



# the ZONE



It's all in da' ZONE, baby!—the freshest gear on the market today!

The GearTrends® team has launched a newly designed Product Zone section. In addition to the mini-product ads that offer a peek (albeit a pay-to-play one) of the very newest gear and apparel from leading industry companies, our editors have added even more value to this section by penning concise market reports. Each report will give a quick trend hit of what is happening, or not, and perhaps a few mentions of products with pre-show PR that caught our fancy as examples of that trend or direction. Yes, we probably missed something—most likely because we ran out of room.

Wish your company's products were in here for the world to see? While you really have no control over what our editors decide to include or not in their trend reports, you can ensure your product is seen by over 25,000 eyes each issue simply by becoming a GearTrends® member. As a member, you get to place a select number of product ads in the Product Zone section of our magazines as one of many member benefits. For more information regarding GearTrends® membership, contact Gene Treacy at the GearTrends® sales office: [Gene@gearrends.com](mailto:Gene@gearrends.com) or 865-675-2052.

## ▶ ICE CLIMBING

The flurry of development in the ice climbing world over the past few seasons **appears to have finally died down**. Insulated boots are now about as light and trim as possible, crampons are pretty much dialed in (at last most come with decent anti-balling plates as a standard feature), and leashless ice tools are no longer considered radical technology just for elite sport climbers.

Now the emphasis seems to be on **refining the little things** that make life easier while hanging from frozen water and fractured rock. Thus, gloves for ice climbing are still improving, ice screws are getting easier to place and remove, and harness racking systems ease access to equipment.

Certainly there isn't much happening when one of the leading ice equipment suppliers has little more to talk about than new colors for two harnesses providing "a nice facelift that will really blend our harness line together." However, the European brands typically roll out ice gear at the summer shows, ignoring American buying cycles (and tastes).

## ▶ MOUNTAINEERING

While ice climbing is relatively stagnant—not necessarily a bad thing—mountaineering equipment **continues to shed what little weight remains**. Although ski mountaineering races are likely to remain an obscure sport (too expensive and demanding

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### Aloe Gator SPF 40 Ltn

8 Hour Suncare Protection—with Aloe Vera and a special formulation of ingredients. It moisturizes while protecting the skin.

A trusted and proven sunblock—produced since 1981 by A.G.S. Labs Inc. 800-531-5731.



**ALOE GATOR**  
SUNCARE



**BENDING BRANCHES** offers two new paddles with telescoping adjustable ferrules. The Infusion Glass Plus (\$130 MSRP) and the Breeze Plus (shown, \$250 MSRP). An intriguingly simple concept: lock into any degree of feather, vary length by 15 cm to fit more paddlers, and eliminate the "wobble" in many take-apart paddles. Plus, you can reduce SKUs by 75%, inventory investment by 36%, and offer a more versatile product. [www.bendingbranches.com](http://www.bendingbranches.com)



### LUMINA LED

In a 24-hour world, there's no time to be held back by darkness. The new Buck/Whittaker Lumina LED helps slice through the night, literally. Designed to be versatile and lightweight, the Lumina LED features a programmed LED light placed strategically next to the blade, enabling precise cutting day or night. MSRP \$55. [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com), 800-326-2835, OR Booth #2308.



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for most), much like adventure races, they will drive product development and hype. Demonstrating the no-gram-is-overlooked school of design, the already very light Black Diamond Raven Pro ice ax went on a diet to lose 32 grams from the spike to become the Raven Ultra. And the Marmot Skylight Jacket will be a 3-layer stretch Gore-Tex XCR shell that only weighs 17 ounces; less than many so-called ultralight shells of lesser materials.

While many mountaineering products are primarily showcase pieces to make a company look technologically advanced, others do have **more practical value to climbers**. The venerable Sportiva Nepal Extreme mountaineering boot is evolving to an updated outsole for better traction and an integrated gaiter. Black Diamond's new Venom Tech Piolet fills a long-vacant void of a technical mountaineering ice ax; once common from many companies, these all but disappeared from many product lines. Perhaps the most versatile new product will be the Mammut Transmission Hybrid Pro Jacket, which is a hybrid hard/soft shell with a zip-out synthetic insulated vest.



## ▶ SKIN CARE / SUNSCREEN

To encourage more frequent use—as in more than just when consumers are playing outdoors—**sunscreen formulations continue to get more sophisticated** and PR copy is beginning to read like that from a cosmetics line. Moisturizers, herbal extract antioxidants, fragrance-free, quick-drying, alcohol-free, non-greasy, plus vitamins C, A and E are standard fare. Proderma, Kinesys and ProTech all have daily skin-care products with sunscreen from SPF 15 to 30+.



## ▶ SUNGLASSES

**Interchangeable systems** continue to get more sophisticated and are finding their way into more fashion-conscious eyewear as the lines between pure fashion and pure function begin to meld. Look also for increased application of polarized lenses for on-snow use. Heck, if it works for reducing low-angle glare off the water for boaters and fishing enthusiasts, it should work wonders for low-angle glare off snow for dudes and dude-ettes on boards. The Smith Pacifica, a surf-styled glass, looks to be worth more than a casual peek, as does the Ryders Freefall—love the gasket-encased lenses that help to prevent scratching, bending and dinging during the interchange process.



» Ryders Freefall



## ▶ FOOTWEAR

It is a world dominated by multitasking and constant movement from a population in search of that next, great, fun thing to do. And that is certainly evident in the footwear category. With very few exceptions, product introductions seek to target more than one end use in an effort to capture the imagination of a consumer who wants a shoe that will do it all.

» While brown shoes continue to sell, we're also noticing that **color, style and fashion are playing an increasingly important role** in closing sales, even in more technical footwear. Merrell, Montrail, Asolo and now Vasque (please, enough with the



### New & Improved Thinsulate™ Flex Insulation

Improved Thinsulate Flex insulation, engineered for lightweight outerwear and accessories that not only move with your every move, but also keep you warm when the temperature drops. Providing stretchable, flexible warmth and easy care, Thinsulate Flex insulation stretches 40% in all directions and recovers without wrinkling, tearing or compromising its superior insulation properties. Thinsulate Flex insulation offers easy care, including warm water wash, tumble-dry low heat or professionally dry-clean. Thinsulate Flex insulation meets active, outdoor consumers' demands for high-tech, breathable, stretchable outerwear without compromising easy care. OR BOOTH # 3975.



### POCKET CHANGE

The Nano Wire carabiner supports 9 kN in the open gate position and weighs less than a small handful of pocket change. The Nano Wire Express quickdraw combines two anodized Nano Wire carabiners with an ultralight, ultrastrong dyneema draw.

lightest in the world



**SINCE 1957, CANADA GOOSE®** has been manufacturing high-quality jackets for extreme cold weather. All of our products are hand-made in Canada and are field tested by people who live and work in severe climates. The Chilliwack is representative of our innovative styles that are often imitated, but whose quality has never been matched.



### Sugar™

Designed for women, the NEW Sugar™ is a winterized, go-anywhere pack that fits and feels great. With a comfortable, curved harness and well-positioned SternumStrap, this system keeps ladies playing in the snow for hours.

## COCOON®

sleep gear for adventurers

**Need to add a little warmth to any sleeping bag?** The Primaloft Overbag & Innerbag from Cocoon add about 20 degrees of warmth to any mummy bag and can be used alone as ultralight bags for fast & light packing. Primaloft® is naturally water repellent, making it ideal for demanding cold & wet conditions. Excellent price points & about 1.5 lbs. each! Cocoon by Design Salt • Booth # 1806 • 800-254-7258 [www.cocoonusa.com](http://www.cocoonusa.com)



### Scorpion™

Fast on the draw and built to charge a line, our NEW Scorpion™ helps squeeze every penny out of that lift ticket. Serves up 70 oz of agua in a tight design. Ride hard. Ride long. Go home worked.



## COCOON®

sleep gear for adventurers

### COCOON BY DESIGN SALT

introduces 100% Silk Base Layer Accessories. Silk balaclavas, glove liners, and liner socks are the ideal base layer for skiers, mountaineers, winter campers, and adventure travelers. Silk insulates and retains body heat naturally by wicking moisture away from your body and dries extremely fast. Attractive packaging and great price points make for a great profit opportunity. Cocoon by Design Salt • Booth # 1806 • 800-254-7258 • [www.cocoonusa.com](http://www.cocoonusa.com)



### Hellion™

For longer days, core users head out the back gate in search of high mountain lines with the NEW Hellion™. This is your hundred-day choice, holding back-country must-haves—shovel, probes, extra layers—plus the extras that keep you comfortable all-day.



Consoltex is proud to introduce the latest in soft shell technology. We are expanding our S3 Soft Shell System to include such features as thermal insulation, balanced moisture management and superior stretch while maintaining comfort, freedom of movement and breathability. All of our soft shell fabrics continue to feature our Dryon™ Super Water Repellent Finish for maximum protection from the elements. Our expanded soft shell line is ideal for hiking, climbing, running, cycling and any other extreme activity you can think of. **Consoltex Soft Shell System ... for those with adrenaline to spare.** Contact: Consoltex Inc. • 800-736-2743 • [performance@consoltex.com](mailto:performance@consoltex.com)

pink!) continue to push the color envelope here, though plenty of others are jumping on the bandwagon.

» Look for more companies to continue **partnering with Vibram**, which has its sole firmly back in the lead as the go-to solution for traction, comfort and durability on hiking, winter and casual footwear.

» **“Like Stealth, only better...”** is a phrase we continue to hear. What that means is while there are certainly other very good friction rubber blends on the market everyone is still chasing Stealth C4 as the recognized brand.

» **For winter footwear**, Lowa, Merrell, Hi-Tec and Dunham each have interesting versions of insulated footwear designed for light to serious cold-weather romping.

» **In footwear for trail running**, moving fast, fastpacking, adventure racing or just looking cool, we have the return of adidas



adidas Tangent XCR

boasting a Ground Control System (GCS) suspension that keeps the shoe firmly in contact with the ground and the foot firmly cradled for better performance (it says) in rocky, rutted and chewed-up terrain. The Tangent XCR looks to be worth more than a casual glance.

» **And, yes, hiking shoes** can and do get introduced in the winter interestingly enough. The trend here appears to be toward lighter and lower-profile shoes, certainly evident in the Timberland Cadion (2 pounds, 3 ounces for the pair), designed in partnership with Ed Viesturs.

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### ▶ AFTERMARKET WATERPROOFING / FABRIC CARE

Nikwax has been doing quite a bit of study on **how UV light affects fabric durability and performance** and, as a result, is launching a new product called UV Proof. The company asserts that one application of the product can actually double the life of a fabric. And since it also helps prevent color fade and adds water repellency, what's not to like?

**On the footwear front**, McNett, following its acquisition of ReviveX from W.L. Gore, has been busy reformulating, testing and developing. Hot out of the laboratory is the ReviveX Leather Waterproofing Spray, which the company said is specifically designed for climbers and winter adventurers and resists wearing off in abrasive conditions such as ice climbing, kicking steps in the snow and more. It is also approved by Gore for use with XCR footwear.

### ▶ PACKS / TENTS / SLEEPING BAGS

Summer Market is where you expect to find most of the market introductions for these products, however, look for a few noteworthy trends in winter 2005.

» **Inflatable tents** (we know, stop laughing, we aren't talking bouncy houses) typically garnered nothing more than passing curiosity and a few giggles from our technically focused industry in the past. And then along comes Nemo Equipment. We've not tested this tent yet, but our first take is the company has designed a tent with air-supported beams that offer stability, ease-of-setup and lightweight performance. The company has already been awarded a Winter 2005 ispo BrandNew award for innovation from the European crowd and, if that is any indication, we can expect to see others beginning to seriously tinker with air as a means of support for tents.



» Hilleberg Muddus

Marmot La Meije



» **Hilleberg continues to turn consumer heads** with solid designs that are at the same time easy-to-set up, modular (you can actually zip multiple tents together to create a kind of tent city, perfect for base camps or the backcountry party scene if you wish), lightweight and roomy.

» **Multifunction, multipurpose and lightweight** (notice we did not say "ultralight") continue to be the driving forces behind any innovation in the winter pack market. Packs that caught our eyes as worthy of more than a glance include those from Mammut, CamelBak, Indigo, Deuter, Black Diamond, Osprey and Marmot with the Marmot La Meije setting off our drool-meter. Good thing we were wearing bibs while typing.

» Although certainly niche product, **the waterproof/breathable down-filled sleeping bags** from Exped with a patented welded baffle technology are ultra-cool.

### ▶ SOCKS

Like the Energizer bunny, this is one category that just **never seems to slow down**. Every time we turn around, a new company is catapulting onto the scene, veteran companies are tweaking their lines with new design concepts, and others are reaching out to new market opportunities. And you thought a sock was just a sock?

» **Women's-specific socks?** We have to admit, our hype-meter nearly redlined when we



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No hats, gloves, vests, or long underwear. No hype, no unnecessary bells and whistles. Our focus is socks.



« The women's Dunham Cloud 9 Contrail-Mid



"Love at first fit" perfectly describes Dunham's new Fall 2005 outdoor performance footwear. **Dunham's Cloud 9 Series** is comprised of luxury backpacking and hiking boots that offer superb fit, cushioning, stability, versatility, and protection...all with little or no break-in time. The Cloud 9 Series is available for men and women and offered in multiple sizes and widths. [www.dunhamfits.com](http://www.dunhamfits.com)



Expect more from your clothes™

### EX-O DRI™ ROSETTA SHIRT FOR WOMEN BY EX OFFICIO

Made from a patented microblend, Dri-release garments wick perspiration 4 times faster than cotton options, and dry faster than any other performance fabric on the market. The Women's Rosetta shirt is made of 100% Dri release® fabric (85% polyester/15% cotton) and retails for \$39.



### FOX RIVER FOR WOMEN AXT WICK DRY® ENDEAVOR CREW AND QUARTER CREW

Fox River's women-specific adventure cross training socks combine fit, function, and fashion. The crew and quarter crew styles are designed to fit women and are made for strenuous athletic activities. Not only are they lightweight, dry fast and wick moisture, they look cute—with fun flower accents. [www.fox-sox.com](http://www.fox-sox.com). MSRP: \$10.99-11.99. \*5% of net profits goes to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.



### THE TOP-SHELF BY GCI OUTDOOR

has a lightweight aluminum tabletop with a sturdy steel frame. The unique patent-pending Close-It Hold-It™ Strap System sets this creative convenience apart from the standard roll-top tables. The unique fabric straps can slide to hold any trash bag with handles. The additional strap keeps the table closed for easy transport. The Top-Shelf breaks down to only 4 pieces and fits perfectly in its handy travel bag (included). Take it just about anywhere. [www.GCIOutdoor.com](http://www.GCIOutdoor.com) • 800-956-SEAT (7328).



Destiny Jacket

**IT WAS DESTINY.** Leading industry innovators GoLite® and Consoltex® announce a revolutionary new soft shell,

CYNCHRONICITY®. Lightweight, windproof, extremely breathable, abrasion-resistant, and water-repellent, Cynchronicity offers the best moisture management of all leading soft shells thanks to GoLite's patented C-Thru™ performance fabric and C-Thru™ Endurance stretch performance fabric in trim areas for maximum comfort and mobility. In both men's and women's and in several cool styles, Cynchronicity garments are ideal for active adventures in windy, cool weather.



### ARC'TERYX STINGRAY JACKET

New for fall 2005, ArcTeryx steps up the slope-side style factor with its new Stingray Jacket and Pant, constructed of Gore-Tex Soft Shell Low Loft. Providing a quiet, soft-hand feel, while still delivering great all-weather protection, the Stingray jacket and pant are cut and styled for the hill with a looser fit and loaded with functional, convenient features.



Proven in competition by World Champion Ines Papert, **LOWA's ICE COMP GTX** is lightweight, low profile, with a very low volume fit. The GORE-TEX® boot is durably waterproof, breathable and equipped with Black Diamond Raptor bolt-on crampons.



### CLOUDVEIL RPK3 JACKET

Three-layer waterproof/breathable Gore-Tex fabric with matte face for a softer, quieter feel, two-way stretch to move you, and soft tricot lining for layering comfort. A feature-packed, hard-charging ski jacket with the styling and performance you expect from Cloudveil.

heard Fox River was introducing a snowboarding sock "specifically designed for women." However, upon further review, it's a cool idea. The Revolution is mid-calf length, fast-drying and shaped to fit a woman's foot—all good. Padding on the top of the foot and shin ensure comfort. And the "Cool Chix" snowboarder embroidered on the calf along with the knit-in daisy on the toe adds cool factor.

» DeFeet, long known for cycling and running socks, is banking on two new styles, the Levitator Low Cuff and Levitator No See 'Em Cuff for socks whose **cuff sits just above or right at the top of the shoe**—apparently folks don't want their socks to be seen. Who knew?

» Darn Tough—a newcomer to the market, but not to making socks—is introducing its Over-The-Calf Cushion Ski Sock designed for telemark, alpine and snowboard use. **Elastic at the arch cradles and supports the foot**, while dense cushioning around the shin and areas of the foot ensure maximum comfort.

» Heck, the last time we saw a mosquito in the winter was, well, never. But that shouldn't stop you from checking out the launch of Ex Officio's Buzz Off hiker socks. **The fabric is treated with an insect repellent** that resists washing out and puts the kibosh on any attempt by a biting nasty to lay into a foot delicacy—worthwhile for sandal wearers for sure.

» SmartWool now has a lifestyle line of wool socks (13 styles for women, eight for men and two for kids). And here we sit in an office with our feet clad in active socks from Bridgedale, Thorlo and Dahlgren, only to discover, they are not "lifestyle" and our feet are out-of-fashion. Boy, do we feel old school. Of course, we're still **trying to figure out what a lifestyle sock is**, but when we find out, you'll be the first to know.

## ▶ HATS

**The term soft shell has crept** into the product description vernacular here in

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hats as technology meshes with style. One hat just isn't enough anymore for folks as they are also being used to match moods and personalities. Expect to see increasing and creative use of fabric combinations as well as colors and color accents in every aspect of headwear. Wool is also back, with a vengeance, oftentimes combined with microfleece lining to improve comfort and moisture/temperature control.

» **The baseball cap look is still cool and functional**, especially if combined with Gore's PaLite for a waterproof/windproof shell that is highly breathable. We especially like the Prism Cap from Outdoor Research; the tricot liner adds warmth and fold-down ear flaps provide a tad more protection.

» Other hat picks that caught our editors' eyes include Cloudveil's 4 Shadows beanie, Mountain Hardwear's Dome Meritage with Polartec Monkey Melange and Windstopper Microfleece ear band, and SmartWool's jacquard woven wool hats in **fun colors and patterns**.



## GEAR ► GLOVES

Across the board, we are seeing manufacturers turning out glove systems and hybrid gloves that **offer a blend of soft shell and waterproof shell technology in search of a one-style-serves-all-purposes solution**. Whether or not these gloves will indeed meet the needs of a climber-alpinist-skier-hiker-snowshoer remains to be seen. One other look that continues to develop is the leather work glove. Although like the do-it-all gloves, these work gloves are combining leather waterproof treatments with wool, fleece and in some cases, soft shell-blended technology to arrive at the ultimate glove for shoveling snow and exploring the backcountry. Top brands to look at this year include Outdoor Research, Swany, Gordini, Marmot, Black Diamond, *Swany SX-13Z* 🐾 Mountain Hardwear, The North Face and Manzella.

Manzella really turned our editorial heads with its **new glove selection system**, born, it said, out of a need to help consumers sort through the "sea of gloves." Indeed! From warm to warmer to warmest, the consumer no longer has to master component technology and techno speak to determine if the gloves will meet a particular need.

## GEAR ► HEADLAMPS

The line between light and computer continues to blur as the top three—Petzl, Black Diamond and Princeton Tec—push technology advances by combining intelligent circuitry to boost light output, monitor light levels, battery levels and more. It's not enough just to have an on/off switch and a cluster of high-powered LED bulbs anymore.



*Black Diamond Zenix* 🐾

## GEAR ► TECHNICAL OUTERWEAR

This category continues to be dominated by one or two words (depending on how you spell it)—softshell or soft shell. Of course, deciding what a soft shell really is or isn't remains baffling. We would postulate that what soft shell is morphing into as a category is a superb collection of garments featuring a wide range of performance criteria made

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New **SNOW EXTREME** snowshoe model. It has the new Snow Pocket Technology to provide greater flotation in deep powder snow. New freeze free, pump ratchet buckle system provides a precise & effortless adjustment with or without gloves, in all circumstances & a New heel band made of Nyltel™ by Dupont is lighter, easier to adjust & freeze free. More info, [ebeaultieu@gvsnowshoes.com](mailto:ebeaultieu@gvsnowshoes.com) or visit us at the OR Show booth #2832.



New **CARBON TECH** snowshoe model. This unique snowshoe is entirely made of light & strong carbon fiber, the same strong material high end bicycle frames & one piece hockey sticks are made. The frame set (only) weighs less than a pound! Featuring New Snow Pocket Technology, New freeze free pump ratchet buckle system & New heel band made of Nyltel™ by Dupont. More info, [ebeaultieu@gvsnowshoes.com](mailto:ebeaultieu@gvsnowshoes.com) or visit us at the OR Show booth #2832.



**HIGHGEAR® PROUDLY INTRODUCES TRAILAUDIO**, the first authentic outdoor MP3/digital audio/FM player. Two models offer the active user 256MB or 512MB of skip-free flash memory playback. Built of rugged ABS plastic with a detachable carabiner clip and splashproof sealed buttons, the 2-ounce TrailAudio runs for 14 hours on one AAA battery. HIGHGEAR® 888.295.4949; OR Booth #1305



**THE HI-TEC SIERRA V-LITE FASTPACK** employs proven V-Lite construction, resulting in an extremely fast, agile product. The V-Lite build concept utilizes lightweight materials and sleek, minimalist design. Fastpack's thermoplastic heel support lets you react quickly to varying terrain. Underfoot, it's cushioned with a Comfort-Tec insole and an EVA midsole. MSRP: \$75.



The Fall 2005 Horny Toad collection of outdoor activewear is on the leading edge of style, but is understated cool. The new GrooveTech fabric is ideal for urban and outdoor elements: a nylon spandex knit outer shell laminated to a soft insulating polyester layer offers a water resistant, wind resistant, tough, outer and a warm, non-bulky inner. The men's Rutger has a double-layer collar, raglan sleeves, two-zip hand and chest pocket, and bound inner seams. Available in Black and Ranger, MSRP \$170. [www.horny-toad.com](http://www.horny-toad.com) • 800.865.TOAD • Booth #2853



**ITW NEXUS™ NEW LINELOC™** uses the classic adjustment function of the LadderLoc™ in 3mm cord applications. The ergonomically designed release tab allows easy adjustment, while the 13mm web tie-down slot provides stability. Simply pull on the loose cord-end to tighten and use the tab to tilt the LadderLoc™ up to release.



**HIKER PRO.** NEW "PRO" Edition of the best-selling Katadyn water microfilter. Katadyn's new Hiker PRO Microfilter (\$69.95 suggested retail) includes extra features for higher performance and improved versatility. It includes a field cleanable Filter Protector to extend cartridge life in challenging water and quick connect fittings to make installation and removal of input/output hoses easy. Also allows direct attachment to most hydration packs. Booth #3765, 800-755-6701, [www.katadyn.com](http://www.katadyn.com)



**KELTY SANTA CRUZ**  
Let your outdoor flag fly with the new Kelty Santa Cruz. A strikingly versatile and stylish single-strap bag, the Santa Cruz stays slim with a unique expandable storage system. With 1,150-1,350 cu. in. of room, the Santa Cruz comfortably carries overnight supplies, a laptop, and a change of clothes. (Kelty, ORWM Booth #1127)



**KELTY VANCOUVER**  
Hit the road with the Kelty Vancouver (\$150), a contemporary carry-on that's expandable for longer trips or extra souvenirs. With 2,800-3,500 cu. in. of storage, the Vancouver has room to grow and fresh outdoor styling, much like its namesake city. A convenient U-zipper gives the Vancouver superior "throw-and-go" packing ease. (Kelty, ORWM Booth #1127)



**KINESYS PERFORMANCE MOISTURIZER SPF 15**  
Combat dry skin and defend against everyday sun exposure in one simple step. The perfect combination product for all skin types, this oil and alcohol-free, hydrating facial protection can be used every day, year-round. Absorbs quickly and completely, providing fragrance-free SPF 15 broad-spectrum UVA/UVB protection with dermatologist-recommended Parsol® 1789.



**LOWA ASPEN GTX MID**  
Lightweight warmth for winter hiking, snowshoeing and everyday use. • Abrasion-resistant split leather/Cordura®/ synthetic Nubuck uppers • Insulation with waterproof GORE-TEX® Motion fleece lining • PU injected midsole for comfort, support and insulation • Climate-control footbed • Lightweight TPU "Snowgrip's" outsole for excellent traction on snow & ice • MSRP \$125. Details at SIA Booth #B1363, OR Booth #2821 or 888.335.5692



Following the success of its Ultra Light Thermawrap Jacket, Mont-Bell has added several new styles, including a hooded version (pictured) and an option for women. Already known for its featherweight insulating products, these new offerings will secure Mont-Bell's position as the leader of the Light and Fast™ movement.



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up of varying levels of windproofness, water-resistance, breathability, stretch and insulation. Thankfully, few really seem to care about arriving at a clear defini-

tion and as a result designers have let their imaginations run wild with garments tumbling out of the creative hopper in rapid sequence. We're also seeing outerwear being designed with the idea of storing and protecting the gizmos and gadgets our culture is rapidly embracing. **Think MP3 player and iPod pockets**, cell phone pockets, lip balm sleeve pockets and oversized hoods to pull over a ski or snowboard helmet. Heck, we've even seen some outerwear prototypes fully wired for sound with mini-hood speakers. We're rapidly turning into a walking entertainment center it seems. Enough dreaming...here are a few pieces that caught our editors' fancy:

» ArcTeryx's design team continues to drink the secret elixir that has kept it at the forefront of technically advanced designs that others simply chase. The Epsilon SV Jacket pairs a water- and wind-repellent stretch polyester shell with a lightly lofted grid lining for a performance piece that **screams ski-touring or cold-weather aerobic use**.

» Taking soft shell in another direction is Marmot's Genesis Jacket—a soft, welded, waterproof/breathable stretch soft shell jacket with an attached, roll-up hood, **laser-drilled pockets**, water-resistant pocket zippers and Velcro-adjustable cuffs.

» Mountain Hardwear's Maneuver Jacket features stretch Gore-Tex soft shell, using a new patent-pending **Gore-Seam® tape technology**—sweet!



Mountain Hardwear Maneuver Jacket



Marmot

**HEADWALL DOWN JACKET**

SRP USD\$200. Unisex S-XL. Four colors. The Headwall is a hybrid construction, low bulk, insulated

jacket designed for the serious multi-sport user. Combining goose down insulation in the body core, Primaloft Sport insulation in the arms, softshell fabric on the arms for abrasion resistance and lined in wicking DriClima bi-component knit, the Headwall is warm, rugged, compact and versatile.



Marmot

**OZ SOFTSHELL SKI JACKET**

SRP USD\$325. Men's and Women's styles. Four colors. The OZ is a stretch woven, waterproof/breathable thermal

SoftShell jacket for the performance skier. It is constructed in an outer fabric sandwich of stretch woven nylon, waterproof MemBrain film, bonded Thinsulate insulation and a micro fleece backer. The OZ is lined in Marmot's Field Sensor ski lining, has a removable hood and a powder skirt.



**EASY SIPPER BY NALGENE®**



Just because your Nalgene bottle has a wide mouth doesn't mean you do. Our Easy Sipper Cap snaps into place easily to help control spills and splashes. So even when you are on the move, you can take quick drinks without worrying about losing vital fluids. Genuine Nalgene ask for it by name. [www.nalgene-outdoor.com](http://www.nalgene-outdoor.com)



**NIKWAX® UV PROOF**

Nikwax® wages war on harmful UV rays that damage outdoor garments and gear. The all new UV Proof doubles the life of outdoor fabrics by increasing their resistance to Ultraviolet light, while maintaining water repellency. A must-have for wet weather performance! For details, visit [www.nikwax.com](http://www.nikwax.com) or call 800.563.3057.



**ALIBI GLOVES™**

Designed specifically for technical ice climbing, this glove features a supportive articulating wrist harness. Injected padded knuckles and a gel strip along the lower edge of the hand reduce punishment. The water-resistant polyurethane palm keeps tools under control. Neoprene, covered in corded nylon, creates a slim, durable fit. 5.8 oz./164 g (size L, per pair). OR Booth #1311 • 800-421-2421 • [www.orgear.com](http://www.orgear.com)

OUTDOOR RESEARCH



OR OUTDOOR RESEARCH

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Made of Schoeller® WB-400 fabric, the Vision Jacket™ is

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» Ibx Thor jacket features a hybrid design with **two blends of wool**. Features include water-resistant zippers, core vents and yes, even in a wool garment, an e-wire port.

» The Moonstone Exposure jacket is a fully waterproof, stretch-woven shell utilizing new engineered seam-tape technology. The fleecy lining adds warmth and comfort.

» GoLite Evade Jacket features something the company is calling Cynchronicity—essentially a windproof membrane sandwiched between a 100-percent ripstop polyester face and with a lightweight C-Thru liner. Windproof, breathable, water-resistant, ultra-light—a men's large weighs only 1 pound, 5 ounces, the company said.

» OK, so it's not really outerwear...but Montbell's Ultra Light Down Inner series is designed to create the lightest and warmest insulation layer available. The U.L. Down Inner jacket weighs less than a cotton T-shirt, and yet it blocks wind and insulates as well as many fleece jackets—all while compressing to the size of a water bottle.

## ⚙️ ▶ PERFORMANCE APPAREL

Close-fitting, body-hugging, moisture-managing, muscle-supporting, performance-enhancing, and for cold weather, insulating, are all characteristics of garments that play in the performance apparel category. More companies are combining various fabrics and construction technologies to aid muscles, and to place warmth, wind-resistance or breathability exactly where it is needed. Pieces that caught our eyes here include:



» CW-X Zip Top & Tights

» Outdoor Research's Delta Windshirt, featuring Gore's N2S fabric, appears to be an ideal next to base-layer light garment for runs during cool, damp winter weather.

» The Celsius Tight by New Balance features

(continued on page 108)



(continued from page 107)

a brushed stretch Thermacore fabric for soft warmth that might just inspire an “ooooo” when you slip into it before you head out on that winter’s day run.

» Nothing says performance in a tight more than CW-X, and its winter version of the Pro Conditioning tight looks good and should feel as great as its regular version.



## ▶ TRAVEL

You could say the **catchword for the 2005 travel market is convenience**. Whether making it easier to get through airport security lines, fitting your bags in overhead compartments or dealing with less-than-stellar accommodations, the travel makers in the outdoor industry are dreaming up innovative ways for globetrotting tramps to haul their gear.

» Eagle Creek’s Adam Ziegelman said: “In a nutshell, travel is becoming an increasingly difficult and complicated process, from security issues to carry-on restrictions and general weight restrictions, consumers are seeking simplicity and better travel solutions. Eagle Creek in 2005 is focusing on making the process of travel easier for consumers.” Two pieces it’s emphasizing to meet these needs are the Tarmac ES 20 and the Switchback Max ES, which the company said are getting extra attention due to their lightweight, comfort and “uber” **durability attributes** and carry-on capacities.



» Eagle Creek Tarmac

» As adventure travel picks up and **consumers demand beefier designs**, Osprey’s Waypoint travel pack series offers packs that can convert to different carrying options—backpack, duffel or shoulder-strap styles—to feel at home in a five-star resort or a tent in the rainforest.

» Merrell continues to expand its packs and bags category, adding pieces to its Outventure and Transit lines. On the docket are a **wider range of price points to appeal to more consumers**, additional women’s-specific styles to meet consumer demand, and new colorways (topaz, olive, anthracite, aurora, purple and chestnut) to address the latest fashion trends. The Transit line houses the expanded women’s Passport collection, which includes the Courier messenger bag, Transfer shoulder bag, and Scout and Delegate totes.

» Kelty’s new Santa Cruz shoulder bag can haul as much or as little as you want, with a carrying range of 770 to 1,350 cubic inches. Its unique **expandable storage system** comfortably carries overnight supplies, a laptop and a change of clothes. With a padded neoprene shoulder strap, its numerous interior storage compartments keep gear separate and secure.

» Leave it to Black Diamond to **turn a haul bag-type fabric into a duffel bag** (the Huey Duffel)—shaped like a half-barrel so it will actually stand up for loading and unloading.

» One of our favorites is coming out with more system accessories. Mountainsmith’s modular Road Trippin’ system is adding a Deluxe Cooler Cube and the Boot Cube—double the size of a Basic Cube **that’ll hold clunky items like ski boots or waders**.

» Expanding its SeaCell offerings, Cocoon will have men’s and women’s PJs made of the sci-fi-like material. The SeaCell fiber is **made from cellulose and seaweed** and is touted as helping the body heal when worn against the skin.

» To see many more new products from our member companies, go to **GearTrends.com**.

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**Delerion Low with Gore-Tex XCR Membrane** (SKU 10130) (SRP \$115). Adventure racing shoe designed in collaboration with Team GoLite/Timberland, featuring Gore-Tex XCR for superior waterproof protection. Its unique "racing harness" webbing network offers midfoot support and forefoot stability, while its quick transition lacing system provides a secure, race-ready fit. Built on Timberland's Agile IQ performance platform. Offered in men's and women's.



**Delerion Pro** (SKU 10126) (SRP \$100)  
Don't let the light weight of the Delerion Pro fool you. Designed in collaboration with the elite athletes of Team GoLite/Timberland, this technical adventure racing shoe offers all the performance sprint and expedition racers need to go the distance. The ultra lightweight Delerion Pro features a quick drying upper constructed with durable, unlined mesh and has an exclusive attachable gaiter that helps keep out debris. Built on Timberland's Agile IQ performance platform.



**Snow Lizard Soft Shell Mid II** (SKU 10142) (SRP \$130) The Snow Lizard Soft Shell Mid II is designed for active winter pursuits like trail running and snowshoeing. This is the first shoe to use a water resistant/breathable soft shell upper made with Polartec® Powershield®. Also features an integrated rubber toe rand and gaiter clip, and protective bumpers in the midfoot to accommodate snowshoe bindings. Built on Timberland's Agile IQ performance platform. Offered in men's and women's.



**Iduion Low w/Gore-Tex XCR Membrane** (SKU 10630) (SRP \$110) Technical footwear for high aerobic trail activities like Nordic and fitness walking. Gore-Tex XCR® membrane provides breathable waterproof protection. The women's model shown offers convenient slip-on entry with a protective cover with an adjustable 2 slot buckle closure that ensures a secure fit. Features reflectivity in the front and back for enhanced visibility, and a biomechanically designed sole created specifically for active walking. Built on Timberland's Agile IQ performance platform.



**Fastpack Actuate Low** (SKU 15151) (SRP \$80)  
Lightweight athletic speed hiker for fastpacking and speed hiking. Features premium leather and breathable mesh uppers, with TPU fingers in the midfoot for enhanced support. Rubber toe rand offers protection. Built on Timberland's Agile IQ performance platform, including a forked support plate tuned for agility.



**The Packet Jacket** (SKU 15248) (SRP \$178) is a super lightweight, 100% nylon shell that offers seam-sealed waterproof protection and a fully structured hood. It features true raglan styling with articulated sleeves to ensure that the garment moves with the body. Plus, it packs into its own internal pocket for easy stowage. Offered in a range of colors.



**The Cadion Hybrid Jacket** (SKU 33202) (SRP \$178) features Polartec® Wind Pro® Fleece for superior warmth and wind resistance without the added weight, and new Polartec® Wind Pro® Hardface on the shoulders and upper arms for added durability/protection. The jacket has two ventilation zippers in the front for greater breathability during high-energy outdoor activities. Offered in a range of colors.



**Backpack on Wheels** (SRP \$150)  
Converts from a 22" wheeled bag to a backpack with tuck-away shoulder straps. Features a durable, aluminum telescoping handle system with a patented shovel handle grip that swivels into a stress-free rolling position. Front compression straps help stabilize the load, and durable 75mm in-line skating wheels with traction tread offer a stable, smooth ride. Convenient front daypack detaches for casual use.



**Cadion Waterproof Mid w/Gore-Tex XCR Membrane** (SKU 10109) (SRP \$140) The Cadion is all about going lighter, faster, farther. Timberland collaborated with high altitude adventurer Ed Viesturs and Vibram to develop this exceptionally lightweight waterproof hiker. Designed for single and multi-day hiking, the Cadion features Schoeller® Keprotech textile uppers for lightweight durability, and an exclusive Vibram outsole engineered to minimize weight while maximizing traction. Built on Timberland's Agile IQ performance platform. Offered in men's and women's.



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**WOOLRICH BUCKLAND JACKET** (Style #4409) shown in Copper. Practical and versatile, this neat little jacket works for a whole range of outdoor activities and casual wear. The sanded, cotton-blend canvas shell has a supple hand and a DWR finish. The Buckland boasts a fleece liner, sleeve and body insulation, handwarmer pockets, zippered security pockets and drawcord hem.



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