

TRAILBLAZER SPOTLIGHT

Trailblazers in Conservation represents a level of commitment from industry partners and others that support the mutual interests of science-informed wildlife management and conservation, and hunter ethics and advocacy.

RIPCORD

WHEN ALL DOESN'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN

IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES ON YOUR HUNT.





BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

TRAILBLAZER
CONSERVATION PARTNER

As sportsmen, we travel. That's one of the compelling aspects of hunting. Seeing new country, putting a foot on new ground, experiencing new ecosystems, climates, cultures, traditions, and of course the variety of wild game found "over there." And over there doesn't always mean a passport. It can mean a road trip loaded with gear.

Our hunting experiences also put us into difficult if not precarious situations. Whether it's planes getting smaller as you go, 4x4s over rough country, horseback, or on foot in places that can be unforgiving even if you are on your toes, accidents can and do happen. Enter Ripcord, a travel insurance company for sportsmen.

"There is a growing awareness among hunters that when they travel, bad things can happen," said Redpoint Resolutions co-founder and Vice President Tom Bochnowski. "In those cases, they need immediate access to medical and security professionals who can move them from point A to point B in real time."

This was the idea behind Redpoint Resolutions' tailored product for hunters and adventurers: Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance.

Hunting trips can be expensive, and so can medical emergencies. As a result, Redpoint, led by special operations veterans and wilderness medicine physicians, has rolled out a comprehensive travel insurance plan that includes coverage for a trip cancellation, interruption, emergency medical expense, as well as a bulletproof plan for wilderness rescue.

With most travel insurance policies, they will only reimburse for evacuations deemed medically necessary by a foreign attending physician. The insurance company will not organize the evacuation or have medical professionals overseeing your care or assisting you at your bedside if necessary. And they definitely will not rescue you from a remote location. Plus, most travel insurance policies exclude hunting and fishing activities.

From canceled hunts to

broken legs to rescues from rebel soldiers' attacks and everything in between, the stories and testimonials are endless. Ask the co-host of the Sportsman Channel's *Cabela's Instinct: Expedition Series*, Mark Peterson, about the value of a Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance policy. He and his TV crew were traveling in the far reaches of northern Alaska when he had a serious accident.

"I bent over to pick up my spotting scope and we hit a rock in the river that put the airboat to a complete stop. It sent me flying head first into the glass window, breaking it with my head," Peterson said.

With their Iridium satellite phone, the crew contacted the number on their Ripcord cards to reach the 24/7 operations center of Redpoint Resolutions. Redpoint confirmed the team's grid coordinates and deployed a rescue helicopter. The helicopter arrived in the darkness, and Peterson was taken to the best trauma unit in Alaska. Fortunately, tests revealed no catastrophic injuries.



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“To the amazing people at Ripcord, you can bet I’ll be a member for the rest of my life,” Peterson said. “You got me from the middle of nowhere to the best hospital in Alaska in a couple hours and kept my wife and family updated the whole way.”

Ripcord’s clients hunt around the world, and it has saved hunters in all kinds of emergencies, from financial loss to gunfire in the African bush. In Wyoming, a Ripcord client was at a remote camp by Mountain Creek, Wyoming, when a wandering grizzly bear spooked one of the horses in his group, kicking the client in the leg. Redpoint worked with the outfitter to dispatch a helicopter to bring him to the hospital. In the Central African Republic, a Colorado man came under fire from rebel soldiers from the Lord’s Resistance Army. He texted Redpoint from his satellite device, and Redpoint sent a ground team of security personnel to meet him as he escaped and then flew him out of the country via a landing strip in the bush.

Similarly, with financial crises: A Texas man cancelled his planned trip to Africa after his mother’s death. Ripcord fully reimbursed his insured trip costs (\$12,000) for him and his son.

A North Carolina couple were preparing for a Uganda safari in six weeks when the wife became very sick. They had to cancel their trip. Ripcord reimbursed the couple approximately \$8,000.

“Travelers don’t want to read all of the fine print or examine different levels of coverage to know if they would be protected in an emergency,” said Bochnowski. “What they want is to enjoy their hunt or vacation and know that Ripcord has their back.”

COMMITMENTS

The special ops veterans, physicians and sportsmen at Ripcord bring a unique perspective to their service. They understand both what can happen while traveling and the importance of hunting as an irreplaceable mechanism for conservation worldwide. The company has shown a commitment to conservation efforts in North America and around the world, joining the likes of Conservation Force and the Boone and Crockett Club to protect habitat in the U.S. as well as participating in fund-raising efforts to battle poaching in Africa.

“At Ripcord, we’re a proud partner of the Boone and Crockett Club and the legacy of men like Roosevelt, Grinnell, and Hornaday,” Bochnowski explained. “Like the Club’s namesakes, Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, these men were the long-hunters, adventurers, explorers and sportsmen with a passion for the chase that led them to an appreciation for wild places and wild things. Being able to be a part of that and get our customers there and back with peace of mind is what keeps us in the game.” ■

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