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Black Diamond's FlickLock® and Binary™ systems deliver high-speed adjustments with an unyielding grip. This season, Black Diamond ups the advantage with the introduction of Elliptic Technology for easier adjustments, increased fore/aft stiffness and better downhill stability and control. Go ahead, adjust your poles mid-stride.

## COMPACT Series

If you don't need 140-145 cm poles, why carry the weight? These 125 cm (49 in) models are lighter, pack down smaller and have reduced grip sizes. Suitable for people 1.72 m (5' 8") and under.



## SPIRE <NEW>

The new Elliptic Technology Spire has the highest fore/aft stiffness on the market, providing unrelenting support on technical climbs and descents. It also features a 15° corrective angle, a new dual-density top knob, a non-slip foam grip, 360° padded webbing, Short Flex Tips and low-profile trekking baskets. Available in a Compact version.

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**USABLE RANGE:**  
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**WEIGHT:**  
572 G (1 LB 4 OZ)

## FLICKLOCK & ELLIPTIC FLICKLOCK

Our new patent-pending Elliptic FlickLock offers the same fast adjustment with zero-slip security as our time-tested FlickLock, but exploits the mechanical advantage derived from the oblong shape so less force is needed when opening or closing the FlickLock to get the same locking power. Flick open, adjust, flick closed.

## BINARY

With our patented ON/OFF Binary adjustment system, just pull the lower shaft out until the red pins engage — it locks. Depress the red pins — it collapses. Micro-length adjustments aren't necessary on the lower shaft while on the trail, and for the adjustments you do make the Binary is the most logical solution with the fastest and easiest adjustment on the market.



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SUMMER OUTDOOR 2006

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GEAR TRENDS

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# publishers' corner



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You will see in this most recent issue of GearTrends® numerous story links from our articles referencing more information in either SNEWS® ([www.snewsnet.com](http://www.snewsnet.com)) or GearTrends.com. Trends and product reports, additional resources and more, all electronically available to SNEWS® subscribers—you are one, aren't you?

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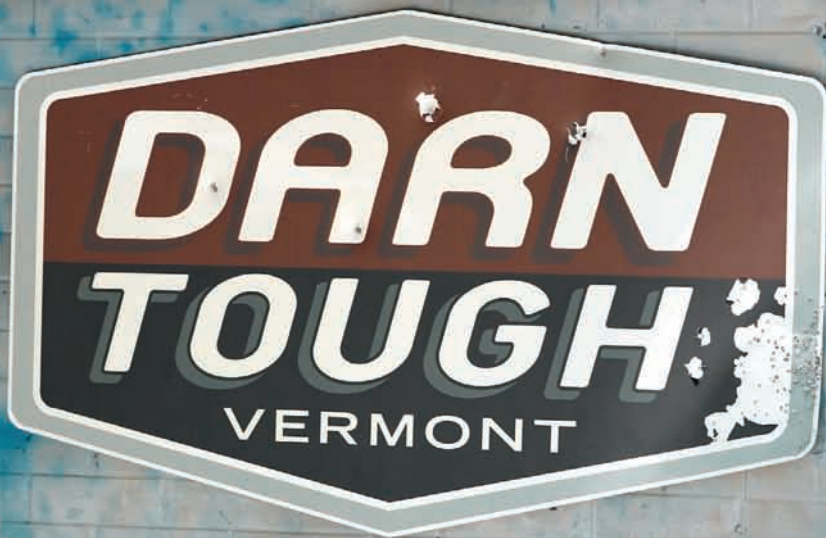
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Susan Mantle Photography



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# contributors



## THOSE WHO MAKE THE GEARS TURN AT GEARTRENDS®



» **MICHAEL HODGSON** is an award-winning journalist and author of numerous books including "Camping For Dummies," "Compass and Map Navigator" and "Facing the Extreme." He continues to pen articles for select consumer magazines. He was the founder of Adventure 16's Wilderness Outings program and garnered extensive retail experience as a store manager there, before becoming the general manager for Western Mountaineering. Michael also served as an editor for *Outdoor Retailer* magazine where he helped launch the *Daily Exposure*.



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» **MARCUS WOOLF** has worked as a journalist in the outdoor industry for 10 years and served as editor for *Outdoor Retailer* magazine. In 2002, he returned to his home state of Alabama where he works as a contributor for SNEWS® and GearTrends®, as well as a freelancer for consumer publications such as *Backpacker* and *Outside*. Marcus hikes and paddles throughout the country, and he is one of the few trade and consumer journalists who specializes in exploring and testing gear in the South.



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» **BOB WOODWARD** started his career in the outdoor business at Sierra Designs in 1971. After leaving SD, he drifted into journalism, first with World Publications and later with Times-Mirror Magazines and CBS Magazines. Woody returned to the world of freelancing as a writer and photographer after selling SNEWS®—which he founded in 1982—to current owners/publishers Michael and Therese in 2001.



» **CHRIS DOYLE** is the director of the Adventure Travel Trade Association and of the Adventure Travel World Summit. He's also the editor of ATTA's *Adventure Travel News*. An active (trail) marathoner, adventure traveler and guest speaker, Chris has managed corporate reputations, developed extensive national consumer awareness campaigns, supported the launch of six Internet concerns, and has enjoyed success with Doyle Public Relations, a PR consultancy he started in 2001.



» **ROY NOTOWITZ** is a founding partner of Generator Group and leads a team of recruiters pioneering a new model for delivering recruiting services to client companies in the outdoor industry. Prior to founding Generator in 2000, Notowitz gained experience as a recruiter and staffing manager at Nike Inc. and Intel Corp. He is also the co-founder of the Northwest Corporate Recruiters Association.

## » BEHIND THE CURTAINS OF OZ



**WENDY GEISTER**, managing editor, has been a trade journalist and editor for more than 13 years. After a long tenure at *Outdoor Retailer* magazine, and its affiliates the *Daily Exposure* and *Fly-Fishing Retailer*, Wendy joined the SNEWS® and GearTrends® team in 2002. She enjoys kayaking, camping, skiing, kickboxing and traveling.



**JOHN DAVIDSON**, art director, has been an outdoorsman since the first time his mother took him camping in Yosemite at age 6. He has hiked all the major points in the Valley, including five summits of Half Dome. John was art director of *Outdoor Retailer* and *Daily Exposure* for six years prior to hopping onto GearTrends® in 2002.