



OutdoorInformer.com

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Featuring: Karve 16

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/7m94jq3>

The ski season in the Eastern U.S. was horrifically bad this year. I haven't seen so many days in the 70-degree range in March for some years. I've warmed up to skiing packed granular conditions for years since there isn't much choice for east coast skiing. This year was no different. Osprey Packs' line of Karve packs are designed for a full day of front mountain skiing (and riding) with sidecountry mixed in. The pack accompanied me for plenty of granular runs. I took out the Osprey Packs Karve 16 for a few days of resort skiing. The conditions were mostly soft and wet in late February and early March but still fun.

The Karve 16 is lighter in weight at two pounds and one ounce. The top loading main compartment is 976 cubic inches. For use on the weekends, the resorts can be packed and stumbling to the slopes in ski boots isn't an option. And I hate waiting for the shuttle to pick me up and chauffer me to the drop off point. Walking in a pair of low profile shoes is quicker than the shuttle and more comfortable than ski boots. The Karve 16 will easily hold your shoes once you tromp your way to the slopes. And there's plenty of room for snacks, hydration bladder and other necessities. And strap your skis or board to the back of the pack. The pack also can equip you for a long day of sidecountry. The pack has an external pocket designed for an avalanche probe. A smaller pocket that sits on top of the main compartment can hold a shovel. And a soft lined pocket can be used to stash goggles. And a third pocket tops off the Karve 16 storage and can be used for small accessories such as energy gels and other munchies. The pack is streamlined for its 16-liter size. It's a bit bulky for a leisurely lift ride to the top. But it's far from uncomfortable. The zipper for the main compartment is a unique design feature. It also unzips the insulated sleeve on the Karve 16's harness.

The Osprey Karve 16 is the right pack for the practicality needed for resort skiing and the functionality for sidecountry. (MSRP \$99)

