



Elevation Outdoors & ElevationOutdoors.com

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Peak Gear Awards

Featuring: Rev 12

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Welcome to the Summer 2014 *Elevation Outdoors* **Peak Gear** Awards. We introduced this accolade over the winter and it was a hit with readers and gear manufacturers alike. The key here is authenticity. This gear got used. Battered in fact. The philosophy behind how we chose the winners was simple: We asked our top contributors—who, we are proud to admit, spend far more time hiking, backpacking, biking, climbing, paddling, etc. than they do “working”—what was the best gear you used over the past year? What gear can’t you live without? What gear changed your life? Meet the winners:

PEAK GEAR

OSPREY REV 12

\$110; ospreypacks.com

Osprey's new Rev series of panel-loading packs was designed with speed in mind. At 12 liters, this version weighs in at 1 pound, 10 ounces with a reservoir (included). That made it ideal for all our favorite cardio activities, from speed hiking to mountain biking.

WHY IT WON Effective minimalism: The pack is very simple and noticeably light, but that does not mean it doesn't have some smart little features that we put to use on the trail as well. There's a GPS pocket on the shoulder strap, an expandable food pocket on shoulder strap and side-loading mesh pockets that we could actually access with the pack on. But the thing that sealed the deal was the intuitive bladder and pack integration system that kept the bladder from morphing into a big, fat water balloon on our backs.

WHERE WE TOOK IT All-day epic mountain bike rides in Sedona. Moab. Hikes in the Flatirons.

