

GEAR UP

A BETTER WAY TO WINE IN THE WILD



So I went into the Ute Mountaineer this week, sucking in a deep breath, ready to plunk down some good, hard-earned cash for some new ski poles and possibly write up a gear review on whatever I walked out with, after test driving first, of course. I was looking at the expandable poles when the very helpful Dan, who works there, asked if I needed help. I guess the crestfallen look on my face and sad eyes said it all as I looked down at my duct-taped pair, in hand.

"It's time right?" I said, looking at him earnestly. He knew what I meant. It was time for the great Leki poles of my past to hit the big ski-pole graveyard in the sky.

"Er, yup," he said sensitively, fondling the raw salvage edge of the duct tape, trying not to get the misplaced sticky glue on his hands.

"These are beyond the thrift shop," he added, patting me gently on the shoulder in commiseration.

And then a miracle happened: As I was looking over the shiny new Black Diamond brand of expandable, Dan was messing around with my poles and, somehow, after peeling off two years of duct tape, he fixed them. I've no idea how, except to stay that perhaps they were not completely broken after all, and perhaps the Aspen blonde in this scenario has been earning turns, looking "authentic" with duct tape, for the past two years, where there had not needed to be any. (Ute, don't fire Dan, he did the right thing, Ill be back for hiking shoes... and more.)

So, with the money unspent, I went and did what all embarrassed Aspen blondes do after tech snafus and lined Duncan Clauss's pocket in the form of a six-pack of Independence Pass Ale, as a gift to Dan, to make sure he'd take me seriously next time.

This is where the gear column twists into a turn. While at the liquor store, I was checking out the Robert Mondavi brand Woodbridge, a delicious and affordable brand I'd previously promoted, and saw their latest and greatest clever offering: A Go Glass of wine, in the shape of a shatterproof, Euro-style mini-wine glass, single-serving, complete with a foil freshness seal and a tight plastic lid.

OMG. Innovative. Finally the perfect stackable, packable, lightweight, wet bag, dry bag, backpack, fanny pack, pack trip or pony-picnic accessory. This surely fits in the gear review column, right? It's gear that's gotta go with you, right?

Thankfully my editor also thought so. For a measly \$2.50 you can take a one-cup cabernet (or more, packed efficiently, if you have room), chardonnay, red blend or pinot grigio into the wild and, I would say, magnify your hiking, biking, skiing and snacking experience. You'll have a useful receptacle once it's drunk, and you can recycle once it's packed out home.

Their cabernet that I love so much, I think, is round, smooth, effortless, tasty and pairable with food that packs. Like cheese. It's a really, really good idea and executed and designed so well, better than competitors with their unstable "classic" wine glass shapes. Three liquor stores in town also think so too: Aspen Wine and Spirit, the Grog Shop and Carls all have 'em, so you can get 'em. They're good gear.

- Susan Redstone

GET YOUR OWN

Go Glass!
Woodbridge
by Robert Mondavi
\$2.50

Editor's Pick

Dancing Bears in the Wintertime



Photo by Rosalie O'Connor

We love our bears here in Aspen, don't we? (I think there might be a Gay Ski Week joke in there somewhere, but I'm not really up on the lingo.) Of course, this time of year, the bears are all hibernating and rarely put in an appearance around town. The same could be said of a handful of organizations that are equally beloved but tend to spend their winters mostly dormant, such as the Aspen Music Festival and the Snowmass free concert series.

Occasionally, however, one of Aspen's culture bears will emerge from hibernation for a rare ski-season appearance and when that happens, you, as an art lover, better be ready to make the most of the opportunity. Last weekend, it was Theatre Aspen's turn to wake up just long enough to put on Theatre Aspen School's production of the musical "School of Rock." This week it'll be Aspen Santa Fe Ballet stepping back into the spotlight for one of its three one-night-only, post-Nutcracker performances on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Aspen District Theatre.

The program for the evening's performance will consist of fan favorites from ASFB's repertoire, including Alejandro Cerrudo's enigmatic "Silent Ghost," with its haunting closing duet, Cayetano Soto's brash and extroverted "Huma Rojo," set to the popular music of Xavier Cugat, and the perspective-bending "Dream Play" by Fernando Melo, which had

its world premiere in Aspen last July.

Timed fortuitously to coincide with the end of Gay Ski Week, the show was nearly sold out as of this writing, meaning you'd better act quickly if you want to catch a glimpse of this dancing bear. Should you miss out this time around, you'll only have two more nights to catch ASFB performances this winter. The company will be hosting the dancers of "Ailey II" on Feb. 16 and staging "An Evening with Pianist Joyce Yang" - an entire performance set to live piano - on March 24. After that, ASFB goes back into hibernation until the summer.

Other culture bears to look for this week include the aforementioned Aspen Music Festival & School, which will be co-presenting a live, high-definition showing of the Metropolitan Opera's performance of Bellini's "Norma" on Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Wheeler Opera House, and Carbondale-based 5Point Film Festival, which will bring a program of adventure films on the road to Aspen the next two nights, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 19-20, also at the Wheeler.

As farmers used to say (and probably still do, as it makes sense), "Make hay while the sun shines." That's not terribly applicable in winter, I understand, but then neither are the ballet and the music festival for the most part. Nevertheless, the sun is shining on those bears this week, so get out and see them while you can.

- Todd Hartley

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ON THE COVER

Photo by Todd Hartley

Top 5 Movies

1. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" \$28.1 million
 2. "The Post" \$19.4 million
 3. "The Commuter" \$13.7 million
 4. "The Greatest Showman" \$12.5 million
 5. "Insidious: The Last Key" \$12.4 million
- (imdb.com, Jan. 12-14)

Top 5 TV Shows

1. "NFL Wild Card - Falcons/Rams" (Saturday) NBC
 2. "Gold Globe Awards" (Sunday) NBC
 3. "The Big Bang Theory" (Thursday) CBS
 4. "Young Sheldon" (Thursday) CBS
 5. "NCIS" (Tuesday) CBS
- (Nielsen, week of Jan. 1-7)

Top 5 Albums

1. "The Greatest Showman Soundtrack" Various Artists
 2. "Stars: The Best Of" by The Cranberries
 3. "Camila" by Camila Cabello
 4. "No Need to Argue" by The Cranberries
 5. "Everybody Else Is" by The Cranberries
- (iTunes)

Top 5 Songs

1. "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran with Beyonce
 2. "Havana" by Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug
 3. "Finesse" by Bruno Mars & Cardi B
 4. "Rockstar" by Post Malone featuring 21 Savage
 5. "No Limit" by G-Eazy featuring A\$AP Rocky & Cardi B
- (Billboard)