

Rivendell Bicycle Works Holiday Handout 2014



When you buy something here, your purchase tells us way to go, you got it right, I like what you like. And the money we receive allows us to pay rent, raise children, buy shoes and pay our suppliers, keeping them healthy, too. At least five of them would lay people off without our business, and that means, without your support.

Thanks a lot for all of that.

We hope you like this holiday selection, but of course we have more online. Some of what's here is seasonal and in short supply.

The axes, for one example. And, we don't list part numbers here, but they're online, and if you phone in an order we'll find the number.

As ever, everything is priced to the even dollar, and no price ends in a nine.

Finally, please excuse the typos. I think I got them all, but I never do. — Grant

Photo below, shot mid aft, 21-Oct. L-to-R: Jenny-Dave-Grant-Brian-Rich-Mark-Sean-Robert-Jared. Missing: Miesha, Mary, Spencer, Keven, Will, Vince, Harry, Joe, Scott, John, our Portland correspondent, and Mel & Buddy, our classic American shopdogs. And a hearty hey-ho to ex-emps Vaughn & Jay, for whom the door's always ajar. Heaven forbid things go south for either of you, but if worse comes to worse you both always have a spot here. Although, to be fair to the others, you'd have to restart at the bottom, part-time at first. Please understand.



To put into the red sock by the fireplace, if available

Small & special but not ridiculously expensive or teeth-rotting or fat-making—means a welcome relief for the stocking. Alternatives to the usual sweets, or maybe in addition.



RANDOM LUG \$8

A current or historical Rivendell lug suitable for a napkin ring, Christmas tree ornament, wind chime, or doodle toy.
A nice piece of investment cast steel. Bring something bikey and small and special into your cubicle. Hide it from the boss.



THREE PUNGENT SOAPS

You know how some soaps smell when they're big, but fade as they shrink? What a rook. These smell all the way through, and mix with the others deliciously. Here's a tip: Lather your armpits & rinse; then lather again and let dry. If you need stronger deodorant than this, see a doctor.

Pine Tar. (40z) **\$ 5** Clove or Anise: 2 x 30z bars (60z) **\$ 10**

ITALIAN LICORICE TOOTHPASTE \$ 11

Toothpaste you can stick in a stocking without shame. because it's expensive and unusual. and no way the recipient has ever tried it. Expensive Italian toothpaste makes brushing ten times more fun. Give a tube!







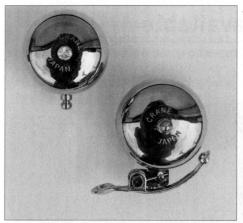
FOREIGN REAR LIGHTS

From Holland, a fender light with a curiously small button that clicks on a bright, wide, foamy red glow. Easy to mount, if you can drill a hole.

\$ 15

From Germany, the smallest brightest, priciest seat post light we've seen, and adaptable to other places.

\$ 34

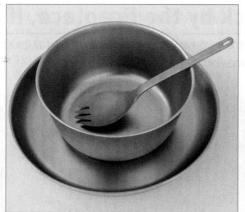




Lovely but not precious; let's say they're appropriately plain for bells, and they make beautiful, affordable sounds.

The hammer style is louder, good in traffic. The springer is slightly kinder and best for bike paths. They fit bars from 22.2mm - 26mm. Wrap a layer of cloth tape first so the metal doesn't scratch your bar or stem, then ring away. Ding away.

BRASS BELL W/HAMMER \$ 14 BRASS BELL W/ SPRING \$ 14



TITANIUM BOWL, PLATE, & SPORK

Titanium tableware from Japan seems like an indulgence, but they last forever. The spork's for soup or stabbables. The bowl, ideal for marbles and peas. The 9-inch plate fits three fried eggs or about a pound of meat. Featherweight, can't break, toss them around. Made by Snow Peak.

PLATE \$18 BOWL \$18 SPORK \$10



TWOFISH CLEVER PLASTIC & VELCRO STRAP-ON THING-HOLDERS

Robert of TwoFish has made these clever things for 25 years, always in the U.S., and it's been a good life. They work as intended and come in handy for other things, which you can discover yourself. The entire country of Japan is nuts over the flashlight holder—if I told you how many they bought a year you'd think I was lying. Tons more than mere lots. The actual figure is confidential.

LIGHT HOLDER \$ 6
PUMP HOLDER \$ 6
STRAP-ON BOTTLE CAGE \$ 20

Carrying things

Brand V (a vegan line, a nod to a few vegan bites each of us takes every day) and Sackville—are our own design, meticulously made in Connecticut of tightly woven, dry-finish waxed & waterproof & rotproof Scottish cotton. They're the best bike bags we've used, with simple designs, useful

BRAND V GRABSACK \$ 70

I/Grant have used mine 300 days a year for 4 years, and it's just getting good.

Waterproof, nice-looking, useful anywhere and for anything.
Nearly unique toggleand-ring closure is fast and easy. Sleeve inside for keys, wallet, phone. This bag shouts, "stuff me with good things!"

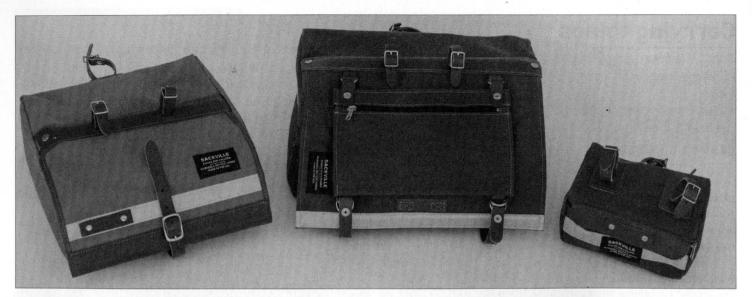


but not showoffy features, and shapes that make sense for loads. The racks are made in Japan by NITTO ("neat-oh"). The basket's Kentuckian, unchanged for a century, and we use it every day. The Taiwanese net is custom for us, cost \$4 or so more than lesser nets, and is worth it every day.



SACKVILLE Shopsacks MED, \$55; LAR, \$60

Sized perfectly for the Wald Baskets a couple of pages away. The best shopping system in the world, that combo. Good carry-ons and beach bags, too. Not to be confused with Common Totes.



SACKVILLE SADDLESACK SMALL \$140

Fits a 13-inch laptop & a small shopping load, or a day's worth of clothing and food for a long cold ride. Short top to bottom, so it clears close tires. Mounts easily on any saddle with loops, and doesn't need a rack. Simplified design (one strap, pulls on a dowel) keeps the cost down. Beautifully made in Connecticut. Olive or Tan

SACKVILLE SADDLESACK MED \$206

This is the most all-around useful size saddlebag for shopping, and big enough for touring or camping—as long as you have a basket or some other bag, too. Our most popular Saddlesack. Olive or tan. The pocket's for money and phone, and it comes off. Olive or tan.

SACKVILLE SADDLESACK XS \$68

Holds keys, wallet, phone, repair kit, small food, and maybe a tiny shirt. Mounts on saddlebag loops, with zipper to close it, a reflective strip, and a thing of leather to hang a light on. Bam! Olive or tan.

NITTO HUB AREA RACK \$ 145

HUB AREA BAGS, OLIVE, PR, \$ 145

HUB AREA BAGS, TAN, PR \$145

We used to diss low-riders, then when made our own we had to change our tune *and* call them something else. Meet our Hub Area Bags.

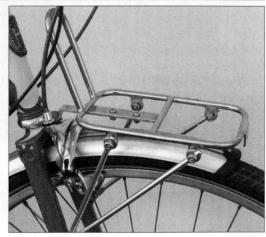
Like all Sackvilles, they're disarmingly simple, refreshingly free of clever compartments you never imagined needing, because, in fact, you don't. To separate gooey stuff from camera gear, use stuff sacks inside these. They have the most secure, versatile, field-serviceable and replaceable mounting system of any bags. About 1200 cubic inches/pair.

The Hub Area Rack (upper photo) is made just for us, just for these, by NITTO, in Tokyo. Tubular CrMo, fillet brazed, and nickel plated for hard wear. Bags are sold in pairs, Bags are olive or tan; rack is silver, like all NITTO racks.



NITTO MARK'S RACK \$130

Our most popular rack, design-tweaked by our own Mark, to make it easy to put a rack on a bike with bolt-on brakes (sidepulls always, centerpulls usually). Makes those bike useful. Go, Mark!

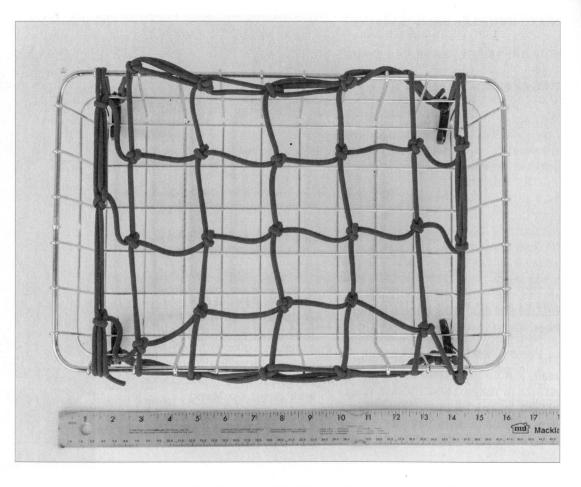


WALD BASKETS \$ 23

Kentucky-made for more than a century, and the biggest bargain in bikedom. The Medium (shown) fits a grocery bag or a MED Shopsack, and goes onto a Mark's rack; the Large fits two grocery bags or a LARGE Shopsack, and needs a bigger rack.

CAPTAIN HOOK NET \$12

Got basket? U-needa dis net. Other nets are meh. They aren't proportioned perfectly, and the hooks are small and fiddly. So we designed our own PERFECT Net. It's red. It has big, easy to use hooks. Tip: Take off two of the hooks and set them aside. Tape or tie or otherwise semipermanently fix the rear half of the net to basket. Bam! Watch out, universe!



BOOKS

It's important to give books to children, so they'll associate them with fun. Plus, most children don't have books flowing into their lives all the time, and holidays are a good opportunity to fix that. All of the books here earned their spot either by being really spectacular books, or by being written by the guy who's also picking the stuff for this Flyer. One more thing: We've got a lot of hardbacks here (HB). They make good gifts, and last longer. It's good for kids to get hardbacks now and then. It gives the book a specialness (to a child) that a paperback doesn't. Below, HB means Hardback.

Edward Lear's BOOK OF NONSENSE \$ 15

Written in 1848 and a classic for at least 118 years, but now it's fallen off the radar. Genius and hilarious collection of short



stories, poems, and most of all, limericks. ("There was an Old Man of Dunblane...."). The best way to introduce children to reading and poetry, and fun for everybody except grumps.

Printed in Germany with exceptional binding, cover, paper, and includes a sewn-in bookmark. Kids love that book mark. HB



WINNIE THE POOH \$ 15

Is this the best children's book ever? Give it and inscribe it, then let Pooh'& friends do the rest. HB.



HOUSE @ POOH CORNER \$ 15

More stories of Pooh, Piglet, Rabbit, Kanga & Roo, Eeyore, WOL, and Christopher Robin. HB.



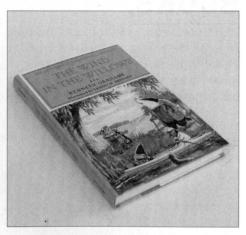
FERDINAND THE BULL \$ 18

A Munro Leaf classic since 1938, about a peacenik bull who doesn't want to fight in the ring in Spain, but his owners want him to. That bull, Ferdinand, is in a pickle, but in the end he reigns supreme and the fate of the meanie is undetermined. Eighteen bucks for a kid's book? Yes, but inscribe it and they'll have it for fifty years. Great Robert Lawson illustrations. HB



WEE GILLIS \$ 16

Also by Munro Leaf. It's a Caldecott Award winner, great story about a kid in Scotland who has a tough decision to make. He does the right thing. Incredible Robert Lawson illustrations, wonderful story. A gorgeous book--graphically and all. HB.



THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS \$ 25

Kenneth Grahame's contribution to the universe, written in 1908 for children 7 and up, but fantastic for adults, too. Read it to youngsters, then let them read it themselves. Illustrated by Ernest Shepard, the illustrator for Pooh.

Deluxe 100th Anniversary edition. HB.

JUST RIDE \$ 14

I/Grant wrote this, and it came out OK. In it I try to explain, in 89 short entries, why racers are rotten role models, and



how to be a normal human person riding a bike in a real, not a fantasy, world; or in a doomed pursuit of fitness. Why long hard rides to nowhere for the sake of shaping up are a waste of time. Why cycling clothing, most of the time, isn't necessary. How to have more fun on the bike with less pressure to perform.

All my royalties go to college tuition for my two daughters, in case you wondered.

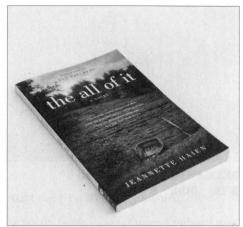


BIKESNOB BOOKS (by Eben Weiss) \$ 14

Fun, enlightening, life-changing prose from cycling's best writer, and I'm not just trying to be magnanimous. He is. All HB. **Bike Snob.** General commentary on the state of bikes and riders.

The Enlightened Cyclist. Commuting by bike in a sea of cars and bike commuters. How to, how not to.

Bike Snob Abroad. Riding around London, Amsterdam, Italy, Gothenburg. You'll feel like you're there, and like the others, fun & informative.



THE ALL OF IT (by Jeannette Haien) \$ 13

A 145-page delightful morsel novel and the book that inspired Ann Patchett to open up a bookstore in Nashville. It was out of print, and she got a publisher to bring it back. It's mostly a sister-brother story, but it has salmon fishing in it, too, and it takes place in Scotland, if that means anything to you.

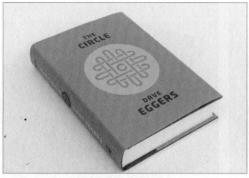


BEL CANTO (Ann Patchett) \$25 (HB); \$14 (PB)

Ann Patchet's most famous novel. Great writing, plot, and an introduction to opera that'll make you want to hear some even if you hate it right now. It's a nailbiter-pageturner, etc.

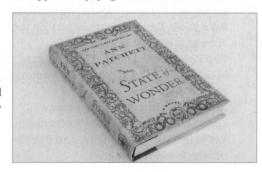
STATE OF WONDER (Ann Patchett) \$25 (HB); \$14 (PB)

Most of it takes place in the Amazon rain forest, and involves a researcher looking for a special medicine. I don't like going into detail & spoiling it. Both excellent and are signed by Ann herself. Unless we run out and reorder.



THE CIRCLE (Dave Eggers) \$25 (HB); \$15 (PB)

This should become a movie. It's a novel about a fictitious internet company that wants to know too much about everybody. Creepy, timely, page-turner.





THE ART OF HEARING HEARTBEATS (Jan-Philipp Sendaker) \$ 15

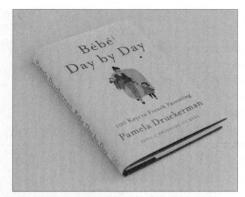
On book tour for Just Ride, I asked two employees of the best bookstore in Alabama what their favorite novel was, and both named this. It has become the best-selling novel in Bike Book & Hatchet, and now we offer it here. A love story in Burma. There's some blindness, an outdoor market, and a mean uncle. If you're buying for a novel-reader, probably he or she hasn't read this, and will love it.



Eat Bacon, Don't Jog \$14

If you want to shed fat and get stronger and understand how that works, read this and that's a fait accompli.

Of course we have it in stock, but I'd prefer you ask for it at your local bookstore. That way, it'll click on their radar and they may order more (or any) from the publisher, which would make the publisher happy. Or even Amazon, or wherever you tend to buy books. It's cool to buy it here too, of course. But if you're IN your local shop or on Amazon, look for it. Available Nov 21.



Bebe Day by Day \$18

Author Pamela Druckerman, former Wall Street Journal journalist, moved to France, married a Frenchman & started a family, and noticed that French children were more poised, polite, and generally less "me-me-now-now-no-no" than American children. She attributed that to French parenting practices, and this book is specific, clear, funny. Includes 100 short (average length: 130 words) entries on a variety of topics dear to all parents. It was the model for Just Ride. Good advice, fun to read. For parents of youngsters.



Gift Certificate, any amount

Sometimes the last-minute desperation gift is the best of all. If you know a cyclist and don't feel like snooping around or guessing, you know a Gift Certificate will work. We'll send a card and note saying something to the tune of, "You have \$X of credit with us, and to thank!"

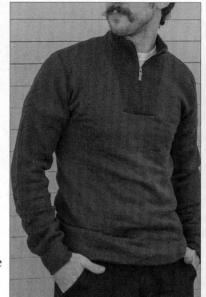
Wool from Sweden

The softest, fluffiest, easiest to launder woollies are made in Ostersund, Sweden by a small zero-waste maker, WoolPower. They're a luxurious, long wearing blend of wool & polystuffs made in a unique terryloop weaving process that takes forever even with the special Italian and Japanese machines. One sock takes 4 minutes. Garments are made with a minimum of seams all by one seamster, who signs it. Most Rivenstaffers wear these.

Quarter Zipper lightweight \$ 125

Layer under or over it, wear next to your skin or not. Good for cold-weather activity. Red, Navy, Dark Green, Grey. The Red & Navy are scarce—we had to order our entire supply nine months ago, and can't reorder. No matter what wool you already have, you don't have one of these, and you'll love it. Normal sizing

The best sox in the world. Our faves, anyway. \$22 We have more weights online, but the basic one is the 200g, btw a dress sock and a booter in weight; wearable alone or layered with a thin liner or a heavier sock (both of which we have online, both by WoolPower). Mens 9+, get the biggies.







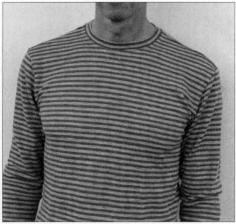


ALL WOOL UNDIES from NORWAY (\$ 43) & USA (\$ 38)

They don't clam up or smell, and if you alternate inside out/outside out, you can wear a pair four days in a row. Two pair will last a ten-day adventure, no problem. Wash warm, air dry, wear in an hour. Join the legion of avid & rabid wool undie fans. S M L XL

The Norwegians are solid blue & thin and made by Devold (yes, in Norway).

The MUSA (made in USA) ones are our own pattern, mid-weight, striped blue and grey.



MUSA STRIPEY TOP \$65

The same midweight all-merino wool as the boxer briefs, but in a long-sleeved crewneck. This is our second round of this style, and a third is already ordered. We get them in by the dozens, not the thousands, and it's probably the most popular top ever among RivStaffers. Good layering over skin, cotton, or thinner wool. Excluding the Civil War, blue and grey always look good together. Royalish blue. M L XL



MUSA DARK GRAY CHAMBRAY \$82

Made in the USA of 100 percent cotton chambray, with two buttoning pockets, black buttons, red thread. It has tails but isn't meant to be tucked. It's light weight and won't make you sweat. The most popular shirt we've made, but there are still fewer than 350 in world. They shrink a bit, but a large still fits like a large. S M L XL



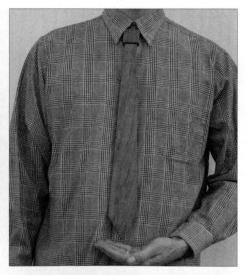
Possum Wool Neck Gaiter \$28

Super soft, not at all scratchy, and made of Possum Wool and Merino, but it's not our Made In USA possum. It's the far cuter by heinous, invasive, non-indigenous Australian scoundrel possum that is ravaging New Zealand Forests to the tune of 20,000 tons of native vegetation per night. The NZ government subsidizes possum wool industries, and you can be a true blue conservationist by wearing one of these. Black or Nat (tan.)



RBW LS Tee \$20

Organic cotton, made in America, Navy or Dark Grey—both colors are simultaneously slimming & buffing. Whatever you want more or less of, you got it. T-shirts this good usually cost \$30, but they say Us on them, so... \$20.



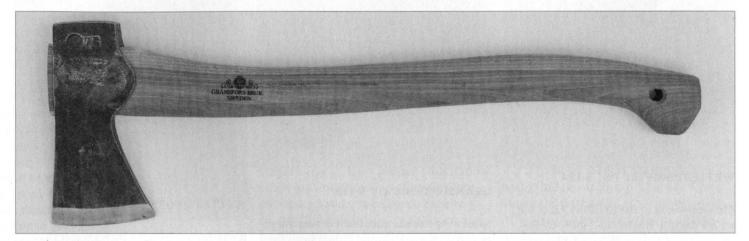
Redwood Tie (yes, it's wood) \$40

Made in San Francisco of reclaimed redwood, and it's no joke. A wood tie is great for travel, because it doesn't wrinkle. It can't fray. It cleans up easily if you spill on it. The links let it pack smally. It goes on an off in a jiff, and costs less than fancy ties.

Regular (shown). \$ 40 Skinny, \$40 Bow, \$37

HATCHETS from SWEDEN

Both Swedish makers, Gransförs and Wetterlings, are more than a century old, and make rugged, gorgeous axes with a lifetime of use in them, destined to be passed down to a lucky heir, never thrown out. Hand made, and the world is going nuts for these hatchets, so order early and if we're out of your first choice, get the one closest to it. There's no diff in quality or looks. Both companies are owned by the same clan.



GRANSFORS No. 420 \$ 120

Long enough to swing with two hands for light splitting, limbing, or chopping; but then you can choke up on it and use one hand for making butter knives and egg scramblers. The 1.5 pound head doesn't require much speed to cut through fresh pine. Top choice for a first ax or an only one, as long as you don't have to tuck it into a pocket. It's 19.2 inches long, has a 1.5lb head, and weighs a hair over two pounds. The most useful ax we have (tied for first with the equivalent Wetterlings). With sheath (not shown) & book.



WETTERLINGS No. 119 \$ 124

The equivalent of the Granförs #420, but with a slightly smaller and more wedge-shaped head, so it splits wood slightly better (while not chopping across grain quite as well). They're fungible, though. We totally love this ax. It could easily be your only ax.

GRANSFORS No. 415 \$ 112

Same shape as the 420, but 6 inches shorter and with a half-pound lighter head (13 inches long, 1 lb head). When size matters, this is the one to take. Easily fits in a saddlebag, so you're always ready. The Wetterlings equivalent is the III, there to the right.

WETTERLINGS No, 111 \$ 110

It's 12-inches long (an inch shorter than the 415), and ideal for campfire kindling making, stuff like that. Hides away easily, really useful, beautifully made. Equivalent to the GB 415.

FISKARS 14" HATCHET \$ 30

High techie hatchet made by a Finnish company that knows cutting tools. Although it will never be an heirloom-the synthetic handle rules that out-it works great, sharpens easily, and holds an edge. The balance is perfect, and it's the way to go when you're looking for inexpensive and high function, & are willing to give up

the manly look.
Or, like, if you get a Gransförs 420 or
Wetterlings 119 and want a smaller ax too—
and can't afford-the woody ones—get this.
Truly a super little ax, or we wouldn't sell it.
With slick plastic sheath. It's all pretty neat.



GLOVES (made in the USA) \$38

These are of pricey, but less costly than finger surgery. They protect your hands when grabbing wood or chopping (the swinging hand can be bare). Excellent fit, quality. ELK is thicker, warmer, and handles water better (dries soft, not stiff). GOAT is white, thinner, still super tough. In hot dry weather, vote goat. If you have an ax, get gloves. Small adult male hands, get M. Normal, get Large. Ex-large, get XL. Protect your hands.



LANSKY SHARPENING PUCK \$ 8

An American classic, and only \$8. You dip it in water if there's water around, and grind the ax sharp. The water just floats the dust away, so it can be more effective. No room here for ax sharpening lessons, but they're all over YouTube. This one's too good and cheap not to get. Three inches across, an inch thick, for easy carrying in a pocket.



VICTORINOX PIONEER \$ 38

It's basically the only Swiss Army knife one needs—big blade, two screwdrivers, awl for making holes, wire stripper, bottle opener, can opener. The screwdrivers are also lid-poppers; the awl is also a scraper; the knife, a fingernail cutter. The aluminum handle beats red plastic. Made in Switzerland, naturally.



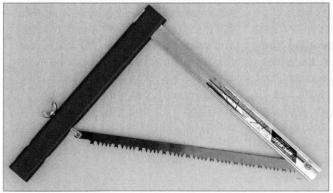
FANNO No. 1 Saw \$ 25

FANNO's a great saw company, third generation, suppliers to the forest service and gardeners. This wood-handled folder is 21-inches open, 11 inches closed, and has a 10-inch blade that's perfect for logs and branches up to about 4-inches across. Folds smaller than the SVEN, fits into smaller bags.



OPINEL ROUNDY \$ 16

Opinel makes 105 models, and this is our winner. The round tip is cute, and is the reason Opinel recommends this model for kids. But it works for adults, too. The twisto-matic lock probably isn't necessary, but what the hey. Nice knife, more for food and twine than woodwork. Made in France for...8500 years.



SVEN SAW

15-inch: \$ 37; 21-inch: \$ 37

Dick Swenson of Minnesota has made this for 40 years, and back in the '70s and '80s, everybody I knew who wasn't a bike rider had one. The Norwegian blade (from Norway) roars thru wood, and the saw folds or unfolds in 30 seconds.

Two sizes: 15-inches, for wood 5-inch diameter an less; an 21-inches, for bigger stuff. Replacement blades are proprietary (not standard hardware store stuff), but the blades last for years and available (we stock, as do hundreds of other places). Everybody needs a Sven saw eventually. A great companion to any of our axes.

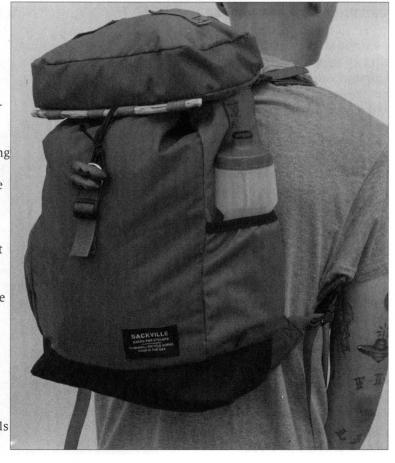
SACKVILLE STICK PACK \$ 145

Made to our specs in Utah by Lone Peak, of bike-pack fame. The fabric is 500 denier (half-weight) cordura nylon, so it wads up and stows away more easily. There are quirky-smart details common to some past packs, and a daypack first: The pocket, buckles, and straps are removable, replaceable, easily & securely. If you scoff at the mil-spec plastic hardware, replace it with brass. It's easy & U-Can-Du-It.

The shoulder straps are padded with all-wool felt (for no slipping off slopey shoulders clad in slick nylon). The top flap/pocket comes with wooden dowel for even pulling, but you can replace it with a stick you cut yourself. **It's a user's pack.** No *need* to fuss with it, but it's fusser-friendly if you want to turn the top pocket into a bar bag, or remove the shoulder straps and strap the pack onto a back rack or in a Wald medium basket (a perfect fit). There's no waist strap, and for this kind of pack, no need.

COLORS: A mix of tan, olive, grayish, and dark gray. Your choice of graphic styles: either symmetrical, where the left and ride sides look the same; or wacky, where they don't. If you pick wacky, no two will be identical, and you've got to be cool and flexible. Can you handle, for instance, a red felt pad on the left shoulder strap, olive or grey on the right? Side panels that don't match? Webbing and buckles that don't match? If not, go symmetrical. Know yourself before you order.

About 1600 cubic inches. Shown: Prototype No. 2. Minor details may change, but the size shape & key features are right there.



SACKVILLE BACKABIKE SACKS

Modeled after our Hub Area Bags, but slightly bigger. Both mount via two grommets and a strap (we provide). It's not the one hand/one second mount and release of most modern bags, but if you can spare 30 seconds, you'll see the beauty in its simplicity and security, and may have some bonus peace of mind knowing there's nothing to break, and you can attached them with a shoelace, if that's all you've got... Tan or Olive. About 1500 cubic inches per pair.

About bag capacity in general, and packing for bike tours in particular.

Even a poor sloppy-packing hobo should be able to tour for two weeks with 3200 cubic inches. A careful tourer can do it on 2200. These bags in back; that's 1500. The Hub area bags in front—another 1200 cubic inches. Strap bulky stuff on top of the rear rack (or use a saddlebag)—at least another 500 cubic inches, and then a medium basket on the front—300 more at least—and you've got room to spare and a balanced load.



Charity

Each year, regardless of how we're doing, we donate about \$12,000 to a small handful of charities whose work we're familiar with, and who have a track record we admire. This year the charities are —



VALENCIA FOUNDATION

826 Valencia

Nonprofit founded by author Dave Eggers and committed to teaching first graders through high schoolers writing skills, which of course helps more than just their writing. Find out more at 826valencia.org



The Valentino Achak Deng Foundation

Nonprofit founded to help schools, teachers, and students in South Sudan, one of the poorest countries in Africa, with huge potential and massive poverty. Read more at vadfoundation.org



The Carter Center

Efficient and effective, The Carter Center tackles causes other charities steer clear of. It has singlehandedly nearly eradicated Guinea worm, which once affected 7 million.

Learn more at

Learn more at Cartercenter.org

Rivendell Bicycle Works 2040 N. Main Street #19 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (925) 933-7304 (800) 345-3918 www.rivbike.com





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