

NEW!

TrailTech

This is the first in what we hope will be a series of brief articles contributed by SPS members who would like to share information about their favorite pieces of trail technology. We corralled Eric into being the first to tell us about a piece of technical equipment that makes his life better in the mountains. How about you? Send your proposal or article to Tina at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com

The Camera Capture Clip System

By Eric Scheidmantle

Being the next Galen Rowell is an ambitious goal. While I don't pretend to match Galen's climbing or artistic skills, I do want to carry a full suite of gear into the back country. My gear? At the least my Nikon D700 and two lenses: 24mm and 105mm.

How to carry, though? Starting in 2006 and ending in 2012 I used a chest-mounted camera bag similar to Click Elite's ProBody SLR Chest Carrier. This was great for hiking and backpacking and even some third-class scrambling. It got awkward, however, when I had to press against the rock to go around an exposed corner or do other tight moves. When it came to leading fifth class it was impossible: following was only slightly more possible. Oh, and how does one self-arrest with a big, boxy bag strapped to your chest?

I looked everywhere for a solution: Cotton Carrier, Spider Holster, and Black Rapid. A chest-mounted solution was a non-starter because of

my rack. A hip-mounted setup would be awkward with a climbing harness. A sling system does not provide stability. Plus in all three cases the camera would get in the way of climbing.

Then I stumbled upon a Kickstarter campaign for Camera Capture Clip System by Peak Designs. It was pricy but would let me carry the camera on any pack, belt or harness, depending on my needs. I figured a camera mounted high on the shoulder is as well protected and unobtrusive as I could hope.

I was right. I can easily climb into the 5.6 range, leading, with my DSLR mounted high in my backpack's shoulder straps. I can even mount it on my harness if I must, though there is a much greater risk of it getting knocked around. I'm tempted to buy a second one so I can swap the camera between shoulder and hip as I climb and conditions change.

This little device has accompanied me climbing the U-Notch of North Palisade, Mt. Emerson, Mt. Harrington; doing Via Ferrata in Andorra; snowshoeing up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek, and roaming the streets of Barcelona.

Product website:

[https://
peakdesignltd.com/
store/index.php?
route=product/
product&path=60&pro
duct_id=51](https://peakdesignltd.com/store/index.php?route=product/product&path=60&product_id=51)



Eric Scheidmantle (wearing the Camera Capture system) and Joseph Bell on Mt. Darwin. (Photo by Regge Bulman)