

Special Issue

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Secrets to a STRESS-FREE SUMMER

How to...

- Slow down and enjoy
 - Land a last-minute getaway
 - Find the best books, DVDs, and CDs
 - Make chores fun
 - Start a summer garden
 - Be a high-tech camper
- And more!

Plus:

Dave Matthews
Newt Gingrich
Lemony Snicket
tips for a summer

And how about a barbecue grill in your back pocket? The Grilliput (\$30, candlelantern.com) is a stainless-steel grill that assembles in minutes and stores in one small tube, about 11 inches long. The partner FireBowl! (\$13, out later this summer) can pack the charcoal when cold, and keep it contained when hot. At the same website, check out the Light My Fire outdoor meal set (\$22), which puts an end to boring, aluminum mess kits with colorful, durable plastic dinnerware. Added bonus: The set floats!

Campground Classics 2.0



Kids love tents. That's the problem, says Dave MacTavish of suburban Boston. His boys, ages 3 and 5, want to help set up the tent when they go camping. Sure, it sounds cute. "It's really kind of a pain," says MacTavish. "It takes forever when they're helping."

He solved the problem by plunking down \$70 for the 2-Second Tent (decathlon.tent.com), as did Penny Hewitt of Vermont, whose two boys are 20 months and 4 years old. "You open it up, toss it like a Frisbee, and there's a tent," she says. "My 4-year-old can do it."

Problem solved, with the help of modern technology. The two-second promise is the fastest-yet version of the pop-up tent, developed for the car camper who wants quick, fuss-free shelter. After its opening whoosh, the tent seems made of better materials than some of its predecessors, even if it's not meant for adventurous, high-mountain camping. And its advances illustrate a steady

A The Comfort-Lite portable lounge chair. B The easily set up 2-Second Tent. C The Trek-Tech TrekPod II walking stick and camera tripod. D The Grilliput grill and the FireBowl charcoal pit. E The lightweight Marmot Atom nylon and down sleeping bag.

trend for outdoor gear—which, like electronics, benefits from design and technology that make it easier to use, cheaper, and lighter.

Consider the rain jacket, once stuffy and heavy, now reduced to a half-pound of packable, breathable waterproofing in the Outdoor Re-

search Zealot coat (\$200, orgear.com). This is a spartan Gore-tex sheath—only one pocket, a hood adjuster, a waistline draw-cord, and simple elastic on the cuffs. It's designed for minimum heft—despite a slightly balky zipper—and is easy to tote along for a long trek.

As hikers increasingly take off running, their shoe choices are multiplying. The Keen Footwear Humboldt shoe (\$100, keenfootwear.com) looks like a hybrid hiking boot and running shoe,

EAT AND RUN. The Light My Fire outdoor meal kit (left) even floats, while the Keen Footwear Humboldt shoes protect your feet from water, sticks, and stones. The Contour Travel Pillow (next page) keeps its shape.



which it is. These shoes come with leatherlike lining that sheds water shield mesh that keeps the sticks and stones want to break your back (or at least make for comfortable jog).

The Trek-Tech TrekPod walking stick (\$110, tech.com) can help stave your stride, as well as camera. The sturdy, weight staff adjusts height and opens in to a fully functional! The included MagM a slick system for ins

