



TWENTY NINE INCHES

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January 2, 2011

The Top Non-29"er Specific Product of 2010

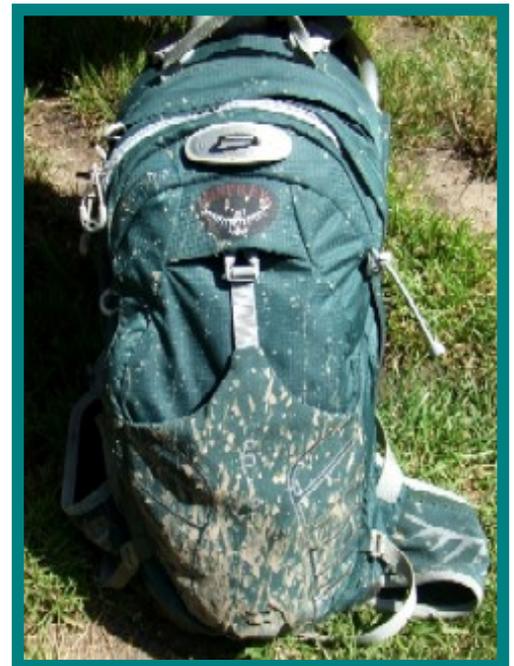
Featuring: The Raptor 10

Monthly Traffic: 36,300

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/4hwshhd>

This is the second annual Best Non-29"er related product award post which will feature a new cycling product I thought was the "bees knees" during 2010. This year I veered away from the hardware side of things and I am giving the award to a hydration pack. Yep! I was thoroughly impressed with this product and it gets my nod for the "Top Non-29"er Specific product of 2010".

Osprey Packs Raptor 10: This back pack/hydration system was with me on a lot of adventures in 2010. I never had any major complaints with the comfort, functionality, or overall performance of this pack at all. The Raptor 10 survived getting overstuffed, abused in mud, and totally drenched and came back with flying colors every time. The Raptor 10 is part of Osprey's Hydraulic series of packs which includes the Raptor Series of packs. My favorite feature of the Raptor 10 was specifically the hydration system. It features the HydraForm reservoir, which made it really easy to refill on rides. The bite valve was good, had an "off position", and stowed away on a magnetic clip on one of the shoulder straps, instead of flopping around wildly like most hydration tubes do. The system as a whole was just a joy to work with, and for me, it needed to be, or why have a backpack on a bicycle ride? So, Osprey's Raptor 10 scored highly with me on that front. The added comfort of the straps and waistband was a bonus. In the case of this hydration pack I had two big nits. The first one, (and not necessarily relegated to Osprey, but shared amongst many pack makers), is that the internal pockets are just to dang deep. The second nit has to do with the Raptor 10's "wing pockets" on the waist strap. They have some meager Velcro closure which will lose anything beyond your spent energy gel packs, and maybe not even those.



So, there ya go! Not a chunk-o-metal bicycle part, but something I found incredibly useful, sturdy, comfortable, and impressive during my riding time in 2010. The Osprey Raptor 10 gets my recommendo for non-29"er specific gear from 2010.

