

Greetings Out There Adventurers. I hope you had a good fall, and have some fun plans set-up for your Christmas break. I know I will be hitting the slopes on a toboggan!

2008 information is pretty much all planned out, and websites are being worked on, brochures being printed... the ongoing adventure of Out There. Keep an eye on the IAWAH website www.iawah.com

Alex

I am out west, back in the Okanagan Valley, getting ready for another winter of play. I am a supervisor at a snow school this year, so will be taking on that new challenge, and so



far it has been a great experience. We are now just waiting on the snow so that we can get

moving. I am really excited about shredding the gnar (riding a lot) and having a great winter on the mountain. Hope all of you guys are having a great winter season.

Kate

I'm in grade 11 this year, at St. Thomas Aquinas and enjoying it. I am getting more involved in the music program,



playing the alto saxophone. I'm also involved in other things, including volunteering, Scouts Canada, and hanging out with friends. I am really excited for Christmas break.

Steve

Life is full of adventures, and one of the best seasons has just arrived. Not just making and eating Christmas cookies,



but tobogganing. We have been to a local hill a couple of times to slide down. Tis also the season for spring planning, and that is coming together which is always exciting.

Gear Corner

I think one of the comments by one of the Coureurs des Bois this summer was "I never realized how important gear was." As one gets more into anything the gear of the sport is important. Good gear lasts a long time... I have had gear for 10 years or more... it is not the same as it used to be, but still functional. Other gear has indeed expired, and off to the museum of my garage.

There is gadget gear which is fun, and then there is practical gear which is useful. If we consider our basic triangle of Food-Shelter-Clothing as a starting point, I don't think we can go wrong. From a participant perspective camp takes care of food and shelter, but you take care of sleeping bag. When buying a sleeping bag, one should consider

spending about \$100 or so. For one's first sleeping bag, I would recommend a 0C synthetic mummy bag. I know it is summer, and you might not need something so cold, but ask the CBs about cold! A recommendation might be [MEC Habanero Sleeping Bag 0C](#) Or go to www.mec.ca and links to sleeping bags

On clothing... avoid cotton. MEC happens to have some shirts on clearance at the moment. Youth shirts for \$9, and women's long sleeve for \$14. Snap 'em up!

I would also encourage you to always swing by the clearance rack in your outdoor store... and don't forget Goodwill, Salvation Army or other vintage clothing shops!

You can build from there. If you have gear questions, email me. Don't buy something you don't need. Outthere@iawah.com



[Black Diamond Gizmo Headlamp](#)
\$18.50 CAD
Product Number: 5012-764



Bible Story

This fall I have been reflecting on the early church. A couple of things have stood out, one was a short passage at the end of **Acts 4:34 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). 37 He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.** From our western perspective we just think, ya,ya... but NOT SO FAST! 1. Barnabus was Jewish. 2. He was a Jew from away, born in Cyprus. 3. In Old Testament tradition, land was a birthright from generation to generation....now that said, the Levites did not have ancestral land as they were the priestly tribe and lived throughout all of the Isreali tribes. But if we think about this a bit more, this was a really big deal. I have only been in Canada for 5 generations, but I have a connection to the Ottawa Valley of my roots. That was instilled in me from my family from my youth. If I had a piece of property in the valley, I would not part with it so easily. NOW to think of this from a Jewish perspective, today there are Jews from around the world who are immigrating back to the holy land... 2000 years after it was destroyed as a nation in 70AD. The connection to the land is like the 3 cords of a rope, God, Humanity and the Land woven together. I don't know if I am writing into this, but Barnabus was born away, came back to the Holy Land, bought property fulfilling a dream, but considered his love for Jesus more important than his dream and sold it for the good of the church. WOW! In this season of Advent, as we remember the birth of Jesus, what gifts has he given us that we might do something as drastic as what these guys did?

Merry Christmas!