

# SNOW



## New World of Cool

Global warming? Au contraire, global storming: Last winter was the first in seven that a majority of ski areas received above-average snowfall. Skiers and boarders responded with a record 58.9 million visits. Antarctic tourism continued to boom, too, and a handful of new polar firsts were notched. Norwegian Rune Gjeldnes crossed over the South Pole from Queen Maud Land to Terra Nova Bay—2,988 miles in 90 days, alone and without resupply. At the other end of the world, Americans Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larsen made the first (and possibly last) summer expedition to the North Pole, dodging melting ice sheets as they went. Closer to Nome, Karl Bushby and Dimitri Kieffer trudged 56 miles

**70**

**ANGLE OF** the slope (in degrees) of the Harp, a snow-covered face in British Columbia that was skied for the first time by Swede Sverre Liliequist this year. It's one of the steepest runs ever made.

across the frozen Bering Strait then—oh, bitter irony—they were arrested in Russia for not having the proper visas. As they chilled in a Siberian prison, gear designers looked to the backcountry for the latest ski trends: a rash of cool avalanche transceivers and new easy-touring telemark bindings. And resort planners kept customers on a yo-yo: Jackson Hole retired its 40-year-old tram (to many tears) then announced a new one that will double capacity (to many cheers). Good news overall, but by late fall meteorologists were predicting a warm and dry winter in the West. Heck, what do scientists know anyway?

### THE SNOWBOARD

#### Burton Elite

The one-board quiver starts (and ends) with new Elite (\$360; [www.burton.com](http://www.burton.com)), an all-mountain generalist with an ultralight wood core reinforced by strong, braided fiberglass. The Elite's soft nose helps it float, while the stiffer tail gives it guts on the groomers and extra spring in the terrain park and halfpipe.

### THE VEST

#### Patagonia Down Vest

Light and airy, the new men's Down Vest (\$199; [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)) is the perfect bit of fall insulation to throw under a shell or in your pack. Unlike most down vests, the shiny, baffled exterior is extremely durable: denier polyester ripstop and the innards are 700-gram goose down, so it warms you discreetly, without making you look like a Michelin Woman.

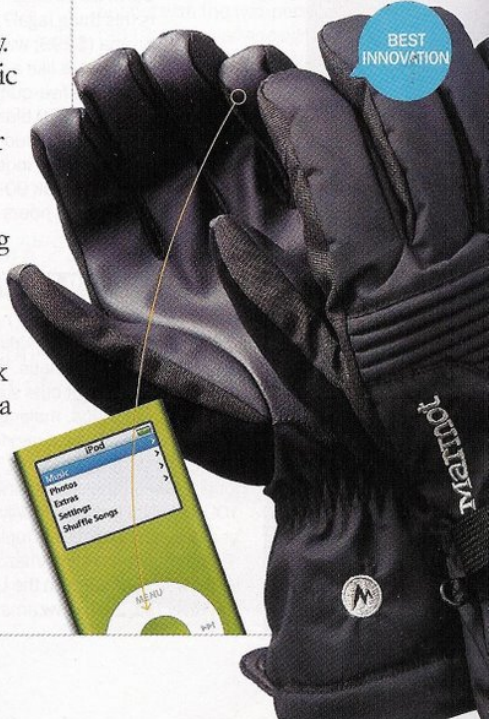


BEST COMFORT

### THE GLOVE

#### Marmot iGlove Snow

Nylon gloves don't work on your iPod's click wheel, so how do you surf tunes without baring flesh? Marmot's waterproof iGlove Snow (\$75; [www.marmot.com](http://www.marmot.com)) has a solution: an iPod-compatible touch pad on the finger, which lets the electrical charge from your skin pass through. Alas, said pad is on the liner so you still have to take off the outer glove, but it sure beats getting frostbite.



BEST INNOVATION