

# The Accuracy Issue

# FIELD & STREAM

Buckology

The New  
Science Behind  
Better Deer  
Hunting

p. 62

THE WORLD'S LEADING  
OUTDOOR MAGAZINE  
JULY 2008

SUMMER  
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DEER AT ANY RANGE

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11 Tack-Driving Rifles

## TEST PANEL



Nick Meyer

AGE: 28

HOME WOODS:  
Military Ridge,  
Wis.ANNUAL DAYS  
CAMPING: 125

Michael Shifflett

AGE: 51

HOME WOODS:  
Mark Twain National  
Forest, Mo.ANNUAL DAYS  
CAMPING: 60

Diana Woods

AGE: 41

HOME WOODS:  
Boise National  
Forest, IdahoANNUAL DAYS  
CAMPING: 150

Charles Yanoff

AGE: 48

HOME WOODS:  
Allegheny Moun-  
tains, Pa.ANNUAL DAYS  
CAMPING: 160

## RATING

★  
SLEEP IN  
THE TRUCK★★  
BETTER THAN  
A DEBRIS HUT★★★  
CAMP READY★★★★  
STORM  
SHELTER★★★★★  
WOODS  
FORTRESS

## L.L. BEAN KING PINE DOME (\$299)

800-441-5713 • [llbean.com](http://llbean.com)"Setup and takedown are a pleasure.  
A very user-friendly tent." —Michael Shifflett

## EUREKA! NIERGY 9 (\$160)

800-572-8822 • [eurekatent.com](http://eurekatent.com)"The screen was the poorest  
quality of the four." —Diana Woods

## COLEMAN NORTHSTAR X4 (\$500)

800-835-3278 • [coleman.com](http://coleman.com)"The tent pegs are thin, and I would  
have liked some hooks or snaps to  
hang lights or clothes from." —Nick Meyer

**THE LOWDOWN** The King Pine Dome covers a 12-foot 9-inch by 7-foot 10-inch footprint with two rooms: a screened room roughly 5 feet deep, and a sleeping chamber that's just over 7 feet. The rain fly only reaches over the top of the screened room but covers the sleeping area completely. With three doors and six fiberglass support poles, and a peak height of 6 feet, the tent weighs 27 pounds 13 ounces.

It got three high second-place votes and finished only 2½ points behind the Cabela's tent. Everyone agreed that it set up quickly and was durable and relatively spacious. Meyer particularly liked the fact that the directions were sewn into the carrying bag and that all the parts were color coded. Some panelists criticized the plastic pegs and light guylines.

**HITS** "The zippers are easy to reach and operate." —Yanoff

"The fly repels water without sacrificing ventilation." —Meyer

**MISSES** "It is supposed to sleep four, but I'm afraid it redefines family togetherness." —Woods

"I would like the fly to completely cover the screened room. My gear could get wet." —Meyer

**THE LOWDOWN** The one-room, 9x9-foot Niergy has a center height of 6 feet. There are two mesh vents in the ceiling, and large vented doors and two windows in the walls. The rain fly sits low on the walls, but the door is not covered. This was the only tent in the test with an optional rechargeable power supply (\$60) to run fans, lights, and other small 12-volt appliances; the tent and recharger have a combined weight of 23 pounds.

The Niergy mostly split last-place scores with the Coleman. Meyer liked the plug-in power pack, but the others felt it had no place in a tent. Shifflett said the structure was highly functional, and the easiest of the four to erect and take down. Yanoff liked it until a fiberglass pole broke in a mild wind; others questioned its sturdiness.

**HITS** "The plug-in was convenient and perfect for hands-free lighting or a fan on a hot night." —Meyer

"Good ventilation, and I could put it up quickly." —Yanoff

**MISSES** "Water will drip inside the door when you get in or out of the rain." —Shifflett

"The fiberglass pole failed in a 20-mph wind." —Yanoff

**THE LOWDOWN** This two-room structure, the most expensive and largest tent here, is a whopping 14 feet long, oversize awning included. It weighs 31 pounds, with carrying bag. The screened room and sleeping room are both about 6x7 feet, with a center height of 6 feet, four doors total, and two skylight mesh vents. A rain fly covers the tent's five color-coded poles.

Everyone found the Coleman well made and spacious, and reported that it stayed dry in the water tests. Still, that praise could not keep it from receiving a third-place and two last-place scores. Yanoff, however, rated it a high second, citing a smart floor design and strong performance in high winds. All testers complained about the high price, and two felt the tent simply didn't look good.

**HITS** "The seams and fabric are strong and durable." —Meyer

"The floor system in the screen room will keep mud out of the sleeping area." —Yanoff

**MISSES** "Five hundred dollars is a lot of money compared to the others." —Woods

"Setting up the Velcro fly attachment was very tedious." —Shifflett