

# Sierra Club YODELER

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## Winter Equipment News

### An innovation in hiking poles

I started as a total skeptic regarding hiking poles when I first saw them, but I have become an ardent advocate—winter, summer, and in between. If any single pole would woo me away from my current pair, it would be the surprisingly effective TrekPod and its magical MagMount, from Trek Technologies, Lake Oswego, OR.

[www.trek-tech.com](http://www.trek-tech.com)

The TrekPod is a light-weight (30 ounces), height-adjustable (three feet 10 inches to five feet three inches) hiking staff for \$140. For carrying, the pole breaks down into two small units. What is unusual about the TrekPod is that it converts simply and effortlessly to a tripod. The foot expands into a stable base even in rubbly, wet, slushy, or snowy conditions, and the head becomes a quick-release mount for camera, spotting scopes, binoculars, or any optical device using industry-standard mounting threads.

The holding magnet is unbelievable in strength, and the ingenious head lets one employ a variety of angles. The camera is released with an easy, well-aimed poke. Good for hikers, great for camera buffs and birders.



Trek Technologies LLC

15858 SW Upper Boones Ferry Road • Lake Oswego, OR 97035 USA

503.459.0030 • [www.trek-tech.com](http://www.trek-tech.com)