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DEEP SURVIVAL
The Real Cost of Saving Lives

ADVENTURE

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DREAM IT. PLAN IT. DO IT.

ADVENTURERS OF THE YEAR

THE MIRACLE
WORKER >>

HERO SOLDIERS
ON DENALI

THE HUNT FOR
GENGHIS KHAN

WORLD-RECORD
WAVE RIDING

DEAN POTTER'S
BIG GAMBLE

THE 77,000-MILE
ROAD TRIP

+26 BREAKOUT
GEAR & TRENDS

THE WAYFINDERS
ACROSS THE
PACIFIC WITHOUT
A COMPASS

DR. EXTREME
He climbed the Seven
Summits. Now Geoff Tabin
wants to cure blindness.
Everywhere on Earth.

THE **Best** OF Adventure 2010

DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010

\$5.99US \$6.99CAN



THE BIG TRIP
ARGENTINA
(WHEN IT'S HOT!)

HIGH PERFORMANCE
SKI LIKE
AN OLYMPIAN

18 WEEKEND
ESCAPES



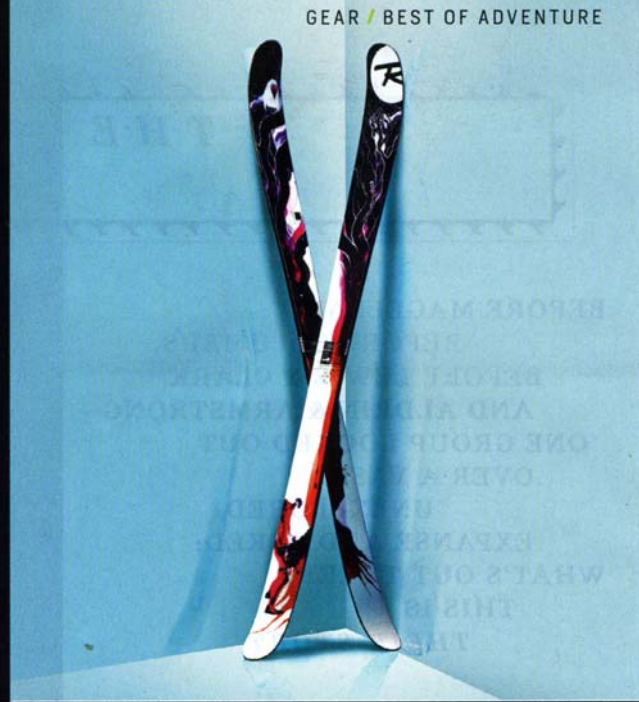
ICE AX

Stronger and lighter. That's like a mating call for gearheads. Hence the excitement when **Black Diamond** used a cutting-edge process called hydroforming to create the new **Fusion**. Made from a single piece of aluminum (versus the standard two), the 1.38-pound mixed climbing tool is two ounces lighter and considerably stronger than its predecessor—and only ten bucks more (\$280; blackdiamondequipment.com).

Must-Have
Gear

A look ahead at the 26 most groundbreaking products of 2010
BY STEVE CASIMIRO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JOSHUA SCOTT



▶ JACKETS

No more of this hardshell/softshell confusion. It's time we had a single jacket for good weather and bad. Enter the **Helly Hansen Barrier 3L** (left). It's waterproof-breathable like a hardshell but with a softshell's four-way stretch (\$250; hellyhansen.com). Pair it with **Eddie Bauer's** 800-fill **First Ascent Downlight Sweater** on especially cold days. The 13.4-ouncer is the lightest and warmest we've found at this price (\$169; eddiebauer.com).

▶ SKIS

Even in a ski world exploding with new shapes and designs, the rocker—aka reverse-cambered profile—is still stealing the show. And of all the rockered sticks, none is more complex or perfectly executed than **Rossignol's S7**. It has a reverse-cambered tip and tail but traditional camber and sidecut at its middle. Translation: effortless flotation in the deep stuff, great edge grip on hardpack and groomers (\$950; rossignol.com).

▶ KNIFE

If you've ever tried to fix a bike or a wheezing jalopy with a toy-size multi-tool, you'll appreciate **Wenger's Mike Horn Ranger** knife. The brainchild of its namesake explorer, this 8.8-ounce instrument extends to nine inches, so the two blades, needle-nose pliers, and file provide full-size utility. Dogsled falling apart? You can insert the driver bits perpendicular to the handle for better leverage on wayward screws (\$175; wengerna.com).

▶ WINTER BOOTS

We've seen heated gloves and jackets—heck, even heated underwear. So why not a decent heated winter boot? **Columbia** has the answer. Lined with 200-gram Thinsulate, its battery-powered **Bugathermo** pumps out eight hours of warmth and lets you adjust the temp with the press of an ankle button. All told, it's rated to minus 25°F yet weighs a respectable two pounds. Now *that's* hot (\$250; columbia.com). ▲

▶ **HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS** This year's Best of Adventure gear picks were nominated in part by a panel of 34 retailers from across the country. To see more of our Retail Board's favorite gear—and to find an expert near you—visit ngadventure.com.