

The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.



## Sierra Mountain Guides Newsletter

### QUICK LINKS

[Online Registration](#)  
[Our Guides](#)  
[2011 Calendar](#)  
[Upcoming Trips](#)

### JOIN OUR LIST

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### OUR SPONSORS



Issue: # 38

Spring 2011

**Dear Howie,**

Hello fellow mountain lovers! Summer has most definitely arrived! SMG has been spending many a hot day in the cool alpine air and we are loving every minute of it. Also, with the wildflowers still blooming like crazy, it is especially gorgeous right now. There is still quite a bit of snow up high for this time of year, so it is worth it to check into conditions before heading out on your next adventure. You can keep up with our [Coulair Conditions](#) reports on our site! In the mean time we have some fabulous summer trips coming up. Check out our new [fastpacking page](#), sign up for that [trekking trip](#) you have always wanted to take, or join us for an incredible [alpine](#) or [rock](#) climbing experience. While it is always the time to be in the mountains, this is the time when it is most assessable to everyone looking for fun. So whether you are a weekend warrior or spend the majority of your time in the backcountry, we can all agree that the mountains rock and we should be out there playing in them. See you on the trail!

~All of us, Sierra Mountain Guides



Thunderbolt Glacier July 2011 - Pic Courtesy of Bill Brougher

[Upcoming Trips](#)

Check out our upcoming trips!

[AMGA Guide Training](#)

[Red Rock Canyon](#)

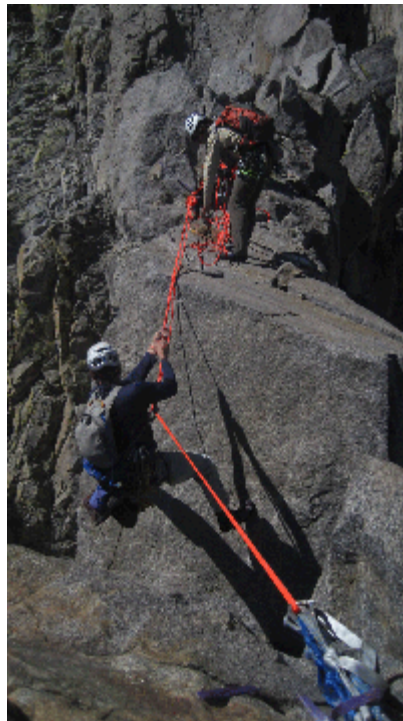
[Evolution Loop](#)

[Navigation Course](#)

[Custom Skiing](#)

[Climbing with Peter Croft](#)

[Fun Links](#)



Howie & Taylor on the Tyrolean Traverse, Sun Ribbon Arete, Temple Crag - Pic Courtesy of Brett Brotherton



Palisades July 2011 - Pic Courtesy of Bill Brougher



Snowy above Second Lake July 2011 - Pic Courtesy of Bill Brougher

Trekking



Backpacking and hiking in the "Range of Light" is a breathtaking experience. Excellent weather, world-class views, abundant wild flowers, and trails for every pace and schedule gives us the opportunity to accommodate nearly everyone. Trekking with Sierra Mountain Guides gives you the opportunity to explore the beauty and magnificence that makes the Sierras a worldwide destination. Our highly trained guides have extensive experience and bring proven leadership to your trip. We pride ourselves on providing safe opportunities to venture out and do something you may have never done before. Check out the [trekking page](#) on our site and see if we have a trip that strikes your fancy. If not, we can customize one to fit your needs and desires. Here are some example of trips that we run:

[Agnew Meadows to Red Meadow](#)

Level 1, 2 Days

[Cathedral Lakes to Yosemite Valley](#)

Level 2, 5 Days

[Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite Valley](#)

Level 3, 8 Days

And much more!!!

Also, interested in trekking on your own but are worried about your navigation skills? We are running a [Navigation Course](#) on July 16, 2011. [Sign up](#) and learn all the skills necessary to have fun and stay safe in the backcountry!



Sweeping Yosemite views!

## Gear Review



### **Evolv Maximus Review**

By Jed Porter

I have a new favorite addition to my shoe collection! Given its unique design, excellent fit (for me, remember. Fit matters, right?) and this summer's snowy Sierra conditions, the Evolv Maximus is a strong contender for "the shoe I will wear the most" in the next few months. I've gone car to car on the Nevahbe Ridge and North Ridge Lone Pine Peak, done some cragging days and guided in Red Rocks wearing these buggers. I can envision these as the only shoes I'll take (after another week or two of melt...) for the East Face of Whitney, Venusian Blind on Temple or Crystal Crag's North Ridge.

Mountain dorks are, inevitably, shoe dorks. A full-time, year-round mountain enthusiast will inevitably collect a hearty footwear collection and associated strong preferences. Right now, this mountain guide uses a lucky 13 pairs of shoes on a

seasonal, conditional, and route-dependent rotation. And that's just ski, rock and alpine. Not even going to hiking, running, paddle sports, bicycling, training... yowza!

Some of those shoes are extremely specialized while some are far more general in their usage. Some are perfect for very specific purposes and can be stretched into function outside of their niche. The newest version of the Maximus, Evolv's hybrid "approach" shoe, fits solidly in this latter category. The Maximus is a bold effort at building a climbing-oriented walker into a scree- and snow-friendly high-top arrangement. Why bold? Well, high-tops are awesome when dealing with sand, talus, snow and crampons. But they don't generally work well when used in conjunction with rock shoes. If you have to climb pitches in rock shoes, the high-top format takes up considerable bulk on the back of a harness or inside a leader's pack. The Maximus does not compromise on any of the pros and cons of the high-top arrangement. These shoes solidly wrap those fragile ankle bones, shoot well up into the protective cover of pant cuffs, and take up more than their share of space when not in use. While strap-style crampons will work on all but the most minimal of approach and running shoes, the extra beef of high-tops make them far more functional.

Among the approach shoe collections of the world, there is a long continuum of application and design. On one end is basically beefed up climbing shoes (the older version of the Maximus, and the Five Ten Descent come to mind). On the other the more walking oriented models (like Evolv Escapist fills this niche). The Maximus fits solidly in the middle. Dare I say, in the same category as the much pricier La Sportiva Ganda? Plus the high-top functionality. (although I understand Sportiva makes a high-top version. I haven't tried it...)

#### **Summary:**

**-Good for:** The climber going car to car on easier alpine rock routes.

**-Pros:** High top keeps crud out. Nice compromise of walking and climbing abilities.

**-Well-made.**

**-Cons:** High top takes up space when not on your feet. Not the best walkers or the best climbers.

## **Back from the Alps 2011**

Our very own Neil Satterfield is just back from guiding in the Swiss Alps! He had the pleasure of guiding some great clients in the most iconic range on Earth. The weather was far from perfect but Neil and crew pulled off some impressive climbs given the conditions. Congrats you guys for making the most of the experience and a job well done! Read more about it on the [SMG blog](#).

Here is a snippet from one of his posts:

Post # 6: "From the Boval hut we got an early start for the climb of Piz Morteratsch. The climb included some hiking, rock climbing with new snow on the rock, and some steep glacier climbing. We were able to scoot past a mountaineering class that was doing the climb with some guides. After the rock section we broke trail through new snow, setting the track for everyone behind us.

We were first to summit and had a great climb."



The summit ridge of Morteratsch.



Tony on classic mixed alpine terrain.

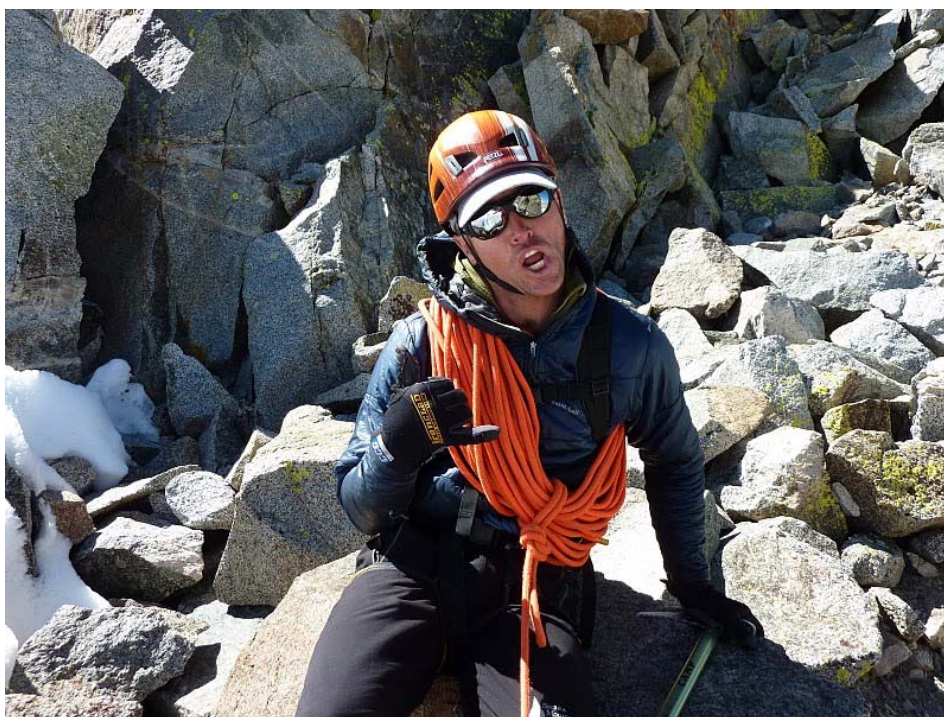
This could be written about you! [Contact us anytime](#) with questions about our [international trips](#).

Thanks for watching and reading!

**Sincerely,**



All of us at  
Sierra Mountain Guides



Jed thinks the mountains rock! Pic courtesy of Bill Brougher

### Special Opportunity

We are excited to offer a rare opportunity to save on costs of a pack supported adventure into the heart of the Sierra. We are currently accepting custom bookings that would like to utilize our camp on September 23rd in the stunning Evolution Valley. This is a good way to do an ultralight hike, technical climb, or kick off a multiday adventure. This is a great way to climb Mt. Darwin or Mt. Mendel, or fastpack the Evolution Loop. Contact us for details!



# Save 10%

## RED ROCK CANYON- OCT 14-18TH

We invite you to come climb with us in Red Rock Canyon. If you sign up for a trip between now and the end of August, we will give you 10% off your trip. Please visit our webpage for exciting trip opportunities!



Offer Expires: Aug 31st 2011



This email was sent to [info@sierramtnguides.com](mailto:info@sierramtnguides.com) by [info@sierramtnguides.com](mailto:info@sierramtnguides.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Sierra Mountain Guides | 312 North Main Street | Bishop | CA | 93514