

WINTER 2011-12

# Outside Bozeman

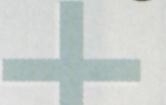
Northwest Montana's Outdoor Journal

## Winter Playground

Backcountry Skiing

Speed Flying

Ice Boating



Hit List & Top

Dog Winners

BEST WINTER GEAR • BEER PAYMENT SCALE • NORDIC LINGO • FS CABINS  
WINTER & KIDS • ICE CLIMBING • SKI CAMS • HOT SPRINGS • SNOWMOBILING

## Weather

If you plan on filming outside, you'll need to weatherproof your camera. Most companies offer waterproof cases, and some of these are bulkier than others, so look for one that still gives you easy access to the controls. Once you're filming, bright and sunny days will always give you the best image but can sometimes get blown out. It's best to turn down the exposure a couple notches on bluebird days. Cameras also perform pretty well on overcast days, but you might benefit from bumping up the contrast a bit.

## Format & Production

Make sure you understand the format your camera is shooting in and the best way to make that format work on your computer. Most of them shoot to a compressed proprietary format, so files probably need to be converted to be useable. Save yourself hours of frustration by taking the time to understand the formats and convert the files. And keep in mind that "fix it in post-production" shouldn't be your first choice. A bit of color correction and image stabilization after filming will help make your image better, but they won't salvage a poorly shot scene. 

*Shane Dowaliby is a producer at Toy Soldier Productions, a local outdoor film company.*

## ContourROAM HD Video Camera—CONTOUR

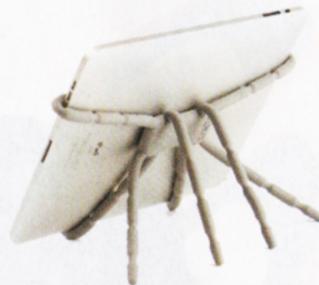


For an affordable, easy-to-use video camera with loads of features in an astoundingly small package, try the **ContourROAM**. This ultra-compact, streamlined featherweight (5.1 oz.) straps to head, helmet, handlebars, and more with a variety of optional mounts—including a waterproof case for full-immersion water sports. Despite its diminutive size, this camera can take a beating—we ran it hard through whitewater

rafting, downhill biking, ziplining, horseback riding, and skiing—and still produce high-definition, wide-angle video every time. The large, rubberized record switch is easy to activate with gloves on, and a dual laser helps you center and level the camera. Exposure and white balance adjust automatically; three resolution options allow plenty of flexibility with quality and run time. A built-in microphone lets you incorporate ambient audio into your film. And when you're all done, Contour's free Storyteller App imports and helps you assemble your video footage and upload it to Contour's website, with an easy export to Facebook. Which is nice, because the only thing better than having an awesome adventure is sharing it with your friends. Available at F-11. \$200; [countour.com](http://countour.com). —MIKE ENGLAND

## Spiderpodium—BREFFO

Specialized camera mounts notwithstanding, there's always that one time you just can't get a stable base for hands-off shooting. Enter **Spiderpodium**, a weird-looking but surprisingly useful mounting tool, designed to secure your camera, phone, or other small gadget in just about any position imaginable. This eight-legged invertebrate grabs, holds, holsters, slings, and straps your device where you want it, then folds flat or collapses into a ball for easy storage. I propped it in rocks, hung it from my belt loop, and affixed it to tree limbs, and the legs held strong through it all. (It even held up my two-pound potted plant.) You can even prop it up on a motel nightstand as a travel dock too. \$20; [breffo.com](http://breffo.com). —MIKE ENGLAND



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