

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL AUGUST 12, 2005**

## 2005 Lightitude Awards Honor 18 Exceptional Companies

We received 174 nominations for this year's Lightitude Award. All 174 were subjected to the court of public opinion in the forums at BackpackingLight.com and individually rated and reviewed by each member of the award committee, based on extensive research of your product and careful evaluation of its performance with respect to that of your competitors.

Only 18 of those 174 products were unanimously chosen our committee to be worthy of a Lightitude Award. Of those 18, seven products received the award, and the remaining 11 received an Honorable Mention.

You and your staff are cordially invited to the awards presentation ceremony at Outdoor Retailer Summer Market 2005 in Salt Lake City, at the Backpacking Light Seminar, Salon A-B, Downtown Marriott, 7:30AM TO 9:00AM, Friday August 12. At the ceremony, you will be honored with a tabletop plaque that you can use for display in your company's offices and at trade shows. Please RSVP to Ryan Jordan at [Publisher@BackpackingLight.com](mailto:Publisher@BackpackingLight.com).

Other Lightitude branding opportunities available include an electronic and print logo licensing package (free of charge), Lightitude hang tags for retail merchandising (nominal fee), Lightitude easel displays / placards / posters for retail or trade show merchandising (nominal fee), and discounted advertising space featuring your Lightitude-winning product in Backpacking Light Magazine in any single issue.

We sincerely congratulate you on the design, manufacture, and honest marketing of such an outstanding product, and we are very proud to have it join the ranks of the outdoor industry's elite: Backpacking Light Magazine Lightitude Awards for the Industry's Best Gear.

Best Regards,  
Lightitude Review Committee  
Backpacking Light Magazine

**LOGO USE GUIDELINES and PR EMBARGO:** You may not promote your award to the public until August 12, 2005, when awards will be announced at Outdoor Retailer. **LIGHTITUDE AWARD WINNERS** may use the Lightitude Logo attached to this letter in your preliminary press releases and marketing materials that you are planning. You will be provided with a complete set of digital and print logos, and a license agreement for logo use, shortly. Honorable Mentions may use the text "Backpacking Light Magazine 2005 Lightitude Award Honorable Mention" in their PR and Marketing Materials.



## 2005 Lightitude Award Winners

### **TarpTent Squall 2**

Best Single Wall Shelter

[www.tarptent.com](http://www.tarptent.com)

At 35 oz (including floor) for a two-person shelter that provides full weather and insect protection, wind stability, ventilation, easy setup, good views, plenty of room for two people – and their gear – with the ability for both to sit up, combined with beautiful aesthetics in design, the TarpTent Squall has set the standard for two person ultralight shelters for the past several years.

### **Six Moon Designs Lunar Solo e**

Best Solo Tent

[www.sixmoondesigns.com](http://www.sixmoondesigns.com)

The Six Moon Designs Lunar Solo e requires only a single trekking pole for setup, with good ventilation, insect protection, exceptional views, room to stretch out – and sit up – and a cavernous vestibule for storing gear or cooking a meal, all in a 23-ounce package unmatched by any solo tent on the market.

### **GoLite Momentum Jacket**

Best Soft Shell Apparel

[www.golite.com](http://www.golite.com)

Exceptional fit, a highly weather resistant – and breathable – fabric, and aesthetics that reflect simplicity and elegance of design, make the 13-oz GoLite Momentum Jacket the most functional lightweight soft shell on the market.

### **Western Mountaineering Flight Vest**

Best Insulating Apparel

[www.westernmountaineering.com](http://www.westernmountaineering.com)

At only 5.5 ounces, the Western Mountaineering Flight Vest offers two inches of loft with the market's highest quality down, a weather resistant microfiber shell that doesn't leak plumes, and design purity that reflects the garment's ability to perform a core function that no other piece of apparel can claim: maximum warmth-to-weight ratio.

### **Cascade Designs Platypus Bottles**

Best Hydration Accessory

[www.cascadedesigns.com](http://www.cascadedesigns.com)

Eliminating extraneous features that add unnecessary weight is the strength of Cascade Designs' Platypus Bottle line: they perform the simple task of holding water at less weight than any other product on the market, collapse to pocketable sizes, and remain durable enough for a thru-hike.

## **McNett Aqua Mira**

Best Water Treatment Technology

[www.mcnett.com](http://www.mcnett.com)

The new gold standard in ultralight chemical water treatment technologies, McNett Aqua Mira is backed by sound science, is utterly simple to use, remains pocketable for easy access while on the trail, provides safe drinking water in a matter of minutes, and best of all, creates drinking water untainted by the foul tastes of other chemical methods.

## **Garmin Geko 301**

Best Navigation Device

[www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com)

No other GPS is as small, or as light, and offers so many of the essential features required of a hiking and backpacking GPS, as the Garmin Geko 301: magnetic compass integrated with GPS electronics, barometric altimeter, PC interface, one-handed use requiring minimal button pushing to perform necessary functions, customizable displays, and a truly pocketable form factor.

## **2005 Lightitude Award Honorable Mentions**

### **Pentax Optio WP Digital Camera**

CATEGORY: Digital Cameras

[www.pentax.com](http://www.pentax.com)

The Pentax Optio WP Digital Camera sets the current standard in truly pocketable, backcountry-worthy outdoor cameras. Fully waterproof with a rugged housing, quality optics, and plenty of resolution for printing enlargements, make this 4.8-oz (including batteries) digital camera a hiker's dream.

### **Komperdell Carbon Tour Duolock Trekking Poles**

CATEGORY: Trekking Poles

[www.komperdell.com](http://www.komperdell.com)

At 5.5 oz per pole, the Komperdell Carbon Tour Duolock is the lightest adjustable trekking pole on the market, with good stiffness, a good adjustment mechanism, and light, comfortable grips.

## **Photon Freedom LED Microlight**

CATEGORY: Lighting

[www.photonlight.com](http://www.photonlight.com)

No other light better defines the microlight category, where sub-half-ounce keychain lights disappear into pockets and neck lanyards. The 0.35-oz Photon Freedom LED Microlight offers more features, higher light output, more battery life, and better ease of use than any light in its class.

## **SnowClaw Backcountry Snow Shovel**

CATEGORY: Snow Shovels

[www.snowclaw.com](http://www.snowclaw.com)

The SnowClaw redefines the paradigm of backcountry snow shovels. Adequate for avalanche use, it really shines as a winter camping utility tool where a full avalanche shovel is not required. At 6 oz, it is one third the weight of the lightest avalanche shovels on the market, with the ability to move more snow faster for tasks like digging tent platforms, snow caves, and emergency shelters.

## **Ushba Altai Titanium Ice Axe**

CATEGORY: Ice Axes

[www.ushba.com](http://www.ushba.com)

Titanium may be used in no more worthy application than the spike, shaft, and pick of an ice axe. The 13-oz Ushba Altai Titanium Ice Axe reflects perfection of that application in an aggressive tool as suitable for the PCT thru-hiker as for the serious mountaineer climbing steep, icy couloirs in the Tetons.

## **Integral Designs South Col Bivy**

CATEGORY: Bivy Sacks

[www.integraldesigns.com](http://www.integraldesigns.com)

The Integral Designs South Col Bivy sack, made with supremely breathable – and waterproof – eVENT fabric, resists condensation buildup, is weatherproof, durable, and light enough at 20 oz to set the standard in high performance bivy sacks for winter hikers and alpine climbers.

## **Gossamer Gear NightLight Torso Pad (Torso length)**

CATEGORY: Sleeping Pads

[www.gossamergear.com](http://www.gossamergear.com)

Using a closed cell egg-crate construction, combined with scored sections that allow it to be folded and used as part of the internal frame of a backpack, make the 3.7-ounce Gossamer Gear NightLight Pad the lightest torso-length pad on the market without sacrificing much warmth and comfort.

## **Big Sky Products Evolution 2P Shelter**

CATEGORY: Double Wall Tents

[www.bigskyproducts.com](http://www.bigskyproducts.com)

At 3 lb 1 oz with a carbon pole set, the Big Sky Products Evolution 2P is nearly a pound lighter than its next closest competitor that offers dual doors, dual vestibules, a weatherproof double wall design, plenty of internal gear storage, and a very fast setup time.

## **Grivel Air Tech Light Crampons**

CATEGORY: Crampons

[www.grivelnorthamerica.com](http://www.grivelnorthamerica.com)

At less than 17 oz but still including twelve, aggressively-cut, full length crampon points, anti-balling plates, a flexible hinge, and a strap system compatible with virtually any shoe or boot, the Grivel Air Tech Light Crampons set the standard for lightweight crampons versatile enough to cross spring snowfields while thru-hiking the CDT in the early season or front-pointing up steep summer faces and couloirs in the Cascades.

## **Northern Lites Backcountry Snowshoes**

CATEGORY: Snowshoes

[www.northernlites.com](http://www.northernlites.com)

No other snowshoe even comes close to the Northern Lites Backcountry Snowshoes in terms of their deck area:weight ratio (9" x 30" at 43 oz/pair). Simple bindings that can be rigged with mittens and the ability to lay almost perfectly flat when lashed to your pack make these snowshoes the best in their class.

## **Suunto X6 Watch**

CATEGORY: Navigation Watches

[www.suuntousa.com](http://www.suuntousa.com)

An easy-to-read mineral crystal face, a simple menu navigation system, and a subtle form factor that wears comfortably are the hallmarks of this 1.6-oz wrist top computer that offers an accurate magnetic compass and barometric altimeter, useful chronograph, and a slew of logging features to analyze your progress.