

Monday, December 31, 2007

### **Buttermilk: So Rad It Eats Skiers**

So I was poking around the Web and found this guy named Dr. Jim Vaile, who claims, among other things, that Aspen's Buttermilk Mountain is, ahem, "alive." There are a couple of videos, the one below and this one on LiveLeak, of sinkholes opening up and almost swallowing skiers and snowboarders at Buttermilk. I'm not saying either way if I think this is a bunch of crap or not, but I'll tell you this: If Buttermilk Mountain would open up and consume everyone and everything in Aspen during the holidays, there would be no way of quantifying my joy. More stuff at [ButtermilkIsAlive.com](http://ButtermilkIsAlive.com).

Posted by Runout in Ski & Snowboard at 00:01

Friday, December 28, 2007

### **Avalanche Season Starts With Ominous Tone**

Lots of avalanche news with the latest storms. You've read about the 11 year old that survived the in-bounds avalanche at The Canyons that killed a Colorado man. A quick check of Avalanche.org shows US fatalities already at 9. Last year's total was 20, so that's one short of 1/2 and we're just entering peak season. Lets not drive that number up. Be careful up there. If you're skiing or riding out of bounds, make sure you know what you're doing and wear a beacon.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Outdoor Accidents, Ski & Snowboard at 12:49

### **Notice to Users About Pictures**

To all of our users, we apologize for certain images that were on the blog. We at GoBlog, along with fellow bloggers all over the world usually Google images and put them into our blog, not always attributing them. We did so for a recent post, they were unhappy with the traffic and switched the photo to one that was rather unsavoury. Again, this was not the image for the post, the referring website switched the image to 'teach us a lesson'. Oh my, you sure taught us. Point for you. GoBlog will never post pornographic images or nudity on the website, just things that are provocative.

Posted by eBomb in News, Photos at 10:13

### **Runout's Gear Of The Year Awards**

Inspired by The Gear Junkie's Top 10 Gear of The Year Awards, I've compiled a list of my own favorite gear for urban cycling, camping, backpacking and climbing, all of which can be had for 25 of your hard-earned dollars or less. Here at GetOutdoors, we're in touch with the proletariat. We like to keep it real. Real cheap. 10) Park Tool 3 Way Hex Wrench: \$8.50. All you need in your commuter bag (besides a patch kit and a pump), unless you're a bike mechanic. 9) Loaf of bread, peanut butter, jelly: About \$10. Tastes more like food than any energy bar, won't melt like a Snickers. 8 ) Gorilla Pod: \$25.00. Quit trying to balance your point-and-shoot on rocks. 7) SKS Xtra Dry Rear Seatpost Fender: \$11.94. How many more times are you going to curse that wet spot on the back of your pants? 6) Park Tool Glueless Patches: \$2.50. As revolutionary as the Post-It Note. 5) Starbucks Doubleshot: \$2.19. For overnight hikes, one of these beats lugging any sort of coffee setup you have now. 4) Army surplus webbing belt: \$4.95. Inexpensive, tough, not bulky under your harness or your pack's waistbelt. 3) Charmin Fresh Mates Flushable Wipes: \$2.49. In lieu of a shower, just use these on your funky regions. 2) Space Pen: \$20. Writes upside down, underwater, in freezing temperatures, on mermaids, etc. 1) Duct Tape: \$1.34. A timeless classic.

Posted by Runout in Man-Gear Love at 00:01

Thursday, December 27, 2007

### **Weekend Warrior - 2-3 Day Climbing Trips in the Sierras**

I'm going to start a new feature here at GoBlog, the GOWeekend Warrior Trip Planner. Most don't have unlimited time to go and climb, often only a weekend or long weekend is available to cram as much into as possible. While I can climb El Cap in two days, even I will admit it's hard to get there, climb, descend, get hammered, and then drive back in a weekend. I've done the drive through the night trips, so that counts here. Here's the first installment, a GOWeekend Warrior mountaineering trip in the Sierras, either East or West, the requirements are: Give drive times from SFO/RNO/LAX, as most west coasters would be leaving from such Friday night bivy - where is it? Trailhead, car, will you need to hike in some? Climbing, or at least scrambling to a summit of something Can you ski down? Time back to car after summit Closest alcohol source Winter is much different than summer, so I'm running into problems for finding a quick weekend trip. Tioga pass is closed, the trailhead to Williamson is probably closed too, any suggestions would be appreciated.

Posted by eBomb in Backpacking, Camping, Climbing, Destinations, Hiking, Trip Report at 11:44

### **Scientific Proof Snowboarders Dumber Than Skiers**

Don't kill the messenger here, but science has finally confirmed what most people already know; snowboarders are not the shiniest apples in the bunch. A recent study looked at ski and snowboard injuries over the last 30 years and found a marked increase in serious injury to both skiers and snowboarders. However, snowboarders have a much higher likelihood of suffering major injuries: Snowboarders appear to be at greater hazard than skiers, they conclude in Injury Prevention. One Norwegian report found that snowboarders were three to four times as likely to suffer injury, while a Canadian study found that they were 50 per cent more likely to have head and neck injuries. So there you have it. A tenuous link between intelligence and snowboarding, but a link nevertheless. How best to avoid injury? Well, other than switching to skiing if you snowboard, you could become a woman since men are 2.2 times more likely to suffer injury, you could wait till you're 35 to start skiing or snowboarding since "skiers and snowboarders under the age of 35 were three times more likely to sustain a head injury than older participants," and/or you can wear a helmet since "there is evidence that helmets reduce the risk of head injury by 22-60 per cent." Via Times Online.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Outdoor Health, Ski & Snowboard at 01:09

### **Ski Mojo: Like Viagra, But For Skiing**

Forget about getting in shape this year so you can last all day on the slopes. Ski Mojo, much like Viagra, is meant to help you last in situations where you're having trouble keeping your "tips" up. Ski Mojo acts like a pair of shocks, keeping you in the proper squat position and adsorbing and displacing the kinetic energy from your runs. Think about it? You only used last a dozen runs, now you go for two or three dozen. Think what the ladies will say. Hot item for the 2008 ski season for sure. Via Gizmodo.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Gear, Ski & Snowboard at 00:51

Wednesday, December 26, 2007

### **Woman Gets Speeding Ticket For Going 68 mph On Her Bicycle**

I can't find what you'd call a reputable source to back this up, although it appears to have been reported in the Scottsdale Community College student newspaper. Grace Picket sometimes rides her bike 47 miles into Scottsdale, Ariz., to work. Last week, an officer clocked her at 68 mph in a 45 mph zone at the bottom of a hill and gave her a ticket as she pulled into Scottsdale. "I like to bomb down the big hills," she was quoted by RockHillBikes.com. Tell you what I like: Checking my brake cables before I go for a ride.

Posted by Runout in Cycling at 00:01

Tuesday, December 25, 2007

## **Merry Christmas To All**

Although climb\_ca tries to remain neutral on the 'holiday season', during which he's vaguely Jewish, I'll wish you a Merry Christmas. Remember what this day actually celebrates - 2 millenia ago, a baby was born that would grow up to be a long haired carpenter and leader of a major cult - loaves to fishes, wine to blood, bread to body, not to mention the whole resurrection thing - pretty wild no? This would then be the foundation of a major religion that would create a structured hierarchy that would engage in religious imperialism, genocide (Inquisition anyone?), massive largess (simony, any ceremonial aspect of Catholicism, the Vatican Bank), and well, let's put it this way ... the mis-guidance of youth (... you know what I mean). Enjoy that yuletide spirit\*

Posted by eBomb in Events at 08:12

Monday, December 24, 2007

### **The Ten Best Hiking Regions in the World**

BestHike.com is counting down a list of the Ten Best Hiking Regions in the World on their blog. As previously discussed on the GOBlog, nothing draws a crowd of bloggers like a list. Well, I'm not trying to disprove a theory here. Here's the list thus far -- what's missing? For me, it's the Colorado Plateau/Four Corners, if that counts as a "region" for the criteria they're considering. I'll pare it down to just Southeast Utah if that helps. 10. Indian Himalaya 9. The Alps 8. Australia 7. Nepal 6. Patagonian Andes 5. Central Andes 4. Sierra Nevada 3. Rockies Via The Adventure Blog.

Posted by Runout in Hiking at 00:01

Friday, December 21, 2007

### **Avalanche Simulator Ride: Pretend To Die, But Don't**

This is one of the strangest things we've read about in a while. Evidently someone had the idea to build a simulation that actually gives you the feeling you're in an avalanche, replete with cold air, full rotation, sound, etc. Everything you might expect if you were caught in an avalanche, except the whole asphyxiation or broken neck part. Because, lord knows right before victims die in an avalanche, they're having the time of their lives riding what might be considered the best roller coaster on earth. The simulator cost 600,000 euro to build and will open Dec. 20th at les Deux Alpes. Here's the description of it: The simulator has two cabins and a large fan to blow cold air. The simulator can rotate around six axes and can throw the user through an arc of seven meters. The ride lasts 2 minutes including a final 20 seconds of avalanche. A lot shorter than the interminable wait most victims endure before they are rescued. The simulator is housed in a giant dome which also includes an exhibition on the theme of avalanches as well as a film prepared in conjunction with the French snow and avalanche research association. Via Pistehors.com

Posted by GetOutdoors in Ski & Snowboard at 00:10

### **Cinch Sac: Wetsuit Changing Mat and Bag**

Protect your suit from oil and dirt and prevent sand and salt water from getting in your car with this nifty mat and bag rolled up in one. You just stand on it and take off your suit, then cinch it up into a bag. Buy for \$ 25 here. Via Surfy Surfy.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Gear, Ski & Snowboard at 00:09

### **Lesbians Good For Ski Business**

God bless the Europeans. So far ahead in some things, stuck in the Dark Ages in others. Seems some brilliant ad agency came up with a campaign to promote the Swiss Italian ski resort Airolo by featuring two women about to kiss (pictured above). We're going to hazard a guess that the intended demographic was not lesbians. They were probably targeting lager louts looking for a good stag party getaway now that Prague has kicked them out. Anyway, the campaign was immensely successful for obvious reasons. A resort full of women making out in tight ski outfits is every man's dream. Muslims dream of an afterlife populated with vestal virgins, Brits just long for a ski resort full of lesbians. But, sadly, it seems the town of Airolo wasn't so happy and shut the campaign down fearing their straight town would become a magnet for those damn homosexuals. God forbid. Switzerland, as usual, just strange. And evidently homophobic. Italians, on the other hand, they loved the campaign. But they've been gay friendly since the days of the Roman Empire. Via PistHors.com.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Ski & Snowboard at 00:07

### **60-Year-Old Skier Sues 8-Year-Old After Collision**

So last year, David J. Pfahler, a 60-year-old guy from Pennsylvania, was skiing on a catwalk at Beaver Creek, and a 48-pound 7-year-old passed him. Pfahler turned into the kid, the kid clipped his boot, and Pfahler went down. He says he tore a tendon in his shoulder in the fall, and it's the kid's fault. Since this is America, the bastard he's suing the kid: The suit seeks compensation for physical therapy, vacation time, nursing and medical services provided by Pfahler's wife and other expenses. It estimates the couple's losses at more than \$75,000. I'll tell you what, kid. Where I come from, you'd be finding about 15,000 lawns to mow next summer. Via The Denver Post.

Posted by Runout in Dumb Ideas, Ski & Snowboard at 00:01

Thursday, December 20, 2007

### **Climb\_CA Holiday Gift Guide: A Glover For Your Lover**

Love is in the air, everywhere I look around. Love is in the air, every sight and every sound. And I don't know if I'm being foolish. Don't know if I'm feeling wise. Wooo. Love that song. Never let it be said that I'm not romantic. Or that I don't want you to be romantic. Because I am. And I want you to be as well. You might feel foolish walking hand in hand this winter in the Glover, but who hasn't done a foolish thing or two in the name of love. Glovers, if you can find them, retail for about \$40. RELATED POSTS: [Climb\\_CA Holiday Gift Guide: Bike Table Tray](#) [Bomb's Holiday Gift Giving Guide - Something for Everyone on Your List](#) [Outdoor Gear Holiday Gift Guides](#) [Climb\\_CA's Holiday Gift Guide: POC Lobes](#)

Posted by [climb\\_ca](#) in [Gear](#) at 11:31

### **Fashion Bikes: Cynthia Rowley Beach Cruiser**

If the \$12,000 Chanel bike is a bit out of reach, maybe try a bike from a D-list designer like Cynthia Rowley. She's put out a customized beach cruiser at a more affordable \$650 price point. But it online at [Cynthia Rowley](#).

Posted by [GetOutdoors](#) in [Cycling](#) at 11:08

### **French Hate Landis, Ban Him**

France hasn't had a rider win the Tour since 1985. So in an attempt to regain past glory, they're resorting to banning the competition. Sure Landis might have a little problem with, um, steroid abuse but lets be honest, who doesn't? So what better way to remove the competition from the French riders than by banning superior athletes like Landis. And by superior I mean steroid fuelled. How very nefarious. I like it. From the AP: American cyclist Floyd Landis cannot compete in France until 2009 even if he has his two-year doping ban lifted by the sport's highest court. The French Anti-Doping Agency said Wednesday it had imposed its own ban against Landis, preventing him from riding in France until Jan. 31, 2009 — ruling him out of next year's Tour de France. Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour title after testing positive for synthetic testosterone, has already been given a suspension until that date by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency but has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sports.

Posted by [climb\\_ca](#) in [Cycling](#) at 10:38

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

### **Mini-Bode, Shaun White Busted**

Nice to see Shaun picking off where Bode left off representing the drunks on the Olympic Team. But really, if you want to be the next Bode, lets try a little harder shall we? Setting off a fire extinguisher then hiding in a room? Com'on now. Lets play like you've been to the show before. This is bush league. How about getting caught with bag of coke, some naked prostitutes, and a room full of midgets? That's taking it to the level Shaun. From the AP: A security video and shoe prints led to Olympic snowboarder Shaun White, who was accused of setting off a fire extinguisher at a ski resort, though there was no fire, police said. A police report said a security camera recorded someone setting off the extinguisher in a game room Friday at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, a ski town about 60 miles west of Denver. White's clothes and shoes appeared to match the person on the video, and his shoes matched footprints left in the powder from the fire extinguisher, the report said. White, 21, dubbed "The Flying Tomato" for his red hair, was cited on a charge of second-degree criminal tampering. He was ordered to appear in municipal court on March 10.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Dumb Ideas, Ski & Snowboard at 10:51

### **Snowboard With a Soul - The Arbor Wasteland**

The outdoor industry is full of the introspective types - Muir, Emerson, Lake, and Palmer ... uh, anyway. Being outdoors means being away from all that is organized, rote, ordinary. Concrete is concrete, but even dirt can inspire. Yet the outdoor industry is exactly that, an industry. Made to make money, it is very rare that a company can have a mission statement and purpose and still make money. Unlike the Bontragers and Burtons of the world, Arbor has kept it close to home. Enviro-conscious, natural - always using wood cores, Arbor is a example of making a living (and a fulfilled one) in a world full of Nike, TNF, and Oakley. Doh. Best yet, the Wasteland comes with a T.S. Eliot poem on the topsheet. You'll definitely score with the PETA/Greenpeace/Cousteau Society chic in the lift line. Werk it. The Wasteland is Arbor's new all-mountain mid-wide. This solitary machine was designed to perform in any terrain, feeding the ride-it-all addiction with powerful return and versatile performance. Out in the park, powder, trees, steeps, and backcountry - the Wasteland delivers improved spin and edge-to-edge initiation, a light, floater-style ride, and true lone wolf reliability. Full-Length Wood Topsheet. An exclusive technology that creates a one-of-a-kind aesthetic, while improving performance. During construction, resin locks the dense wood fibers in place, producing an additional composite layer that allows us to increase durability and deliver a more responsive ride. The Wasteland topsheet is made from a mix of 8 sustainably harvested woods, inlaid together to create an original image.

Posted by eBomb in Gear, Man-Gear Love, Ski & Snowboard at 08:52

### **What To Do With Your Nalgene? Nalgene Bong! Toga, toga!**

Ok, by now you've been hearing about the Nalgene/BPA scare for a couple of years, and perhaps it's top of mind again because MEC (the Canadian equivalent of REI, except it's actually a co-op) decided to pull their Nalgenes from the shelves. As far as I understand it, it's not based on any new information. It just happened because the Canadian government hasn't found the time to test BPA levels yet. Probably because everyone is too baked to get around to it. And anyway, what's a matter with a little extra estrogen in your diet. Gets you in touch with your feminine side. If you're actually worried about it and really I see no reason to be, you might be looking for something to do with all your Nalgenes. May I recommend maybe turning them into bongs? The picture should be enough of a guide, but if you're wondering how to get the carb in there, think screwdriver heated on the stove. I'm just saying.

Posted by climb\_ca in Gear, Outdoor Health at 00:10

### **Build A Freestanding Bouldering Cave In Your Bedroom**

57 days, \$950, a bunch of sweat and a couple trips to Home Depot can get you something like this: A freestanding

bouldering cave, complete with a stalactite hanging down in the middle, in the comfort of your own bedroom. This guy, who I think from my Internet sleuthing is an electrical engineer named Nathan Rhoades from somewhere in Massachusetts, also put in a door so he could get to his closet. I can almost hear my wife shooting me down right now. Make sure you check out the videos.

Posted by Runout in Climbing, Do-It-Yourself at 00:01

### **Into Hot Air: Another "Novel" by Chris Elliott**

Um, why does this sound so familiar? Didn't I see this on Discovery Channel? No, that's not it. Ahh, I read it on Adventure Blog. No. Wait, it's like listening to eBomb every day talk about his climbing adventures 5 years ago and how much he "admires" Russell. "Oh really, tell me more, eBomb." Narrator Chris Elliott's desire to mount Mount Everest ignites when he is mysteriously sent the diary of his great-uncle Percy, detailing Percy's failed Everest expedition. Hoping to unravel the mystery of Percy's disappearance, Chris and his best friend Wendell plan a trip up the mountain. Together they head to the Mountain Maniacs headquarters (where the décor is retro Katrina chic) and convince climber, bail bondsman and bounty hunter Duncan Carter to lead their expedition. With only pocket change to fund their journey, Chris recruits celebs to participate and underwrite the trek. Quickly in over their heads, the expedition members discover that if the elements don't kill them, Uncle Percy's secrets might. Classic. All it needs is a cameo from Russel Brice to be complete. Buy the book on Amazon.

Posted by climb\_ca in Books, Mountaineering at 00:00

### **Climb\_CA Holiday Gift Guide: Bike Table Tray**

This might only be in the design stages, but I see a big future ahead once it gets into production. Think about it? All the godzillas can put their cell phones on their pink tray tables. Fan boys can have a place for the iPhones. And me? I just have a place to put my sarcasm. Wooo....From product design student Philipp Drexler. RELATED POSTS:eBomb's Holiday Gift Giving Guide - Something for Everyone on Your ListOutdoor Gear Holiday Gift GuidesClimb\_CA's Holiday Gift Guide: POC Lobes

Posted by climb\_ca in Gear at 00:00

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

### **Adventure in Your Metro Area - Cloud 9 for that Outdoorsy Person in Your Life**

Seems like a resurgence in adventure travel type companies these days. Don't know what has changed since we last tried this back in the early 2000s, but a new crop of adventure travel aggregators have sprung up lately. Here's one, strangely named, Cloud 9, but who knows, perhaps this time they'll make it work. The business model is a little different, but the premise is the same, make searching and finding adventure trips easy. Adam Michaels hunts down gifts for the person who has everything. His Colorado company, Cloud 9 Living, is a broker of fun, peddling so-called "experience gifts." That means it seeks out businesses that offer a cool way to spend an afternoon, vets them, then sells gift certificates for them for a commission. Experience gifts. You want an experience gift, I'll show you a certain street in Reno where \$20 will give you all the experience you could ever want.

Posted by eBomb in Events, Outdoor Industry, Trips at 12:01

### **Giro G10 MX - An Expensive Helmet, Worth It?**

The snowsports helmet occupies a space that is rare these days - something that is functional, but is also very hip. A helmet is de rigeur on most slopes these days, not just because it protects your ska bra, sick\*, but because it kinda conveys the image that you huck it hard. Anyway, unlike runout in elementary school who was forced to wear one, you can still be cool with this model from Giro and not be considered a dork. Building off its success in mountain-bike helmets, Giro incorporates ample, switch-closable vents and a style-conscious but functional visor on this freeskiing lid. For \$30 more get speakers built into the ear pads. [giro.com](http://giro.com)

Posted by eBomb in Gear, Ski & Snowboard at 11:35

### **Notes From the Bozeman Ice Festival**

'Ice, ice everywhere, but not a drop to drink' or so the Mariner's Rime goes, or something like that. Or Ice, Ice Baby - 'rolling, in my 5 point oh, top down, so my hair can blow'. Anyway, we've really slacked here at GoBlog, between juvenile infighting and repeated posts by careless blogging, you, the reader has suffered. No, I'm not bringing back the Fishing Porn series, that's a last ditch effort. Here's something different, but kinda old. Oh, how far we've fallen. Here are some musings from the Alpinist sponsored Bozeman Ice Fest. The idea of participating in an ice climbing competition has always made me want to vomit. Tights, fruit boots, climbing the same man-made route with a fake dry-tooling woody to finish at the top, against the clock with pre-placed pro and draws, being videotaped with head-basher music in the background, a huge crowd: they all seem, collectively, to be the antithesis of ice climbing.

Posted by eBomb in Climbing, Trip Report at 11:12

### **Bike With Eyes In Back Of Your Head**

Remember the Twilight Episode where everyone has eyes in back of their head? No? O.K., never mind. Just know that there is one. And it's freaky. And if you bike a lot, you probably wish you had a pair of eyes in the back of your head. But of course, for obvious reasons, you don't. Until today. Here. on GoBlog. If Cerevellum has anything to say about it, you'll be looking behind you, by looking in front of you watching a screen on your handlebars. The screen shows you what's behind you using a lens that replaces your handlebar plug or is fitted to your seat post. Not available yet. Except to pay about \$200. Via Dirt Rag.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Cycling, Gear at 01:35

### **The World's Top 20 Snowiest Ski Resorts**

\*Sigh. Gotta love bloggers. At the end of the day we're just as lazy as mainstream media. There's nothing easier than publishing a list. Just find some stats. Get an expert or two to sign off and blam, an article. Ready-made. Like Kraft Mac N' Cheese. In this case, the guilty trail goes something like this Forbes/Gear Junke --> The Goat --> Snow Hugger --> GoBlog. Why'd we wait so long? We wanted someone to put it in a nice table, with stats and links, and Snow Hugger was kind enough to oblige (table after the jump). Now, just to show you how useless these lists are, lets look at actual snow conditions for 2007/2008. Kirkwood (#5 on the list) is at 33% of normal. In fact, there's basically no snow in California yet we have 3 of the Top 20. And Utah, with 5 resorts in the Top 20 also has crap snow. Colorado, with only one resort in the Top 20 has decent snow and not one resort on the East Coast made it, yet its been dumping there. Moral of the story? A truck load of information about the past, isn't as useful as a few nuggets about the future. And that's what we do here at GoBlog, tell you the future. You read it here first. As usual.Editor's Note: Um, yeah. As eBomb pointed out, we were actually 2nd (high five!), then came back again for the 5th time.

Resort  
Location  
Avg. Snowfall (in./year)

Mt. Baker Ski Area  
Washington  
641

Niseko resorts  
Japan  
595

Alta Ski Area  
Utah  
523

Alyeska Resort  
Alaska  
513

Kirkwood Mountain Resort  
California  
473

Stevens Pass  
Washington  
471

Sugar Bowl  
California  
464

Grand Targhee Resort  
Wyoming  
463

Snowbird Ski Resort  
Utah  
461

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort  
Oregon  
430

Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort  
British Columbia  
407

Powder Mountain  
Utah  
400

Solitude  
Utah  
399

Whitewater Resort  
British Columbia  
397

Boreal Mountain Resort  
California  
395

Crystal Mountain  
Washington  
390

Mt. Washington  
British Columbia  
383

Brighton Resort  
Utah  
381

Wolf Creek  
Colorado  
379

Fernie Alpine Resort  
British Columbia  
369

Posted by GetOutdoors in Ski & Snowboard at 00:59

Monday, December 17, 2007

### **Review: Loki Lodur Belay Jacket**

When I heard about this Colorado company, Loki, making jackets with mittens connected to the sleeves, I said, "Cute. Do they make footie pajamas too?" They sent me a Lodur Belay Jacket, their Primaloft puff jacket, and I took it out on a snowshoe trip in 8-degree temps with about 30-mph winds. It's absolutely legit. I wore a pair of thin liners underneath the mittens, and my thumbs got a little cold twice, but that was my only gripe. Best part of the jacket? The face shield built into the hood. If you have a really high ape index, the sleeves are probably going to be a bit short on you, causing a little pull in the shoulders if you're using your hands to do a lot of stuff below your waist. Good-looking jacket, but probably way too functional to appeal to the I-wear-a-North-Face-Nuptse-to-the-mall crowd. (Full disclosure: I didn't pay for mine. You'll pay \$249.)

Posted by Runout in Gear at 00:01

Sunday, December 16, 2007

### **eBomb's Holiday Gift Giving Guide - Something for Everyone on Your List**

climb\_ca has been begging me to do a holiday gift list. I'm not much on outdoor gifts, I prefer the luxury kind myself. Like 1) the Cartier Love Bracelet, for that special lovely in your life 2) the Maserati Quattroporte - nothing says 'I've arrived' than a luxurious Italian sedan 3) a 100+ bottle climate controlled wine rack (who doesn't have one of these yet?) because wine is always apropos 4) truffle oil - brings out the best flavours of any meal - nothing else says decadent better 5) Gucci suits - there is no cut that focuses better on my tiny waist, broad-like-an-aircraft-carrier shoulders, and legs that make a thoroughbred weep. Keeping on that horse metaphor, the pants also emphasize the ginormosity of my ...But I digress, here's my list for those of you who need to have it. The Petzl E+Lite. So small, so light, so necessary. Makes no sense for you not to have one of these lights yet. Legos. The pre-dork gift of choice, this one already geeked out by Star Wars. Celestron SkyScout. climb\_ca blogged about this before, probably the coolest way to spend a freezing night out looking at the stars. Mad Rock Haul Bags. Why does everyone need to charge so much for them? Just vinyl and webbing, even runout could make one. Though his would be glued together with Elmer's. Solar Powered Sex Toys. Hey, it's pretty damn boring in base camp, sitting there for days on end. Here's something for the gals. Yay\*Don't ever say I never give.

Posted by eBomb in Events, Gear at 14:48

Friday, December 14, 2007

### **Outdoor Gear Holiday Gift Guides**

Everyone has them. Gear Junkie. Outside Magazine. Adventure. Even Climb\_Ca is pimping his gear guide. So sad. Whatever happened to just being with family and having a good meal? What happened to the pagan holiday we once enjoyed? Instead it's buy, buy, buy. We miss old Christmas. Pagan Christmas. \*Sigh. Anyhoot, for you non-pagans here's a rundown of the Holiday Gear Guides: Gear Junkie Outside Magazine Gift Guide Adventure Mag (Gear of The Year) The North Face Altrec Climb\_Ca Gift Guide

Posted by GetOutdoors in Events, Gear at 14:27

### **Cartier Snow Polo Tournament**

Yeah, well, slow news day all around. This was the best we could find for you. If you've got nothing to do next month, why not jet over to St. Moritz for the 24th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow taking place between from 24–27 January 2008, on the frozen surface of the lake of St. Moritz. It's not exactly elephant polo, which we're partial to, but it will have to do. We hate having to take the ponies on such a long journey, but for Cartier we'll make an exception. Read more about the Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow. RELATED POSTS: Bicycle Polo: The Sport Of Kings Becomes The Sport Of Hoi Polloi Elephant Polo

Posted by GetOutdoors in Events at 14:08

### **Vote For The 2008 Lange Playmate**

Perhaps the only thing more prestigious than being Miss Snap-On Tools. It takes a lot of talent. The interview process to be a Lange Playmate contestant is This won't make you feel as guilty as looking at actual porn on the Internet, I can't believe I beat eBomb to this. I am ashamed of myself. When my wife asks, "What the f%\$# does that have to do with skis?" I say No joke, the girl with the most votes as of this writing was named "Titia." Pronounce that however you like. Here's the link to vote. Via Snownation.

Posted by Runout in Ski & Snowboard at 00:01

Thursday, December 13, 2007

### **Climb\_CA's Holiday Gift Guide: POC Lobes**

I don't get out on the slopes much anymore. I blame my toddlers, but the truth of the matter is my gear is so outdated I'd just embarrass my fans. They expect more from Climb\_Ca. But, if I were to update my gear, I'd definitely be picking up a pair of POC Lobes. Because when I ride, I RIDE damn it. I need to see the whole mountain, mostly so I don't hit people, but also to find the massive hits for my legendary front-side 1080s. It's how we roll in the CA. This isn't France damn it. The lenses for the lobes are massive giving you and unsurpassed line of site. The 10th Mountain probably buys these by the truckload for their machine gunners, so they can keep the mountain passes safe from marauding Canadians. And if you don't trust me or the 10th Mountain, check out their sponsor team. See the names? One in particular? Julie Mancuso. That's right. So, there you have it, the first for my seminal holiday gift buying guide. With Julie Mancuso's seal of approval. Oh, yeeeeeah. Retails for \$134.99.

Posted by `climb_ca` in Gear, Ski & Snowboard at 14:44

### **Julia Mancuso Calendar**

Wow, outscoped by Rocky. And on a Julia Mancuso item. We were asleep on this one. Anyway, seems our favorite pinup girl has her own calendar available to purchase for \$16.95 on her site or free if you want to just download it. And to her credit, it's not full of cheap Lange type pics. There are a few of her actually doing what she does well, skiing. And even one of her surfing, which we include here. The only bikini shot is actually tasteful. So thumbs up from GoBlog. Nothing to mock here. Pick one up for your favorite horny teenage boy.

Posted by `GetOutdoors` in Photos, Ski & Snowboard at 14:20

### **Puma Holiday Bikes**

Hard for us to begrudge a company that is trying to promote biking. Even if we'd never be caught dead on one of these because they're F-U-G-L-Y: The bikes come in four different styles: the BMX in pink with green accents, the Beach Cruiser in blue with white accents, the Touring bike in black with brown accents, and the Road Bike in green. There will only be one of each style available in the US, which means you are guaranteed to be the only one on your block, in your city, state and country with this bike. The footwear also marks the return of the iconic PUMA SPRINT shoe. Along with the shoe there will be a matching SPRINT jacket, modeled after the Urban Mobility lightweight jacket. Via High Snobiety.

Posted by `GetOutdoors` in Cycling, Gear at 09:51

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

### **Redneck Redux: 5 Year Old Shoots 440 Pound Bear**

Assuming this story isn't a hoax (and believe me, it has all the makings of a hoax replete with a Davy Crockett connection) like the infamous hogzilla story a few months back, there are so many thing wrong with it I don't know where to begin:A 5 year-old boy shot and killed a 440 pound Black Bear while hunting with his grandfather in Arkansas County, Arkansas.Tre Merrit was in a tree stand with his grandfather when he saw the bear walk out of a thicket. Tre's grandfather says "he came in about 40 to 50 yards and when he got in the open, I whistled at him and he stopped and I said 'shoot him Tre'" After Tre pulled the trigger, his grandfather said, "I told him, I said 'Tre, you missed the bear.' He said, 'papaw, I squeezed the trigger and I didn't close my eyes.' He said, 'I killed him.'"I don't know how they raise children in Arkansas, but letting a kid run around with a rifle in civilized parts of the country would be considered child endangerment. And if running around with a rifle wasn't enough, tracking and killing bear with a 5 year-old is one of the most asinine things I've heard in a long time. It's great that his shot supposedly killed the bear, but it could have easily gone "south" in a hurry if they'd only winged the animal. I don't care if you're 100 feet up a tree, since when can black bear not climb trees? Then instead of chicken fried bear steak in the trailer park for the next 6 months, they'd be looking at 6 to 10 in the county pen for manslaughter. And by the way, if you're teaching kids to kill stuff at 5, where do you go at 10? Taking out a few kids at a bus stop after a school yard fight? Just saying. And finally, the most alarming yet somehow not surprising thing about this story is the fact that the media is turning this episode into some kind of shining example of good old fashioned frontier indian killing spirit. Give me break. Next thing you know this kid will have his own reality television show where he stalks and kills prey around the world with nothing but his bare hands and a toothpick. Just sad. Via ABC News.RELATED POSTS:Dumb Ass Country Folk Taking Over AmericaNews Flash! Snowmobilers Still Rednecks

Posted by [climb\\_ca](#) in [Dumb Ideas](#), [News](#) at 00:10

### **'Steep' Trailer**

Sick. Here's the list of stars: Bill Briggs, Stefano De Benedetti, Eric Pehota, Glen Plake, Shane McConkey, Seth Morrison, Chris Davenport, Ingrid Backstrom, Andrew McLean and Doug Coombs. There are implications in this trailer that resort skiing is not "adventurous." Hey, man, braving the Disneyland-length lift lines at Breckenridge on a Saturday is an adventure, just a different kind. Steep opens Dec. 21 in NYC, L.A., and a few other markets, and will be gradually released in more places over the next three months. The full list is available on the Steep website.

Posted by [Runout](#) in [Ski & Snowboard](#), [Video](#) at 00:01

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

### **Canoeist Guilty of Fraud?**

Imagine the scene. Cloudy, rainy day. Camera, long angle. Slowly focusing on a distant object. Object comes into view. Silhouette of a canoeist paddling out to sea. A strange one here, best let you read it. SEATON CAREW, England - Was he a victim of amnesia or a con artist who tried to fake his death to collect life insurance? Whatever the answer, Britain is captivated by the tale of how John Darwin vanished after paddling into the North Sea in a canoe, was declared dead when its wreckage washed ashore, then turned up five years later at a police station claiming to have lost his memory.

Posted by eBomb in News, Paddle at 20:35

### **Ode to Lululemon Pants - Workout Pants That Make All Good**

Everyone knows I'm big on pilates, 5-6 mat classes a week keep my obliques rock hard, my lower abs razor sharp, and my hip flexors in check. Truly a great workout, stretching, strength, elongation - the best workout for the nouveau riche like myself. Long the preferred workout for Ari Gold's wife, pilates has been popular among the beautiful people for some time now. My gym however, seems to schedule a 'hot girl' class whenever my pilates workouts are scheduled. Yes, a dearth of hot chix in my classes only makes me focus harder on keeping my navel stuck to my spine, my stomach scooped, and my back straight. Lululemon however offers a respite for my cellulite and saddle bagged plagued eye in class. Lululemon pants can make the most unsavoury of butts look like Carmen Elektra's, believe you me - after being on my belly for swimming and purveying the expanses of fine Lululemon clad butts, it only takes a turn over to teaser prep to see the other side. Gack\* The horror\*

Posted by eBomb in Gear, Man-Gear Love at 20:20

### **My Bike Rides Itself - Look Ma, No Rider\***

Posted by eBomb in Cycling, Video at 20:14

### **Jonny Cycles: Handmade In Madison Wisconsin**

You think Madison, you think cheeseheads. Maybe you also think brats or the Packers. You definitely don't think handmade framesets. Until today. Here. On GoBlog. Jonny Cycles is Jon Kendziera. Learned bike building from Andrew Muzi of famed Yellow Jersey bike shop in Madison. Frames are steel lugged, of course, but he's started offering TIG welded. There's a 15 month waiting list, so best put your \$500 deposit down now if you're interested. RELATED POSTS: Vanilla Bicycles: Bikes For People That Love Bikes

Posted by GetOutdoors in Cycling, Man-Gear Love at 00:00

Monday, December 10, 2007

## **Wingsuits Become Trendy**

Once again, we find evidence that the NY Times reads GoBlog religiously for material. Following on the heels of our post on Loïc Jean-Albert and wingsuits in October, we find this NY Times article covering the same topic. They introduce lay readers to the sport as well as examine the wingsuiter's ultimate quest, to land sans parachute, safely on the ground: Jeb Corliss wants to fly — not the way the Wright brothers wanted to fly, but the way we do in our dreams. He wants to jump from a helicopter and land without using a parachute. And his dream, strange as it sounds, is not unique. Around the globe, Mr. Corliss said, at least a half-dozen groups — in France, South Africa, New Zealand, Russia and the United States — have the same goal in mind. Although nobody is waving a flag, the quest has evoked the spirit of nations' pursuits of Everest and the North and South Poles.

Posted by GetOutdoors in News at 10:40

Saturday, December 8, 2007

## Top 20 Snowiest Ski Resorts In The World

The Gear Junkie Stephen Regenold compiled a list of the Top 20 Snowiest Ski Resorts in the World this week for Forbes Traveler. Sadly, Runout's beloved Colorado has only one resort on the list (Wolf Creek, No. 19) amongst the five Utah resorts and four B.C. resorts. Well, shit, Denver's still got its No. 1 climbing city in America ranking to hold onto. Also of note: No European resorts on the list. Here's the Top 5: 1. Mt. Baker Ski Area, Washington (641 inches) 2. Niseko resorts, Japan (595 inches) 3. Alta Ski Area, Utah (523 inches) 4. Alyeska Resort, Alaska (513 inches) 5. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, California (473 inches)

Posted by Runout in Ski & Snowboard at 00:01

Friday, December 7, 2007

## **Green Christmas Part II: Live Vs. Artificial Trees**

As somewhat of a modern day oracle, I'm used to people always asking me, "Climb\_ca, what do you think will be the hottest trend, the biggest buzz, today? This week? The next 10 years." That's why it doesn't surprise me to see that the NY Times examining the whole artificial vs. live tree debate I posted about earlier this week. While live trees are still the dominant choice, 28.6 million were harvested last year, artificial trees are coming on strong. Last year, 9.3 million were sold, up 2 million from 5 years ago. Talk about a market taking a hit. That's like 1,000 fat guys in suits and maybe 2,000 little people out of jobs at those Christmas tree lots. If these numbers are correct, and assuming those 9 million households used to have real trees, that's like seeing 1/4 of your market evaporate in 5 years. Talk about a Christmas goose. Speaking of Christmas geese, you guys seen that video.... Woo, I shouldn't drink at work. I feel a little sick.

Posted by climb\_ca in Environment at 14:18

## **A Girl and Her Coyote**

It's the holiday season, how about a heart warming story? This one about a writer/ photographer who ends up caring for an orphaned coyote in Wyoming, where she lives in a one room cabin by herself, Charlie (the coyote), and a tomcat named Eli. In her words: Two years ago, I had plans to move from San Francisco back to New York City - plans that were derailed when I rode through Wyoming and fell in love with this place. I went on to New York, but a month later turned around, returned to Wyoming, and moved to the area where I had only spent one day. Charlie is a wild-born coyote who was unexpectedly delivered to my doorstep this past April after both his parents were shot for killing sheep. Whatever reservations I had about raising a wild animal simply didn't matter - couldn't matter - when I realized his survival, at least in the short term, depended on me. Visit her site at the Daily Coyote.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Do-It-Yourself, News, Photos at 11:30

## **2008 Black Diamond Verdict**

With a great price point of \$599, the redesigned Verdict is getting good reviews all around as a good lightweight AT ski, that can handle the powder as well as the crud: Skiing magazine: "This ski had no business ranking so well, because the test length (180cm) was too short for most of our testers. But nearly everyone found it stable, smooth, and effortless. And it bit into harder snow when told to. Gripes: The lightweight feel takes some getting used to. Props: The stiff construction doesn't get deflected by crud." Backcountry Magazine: "BD finally quenched the Verdict's unsettling Inquisition graphic for a more aqueous hue and a wider profile. Ana updated its edge-stiffening rig-and-bridge Formula I core. In the West, as the snow got softer, the verdict was more unanimous, coming down on the side of versatility. 'Solid turns both big and small. Great stability ...floatation,' said one tester. 'Smooth in soft or crud. Medium flex [and] radius. Good for short tours/slackcountry,' said another. In the East, there was a debate on its tight-glade suitability, but most testers were impressed. 'Very well balanced, smooth even flex, predicable and fun. Frontside, backside, up and down - true all-mountain traveler.' 'Damp feel with an easy progressive flex, rebound and shape that seemed to promote effortless, flow-y transitions,' said the patroller."

Powder Magazine: "The Verdict is a powerful ski for the freeride crowd. Not limited to O.B., it can drive through the most challenging snow and hold steady on ice. And the skin-friendly tail design is a rarity on larger skis." Couloir Magazine: "In a trial by Sierra snow, the Verdict helped set a precedent for big-mountain turns. A moderate sidecut kept it from hooking in the funk - letting the testers choose the turns they wanted to make - and its firmer flex kept the performance of these light sticks in the range of heavyweight crud-busters. 'Impressive performance out of light board,' ruled testers. 'Stable and predictable at any speed - lay down huge arcing parallel turns or power tele turns

through deep crud'..."AT: "An overall favorite on the day, the lightweight Verdict skied with precision but didn't compromise its power. Across the spectrum of styles and conditions, AT testers echoed their freeheel brethren: 'Very responsive when directed, stable in variable conditions.' 'Best combination of liveliness and stability'."2008 Gear of the Year winner from Outside Magazine!

Posted by GetOutdoors in Gear, Ski & Snowboard at 02:06

### **Boy Scouts Still Homophobes**

Haven't written about this subject in a while. Looks like the 7th largest chapter of the Boy Scouts, located in Philadelphia, just had their lease revoked for not renouncing their discriminatory stance towards gays. Nice to see the Boy Scouts clinging tenaciously to their backwards ass view of the world. Boy Scout officials said it was about preserving their culture, protecting the right of private organizations to remain exclusive and defending traditions like requiring members to swear an oath of duty to God and prohibiting membership by anyone who is openly homosexual.Hmmm, oath of duty to God. You mean like the priests in the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, that just reached a \$37 million agreement this week with abuse victims (156 have come forward). Like those oaths? Via NY Times.

Posted by climb\_ca in Dumb Ideas, Outdoor Industry at 01:34

Thursday, December 6, 2007

### **Russian Grandmother Completes 17,000-km Bike Trip**

What a badass. Watching this interview with this lady, 66-year-old Yuliya Mikhailyuk, you'd think she just went out and did a century ride last weekend. Her 17,250km (a little over 10,700 miles) trip across Russia and back took her seven months. That's about three and a half Race Across America trips. You do the math. In the video, it looks like she's riding some kind of cruiser frame, too, not exactly a \$1,250 Trek 520.

Posted by Runout in Expeditions at 00:01

### **Riding Avalanches: Jeremy Jones In Draw The Line**

People go to great lengths to avoid avalanches. And for good reason. Jeremy Jones, on the other hand, seems to seek them out. You watch this clip from Draw the Line and it looks like Jones is quite literally searching out avalanche prone parts of the mountain, riding in these areas to set off the avalanche, and then racing the avy down the hill. Very crazy.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Ski & Snowboard at 00:00

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

### **Need A Sherpa, Take A NYC Taxi**

You might think New York city would be the last place to find a Sherpa, but turns out the city of immigrants, truly welcomes people from all corners of the globe, including a growing group of Sherpas: For centuries, Sherpas have lived on the roof of the world, guiding climbers and carrying gear to the lung-searing heights of the Himalaya Mountains. But when a 10-year civil war scared tourists out of Nepal, a new generation of these hardy porters and guides, members of an Asian ethnic group of Tibetan descent, came down from the mountains. Now, they test their stamina and courage across a different sort of breathtaking terrain — Manhattan rush hour. "I used to drive in Nepal," Tsering Norbu Sherpa, a cab driver and former climbing guide, who came to New York in 1998, told ABC News as he sped down Manhattan's Park Avenue. "But not at this pace and with this many lanes." Some would consider Tsering mountaineering royalty. He's the grandnephew of Tenzing Norgay, the man who, with Sir Edmund Hillary, was one of the first to conquer the world's highest peak, Mount Everest. In his younger years, Tsering taught at the Himalaya Mountaineering Institute, and climbed up to 18,000 feet. Via ABC news. Thanks Adventure Blog.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Mountaineering, News at 00:58

### **William Spencer: Skateboarding Meets Parkour**

This kid, William Spencer, skates like he's running Parkour. No fear. Well, except for the Bon Jovi song on the soundtrack. That's really scary. The forward 360 off a flight of steps on to a skateboard at the end of the video is sick. RELATED ENTRIES: Parkour Goes Mainstream Parkour: Quick Gene Pool Exit

Posted by GetOutdoors in Video at 00:03

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

### **Sierra Snow Woes - Ski Japan Instead Biatches\***

Snow in the Sierras this year is virtually non-existent, well, the real stuff, plenty of that man-made shiznit. However snow levels are high elsewhere across the globe. For my yearly pilgrimage to Japan/Nagano/Hakuba, the snow is already deep and it looks like a stellar year. Trust me, you haven't boarded unless you've been to the Japanese Alps. This from SnowJapan.

Posted by eBomb in Destinations, Ski & Snowboard at 09:22

### **Thoughts On A Sustainable & Green Christmas Holiday**

Hey, look at me, taking a break from my usual inane but strangely witty banter to write about something important. And by important, I mean important to you because personally, I try and consume as much as I can every day and leave as big a carbon footprint as possible. But that's just me. Living large on my fat, and I mean FAT, blogger's salary. Some of you might be looking to actually minimize your impact on the world this holiday. Which is kind of hard, given the whole holiday is geared toward consuming. Trees. Paper. Long distance car and air travel. Turkeys. Presents. Booze and lots of it to help you forget that the nostalgic holiday you remember as a child has turned into a crass consumer spectacle. But I digress. How to have a green holiday, by Climb\_Ca: Live Tree vs Dead Tree vs Plastic Tree - O.K, the plastic tree is out for various reasons, most importantly it's made from fossil fuel. Secondly, it reminds you of your Grandma and her plastic covered furniture. Which is frightening and a bit weird. You might think going with a live tree is a no brainer, but given a large chunk of the country is under snow, it's not really an option for a whole group of Americans. Plus, since Christmas trees are a renewable resource, they consume carbon dioxide and can be recycled into mulch. But wait, what if all these tree farms actually contribute to global warming by displacing hardwoods, which absorb more CO2. Doh! So what's a concerned citizen to do? My recommendation is postpone your celebration a day or two, wait for people to start throwing their trees away, and get it for free. Or just use one of your house plants and decorate it really pretty. Wrapping Paper or No Wrapping Paper? - How about a compromise? You know all those old National Geo maps you've been keeping for trips you'll never take? Use them. They look cool, give off a scent of urbane sophistication, and stop your closets from overflowing with maps. If you don't have maps, try old paper bags but dress them up with cool free stickers from your local beat cop, the post office, and Trader Joe's. If you're still out of luck, I suggest stealing a trick from the Easter Bunny and hiding your presents so the kids have to look through the whole house. This has the added benefit of getting them tired and ready for a nap giving you some time to get liquored up on Egg Nog and chase the wife around the house yelling, "Who's my little elf, who's my green little elf." Oh wait, was I writing out loud? Holiday Travel - Face it. This is one of the biggest contributors to global warming of all the activities you will do this holiday season. Buying carbon offsets may assuage your guilt, but they'll do little beyond that. My suggestion? Video conferencing folks. Lets face it, the internet is great for so many reasons, but perhaps none more important than it gives you a good excuse to NOT see your in-laws. Tofurky - The first bite is a bit chewy, but once you get past the initial gag reflex, it's actually quite tasty. Especially covered in ketchup. You can actually get the whole setup from Turtle Island including one tofurky roast, eight cranberry apple potato dumplings, tofurky giblet & mushroom gravy, herbed brown and tofurky wild rice stuffing, and tofurky jurky wishstix. Mmm. I'm sure it will taste like crap, but think of all the turkeys you save. Convert To Judaism - Honestly, I think this is the best choice. Other than 8 candles and the gas to go to the movies Christmas day, we're talking minimal impact. Minimal. If conversion is a bit much right off the bat, buddy up with your favorite Jewish friend for the holidays and you're all good. And there you have it, Climb\_Ca's, Thoughts On A Sustainable & Green Christmas Holiday. And you know what? I feel kind of good. I need to try this more often.

Posted by climb\_ca in Environment at 00:10

### **Oppressed Snowboarder, Burton Wants You To Crash Those Snooty Resorts**

Did you know four resorts in North America still don't allow snowboarding on their precious slopes? That's right. Burton is offering you \$5,000 if you can get footage of you and your fellow knuckle-draggers poaching at one of those priggish ski hills (that's one \$5K prize per resort). You can't break the law and you have to buy a lift ticket, and there's a bunch of

other rules at Burton.com, although they don't tell you the names of the resorts (Taos, Alta, Deer Valley and Mad River Glen). Via Complex.com.

Posted by Runout in Ski & Snowboard at 00:01

## **Holiday Irony: The White House's "Green-Wash" Christmas**

Remember Paul Hoffman? ANWR? Julie A. MacDonald? Kyoto? That's just off the top of my head. The list could go on for pages, Bush's assault on the environment was that comprehensive, short sighted, and misguided. That's why I find the news alarming, that Bush keeps trying to somehow associate himself positively with the National Parks. The latest, bitter irony: "It is an amazing honor for the National Park Service to be selected as the theme for the White House holiday decorations by the President and Mrs. Bush," said National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar. "Mrs. Bush is the best champion for our national parks, and the beautiful decorations in each state room showcase the natural and historical treasures found in parks throughout the country."

The tree, located in the Blue Room, is adorned with handmade ornaments representing the country's 391 National Park Service sites. "Each ornament on the magnificent 18-foot Fraser fir was designed by an artist selected by the park," said Bomar. "The ornaments tell the stories of our parks, just as our parks tell the stories of our nation." "National Parks commemorate the people, places, and events that define the American experience," said Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. "I am so appreciative of President Bush's efforts to recognize the important role of national parks in American society. Our country will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 and the President has been instrumental in establishing the National Park Centennial Initiative to prepare the parks for the next century." Holy snikies, Batman, don't let this revisionist history take hold. Bush has been nothing but bad news for America and our National Parks. Don't let anyone tell you different. No matter what they say and how much press spin they throw our way, Bush will go down in history as the worst environmental President (one of his many Worst Of titles) this country has ever seen. Via NPS.

Posted by climb\_ca in Dumb Ideas, Environment at 00:00

Monday, December 3, 2007

### **Ribcap, a Helmet-y Safety Thingy**

Helmet hat? Hat helmet? Call the padded knit Ribcap what you will, wearing it'll keep you from calling 9-1-1. (See what I did there? Yeah, baby: homonym wordplay. It's the kind of elite word-smithing available only to those who haven't bashed their helmetless heads into trees/rocks/snowguns while going 40 mph.) To be clear, Ribcaps don't comply with helmet standards. But if you aren't wearing a helmet already, Ribcaps's "protectors" aren't a bad way to prevent involuntary action-sports lobotomy. Via Wired's Gadget Lab blog.

Posted by ThatWilsonGirl at 17:07

### **How Green is My Valley? 2008 Presidential Information via LCV**

The League of Conservation Voters is probably the most active organization among environmental issues-type entities. They have a nifty online voter tracker tool that shows what each elected official voted on per certain environmental issues, i.e. school vouchers and charter schools. Doh, not that issue. Anyway, while the Iraq war seems to have slid off as the major campaign center piece, perhaps environmental issues can take more focus. Enviro issues will never decide a presidency or an election, too many voters are either ignorant or just don't care. It is telling that in many of the major industrialized countries like the US, Japan, China, Brazil, there is no major Green party presence in the legislative bodies. Wow, there are so many multi-syllabic words in this post that runout could only read the title. Meh ... Do your part, get informed.

Posted by eBomb in Do-It-Yourself, Environment, News at 12:22

### **Fat Climbers - Where are They Now - Johnny Dawes**

You've noticed the incredible dearth of good posts from GoBlog lately, one can surmise the reasons. climb\_ca is virtually absent, runout lost his well thumbed thesaurus while trying to find replacements for the word 'clever', and ThatWilsonGirl ... we can only hope she's in silent recovery after her appointment with Dr. Ellenbogen (Beverly Hills) for ... well, you get the point. So we resume our series on Fat Climbers, where are they now. Johnny Dawes was one of the more prolific climbers in the UK scene for some years during the 80s and 90s. Much like John Dunne, also in the UK, the early exploits have now yielded to a more ponderous lifestyle. Must be the Brit food that turns a lithe, nubile young climber into a dump truck. The Stone Monkey has become the Chunky Monkey. Teehee. 20 years after Stone Monkey was made, it is still widely regarded as possibly the best climbing film. Johnny Dawes is one of the most exciting climbers ever to emerge on to the British scene - a Nureyev of the rock, dynamic and balletic. In the 1980s when climbing standards were leaping forward, Johnny stood out for his understanding of the rock and his unique approach. This award-winning video traces Johnny's boyhood influences and films him on his gritstone masterpieces and on the spectacular Quarryman groove in North Wales. Winner of 5 international film festival awards. Indian Face was probably his most famous line, introducing the E9 grade as well as his starring role in Hard Grit, duh about climbing the infamous British gritstone. Time, alas, is unkind and thus this startling transformation. Sigh\*

Posted by eBomb in Climbing at 11:31

### **eBomb Doesn't Summit Shasta - First Woman President of French Guides Association**

This weekend was cold. Very cold for CA standards. Did the Shasta thing because I was bored. Same old, same old, walk to Helen Lake, dig a snow cave, walk up Avalanche Gulch a couple times, come back down. I never summit because it's a boring slog, doing laps in the Gulch is my main goal, training my friend, not many places in CA where you can drive up to 7k (Bunny Flat). Anyway, you can all thank me for digging an incredible snow cave at Helen, two rooms with a loft and yes, I dug it correctly so it vents extremely well and the winds coming down the Gulch don't even flicker a

candle. Yay. In other news, a French woman was named president of the French guide's association. 12:36 am EST Dec 03, 2007(MountEverest.net) This weekend, Françoise Gendarme was elected the first woman president of the SNGM (French Mountain Guides Union), Kairn.com reports. The election was held in l'Argentière La Bessée (South of France). The SNGM counts only 15 women for 1500 guides. The first woman guide in France was Martine Rolland in 1983.

Posted by eBomb in News at 11:17

## **Yoga For Outdoor Sports**

O.K., so we get a yoga class specifically designed for climbing. Makes sense. Core strength is important for climbing, and if the class is specifically designed for climbers, you might even build it. Ditto for cycling and paddling, you need to find the right class. Yoga for hiking, well, that we don't get so well. We're going to guess that your regular yoga class will work just fine for you. But regardless, for any specific outdoor activity, you might be hard pressed to find classes devoted solely to the sport you're interested in. So, for those of you that don't have access to the world class yoga we enjoy in San Francisco, do the next best thing, go online. Yoga Ventures has a whole line of DVDs focused solely on climbing, paddling, cycling, and hiking. Editor's Note: We have not idea what world class yoga means. We just threw it in for effect.

Posted by GetOutdoors in Climbing, Hiking, Paddle at 00:08

Saturday, December 1, 2007

### **Giro Nine.9 Bluetooth Ski and Snowboard Helmet**

Can someone tell me why the f#\*% you need Bluetooth technology in your helmet when you're skiing or snowboarding? For years, we went without helmets, and then we got smart and started wearing them. Blink, and now we've got helmets with all kinds of stupid shit in them to prevent us from hearing other skiers. I found this blog post about the Giro Nine.9 Bluetooth Ski and Snowboard Helmet, and the parent who wrote it thinks it's going to be so great for their kids. You know what's going to be good for your kid? Common sense, fewer cell phone calls, maybe not ramming into other people and trees at a ski resort. Why can't I get a helmet with a four-inch LCD screen in front, right where I should be watching where I'm going? [Descends soapbox]

Posted by Runout in Gear, Ski & Snowboard at 00:01