



BOULDER
WEEKLY

NOT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

When the land at 9th and Canyon was redeveloped, the city set aside a piece of property for civic use. Thirteen years later, the only thing there is a slab of concrete. *by Jim Lillie*

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Special pullout section: Your guide to the hottest gift-giving trends this season

Great gift ideas for outdoor enthusiasts

by Mark Yuasa

Only a few weeks remain before Christmas, and for those who have an outdoor lover on their gift list, here are some gifts worth putting under the tree or getting as a stocking stuffer:

The Jet Boil Personal Cooking System (\$79.90-\$99.95) is an innovative and backpack-friendly cooking system. Unlike the heavy vacuum bottles and clunky stoves, Jetboil's key lies in coupling heat transfer technology with a design that's easy to use. Plus, it boils two cups of water in a couple minutes.



The compact design (15-ounce weight with 32-ounce capacity) makes for easy storage. Each Jetpower Fuel canister provides ample energy to boil 12 liters or 100 cups of water.

A cozy book to read near the fireplace on the cold winter nights ahead is Trout Fishing In The Pacific Northwest (\$19.99). The book offers anglers more than 300 step-by-step photos that teach important skills and in-depth chapters on trout biology and behavior. The 400-page book is published by Quayside Publishing Group. The book is available at bookstores and online booksellers.

The Tie Boss Brand Instant Lock-And-Release Rope System makes raising or tying down loads quick, simple and safe. The design easily allows campers to keep food and other items up and away from critters on the ground; hunters can easily hang their big game from a tree; and bikers can raise their bicycles from the clutter of the garage.

The bolt-through design increases strength and prevents the unit from failing during heavy lifting. Other list of uses include tarp and vehicle tie-downs, hauling, boating and sailing.

The 1/4-inch Tie Boss costs \$14.99; the 3/8-inch unit is \$19.99; and for the 3/8-inch tie down with the block and tackle assembly goes for \$49.99. Details: 877-900-2677 or www.tieboss.com.

SCUBA divers can increase their kick with the Aqua Lung's Slingshot Fins (\$219). Unlike any other fin on the market, these offer increased power and propulsion, as well as comfort and custom-fit settings. These fins help propel submerged divers with little effort, saving energy and lengthening your time spent underwater. Details: www.aqualung.com.

Caught a big fish and want to know how much it weighs? The Berkley Digital Fish Scale (\$17.96) can get the job done. The extremely accurate, water-resistant functions include a 10-weight memory, average and combined weight feature. An auto-off switch maximizes battery life. It weighs fish up to 50 pounds.

The easy-to-carry Thermarest Trail Lite (\$49.95) insulation pad is the perfect creature comfort to put under the sleeping bag for a restful night in the woods. The compact size (weighs 1 pound, 15 ounces; 20x60 inches) makes it easy to bring along on a campout.

Part of the 10 essentials to take on a backpacking adventure is a signal mirror, and Coghlan's Sight-Grid Signal Mirror (\$12.99) is great for backpacking light, traveling to remote locations, SOS and signaling rescue planes. The shatter-resistant mirror can signal up to 25 miles on a clear day. Plus, it floats in the water. To locate a retailer in your area, go to www.coghlan.com/search/index.php.

Chatting around a campfire is a timeless tradition on camping trips, and Funky Colored Flames (\$5.88) by Winlow Products adds a new twist that puts on an impressive colorful light show. The easy-to-use packet of crystals are environmentally friendly and are poured over the top of a campfire. They then start to burn, creating a show of colors that will continue for about 30 minutes. The small packet is also easier than carrying a Duraflame log on a campout.