

RSS



Examiner Home

You are here: [Denver](#) > [Recreation](#) > [Outdoor Recreation Gear Examiner](#)

41°F, Scattered Clouds

- My Examiners
- Arts & Entertainment
- Bars & Clubs
- Business & Finance
- Careers & Workplace
- Education & Schools
- Family & Parenting
- Fitness & Weight Loss
- Food & Drink
- Gadgets & Tech
- Games & Hobbies
- Health
- Home & Living
- Neighborhoods
- News
- Pets
- Politics
- Recreation**
- Relationships
- Religion & Spirituality
- Restaurants
- Shopping
- Sports
- Style & Fashion
- Transportation
- Travel
- Associated Press
- Classifieds
- Examiners
- News By Location
- News By Topic
- Press Releases
- Slideshows
- Stock Quotes
- Today In Photos

## Ice climbing gear at the Ouray Ice Festival

January 9, 10:10 AM [Add a Comment](#)  
 by Sara Thayer, [Outdoor Recreation Gear Examiner](#)

[« Previous](#)

[Next »](#)

The Ouray Ice Festival in Ouray, Colo. is taking place this weekend (January 9 - 11, 2009). This event is an international gathering of ice climbers, gear exhibitors, and ice climbing voyeurs who get their thrills just to watching from the safety below the precipitous edges. During the festival, some of the best and most talented ice climbers compete, while others partake in beginner and advanced clinics, axe-throwing contests, light rope walks across the gorge, and a myriad of other festivities. The festival was first held in 1996 and promoted by ice climbing pioneer Jeff Lowe. In 2001 Lowe sold the Ouray Ice Festival to Ouray Ice Park Inc. The festival is now recognized as the premier international gathering of its kind. Here are just a few samplings of the new gear that will be introduced at this weekend's event.



The **SCARPA Freney XT GTX** claims to be the lightest weight boot for technical ice and mixed terrain. It is a totally rigid boot with an extremely flexible cuff that makes it sensitive enough for the most technical routes and comfortable enough for the approach. That's thanks to its synthetic Lorica and K-Tech upper construction, with Gore-Tex and Duratherm insulation to keep the elements at bay. The Freney is compatible with all crampons, including step-in, strap on and the innovative Grivel-SCARPA binding (GSb). The GSb system is faster to get on and off, offers the security of an attachment with no side-to-side movement.  
 MSRP: \$399.00

Website: [www.scarpa.com](http://www.scarpa.com)

The **Vasque M-Possible SS** climbing boot is an advanced solution for the demands of the modern mixed climbing, steep ice, and alpine speed ascents. The new M-Possible SS features a highly abrasion and puncture resistant SuperFabric upper, combined with a breathable, low-stretch soft shell and PU coated leather. 200g Thinsulate insulation is combined with a heat reflecting liner and a waterproof membrane. Revolutionary Aspen Aerogel insulation is placed on top of a molded carbon fiber insole board and a Vibram Mulaz outsole creating a warm, stiff and light platform for precision footwork. Weight: 3 lbs, 10 oz.  
 MSRP: \$325.00



Website: [www.vasque.com](http://www.vasque.com)

Heavy duty alloy spikes are not just for your car, the tire technology has now become personal. Traction technology created 25 years ago in the Italian Alps is now made for shoes. **Kako International's Ice Trekkers Ultra Shoe Chain** is made to grip the ground and hold on in deep snow and slick ice. A rubber sling snaps securely over all types of footwear and the alloy steel ensures the chains are rust-free.  
 MSRP: \$35.00  
 Website: [www.ice-cleats.com](http://www.ice-cleats.com)

For extreme mountaineering, the **Kayland Ice Dragon** is the choice for four-time Ice Climbing World Cup Champion Evgeny Krivosheitev. The shoes feature two closures and ergonomically placed padding to wrap and cradle the foot precisely for enhanced sensitivity during foot placement. Black Diamond Raptor crampons are mounted directly into the composite sole and a layer of Primaloft insulation keeps the feet warm and comfortable.  
 MSRP: \$574.95  
 Website: [www.kayland.com](http://www.kayland.com)



**Patagonia Backcountry Guide Pants** are made for the hearty climbers and skiers who hit the mountains all winter. The rugged 4-way-stretch doubleweave polyester resists weather and breathes freely, while the waterproof, breathable seat and knee panels give extra protection. A brushed interior and microfleece-lined waistband add comfort, and zippered, mesh-lined thigh vents keep you cool on uphill grinds. Other details include three-point removable suspenders, a zippered fly, gusseted, zippered cuffs with two-position snaps, edge guards and internal mini-gaiters.  
 MSRP: \$175.00  
 Website: [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)



**Osprey's Variant 37 Pack** is made for vertical endeavors, ice climbing and scrambling. The Variant Series was designed using feedback from mountain guides, professional alpinist, and weekend craggers. This pack offers a streamlined feature set specific to climbing pursuits, including: a removable dual compartment top pocket with spindrift, dual ice tool holsters with three position bungee tool tie-offs, a wand /icepick pocket, adjustable sternum straps with a safety whistle, and top and bottom side carry compression straps. The Variant 37 is designed with a thermoformed contoured backpanel suspension, a fixed stretch comfort harness, and a 3D contoured EVA ErgoPull hipbelt with tool



**Sara Thayer**

[Outdoor Recreation Gear Examiner](#)



Sara Thayer is an outdoor enthusiast who loves skiing, rock climbing, hiking, camping, kayaking, biking, and generally spending all her free time in the great outdoors with her two active boys and Labrador Retriever. Reach her at [outdoorexaminer\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:outdoorexaminer[at]gmail.com).

[+ My Examiners](#)

**More Articles**

- [The gear you need for avalanche season](#)
  - [Energy bars -- a taste test](#)
  - [Ice climbing gear at the Ouray Ice Festival](#)
  - [Outdoor gear for your four-legged companion](#)
- This season's top ski jackets
- 1 2 of 2 >

## Search this Examiner`s Ar

[Advertisement](#)

**Examiner Feeds**

These websites were picked by the Outdoor Recreation Gear Examiner as useful resources.

View: All Sources

- [VIDEO: A job in paradise](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation News - 2 hrs 45 mins ago](#)
- [Lawmakers look at recreation liability](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation News - 7 hrs ago](#)
- [Spate of shark attacks in Australia rattles nerves](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation News - 11 hrs ago](#)
- [Greenbelt Lake accident kills father, teen son](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation News - 15 hrs ago](#)
- [Ky. lawmakers legalize bear hunting](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation News - 20 hrs ago](#)

**Outdoor Recreation Gear Reviews**

- [Gorp.com](#)
- [Trailspace.com](#)
- [The Gear Junkie](#)
- [MountainZone.com](#)
- [TheBackpacker.com](#)

**Best Bets for Outdoor Recreation Gear**

[Ads by Google](#)

