

**REAL-LIFE HEROES** [PAGE 144]

MEET THE WOMAN WHO'S SAVING OUR SNOW

# SKI

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SKI LIFE

**STEAL  
THESE SKIS!**  
THIS SEASON'S  
BEST VALUES [PAGE 162]

# TOP 50 RESORT GUIDE

[ DEER VALLEY, WHISTLER, VAIL,  
STEAMBOAT, JACKSON HOLE  
AND A FEW SHOCKERS ]

**RETRO  
FASHION**  
SEE WHAT'S  
COOL AGAIN

[PAGE 127]

OCTOBER 2009 // [skimag.com](http://skimag.com)

## TOOL BOX

**RACK PACK** So you've downsized from a gas-guzzling SUV to a fuel-sipping coupe. Go ahead: Pat yourself on the back. Now, what will you do with all your gear? Consider car-top cargo bins and innovative ski racks as a green revolution of the SUV because they allow you to add and remove storage space on demand, rather than driving a tank-like vehicle 24/7. *By Madeline Senkosky and Leah Fielding*

	 <b>YAKIMA SKY-BOX LOPRO TITANIUM</b>	 <b>BIG FOOT CARGO BAG</b>	 <b>THE HITCH BOX</b>	 <b>INNO MV276 MAGNETIC SKI CARRIER</b>	 <b>THULE VERTICAL NON-LOCKING SKI CARRIER</b>
<b>FOR YOU IF</b>	Green is your cause. The LoPro is made of 50 percent recycled material, and its updated design is more aerodynamic, which cuts down on gas consumption.	Your garage is as starved for storage space as your car. Unlike boxes, The Big Foot folds flat for easy stowing. It's also useful when empty—as a ground tarp, truck bed liner or beach blanket.	Your car's too tall for a roof rack or you already have another storage system up top. The weather-proof Hitch Box attaches to your rear trailer hitch, so it stays out of the airstream.	You tend to lease cars or buy a new one every few years. This rack is compatible with just about any vehicle that has a metal roof.	You fear commitment. These rubber clips attach easily to your car's rooftop crossbars in a matter of minutes, so you can put them on and take them off lickety-split.
<b>PROS</b>	LoPro also has a solar-powered interior light that turns on when you open the box. And like other Yakima products, the LoPro opens on both sides, so you can conserve your own energy, too.	The bags, which come in three sizes and four fabrics, have heavy-duty cinch straps and zippers. Three-inch carabiners make them easy to strap onto your car's roof rack.	The aluminum Hitch Box comes in three sizes, with sturdy stainless steel latches. It rides at the height of your bumper, which makes it perfect for cars that need a low-clearance option.	The system only weighs 11 pounds, so it's easy to store when not in use. Also, check with your rental company on your next ski trip: Many in the Mountain West offer Innos with your rental.	The system also works for sailboard masts or canoe and kayak paddles.
<b>CONS</b>	Not all factory car racks are compatible with the LoPro, even with special hardware (sold separately). Use Yakima's online Fit My Car function to see if yours is a match.	You might need extra bungee cords to secure the bag to your roof, and the bags—when packed full—aren't as aerodynamic as some cargo boxes.	The biggest box can carry up to 180-cm skis, so if you're still rocking long planks or you favor big powder boards, look elsewhere.	Only two can tango. Each system holds two pairs of skis or one snowboard.	The carriers are only compatible with Thule square bars.
<b>SKI CAPACITY</b>	eight pairs	up to six pairs	four to six pairs	two pairs	two pairs
<b>LOCKABLE</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
<b>PRICE</b>	\$699	\$60–\$150	\$678	\$139	\$40
<b>INFO</b>	<a href="http://yakima.com">yakima.com</a>	<a href="http://bigfootbag.com">bigfootbag.com</a>	<a href="http://truck-tool-box.com">truck-tool-box.com</a>	<a href="http://rv-inno.com">rv-inno.com</a>	<a href="http://thuleracks.com">thuleracks.com</a>