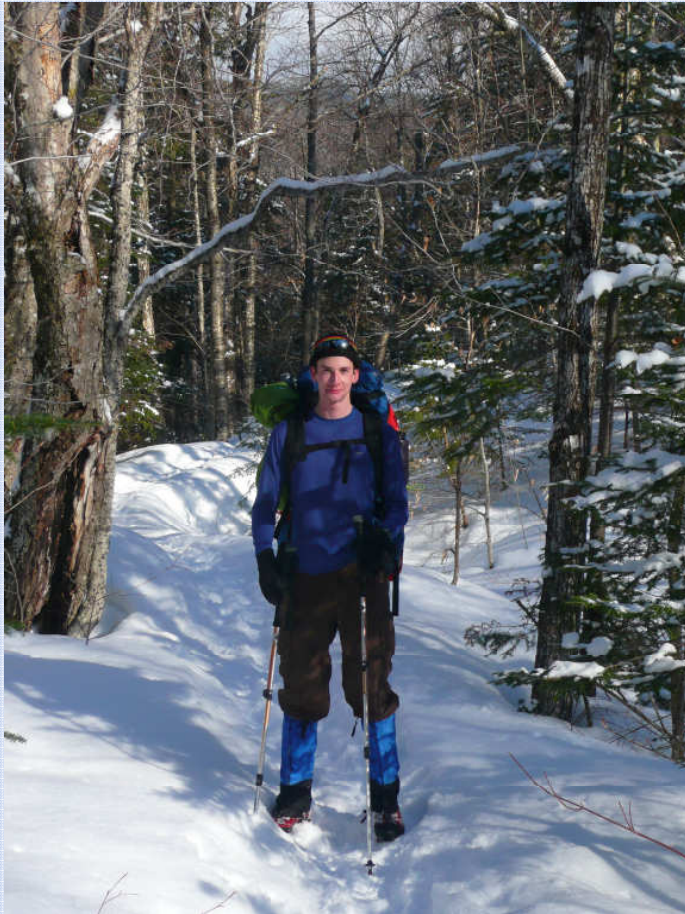


Winter Gear on the Cheap



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Introduction

- Outdoor gear is usually high quality, often technical and therefore expensive:
 - Patagonia
 - Arc'Teryx
 - Mountain Hardwear
 - REI
 - EMS
- But our loans/stipends/fellowships are running low! Whatever do we do?

Buy Cheap Gear

- Sources of cheap gear:
 - Discount stores (in Connecticut and online)
 - Killer sales
 - Non-outdoor stores that have effective substitutes
 - Learn how to make your own gear
 - Mooch off friends

Stores with Cheap Gear

- **New Haven Area Stores:**
 - **Trailblazer (New Haven)**
 - Occasional sales, limited selection
 - 50% of Marmot and Mountain Hardware THIS WEEK!
 - **EMS (Fairfield, West Hartford, Manchester, Danbury)**
 - Look at returns/clearance area in the back corner of the Comm. Ave. Store
 - Good coupons
 - Student discount
 - **REI (West Hartford)**
 - Killer sales (like garage sales)
 - Returns in the basement
 - **North Cove Outfitter (Old Saybrook)**

Other Stores

- Regional Stores:
 - Eddie Bauer outlets (Westbrook, Danbury)
 - Cabela's (East Hartford)

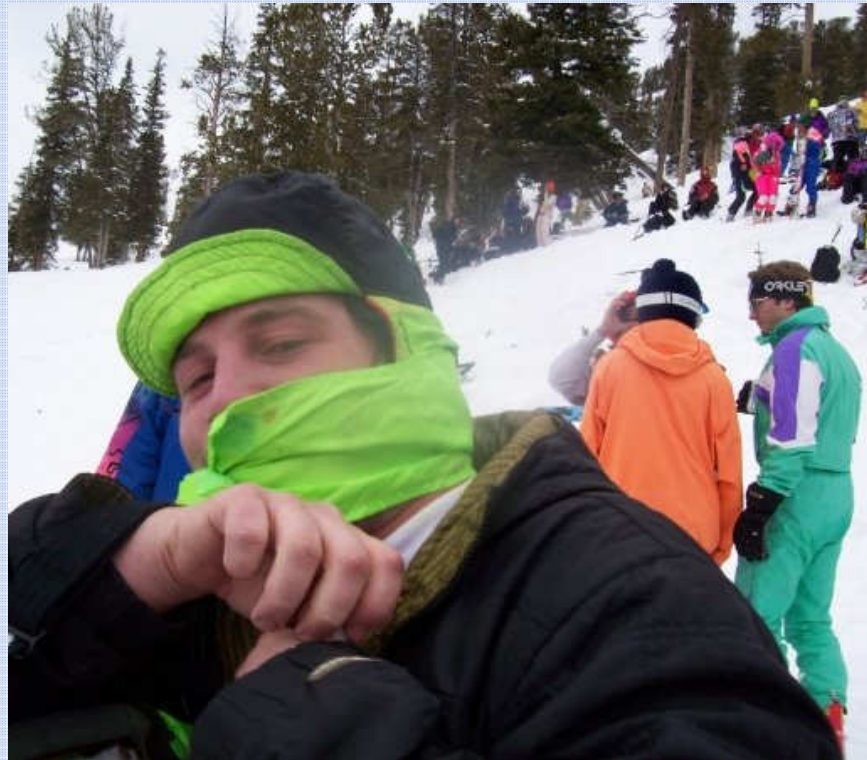


Non-Outdoor Stores

- Think about these stores for layering:
 - Sears
 - Target
 - K-Mart

Don't forget Thrift Stores!

- Salvation Army
- Goodwill
 - Wool, comes in plaid for the foresters
 - Bright funky colors are good!



Online Places to Get Cheap Gear

- Online Places:
 - Steep and Cheap (www.steepandcheap.com) and Tram Dock (www.tramdock.com)
 - One item at a time; RSS feeds, highly addictive.
 - Sierra Trading Post (www.sierratradingpost.com)
 - Rei-outlet.com
 - Backcountry Outlet (www.backcountryoutlet.com)
 - TelemarkSki (www.telemarkski.com)
 - Al's Ski Barn (www.untracked.com)
 - Mountain Equipment Coop (www.mec.ca)
 - Google's shopping results and froogle.com
 - Good for comparison, but wont include every sale

Borrow Gear!

- Many people at Yale have extra gear!
 - Ask other Winter School participants or talk to the leaders
 - People might sell older gear – check sageboy.net
- Borrow from your college:
 - Wool sweaters
 - Rain pants
 - Hats

Make your own Gear

- Knit, crochet or sew your own gear
 - Fabric is inexpensive and patterns can be purchased at some outdoor stores or online

Necessities:

- Thermal Underwear
 - Price and stank are inversely proportional
 - Wool is less stinky, but more expensive
- Glove liners
 - wool liners = warm fingers
- A water and wind-proof shell
- Non-cotton socks
 - SmartWool, InGenious, TechWic
- Warm boot
 - rent technical boots if necessary
 - WS may have Mickey Mouse boots to rent

Improvise

- Gaiters : duct tape
- Parka: quality rain jacket with hood and a couple of layers of fleece.
- Mountaineering pants: wind pants, with good underwear / wool pants
- Anything Goretex: coated nylon (Event, H2No)

Credits

- Thanks to MITOC, Chris Glazner and Mike Whitson