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Interbike 2012: Hydration Packs Round-Up

Featuring: SS13 Raptor and Raven

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Interbike 2012: Hydration Packs Round-Up

There are two brands of hydration packs that have found regular spots on the twentynineinches.com site. Both Camelbak and Osprey make some fine packs and we always look to see what they bring to the new riding season. We are going to peek at some of the newer packs for XC riders from those two manufacturers and add a new pack from Deuter.

I have to confess that I, Grannygear, am a self confessed pack-a-holic. I love trying new hydration packs in search of the best features, fit, etc. While many riders eschew packs altogether for shorter rides, and only begrudgingly use them for longer efforts, I like them for all rides, simply grabbing the right size pack for the right size ride. So, we will highlight four packs that would be typical choices as all-rounders for XC riders/weekend warriors.

Osprey has taken a look at the successful Raptor series of MTB hydration packs, refined, and expanded the features. Larger, zipped (yay!) hip belt pouches, a removable tool roll (excellent idea!), and a revised reservoir. Guitar Ted has thrashed his older version of the Raptor 10 and it has held up but could use a good washing. Hint, hint. :) They also increased the flexibility in the pack so it can conform better to the riders back curve.

We look forward to getting him on a new version as soon as they come rolling into Osprey HQ. The Raptor 10 is a 610 Cu Inch/10 liter pack that weighs 1lb 6oz without the reservoir and is also available in the smaller Raptor 6 and larger Raptor 14. Gone is the Raptor 18 but there is now a Raven version of these packs designed for the lady riders. Different ergonomics and colors help them fit better and stand out from the crowd of men's packs. Expect the same high quality that all Osprey packs exhibit. This is good stuff from a company that knows how to do it well.

