



Paul Hamilton executes a flawless kick-turn on the up track.



With uber light boots and skis, even expert skiers get tossed into the backseat on the downhill.



Carbon fiber cuffs, only two buckles and extra-thin liners ensure every gram has been shaved

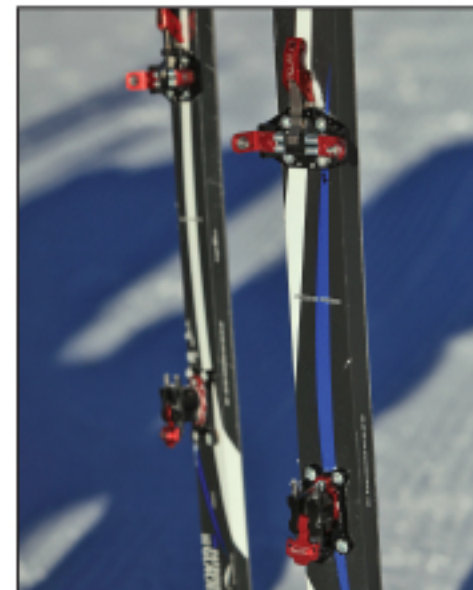
# Lightweights

By Steve Eginore

Randonee, “rando” for short, is a French word meaning “excursion.” Rando also means (Frenchies included) traveling over mountainous terrain with featherweight ski gear at high speeds. One of the fastest growing competitive winter sports, rando racing combines uphill travel, mountaineering and downhill skiing over distances that will test even the most diehard enduro athletes. Ski Hesperus hosted its own version of a rando race this past weekend with participants lapping the ski area as many times as possible in one hour. Also new to the scene is the recently formed Hesperus/Pine Needle Mountaineering Uphill Ski Club, which promotes randonee skiing at Hesperus, allowing members to use the ski area sans chairlift. For more information about the club, contact Pine Needle at 970-247-8728. Here’s a look at Dec. 14’s race:



Miles Venzara and Ben Kneller scope the results.



Not your average ski binding...



Racers try and keep their limbs warm at the starting line.



Happy Trails!