

WTA's 2007 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

By Allison Woods & Andrew Engelson

It seems like it was just last week when we were going over our ideas for the Gift Guide for 2006. Where did summer go? Whatever the case, it's time to think about giving some gifts to your favorite hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. We've selected a few items we think will be appreciated in the backpack. As always, we hope there's a thing or two to inspire you mark up this guide in hopes that your loved ones will get a few hints. Enjoy!

REI Pocket-Size Weatherproof Journal

\$9.50

Inka Pen

\$20

The angler, mushroom hunter, flower bagger, shutterbug, or plain old hiking note-taker will appreciate this pair of items. The journal is made from special paper made to withstand the worst of weather conditions, and the Inka pen will write anywhere, any how. It's designed to write in wet or dry conditions, and at any angle. It reassembles into a full-sized pen in the blink of an eye, and ink refills are available.

REI Down Infant Suit

\$59.50

This stylish one-piece suit will keep your little buddy toasty in the coldest of conditions. The suit's constructed of 550 fill-power down with a Durable Water Repellent (DWR) shell. The crotch is gusseted and the hood's lined with a soft fabric. Pity they don't make this one for the "big kids" as well! Sizes available: 3 to 18 months.

Outdoor Research Seattle

Sombrero

\$48

If you think the classic Seattle Sombrero is "super-dorky," you obviously haven't tried one out. The Sombrero has everything: Gore-Tex to keep



the rain off, adjustable headband for precise fit, hook-and-loop tape on the sides of the crown so you can flip the brim up. Afraid your recipient might look like another outdoor nerd from Seattle? Fear not, this hat comes in black, which tends to lower the nerdiness to a dull roar. Your intrepid Gear Editor, always the backcountry fashion maven, recently acquired one of these and hasn't run out of places to use it yet!

Golite Jam2 Pack

\$100

Here's something special for the fast-and-light hiker on your list. Golite's classic, ultralight, ultrafunctional Jam2 pack. The pack is made from an abrasion-resistant Dyneema fabric, with padded back panel and straps. A large external pocket with waterproof zipper replaces the traditional pack lid for quick storage, and twin stretch mesh water bottle pockets make hydration a snap.



Women's Ibex Razzel Top

\$125

The wife, mom, or girlfriend in your life will love this one. Ibex's new Razzel top is made from their ultracomfy, non-itchy wool merino in a jacquard knit. This lovely piece sports a number of strategically placed darts, making this item feminine, stylish and oh-so-flattering. A deep front zip, accessed by a discreet invisible zipper, provides ventilation when the going gets strenuous, making this piece as functional as it is beautiful.



Black Diamond Ion Headlamp

\$20

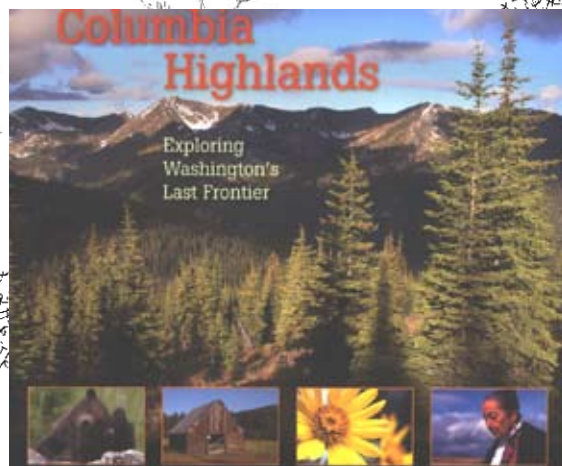
Lovers of lightweight little gizmos may remember the original Black Diamond Ion headlight of a few years ago: A flyspeck of a headlamp that weighed in at one ounce. The only problem? It didn't kick out enough light. The all-new Ion delivers on the lumens with a single half-watt LED backed with a beefy yet diminutive reflector. Even traditionalists will love having one of these for a backup light.



Columbia Highlands: Exploring Washington's Last Frontier
Craig Romano, Mountaineers Books

\$20

WT contributor Craig Romano offers up lots of information on an undiscovered landscape in northeast Washington: The Columbia Highlands. The book is filled with photographs of flora and fauna and stories of how some local people are trying to preserve it. The book presents food for thought on potential new designated wilderness and features drives, hikes and points of interest in this very special area.



Men's Mountain Hardwear Hooded Compressor Jacket

\$185

The outdoorsman in your family will love Mountain Hardwear's hooded Compressor jacket, this year's take on their classic Compressor jacket. Primaloft One insulation is super-toasty, lightweight and compressible. Synthetic jackets work very well in our climate, as they continue to insulate when wet.



MSR Reactor Stove System

\$140

MSR's white-hot Reactor stove is on everyone's wish list this year. The long-awaited stove system boasts speedy boil times, superefficient fuel usage and major "bling" factor. The stove and fuel canister (fuel not included) fit inside the cookpot for compact storage.



Women's Bridgedale X-Hale Trail Diva Socks

\$17

These wild-looking socks (in left and right, even!) are some of the best-fitting socks ever. She'll love the precise fit (no blisters!) for the comfort and support the Divas provide. A no-itch wool and nylon hybrid, the Diva performs well when wet and doesn't stink. A men's version of the Diva X-Hale is available, called the X-Hale.





Keen Leadville Shoes
Leather \$75, Wool \$70

After a long day breaking trail through the fluff, nothing feels finer than slipping into a nice comfy pair of shoes for the drive home. Keen's Leadville fits the bill perfectly. The fabric and rubber shoe (also available in boiled wool for the ladies) sports sticky rubber bottoms and removable cork insoles. They're stylish enough to wear around town, and come with a handy-dandy storage sack.



Crumpler Five Million Dollar Home
\$74.50

For the shutterbug on your list, consider Crumpler's Five Million Dollar Home. Don't be misled by the goofy name, this camera bag is all business. A burly water-resistant Cordura shell wraps up padded sides and moveable internal dividers. The "5 Mil" has enough internal space for one digital SLR and two lenses and doesn't scream "steal this camera." But it does scream "cool bag!" Miscellaneous internal pockets provide secure storage for media cards, polarizing filters, and spare batteries.



Atlas 1023 Elektra Plus Snowshoes
\$199

The Atlas 1023 is not your average snowshoe. It boasts a really slick suspension and binding system that keeps these 'shoes from dragging on the ground, a positive heel strap that keeps them on when you're mucking about, and a really comfortable ride all the way around. The shape of the Elektra is made to facilitate a woman's stride, and the crampon and heel cleats make sidehilling a snap. This snowshoe is also available in a similar men's version—the 1025, retail price \$180.

NEAT STOCKING STUFFERS

Orikaso Flatware Solo Set

\$16

These folding plastic bowls and cups are ingenious, and lighter than titanium. It takes a few tries to get the origami right—but once you get it, you'll impress your friends. These were really useful in the backcountry this summer, and the kids love 'em!



Theo 3400 Phinney Chocolate Bars

\$3.25

We're pretty sure the ten essentials include chocolate! This Seattle-based company makes luscious bars in intriguing flavors: vanilla milk, chai milk, coconut curry, bread & dark chocolate, nib brittle and coffee dark. Plus, they're organic and fair trade certified.



Professor Noggin's National Park Cards

\$10

If someone you know is a trivia buff and a hiker, this game will make a great addition to the backpack during a long trek into the Olympics.



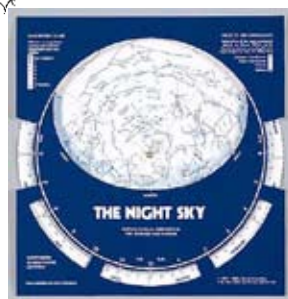
Celestron SkyScout Personal Planetarium

\$399

Night Sky Star Dial

\$7.50

Okay, take your pick. If you have 400 bucks to drop on a stocking stuffer, this is it. Just point the SkyScout into the heavens and instantly identify more than 6,000 stars. We're not sure exactly how it works, something to do with GPS and gravity sensors. If that price is too steep, pop a star dial in the stocking...it's handy to have when the Milky Way is casting shadows on alpine meadows.



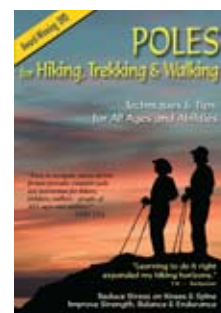
Poles for Hiking & Walking

- ✓ Reduce stress on knees & spine
- ✓ Improve endurance & balance
- ✓ Gain strength & have more fun!

"Using upper body muscles while walking can enhance cardio-pulmonary function & facilitate weight loss." R.G. Macdonald, MD

"...provides complete pole use instruction for hikers, walkers, people of all ages and abilities."

- LEKI USA



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