

EQUIPMENT COMMENTSTENTS (By V.J.)

V. Josendal's small nylon Logan tent--This tent was very satisfactory. Two men were very comfortable in this tent at base camp. Elsewhere it was occupied by three men in comfort and four men with some crowding. Floor area is 42 square ft, and total weight is 9 pounds 10 ounces including stakes and poles. "U" zipper door was good design and door could be unzipped during rain or snow and moisture would not enter tent. Door could be propped open more to provide more ventilation. I think this "U" type door is better than the "C" type for the above reason, although less convenient for entrance and exit. Garbage door in floor of tent at the back worked well as an auxiliary ventilator, when snow was scooped away from it. Tent could be pitched fairly rapidly. Four section tubular aluminum alloy tent pole made from war surplus life boat paddle handles was light, strong, and convenient. Not as good in high wind as a tent with a lower profile such as McGowan's (see general comments elsewhere).

Bates Army Experimental Mountain Tent--I never slept in this tent but I did lift it. With a weight of thirteen and a half pounds without stakes and poles, and a floor area of only 31 square feet, this tent is much too heavy for backpacking. Even though it may have many desirable features, this overall tent design is impractical for general mountaineering use, unless weight can be reduced.

Dick MacGowan's Long & Low Nylon Tent--This is a very good high altitude tent. The total weight of about nine pounds is very reasonable for a tent holding four men with comfort. I don't think that the size should be cut down since there could be very little resultant weight reduction, and yet still be large enough to hold four men. The tent is nine feet long and varies between two and one half and five and one half feet wide so it is not too hard to shovel out a ledge on a sloping snow surface on which to pitch it. Also since floor is long and wide in the middle four men can sleep lengthwise, two at each end and overlapping in the middle. This is a fairly comfortable arrangement. Floor area is approximately thirty-eight square feet.

Since the tent is only five feet high and slopes down in all directions from the center pole, it has good wind resistance. However, the tent roof doesn't slope quite enough for good water drainage, but this could be improved only by increasing tent height or adding another pole. Door is on a sloping surface, so rain and snow come directly in when it is open, but a vertical door could be attained only by decreasing tent slope elsewhere or by adding a pole.

This tent would be more convenient if a small zipper door was added for waste disposal or for taking in clean snow.

Army Surplus Nylon Mountain Tent--We shipped two of these tents to Yakutat but never used them because we felt we had better tents and we did not need these. This tent weighs nine and one-half pounds including stakes and poles. It is made of impervious coated nylon and therefore condensation forms on the inside.