

## John Raleigh continued

My gear was as follows:

Kelty BB5 external frame pack with rain cover

Sierra Designs Superlight down sleeping bag

¼" ensolite foam pad

Sierra Designs Tarp (later replaced by a Gerry Pioneer tarp/tent - a great piece of gear with no modern equivalent)

Gerry Mini Stove and canisters, disposable butane lighter

2 quart aluminum pot, plastic coffee cup, fork, Swiss Army Knife

Plastic ground sheet

Stuff sacks for food and clothing.

Clothing - 1 pair long pants, 1 long sleeve shirt (I'm sure both of these were cotton!), 2 t-shirts, one pair of hiking shorts, one pair of gym shorts (found on the street in Waynesboro, VA) 4 pairs of wool socks and liner socks

Sierra Designs 60/40 Parka, sent home when weather warmed

Rain Poncho (later replaced with an Alpine Designs rain jacket, no gortex in those days)

2 water bottles (total 2.5 quarts)

Candles (for reading at night), books (always at least 1)

Camera, light meter and film

Hiking stick (carefully chosen at home and brought to Georgia, lasted entire trip)

Boots- started with Fabiano Mountain boots and later replaced with Raichles. The first pair became too small as my feet spread, yes my feet got wider.

I just spent five minutes trying to remember if I had a flashlight. I can't remember having one so there was no need for any batteries for anything I carried. This is a good thing given that 1974 batteries weren't very good and they were large and heavy D cells for the most part.

1 pair of Adidas sent from home around the halfway point (didn't have Texas in the day)

Medical - I carried Moleskin and aspirin.

Pack weight with food was consistently between 45 and 55 pounds.

At the end of the trip my pack was still in great shape, the frame welds all had cracks and the lower backband was replaced once. Kelty replaced the pack frame. Everything else held up well although I did replace the sleeping bag in NY for a clean one, which was also better in warmer weather.

I started the trip with \$800 in traveler's checks and had over \$200 left at the end of the hike. I'll bet it costs more today!

*A recent photo of John, his wife Sarah, and friend Cameron Sesto  
Photo courtesy John Raleigh*

