

# Outside Magazine February 2009 The 100 Best Adventure Websites



## THE INTERNET

daily on **GreenBiz.com**, a sustainable-business blog edited by clean-tech wiz Joel Makower, and *New York Times* environmental reporter Andrew Revkin's wide-ranging **DotEarth.Blogs.NYTimes.com**. Her last tip: Join **BetterWorldClub.com**. It's sort

ing **Post.com**, **REI.com**, etc. A more efficient way is to sign up for deal-of-the-day e-mail alerts from sites like **TramDock.com** (skiing), **ChainLove.com** (mountain biking), **Bonk-Town.com** (road biking), and **SteepandCheap.com** (every-

phone support and no-risk return policies at **RoadRunnerSports.com** and **Running-Warehouse.com**.

### Employment

For those of you who dream of working in the outdoor industry, bookmark **Snewsnet.com**. A subscription is required to read all the wonky news, but you can scan the classifieds for free.

### Rental & Repair

Need to rent gear for an upcoming trip? **LowerGear.com** has everything from bear canisters to GPS units to tents. Your favorite piece of gear past warranty and in need of repair? **RainyPass.com** is licensed to repair Gore-Tex fabric, and they're the only guys

### Reach Out and Friend Someone

Bode Miller's social-networking site, **SkiSpace.com**, hasn't reached the tipping point yet, but some of its videos are pretty damn funny. **MountainBuzz.com** is more practical, with both white-water and snow-sports forums. Although it's still in beta, **Plus3Network.com** is a promising site that combines social networking, GPS-enabled training tools, and a program that partners you with corporate sponsors to raise money for one of 13 charities. Looking for an actual date? **Active.com/singles**, with more than a million members and a list of more than 90 sporting preferences, from caving to triathlons, is still your best bet.

we'd trust to repair a blown gasket on a drytop.



of a green version of AAA that offers things like roadside bicycle assistance (!) and discounts on hybrid-car rentals. For less wonky enviro coverage, check out **NewWest.net**, a general-interest online magazine about the Rocky Mountain West. And, finally, **TheDailyGreen.com** is packed with tips on eco-smart living, eating, and building.

### Gear Shopping

For new gear, we browse the usual suspects for the best prices: **Backcountry.com**, **Campmor.com**, **SierraTrad-**

thing). Prefer to support local shops, even on the road? Find them at **GrassRootsOutdoors.com**. Of course, if we're just in the mood to ogle cool stuff, we head to **Uncrate.com**. Our favorite snow-gear site is **EvoGear.com**. Bikers can comparison-shop for the cheapest goods at **Nashbar.com**, **PerformanceBike.com**, or **BackCountry.com**'s two new bike-specific sites, which will launch this March: **RealCyclist.com** (road) and **BigRingKing.com** (mountain). Runners, buying perfect-fitting shoes online is now less harrowing thanks to the expert

### It's (Not) Always Sunny in Philadelphia

For detailed five-day forecasts, we like **Wunderground.com** better than **Weather.com** (more info, fewer ads). But when we want more—or, in some cases, less—we hit these three.

#### 1. Weather.gov (NOAA's National Weather Service)

For really specific info, Big Brother is still the best for everything from small-craft advisories to freeze watches to the projected gust speeds tomorrow at 9 A.M. at your favorite backcountry-skiing location. Tip: For any highly weather-dependent sport, we like to cross-reference NOAA with a few local sites—like your yacht club's, or a region's avalanche-conditions page—that we learn about the old-fashioned way: by asking friends.

#### 2. iMapWeather.com

If you're already getting text messages from Weather.gov, bookmark this new site. It went live just before we went to press, so we didn't have time to play around on it, but the beta version looked promising: It's aiming to be the first social-networking weather Web site, where you can share photos, videos, and mini-blogs with other climate geeks (or skiers or paddlers or hikers) and talk about the weather out your window at this very moment.

#### 3. UmbrellaToday.com

This site is brilliant in its simplicity. You type in your zip code; it tells you "yes" or "no"—the answer to whether or not you need an umbrella that day. You can also sign up for text messages that will send you a reminder on days it might rain.