
Beautiful First Real Climb

Posted by burt - 11/27/2006 01:14pm

Saturday and Sunday were almost shirtsleeve weather here in Carolina. I took my new gear and went for a long hike up the ridge overlooking Asheville. I found myself a very nice pine a few feet off the top of the ridge and did my first real tree climb up to a nice big limb about thirty feet up. Beautiful view.

Next time I come I will bring my backpacking gear and spend the night at the base of the tree and try to be in the top for the sunrise.

A really great reason to go for a hike.

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Posted by Dude5 - 11/27/2006 02:07pm

Burt,

Glad you had a good outing. What equipment/technique did you use?

Also, as far as sleeping at the base of the tree you should consider getting a Treeboat (look at New Tribe)...that way you can sleep in the trees and already be up there in the morning. I have my Tree Boat in the mail for my Christmas present.

Later

Troy

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Posted by burt - 11/29/2006 09:14am

Dude: Chameleon rope and Double rope with a Blakes friction hitch. I have a New Tribe harness. Petzl William screw-lock carabiners.

I'm not sure about spending money on a treeboat. I already own a portaledge and I've spent enough nights on it to think that it might be just as good as a hammock.

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Posted by Dude5 - 11/29/2006 11:42am

Did you use a bark saver? Will keep you rope from getting all covered in sap.

I've tried a few but my favorite is the 30" Su Rope Sleeve from new tribe. For some reason or another all they sell is the 18" version now.

Lots of discussion on portaledge Vs Treeboat. I've slept in neither so can't really say.

Later

Troy

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Posted by moss - 11/29/2006 12:14pm

Portaledge sounds good to me. I love my treeboat but a portaledge can be hung on a telephone pole if necessary. The treeboat requires enough distance between two branches and/or a branch and the trunk. Can be challenging to find a place to hang on some trees. It's less gear intensive than a portaledge it's just fabric and webbing. There are pro's and cons to be weighed for each climber's needs. If you already have a portaledge you're all set.

Congrats Burt on your first "real" climb!
-moss

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Tree Boat Experiences

Posted by Oldtimer - 11/30/2006 11:06am

I agree with Moss on the difficulties on setting one up in the tree. The right branches had to be close by in the right alignment kind of way or you will take quite a while to set it right with extra webbing etc. It takes experience to get it set right - I assume. Another issue (for me) is the "Unnatural" posture of being in the boat. My knees can not bend in the right direction so I have sleep on one side with the legs bent down which is somehow uncomfortable. Other than that they are Ok and I am not opposed to owning one if you are camping on trees or campout anywhere for that matter. They can be used at low level also in a regular city park as far as two trees are close enough to hold the treeboat! Others with more experience setting them up will shine in soon I hope.

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Posted by NickfromWI - 11/30/2006 11:50pm

If you set your pencil down on the portaledge, then lean over to get something...say goodbye to the pencil!

I typically find myself carrying a lot of...junk...up with me when I treeboat. Food, water, book, headlamp, gloves, hat, sometimes a gameboy (not kidding), camera, pillow....the list goes on.

I'd be dropping things left and right if on a portaledge.

I like my Treeboat. I've slept in it over 100 nights, and I just learned from Viola at the Rendezvous that it could be tightened up MUCH tighter than what I was doing, so now it's even MORE comfy!

Welcome to tree climbing, burt. I'm sure you'll enjoy it!

love
nick

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Posted by burt - 12/17/2006 09:47am

Went into the Ellicott's Rock wilderness again yesterday and did a climb in a large beech tree along one of the feeder streams that empty into the river there. Cool, but not real cold and I had the forest to myself. A very nice way to spend a day in the woods. I've decided that I really like beech trees.