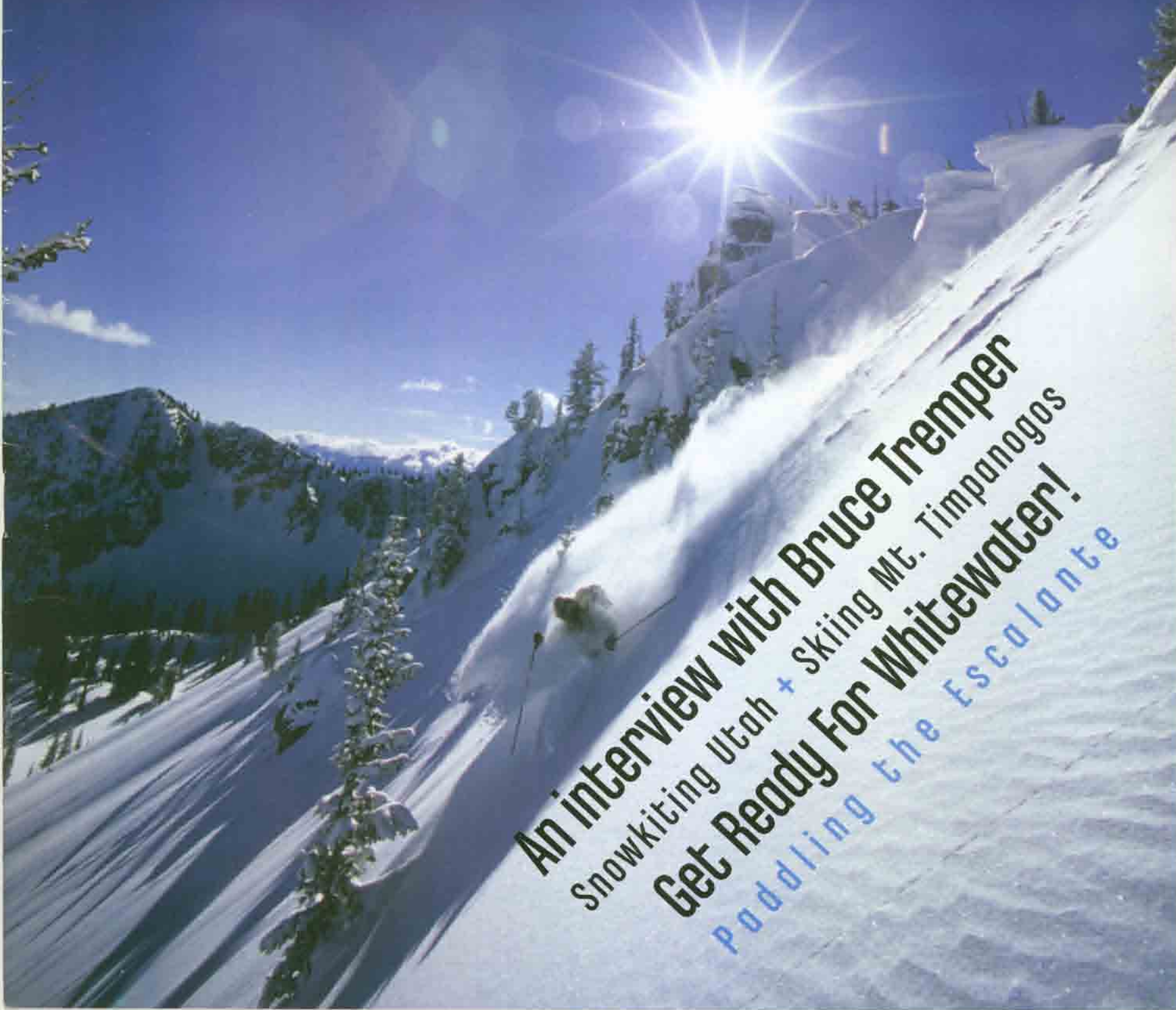


O U T D O O R

# UTAH

A D V E N T U R E J O U R N A L

SPRING 2009 OUTDOORUTAH.COM



**An interview with Bruce Tremper**  
Snowkiting Utah + Skiing Mt. Timpanogos  
**Get Ready For Whitewater!**  
*Padding the Escalante*

# Editor's Choice—Backcountry Necessities (or luxuries?)

Compiled by Paul Oelerich

## Ski Trab Stelvio Free Ride

Equally at home in-bounds or out, the Stelvio FreeRide provides a perfect one-ski quiver for skiers looking to mix some touring in with their lift-served turns. Carbon-reinforced glass wrapped around a multi-layer, variable-channel poplar and fir core keeps weight down while maintaining stellar performance and durability. The oversized tip provides excellent float, making trail breaking easier by planing above the snow surface and virtually eliminating tip-dive in powder. Despite the light weight provided by the carbon fiber, the Stelvio is surprisingly smooth at speed, on edge, and blasting through crud. The Stelvio is truly a versatile board for either a tele or at-binding, and is the perfect ski for either backcountry or resort. The retro wood design top sheet harkens back to the early European designs, but it is all modern on the inside.

4 lengths available >> \$899 >> [www.wasatchski.com](http://www.wasatchski.com)



## Pieps iProbe

Pieps—one of the oldest makers of quality beacons, introduces to the U.S. the world's first electronic avalanche probe. Proven to reduce fine search time by 60%, the iProbe receives the standard-457kHz signal from any beacon within 2M range. Audible signals indicate you're within 50cm of the victim. This is close enough to start digging them out, and works with any beacon.

When used together with beacons having iProbe support the rescuer can use the iProbe mark function to suppress the transmitting beacon's signal allowing the next closest victim to be found quickly and easily. A very effective tool when confronted with a multiple burial scenario.

While the iProbe is not a replacement for a standard beacon, it is useful for shortening the time for the 'fine' search.

Probe length: 86.58" 2.25 m. Weight: 290 grams  
\$189.95 >> [www.pieps.com](http://www.pieps.com)



## Westcomb Vapor FX Hoody and Vapor FX Pant

Vancouver B.C. based Westcomb is designing some of the best garments available today. Utilizing top-end fabrics, and incorporating unique designs, the finished product is essentially overbuilt and will withstand whatever conditions you can muster. Both garments use eVent fabric for the highest quality waterproof breathable protection. Both jacket and pant have a rich looking herringbone face fabric for that extra backcountry style.

The Vapor FX Hoody features internal stretch cuffs with thumb loops, a velour lined collar to keep you warm when the snow is over your head, and a helmet compatible hood. The cut is roomy to allow for additional layers, and also provides gusseted pockets for whatever you need—accessible or an extra stash of your favorite chocolate for that long backcountry day. **\$549**

The Vapor FX Pant features a roomy fit with a high-cut back that is insulated with Polartec Powershield for extra warmth, and heavier fabric on the thighs, knees, butt and shins. Even with 2 layers underneath, the fit allows for even the deepest tele bend. Half zip vents provide adequate ventilation, while cargo pockets allow for ample and easily accessible storage. Heavy-duty scuff guards for edge protection, and gripper internal gaiters to keep the powder out complete this heavy-duty shell pant.

Men's and women's styles >> \$400 >> [www.westcomb.com](http://www.westcomb.com)



## Black Diamond Push Boot

Black Diamond Equipment enters the world of boots in a big way with its initial offering of models for '08-'09. An international R&D team spent 3 years creating the innovative

designs to improve the quality of your freeride, or telemark experience. At the forefront of the telemark specific boots is the Push, a smooth yet powerful boot designed to drive today's big skis. The overlap design produces a natural progressive flex for an immediate transfer of power to the ski, yet the overlap also yields an unrestricted upper cuff for touring. The comfortable, thermoformable liner features the boa lacing system, designed to keep your foot snug and in place. The Push is designed with a 110 rated flex with a midstiff bellows, yet also has an extremely high torsional stiffness for maximum power transfer in any condition. A mechanically integrated ski/walk mode and 4 micro adjustable buckles complete the boot.

\$679 >> [www.bdel.com](http://www.bdel.com)

## Brooks Range Sharktooth Shovel

This is the shovel that ends the problem of digging through hard-packed snow. The Sharktooth—while a bit on the bulky side, makes up for it with the serrated edge on the blade of the shovel. This aggressive blade will make short work of the most compacted avalanche debris, or the ice pile that the plow driver left behind your car. While weighing in at 32 ounces, the shovel with its telescoping handle expands from 36 to 45 inches for maximum shoveling leverage. The solid d-ring handle provides for an excellent grip with any glove, and the shovel disassembles for easy storage in your backpack. Just make sure that you keep the protective rubber tubing provided with the shovel to prevent the serrated blade from tearing into anything in your pack.

\$50 >> [www.brooks-range.com](http://www.brooks-range.com)



## Voile Switchback Binding

A free-pivoting, alpine touring-style telemark binding, the new Voile Switchback allows backcountry telemark skiers to ascend with zero heel resistance thus conserving valuable energy and allowing for easier trail breaking. Perhaps the lightest free-pivot touring binding on the market, it certainly is the most affordable, yet none of the heavy-duty features are sacrificed for a lower price point. The toe plate is a bombproof, one-piece wraparound made of stainless steel, and the heel assembly features the proven hardwire technology as opposed to braided steel cables. The binding is easily transferred from the free-pivot touring mode to downhill mode with the use of your ski pole and the toggle switch on the front of the binding. An enclosed design negates concern of ice build up on the pivot point during ascents. The Switchback provides the strength and smooth power transfer necessary between modern boots and big skis.

\$259 >> [www.voile-usa.com](http://www.voile-usa.com)

