

Explore  
**Big Sky** WINTER 2013/14

# GIFT + GEAR GUIDE

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# TECH

## Magellan eXplorist GC GPS

The Magellan eXplorist GC was the first GPS released that's 100 percent dedicated to geocaching. At under \$150, it's a great entry-level unit for first-time and hobby-level geocachers.

### What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is real-world treasure hunting using GPS-enabled devices. Participants seek out geocaches (containers) that have a logbook to sign and sometimes trinkets to trade. Some of the smallest are no larger than a fingernail. Montana has more than 7,000 geocaches!

### Key features of the eXplorist GC

- IPX-7 Waterproof Case. Can withstand immersion in one meter of water for up to 30 minutes.
- 2.2-inch LCD display. Weighs 5.1 ounces.
- 18 hours of battery life with 2 AA batteries (included).
- 700 MB internal memory holds 10,000 geocaches (comes pre-loaded with 1,000).

- High Sensitivity GPS, WAAS/EGNOS-enabled, allowing for 3-5 meter accuracy.
- Can upload geocaches individually from geocaching.com or with GPX files ("Pocket Queries").

### Notes:

Before using the eXplorist GC in the field or uploading geocaches, update its software through [magellangps.com](http://magellangps.com). The update fixes several glitches and changes the interface to a grid layout, which is much easier to navigate than the pictured wheel layout.

The Magellan eXplorist GC was easy enough for my 6-year-old to use, and when I tested it side-by-side with another GPS brand, it performed very well.

One difficulty with this unit is the lack of an internal compass. This means a user must be in motion for the compass and directional arrow to point correctly. Like walking and chewing gum, not everyone can do it well. It can also take



several minutes to acquire a satellite signal; however, when the signal locks, it holds it well.

This is an affordable way to get into geocaching. – Ryan Newhouse (aka "TroutGuy78")

**\$149** [magellangps.com](http://magellangps.com)



PHOTOS BY RYAN NEWHOUSE



PHOTO BY BRIAN NILES

## Pelican S130 sport elite laptop/camera divider pack

Pelican has long been known in the photography/video arena and the military world for rock solid, watertight protective cases. The company has not compromised anything in this foray into backpacks.

I put the Pelican S130 backpack to the test on a recent three-week work trip in sub-Saharan Africa, and found it durable and comfortable.

Equipped with a watertight, medium-sized laptop case and a camera/lens compartment separated with dividers and protected by a rigid front plate, the S130 is ideal for photographers venturing outside the studio. The ripstop nylon and sealed zippers kept out dust and rain, the small top load compartment still fits a light jacket, and the lumbar pads were well ventilated for hot hikes.

More serious photographers will need a larger camera compartment; however, for the photo enthusiast, this is a quality, robust mobile studio and that was exactly what I needed on this trip. – Brian Niles **Starting at \$193** [pelican.com](http://pelican.com)

## STM Velo laptop bag

My laptop bag essentially functions as my office, whether I'm commuting to Big Sky, Jackson or downtown Bozeman. The STM Velo holds everything I need, but isn't bulky.

It has distinct storage spots for all our 21<sup>st</sup> century devices, each lined with fleece to keep the various gadgets safe. The laptop compartment is easy to access and lined with foam. No wonder STM's tagline is "Protecting Your Digital Cargo."

I'm amazed at how much volume the Velo holds, and how the padded straps keep it comfortable while on the move. There is an optional waist strap for bike commuters, as well as two gusseted water bottle or coffee mug side pockets. – E.J. Daws **\$109** [stmbags.com](http://stmbags.com)



PHOTO BY EJ DAWS

## Hercules Outdoor BTP04 Bluetooth Portable Speaker

The only problem with this Bluetooth-enabled wireless speaker is deciding whose device will bump their music in the office on a given day. It's dust and sand proof, water resistant and it plays crisp beats inside or on the go. With a 14-hour battery life, this speaker can provide your soundtrack for all-day adventures, as well as the après around the campfire. The specs: the BTP04 has two active wideband drivers and one passive bass-amplifying driver for audio clarity. The output connector cable allows for streaming music from your mobile device through a stereo system via Bluetooth. A ¼-inch screw thread makes it possible to mount on a tripod or other support system, and the USB charging cable lets you charge the speaker with your computer or other handy device. – Tyler Allen **\$99.99** [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)





## ULTIMATE: Steinway Lyngdorf – Model D Speakers

One might say Steinway’s Model D speakers are the sound of perfection. A pioneer in audio innovation, Steinway & Sons has built some of the world’s finest concert pianos for more than 150 years. When the company teamed with high-end audio leader Peter Lyngdorf to create home audio mastery, the final product brought Lyngdorf’s three decades of experience to a crescendo.

Having gone through exhaustive technology development and testing, the Model D’s can reproduce the exact sound quality and depth of the Model D Concert Piano. Subtle nuances in the music are reproduced through proprietary innovations, giving the listener a rich depth of sound.

The technology doesn’t stop there: Steinway also implements *RoomPerfect* technology, with advanced



adaptation techniques on install. For a consumer, this means perfecting the sound quality based on the room the speakers are placed in – as opposed to adjusting the room for the sound. The result is well-rounded sound space, and complete coverage no matter where you’re sitting.

Each speaker consists of 15 mid-range drivers, and eight AMT tweeters in an eight-foot tall, 16-inch-wide stack. The end product has a minimalist finish with piano-black sides and 24k gold accents.

For aficionados who cherish the depth and quality of concert-hall sound, this is as close to the real thing as you can get from the comforts of your living room. A Steinway Lyngdorf setup is for true audio connoisseurs and it brings sound to life.

Between the speaker setup, amps, woofers and processors, expect crystal sounds from this top-level equipment. As a top

dealer in the Rocky Mountain region, Studio AV/VIA, with offices in Bozeman and Jackson, Wyo. are your starting point for install. – E.J. Daws  
**\$250,000** [steinwaylyngdorf.com](http://steinwaylyngdorf.com)

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# WINTER SPORTS

## ULTIMATE: Faction Agent 100 Skis, 179 cm



I remember my first day of skiing: Riding between my dad's legs at age 5, struggling to make it up the rope tow at Hoodoo Ski Bowl, in Oregon. From this framework my father built grew an obsession I've carried for the past 30 years. For me, skiing is not just the sport. It's early mornings, the smell of melted ski wax, the constant monitoring of weather, and the chit chat with friends at the top of a run before dropping in.

This is why Faction's mission resonates with me: "Skis are more than just pieces of wood, steel and fiberglass, they are tools of escape, and a medium for personal expression."

Faction Skis Collective is made up of individuals sharing similar values, and their products are a great representation of their love for the sport.

The Agent 100 was built with back-country skiers in mind – for those who want a light ski to climb, and a rigid ski to descend. The balsa wood core on my 179s made them feel agile and snappy



▶ Check out our video review at [explorebigsky.com/gear-faction-agent-100](http://explorebigsky.com/gear-faction-agent-100).

on the skin up and on steep switch-backs.

With a tip width of 132 mm and a slight rocker, they can blow through crud. On the packed snow, I found the tail of the ski to be extremely responsive, creating rebound between each turn. Because I have a racing background, I could appreciate the camber underfoot (102mm at the waist) and straight

tail (122mm). Plus, the Agents have enough rigidity for when I want to open it up.

As my annual Thanksgiving morning sunrise hike/ski neared, I've been looking forward to escaping with friends and enjoying a sunrise with a hot cup of coffee before descending into the morning light. It's the little things that matter. -Brian Niles \$899 [factionskis.com](http://factionskis.com)



Erik Morrison snowboarding Gallatin Peak

## Dye Bjorn Leines Signature CLK Goggle

The name Bjorn Leines carries weight in snowboarding. From the infamous Forum 8, to Chad's Gap and beyond, BJ has left his mark. When I saw his signature on a pair of Dye goggles, it caught my attention.

The CLK's stylish spherical shape allows exceptional peripheral views, letting me keep an eye on my line and sluff. From storm skiing to spring corn, the super milled-out frame and quality optics kept me focused on fun, not fog.

After a season I now see why the CLK bears BJ's name. They, too, are technical, stylish, and last the test of time. -E-Mo \$250 [dyesnow.com](http://dyesnow.com)

## Outdoor Research Transcendent Hoody

The lightest down jacket I've owned, the Transcendent is super compactable and also water resistant. It's a great outer layer for an alpine descent, but in the trees, you should wear a shell over it: Think about tree skiing like barreling down a slope with pointy sticks coming at you. You want more than feathers for protection. -Pete Owens \$198.95 [outdoorresearch.com](http://outdoorresearch.com)



## Ruffwear Polar Trex bark'n boots

BY OSCAR

I love my Ruffwear Polar Trex Bark'n Boots. I was a little apprehensive at first, but after long hikes in the snow, my feet stay warm because of the insulation, so now I'm sold. I can run really fast on the snow and ice with the Vibram soles. It took me a couple of times to get used to them but once I started to wear them, I really liked them. The reinforced gaiter cuff keeps them snug, and protects my legs and feet from hard edges. \$89.95 [ruffwear.com](http://ruffwear.com)



PHOTO BY JOE PAULET



## The North Face Torpedo Jacket



The Torpedo jacket does what it says: It's lean and mean, efficiently cutting through wind and water. This is a go-to piece for endurance training year-round in the Northern Rockies.

Now as the days are shorter, the bright color and reflectivity are added safety features for an after work run, while the lightweight breathable fabric allows for ease of movement. A midweight layer underneath this athletic fitting jacket is all that's needed for a skate ski or fast-paced snowshoe, and the well-placed pockets are great for bringing energy bars or water on a longer training day. – K.M.  
**\$99 thenorthface.com**

PHOTO BY ERIK MORRISON

## ULTIMATE: Burton Custom X

Burton's hardest charging board, the X has a snappy yet stable core, competition-grade base, and 45° Carbon Highlights Hi-Voltage – Burton's high-response fiberglass formula that's lighter and sleeker than ever.

Advocating powerful turns and poppy precision, the camber distributes weight evenly over the entire length of the board for continuous edge control from tip to tail.

Tapered thickness reduces swing weight for easier mobility, and the patent-pending Squeezebox improves pop and performance through the balance of thicker, more powerful core sections with thinner, more flexible sections. Rider energy is transferred outward from beneath the feet, energizing the tip and tail while making the board snappier, more stable, and easier to manipulate.

Set up with the Channel binding mounting system, the X offers the fastest, easiest way to mount your board with the most stance options possible, and is compatible with all major binding companies.

Demo the X through the "ride before you buy" program at Big Sky's new Burton store. Available in 152cm, 156cm, 158cm, 160cm, 164cm, 159W, 162W, 164W  
**\$649 burton.com**



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Located in the Big Sky Town Center on the  
corner of Lone Peak Drive

Bronze: Greg Woodard "Ghost Rider"  
Kevin Red Star "Buffalo Tipi," Acrylic on Canvas, 48x60



# ROAD TRIP



## Dakine Mens Benny Jacket

An all-around mid-layer insulated flannel, the Benny is great for working outdoors in the Montana shoulder seasons. This versatile layer can be worn as a stylish button up, or as a warming liner for when dipping temps require a little extra twill. The Micro-Fill feels light and airy, but gives just the right amount of warmth. This “prevent-the-sweat” technology will keep you comfortable during workouts or chillouts. Find your inner lumberjack every time you reach for your jacket. – *Mike Martins* **\$135** [dakine.com](http://dakine.com)



## Eco Vessel Boulder Triple Insulated water bottle

This insulated water bottle is astonishingly good at keeping drinks hot, or cold. Forget it in the car all day and night, and you’ll still have hot coffee – or ice cubes still frozen after an entire day in the sun. I’ll be sure to take this on my road trips this winter and if Eco Vessel starts making outerwear, I’ll wear it. – *Joe Paulet* **\$26.95** [ecovessel.com](http://ecovessel.com)

## Helinox Ultralight Table

Weighing 604 grams – that’s just 1.3 pounds to those of us not on the metric system yet – and with a surface roughly 24 by 16 inches, this table lets you bring some comforts of home on the trail – or the road. With two recessed cup holders, it’s perfect for tailgating at the campground, and the mesh surface makes clean up easy if you spill your beverage or Cup ‘o Noodles. The shock cord poles take a little work to get into place, but create a strong, stable surface as the keystone for your outdoor kitchen. – *T.A.* **\$89.95** [bigagnes.com/Products/Detail/Helinox/helinoxtable](http://bigagnes.com/Products/Detail/Helinox/helinoxtable)



## Dakine Coalman 32L

The Coalman 32L backpack gets old-timey style points. It looks like the pack your grandfather stuffed with rations, whiskey and cigarettes during World War II. I’m not as tough as your grandpa, so without a waist belt or shoulder yolk, I wouldn’t hike with it – save for an afternoon amble – but it’s perfect for a weekend getaway. It housed my laptop, camera and a few changes of clothes while on location at Bumbershoot music festival in Seattle over Labor Day weekend, and I felt right at home amongst the hipsters. – *T.A.* **\$100** [dakine.com](http://dakine.com)





Uncle Eddy in the movie Christmas Vacation said it best.

“Clark, this here is an RV!”

Outside Van makes the most functional, versatile and durable gear garage on wheels. Each rig is custom built for its owner, accommodating everything from bikes, skis and snowmobiles, to queen-size beds, built-in microwaves, solar panels and hot water showers.

Based in Hood River, Ore., company owner Erik Ekman has assembled a team of van gurus who pride themselves on building the most functional vans on the planet.

Built in the shell of a Mercedes Sprinter Van, which boast 20 mpg diesel engines, this van is the perfect gift for anyone who wants to hit the road in style, while having the functionality of an RV small enough to park in a downtown Seattle parking space.

Look out Airstream, there’s a new sheriff in town. – Eric Ladd

Outside Vans start at \$50,000 and have a three-month waiting list.  
[outsidevan.com](http://outsidevan.com)



Left: The vans can be customized for almost any outdoor sport Photo courtesy of Outside Van Right: Outside Van Founder Erik Ekman prepares for a downwind paddle on the Columbia River. PHOTO BY BRIAN NILES



# CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

1.



2.



3.



## 1. Horny Toad Men's Chamberlin Overshirt

Each Horny Toad garment comes with a tag that reads, “If you don’t get a compliment within three wearings, send it back.” I got a compliment within the first three hours of wearing the Chamberlin Overshirt, from Dave Edwards, manager of Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky. It can be a shirt or a light jacket, depending on the temps or occasion and I wouldn’t send it back if they paid me. - T. A. **\$125 [hornytoad.com](#)**

## 2.Horny Toad Mens Brewster Jacket

Since I put the Brewster on at the end of October, it’s gone with me absolutely everywhere outside the home or office. The organic cotton canvas exterior and fleece-lined interior are just right when the mercury’s not quite below zero, and as a bonus will set you apart from the down-donned masses. - T.A. **\$145 [hornytoad.com](#)**

## 3. Horny Toad Women's Monterosa Hooded Jacket

I have to admit, I have an addiction. It’s hoodies (also breakfast burritos, but we don’t have to talk about that now). I can wear two hoods, four or six at a time, just piling them up atop each other. But I cannot go without a noggin insulator. If I had to have only one hoody in my life, Horny Toad’s Monterosa would certainly be in the running. With wool outside, soft-brushed poly inside, a stand-up scallop collar, a flattering cut and sleek snaps, it puts me in a happy place wherever I’m cruising. -Emily Wolfe **\$135 [hornytoad.com](#)**



## Ari O Belt Buckles

Add some tasteful bling to your everyday wardrobe with handmade belt buckles individually designed and crafted by Big Sky jeweler Ariane Coleman. These wearable pieces of art are organically abstract, using layers of metal to create depth and complex designs that draw you in. No two buckles are alike, so you won’t have to worry about your friends copying your stylish find. - M.W. **\$400 [ariojewelry.com](#)**

## Shelly Bermont custom jewelry

Jeweler Shelly Bermont believes if you love a piece of jewelry, you should be able to wear it to a black tie dinner, or with jeans.

She started 25 years ago, taking apart her own formal pieces and re-setting them so they were more casual. Now, Bermont loves to make custom pieces meant to flatter each person’s bone structure and coloring, and she’ll also re-tool older pieces. Her work is simple, classic and gorgeous – meant to stand the test of time.

Bermont might set diamonds into a hand-hammered fine sterling bracelet with a matte gold cap, or transform formal pearl earrings into a custom leather lariat. Her signature line specializes in raw diamonds, large South Sea and Tahitian pearls, and 18 and 22 carat gold. - E.W.

*Bermont sells wholesale in Montana, and she’ll wrap and deliver. Call her for a private appointment – (406) 548-4477, or find her at [shellybermont.com](#). Starting at \$750*



## Ibex woolies 150 Boxer briefs

Wearing plastic or “poly pro” boxers is pretty much as bad as it sounds, so until now I always relied on the comfort of cotton. Ibex wool is soft and non-abrasive on the skin, so with the added benefit of staying dry all day, I can now leave all the cotton at home. If wool was good enough for Shackleton, it’s good enough for me. -P.O. **\$50 [shop.ibex.com](#)**



## Smartwool Women's PhD Smartloft Divide Full Zip

This warm but compact jacket keeps the core warm without adding bulk. It can be used as a layer and is warm, fits me perfectly, and has convenient front pockets and a front zip pocket, as well. Thumb holes make it even cozier. - Jessie Wiese **\$200 [smartwool.com](#)**







## Lowa Cloud GTX

I’m such a fan of Lowa’s more badass boots, especially their winter hunting boots, that I didn’t see how its expansion into making regular shoes could be a good thing. I couldn’t have been more wrong.

As the name suggests, they’re light, but only up top, where they’re made of split leather; the all-important base is way solid, especially at the back, in the vulnerable heel area.

It sounds a little silly, but they kind of compel me to walk or run when I’m wearing them. I think it’s the combination of comfort and protection/strength/sturdiness, which also makes them great for mountain biking. The lower part of your foot feels encased, as if in a boot, yet the upper part is all running shoe.

The only caveat I have about these shoes is they’re a tad toasty in summer. But for winter, spring and – best of all – fall, they’re perfect. – *Rick Bass*  
\$170 [lowaboos.com](http://lowaboos.com)



## Patagonia Activist Shoes

When you blur the line between work and play, you need clothing that screams versatility. Patagonia’s Activist Shoe covers your bases, and does it with a sharp look. Lightweight (7.6 oz) and easy to pack, these shoes suit me just fine with jeans and hold up fine in Rocky Mountain weather. Their bright laces and ripstop nylon (water resistant) outer layer give them an edgy style, but the clean design and solid colors keep them office worthy (just in case you need to please both sides). In true Patagonia style, the Activist’s soles are made from recycled rubber, so you have Mother Nature’s nod of approval, as well. *Available in both men’s and women’s styles and sizes.* –*E.D.* \$85 [patagonia.com](http://patagonia.com)



## Heat Holder Socks

Don’t want to throw down for a pair of slippers nobody except your roommate’s going to see? You don’t have to with Heat Holder Socks. They are the warmest thermal socks ever and have just enough cushion for moseying about the house. They are my go-to after a long day of work and keep my toes nice and toasty when I want to go outside and play in the snow. – *M.W.*  
\$15.99 [usa.heatholders.com](http://usa.heatholders.com)



## ULTIMATE: Calleen Cordero Sela ankle boots

The Sela ankle boots embody a sense of everyday luxury from the ground up. Handcrafted in California using supple leather for the upper, wood for the heel and subtle decorative accents, they have a down-to-earth look with an elegant feel.

Designer Calleen Cordero’s business philosophy is to bring the Old World art of artisan footwear, accessories and handbags to the U.S. That sentiment is visible in the details of the boots, from the quality of materials and craftsmanship to the aesthetic appeal.

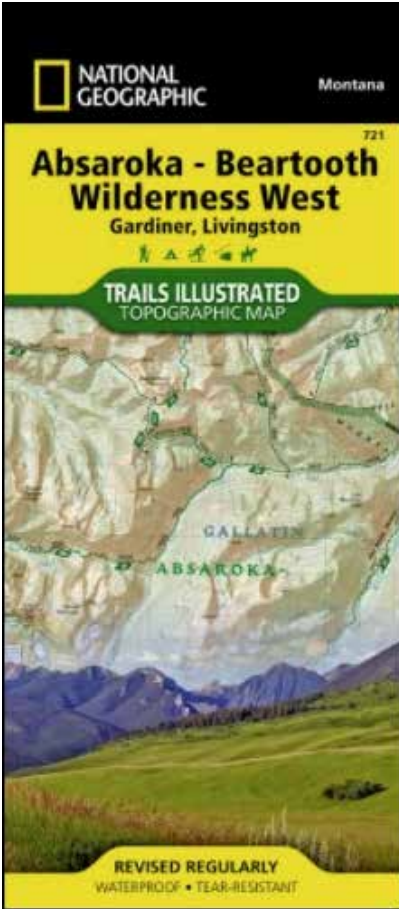
Seemingly ethereal, their lightness is misleading with their equivalent sturdiness. The artistic look allows versatility in attire, pairing equally well with faded blue jeans or an Angora wool pencil skirt.

Most notable is their comfort, even with a 3.5” heel, making all other boots seem clunky in comparison. – *Katie Morrison*  
\$699 available at Big Sky Life



READING

National Geographic Trails Illustrated Maps Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness



National Geographic is synonymous with adventure, and its Trails Illustrated maps in the Yellowstone region will illuminate a lifetime’s worth right in our backyard.

Try the waterproof, tear resistant Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness maps (split up into east and west), and delve into nearly a million acres of wild, rugged high terrain straddling the Montana-Wyoming border. Trace the 50-foot contour lines along peaks and passes, and lose yourself among magical place names like Silver Run Plateau, Lake of the Winds and Sky Top Glacier.

Proceeds help support the National Geographic Society’s mission to increase global understanding through conservation, exploration, research and education. – *Emily Wolfe*

**\$11.95 natgeomaps.com**

Book Review: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing

*Lyon’s Press, 2013* There is plenty of fly-fishing beta out there. But, like deciding the appropriate fly for the conditions, how do you determine which piece of angling literature to read?

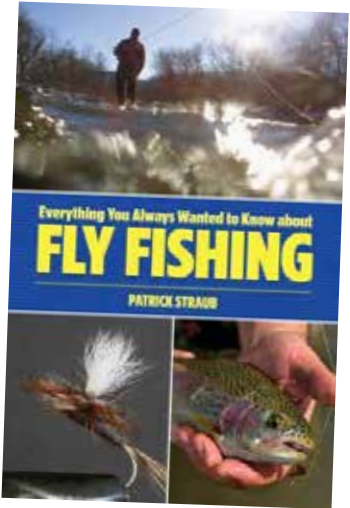
In his new book, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing*, author and fishing guide Patrick Straub writes that much of the way this information is presented these days “...is as dry as a Wyoming dirt road in August.”

Straub’s book is anything but dry. The read is fun and accessible, and contains interviews with some of Montana’s top fly-fishing experts, including Craig Matthews, Drew Miller and Steve Summerhill. *Everything...* is designed more like a guide than a cover-to-cover read and Straub encourages readers “...to skip around and read what peaks your interest first...”

From efficient backcasts to effective drifting, fly selection and fly-tying techniques, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing* is just that. Izaak Walton would be proud. – *J.T.O.*

Bonus: Don’t miss the Fly Fisher’s Reading List at the end of the book, which includes some classic reads.

**\$16.95 Available at Gallatin River Guides, Straub’s fly shop located south of Big Sky on Highway 191; or online at bigskyflyshop.com or amazon.com.**



Book Review: The Moth Paperback

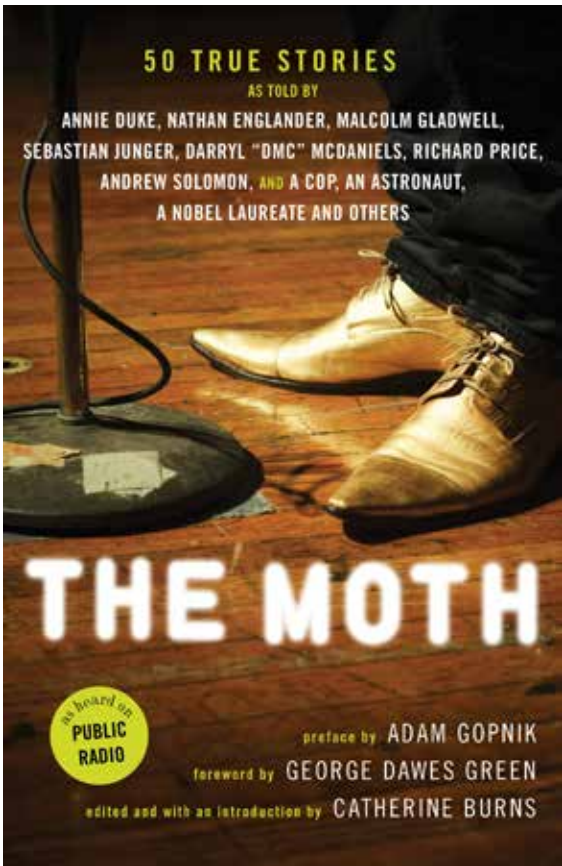
Edited by Catherine Burns  
Hyperion Press, 2013

In its first printed work, celebrated storytelling phenomenon The Moth presents 50 soul-bearing stories selected from an archive of more than 10,000. Inspired by friends telling stories on a porch, The Moth was born in small-town Georgia, garnered a cult following in New York City, and then rose to national acclaim with its podcast and Peabody Award-winning weekly public radio show The Moth Radio Hour.

Stories include writer Malcolm Gladwell’s wedding toast gone horribly awry; rapper Darryl “DMC” McDaniels’ obsession with a Sarah McLachlan song; poker champion Annie Duke’s \$2 million hand; and A. E. Hotchner’s death-defying stint in a bullring... with his friend Ernest Hemingway. Read about the panic of former Clinton Press Secretary Joe Lockhart when he misses Air Force One after a night of drinking in Moscow, and Dr. George Lombardi’s fight to save Mother Teresa’s life.

“You’ll laugh, and you’ll probably cry,” said one reviewer. “Easy to read, as most stories are not more than a few pages.”

**\$15.99 themothbook.org**



The Last Ride of Caleb O’Toole

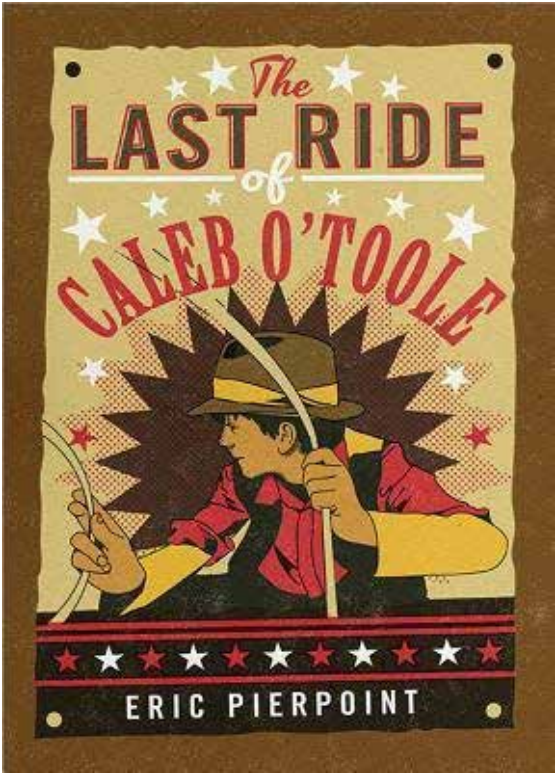
, Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2013 Eric Pierpoint has been gracing screen and stage for more than 30 years as a Hollywood character actor. One of his first loves was the West – fueled in part by his family’s heritage as part of the pioneer migration along the Oregon Trail. This love inspired his new children’s debut novel, *The Last Ride of Caleb O’Toole*.

The novel blends compelling history, gripping adventure, and a hero determined to do right by his family, whatever the cost, during an unforgettable chase up the Oregon Trail.

Caleb O’Toole and his two sisters are left orphaned after a cholera outbreak in their hometown of Great Bend, Kansas. Attempting to fulfill their mother’s dying wish, they strike out on a one-horse wagon to travel the treacherous road along the Oregon Trail to the Montana Territory to live with their aunt in the rugged Bitterroot Mountains.

After witnessing a crime by the infamous Blackstone Gang, the O’Toole kids have no choice but to brave the dangers of the trail, trying to stay one step ahead of murderous outlaws, and safety is 1,300 miles away, past the dust-choked deserts, monstrous tornadoes and ravenous wolves of the Oregon Trail.

This book is written for youth ages 9-12. – *Eric Pierpoint*





# HEALTH & BEAUTY



## Gaia Hot/Cold Trigger Point Massage Ball

While I’ve always sworn by my foam roller to release tension in my back and legs, Gaia’s Trigger Point massage ball accesses the sore muscle in areas difficult to reach with the roller. Place the 6-inch textured, water-filled rubber ball in hot water or the freezer for added temperature therapy. It also came with a guide of six exercises to relax your entire body. After a day on the slopes, this is an easy, inexpensive option to work out the kinks. – Kelsey Dzintars **\$14.98** [gaia.com](#)

## Gaia Sol Sticky Grip Yoga Mat

As the pace of life rushes toward the year’s end, we’d all probably like to be a little more grounded. The Sol Sticky Grip yoga mat provides just that, with solid footing on 5mm of non-latex cushion. The opposing sides have different textures, balancing the need for extra grip or additional stability in a yin-yang sort of way. The mat is a gentle reminder to honor your soul during stressful times, providing a little extra stickiness in order to hold on or a little extra structure to maintain balance. –K.M. **\$49.95** [gaia.com](#)

## The North Face Hyper-Track Guide

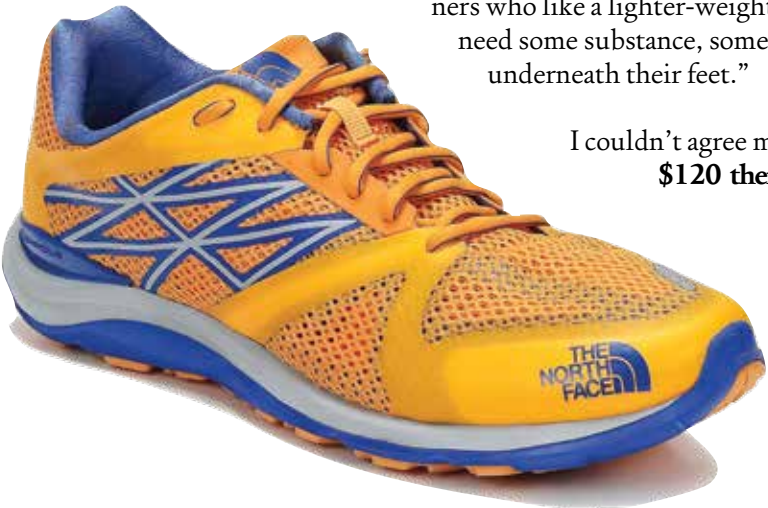
Trail runners have come a long way, and leading the pack is The North Face Hyper-Track Guide running shoe. This hybrid design excels on both trail and road runs.

The seamless upper keeps feet from chafing and mesh throughout allows for breathability and keeps the weight down. But it feels solid on-trail, thanks to abrasion-resistant “pods” and TNF’s cradle-guide, dual-density midsole. This technology also corrects overpronation, or flat feet, promoting a natural stride.

At nine ounces, this isn’t the lightest trail shoe on the market, but TNF ultramarathon athlete Mike Foote says he wouldn’t trade it in.

“[The weight] is in the sweet spot for ultrarunners who like a lighter-weight shoe but still need some substance, some protection underneath their feet.”

I couldn’t agree more. –J.T.O.  
**\$120** [thenorthface.com](#)



## Red Flower body lotion, Indian Jasmine

Red Flower’s animal friendly, environmentally kind, made-in-the-USA Indian Jasmine body lotion is rejuvenation for the body and mind. The organic botanical formula is made from things you can pronounce, like shea butter and safflower seed oil. It protects and nourishes the skin, promoting cell regeneration. The sultry aroma of Jasmine, which is picked at first dawn after the flower blossoms under the moonlight, also has aromatherapy qualities including relief of stress and anxiety. – K.M. **\$26** available at **Big Sky Life**

## ULTIMATE: Solace Spa wellness packages



Big Sky Resort’s Solace Spa Wellness Studio offers daily slope-side yoga, Zumba, ballet fitness and cardio conditioning, as well as Thai Yoga new for this winter. This technique relieves tight muscles and balances the body using a system of massage and assisted stretching developed in Thailand. The bodywork is performed on the floor with comfortable clothing worn.

Another treatment geared toward skiers is the Après Ski Fusion Massage. This 75-minute treatment combines hot and cold stone therapy, deep tissue massage and aromatherapy.

Looking to relieve altitude symptoms? Try the Altitude Adjustment Therapy massage, a blend of Swedish, craniosac-

ral and neuromuscular techniques that increases circulation and minimizes altitude induced headaches.

Looking for a gift idea? The Wellness Studio passes, or even better, get your loved one a Spa Club membership, which includes complimentary Wellness Studio passes, Solace Spa discounts and valet parking.

**Solace Sampler:** 25-minute Swedish massage, 25-minute mini-facial and Alpine Express manicure and pedicure. **\$160**

**Mountain Bliss:** 30-minute body scrub, 50-minute body wrap, 50-minute massage, 50-minute facial and choice of Solace signature manicure or pedicure. **\$395**





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