



but I'm sure the rest of this shoe will far outlast the Velcro. The hard plastic sole didn't inspire much confidence off the bike. I found myself skittering around the woods like a bear on ice skates when trail conditions were slippery. These boots, with a thick Merino wool sock, kept my feet warm in the upper 30s, but I was wishing for more insulation when temps dropped below that.

This shoe will best serve those looking for a fall/winter/spring shoe that performs well in wet, moderately cold climates. The low 1032g weight will certainly please the performance geeks among us. If you're looking for a warm winter shoe, or a shoe that is as good off the bike as on, look elsewhere. Perhaps I'm picky, but for \$329.99, I would like to see width options, half sizes, a decent stock insole, some sort of ratcheting retention system, and an outsole that better accommodates the frequent hike-a-bike sections that come with winter weather. Made in Italy. -Justin Steiner

## HOSS CLOTHING

Ponderosa Knicker \$69.95

Polo Pony Jersey \$29.95 (short sleeve) \$34.95 (long sleeve)

Country of Origin: Vietnam

This ensemble from Hoss is a riding outfit Johnny Cash would love, although I have a feeling he wouldn't call it an ensemble. In fact he might mistake the knickers for ladies' wear, but I digress.

The Ponderosa Knicker is a lengthened version of the Ponderosa Short tested in issue #117. It has a built-in inner short with a Coolmax chamois and five pockets: two side cargo, two front and a rear with Velcro closure. There is an adjustable non-removable waist belt and drawstrings at the bottom of each leg. The Polo Pony is a collared pocketless top with a two-button closure made from Cool-Plus polyester.

The Knickers have a nice light outer shell that dries quickly and adds a bit of warmth and protection for fall and spring rides. I found the belt to be a bit redundant, as the elastic did a fine job of keeping my pants up, even with the belt undone. The chamois is a pretty basic design and was fine for shorter rides, but longer rides would have me wishing for something with better padding. The elastic around the inner shorts' legs is too tight for my tastes, and I'm no Marty Nothstein. If I had my druthers with the kickers, I'd lose the built-in shorts, taper the legs a bit and leave out the elastic cord. I really like the lightweight fabric, but I would rather choose my own inner short, not to mention use the outer short a few times before washing.

I used the Polo Pony commuting and riding off road and found it to be comfortable and acceptably breathable. The fabric is a little heavier than the average short-sleeve jersey, making it a bit hot in summer, but comfortable in most weather under 80°. The Polo Pony is a great alternative for those wanting some performance without looking like they got hit with the bike fashion victim stick. I would feel comfortable wearing this to race or out for drinks with the lady friend.

