



**Contact:**

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**Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team Partners with ground™**

***Colorado Springs, CO*** ----- Ground™ will again partner with the Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team for the 2009 season to provide back packs and duffels for the athletes and staff.

“We’re thrilled to have this leading edge manufacturer back with us for 2009. Our team raved about the bags ground™ supplied in ’05 and ’07 and the current line offers a great fit for the team for all of their travel needs – on the plane ride over to the World Champs and onsite to carry their gear,” said Nancy Hobbs, Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team manager.

According to Liam Doran, public relations and sales support at ground™, “Ground is proud to support the athletes and staff of the U.S. Mountain running team and we wish them the best of luck in Italy.”

The Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team has been title sponsored by Teva, the official footwear of the team, since 2002. Team uniforms are provided by SportHill, Windermere Real Estate/Teton Valley is the official real estate company, Fleet Feet Sports-Boulder is the official specialty running store, OrthoLite is the official insole, Wicked Fast sports nutrition is the official dietary supplements for pre-exercise energy/endurance (Energ-Ease) and post-exercise recovery (Recover-Ease), FuelBelt provides hydration products for the team, Costa Del Mar provides performance sunglasses, CW-X provides conditioning tights, and *Youth Runner* magazine provides support for the junior team.

The 2009 team will compete in the 25<sup>th</sup> World Mountain Running Championships in Campodolcino, Italy, on September 6, 2009. This year’s World Championship races will be held on an up/down course (as opposed to even-numbered years when the events are run on an uphill-only course) with the senior men running 12km, the senior women and junior men running 8km, and the junior women running just under 4km (course distances are approximate).

The women’s team includes four athletes with the top three finishers scoring for the team. Six athletes will represent the men’s team with the top four finishers scoring. The junior men’s team includes a maximum of four with top three scoring while the junior women’s team is a maximum of three with the top two scoring. Team manager Nancy Hobbs, Colorado Springs, CO, Richard Bolt, Portland, OR, Ellen Miller, Vail, CO, and Dave Dunham, Bradford, MA, will accompany the team to the Championships.

At the USATF Annual Meetings in Reno this month, the Mountain Ultra Trail (MUT) Council announced two selection races from which automatic qualifiers to the U.S. team will be selected. The top three U.S. men and the top U.S. woman (must be current USATF members) will earn automatic berths at the USA Mountain Running Championships at North Conway, NH, on June 28. The top two U.S. men and the top two U.S. women at the Cheyenne Canon Mountain Race in Colorado Springs, CO, on July 26 will also earn berths on the team.

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Following the selection races, the remaining members of the senior squad, (one male, one female), will be selected by the Mountain Ultra Trail Council with input from the team staff based on results at the selection races, national and international racing experience including mountain, road, cross country, and track. Senior athletes **MUST** run a selection race in order to be considered for the team. The junior team is selected based on resumes with criteria available at [www.usmrt.com](http://www.usmrt.com). To be considered for the team all team members **MUST** be current USATF members prior to running a selection race and in the case of juniors, USATF membership is also mandatory.

Interested athletes should submit running resumes to: Richard Bolt ([richard.bolt@usmrt.com](mailto:richard.bolt@usmrt.com)) and Nancy Hobbs ([trrunner@aol.com](mailto:trrunner@aol.com)). The full team will be announced by August 3, 2009.

For additional information visit the websites listed below:

USA Mountain Running Championships	<a href="http://www.whitemountainmilers.com">www.whitemountainmilers.com</a>
World Mountain Running Association	<a href="http://www.wmra.info">www.wmra.info</a>
USA Track & Field	<a href="http://www.usatf.org">www.usatf.org</a>
American Trail Running Association	<a href="http://www.trailrunner.com">www.trailrunner.com</a>
ground™	<a href="http://www.groundwear.com">www.groundwear.com</a>
Teva	<a href="http://www.teva.com">www.teva.com</a>
SportHill Clothing	<a href="http://www.sporthill.com">www.sporthill.com</a>
KINeSYS, Inc.	<a href="http://www.kinesys.com">www.kinesys.com</a>
CW-X Conditioning Wear	<a href="http://www.cw-x.com">www.cw-x.com</a>
Costa Del Mar	<a href="http://www.costadelmar.com">www.costadelmar.com</a>
Windermere	<a href="http://www.juliebryan.mywindermere.com">www.juliebryan.mywindermere.com</a>
Fleet Feet Sports-Boulder	<a href="http://www.fleetfeetboulder.com">www.fleetfeetboulder.com</a>
Wicked Fast Sports Nutrition	<a href="http://www.recover-ease.com">www.recover-ease.com</a>
OrthoLite	<a href="http://www.ortholitefoam.com">www.ortholitefoam.com</a>
FuelBelt	<a href="http://www.fuelbelt.com">www.fuelbelt.com</a>
<i>Youth Runner</i>	<a href="http://www.youthrunner.com">www.youthrunner.com</a>

### About Ground

**Established in 2002, Ground is a multi-sport lifestyle brand that combines technology with style. Headquartered in Emeryville, California, just across the bay from San Francisco, we started Ground because we thought it was time for a change. Over the last several years it seems that many outdoor products have come to resemble one another. Somebody had to do something new.**

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