

Amazing But True!

The AirZone® Inflatable Tent

presented by SUSAN GIBSON



It was dark when we finally arrived at our camping destination, and seven people scurried about to get two tents set up so we could settle down for a good night's sleep. What was most amazing about the scene was that there were six people putting up one tent, and one person (me) putting up the second tent. My new AirZone Tent® and I were about to become the best of friends ...

I took the AirZone® tent out of its compact duffel (28 x 12 x 10) and spread it out on the ground. As I stared at the tent I realized two discouraging bits of information: one, I had never put up a tent before in my life (my camping was always in a cabover camper); and two, I had forgotten to bring the instructions.

I replayed Mark Turcott's phone instructions (the inventor and vice president of the AirZone® Tent) and the steps were pretty simple: (1) remove tent from duffel bag (2) spread tent out on the ground with the inflatable poles facing upward; (3) stake the corners into the ground; (4) attach the CO2 tank to the valve; (5) watch the tent self-erect itself. I yelled to the others to come watch quickly, and as I squeezed the handle on the CO2 cartridge, it took less than 10 seconds and the tent was standing and ready to go. Hard to believe but true - a single person could put up an 4-person 8' x 8' tent in only a couple minutes!

What inflates are the two sturdy "air poles" that are the support system of the tent. These air poles are so sturdy that they passed a test where a half ton truck drove on top of the poles, the poles were then inflated - and amazingly they lifted the truck off the ground! The rigidity test for the poles was also tested when a 53 pound kayak was placed on top of a 2 person tent, and they supported the weight.

Sure it goes up, but does it stay up! Glad you asked! We got caught in a heck of a hail,

wind and rain storm, and the tent was stable and absolutely dry inside. The tent comes with a removable rain fly that clips on very easily for complete rain protection. If you don't need the fly for rain or privacy, you will love the open design where all four sides have large see-through mesh windows. I loved being able to lay in the tent at night, protected against the bugs and crawling critters, but also being able to see out on all four sides - it was almost like sleeping under the stars!

The take down of the tent was a repeat of the opening show: while the others dealt with those cumbersome poles, I simply (1) took the stakes out; (2) opened up the release valve; (3) stood and watched my tent get itself ready to be packed away. In less than fifteen seconds, the poles in the tent were completely deflated, the tent was flat and ready to be put back in the duffel bag. Since there is no disassembly required and since everything remains attached, there are no parts to lose.

The AirZone® tent comes in a variety of sizes from a 1 person tent (6 pounds) to a 4 person tent (14 pounds) and they are working on new models including a pretty good size 6 person tent. The AirZone tents have a three year warranty on the inflatable poles.

You can (and I will) buy an extra inflatable pole "just in case" but they are made of such a tough material that it would take a lot to puncture them.

Amazing but true - the AirZone® Tent is one of the greatest inventions I've ever seen! For more information, contact:

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