First Pitch
In order to familiarize yourself with your new tent, we suggest that you "test pitch" it before embarking on a wilderness trip.

Select a Site
Look for a level spot that is protected from the wind in order to ensure sleeping comfort. Clear the area of debris such as sharp stones and sticks which might abrade or puncture the tent floor. Choose an area that will drain well when it rains.

Unfasten the Tent and Assemble the Poles
Unfasten the tent and lay the tent floor flat on the ground with the door unzipped. There are four hub pole assemblies attached to the tent—one at the corner of each tent. On each hub, insert the short poles attached to the hub into their corresponding holes in the hub. Lay these down at the corners of the tent, surrounding the attached webbing. There are also two pre-bent poles of equal length, and one "V-shaped" vestibule pole. For these three poles, carefully unfold the shock corded pole sections and allow them to slide together. Do not allow the poles to snap together. This can lead to serious pole damage. Make certain that the insert of each pole section is fully inserted into the next pole section (Figure 1).

Stake the Floor
We recommend marking the floor prior to inserting the poles for greater pitching ease. Although the Hercules AST is a totally free standing tent, we suggest that you always stake the floor prior to inserting the poles for greater pitching ease.

Both poles. Then, wrap the bungee cord on the Clips-Loc tightly around both poles, and slide the cord into the grommet on the underside of the clip, to keep the cord taught (Figure 4).

Flysheet
You now have one remaining "V-shaped" pole. Place the tips of this pole in the grommets attached to the clips at points A and B, and O and Q on the tent body. Note that the tent body is symmetrical, so the vestibule pole can go at either end of the tent. Next, drop the fly over the tent, making sure that the vestibule (with the vinyl window) is over the vestibule pole.

Ventilation
Proper ventilation is essential for creating a comfortable living space inside your tent. The vestibule door panel can be rolled away for maximum ventilation. Because the vestibule forms an awning over the door, you can often leave the door tied open in a stagnant, provided the door faces away from the wind. When the door in the rear of the vestibule is left fully or partially open, it effectively improves flow-through ventilation. Additionally, the flaps at the top of the vestibule and the back door can be used to regulate ventilation.

Internal Guy System
Sierra Designs was the first to introduce the revolutionary Internal Guy System. This system remains a very important feature in our Convertible and 4-Season tents. When installed, this simple system will greatly increase the strength of your tent with the weight of a few guy cords. This system is very useful in extreme weather conditions, but is not necessary under normal conditions. Installation: All attachments are made inside the tent. All that is needed are 4 pieces of guy cord of 100' lengths or longer, (guy ties may be used but are optional). Some guy cords and line tighteners are provided with your tent, however, you can also purchase the "Internal Guy System" accessory, which uses Swift Clips to eliminate the need to tie knots. There are nine webbing loops sewn to the intesire of the tent body; one in each corner of the floor at points A, B, C, and D and four on the tent ceiling at points 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Figure 5).

For added strength along the sides of the tent, run the guy cords between points on the tent as follows: A, B to 6, 5, C to 6, and D to 5. For added strength along the front and rear of the tent, run the guy lines A to 7, B to 6, C to 5, and D to 4 (in this configuration, the Internal Guy System will partially obstruct the doorway) With each guy cord, tie one end to the webbing loop in the ceiling. Secure the other end to floor webbing loop with a double half-hitch or a line tightener.

Please note that 6 tent stakes and 6 guy cords were provided with this tent as a courtesy. If you choose to use more than this when pitching your tent, additional stakes may be purchased at the store where you originally purchased your tent.