortable hip belt and padded shoulder straps let your little one enjoy the experience of backpacking

Weight: 2 lbs. 4 oz. **Capacity:** 1360 cu. in.



Camping

VARIETIES OF THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

by Ted Eugenis

If your idea of camping only includes hiking up rugged trails to beautiful mountain meadows, you could be missing the lion's share of the wilderness experience. Variations include base camping (where you set up a "home away from home" and take day trips to a remote lake where feisty trout await nimble flies), beach camping (where you can swim and sun all day and dig up clams for dinner), canoe camping (paddling across a tranquil lake or down a meandering river for a few days, enjoying a new campsite every night), desert camping (use your imagination to connect the billions of stars that fill the clear, crisp sky), bicycle touring, car camping, rafting trips, and more.

So, backpacking is just one of the many faces of camping. While each type of camping requires some specific gear, your basic equipment (sleeping bag, air mattress or ground pad, tent, protective clothing, comfortable boots or shoes, stove and cooking utensils) can be used for most camping trips.

Any type of camping trip will bring relief from aggravating realities and pressures. Take the time to get away; the pay-back is well worth the investment, whichever mode you choose.

Base Camping

Find a central spot to pitch your tent within an hour or two of various interesting day-trek options. Once you get your

base set up, you can take out the fishing pole and find a wild stream or just relax in camp finishing a book you've been trying to read for the last six months. A base camp allows you to travel light by day, free to enjoy the luxury of not carrying everything on your back. Bring along a big two-burner stove, cots and even lightweight portable camping chairs.

Beach Camping

Ocean beaches are natural for beach camping, but a selected little lake shouldn't be overlooked either. Fish in the morning, swim in the afternoon, lay in the hammock at night. If you do go down to the sea, don't forget your surf casting rod and reel!

Bicycle Camping

Besides a bicycle with racks to which you attach panniers, or packs for carrying gear, bicycle camping requires only your regular camping essentials. And you don't need to stick to paved roads; there's plenty of dirt or gravel back roads that are fine for bike touring, and with little traffic. Bicycle camping allows you to cover many miles quickly or to crawl along like a snail.

Canoe Camping

New, fast, and easy-to-paddle canoes can make your next camping trip a real joy. While most outfitters still rely on the tried-and-true, red/white/blue aluminum workhorse canoes, it might be worth your while to try something new

in a one- or two-man canoe. (Remember, Thoreau made his wilderness excursions in a one-man canoe. He found out, as you will, that a canoe gives you the ability to truly get away from it all.) You can use your camp as a base for day paddling and hikes.

Car Camping

The automobile is scorned by the hardcore crowd, but taking a trip across the country stopping at all the famous national parks and monuments is some people's perfect camping vacation. But even a drive to a nearby park with friends or family for a week or weekend is a great way to get re-acquainted with one another.

Desert Camping

Deserts are not always characterized by endless miles of sand, cacti, squashed jack rabbits, busted radiator hoses, and hovering vultures. Deserts are full of life and offer many rewards if you take the time to seek them out.

Springtime in the desert brings cactus apples, a succulent fruit from a plant most people think only gives thorns.

There are two distinct types of deserts: the low desert (the one you're probably most familiar with from western movies) and the high desert (where juniper trees grow by literally sucking soil into their gnarly trunks).

Raft & Kayak River Camping

In the western United States, white-

Keeping warm at a winter base camp.



MICHAEL KEVIN DALY



Yosemite: fertile ground for many kinds of camping.

water raft camping is beginning to experience a long-overdue boom. Many families, friends, and co-workers are finding that a two-day or two-week trip down a river, camping at night along its shores, is quite an enjoyable experience. Sometimes, a few kayakers are brought along, so that the rafters can take turns shooting the rapids in highly maneuverable kayakers. Others take kayakers by themselves.

Sea Kayak Camping

A kayak allows you to paddle off the

coast to small islands where you can spend as much time as you have camp provisions for. You're alone in your own private paradise. Or you can paddle along the coastline enjoying the scenery, camping on the beaches. You can also use a kayak on a big or small lake close to home.

Camping means much more than backpacking. There are many vehicles to the wilderness experience, and though backpacking epitomizes the essence of camping, there are many alternatives.

And the only alternative you might regret is choosing not to go.

Ted Eugenis is an active freelance writer and photographer and currently on the editorial staff of *BACKPACKER Magazine*.

Beach camping at Lake Mead.



DAYPACK DESIGNS FOR EVERYONE

Daypacks take abuse unseen even in mountaineering packs. Day in and day out the daypack carries loads apt to include books and other heavy, dense items.

Wilderness Experience has this abuse in mind when it designs and manufactures daypacks.

All major seams are double-stitched with a nylon thread (which is more than ten times stronger than the industry standard cotton polyester thread). Every stress point has

additionally been reinforced with six lines of stitching.

The packs utilize padded straps with high-density Evazote foam which will not deteriorate or compress like the popularly used Ensolite.

Clearly the best value is the Wilderness Experience daypack built to last for years of extended use, rather than the initially cheaper pack made of lesser materials and inferior construction.



The Honey Bee

Designed to be rugged, with your child in mind, the Honey Bee utilizes urethane-coated Packcloth nylon to remain waterproof in a lifetime of rainstorms, and double-stitched nylon thread for added toughness.

■ Roomy main compartment and zippered back pocket are large enough to allow the kids to carry a full day's supply of snacks and clothing ■ To hold the pack securely against a young back, we've included webbed shoulder straps

Weight: 6 oz., Capacity: 575 cu. in.



The Bike Pack

The perfect way to transport all your favorite items from place to place. Ideal for bicycling because it rides high on the back.

■ Durable waterproof nylon lets you use your pack in the worst weather ■ Half-moon coil zipper opens up to roomy main compartment ■ Convenient zippered pocket can be used to store snacks for your outing ■ Twin Fastex® accessory patches for strapping items that are too large to fit in the pack ■ Adjustable shoulder straps and quick-release waist belt

Weight: 8 oz. Capacity: 1075 cu. in.



The Tundra

A superb "knock-around" pack that no hiker or student should be without, the Tundra features a spacious, zippered front pocket and secure tie points that are ideal for carrying accessories.

■ Smooth Packcloth nylon assures a soft, comfortable feel ■ Top opening main compartment is covered by a buckled, quick-release weather flap ■ Wide seat-belt-type shoulder straps

Weight: 11 oz. Capacity: 1285 cu. in.



The Magic Pack

Quite possibly our most versatile daypack ever, with a unique two-way design: functions as a roomy hiking or bicycle pack, and can be folded down to be used as a convenient belt pouch.

■ Large main compartment is accessed by releasing the Fastex® buckle. ■ Top flap doubles as a zippered map pocket ■ Webbed shoulder straps provide a secure fit to your back ■ Excellent stowaway pack for travelers

Weight: 12 oz. Capacity: 1240 cu. in.



ART TWOMEY



The Summit

Our Summit pack has a large, front opening main compartment that will prove to be spacious enough for anything you have to carry, be it school books or day hike supplies.

- Entry to the pack is through a large, half-moon zippered opening
- Constructed of waterproof, heavy-duty Cordura nylon
- Large zippered front pocket with rain flap
- Padded shoulder straps for all day comfort

Weight: 12 oz. Capacity: 1100 cu. in.



The Meadow

Our most popular daypack, the Meadow has proved just as functional to the student as it has to the hiker.

- Large main compartment for books or clothes, sealed by a unique top flap pocket that's perfect for maps or papers
- Made from our finest, abrasion-resistant Cordura nylon
- Zippered front pocket with rain flap to prevent water leakage at zipper
- Adjustable, foam-padded shoulder straps let you carry heavy loads in comfort
- Twin Fastex[®] accessory patches (on bottom of bag) let you attach items that are too big to fit in pack

Weight: 14 oz. Capacity: 1345 cu. in.



The High Country

A spacious daypack, functionally-designed with a double-pull YKK® zipper that completely opens the front of the pack, providing easy access to any item.

- Large, front-mounted pocket with protective rainflap
- Entire pack made from our waterproof Cordura nylon

- Fully-adjustable, foam-padded shoulder straps turn an all day hike into a breeze
- Heavy-duty Fastex® patches and an ice axe loop for attaching a variety of accessories
- Waist strap is adjustable to fit virtually any person and features a Fastex® quick-release buckle

Weight: 15 oz. **Capacity:** 1245 cu. in.



The Teardrop

Designed for climbing, skiing, bicycling, or whatever... the Teardrop offers roomy two-compartment convenience and comfort to match.

- Made from our finest waterproofed Cordura nylon, plus, the back is smooth Packcloth nylon for even greater

- comfort
- Wide waist strap with Fastex® thermal plastic quick-release buckle
- Adjustable, padded shoulder straps
- Ultra-secure tie points and an ice axe loop
- Available with optional leather bottom

Weight: 15 oz., 1 lb. 3 oz. (with leather bottom)

Capacity: 1310 cu. in.



The Graduate

Our finest daypack designed specifically with the student in mind. The Graduate features pockets enough to assist the most disarrayed student in organizing.

- Wide, zippered top opening
- Handy, front organizer pockets
- Hidden interior pocket
- Comfortable padded shoulder straps

Weight: 13-1/2 oz. **Capacity:** 1550 cu. in.



The Student

Designed for the economy-minded student. Although rugged and lightweight this pack is roomy enough to hold a full semester's notes and still have room to spare.

- Adjustable shoulder straps of seatbelt webbing
- Wide, zippered top opening
- Handy, front organizer pouch
- Constructed with durable nylon packcloth

Weight: 10 oz. **Capacity:** 1290 cu. in.



Deluxe Bike Pack

The Deluxe Bike Pack rides high on the back making it perfect for cycling and features padded shoulder straps and a tough Cordura bottom.

- Abrasion-resistant Cordura nylon bottom and Packcloth nylon upper
- Adjustable, closed-cell foam padded shoulder straps
- Half-moon coil zipper for access to large main compartment
- Convenient zippered pocket for small, easily misplaced items

Weight: 9.5 oz.
Capacity: 1200 cu. in.



The Camouflage High Country

The popular High Country has been reworked in camouflage to suit the needs of the low-profile outdoorsperson.

- Easy-access, fully zippered panel loading
- Fully adjustable, foam-padded shoulder straps
- Large, front-mounted pocket with protective rainflap
- Comfortable waist strap for load control adjusts to fit virtually any person
- Camouflage print for the backcountry stalker

Weight: 15 oz.
Capacity: 1245 cu. in.

TOM BEAN

UPDATES OF THE CLASSIC RUCKSACK

The traditional rucksack has carried gear for generations of mountaineers. For the outdoorsman it is an item of utility, as well as a symbol of mountain sports.

Wilderness Experience started ten years ago and one of the initial designs was the Klettersack, still in the line today. This classic has remained the leader and is a strong influence on all manufacturers of packs.

One of the designs is sure to fit your needs. They will cushion the heavy load of rock climbing gear or carry a light wine and cheese lunch — and do it with the age-old simplicity and purity of design that is rucksack.

Choose a design that will meet your needs and enjoy the age-old simplicity and purity that is offered by a Wilderness Experience rucksack.

The Klettersack

The classic climbing pack with a large, top opening main compartment underneath a handy zippered pocket flap.

- Waterproof, urethane-coated Cordura nylon
- Smooth Packcloth nylon back with foam pad for added comfort
- Four 2 x 5 inch Fastex[®] accessory patches let you attach skis or optional side pockets directly to pack
- Padded, adjustable shoulder straps
- Seven accessory patches
- Side pockets and leather bottom optional

Weight: 1 lb. 6 oz., 1 lb. 12 oz. (with leather bottom)

Capacity: 1880 cu. in.



The Better Kletter

The Better Kletter is an ergonomically designed, large volume daypack for the climber or cross-country skier.

- Constructed with rugged 11.5 ounce Cordura nylon
- Comfortable foam-padded back
- Contour-cut shoulder straps
- Load-supporting waist belt
- Side compression bands

Weight: 2 lbs. 4 oz. **Capacity:** 2300 cu. in.



The Alpine

An extremely versatile rucksack with integrated ski-slot pockets.

- Zippered top flat pocket
- Waterproof, interior bivy skirt for over-packing
- Thick foam-padded back for comfortable hiking
- Adjustable, padded shoulder straps, and waist strap with quick-release buckle
- Available with a durable leather bottom

Weight: 1 lb. 12 oz., 2 lb. 2 oz. (with leather bottom)

Capacity: 2165 cu. in.



The Chamonix

The classic Chamonix features a built-in aluminum frame that is bendable to fit the contours of your back.

- Urethane coated Cordura nylon construction for waterproofing
- Wide, padded shoulder straps with adjustable load alignment straps to eliminate pull of load on shoulders
- Waterproof, interior flared extension skirt
- Handy four-inch-deep top pocket and ski-slot side pockets
- Comfortable, wrap-around waist belt with Fastex® quick-release buckle

Weight: 2 lbs. 15 oz. **Capacity:** 3415 cu. in.



Minimum Impact

MAXIMUM AWARENESS

By Ted Eugenis

Wild, unspoiled, and untrampled . . . that's how the earth used to be. But man has already selfishly — and unthinkingly — destroyed many beautiful and fragile ecosystems.

Fortunately, more and more people are beginning to interact more consciously with the environment, be it their own backyard, a neighborhood field or a mountain meadow, trying to help preserve the world in its most natural and mutually beneficial state.

This is the concept of minimum impact living: If we are careful and conscious, our fair planet will be habitable for flora, fauna and humans for centuries to come. Maybe indefinitely.

Minimum impact living means forethought. Not just in the backcountry but in the day-to-day environment where you eat, sleep and work. Basic wilderness ethics are for all situations.

First, some of the ways you can apply minimum impact living to your backcountry travels:

1. Know where you're going, how you're going to get there, and what you're going to need once you get there.

- Have a good map and a compass, and know how to use both.
- Take clothing that is comfortable and will keep you warm and dry.
- Know how to properly use your tent, sleeping bag and stove.
- Have enough food.
- Know basic first-aid and have the supplies for minor emergencies.
- Know the rules and regulations of the area you plan to travel in.

Remember that Yosemite, Yellowstone, Glacier, Grand Tetons, Crater Lake and the other famous National Parks are greatly desired destination spots, but the time and money spent to

get to these places often has maximum impact on your personal time and finances. You can probably find great environments to hike, bike, climb, and camp near your home; don't limit yourself to places that everyone else knows about. Develop a knowledge of your own territory. By doing so, you'll be a grassroots minimum impact example for others.

Learn the rules and regulations in wilderness areas you plan to visit and obey them.

2. Tread and camp upon the land as if every step and each campsite wears away part of the earth; it does.

- Stay on trails as much as possible.
- Wear comfortable footwear with soles that don't severely wear away topsoil.

But minimum impact means more than staying on established hiking trails: Don't camp at sites that have

Mist Trail in Yosemite



STEVE VAYES

obviously seen many campers; consult your map for approved campsites and choose one that can be left without a trace of your visit.

This same philosophy of "treading lightly" applies to your running trail at home. If part of your route is eroding quickly, tell the municipal agency that is responsible and stop running there. Even in an urban area, backcountry rules apply. Practice what you believe wherever you are.

3. Don't pollute.

• Carry out all garbage, including what's not your own if you can handle it. • Use latrines where available, or properly dispose of human waste at least 100 feet from any camp, trail, or

water source. • Don't use soap; any soap harms the environment. If you must use soap (or even toothpaste) to wash yourself or your gear, use the same outdoor hygiene you'd use for disposing of human waste. • Don't build fires — camp, bon, or otherwise — except in a life-threatening situation. Fires use wood, and even dead wood has its place in the lifecycle of the wilderness. Fires also cause smoke pollution. Use a stove. • Try not to camp within eyesight or earshot of others. You both came to get away from the rest of the world.

These points on minimum impact living are by no means a definitive set of rules; this is simply a primer to get

you headed in the right direction. But you can see that minimum impact living should and does extend into all your everyday actions. And it's up to you to pass the word. Get involved with local environmental groups. Grass-roots efforts are going to make the world a better place. Minimum impact: It's a way of life, not just a way to camp.

Ted Eugenis is an active freelance writer and photographer and currently on the editorial staff of BACKPACKER Magazine.

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Personal Items

PACK

- Waterproof pack cover
- Daypack
- Rucksack
- Large pack*

SLEEPING, SHELTER

- Bivy sack
- Tents/Poles*
- Sleeping bag*
- Waterproof stuff sack
- Foam Pad or Air Mattress*
- Nylon cord
- Lightweight tarp*
- Sleeping bag lash straps

CLOTHING

- Pile jacket/sweater
- Wool shirt*
- Light shirt
- Pile or wool pants*
- Rainwear pants*
- Shorts
- Underwear
- Wool hat
- Bandana
- Sun hat*
- Wool mittens
- Waterproof mittens
- Parka/Windbreaker*
- Rain jacket/suit*
- Wool socks*
- Inner socks

- Hiking boots/sneakers*
- Down booties
- Gaiters
- Extra boot laces
- Extra clothing

MEDICAL

- First-Aid Kit*
- Moleskin*
- Adhesive Tape
- Sunscreen*
- Lip protection*
- Tweezers
- Safety pins
- Bug repellent
- Water purifiers
- Sunglasses*
- Gauze pads
- Snake-bite kit
- Ace Bandage
- Thermometer

TOILETRIES

- Tooth brush/paste
- Biodegradable soap/shampoo*
- Toilet paper*
- Towel/towelettes
- Shaving Gear

COOKING

- Stove/fuel*
- Pots/pans*

- Pot tongs
- Cup*
- Utensils
- Cleaning pad
- Water bottle*
- Aluminum foil
- Waterproof matches
- Plastic trash bags
- Can opener

MISCELLANEOUS

- Needle/thread
- Candles*
- Flashlight/extra batteries*
- Whistle
- Maps/Trail Guides*
- Compass*
- Notebook/pencil
- Camera/film
- Pocket knife*
- Shovel
- Playing Cards
- Fishing Equipment
- Binoculars
- Shock cords
- Duct tape*
- Swimsuit
- Ice axe
- Crampons
- Altimeter
- Boot waterproofer

*Essential items that should always be included.



TOM SERVAIS

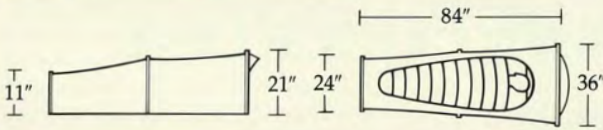
Bivy Shelter

The Bivy Shelter, at just over two pounds, is the perfect lightweight answer for the lone adventurer, whether bicyclist or alpinist.

This unique design allows for entry without snow and rain following because of its awned vertical door. The rear has a waterproof panel backed by a no-see-um mesh window.

The eight-foot floor is constructed of lightweight, yet strong, Taffeta nylon. The seamless top is Gore-Tex laminated Taffeta. When stuffed into the provided sack the Bivy Shelter is only 4 × 5 inches including all poles and stakes.

■ Lightweight, one-person shelter ■ Gore-Tex® top and "bathtub" floor provide water-tight enclosure. No rainfly is necessary ■ Awning-type front door covering for entry without letting in snow or rain ■ Velcro-sealed top panel opens to reveal mesh skylight for a more spacious environment ■ The Bivy Shelter includes poles, stakes, cord, and stuff sack
Pole Weight: 6 oz., Tent Weight: 1 lb. 11 oz., Total Weight: 2 lb. 1 oz.



Starlight Mesh Tent

The Starlight is the ideal tent for the person who enjoys sleeping under the stars, yet wants to remain sheltered from the elements.

Virtually identical in design to The Sanctuary, The Starlight offers a ceiling and side walls of durable no-see-um mesh for an unobstructed view. If the weather turns nasty, the rainfly buckles on in seconds for maximum protection.

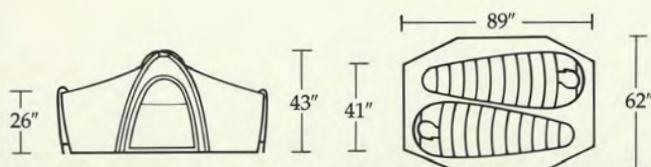
The Starlight is complete with rainfly, stakes, cord, and tough aluminum poles.

■ Convenient mesh "goody pockets" let you keep essential items close at hand — no digging through your pack at night ■ The Starlight includes a rainfly, aluminum poles, stakes, cord, and stuff sack ■ Wide side shoulders add extra room for storing clothing and supplies, and include waterproof panels that open to reveal twin mesh windows ■ Coated "bathtub" floor design prevents water leakage in wet weather ■ Pitches quickly and easily with two shock-corded poles and side hoops.

Pole Weight: 1 lb. 8 oz., Tent Weight: 2 lb. 7 oz., Fly Weight: 1 lb. 10 oz., Total Weight: 5 lb. 9 oz.



PETE VASILIA



A SHELTER FOR EVERY SEASON

Nowhere in outdoor equipment does the art of design and the science of sewing become more apparent than in tents.

The stress that a tent must bear, whether snow load or high winds, is immense. Wilderness Experience's tents are sewn with construction techniques and fabrics that can stand up to whatever punishment nature dishes out.

Every seam is sewn using either a double needle flat-felled technique, or double-sewn and taped. Bar tacks and fabric reinforcement patches abound at every stress area. Even the zippers are all double-sewn.

With the exception of the Bivy Shelter, all of our tents use anodized 7075 aluminum alloy poles. These fully-shockcorded poles resist corrosion and are the strongest alloy available.

The selection of a tent need not be difficult. Write out a list of what you most desire in a tent. How many people must it sleep? What conditions will it be used in? Winter? Summer? Do you prefer more headroom? What weight? What price can you pay? Before you buy a tent have a concept of your needs. Your favorite specialty store can then assist you in making an excellent match.

Our tent designs have been chosen to fill specific needs: the geodesic Equinox for strength and useable space, the small Bivy for personal shelter, the easy ventilation and entry convenience of the Sanctuary and the heavenly view of the Starlight.



The Sanctuary II

A spacious, airy two person tent, The Sanctuary's unique design allows for maximum comfort and convenience.

The Sanctuary is designed with wide shoulders so stowing gear or stretching out is easy. The tall central dome makes sitting up easy for the tallest backpacker.

Entry is easy since there are two 30-inch wide doors. No more stepping over your partner here. The doors and wing-end windows create a four-way ventilation system.

The flysheet tightens with buckled straps at the end hoops. The fly has two door covers; one creates an awning to insure dry entry and the second is a storm tunnel.

The poles are lightweight and strong aluminum alloy and the tent comes complete with rainfly, poles, stakes, and stuff sack.

- Extra-wide side shoulders provide roomy interior
- Coated "bathtub" floor design prevents water leakage in wet weather
- Unique design includes front and rear entries with additional no-see-um, bug-proof netting doors
- Twin shoulder windows allow for maximum ventilation
- Handy "goody pockets" let you keep necessary items close at hand
- The Sanctuary is available with either aluminum or fiberglass poles. Each tent includes a rainfly, poles, stakes, cord and stuff sack

Pole Weight: Fiberglass 2 lbs. 7 oz. Aluminum 1 lb. 8 oz., **Tent Weight:** 3 lb. 4 oz., **Fly Weight:** 1 lb. 11 oz., **Total Weight:** 6 lb. 7 oz.



Equinox Dome Tent

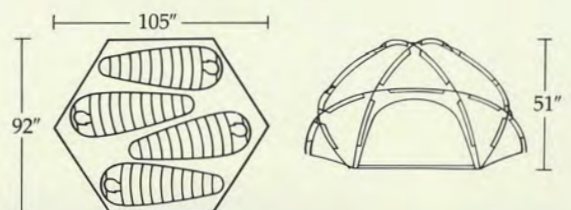
The three to four person Equinox is a true geodesic design that pitches very tautly to produce an exostructure able to withstand the stresses of high winds and heavy snow loads.

Despite its extra roomy interior and ample floor space, the Equinox is easy to set up due to its shock-corded aluminum alloy poles. The rainfly attaches quickly and has an elasticized perimeter to keep it taut in the most adverse conditions.

A spacious 50-inch wide entrance closes with a two-way zipper and is backed by zippered no-see-um mesh as are the 43-inch wide windows. The Equinox comes with rainfly, poles, cord and stakes.

- Fully-elasticized rainfly attaches easily and remains taut even in the most adverse conditions
- Roomy 51 inch canopy for plenty of interior space
- Six equal-length poles guarantee a quick, effortless pitch — extra-taut to prevent flapping in strong winds
- 18 inch coated "bathtub" floor eliminates water leakage, even in standing water
- Spacious 50 inch wide door and two 43 inch side panels open to reveal zippered no-see-um mesh — ideal for increasing ventilation
- Convenient "goody pockets" provide a handy place to store items like flashlights, tissues, glasses, etc.
- The Equinox includes rainfly, poles, stakes, cord, and stuff sack

Pole Weight: 3 lb. 6 oz., **Tent Weight:** 4 lb. 13 oz., **Fly Weight:** 1 lb. 13 oz., **Total Weight:** 10 lb.





QUINOX pitched on Mt. Rainier.

SLEEPING BAGS: HOW CAN IT BE WARM WHEN IT'S NOT?

Few pieces of equipment are as misunderstood as sleeping bags.

The most commonly asked question about a sleeping bag is: How warm is it? The correct answer is that the bag has no warmth at all. Sleeping bags are insulation systems that simply prevent the loss of your own body's heat.

To understand how a sleeping bag works, think of it as the insulating system in a house with the person in the bag as the furnace. The insulating system's job, whether furnace or Wilderness Experience sleeping bag, is to maintain the status quo. Both must stop the existing warmth from being lost.

No one generates heat in exactly the same way. Your overall health, combined with what you have eaten, how long ago you ate, what kind of day you have had (exhausting or easy), and other factors (wind, humidity, and altitude to name a few) affect the amount of heat your body produces.

At Wilderness Experience we build sleeping bags designed to keep your heat in.

A warm, comfortable sleeping system can really make the difference between an enjoyable trip and a disastrous one. Many seasoned campers can remember nights when the temperature exceeded the limits of their sleeping bag and

they were forced to lie awake shivering, waiting for dawn's early morning warmth.

A Wilderness Experience sleeping bag can guarantee that each new day will be greeted with the zest for adventure created only by a good night's sleep.

There are two main areas to look for in the evaluation of sleeping bags: the amount of insulation and the amount of air infiltration.

In a sleeping bag the largest area for heat loss is where your head sticks out. Wilderness Experience reduces heat loss in this area two ways: by providing a contour cut hood that closes around you, and by placing an extra layer of insulation at your shoulders to cut down on the flow of air in and out of the bag.

Any sleeping bag of reasonable quality has a draft flap that covers the zipper. However, all draft flaps are not equal. Wilderness Experience draft flaps are superior, being wider at the base and set right up against the zipper with a nylon tape that prevents snagging. Also, the draft flap is attached at the foot of the bag and has a gusset at the bottom of the zipper, creating a more effective seal. Tubes are located on the top of the zipper to form an effective seal. Zippers

Rectangular Series



Weight: 3 lb. 4 oz. Rating: +40, Loft: 5-1/2"

The Southern Comfort Summer is rated to +40 degrees and is the ideal lightweight summer bag that is both spacious and comfortable. The Southern Comfort Summer can also be unzipped and used as a lightweight quilt.

■ Comfortable Super Tri-Blend interior ■ Rugged nylon Taffeta exterior ■ Comes with breathable storage sack and waterproof stuff sack ■ Handy zippered chest pocket



Weight: 4 lb. 15 oz., Rating: +20, Loft: 6-1/2"

The Southern Comfort Winter is rated to +20 degrees. While similar to the Southern Comfort Summer, the Winter has additional insulation for below freezing temperatures.

■ Excellent bag for 4-season comfort in moderate climates ■ Roomy rectangular shape ■ Four layers of off-set quilted Hollofil ■ Comes with Storage Sack and Stuff Sack

themselves can be major areas of heat loss and therefore we use the best quality available.

The seam opposite the zipper is often a forgotten area. Some manufacturer's side seams pinch the insulation and create a narrow area of heat loss. Every Wilderness Experience sleeping bag, whether down or synthetic, incorporates a side block baffle to insure a full-width of insulation throughout the bag. Whichever design you decide

upon, a quick comparison of stitch lines will illustrate that the seams do not align anywhere to create a cold spot. To assure proper fitting, the inner shell of the sleeping bag is cut smaller than the outer. This prevents the insulation from being easily compressed.

A Wilderness trademark is our handy shoulder pocket. This feature is for anything that you want to keep track of in the middle of the night; glasses, prescriptions, or flashlight.

The Lite Series

The Lite Series are high-quality, value-oriented sleeping bags designed for general backpacking and camping.



Weight: 3 lb. 8 oz., Rating: +25, Loft: 5-1/2"

The Southern Lite is rated just below freezing at 25 degrees and weighs 3 lbs., 8 ozs. An excellent choice for the bicycle tourist, canoeist or general camper. The Southern Lite has two layers of Hollofil II on the top and bottom in an offset quilt construction.

- Ultra-lightweight
- Antron nylon interior and exterior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack
- Sculpted, form-fitting hood for more efficient heat retention
- Non-constricting shoulder collar to prevent heat loss



Weight: 4 lb. 6 oz., Rating: +10, Loft: 6-1/2"

The Northern Lite, rated 10 degrees, is designed for those who like to extend the season into the Spring and Fall. Weighing only 4 lbs., 6 oz., it is a perfect all around bag for most backpacking. The Northern Lite has two layers of Hollofill II on the top and bottom in an offset quilt construction.

- Antron nylon interior and exterior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack
- Sculpted, form-fitting hood for more efficient heat retention
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket



Weight: 4 lb. 14 oz. Rating: -5, Loft: 7-1/2"

The Polar Lite, as its name implies, is for four season use and weighs 4 lbs., 14 ozs. The Polar Lite also features two layers of Hollofil II on the top and bottom in an offset quilt construction.

- All the advantages of the Northern Lite, and perfect for colder climates
- Rated to -5°
- Four layers of offset-quilted Hollofil®
- Insulated draft flap

The Luxury Series

Features four bags which use an interior fabric called Tri-Blend. The Tri-Blend is 25% nylon for strength, 50% polyester for warmth and washability, and 25% cotton for comfort and a soft feel. The advantages of Tri-Blend are obvious at first touch. It's not cold when you climb in the bag and it never gets clammy in the middle of the night as nylon can. It also adds warmth because it is a better insulator than comparable weight nylon fabrics. Most importantly though, it feels great. These are luxury bags for canoers, campers, and backpackers who put comfort first.



Weight: 4 lb. 11 oz., Rating: +10, Loft: 6"

The Bighorn Summer, rated to +10 degrees, fits the all-around camper in roomy comfort. This large, barrel-cut mummy is the choice for the outdoorsperson who feels cramped in the traditional mummy style.

- Antron nylon exterior and Tri-Blend interior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage bag
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket



Weight: 5 lb. 6 oz., Rating: -5, Loft: 7"

The Bighorn Winter is similar in design to the Bighorn Summer but has additional insulation for Winter camping. It is rated to -5 degrees.

- Antron nylon exterior and Tri-Blend interior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage sack
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket



Weight: 4 lb. 8 oz., Rating: +10, Loft: 6-1/2"

The Point Five is our best, most comfortable three-season bag. Rated to 10 degrees, it only weighs 4 lbs., 8 ozs. and has two layers of Polarguard on its top and bottom.

- Antron nylon exterior and Tri-Blend interior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage bag
- Sculpted, form-fitting hood for more efficient heat retention
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket



Weight: 5 lb. 12 oz., Rating: -15, Loft: 8"

The Extreme is for comfort in -15 degrees situations. Comparatively lightweight at 5 lbs., 12 ozs. it features the Tri-Blend lining and a contour-cut hood. The Extreme has two batts of Polarguard on the top and the bottom.

- Antron nylon exterior and Tri-Blend interior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage bag
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket

The Technical Series

The Technical Series of sleeping bags are designed for the outdoorsman who pushes to the extremes and must have a bag that matches his abilities. Each of these bags represents the state of the art in construction technique, materials, and design.



Weight: 3 lb. 15 oz., Rating: +5, Loft: 6"

The Silver Cloud, rated at 5 degrees, weighs only 3 lbs., 15 ozs. It is a three-season synthetic bag that truly competes with down in both compressibility and weight for the ultralight camper. The Silver Cloud has two layers of Polarguard, with a sheet of Texolite, a space-age radiant heat barrier, between the layers on top. The bottom is constructed of one layer of Polarguard and a second sheet of Texolite.

- Antron nylon interior and exterior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage bag
- Sculpted, form-fitting hood for more efficient heat retention
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket



Weight: 4 lb. 10 oz., Rating: -10, Loft: 7"

The Black Magic weighs only 4 lbs., 10 ozs., is rated to -10 degrees, and has a special black 1.1 oz. ripstop outer which reduces weight and provides a dark surface that will absorb light. Even on an overcast day the Black Magic will burn off morning dew in a hurry and get you on your way quickly. It employs two layers of Polarguard in both the top and bottom, between which is sandwiched a layer of thermally reflective Texolite.

- 1.1 oz. ripstop nylon exterior and Antron Nylon interior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage bag
- Sculpted, form-fitting hood for more efficient heat retention
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket



Weight: 4 lb. 14 oz., Rating: -25, Loft: 7-1/2"

The Latok I is the bag for the professional. The Latok was designed for expeditionary conditions. We rate the Polarguard-insulated Latok to extreme conditions -25 degrees, and find it is a great bag for Winter camping and Alpine style mountaineering. The Latok features two layers of Polarguard between which is sandwiched a layer of thermally reflective Texolite.

- Lightweight Gore-Tex exterior and Antron nylon interior
- Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage bag
- Sculpted, form-fitting hood for more efficient heat retention
- Non-constricting shoulder collar prevents heat loss
- Handy, zippered chest pocket

The Down Series

Down sleeping bags by Wilderness Experience employ construction techniques that make them superior to others.

We begin with down control. Five-inch baffle spacing insures that the down cannot shift and cause a cold spot. Every bag has a channel block, or baffle, down the side seam, that prevents down migration from top to bottom. Also, all baffles are of slant-box construction, which means each baffle is sewn in at an angle. The baffle is then able to act like a hinge and accommodate for the lofting down. By using contour baffles, Wilderness Experience bags have an even loft. A special mesh allows the down to "grab on" forming a wall that supports the loft.

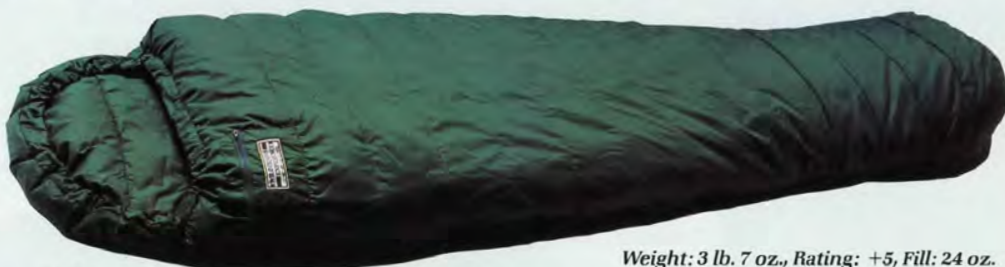
If you look at the baffle seams on the top of a Wilderness Experience bag you will note that the stitching is not exposed. We use a style of sewing called "tuck-seam stitching." While a time-consuming and difficult process, tuck-seam stitching means that no thread is exposed to snagging or abrasion.



Weight: 2 lb. 6 oz., Rating: +10, Fill: 18 oz.

The Featherweight epitomizes what down bags are all about. Weighing only 2 lbs. 6 oz., this 10 degree bag stuffs down to the size of a small loaf of bread. If ever there was a perfect bag for the bicyclist or ultralight backpacker, this is it. The outer shell is an extremely tightly woven, high strength, 1.3 oz. ripstop nylon. This bag almost floats away.

■ 550+ Goose Down fill ■ Handy, zippered chest pocket ■ Tuck-seam stitching throughout ■ Complete with waterproof stuff sack and breathable storage bag



Weight: 3 lb. 7 oz., Rating: +5, Fill: 24 oz.

The Alpine, our most popular down bag, has a tough Taffeta shell that any outdoorsperson can appreciate. The Alpine weighs 3 lbs., 7 ozs., has a 5 degree

■ For the rucksack traveler and weight-conscious backpacker ■ Modified mummy design ■ Contour-cut baffles to force greater loft over the torso



Weight: 3 lb. 13 oz., Rating: -5, Fill: 30 oz.

The Highland, rated at -5 degrees, is an expanded version of the Alpine. Its outer shell and baffling have been increased slightly to accommodate its extra fill. The Highland weighs 3 lbs., 13 ozs.

■ Designed for the 4-season mountaineer ■ Tuck-seam baffles with five-inch spacing ■ Nylon inner and outer shells



Weight: 4 lb. 9 oz., Rating: -25, Fill: 38 oz.

The North Country should be first choice for the person needing a lightweight Winter sleeping bag. Rated to -25 degrees the North Country has a generous interior draft tube and an exterior wind flap held in place by velcro tabs. The North Country has a Tri-Blend interior, weighs only 4 lbs., 9 ozs., and feels like a warm, soft cocoon on an arctic cold morning.

■ The ultimate in lightweight, winter comfort ■ Five-inch spacing of contoured baffles ■ YKK coil zipper with exterior wind flap

HOW TO CARE FOR A SLEEPING BAG

Proper care is crucial with sleeping bags. Always keep sleeping bags in their storage sack, when not in use. The bag should not be restricted by keeping it in a stuff sack between trips as the loft can be damaged. This applies to both down and synthetic bags.

Avoid storage in sunlight or hot areas (such as the trunk of your car in the summer!). If the synthetic fibers in a bag are exposed to heat over about 140 degrees they unwind, or uncrimp, and assume a new shape.

Both down and synthetic bags are best washed at a commercial laundromat using their non-agitating, front-loading, tumble washers. Use the gentle cycle with warm water. Free rinsing soaps are the best. A minimum amount of Ivory, Woolite, etc. is good. For down bags, there are commercial soaps with conditioners available like Fluffy and Nu-Down.

Down bags should be handled carefully since the wet down has enough weight to damage the interior baffling. Prompt removal of the water after washing and adequate rinsing is important. Remove the excess water gently pressing it out or using the extractor found in most large laundromats. Dry the bag in a tumble dryer on a warm setting (NOT HOT) and toss in a few tennis balls (punctured)

to stop the down from drying in clumps.

If, when drying is complete, you do have clumps, there is probably a soap residue binding the feathers together. Run the bag through the wash again without soap and it should loft out well when dry.

A bath tub works well as an alternative to a front loading machine. With this technique you simply knead the soap in and out of the bag gently. Rinse in warm water until there is no discoloration of the water and line dry, fluffing often.

Down may also be dry cleaned at a reputable dry cleaners. Strong chemicals such as Perc should not be used, only mild solvents. Stoddard is a fluid that works well without removing all of the natural oils. Dry cleaning removes more of the important oils than washing and can cause the bag to lose its loft more quickly.

Synthetic bags may be washed following the same techniques as down bags. During the final rinse a liquid fabric softener can be used and will help the bag to loft out. Fabric softener can often help regenerate a worn-out synthetic bag. Some synthetic fibers are safe to dry clean, but as a general rule it should be avoided. Read the care label on the item to be sure.



MATED SLEEPING BAGS

All Wilderness Experience sleeping bags, whether regular or long length have been designed to zip together to form a double bag. However one must be a right zip bag and the other a left zip to mate together properly.

All Wilderness Experience rectangular bags mate together regardless of right or left zips.

DITTY BAGS



SLEEPING BAG STUFF SACKS



Sleeping Bags Seasonal Chart

Temperature Range	LITE SERIES Hollofill Generous Mummy	TECHNICAL SERIES Texolite/ Polarguard	LUXURY SERIES Triblend Lining Polarguard	RECTANCULAR SERIES Triblend Hollofill	DOWN SERIES Minimum 550 Fill
Summer	Southern Lite +25 3 lbs. 8 oz.			Southern Comfort Summer +40 3 lbs. 4 oz.	
Three Season	Northern Lite +10 4 lbs. 6 oz.	Silver Cloud +5 3 lbs. 15 oz.	Point Five +10 4 lbs. 8 oz. Bighorn Summer +10 4 lbs. 11 oz.	Southern Comfort Winter +20 4 lbs. 15 oz.	Featherweight +10 2 lbs. 6 oz. Alpine +5 3 lbs. 7 oz.
All Season	Polar Lite -5 4 lbs. 14 oz.	Black Magic -10 4 lbs. 10 oz. Latok I Extreme Conditions 4 lbs. 14 oz.	Bighorn Winter -5 5 lbs. 6 oz. Extreme -15 5 lbs. 12 oz.		Highland -5 3 lbs. 13 oz. North Country -25 4 lbs. 9 oz.

Regular fits to 6 feet; Long fits to 6'5"

Exterior fabric of all synthetic bags except the Black Magic is Dupont Antron nylon treated with Zepel stain/rain repeller.

Traveling Light?

By Laurie Engel

"Embarrassing," is the word I would use to describe my first trip overseas. I can still recall the faces of my unsuspecting friends waiting patiently on the station platform in Belgrade. We caught sight of each other through the train window. Their smiles of anticipation quickly dissolved to expressions of disbelief as a porter hauled my luggage onto the platform. What did they expect? I was going to be there a month. Their worried appearance said, "She must be planning to immigrate." In ten years my style had changed radically, thanks in part to the introduction of functional, lightweight luggage. While experience has helped me to pack more wisely, little conveniences such as back and shoulder straps have given me the ability to move about more freely without the aid of porters.

The big change came when I switched from traditional to adventure travel, and my new philosophy emerged. Suddenly, it became more important to "see" rather than "be seen." Packing light was the first challenge. Now, as a trek leader, my new motto is: "When in doubt, do without." Instead of spending money on new clothes, I bring old, but serviceable items that can easily be left behind. In

the mountains of Nepal, a shrewd Tibetan trader has my back-up jeans; I have his yak bell. A tattered child in a small Bhutanese Village wears my old, warm, yellow wool sweater; I have an old and warm memory. Somewhere in the Khumba there is a Sherpa with a 1980 San Francisco "Bay to Breakers" tee-shirt. I ended up with even more space in my duffel — the better to fill with local goodies.

A few years ago I wouldn't have traveled without a blow-dryer and an ample supply of cosmetics. As I became more involved in wilderness travel, I soon discovered that, (A) tents are not equipped with electrical outlets, and (B) the healthy, outdoor look I tried to achieve with cosmetics is more readily achieved by being in the healthy outdoors. This realization created four pounds of extra packing space.

It was then I discovered that duffels could be partitioned with the aid of stuff sacks and household plastic bags. Partitioning served two purposes: similar items were kept together, and their contents rarely got wet, either from the weather or an accidental river soaking.

But the first commandment of ad-

venture travel is: "Thou shalt not pack thy boots." Since I began leading treks in Asia I have found that at least one piece of luggage is likely to go astray. To arrive in Kathmandu on the first leg of a 25-day trek and discover your boots have gone to Kuwait is a fate worse than death. Thou shalt wear them on thy feet, sleep with them by thy head, but never, never trust them to the care of baggage handlers.

Most other items, except medication, can be replaced through local shops and the charity of fellow trekkers. Usually the misplaced bag will turn up at your hotel by the end of the trip, but by that time you're not sure whether to kiss it or kick it. However, when you reach home, your blisters will have healed, and this near catastrophe will take its proper place alongside your memories of other adventures.

Laurie Engel is a trek leader and photographer with Himalayan Trekking and Wilderness Expeditions of Berkeley, California.

Fly by night? Travel light.



GALEN HOWELL

LUGGAGE

A traveler must have light, high-quality luggage to keep pace with a hectic travel schedule. A climber, whose destination is the Himalaya, needs durable duffel bags to stow the irreplaceable equipment of a risky trade.

Wilderness Experience provides a refreshing departure

from the molded plastic suitcases of yesteryear. With a knowledge of the needs of travelers everywhere, Wilderness Experience has introduced a functional, stylish, and attractive line of soft luggage.



Orient Express

Whether in use as an oversized briefcase or overnight-sized luggage, the Orient Express delivers the performance good looks that many travelers demand.

- Available in Cordura or black Ballistics nylon
- Leather appointments for durability and style
- Exterior pocket with multiple zippered openings
- Magazine pocket with leather security strap
- Shoulder strap with leather pad provided
- Interior pocket for small items
- Leather hand grip
- Cotton Duck webbing throughout.

Weight: 1 lb. 10 oz. **Capacity:** 1850 cu. in.

Northwest Passage

The Northwest Passage is our most elegant soft luggage offering. This design fulfills every function of the traditional suitcase yet does it with a style all its own.

The Northwest Passage is available in either Cordura or Ballistics nylon. Two sizes, regular and large, are in Cordura, while the Ballistics model is made in large only.

- Leather appointments for style and abrasion protection
- Webbing shoulder straps with leather pads are standard
- An outside pocket with multiple zippered openings on one side
- Regular size features a slash magazine pocket with a leather strap. The Large size has an additional pocket and the magazine slot.

Weight: SM 2 lbs. 4 oz., **Capacity:** 3300 cu. in., LG 1 lb. 15 oz., 2800 cu. in.

Garment Bag

If one piece of luggage is all you want to carry look no further. Our Garment Bag, made in Cordura and black Ballistics nylon, can keep you on the road for a week with unrumpled clothes and room to spare.

- Large, fully zippered main compartment for easy hanging of garments
- Two hangers provided
- Large, divided shoe pocket
- Aluminum stays prevent wrinkling of clothes when bag is hanging or being carried
- Doortop hanging fixture stows away in its own pocket
- Large, double access, flat pocket for folded items
- Expanded exterior pocket with multiple zippered access
- Leather appointments throughout
- Shoulder strap with leather pad standard

Cordura Travel Pouch

A needed accessory for every traveler. The Travel Pouch, available in Cordura or Ballistics nylon to match our other luggage items, will hold cosmetics and toiletries galore.

- Zippered top opening design for easy access
- Side pocket for small items has zipper closure
- Handy wrist strap
- Available to match any of our luggage



Standard Duffel Bags

Wilderness Experience Standard Duffel Bags offer economy and durability in a design that has long been the favorite choice of many experienced travelers.

- Constructed of waterproof, 8 oz. Parapack nylon
- Zippered pocket at one end, slash pocket at other
- Comfortable webbing shoulder strap included
- Leather accessory patches
- Cotton duck webbing for strength and attractive looks

SM 9 × 15, MD 11 × 20, LG 12 × 26, XL 14 × 32



Deluxe Duffle Bags

The attractive Deluxe Duffle Bags are also tough. Their Cordura construction and wraparound webbing straps insure long life no matter what punishment your travel provides.

■ Waterproof 11.5 oz. Cordura construction ■ Cotton duck webbing for good looks and strength ■ Leather carrying handle and accessory patches ■ Shoulder strap with leather pad included ■ One end has zippered pocket, while the other has a slash magazine pocket.

SM 9 × 15, MD 11 × 20 LG 12 × 26, XL 14 × 32

Briefcase

Our briefcase is truly an inexpensive alternative to the standard hard case, ideal for either the student or the business executive.

■ Rugged 11.5 oz. Cordura nylon construction ■ Two separate compartments ■ Double-pull coil zippers for easy access ■ Comfortable fabric handle



Ballistics Duffels

Our Ballistics Duffel Bags are real attention getters. The tough black Ballistics fabric has an elegant style all its own, yet remains durable enough for any use.

■ Ballistics fabric is both waterproof and abrasion resistant ■ Attractive piping accentuates every seam ■ Leather padded webbing shoulder strap included ■ Wear points and accessory patches of leather ■ One end of the duffel has a zippered pocket, the other a convenient handle

#1 11 × 18, #2 11 × 24, #3 12 × 30, #4 15 × 33, #5 18 × 36

Railroaders

Our Railroaders are from a design of travel luggage used for years by travelers around the world. There are three sizes, each individually designed to perform separately, or as a complementary set.

■ Full-zip for suitcase convenience ■ Tough 11.5 oz. Cordura nylon construction ■ Attractive cotton duck webbing ■ Multiple exterior cargo pockets ■ Shoulder strap with leather pad included

SM 1350, cu. in., MD 2008 cu. in., LG 2628 cu. in.



TOURING COMFORT

The days of the "Grand Tour" of Europe vanished many years ago, but it wasn't until recently that travelers broke the old habits.

Wilderness Experience introduced their "747", revolutionizing luggage style and leaving many a steamer trunk to gather dust. Versatility was the key to the new design. It could be used as an internal framepack, yet serve well as an attractive luggage piece.

Today's travel packs from Wilderness Experience carry on the tradition of the now extinct "747". They fall into two general categories. Some must be classed as soft suitcases

that have shoulder straps and waistbelts; another style is the backpacking/mountaineering pack which has a hideaway suspension system.

The pack you choose depends on what your principal activity is. Our Concorde would be first choice if you are a traveler first and a backpacker when required. The traveling backpacker would be happier with our Travel Arete. It has a more sophisticated suspension system that tucks behind an innovative zip flap. Whichever model you choose, you will enjoy the convenience and function of Wilderness Experience luggage.



Travel Arete

Modeled after one of the most popular internal framepacks on the market today, the Arete, the Travel Arete serves well for extended travel. This convertible pack is well suited for both backpacking and mountaineering.

- Main compartment is three-quarter zipped for ease of loading and storage of sleeping bag in bottom section
- Crossover aluminum alloy stays and



Capacity: 4310 cu. in.
Weight: 4 lbs., 15 oz.

- adjustable suspension system with padded lumbar support
- Side pockets with ski slots, two front pockets and one map pocket
- Multiple Fastex® attachment patches for additional gear
- Zippered bag panel conceals suspensions system from the perils of conveyor belts and baggage handlers
- Shoulder strap and convenient handle for suitcase-like carrying



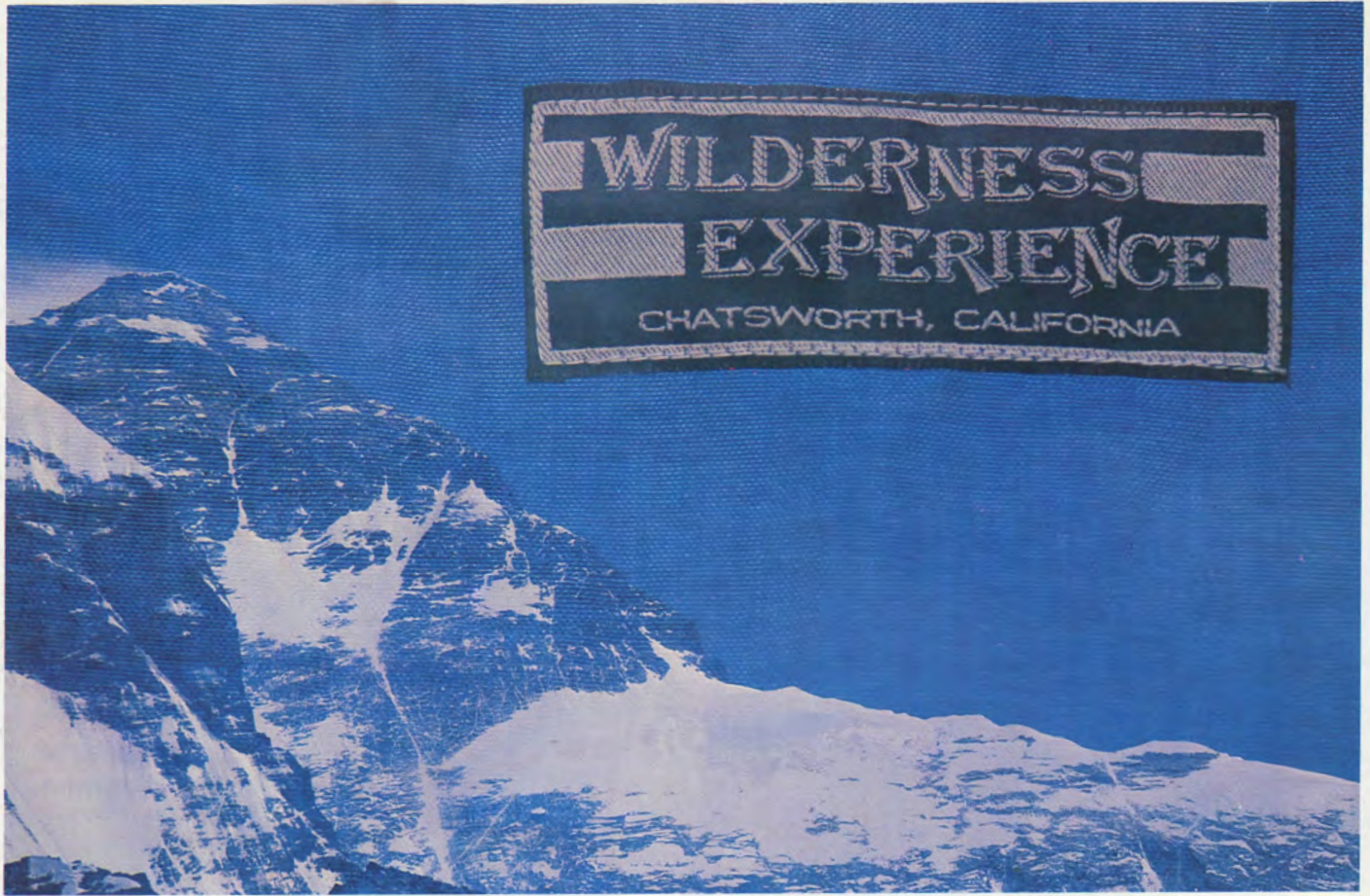
Concorde

The Concorde convertible travel pack is a rugged, dependable workhorse for people on the go, either at home in New York or trekking in Nepal. It is a large front-opening suitcase with extra side and front pockets for organization. It also has a Velcro-closing front pocket for that quickly-wanted raincoat or magazine.



Small 2900 cu. in.,
Large 3570 cu. in.,
Weight Small 4 lbs.,
4 oz., **Large** 4 lbs.,
12 oz.

- Tough 11.5 ounce Cordura nylon for abrasion resistance
- Two parallel aluminum alloy stays for excellent weight transfer
- Zippered back panel conceals padded shoulder straps and wraparound hip belt
- Shoulder strap and handle provided for suitcase convenience
- Available in medium and large size for perfect fit



WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

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