

**SCOUTS-L**

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**TENTS &  
EQUIPMENT**

**Date: Mon, 17 Oct 1994 15:29:58 -0600**  
**From: John Oakes <joakes@UNM.EDU>**  
**Subject: Re: Tents**

**John,**

**We use the Eureka Equinox... GREAT tents... Almost bombproof,  
reasonably priced.**

**John Oakes**

**I used to be a Beaver...WE5-412**



Date: Mon, 17 Oct 1994 17:35:04 +0500  
From: Bob Condon <rec@EPOCH.COM>  
Subject: Re: Tents

Hey John,

>  
> Please respond pro or con with MFG, MODEL, and VENDOR if possible.  
> Thanks in advance for your help.

>  
I personally like the 3 person Eureka Dome.. Will look up the model.  
It is listed as a 3 person dome, blue + gray, fiberglass external  
pole system, fill floor, windows on 3 sides, door on final.

I like this because I use it as a 2 person tent and can keep gear inside  
COMFORT  
ABLY.

I purchased it at HERMANS on sale, normally ~150 I got for \$100.

=====  
Best place to purchase for price, speed and supply is Campmor in New  
Jersey... 2  
day delivery.

=====  
Our troop has 13 Eureka Timberline 2 man tents and 1 4 man tent,

These are very good tents for around \$120. The new zippers are not the  
cheap cru  
mby ones  
of yesteryear but are the heavier weight (expedition weight)  
Campmor is supplier...

If you are backpacking, go with the 2 man timberline. My 3 man and the  
above  
4 man are pretty heavy and hard to divide the weight especially with  
younger boys!

=====  
The Eureka distributor for all odd ball parts (and you may get a better deal  
if  
you  
are buying 10 or so tents is )

Johnson Camping

**625 Conklin Road  
Binghamton, NY 13903  
1-800-572-8822**

**They supplied me with replacement zipper parts when ours went bad  
FREE!**

**Date:** Mon, 17 Oct 1994 22:42:00 UTC  
**From:** Olan Watkins <o.watkins@GENIE.GEIS.COM>  
**Subject:** Tents

To John Monaham

John, that is quite a few tents to order, you should be able to get a pretty good discount from one of the mail order places for that many.

My personal choice would not be the dome type tents for Scouts. The fiberglass poles are some what brittle and a little on the delicate side, and when you break one of the poles for a dome tent, your tent is pretty much of no use. My choice would be more likely, the Timberline Euraka type tent. It is an A-frame type with a rain fly, and if you should lose or break a pole, it is not that difficult to jury rig something that will get you through a week end campout.

The cheapest thing that you could do is buy some of the Philmont used tents that they sell off each year after the camping season. These are excellent tents, they are two man, light weight backpacking tents. They sell them for around \$35-\$40 and have been used around three years by the Philmont traks.

I think that they list new for around \$150 in the BSA catalog.

Olan

**Date:** Mon, 17 Oct 1994 20:22:15 CST  
**From:** Jim Sleezer <JHS8@OSUVM1.BITNET>  
**Subject:** Tents

There is an outfitter's edition of the Eureka Timberline. It is slightly heavier than the standard model and from my experience holds up much better with only a small increase in cost.

BTW, if you are buying that many, you might want to get a couple of extra sets of poles.

Another tent that I like, and which is used by several of the adults in our troop, is the Kelty Domolite. The adults use a 4 person version that you can \_almost\_ stand up in. It has doors on both sides. The problem I see is that it uses fiberglass poles which scouts may not have the patience to use well.

**jim Sleezer**

**Roundtable Commissioner, Pawnee Bill District, Will Rogers Council  
Stillwater, Oklahoma**

**JHS8 at OSUVM1.BITNET      JHS8 at VM1.UCC.OKSTATE.EDU (Internet)**

Date: Mon, 17 Oct 1994 22:09:56 -0400  
From: keen jason matthew <jkeen@HUBCAP.CLEMSON.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Tents

Dear Sirs,

I must agree that in general a Eureka's A-frame is a much better idea for a scout tent than a dome, because they are more durable, just as light weight, and have a better living space. I would suggest though that if you go with that get the Eureka (2 or 4 man) Alpine Meadow rather than the Timberline. It is an a-frame with one extra hoop to give more head space, though it does look like a blowfish when you look at it. The extra space has been well worth my extra \$10, and it's still a Eureka.

**Date:** Tue, 18 Oct 1994 00:26:29 -0500  
**From:** Ben Parker <barker@INTERACCESS.COM>  
**Subject:** Re: Tents

Our troop bought 28 of the Eureka A-frame Timberline 4-man model 2 years ago. We got the Outfitter version, slightly heavier weight, but much heavier duty fabric and reinforcement at seams & critical points. Needless to say, we got a good discount. WE have been very happy. It has rained on us on every campout since (except when it snows...) and we have stayed mostly dry, unless the tarp is fixed under the tent incorrectly.

We had used a variety of dome tents over the 6 years previously, all with decreasing success. The fiberglass poles proved too sensitive for Scouts use.

Ben Parker (IL) barker@interaccess.com  
71450.2735@compuserve.com

\* ASM T-16 Oak Park IL (founded 1916) \* Beavers are Busy! (C-22W-93)  
\*  
\* Pachsegink Lodge 246 \* Des Plaines Valley Council IL \* Eagle Scout-1961  
\*

**Date:** Tue, 18 Oct 1994 10:15:47 -0400  
**From:** Bob McGwier <n4hy@CCR-P.IDA.ORG>  
**Subject:** Tents (TIMBERLINE OWNERS, READ THIS!)

Bob Condon's message about Eureka Timberline 3 man model I am in complete support with. We tent two people in them along with their gear. These are the "old ones with crummy zippers." I wish to pass along some important information. The old zippers and the new zippers are for all intents and purposes, IDENTICAL. They are the same design. Eureka made a very bad materials decision in their manufacturing of the slide. What happened was that dirt would get into the teeth and would wear out the part inside the slide that locked the teeth together and then they would look zipped. Actually they would be incompletely joined and would pull apart easily. I am sure you are fully familiar with this phenomenon. We called Eureka a while back and asked if they would put the heavier Outfitter model zippers into our Timberline models (since I can't see any other difference). They said yes for \$18 per tent (and that included shipping, what a great company!). The customer service representative also said she wished that we would try their free zipper slide replacement before we did this. We did and now have no problems. Give Eureka a call and ask about getting the replacement slides.

**Bob**

**Robert W. McGwier** | n4hy@ccr-p.ida.org: ham radio, scouts,  
Center for Communications Research | astronomy, golf (o yea, & math!)  
ASM  
Princeton, N.J. 08520 | Troop 5700, ACM Pack 53, Sanhican #2  
WWW,  
(609)-279-6240(v) (609)-924-3061(f) | District and Council Activities  
Chair.  
(609-443-8963 (h) | I used to be a Buffalo . . . NE III-120

**Date:** Tue, 18 Oct 1994 10:38:25 -0400  
**From:** Bob McGwier <n4hy@CCR-P.IDA.ORG>  
**Subject:** Tents

> I must agree that in general a Eureka's A-frame is a much better  
>idea for a scout tent than a dome, because they are more durable, just as

I am afraid that I don't agree. I have Eureka's Domalum with 7000 Easton aluminum poles that clip outside the tent. I have used it at Philmont, snow camping, etc. With the vestibule it weights 8 oz. more than the two man Eureka Timberline and less than the outfitter and comes with the gear loft. It is between \$120-\$150 at Campmor. It's the Best tent I've ever owned or slept in. I will NEVER go back to the pain in the butt A frames for my personal or backpacking use after having used this. The A frames such as Timberlines, with the heavier zippers are a good tent, I just don't agree they are better than the good Eureka domes.

**Bob**

**Robert W. McGwier** | [n4hy@ccr-p.ida.org](mailto:n4hy@ccr-p.ida.org): ham radio, scouts,

**Date:** Tue, 18 Oct 1994 12:51:13 EST  
**From:** John Monahan <YB50@MUSIC.FERRIS.EDU>  
**Subject:** Many Thanks

I would like to thank all who wrote concerning TENTS, this has been a very informative forum for me and gave me a great feeling that so many would respond.

I wanted to personally thank all who wrote but found that I would have to spend a good half day due to the overwhelming responses I received.

For every else's benefit that may be looking into tent acquisitions this informal "poll" tells me to buy EUREKA tents from CAMPMOR, the leading responses tell me the TIMBERLINE is the model to purchase and some credible evidence has been given to make the choice for the OUTFITTER version as it is constructed of heavier materials with better zippers at nominal cost increases.

I will continue to monitor the responses to my original thread but overwhelmingly the Eureka Timberline from Campmor (over 90%) was selected.

As my inquiries to Outfitters come in I will also share who offers group or bulk discounts.

Once again, to all who responded my thanks and apologies for not making a personal response.

**Date:** Tue, 18 Oct 1994 13:34:29 -0500  
**From:** Milt Forsberg <miltf@UX1.CSO.UIUC.EDU>  
**Subject:** Re: Tents

My troop used Eureka Timberline tents for a few years. I am disappointed in the zippers. All have stopped working, due to dirt and probably rough handling. I have replaced some, but, the way they are installed, you need to sew through about 12 layers at the top and hold it all together while you sew. It would be great if Eureka had the zipper attached to only one layer and not through the main intersection of all the nylon in the tent. I called Eureka and they would be happy to replace the zippers at \$20 each, or \$40 per tent. The nylon is still in good shape as is the netting. I feel the \$40 is high compared to the \$100 per tent we paid for them originally. I found similar tents at Gander Mountain. (almost identical except color.) They were on sale for \$119 and Gander Mountain gives a 10% discount to Scout units, even on sale prices. I felt the \$70 more than repairs gave us new tents rather than dumping money into the old ones would be better.

If you look at tents, look for zippers which are large and not coil-type zippers. (I know, the Gander Mountain tents are coil-type.) You get much longer service from the larger ones.

Milt Forsberg  
SM Troop 7  
Champaign, IL

**Date:** Tue, 18 Oct 1994 16:56:25 EST  
**From:** "Carl H. Russell, III" <tjic02!JCENG2!HRUSSELL@UUNET.UU.NET>  
**Subject:** Re: Tents

John (and the rest of the list),

Our Troop currently uses Diamond Brand Free Spirit I tents. These are very similar to the Eureka Timberland. I believe that Diamond Brand makes the same style/name tent for the BSA (see the catalog). Our Scouts decided to get these A-frame tents in the 4-person size, even though they are about 3 lbs heavier than the 2-person size. We camp 3 Scouts or 2 adults to a tent and there seems to be ample room for all.

We purchased eight of them at a local outdoor store about 5 years ago for about \$125-150 each. We recently got vestibules for them and quickly got 'spoiled' to the extra 14 sq ft of space!

We have gotten excellent service from these tents and will buy the same style when we need more. Good luck with your research!

In Scouting,

Hunter Russell

Rt. 8, Box 277  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
(615) 926-6754

JCENG2!HRUSSELL@tjic02.uucp  
Siemens Industrial Automation, Inc.  
Johnson City, TN 37605  
(615) 461-2253

Date: Wed, 19 Oct 1994 11:15:46 -0500  
From: Steve Tobin <srtobin@MMM.COM>  
Subject: Re: Tents

>...  
>while the 4-man TL was \$155, the outfitter version was about \$350 (I  
>don't have my catalog here to check exactly - this is my recollection).  
>...  
>I would be interested in hearing the prices some have paid for the  
>different models and their sources. Locally, none could compete with  
>Campmor.  
>...

We bought 10 4-man outfitter timberlines from a local dealer for \$220 each, plus shipping. The regular timberline would have been about \$125, I believe.

I personally was dissapointed in the quality of the sewing. Almost every tent had substandard sewing on the seams, and 1 tent had a 3" gap in a seam where the sewing machine ran off course.

The pole sets are the same. The material and zippers are much heavier, but worth the price difference?? Time will tell, I guess.

Warning! The only problem we have had was loosing 6 of the vertical poles in a wind storm last spring. Get this pricing... A new pole was \$18, EACH. A new SET of poles (4 vertical, one crosspiece and 2 ends), 2 connectors and everything, in a nylon bag of it's own, was \$45. I will never understand retail pricing...

BTW, this isn't unique to Eureka. I had to pay \$40 for 2 3 foot frame sections for my large Sears Hillary tent. Aluminum tubing is sure expensive these days...

Steve

Steve Tobin, SM  
Troop 39  
Cannon Falls, MN

Internet: srtobin@mmm.com  
Cannon River District  
Gamehaven Council (Southeastern Minnesota)

**Eagle Class of '65            OA Ordeal >>>=====>**  
**Member: \* Minnesotans for Global Warming \***

**Date:** Thu, 20 Oct 1994 00:41:26 -0400 (EDT)  
**From:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Tents  
**To:** Kathleen Burton <burton@LCLARK.EDU>

**Kathleen,**

**My daughter is in a Junior Troop and they have successfully used large family tents sleeping anywhere from four to eight. Our own tent has survived unscathed many such experiences. Now if it were an equal number of boys?**

**Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date:** Fri, 21 Oct 1994 07:25:30 EDT  
**From:** Fred Rogers <fredrogers@VNET.IBM.COM>  
**Subject:** Equipment Supplier Phone Numbers

The following list of numbers is taken from the Campmor catalog:

Cascade/Therm-a-Rest	1-800-531-9531
Casio	1-201-361-5400
Camp Trails	1-800-572-8822
Campmor	1-800-CAMPMOR (226-7667)
Caribou	1-800-824-4153
Coleman/Peak I	1-316-261-3211
Columbia	1-800-547-8066
Duofold	1-800-448-8240
Eastpak	1-508-373-1581
Eureka	1-800-572-8822
W.L.Gore (Gore-Tex)	1-800-431-GORE
Gregory	1-800-477-3420
Hi-Tec	1-800-521-1698
Jansport	1-800-426-9227
Lowe	1-303-465-3706
Merrell	1-800-869-3348
MSR	1-800-877-9677
Nike	1-800-238-6453
The North Face	1-800-447-2333
Outdoor Products	1-800-438-3353
Sevylor	1-800-821-4645
Sierra Designs	1-800-423-6363
Slumberjack	1-800-233-6283
Timberland	1-800-258-0855
Timex	1-800-448-4639
Vasque	1-800-224-4453
Wenzel	1-800-325-4121
Woolrich	1-717-769-6464

I hope this information is useful to you.

Fred Rogers <fredrogers@vnet.ibm.com>



**Date:** Thu, 20 Oct 1994 22:55:54 -0400 (EDT)  
**From:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Sleeping Bags  
**To:** Jamie Cashin <jamie@hagar.udc.neweast.ca>

**Sleeping bags are about as individual a clothes. Pick one that keep you as warm as you want when you do most of your camping (its great if it has a removable liner or enough room for an added blanket when its really cold) and one that will endure whatever hardships you expect. If you're going to be canoeing, figure on getting wet sometime. Even stuff sealed in plastic bags has an uncanny way of opening when a canoe flips and wumps against a good boulder. You may be good, but what about the guy at the other end? Down may not be the best choice there. On the other hand its hard to beat dry down. Some of the synthetic stuff can be great, but you will want to make sure you won't end up sweating in a light chill. You probably know what climate, demands, conditions, and situations you'll encounter better than anyone outside your area and may profit by matching those with your own needs to pick a bag. Might not hurt to talk to local outfitters, backwoodsmen, etc., to see what they use and their experience.**

**Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .**

**\_\_\_\_\_ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 1997 12:26:54 -0500  
**From:** Kirk Barley <kbarley@EROLS.COM>  
**Subject:** Re: Troop Tents

Took the Troop out this weekend. Our choice camp site was taken, so we had to camp next to the lake. Boy was it windy.

We had a mix of troop and personal tents. Most were inexpensive domes. One boy brought his new 2 man Timberline. We had two domes "blow" fiberglass poles, but still continue to work through two nights of shifting 15-30mph winds. The timberline had to be dropped during the windy daytime. Even with additional guys from the fly it would not stay put. The support tubes were sturdier than the domes, but kept pulling out of the anchor pins and bouncing up and down on the tent. The boy felt that he had to stand guard to keep the tent from flying away. The domes took it and kept on going. Wind direction was irrelevant to the domes (it shifted 200 degrees over the weekend) but a big factor for the Timberline.

My Eureka 3 man Taragon (4 years old) with additional fly guy lines didn't move or even flex much. A two man version or similar style blew one of its poles, but it wasn't staked very well and had the door into the wind.

Clip flashlight style tents did fine as did a large traditional cabin :-0 tent.

The other dome that blew a pole was a 4-5 man INEXPENSIVE dome that blew level to the ground and stood back up everytime and still worked great after the pole split.

I don't like the Timberline and my opinion was reinforced this trip out.

--

YIS

Kirk Barley  
ASM T-121  
MCB Quantico VA  
SE-574