

TALKS & EVENTS



Ortovox Avalanche Awareness Tour

Nov 23

AThe Ortovox Avalanche Awareness Tour 2016 is a series of live multimedia talks and outdoor training events about how to have fun and be safe while riding off piste this season. The tour is coming to an end in November, with the last date being at Ellis Brigham's Fort William store on 23 November. Each talk lasts for around 90 minutes and helps off-piste skiers and snowboarders to understand how to prevent being caught up in an avalanche, how to make the right decisions when off-piste and how to deal with a crisis should the worst happen. Various theories are discussed including avalanche triggers and helping skiers and snowboarders understand why and where avalanches happen. Tickets for the talks start from £10.00 (for 3 people). For full information and booking details, go to the website below.

More info: www.ellis-brigham.co.uk

BMC and Lowe Alpine – Make Winter Count

Nov 21–29

The BMC and Lowe Alpine are presenting a number of winter skills workshops around the country in November, and are aimed at anyone looking to venture out into the winter mountains for the first time. Sharpen your winter knowledge with Sam Leary and Mick Jones (Winter Mountaineering Instructors), who will bring you up to speed on the skills you need to explore the mountains with confidence this winter. Topics include: equipment and clothing, navigation, footwork, route planning, avalanche awareness and much more. In addition to the lectures there will be films and competitions to win some cool Lowe Alpine gear. For a full list of venues, check the BMC website below. All lectures start at 19:30 and finish at approximately 21:30 with a half-way interval. Tickets cost £6 (BMC member) or £8 (non-member).

More info: www.thebmc.co.uk



Dolomites – Portrait of the Pale Mountains

Till Jan 23

Scottish artist Rowan Huntley's latest collection of work has been inspired by the spectacular eastern Dolomites and is currently on show at the Alpine Club in London until 23 January 2017. The artist explored the Dolomites in May and September last year, and while taking in views from Tre Cime di Lavaredo to Sella she stayed overnight in mountain rifugios, ensuring memorable adventures and the magnificent colours of sunrise and sunset in the mountains. Rowan says of her work: "I have loved exploring and getting to know this amazing landscape with its distinctive, complex, fabulous geology. It has been challenging to paint but the alternately snow-covered, rain-lashed and sun-baked terrain together with its superb changing light have been thrilling and a real joy to work with."

More info: Email sec@alpine-club.org.uk or call 020 7613 0755

Gadget of the month

TEXENERGY FLEXIBLE BATTERY

£49 A compact and weather-resistant battery pack that slips in your pocket

What is it?

Texenergy's Flexible Battery is a lightweight, waterproof, and dustproof battery pack with a 5V output that weighs a mere 107g. The battery is IP67 rated and can be submerged in water as deep as 1m for up to 30 minutes, and can also operate in temperatures as low as -20°C.

How does it work?

The battery is charged via its USB port, either by mains or by using a solar panel or Texenergy's Infinite Orbit hand crank when 'in the field'. Because the battery is flexible, it can be comfortably tucked in a pocket while you charge your device, and the long charging cable (used for both charging the battery pack and charging your device) means that a device can be located away from the battery during charging.

What we like?

Because the battery is so small and lightweight, you don't

need to agonise about whether or not to carry it. It folds up nicely and the tough braided charging cord wraps around it neatly with a groove holding the cord in place. We liked the LED indicators that let you know how much power you have left, and although it doesn't have a massive capacity, it will charge your smartphone or Go Pro 1-2 times, which we found perfectly adequate for shorter trips.

What we don't like?

So far the Flexible Battery has performed flawlessly, however one little improvement might be to attach the USB-to-micro USB converter the unit comes with to its charging cord by a short tether, to stop it being mislaid or dropped in a precarious situation.

Where can I get it?

For more info go to www.texenergy.co.uk and for a list of retailers go to www.whitbyandco.co.uk

Flexible Battery folds up to make carrying easy

