

BACKWOODS BIKER MAGAZINE

T.M. Hunt



M14

WOODSMENS TOOL OF THE YEAR

December 2024

THE 3 SECOND RULE



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BACKWOODS BIKER
Knife of the Year 2021



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Backwoods Biker Magazine

Connecting The 2-Wheeled Community Around The World with the Outdoor Life

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On The Cover

Tony on his 2006 Harley riding along the Macinaw River on his way to Base Camp for a weekend of hunting and fishing. This spot is a part of the Mackinaw Wildlife Conservation Area, known for it's abundant wildlife and flora and fauna.



HENNESSY HAMMOCK

The hammock that started the hammock camping revolution.

hennessyhammock.com

Have a suggestion for gear that you would like to see us review? Write us at tony@backwoods-biker.com. We'll take a look, and if it looks like something our readers might be interested in seeing we'll see what we can do.

DO YOU WANT BWB TO REVIEW YOUR GEAR?
All manufacturers, builders, designers, distributors, and folks who make awesome outdoor related gear can contact us with a description and photos of your gear. If it's something that our readers might be interested in, we'll reach out. Be aware that if we do indeed agree to review your product/s, *whatever you submit will not be returned*. We either use it in future article/videos, or we donate the gear to deploying or retired military who love the outdoor lifestyle.

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Is it actually over? The year of 2024 has come, it's went, and now it's time to move onto and into 2025. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to just that. Not for any negative reasons stemming from what we experienced in 2024, but for the bright future that 2025 holds for the entire outdoor industry. And especially for those of us here. We've been talking about and planning for the transition and migration of Backwoods Biker and WoodTramp Outdoors for the last 36 months. We're very excited to announce that the time is now here. This will be the last issue of Backwoods Biker Magazine, and moving forward you will be seeing all things WoodTramp Outdoors. Don't be sad or disappointed. WoodTramp Outdoors is going to be everything that BWB was and a lot more. The community growth that we have experience has provided an opportunity to embrace other 2-wheeled outdoor enthusiasts that now includes Mountain Bikers and E-Bikers. It's a good thing!

When we started this magazine 12 years ago it was on a whim and a simple suggestion. A group of friends thought it would be a good idea to put together a magazine that would talk about motorcycles and the outdoor life...showcasing the tactics, tips, and techniques that it takes to thrive out in the wilderness when on a motorcycle. At first that is exactly what we did. We featured lessons on the "how-to's" of survival in the woods, focusing our efforts on skills that would most benefit the biker that wanted to ride out for a hunting or camping trip. Several issues in and we became more of an outdoor gear review catalog with a few articles that focused on the practical side of survival and the outdoor life. It wasn't a bad thing, as this approach appealed to our readers very much. They benefitted from our exposing them to new gear and introducing them to the manufacturers and vendors who made the products. From a manufacturers standpoint it was appealing as well due to the fact that we provided a new platform and demographic for their products to be seen. We have been especially proud of the opportunity to help introduce many small shop owners and craftsman to our worldwide readership of bikers from around the globe. For many of them it was the only way that they could afford international exposure to their products.


So, from the bottom of all our hearts, we want to thank you all for the support you have given us over the years. You are what all this has been about, and without you there would have never been a Backwoods Biker Magazine. Keep an eye out for the WoodTramp Outdoors publication coming in the Spring of 2025. I promise, you won't be disappointed.

Tony

GRAYMAN KNIVES



But Only If You're Serious



RUNNER-UP FOR BWB KNIFE OF THE YEAR



The M14

2024 Woodsmens Tool Of The Year

Earlier this year we introduced you to the M14 created and built by Todd Hunt. Since that time we have had the blade out in the woods, on the trail, on day scouts, and extended ventures out in the sticks. We did everything with this blade that TM Hunt said it was capable of...and then a whole handful of

idiotic tasks that a blade should never be asked to do. We try to make sure that any blade, or other piece of gear that we test, is everything a builder / manufacturer claims it is before we ever give our endorsement. From the first time we met Todd back in 2017 he has proven time and again that his work belongs next to the Master Knife Builders from around the globe. The new M14 is no exception. This blade, like its bigger brother, is a woodsmens tool like none other. I'm often asked is it a knife, is it an axe, is it a draw-knife, is it for fleshing, is it a camp kitchen tool? My answer is **YES**...to each of those questions! It is by far one of the most versatile woodsmens tool on the market today.

Hell, I'll go out on a limb here by saying that both the M18 and new M14 will someday find themselves in the pages of future history that looks back through the ages on blades that made a significant impact on the outdoor communities. Both have the look and feel of a design and build that dates back 200 years ago to a time when Blacksmithing required ingenuity and skill to build a tool that did not exist. That's what you get with both the M18 and M14. There have been blades made in the last 40 years that have similarities with these, but only slight resemblances. But when it comes to my life being on the line, I don't want a tool that looks good, it has to perform with drop dead confidence. The M14 does that and more. It is everything that it has been advertised to be. It is a more manageable version of the original M18 from every angle.

Take a close look at the M14 and you'll see that it has all the important features of its big brother. Even the convex grind on the front of the blade and the hollow grind in the middle are the same. I particularly appreciate the draw-knife feature when building anything around camp that requires removing bark from a limb. The design of the M14 makes this task a breeze. The main difference that jumps out in its performance is in its chopping ability. It simply does not have the heavy mass that its predecessor the M18 does. But in spite of the smaller size, it gets the job done. Keep in mind though that it was never meant to be a massive "heavy" chopper like the M18.

Another thing it is not meant to be, in my humble opinion, is a tactical blade as some have suggested. Yes, you can build shelters, sniper lays, and man-traps like all the great tactical blades are capable of. However, tactical applications require much more than those tasks. Even with its manageable size, the M14 is not designed to perform knife fighting techniques and tactics...which are a must. What about as a secondary back-up blade? Again I say "no". The primary reason for carry-

ing a secondary blade is just in case something happens to your primary EDC blade. That secondary blade has to be able to perform the same tasks as the primary blade...especially where self-defense is concerned. We've debated this issue here at length on several occasions. The general consensus here is that although the M14 is not suited for "standardized" tactical use, it is small enough to keep in a kit to be used as it was designed...as a specialty tool. That's coming from a few guys who have never served in a tactical role...either in public service or the military. They're great woodsmen for sure, but they have no tactical experience. From my own personal experience, carrying an extra piece of kit in a tactical/military scenario that I "might or might not" use, is not worth the sacrificed space or weight. Bottom line is that the M14 should be used as it was designed, as a very versatile woodland tool that has the ability to take on camp chores, bushcrafting, shelter building, traps, and much more. In spite of its smaller platform, what Hunt does with the 01 Tool Steel in his heat treat process provides this blade with solid bones that take a beating without worries. We truly tried to kill this blade. It is both handy and impressive to say the least.

Like everything that Todd produces, the M14 boasts a look and feel that an every-day man can appreciate. It looks rugged and it looks tough...and I do believe that's his goal when producing most of his blades. During our last interview I asked who he might consider the most influential knife maker in his life. Without hesitation he said, "Ed Fowler". Now that he mentions it, I can see a lot of the Fowler simplicity in a Hunt blade. Ed Fowler is well known for his simple design and build on almost everything he ever produced. As sexy as a Hunt blade my be, one cannot ignore the perfection that his simplicity brings to the table. Once you get one of his blades in your hand you'll appreciate that aspect of a Hunt blade even more.



For those of you who want to see the important specs on this blade, take a look here: Blade Length: 5.75" - Cutting Edge: 5.25" - Handle Length: 5.00" Overall Length: 10.75" - Blade Material: 01 Tool Steel with Forced Patina Blade Thickness: 0.185" - Blade Style: Recurve - Blade Grind: Compound Blade Finish: Acid Etched - Handle Material: OD Green Rifle Pattern Canvas Micarta - Sheath Material: Leather - Weight: 10.44 oz. - Weight with Sheath: 16.58 oz. Designer: Todd Hunt - Made in the USA. Current pricing on this blade ranges from \$420 and up, depending on what customized features you elect to add to the blade. Just to warn you... these blades are in high demand right now and not easy to find. The online store USAMADEBLADE.COM appears to have them in stock at a cost of \$425.00 each.

My last comments on the M14 are pretty simple. No matter your skill level as an outdoorsman, there is a learning curve with this blade. Good news is that it's worth the effort. The second thing I advise is to keep it sharp and well maintained. You won't regret the time you invest when using this blade...it likes to be sharp! Last thing is that if you elect to have the leather sheath, do take the time to form it to the blade.

While we're at it here, let's take the time to revisit more of Todd's work, especially for the sake of the new subscribers who have never seen what he does with a piece of steel. The following is from a previously published article that many have asked to see again. It happened to fit perfectly in this addition.

Congratulations Todd Hunt / M18

The 2024 Woodsmens Tool Of The Year



M18



At age 65 I have seen my fair share of knives, especially when you consider I’ve been in the woods since I was 5 years old. I won’t go as far as to say I’ve seen them all, but it is safe to say I’ve seen a good many. After-all, my first knife was like a right of passage, a coming of age tribal ritual within my family. It is at that moment when a kid realizes that knife is something special...it holds some very weighty significance. He / she may not realize the special impact it will have on their life just yet, but the more they are out in the woods the more they will become aware of just how important that piece of steel is to their overall success in those woods. For me, I was 11 and in the Boy Scouts when I had my epiphany, and where I began to be formally trained on all aspects of various steel tools in the woods, especially knives and axes. Before that, it was just something that we carried with us for reasons we weren’t even aware of.



or changed my blade paradigm to where I’ll never be the same again. I hold onto those works for one reason or another. It might be the design, the construction, the craftsmanship, or the overall approach of the maker that causes me to pause. When a blade speaks like that to me, you can rest assured it is finding a permanent place in my rotation.

About 9 years ago I was introduced to a maker that got all of our attention here on our staff. He was toiling quietly away in his little shop at home in Seymour, Indiana, fine tuning his craft while producing what many have said are the best blades in the business. Back then he had a few standardized custom knives that he had designed and perfected. With those he was developing a very loyal and firm fan-base. As he tells it, “A Marine friend of mine wanted me to do a knife that was designed after the Tom Brown Tracker that was seen on the movie *“The Hunted”* with Tommy Lee Jones. I didn’t really understand that knife design, but I came up with a version that did have some similarities.” It was that blade that helped put T.M. Hunt Custom Knives on the radar of the knife making world. His career and notoriety as a Master Bladesmith would soon follow when his M18 appeared on an episode of the Discover Channel’s Naked and Afraid. Since then, Todd Hunt has been making a steady climb in the ranks of the knife making world, producing some of the most recognized and admired work in the industry.

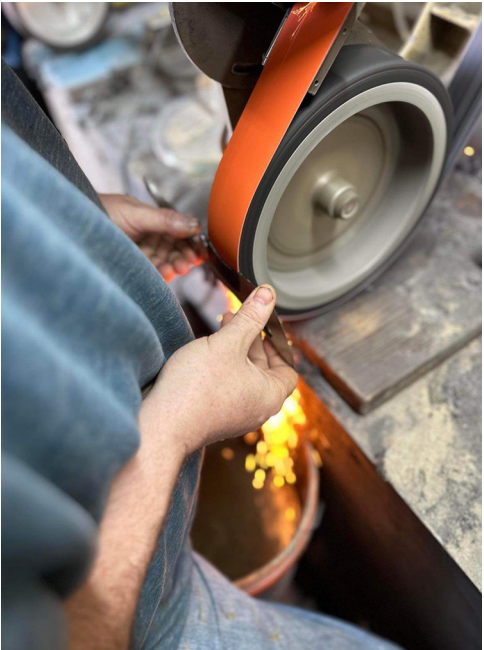
Our first introduction to Todd’s work came when he submitted 2 knives for the BWB Magazine 2018 Gear Review Expeditions. Like I said before, we see a lot of knives, and we hear a lot of stories. Unfortunately, not everything we see lives up to the narrative...so we don’t get overly excited when a reader or readers throw out a name to us. Todd Hunt was just another name...until those 2 knives arrived in our shop. The buzz amongst our crew at the time was like none other that we had experienced before. Out of the box both knives gave off an old-school vibe with their design and feel that was nothing short of sexy! Before the end of the day every other knife that was in the Que for their bench test was bumped to make room for Todd’s Yuma and Magua models. In the hand both of these blades were outstanding performers, workhorses that stood up to everything we do to a knife to test it’s integrity, safety, and durability. The bench test is all about discovering the bugs in a blade, and what could possibly be a concern. Many a knife we have seen has not made it passed the bench test due to one reason or another. Both the Magua and Yuma were stellar right from the git!

No matter how good a blade looks in the controlled environment of a bench test, it’s out in the field where the real tests begin. Instead of me going over the details again, I urge you to read the back issue in 2018. We covered both knives thoroughly. But, just for the sake of getting us in the right direction, both knives were nominated as Knife Of The Year, and the Yuma was in the top 5 of a field of 53 different knives that year. Now, that’s saying something! Our crew, like most others in the industry, quickly recognized that there was, and is, something special about Todd Hunt and what he does with a hunk of steel. His designs are simplistic, functional, and downright tough as a tank. But it’s his success with his approach to the steel he uses and how he tweaks his heat treat process that truly sets him apart. Todd is a true “natural” genius when it comes to understanding the in’s and out’s of the metallurgy he employs to create his master pieces. And he’s pretty darn humble about it all as well... a welcomed attribute that we do enjoy.

To this day, we still get emails from people who run across that article from 2018 asking if we still feel the same about the Yuma and Magua. I can’t speak for the Magua, as it was donated to a Wounded Warrior (Great cause for sure, but damn I miss that knife!). The Yuma on the other-hand, it has been a regular part of my rotation since the day it came out of the field after testing and the photo shoot. The knife truly looks like it did when it first arrived...no inclusions or nicks. I have had it on a hone one time, but I can’t recall. It has been generously leather stopped on many an occasion to make it righteous again, but that’s it.

We have also had numerous requests to comment and/or re view his Tradewater model. As of today I have not seen a Tradewater in person. However, the last time I spoke with Todd he mentioned that I would be on the list for the next run. I’m looking forward to seeing that one for sure. For those of you who have had the fortune of either owning one or have had your hands on one, everyone has had the same generalized feedback on the blade: Another outstanding offering from the lab of a mad genius! At any rate, when the Tradewater arrives we will be sure to get it in the rotation as soon as possible. We want to see it as much as you do.

The last question to address here is on where to purchase one of Todd’s blades. He no longer has a website that is active. He does however have a Facebook presence where you can message him directly. He can tell you if he has anything in stock at the time. If not, he can direct you to a retail outlet that carries his knives. Just be aware that of the 6 sites we looked at, only 1 had his blades available...the others were all sold out. My advice to the serious seekers is to catch him through Facebook. It’s a direct line to him, and he will give you the most up to date info on what he currently does or does not have. One other caveat...follow him on Facebook and you can bid on his knives once a week. It’s called Pot Luck, and he offers an opportunity to win a knife / knives at \$25 per chance... I think. Don’t hold me to the price because I’ve not participated. His Facebook page is TM Hunt Custom Knives.





Our Favorite COMMERCIAL Knife Company

In our line of work we are regularly asked who our favorite knife builder is. Over the years we have learned that there are a variety of different angles that have to be considered when answering that question.

At best, it’s difficult to come up with just one specific builder, because we have seen some very talented builders along the way. In the last 12 years we have reviewed hundreds of custom made knives, many of the builders are true artists of the craft. So it’s impossible to nail it down to one builder. But if you ask who our favorite “commercial” knife company is, that’s a whole different story. Of all the commercial companies who have submitted knives to us for review, there’s only one who stands head and shoulders above all others. ESEE Knives is that company. Now before I continue here, let me be very clear in the fact that there are knife companies out there whose wares we have never seen. They might be the greatest on the planet. However, out of the many hundreds that we have seen over the last 12 years, ESEE checks all the boxes for us. Read on to learn why.

PERSONNEL: Jeff Randall and Mike Perrin are co-owners of ESEE and Randall’s Adventure and Training. They both have a long pedigree of credentials and real-life experience that most outdoor enthusiasts can only dream of. Although we have never met in person, I first had contact with Shane Adams in the spring of 2019 during a phone conversation that was scheduled for 20 minutes. About 90 minutes later I walked away with more knowledge on ESEE knives that I could have hoped for. Shane is an encyclopedia of all things ESEE. Since then we have spoken on several occasions, and each time I come away with something beneficial. He’s my ESEE “go-to-guy” whenever I have a question. Shane is certified in swiftwater rescue at the advanced level, Wilderness First Responder (WFR), and also holds a NASAR SARTECH 1 certification. He’s a down to earth guy that is serious about his business, who represents ESEE very well. Additional



staff members are Bruce Bramlett, C.O.O., Wendy Randall, Assistant Instructor, and Randy Rollins, Lead Instructor. Together this group represents a level of quality leadership that is second to none in the areas where it counts the most. Everywhere I go, if ESEE is a part of a conversation it is always portrayed in a positive manner. That says something. In addition, their collective years of experience in the wilderness has provided them ample hands-on data from which they derive the know-how on what needs to go into a blade. They’re just not pencil pushers behind a drafting board, they’re actually end-users that knows what it takes to survive in the bush.

DESIGN: If there’s one thing I have learned about the outdoor industry over the years is that one can usually judge a company by the details found in the design of their products. These details are what reveals the heart and soul of any company. It’s in those details that personal character and standards of leadership from the head down starts to manifest. If the leadership cares more about margins and bonuses, so will those that are under them. Eventually it reveals itself in the products they produce, and especially so in the details of their designs, or the lack of them. Peel back the details of every blade in the ESEE line-up and it will reveal a cast of players that care about the product they produce. Profile, shape, balance, length and purpose are just a few of the design details that we have noticed with ESEE. They check every box on the list of features that go into their knives. Once again, that all comes from the Designer/s actually using the blade in real life.

MATERIALS:
Another tell tale sign of a company’s integrity and commitment to their brand is in the materials that they use for their

builds. We agree that profits are what keeps the lights on, but not when you have to put your quality on the altar of sacrifice to do so. ESEE does not scrimp on quality of the materials that goes into their blades. That includes steel, scales, and associated other materials that goes into an end product. I remember speaking with Shane Adams about their ESEE3 S35VN model when the performance and quality of the steel came up. His words pretty much summed up the company’s sentiment about the S35VN. Here’s an excerpt off their website concerning that subject: “ *While we offer the exact same warranty on S35V as the rest of our line, we do not suggest the ESEE-3 S35V as a hard-use outdoor knife. These knives are hardened at the optimal 59-60 Rc. Its ability to take abuse is not even close to our ESEE-3 1095 models. The only reason we produced this model is due to the request of our customer base – not because it’s something the ESEE crew would carry or trust their life to. In our opinion, what you gain with such a premium steel in edge-holding and stain resistance does not justify the extra cost. Not to mention its inability to take the abuse that our regular knives are capable of.*” That says a mouthful, not only about full disclosure on their materials, but also about the integrity of the company itself.



BUILD: What struck me first about the ESEE line was the quality that I saw in every blade that I had eyes and hands on. Before ever starting a review we look a blade over from snout to tail, many times with a magnifying glass to flush out flaws that the naked eye might miss. ESEE blades are produced on a very solid platform that surfaces in the quality of every build. Of the blades we have seen, and through interviews with actual end-users in the field, we have not experienced a failure or breakdown, nor have we ever heard of any. That says something, especially for commercial production knives. We have worked with some of the biggest companies with the most recognizable names in the commercial knife industry. I can tell you that big companies with big names do not always equate to quality builds. Large scale production, in any industry, and especially the knife industry, operate within a specified window of acceptable low-quality product that slips through the QC cracks. To companies like that, 2 out of 50 less than standard blades is acceptable. Tell that to the 2 guys that have been deployed or who are in the Boreal Forest that are counting on that knife to keep them alive. This is where confidence in ESEE is well merited. Their builds are second to none, a quality you can count on.

PERFORMANCE: This is where the real rubber meets the road. A blade may look good in the studio photos and on the “official” spec sheet that is available, but in the field where it counts is where failures begin to surface. What you see in the photo below is the ESEE 6POD-003, a blade that epitomizes the performance of the ESEE line. I’m a little ashamed to say it, but we abused the dog \$%& out of this blade in an attempt to make it fail. In our region of the universe Black Locust is the hardest wood to work with in the bush. The early pioneering homesteaders used it for fence posts because of it’s inherent properties that prevents it from splitting or cracking even below the soil line. There are farms today that still have those posts that were put in the ground 150 years ago. We “attempted” to chop , baton, drill, and split with only marginal success. The blade however did not fail... no cracks, no fissures, no movement in the scales. The edge did suffer



some inclusions, which can only be expected considering the material we were dealing with. A few minutes on a hone and strop put things back in order. ESEE knives are rock solid, and we wouldn’t hesitate recommending them to all Outdoorsman or Tactical users, be it First Responders or Military Personnel.

WARRANTY: We have learned that the devil in the details is usually revealed in the warranty. ESEE is quite clear on how they approach theirs: “*ESEE knives are made with absolute attention to detail using the finest raw materials and care during the manufacturing process. We stand behind our knives with a 100% unconditional lifetime guarantee. If your ESEE knife should ever break, we will repair or replace it. This warranty follows the knife throughout its life, anywhere in the world. No sales receipt or warranty registration required.*”

In conclusion, you will not find a better commercial production knife than an ESEE. They are rock solid performers that you can count on, at a price point you can afford. Check out their website... www.eseeknives.com



2024
YEAR IN REVIEW

It's hard to actually wrap our heads around how fast 2024 came and went. But, it did and now we are shooting out of the cannon right into 2025. Before we get too far, though, we wanted to share with you folks our feelings on what BattlBox brought to the table last year, and what you can look forward to in 2025.

For starters, the folks at BattlBox continued their upward trend of improving the contents of each box month after month. We attribute a big part of that with their re-taking full control of the brand and the business model. And, of-course, their awesome staff who actually finds the gear to put in those boxes.

Then lets talk about the added value of being a subscriber to BattlBox. The BattlVault, available only to subscribers, is chock full of awesome gear that has deep discounts, some of which you have seen in past Missions as well as some that you have never seen. The BattlVault also provides access to the Partner Discount section. It's here that you will find those companies who may not offer their gear or services through a BattlBox Mission, but offer very deep discounts to their line of products or services. We have seen those discounts run from 10% up to a whopping 40% off. Let's be clear here, these are not no-name companies! How about Sig Sauer, Barebones, Fuze, Fox Knives, Nature Reliance School, and the entire GSM Outdoor lines just to name a few.

Before I move onto the actual review of 2024 I need to also mention the community aspect of being a BattlBox subscriber. The Tribal Vibe that you find on their Facebook BattlBox Members Only page is a great opportunity for every Subscriber to connect. We monitor the page, and I even contribute when I have the time. I've actually met some pretty solid folk on the page. Then there's the external events that BattlBox has hosted the last 2 years, with the BattlGames being the latest. I didn't to attend, but I have heard from many who did that it was an absolute hoot of a time. Spoiler Alert... BattlGames 2025 is cooking in the lab as you read this. I don't know the when or the what, but I do know it is going down. And... if at all possible, I'll be attending the event to do interviews, take photos, and shoot some vidja's! Giddy up!!!



One of the new changes that you're going to start seeing right away in 2025 is that BattlBox is bringing back the theme based Missions for each month. We had scads of folks asking us if that would ever happen. Well, there's your answer that I got straight from the CEO's mouth. Another thing you'll notice is that BattlBox is raising the bar for the vendors you'll be seeing in 2025. How about Grand Trunk, Go Rhino, Prepared Hero, Flex Tail, and a host of great knife makers to name a few. We're as excited as you all are. Let us know what you think as the year unfolds. Who knows, you just might end up on the pages of this magazine.

One last thing I need to mention. Just before publishing this issue we received the same email that you all did about the price increase. And with that, a whole pile of email asking for our opinion on the subject. Here's our take on the matter. With the overall Return On Investment all subscribers benefit from, the \$5.00 increase is justified, and it does not change our official Endorsement of Battlbox. From the CEO on down to the guy that cuts the grass, they are a class act.

January / Mission 107: Doug Marcaida Serbian Cleaver: Grande Fratello

We had a bit of a conflict here in choosing our favorite item for Mission 107. Eventually the offering from Doug Marcaida won out, but the Solo Stove was a hit as well. This blade was birthed out of collaboration between Marcaida and BattlBox. What you have is a serialized BattlBox exclusive that cannot be found anywhere else. The 420 SS blade comes in at a whopping 12.25" overall length and has been built to take abuse. It is as comfortable in the bush performing outdoor tasks as it would be in your kitchen. As with all things Marcaida, this blade was designed to perform as a defensive weapon as well. We found it to deft in the hand when performing outdoor tasks, yet very capable if ever called upon for defense. This happens to be one of our subscriber favorites in 2024.



February / Mission 108: The GRAYL GeoPress

Mission 108 is another Box that challenges our one item approach to this article. There is great gear in every Tier that deserves mentioning, but we had to narrow it down to one. The product we all agree on is the GRAYL GeoPress. What GRAYL has done to back country/ wilderness water purification has turned the industry on their heads... no-one saw it coming. We have seen many purification systems in the last 12 years, some great and some not so much. Our go-to system was the MSR Guardian for several years because it does an outstanding job anywhere in the world. However, it did have its downside as well, like the \$399 price tag. And, the Guardian does not take out chemicals or heavy metals. The GeoPress on the other hand is a mere \$99.95, and it also removes chemicals, pesticides and heavy metals.

March / Mission 109: WE Knife Banter Folder

We have seen other offerings from WE Knife through BattlBox in the past. As a matter of fact Mission 58 introduced us to the 704X BattlBox Exclusive with D2 Steel and G10 Scales. I've held onto it because it's the perfect fit in dress slacks for a night on the town. The Banter in this Box is a whole different animal. It has ceramic ball bearings around the pivot, S35VN Steel, and a Drop Point design that has been keenly finished with a flat grind edge, which makes the Banter a very nice EDC that fits in any pocket or purse. The Olive wood scales sets this blade off to where you're almost tempted not to take it out into the woods. Just Do It! It's rugged enough to work in any environment you take it.



April / Mission 110: The Kong Case Rampage Edition

I'm sure we'll hear about this one, because there are some stellar gear choices this month. We unanimously agreed, and this was purely selfish on our part, but the Kong Case was our choice for Mission 110. Here's why: We have learned to trust Kong Case for handling all our sensitive equipment, like cameras, drones, and video cameras. Up until now, we had to split it all up between several different cases. With the Rampage Edition everything fits into one case. Why have we learned to trust Kong Cases? Our MAVIC AIR drone was kept in a Kong Case for when we're on the move. I opened the tailgate of my truck on one particular trip at the gas station and forgot to close it back up and drove off. I hit a pothole that caused the case to fall out, and I looked up just in time to see it bouncing down the road. My heart sank for obvious reasons. Upon retrieving the badly abused case we found it a little scratched up, but still intact, and the drone was unscathed. So yes, the Kong Case Rampage Edition is it. If you don't want your Kong Case, I'll take it off your hands!



May Mission 111: POWER TAC E9R GEN4 Flashlight

Our pick for Mission 111 is the POWER TAC E9R GEN4 flashlight. Illumination is one area that absolutely must be rock solid, and that’s exactly what you find in the POWER TAC. We have seen many a flashlight in this business, and we have learned that looking solid from the outside does not necessarily translate into a solid electronic platform on the inside. You usually find out what’s up when it’s pitch black outside and that awesome looking light stops working. Been there and done that. This model from POWER TAC not only looks rugged on the outside, but it’s performance on the inside is outstanding. With its Digital Circuit Control Technology, you are guaranteed a reliable source of light every time you hit the button. The fact that this guy is capable of throwing out 2500 lumens of light is amazing. It’s truly a great add for Mission 111.

June / Mission 112: Fox Knives Italy Zero 2.0 Desert Warrior Jens Anso Lockback Pocket Knife

FOX Knives has been on a steady rise throughout the knife industry for quite some time now. The business was started in 1977, and since then has become an industry leader in design, craftsmanship, and performance. This particular model designed by Jens Anso is a particularly interesting folder. We pulled this from the BattlBox website: “*Designed for seamless one-handed opening, it features a new thumb hole opener, ensuring quick and reliable access. Its reliable build and improved ergonomics make it a steadfast companion for outdoor enthusiasts.*” We found that to be true having used it for a weekend. However, we are convinced that it is rugged enough for industrial work as well. We donated this blade to a bridge construction laborer who had lost their knife while working over a river. Since then it has been reliably performing without a hitch. You just can’t beat a FOX Knife coming out of their factory in Italy!



July / Mission 113: The SIMPleshot Scout X with Pellets



Although we decided to feature the SIMPleshot slingshot, I have to also give special mention to two other items that could have been featured just as well. The TACTICA X-100 Survival Lighter and the POD-EXTREME I Charger are both worth mentioning. We have seen these lighters before, and all agree that they are a great piece of kit to own. The POD-EXTREME Charger gains big points as an in-vehicle piece of kit that goes well with any E-Kit, especially now that winter is upon us. We chose the Scout-X because it is a great entry level slingshot with a load of features. I was introduced to Nathan Masters and SIMPleshot in 2017 when he was better known for his shooting prowess than he was as a business owner. A lot has changed since then. They are now considered THE best manufacturers of all things slingshot in the industry. Don’t let the small frame of the SCOUT-X fool you. It’s not only fun to shoot in the backyard, but it is also capable of taking down small game when set-up correctly. Everyone should own one or two of these as a back-up for small game if ever needed.

August / Mission 114: Ruck & River Savannah Folder

I have to be honest here, the KOTM for Mission 114 is probably one of my all time favorite folders that has came through BattlBox. The combination of the Bohler K110 steel blade that offers superior cutting performance married up with the black canvas micarta scales not only ensures a confident grip, but together they are just sexy. Hats off to Mr. Currin, the mad designer behind this awesome blade. From their website: “*The button lock mechanism and ambidextrous pocket clip make this knife easy and safe to use for everyone. The ball bearing pivot ensures smooth and rapid blade deployment, making it a reliable tool for any task. The bronze-colored hardware and liners are inspired by the tannic waters of the Savannah River, reflecting Brandon’s deep connection to nature.*” The embroidered case with Currin’s logo sets the whole package off. I suggest you hang onto this one, because I have a feeling after they’re gone you won’t see them again.



September / Mission 115: Russ Kommer Ketchikan Fixed Blade

Russ Kommer is a well known guide and outdoorsman who grew up in Alaska. He gained notoriety first as an accomplished guide, and then as a knife maker. His passion led him to start designing blades for CRKT knives. Mission 115 includes an exclusive blade by Kommer that is a beauty. The blade features a polished D2 steel blade, tapered tang and vulcanized paper spacers, and paper micarta handle. Like any blade by Kommer, it is a no nonsense approach to tool making for the outdoorsman. Straight to the point, and ready for long-term work. Hopefully the collaboration between BattlBox and Kommer will continue in the future and we will see another blade in a future Mission.



October / Mission 116: The SPITFIRE Fire Tool

Yep, you’re right... our choice for Mission 116 is not sexy or beautiful, but it is a great concept that answers an age old problem when your fire needs a little oxygen to get it going or keeping it alive. We’ve all been there. The SPITFIRE X was designed just for that, and more. “*Made of high carbon, powder coated steel, the SPITFIRE X allows its users to “stoke and poke” any wood burning fire. Simply blow through the mouthpiece to maintain the temperature and breadth of your blaze. From there our mouthpiece to maintain the temperature and breadth of your blaze. From there our patent pending two prong design is perfect for rolling logs, managing the fire structure, raking coals for cooking, the list goes on and on!*” The canvas storage bag makes for easy storage and carry. It’s not something we would ruck out to a hunting spot, but for a base-camp tool it can’t be beat.

November / Mission 117: Dark Energy Poseidon Pro

On more than one occasion I’ve had to eat some crow over my resistance to taking anything electronic out into the woods. Over time I have learned to appreciate my iPhone and awesome outdoor apps, and a number of other gadgets from flashlights to lanterns, to radios and cameras. Though different in what they do, all have a common denominator... they are energy suckers! We chose the Dark Energy Poseidon Pro this month because we all have fallen victim to dead batteries. This little guy packs a bundle of energy for when you need it the most. This military-grade portable charger is waterproof, dust-proof, and shockproof. Engineered to endure the harshest conditions, it boasts a powerful 10,200mAh capacity, providing multiple device charges wherever you are. Its rapid-charging capability, along with an ultra-tough USB-C cable and carabiner, makes it a perfect companion for outdoor adventurers and tactical professionals. Truly a great add in Mission 117!



December / Mission 118: Fox Knives Yankee Axe

The last BattlBox for 2024 was a challenge for us to pick just one item to showcase. Should it be the Worksharp Combo Sharpener, the Fox Knives Yankee Axe, or the K-Tac Karambit? All three were stellar adds to Mission 118. What it came down to for me was which one would best suit an outdoorsman. To me, it has to be the axe. The bones of this axe is the C45 steel, followed by a perfectly shaped Ash wood handle. Together they provide a balance and feel that you’ll appreciate out in the field. Like any other axe, you’ll have to dress it up to fit your fancy. As an added bonus a premium leather sheath with belt attachment is included. Although the Yankee Axe was our choice, we have to say that the Worksharp Sharpener and K-Tac Karambit were awesome as well. Overall, the 2024 BattlBox experience has been outstanding. Thanks to all their staff!





Over the course of 2024 we were asked a lot about the SAS Survival Systems ATMOS Modern Longbow. Either someone saw us with one at a gathering / event, had read the last article we published, or they actually went out and purchased one themselves. That last category is always interesting to speak with... because we truly have no idea what they’re going to say. In the case of this particular product, the comments on the ATMOS were 100% positive. We were not that surprised, because every email we received from guys and gals who went and purchased one were all positive as well. From a staff standpoint, our guys are all thumbs-up as well. The ATMOS is an amazing modern longbow that is easy shooting, yet deadly when out in the field. Several requests were made for us to re-run the last article in its entirety before the end of 2024. Per you request, here you go. The only changes we made had to do with pricing. Like everything else in the outdoor world, prices have went up. Don’t fret, it’s not that much of an increase in comparrison to what you’re getting with the ATMOS.

Just when you think that Survival Archery Systems has came up with the perfect take-down bow, they roll another unbelievable offering out for all to see. Doug Shadwell... owner, Chief Engineer and Designer at SAS, has built the ultimate take-down **Longbow** that will blow your mind...and the competitors away. The SAS Atmos is a full 60” Longbow that breaks down to a very pack-friendly 22”. And that is not a typo!

Now, for all you BWB subscribers and followers who read the Bench Review Article on the prior 2 SAS take-down bows that we are taking with us during the 2018 Gear Review Expeditions, you know how impressed we were with the entire package that Shadwell had to offer with those two bows. They performed well beyond our expectations, and they were true take-down bows. Were they perfect? I would have to say no, and that for one reason only. Though light weight and rugged, the risers on both bows can feel bulky to some folks. That bulky feel can lead to quick fatigue. For me that’s not an issue, because I don’t go out and shoot 50 arrows into a target...with any bow. Like all my other bows, I hunt with the SAS bows, which means I fire one shot. A second shot might follow if I missed the first, but that is usually the absolute maximum. Two shots will not present fatigue...nor will five to ten. In my opinion, it’s not an issue.

However, in typical Shadwell fashion (constant engineer’s mind), he designed the Atmos to all but eliminate the fatigue, and also the issue of “stacking”. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, “stacking” is the culprit behind your arm feeling like it’s going to fall off after firing a “series” of arrows with a particular bow. The more you pull back on the string, the fatigue becomes more noticeable. According to David Polczynski of Ultimate Survival Tips, the Atmos has been designed in such a way that this problem is virtually unnoticeable. I highly recommend going to his YouTube Channel and checking out his review of the Atmos. We will be doing one as well, but that’s off into the future.

At the core of the Atmos is its riser...the heart and soul of any longbow or recurve bow. Unlike any other in it’s category, the Atmos has a riser that is very light, durable, compact, and ergonomically comfortable. It is made of 6061 T6 Aluminum, providing a super lightweight body that is exceptionally durable. Once again, this is a true 60” longbow, and it does indeed breakdown to only 22”. That 60” length helps to eliminate that stacking, which happens when a bows draw force curve is smooth in the beginning of the draw, and then suddenly shoots up at the end, making it almost impossible to draw it back further. Although I have not had this bow in my hands, according to those who have, this is the first take-down longbow that actually feels like a high-end conventional longbow made with this class of materials. Take a close look at the pic to the

right and you’ll understand why. It has been designed with balance through intricate weight distribution throughout the riser. That, added to the shape and design of both the grip and shelf, and now we have a better understanding of how the “stacking” has been eliminated.

The deep-flex limbs on the Atmos are made of a high-tech composite fiber, providing the user with the strength and flexibility required to generate a consistent load of “potential” energy . Shadwell’s limb design gives the user the comfort of a longbow and the power of a recurve...minus the exaggerated curves. When speaking in terms of a take-down bow, this is a huge advantage. The Atmos, when broken down, fits completely inside a bag or backpack. Every take-down recurve I have seen really can’t do this without packing them at an angle...if even then. Most won’t even fit inside a pack. Another point to consider is the limb to riser ratio...very balanced. According to Polczynski. You will notice this the most as you draw back into the firing position. It provides a very smooth draw and an efficient stroke.

Unlike most bows in this category, the Atmos doesn’t look “clunky” and cumbersome as do many survival take-down bows. It has the look and feel of a modern longbow with it’s sleek lines and ergonomic design, both attributed to the precise CNC milled aluminum. Weighing in at only 2.6 pounds, the Atmos is super light-weight, but yet amazingly stout to withstand the stress normally associated with conventional longbows. Another interesting aspect on the Atmos, unlike many other take-down bows on the market, is that there is no need to unstring the bow after every use. It will hold its shape without compromising the string between uses. Now, I’m old school, with some habits that I can’t seem to break. So, I will be unstringing between uses.

Another cool aspect of the Atmos is that it has been designed to accept almost any add-on accessory, such as sight’s and stabilizer’s. For those that rely on these options, you won’t find another take-down survival bow in this classification that can boast of that.

Another thing that we needed to edit from the original article is the fact that the ATMOS is no longer available on KickStarter. You can find the ATMOS on the SAS Survival Archery Systems website. It is currently priced at \$549.95 for the bow itself, or you can upgrade to a Bundle package that includes 3 MONTEC G5 broadheads for \$599.95.

So who is the Atmos for? Our focus at BWB is informing and educating Bikers who love the Outdoor life. The Atmos is absolutely Biker-friendly when you consider the 22” break-down size. Survivalists, Preppers, Home-steaders, Hunters, and Backpackers will also find this bow appealing. It is a serious piece of life-time gear that can be counted on.

Now for those of you who have written me to say how much you enjoy the

SAS Tactical bow that you purchased after reading our Bench Review article, I want to encourage you to take a close look at the Atmos as well. From where I sit, what you spent on the Tactical was a bargain...priced well below a fair market value. The Atmos, though a little pricier, offers a lot more bang for the buck for a lot of reasons. A 60” longbow that breaks-down to only 22” is worth it’s weight in gold. I can see our military friends salivating over the Atmos as well. I know I am!

Specification	Imperial	Metric
Country	Made in the USA	
Length IBO	60 inch	1524mm
Length (packaged)	22 inch	559mm
Mass Weight	2.6 lbs	1.18kg
Poundage	30#,35#,40#,45#,50#,55#	
Max draw	31"	787mm
Brace height	Recommended range 7.5-8.5"	
Centre-cut	0.53" past center	13mm past centre
Riser length	22 inch	559mm
Handedness	Right hand only (left hand coming soon)	
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Riser - 6061 T6 AluminumLimbs - High-tech composite fibreHardware - 316SS, Milspec & HTS SteelTakedown Arrows - 7075 AluminumString - B50 Dacron	
Included in the package	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atmos Compact Modern LongbowStringNock setAllen wrenchArrows not included in this package	

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COMPACT MODERN LONGBOW

LIGHT - COMPACT - DURABLE
FITS INTO MORE BACKPACKS THAN ANY OTHER 60" BOW
MADE IN THE USA - CNC BILLET MACHINED RISER

A backpackable bow?

Aren't there plenty of takedown bows that fit into a backpack?

Well, not quite...

In fact, when you start looking at which backpacks most people use and how long takedown bows actually are, you realize that the Atmos is a truly unique bow specifically designed to fit INSIDE a backpack.

With a 60" IBO length and deep flex composite limbs the ATMOS packs down to just 22". Small enough to fit into most one-day packs.

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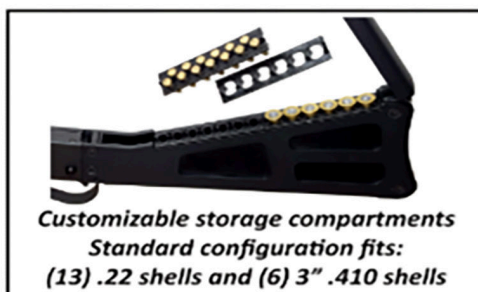
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- .22 LR over .410 3" break action
- .22WMR over .410 3" break action
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- .22HORNET over .410 3" break action
- .357 MAG over .410 3" break action
- .410 3" over under break action shotgun

- Flip sight, peep for rifle and v-sight for .410
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- Drilled and tapped for sling swivel
- Additional storage compartments in stock
- Interchangeable choke tubes
- Wrench and full choke included
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M6 Takedown Rifle is NOW AVAILABLE in 6 caliber combinations!

Multiple patents pending

- .22LR / .410 GA 3" Blued (#M6-100)
 - .22WMR / .410 GA 3" Blued (#M6-120)
 - .17HMR / .410 GA 3" Blued (#M6-130)
 - .22HORNET / .410 GA 3" Blued (#M6-140)
 - .357 MAGNUM / .410 GA 3" Blued (#M6-150)
 - .410 GA 3" / .410 GA 3" Blued (#M6-160)
- (The M6 Takedown weighs 5 pounds)

To order contact your local FFL dealer or have the local dealer call us directly.

DEALERS: The M6 Takedown is available at these distributors:

RSR Group Inc. (USA)
Zanders Sporting Goods (USA)
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CHLOROFORM

HEAVY METALS
LEAD
ARSENIC
CHROMIUM

Anyone that has been reading this magazine for any length of time can tell you that we do not use undeserving or unearned accolades when describing anything, especially not gear that someone may be counting on to save their life. Our policy is very clear, and understood, by our entire writing staff that over-indulging or inflating any data or info on a product will not be tolerated. So... when we say a particular product is an industry changer that will totally shift the paradigm in that industry, take it to heart. We’re serious about presenting our readers with the glaring truth, whether good or bad. With that being said, we are all in agreement here that the GRAYL GeoPress just so happens to be one of those products. In the world of water purification and filtration, GRAYL has raised the bar that others will be forced to take a long hard look at.

Water is an essential element that all species of living creatures require, and especially so by the human race. It is common knowledge in the world

of Wood Tramps that 3 days without water and the body starts to break-down, followed by organ failure, and eventually death. Being out in the bush, the back country, or anywhere in the world where fresh, clean water from a reliable source is not always available, we have to process that water in a way that it will be safe to consume. Boiling water usually provides an adequate level of protection. But what if you are on the move, tracking game, or possibly on the move in an attempt to put distance between yourself and imminent danger? Stopping long enough to gather resources for a fire, and then concealing that fire from wary prey, prying eyes, or it simply may not be convenient or safe to do so. In these cases we are forced to consider how we will process water in the fastest and safest manner.

Water filtration is not something new to this generation. Truth be told, people have been trying to figure out the best way to make their water drinkable. Water treatment documentation dates back to ancient Sanskrit and Greek writings in 2000 BC. These writings outline several ways to purify water before drinking it. Their methods include heating water under the sun, boiling water over fire, filtering water through sand, and dipping heated iron into water. During this time, bad tastes, smells, and appearances created the main motivating factors behind water purification. It wasn’t until the 1700’s that people realized foul water would make them sick. About 500 years later (in 1500 BC), the Egyptians used a water purification process known as coagulation. Coagulation involves placing a chemical called alum in water. The chemical separates particles from the water so impurities are easy to remove. In the year 500 BC, a Greek man named Hippocrates invented a new way to filter water. He realized that by placing a sleeve, or cloth bag, over a pitcher of water, he could trap sediment and eliminate the dark ages, experimentation with water treatment took a break. Then, in 1627, Sir Robert Bacon once again began testing ways to purify water. Bacon attempted to remove salt particles from seawater using sand filtration. While most of his experiments proved unsuccessful, he did pave the way for others. In 1676, Anton van Leeuwenhoek picked up where Bacon left off and invented the first microscope. He used it to look at drinking water and became the first person to discover microorganisms.

The technology that has emerged in the industry over the last 100 years has been phenomenal. That is especially so over the course of the last 50 years, with the last 10 seeing leaps and bounds being made in filtration systems that can easily be used and effectively in the back country and wilderness areas. Most of those systems incorporate a hollow fiber membrane

that is ultra small, ultra light, yet highly effective against water-borne contaminants that can cause serious illness in humans. First developed in the 1950’s to combat the contaminated water in third world nations, the technology evolved and found its way into the backpacks and rucksacks of outdoorsman everywhere. That was for filtration purposes only, which removes Bacteria, Protozoa, E. Coli, Giardia, Vibrio cholerae, Salmonella Typhi, Leptospirosis, and microplastics. And in truth, that will cover most everyone’s needs on the North American continent. But in order for one to address viruses, chemicals, and heavy metals, a water purification system is necessary. But they come at a cost. The typical hollow fiber membrane “filtration” systems all average around \$20 USD, whereas an adequate “purification” system can move you into the \$400 range and above. That price-point put water purification in the bush out of reach for the average outdoorsman. That is, until GRAYL stormed onto the scene.

What you are looking at on the right is what we believe is a game-changer in the world of water purification. Not only does it filter AND purify your drinking water, but it processes 24 ounces of water in as little as 8 seconds, while weighing in at only 15.9 ounces while being only 10.4 inches tall. The longevity of the GeoPress is approximately 65 gallons of water. Here are more specs from GRAYL that you want to consider:

SPECS: **Capacity:** 24 oz (710 ml); **Weight:** 15.9 oz (450 g); **Height:** 10.4” (26.5 cm); **Diameter** (at base): 3.4” (8.6 cm); **Active Technology:** ion exchange, ultra-powdered activated carbon

Fast Flow Rate: 8 seconds per 24oz (5 liters/minute); **Removes:** waterborne pathogens (99.99% of viruses, 99.9999% of bacteria, 99.9% of protozoan cysts), including Rotavirus, Hepatitis A, Norovirus, Giardiasis, Cryptosporidium, E. Coli, Cholera, Salmonella, Dysentery and more;

Filters: particulates (i.e. silt, microplastics, etc.); activated carbon effectively adsorbs chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals, flavors, and odors; **Durability:** built tough to perform in harsh conditions and withstand 10 ft drops (full of water) onto concrete; **Cartridge lifespan:** rated for 350 cycles (65 gal. / 250L), as “press time” reaches ~25 seconds (or three years have elapsed since first use) it’s time to replace your purifier cartridge; **Cartridge shelf life:** stored under proper conditions, an unused (and airtight) purifier cartridge has a shelf life of 10 years; **BPA-Free** materials: made from polypropylene #5, food-grade silicone, TPE, ABS food-grade plastic; **Testing standards:** independently tested by a certified laboratory to meet or exceed NSF/ANSI protocol 42 and 53 for pathogen and chemical removal; meets the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s

Guide Standard and Protocol for testing microbiological water purifiers; **Origin:** Designed in United States; Geopress made in China, purifier cartridge media made in United States; **Warranty:** GEOPRESS is accompanied by a ten (10) year warranty covering workmanship and materials.

Those details about the GeoPress are outstanding in and of themselves! However, add to those facts that this modern marvel can do it all for only \$99 and we have what we believe is the most cost efficient yet highly effective water purifier on the market at this writing. The only other effective purifier that we have tested that comes even remotely close to being in the reach of civilians is the MSR Guardian, which comes in at a whopping \$398. We liked the end results and the speed of processing the contaminated water. But... there are too many moving parts to give us the comfort level with the Guardian. The model we looked at did not fail in any way, but we heard from a multitude of very unhappy customers who informed us of the various parts that failed in the system, rendering the unit useless to them. If that were to happen here in the states, most folks would just carry it home and send it in for repairs. But for those of us who travel about the world, sometimes in very



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sketchy regions where the water can be deadly, you simply cannot have your purification system breaking down or failing. The GeoPress has no moving parts. For our staff, that was another caveat to consider. Take a look at the illustrations below. What you see here is exactly what you get, there is nothing hidden or obscured. The only part that will need to be periodi-

automotive paint shop and grab some filters. They are reasonable in price, have a very small footprint, and they weigh almost nothing.



ONE PRESS™
8 SECONDS

FILL. PRESS. DRINK.™

REMOVES

- ✓ Viruses
- ✓ Bacteria
- ✓ Protozoan cysts

FILTERS

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- ✓ Chemicals
- ✓ Heavy Metals

IMPROVES

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- ✓ Smell
- ✓ Clarity

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250 L / 65 GAL
5L / MIN

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CLEAN, SAFE DRINKING WATER

Once purified, 24 ounces of water is ready to chug, sip or store for later. Purified water, anywhere in the world.

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Inside the purifier cartridge, non-woven ceramic media fibers block particulates and provide structure for two technologies: positively charged ions (i.e. molecular magnets) and powdered activated carbon. As dirty water is forced through the media, ion exchange permanently binds pathogens (i.e. virus, protozoa, bacteria). Activated carbon adsorbs chemicals, heavy metals, flavors, and odors.

DIRTY WATER

Untreated, contaminated water with pathogens (virus, bacteria, protozoa), sediment, microplastics, chemicals and/or heavy metals.

OUTER REFILL

Scoop or fill dirty water into the Outer Refill.

GEOPRESS™ DRINK CAP

The perfect spout for on-the-go hydration. Protects against cross contamination and includes a carrying handle sized for two fingers.

SIMPLEVENT™

Simply twist the cap 1/2 turn to vent air during purification process.

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Comfortable pressing pads provide for an ergonomic, non-slip pressing surface.

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The transparent Inner Press stores safe, clean purified water. Dirty water never enters the Inner Press.

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Provides complete protection from all pathogens, even viruses. Also filters particulates, chemicals and heavy metals.

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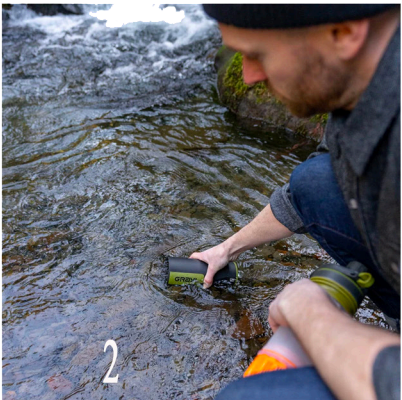
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FROM THE GRAYL WEBSITE



Seperate the Inner Press from Outer Refill.



Fill Outer Refill with water.



Twist SimpleVent cap 1/2 turn.



Press to filter & purify.



Enjoy the filtered & purified water.



Fill extra container for later use.

As you can see above, the GRAYL GeoPress is very simple and efficient to use. I can personally attest to the fact that after approximately 12 gallons of water it is as fast as the day we first put it to use. The cost of this unit is \$99.95, and they come in a variety of colors to choose from. When it is time to change the Purifier Cartridge, the cost for a replacement cartridge is \$29.95 from their website. We recommend getting at least one spare, and possibly two. With a shelf-life of 10 years, you are guaranteed clean water for years to come. When it comes to standing behind their product, GRAYL offers a 365 day return if you are not satisfied with the performance (They know you will be!). The 10 Year Warranty is unheard of in the industry...a 10 year coverage period that is for both Materials and Workmanship. A company can only do that if they are putting out Tank Tough products, and that’s exactly what you have here.

Although we have yet to see any of their other products, keep an eye out here and our website. As the products are released and made available to us we will be sure to pass on all info to you. This happens to be a company that puts out products that we are confident in recommending to all our readers.

www.grayl.com

cally replace is the Purifier Cartridge, and only once you start to notice that the system no longer processes water as quickly. That is usually caused from processing water with a lot of sediment and muck. It will still purify the water, but the life of the cartridge will suffer. We recommend finding the clearest moving water source you can before processing. If you don’t have that available to you, and it does happen, then we simply recommend that you pre-filter the water into the outer receptacle before proceeding. We have processed some really foul water using only a cotton bandanna as a pre-filter. It worked well for us in each case. If you anticipate an extreme scenario where you know the water is suspect, you can stop by your local

LIFE OR DEATH...



If you have been around the outdoor world for any amount of time you have learned about the Rule Of Three’s. The first is 3 Minutes to restore breathing and stop the flow of major arterial bleeding. The second is 3 Hours to control and regulate body core temperature. The third is 3 Days to resource and process water for hydration. The fourth is 3 Weeks to find and process food. There is a fifth one as well, although it is highly debated. In some circles, 3 Months without human exchange can effect mental stability. I’m on the fence with that one, because I personally know several outdoorsman who have went well beyond that 3 Month mark and have faired very well. On the other hand, I have met others who were negatively impacted after 3 Months with no human interaction. I have interviewed a few of the long-term contestants from the ALONE series who shared with me their struggle with integrating back into society after their experience. One particular individual shared with me that to this very day he is still impacted by the experience of no human contact.

Now let me throw another twist to this Rule of Three’s, one that very few survival instructors teach in their class. Although not talked about a lot, this

concept has been around for a long time. It is one of the main focal points that Special Teams candidates experience during their training, and one that is hammered at them until the day they graduate. My first exposure to the concept came from an encounter I experienced in the mountains of California while training as a Marine. It was the late summer of 1977 with temperatures near 100 degrees with drought-like conditions. The flash-point was so severe we couldn’t warm our rations, and smokers were not allowed to light up. On one particularly hot afternoon after humping up the mountain side with full gear we were called to attention just before being dismissed. Our trainers were debriefing us and giving us instructions for the next training session. Out of nowhere, with all 80 guys in the platoon at attention, one guy starts groaning and agonizing, and eventually fell flat on his face. His entire body had cramped up from dehydration due to a lack of water intake. A corpsman was immediately called for to assist and treat the downed Marine. But when he got to where the Marine was moaning and going through extreme cramping, and the corpsman froze in his tracks and just stared. Lucky for the Marine, the Senior Navy Corpsman Trainer was nearby watching his student freeze up. What he had to say has stuck with me throughout my entire life. At the top of his lungs he shouted, “ This Marine is dead because you just panicked! You only have 3 seconds to subdue that panic and put your training in motion.” That incident happened 47 years ago, yet I can still see and hear the entire event in my mind like it was just this morning.

After the Marine was treated and removed from the mountain, the Senior Corpsman gathered his trainees together in front of everyone. He said, “ What you just witnessed here is a prime example of fear and panic taking over in place of his training. He may have eventually gotten there, but by then, someone dies! This is why we train over and over again, and then train over and over again... and again. Redundant training provides confidence to where you no longer think about what to do, but instead you work the problem through all that training without having to think about it.” I got it, I grasped what he was saying. Over the years I began to articulate the concept to others. Redundant training drives out fear and subdues panic. Hence, in my little world, the 3 Second Rule has a permanent place in my Rule Of 3’s. When training others, I attempt to pass that onto them as well.

But here’s the rub. Of all the times I have taught a class on this subject, it’s always well received. Presented in the right way, it simply makes sense. Of all the Teams members I have asked about this concept, they all support this philosophy. Every aspect of ALL their training is presented in fast paced high-stress environments. Stress is their norm and Panic control is their Jam! Yet, the majority Survival Instructors who teach the Rule of 3’s actually make it a point to add this aspect of the 3 Second Rule to their toolbox. It has always baffled me. I reached out to a very well known Survival Instructor to get

his take on the subject. He agreed with me that the 3 Second Rule was solid teaching with proven success. But (in his words) it’s not “glamorous enough to keep folks attention”. Glamorous or not, I will always make it a part of my mantra, and here’s why.

In a real life survival situation, when you come to the realization that ***IT IS REAL***, there are one of two characteristics that both animals and humans will always fall back to. You either grit your teeth and dig your heels in, or you attempt to put space between you and the problem...it’s often referred to as Fight or Flight. What’s the deciding factor when choosing between the two? Simply put, it’s all about the confidence factor. If one person is confident that they can win the fight, they stand their ground. If that same person is not confident, they will run. This all happens in a matter of seconds.

From a survival perspective, at its very basic foundation, the difference between having or not having confidence comes down to 3 separate elements. The first is ***Education***, the second is ***Repetitive Training***, and third is ***Developed Experience***. Learning a skill (Education) in itself is not enough. You have to reset the training (Repetitive Training) of that learned skill over and over again. The more you train with that skill, the more your experience builds (Developed Experience). When all three of these elements come together, they naturally generate ***Structured Confidence***. It doesn’t come naturally, it takes work. According to the Oxford Dictionary, “*Confidence is the feeling of trust or belief in oneself or one’s abilities. It is a positive attitude that involves having a sense of control in your life, and knowing your strengths and weaknesses. Confident people are able to set realistic goals, communicate assertively, and handle adversity*”.

Kevin Johnson, Founder and Lead Instructor for River Valley Survival, is one of the best I have ever seen at making and successfully using a Bow Drill. Kevin can get it done when no-one else can. A few years back I asked him what his secret was. He said, “ I’ve have tried making a Bow Drill Set with every species of tree available to me in Central Illinois... hard wood, soft wood, mix and match, you name it. I’ve made hundreds, probably a thousand Sets over the years. There was a lot of trial and error.” Watching him work today, it is apparent that he has an abundance of Confidence with this skill. Johnson is a prime example of how Repetitive Training morphs into Developed Experience.

On the occasion that I am invited to instruct a class, I always try to introduce the OYZ Concept... an acronym for “Own Your Zone”. Mastering the art of Zone Control is paramount to success in any survival scenario. This isn’t the article to discuss that in detail, but for me, it is the very first step in survival. If you do not possess Structured Confidence, you will never master the art of Zone Control.

Here’s a scenario that I use to show how important owning the Three Second Rule is. A severed and bleeding Femoral Artery can be deadly if not stopped in time... most agree that time is 3 Minutes, which is 180 Seconds. Wrap your head around that. For those that do not have the Developed Experience outlined above, they typically freeze in panic as the blood squirts out of the injury. It can be quite impacting when observed for the first time. Without the Developed Experience, they are left with having to figure out a solution, which is wasting precious time, and then they have to execute the process to stop the blood flow. And just how much time has passed? Now, what if their efforts didn’t stop the blood, because that can happen, even with a proper tourniquet. The panic can rise to a crippling level, wasting even more precious time. Times up, somebody just bled out.

The proper Education, Repetitive Training, and Developed Experience would have built that Structured Confidence needed for successful treatment. Within 3 Seconds of the event the ***panic would be controlled***, and treatment would immediately start without delay. Generally speaking, a tourniquet is applied above the injury, the wound is packed with hemastatic gauze, and then wrapped with a pressure bandage of some sort. If that didn’t work, apply another tourniquet. There are numerous ways to approach the techniques and materials, but the common denominator is to stop the bleed, and to do so expeditiously. With the proper education, training, and experience, that all can be done under 180 seconds.

In conclusion, you only have 3 seconds to subdue the panic. After that you can look in your toolbox where the solution resides and get to work on the problem. All that Education, Training, and Experience has given you the Structured Confidence for you to overcome.





E-Bikes In The Bush

Man, the stories I could share with you about riding my bike out into the woods to camp, hunt, fish, or just to enjoy the quiet. My first venture on 2 wheels with a motor was when I was 7 years old where we lived in the country. My neighbor took an old bicycle frame and mounted a Briggs & Stratton lawnmower motor on it for all us kids to ride. The frame was crooked, the seat was janky, and it had no brakes at all. Just pure power with a wide open throttle. I remember it being very scary... and an absolute blast! I was hooked for life on anything with 2 wheels and a motor.

I was 8 when my family moved to the southside of Peoria, Illinois, next to my ailing Grandparents. My mother wanted to make sure she was close to take care of them. I lucked out, because across the alley from us was Howard Williamson, grandfather to Jay Williamson who would soon become my friend. The Williamson family was all about motorcycles, and teaching kids how to ride. One of the tools they used was setting up Motocross trails throughout the woods near the county side of south Peoria, and organizing competitions. I fell in love with riding in the woods on 2 wheels. Years later I started riding a Huskavarna 150, perfect for riding out and camping and hunting in the woods. As the years went by I got attached to the Harley Davidson brand. I learned to love the highway and country roads, but always held tight to my love of riding in the woods... no matter the size of the bike. In 2006 I purchased what would end up being my last Harley. It's actually featured on the front cover of this issue... a FLSTI Heritage Standard. Yep, I rode that out into the woods as well. Sad to say, I realized after several close calls with distracted drivers that it was time for me to put the kickstand down permanently. Looking back I know it was the right thing to do, But damn, I sure do miss those 80 mile an hour rides with the rumble of the engine between my legs. Fortunately for me, I was introduced to the emerging E-Bike world through subscribers who were asking us about our opinion on the subject. We started researching the industry and soon realized it was real, and it was not going away any time soon. Shortly thereafter we hooked up with a few E-Bike companies to learn even more, and by summers end we were doing reviews. Some of the companies were just getting started and needed to get the bugs worked out. However, there was one who's product really impressed us all. That was RAD POWER BIKES, and the models were the Rad Rover and Rad Rover Step Thru..

We knew from our readers that there was real potential with this new generation of electric bikes. We just didn't realize how much potential until we started riding them in the woods. At first we were skeptical because of the sub-par bikes that we had previously seen. We were seriously concerned that they wouldn't stand up to the stress of riding in the woods. We later learned our suspicions were correct. Two of those companies no longer are in business. RAD, on the other hand, impressed us all from day one. There's no need to go into the specs here because we have done that several times. However, I will share that you really start to appreciate what an e-Bike can do once you load it down with gear and head out into the bush for any amount of time.



Ride Free...Live Free

The photo at the left shows my load-out for a weekend deer hunt. The total weight of the 2 packs you see was right at 80 pounds, which included a Hickory Creek Archery Vertical Crossbow that breaks down into 2 sections. I don't know about you, but for me, humping 80 pounds of gear 10 miles into the woods is no cakewalk. I did it as an 18 year old Marine, but I wouldn't attempt it today. On the RAD it was a very quiet ride out to my hunting spot where I set-up camp and started preparing for the hunt.

One of the considerations that I want to point out is battery life and mileage

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that one can cover. And this is something that you must learn about the model you elect to purchase, because they do vary. For the models we tested, we found that using 50% of the throttle we got about 40 miles on the paved road. With the payload I mentioned earlier I got about 28 miles off-road. That really isn't an issue if you're trucking to the edge of the woods and then riding in. Back when we started covering all things E-Bikes there really wasn't a solid option for recharging the battery in the bush. Nowadays there are some really good options. But do be aware that you have to confirm compatibility, and to do deep research on the companies you might purchase from. All are not created equal. I would suggest that you find the perfect fit for your E-Bike, and if it's not in your current budget, then save until it is to insure that you are getting what you actually need. Keep in mind you don't really need a solar charger if you stay within the range of your bike.



Another thing I want to mention here is that it is ultra important for you to research all the components that go into the bike you are considering for purchase. Again, not all are created equal. Some motors are susceptible to failure if exposed to water, even a simple rain shower. We have had numerous complaints on display / control units as well. Mud can also play havoc on cheaply made components. We have heard from readers who experienced cable failure due to mud and water while out on the trail. Another consideration is the integrity of the battery in your bike. Most models are well shielded from water infiltration. But we have heard of instances of water getting into batteries that cause them to short circuit, short out, and can also potentially explode. The bottom line is to do your research well before actually pulling the trigger.



The next thing we want to mention is accessories. In this fancy modern day and age we live in the accessories and goodies you can purchase for an E-Bike is almost endless. That's good news for those who like riding out into the back country, or even your local woods. The first thing to establish is what are you going to be conveying out into the woods.

Let's assume that you are one of those who wants to camp, hunt, fish. The first thing you will want to think about is a rack/racks. I can tell you from my personal experience that the advantages of what you can haul with two vs one is well worth the investment. A two rack system also gives you a better approach to balancing out the bike. I suggest the flat racks vs the basket style. Flat racks give you many more options when attaching your gear. If your bike did not come with fenders, that is a non-negotiable add-on that will keep the mud, water, and snow off your body. If you are a hunter, or you just want to pack more gear, you might want to consider one of the many available bike trailers out there. Do keep in mind, however, that EVERY bike has a weight capacity pay load. This is the total combined weight of the bike, accessories, trailer, your weight, and the weight of your gear. The more weight that you have, the harder your battery and motor has to work, which translates into diminished mileage.

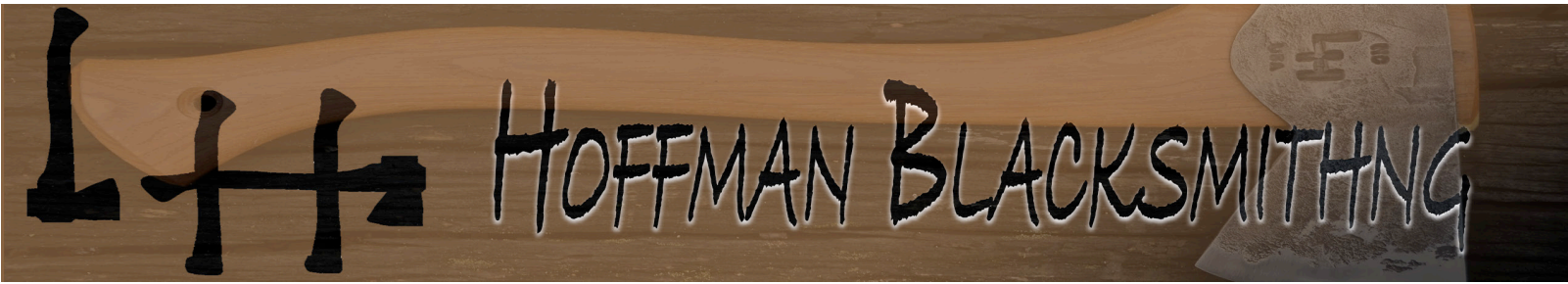
Consider upgrading some of the original components that came on your bike... but only if you're not happy with the performance of the original. From our experience, the components we suggest are the seat, the headlamp, the LCD Display, and Tire Armour. Again, if you're happy with all that, don't spend the money until such a time that you're not.

In conclusion, I highly recommend all outdoorsman to look into purchasing an E-Bike. It takes your outdoor experiences to another level. Which E-Bike would we suggest? For the money, you will not find a better option than RAD Power Bikes. They are rock solid, and they perform exceptionall well in the outdoors. Look for more RAD from us in the future.



Ride Free...Live Free

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By Request: Revisiting Hoffman Blacksmithing

Back in 2017 we started hearing about this young guy in North Carolina that was showing some amazing blacksmithing skills that reminded everyone of the old school legendary masters that can no longer be found. Liam Hoffman started hammering out his future when he was only 13 years old with a fire pit and a trailer hitch for an anvil. I met Liam when he was 9 years into his career, and already making a name for himself among the elite steel movers of the world. The guy was only 22 when we first exposed to his work, well into what has evolved into a world-class art form that has outdoorsman froma round the globe waiting in line to get their hands on one of his axes. So far, we have seen 2 of those axes, and both have impressed us so much that we have decided that Hoffman Blacksmithing will placed on our list of Endorsed Vendors. That decision was made this year when he submitted what we consider to be the very finest felling axe on the planet to date. As a matter of fact, it has been named the 2022 BWB Axe Of The Year. Let’s revisit what we wrote about him in a previos issue.

Hoffman is currently 29 years old. When we first met him he was 24. However, by that time he was well on his way to becoming a world-class mover of steel, a true blacksmith in the tradition of masters long forgotten. According to Hoffman, “I began blacksmithing in the fall of 2008 at the age of thirteen, starting out with nothing but a fire pit and a trailer hitch for an anvil. Over the last decade I’ve worked my way up by purchasing new equipment one machine at a time and learning about the craft and science of moving steel. My parents were extremely supportive in helping me pursue my passion. They gave me a push start by building a small brake drum forge for my fourteenth birthday. My dad took on the project of building a small 200 square foot shop over a two-year period. Once this foundation was established, I had my business well under way before graduating from high school. I always get asked how and why I got started in blacksmithing at the age I did. One might think that I saw a blacksmith at a local fair or read about it in school and ran home to try it out. There was no conscious reason why I started, it’s just called being a 13 year old boy. There is nothing else to it. Once I started heating up and hammering on steel, I knew it felt right. Only afterward did I discover what I was doing was called blacksmithing. Today I’m twenty-five years old with over 11 years of experience, author of my book FORGED a Guide to Becoming a Blacksmith and I’ve had the pleasure to teach private lessons to students from as far away as Australia. In June of 2016, I traveled to NYC to appear on History Channel’s Forged in Fire. There, I forged a Kora sword and became the youngest to win Forged in Fire against ABS Master Bladesmith, Josh Smith.”



Okay, did you wrap your head around that? What Steve Jobs was to the computer world when he started and Elon Musk is to the EV world, Liam Hoffman is to the blacksmithing world today. He is a quiet genius with a knack for taking raw steel and innovative creativity that culminates in one of the best axe lines on the planet! Like both of those pioneers in their field, Liam Hoffman is, and always has been, a steely focused, hard working, and determined craftsman. While in high-school he worked in his shop 30-35 hours per week, maintained his studies, AND achieved the rank of Eagle Scout when he was 17 years old. For me, this is a major part of why this young man and his small shop are not only still standing after the impact of the pandemic, but they are putting out a “hand-made” product that will stand-up to any other axe line that is out there, including the big names from Europe. To gauge the success of the shop go to their website and look at the waiting time to

The first offering we had the pleasure of seeing from Hoffman was the Camp Axe. The Camp Axe is hand forged from a block of 4142 chrome/moly alloy steel and heat treated to 55HRC. The heads are hung on straight grained hickory handles made from cabinet grade kiln dried lumber. Each handle is hand fitted with a draw-knife. The poll is hardened to be used as a proper hammer. Each axe from Hoffman comes with an exquisite hand-made leather sheath that fits like a glove. Price on this model starts at \$350 and requires a \$100 deposit.

Opening the packaging and revealing this axe for the first time gave us a glimpse back into the past, a time when good blacksmiths were a dime a dozen, and the great ones were a rare find. What separated the two was quality, creativity, and longevity. What I had sitting on my desk took me back long before my time, reminding of those heirloom blades my grandfather possessed from 150 years ago. It was obvious that I was holding the work of a rare blacksmith. At the time he didn’t have the world-wide name recognition as some of the current greats. However, that has all changed today. People from around the globe have written to say “thank you” for introducing them to Hoffman, an indication that his reputation is growing around the world.



Our entire staff has had an opportunity to use the Camp Axe on several occasions, and all love what it does out in the field. I have used it for 2 years now with no issues and a lot of success no matter what I was doing. At one time I had the opinion that Hults Bruk, Gransfors Bruks, and Wetterlings produced the best axes on the planet. Not any more! I love all three, but what Hoffman has done with the 4142 hardened out to the 55HRC mark is genius. It truly cuts like butter, felling small 6”-12” trees, and bucking out more firewood than I can recall. Equally impressive is the ease with choking up to do fine work with this beast. Look at the photo to the left. Those feather-sticks were not done with a knife...that is all the Hoffman Camp Axe. What the photo does not show is the numerous mallets, tables, and stools we made while out in the bush as well. Another feature I need to mention is the toughness of the poll. Hoffman has put a little extra love in this area. After two years of hammering and pounding with the Camp Axe, it show no signs of wear or distress. And by the way, and this is almost unbelievable, I have touched up the edge on this axe only a few times with a puck and leather strop bat...in two years time! That is unheard of.

I have been asked many times if the \$350 price tag on this model is truly justified. Like everything else in the outdoor industry, especially quality blades of any kind, you do get what you pay for. Hoffman Blacksmithing

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produces heirloom quality tools. The \$350 not only buys you the highest quality axe on the planet, but it is one that will be passed on down through your family for many generations to come. The key is a good maintenance regimen, and being respectful to the tool and all the good mojo that is forged into it.

Since publishing the original article on the Camp Axe we have received a deluge of requests from you to do an article on Hoffman’s Farm Axe and the knives he is now producing. Unfortunately we do not have any of his knives in our possession. However, we were super stoked when the Farm Axe model showed up at our door step. Since that time we have been testing and putting

the Farm Axe through our normal process, and then some. A great axe should be able to handle a great work load, and it delivers.

Before getting into the spec side of this axe, let me tell you what our over-all opinion is of the Farm Axe. All four who tested this axe, including myself, all came away with the same conclusion... this axe is a beast for performance, and exceptionally comfortable to use. In short, it’s everything that the Camp Axe was, and much more. It would be a shame to relegate this awesome tool as a simple felling axe, although it performs this task better than any other axe we have reviewed. I know that’s a huge statement, but it’s the absolute truth.

According to Hoffman these his axes are, “Overbuilt and ready to use, because overkill never fails.” That’s not a snake oil salesman’s pitch! When comparing this Farm Axe with those from Gransfors Bruk, Hults Bruk, Hultafors, and Helko Werk, the Hoffman stands alone all by itself. Again, we all anticipate a lot of push-back on that statement, but once you have one in your hands you will know where were coming from. The others are all very quality tools, but it’s the above and beyond aspects of the Hoffman approach that takes his axes to levels above the others. We agree, they are “overbuilt” with a strong approach to “overkill”, but that’s what makes this a Hoffman Axe. We learned that a few years ago when we first encountered Hoffman. We were getting over-ran with requests to review his wares, especially his axes. It took us awhile to get it done, but once we did we quickly understood why there was so much noise among the axe lovers of the world... even collectors who never will swing their Hoffman axe herald this as the supreme beast. These are the guys that examine a tool from snout to tail, leaving no aspect of the axe off their checklist. Talking to them about an axe will make your head hurt... they look into so much detail that they can tell you where the ingredients to make the steel is sourced for the axes in their collection. I do applaud them for their passion for what they love, but for me, I don’t need that kind of information to know if I love an axe or not. My point in sharing that with you is to illustrate just how much traction Hoffman Blacksmithing has developed among the Tool Brainiacs of the world. If they



have something to say about a particular axe or builder, you should listen and learn. Everyone of them will tell you that the real mojo in a Hoffman axe can be found in the magic mix of his axe head.

Hand-forged from a block of 4142 chrome/moly alloy steel and hardened to 55.5 HRC, the Farm Axe has a very reliable platform from which to start the process. However, it’s not just the steel he uses and the hardness that he shoots for that makes this a top-of-the-line tool. It’s all the other things that goes into producing this gem that a blacksmith doesn’t always share with you. Like how long does the steel stay in the forge before shaping begins. What temperature is the sweet-spot for Hoffman? How much pressure on which part of the axe does he emphasize? What does he use to quench, and how long in the quench does it stay? Each blacksmith has their own list of undisclosables. The list of Hoffman’s tricks of the trade are no different when you examine this axe head. It is not only a world class axe, but it is an exquisite piece of art. With its 4.5 lb head weight, the Farm Axe delivers with an explosive release of energy each time it meets its target, blasting chips away from the strike-zone like no other. It makes quick work of felling a tree, and eases the burden of bucking just as well.



A good illustration of the meticulous approach to details can be found in the pole of the Farm Axe. For us, the pole is just as important as the edge of the axe... it is an essential part of the tool that too many blacksmith and tool makers make light of, or at the very least, the ignore and cut a corner. From our perspective, the pole should be able to withstand the critical impact that occurs during the striking process, whether that is a large stake, another working tool, or driving home wedges as you are splitting large logs. The Hoffman Farm Axe delivers in all these areas and more. I won’t name them here, but during testing of some of the most recognizable brands in the world, the pole began to mushroom and distort. That is usually a direct result of cutting a corner to save time in the building process. Hoffman does not cut any corners. We drove a 3’ (foot) 1” (inch) tent stake into very hard ground to see if it could withstand that kind of steel on steel volatile impact. After 17 strikes the stake was 2.5’ into the ground. The head of the stake itself was showing some mushrooming, but the pole of the Farm Axe had only minor scratches and one small dent. For us, that is a winner. By the way, we had to dig the stake out with a pick and shovel!

The model that we have in our possession came with a 32” curvy oval handle, made from straight-grained cabinet grade hickory. The head is hung by using a draw-knife to hand-shape the handle to the head. Another extra step that sets Hoffman apart. We requested both a lanyard hole be added as well as a bulbed-end. The bulbed end is an additional option for \$30. Included with the base price for this model, \$510, is a handmade water buffalo leather sheath. It, too, is built tank-tough like everything else from Hoffman. Out the door, the model we reviewed comes in at \$540. For those of you who are wondering if that \$540 price tag is worth the cost, let me put it this way. Fast forward 20 years from now and the price of this axe will more than likely increase. I don’t use the term “heirloom” lightly. But this is truly one of those instances where the moniker fits the bill. From what we’ve seen thus far, anything that Liam Hoffman puts out there is made to last for generations. By the way, spend the extra cash to have them stamp your name on the axe head. Your heirs can trace your imprint on the landscape by reliving it each time they gaze at your name.



Congratulations to Liam Hoffman and his entire Team. The Hoffman Farm Axe has been named the 2022 BWB Axe Of The Year. Get out to [www.hoffmanblacksmithing .com](http://www.hoffmanblacksmithing.com) and check out their entire line-up. You won’t regret it!

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and lightweight



DUAL RIDGELINE
Two ridgelines provide
extra stability and loft
for top accessories

CORNER HARDWARE
Four hardware pieces attach
suspension, bar, and even
optional under quilts

SPREADER BAR
Head and foot ends
have ample space

D-RINGS
Multiple attachment points
for, side and ends for
adding accessories

FLAT LAY
A much flatter and more
comfortable sleeping position
over a traditional hammock



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