



Kerri Dellisanti  
206-676-6065

[media@cascadedesigns.com](mailto:media@cascadedesigns.com)

Tami Fairweather  
206-676-6011

[media@cascadedesigns.com](mailto:media@cascadedesigns.com)

[www.thermarest.com](http://www.thermarest.com)

## News Release

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### **Therm-a-Rest Wins 2011 American Alpine Institute Guides' Choice Award**

**Seattle, U.S.A.** – Therm-a-Rest, the Seattle-based industry leader in premium outdoor comfort solutions, is proud to announce the selection of two mattresses by the American Alpine Institute for their 2011 Guides' Choice Award. The Therm-a-Rest RidgeRest® SOLite™ mattress and the Therm-a-Rest RidgeRest® Solar™ mattress were chosen for the award by the professional mountain guides of the American Alpine Institute based on excellence in design, top performance and outstanding durability.

Year-round, international field tests for the American Alpine Institute's annual Guides' Choice compare equipment of similar types in harsh and varied conditions. The Therm-a-Rest mattresses proved to exceed all performance expectations for closed-cell foam sleeping pads.

The Therm-a-Rest RidgeRest SOLite and Therm-a-Rest RidgeRest Solar foam mattresses feature the original, pioneering RidgeRest thermal design that backcountry adventurers have been using for decades. The unique mattress form features heat-trapping valleys and soft supportive ridges while maintaining lightweight and durability. In 2011, the mattresses have been updated with a patent-pending, aluminized thermal coating, reflecting heat back to the user's body and providing even more durability from surface wear and tear. This thermal coating increases the warmth of the RidgeRest SOLite by 8% and the RidgeRest Solar by 13%.

The guides found the RidgeRest SOLite to be the "perfect three-season pad for backpackers and climbers who might need to sleep on snow but not in super cold conditions." The regular size SOLite pad offers an R-Value of 2.8 at only 14 oz. (400g).

The Therm-a-Rest RidgeRest Solar is the thickest and warmest closed-cell foam mattress in the Therm-a-Rest line, which guides said "kept testers warmer than other closed cell pads while sleeping on snow in cold conditions." The regular size pad offers an R-Value of 3.5 at only 1 lb. 3 oz. (540g).

Both mattresses are made in the company's Seattle, U.S.A. factory, along with the Therm-a-Rest NeoAir™ mattress, winner of the 2009 Guides' Choice Award from the American Alpine Institute.

#### **About Therm-a-Rest®**

*Seattle-based Therm-a-Rest has been the market leader in premium outdoor comfort since its invention of the world's first self-inflating mattress in 1972. A commitment to providing inventive, long-lasting and reliable products has driven the expansion of the line into closed-cell foam mattresses, air mattresses,*

*sleep systems and seating solutions that reinvent the way people sleep outside. All Therm-a-Rest mattresses are made in the Seattle, U.S.A. and Cork, Ireland manufacturing facilities. For more information, visit [www.thermarest.com](http://www.thermarest.com).*

**About American Alpine Institute**

*Offering programs in 6 states and 16 countries, AAI is dedicated to helping climbers raise their skills, protect the environments in which they climb, develop good judgment, and safely gain access to the great mountains of the world. Though the Institute is well known for its advanced technical training and expeditions, its international reputation is based on its dedication to teaching at all skill levels (from beginners' to masters' levels), the outstanding skills of its staff, and its public service in the areas of environmental protection and public lands policy. The company was founded in 1975 and is America's longest AMGA accredited guide service.*

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