

ADVENTURE CYCLIST

GO THE DISTANCE.

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TREMPEALEAU, WISCONSIN:

Pedaling into the Past



CAN'T MISS KIT FOR THE ROAD

by Mike Deme

Jetboil Helios (\$150, 888-611-9905, jetboil.com)

We've reviewed two versions of the Jetboil in the past (April 2004 and March 2006) but with the new Helios, Jetboil has taken the simplicity of the original further and created an all-in-one cooking system. The Helios consists of a 2 liter pot in which all the other parts nest: the burner base, igniter assembly, fuel can



stabilizer, wind screen, lid (doubles as a plate), and bottom cover.

I found the Helios easy to use and effective. Assembly is quick and easy, and the piezo igniter system makes matches and lighters unnecessary, at least for firing up this system. At 48 degrees Fahrenheit, I boiled 16 ounces of water in 1 minute 30 seconds flat. Pretty impressive. The reasons the Helios is so fast and efficient are the proprietary FluxRing system, which is incorporated on to the bottom of the pot, and the fuel system, which consists of an inverted butane canister and specially-designed fuel line. Combined, this allows for consistent heat as the canister empties, unlike the original design.

At 28 ounces combined, some may find this system bulky but I wouldn't whine about it's weight considering

its ease of use and effectiveness. An addition that would be nice: an incorporated frying pan.

Limar Ultralight Pro 104 (\$215, +39 035 683550, limarhelmets.com)

A helmet is a helmet is a helmet, right? Wrong. I've worn more helmets than I'd like to admit—but the Limar Ultralight Pro 104 stands apart. It's the lightest helmet I've weighed. Limar claims 200 grams for the large size but it tipped my scale at 216 grams/7.6 ounces. Regardless, it's super light, mostly due to Limar's proprietary monocoque in-mould technology.

The 104 has got a very small, streamlined profile, which I prefer. Many helmets I've tested made me feel like a mushroom cap. So I guess I'm vain. I wouldn't wear striped bell bottoms or anything else that looked like it might have come from Liberace's wardrobe, so I won't wear a goofy looking helmet either. When two helmets meet all BHSI (bhsi.org) and ASTM (astm.org) ratings, I'll take the better looking one.

And it's comfortable, even without adding the extra pads that come with the 104. The straps are wide, soft, and flexible so there's no tangling or chafing. It has 22 vents and a protective insect netting, perfect for keeping your pate from unsuspecting insects that react to unanticipated impact by stinging.

In the end, the decision seems to be whether the above characteristics are



worth \$215. You can get a cycling helmet for a heck of a lot less lettuce; so the ball's in your court.

Kiwi U-Powered Charger (\$50, 888-737-5494, kiwichoice.com)

Admit it. The machines are on the verge of winning. They've indoctrinated most of us and they're working on the rest. Many people feel inadequate when seen in public if they are not staring at or probing a machine, and some seemingly can't even function if unable to interact with their gadgets. Even the ever-so-superior being—the cyclist—apparently needs to engage with one or more while pedaling in traffic. Fight it people!

But if you can't, you'll need to keep those pesky devices charged up so they can continue to dominate your time. That's where the Kiwi U-Powered charger comes in. It can charge hand held mobile computers and phones, digital cameras, MP3 players, GPS units, and most other gizmos that you'll feel compelled to take along on your next tour.

The Kiwi has a power capacity of 2000 mAh, and can charge devices with

voltage of DC 5V and current less than 500 mAh. It can be charged four ways, via USB, a 220V wall socket, a car charger, or, for those looking to shrink their carbon footprint, the sun. It'll take 17 hours to

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fully charge the Kiwi with sunlight (but only 8 to get it 75 percent charged) and about 4 hours using the other methods.

The Kiwi comes with a USB cord, AC and car charger, and many standard tips to fit all your instruments, and it also features a built-in flashlight. The Borg is pleased.

SteriPEN Adventurer Opti (\$100, 207-374-5800, steripen.com)

In the November/December 2004 issue, I introduced *Adventure Cyclist* readers to the SteriPEN, a water purifying system that uses UV light to destroy Giardia, cryptosporidium, bacteria, and viruses. In 2010, SteriPEN now offers several different versions of the system for different types of users.

The Adventurer Opti is SteriPEN's smallest and lightest model but offers the same effectiveness as the original when killing waterborne nasties is required. Using the device is simple, press the activation button once to treat up to 32 ounces of water (90 seconds), and twice to treat 16 ounces (48 seconds). Like all SteriPEN models, the Adventurer Opti



features a proprietary optical water-sensing technology that keeps the unit from emitting UV radiation unless it is completely immersed in water. While this system will reduce contamination in turbid water, it is designed to purify clear water.

In its protective sleeve, the Adventure Opti weighs in at 128 grams/4.5 ounces. It also features a built-in flashlight which is activated by holding the activation button for three seconds. It uses two CR123 batteries, which last for approximately 100 treatments. Rechargeables can be used but offer fewer treatments. Life expectancy of the UV lamp is around 8,000 treatments. **AC**

Adventure Cycling's Annual Bicycle Travel Awards

Adventure Cycling's 6th Annual Bicycle Travel Awards open on July 1. Celebrating the heroes of bicycle travel in America, they include the Pacesetter Bicycle Travel Award, the June Curry Trail Angel Award, the Sam Braxton Bike Shop Award, and the Adventure Cycling Volunteer of the Year Award.

- **The June Curry Trail Angel Award** Named in honor of the famous Cookie Lady of the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, honors a generous individual or group encountered during a bicycle trip that makes the journey of the traveling cyclist easier, or even possible.
- **The Pacesetter Bicycle Travel Award** Named in honor of Charlie Pace of Columbus, Ohio, who has spent over 40 years creating and supporting bicycle-travel opportunities, recognizes and applauds the efforts of those who have done great things to support and promote bicycle travel in the U.S.

- **The Braxton Bike Shop Award** Named for Sam and Shirl Braxton of the Braxton Bike Shop in Missoula, Montana, honors a shop that is committed to getting more people excited about bike travel and goes to incredible lengths to achieve just that.
- **The Adventure Cycling Volunteer of the Year Award** Each year, we thank a volunteer who has helped Adventure Cycling further its goal of inspiring people of all ages to travel by bicycle. These volunteers have donated thousands of hours to help inspire more people to travel by bicycle, enabling us to reach more people with the message of bicycle travel. This year's winners will receive a free year of membership with Adventure Cycling, a framed certificate, and a pair of cycling shoes from Keen. Nominations for 2010 awards will be accepted through September 30, 2010. For further details visit www.adventurecycling.org/outreach/awards or contact Corbin at (406) 721-1776 ext. 215, or awards@adventurecycling.org.