



PACK LIKE A PRO: BACKCOUNTRY SKIER DAVID STEELE CARVES IT UP

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Featuring: Variant 37

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Montana-based David Steele spends winter days (and spring, late-summer and even some autumn days) skinning up and skiing down some of the more remote terrain in the west. A Montana native who attended college in Washington, he has carved the glaciers of the North Cascades and the snowfields of Glacier National Park. He skis where few others tread, other than the occasional grizzly bear, hence the name of his personal adventure blog, SkinningWithBearSpray.com.

"Often," he said, "I'll find myself ski touring in the late spring or early winter over day-old bear tracks." For that reason, a can of bear spray stays firmly attached to his pack from April through November. We recently asked this athlete—sponsored by Mountain Equipment, ON3P skis, Klymit, and Osprey among others—what else lives in his pack.

GEAR INSTITUTE: *What items—other than sponsor's gear—do you carry on your adventures?*

When it comes to my pack, I've found the **Osprey Variant 37** is the ideal fit for ski touring. Whether out on a day of cragging, ski touring overnight, or heading up a big alpine day hike, the Variant comfortably carries everything I need or want with me. I want one pack for all my day trips, and the Variant is totally there.

