The Camera Capture Clip System
By Eric Scheidmaste

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 pricey 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: