

# Fit and Warm

Our Four Corners' backyard is unbeatable. While folks in other parts of the country are often limited to hanging out indoors, watching snow on their big-screen TV, our ski, snowboard and snowshoe season goes from November to May. And even when we have plenty of white in the mountains, chances are we can be walking, climbing, biking and hiking at lower elevations. We have the best mountains, unbeatable trails and award-winning weather. Here are some of our picks for the holiday season, new apparel and hardware to keep you and your loved ones fit and warm!

— Nancy Prichard-Bouchard Ph.D. and Jan Nessel



### Volkl Gotama Twin-Tip Ski

Everyone is tempted by modern terrain parks and superpipes. The Gotama is a multi-layer wood core twin-tip ski that is as comfortable landing tricks as it is cruising trees and big mountain powder. Whether you're new to twin tips or a freestyle expert, you'll enjoy the ski's excellent flex and speed. Eye-catching graphics depict a night scene the top and the same scene during the day. Sidecut is 133-105-124. \$825, [volkl.com](http://volkl.com) — NPB

### Mammut Stratus Hybrid Jacket

The Stratus Hybrid treads the line between performance and casual sportif style, availing a Fiberfill insulation layer, SOFTech™, in the front and rear to protect against over-cooling in frigid temperatures and Soft Shell, Pertex Quantum, on the arms and shoulders for breathability and water-repellence. The Stratus Hybrid is a lightweight jacket, weighing just 650 grams, but a heavy weight while performing demanding activities in frigid temperatures. I appreciate the slick gliding zippers, five of them, including extra-long two-way pit zips, and the spacious unzipped pockets inside the jacket, one on each side. The wrist-sealing cuffs and the hood with a generous "bill" provide extra warmth and security in inclement weather. The jacket does not bunch or pull when arms are fully rotated, allowing unrestricted mobility. The elbows are articulated. \$239; [mammut.com](http://mammut.com) — JN



### Seattle Sports Sol Jus Solar Charger

A great partner! I drained the Sol Jus of its power by turning the flashlight on until dead, recharged it in the sun for a full day of October daylight, used it, drained it, recharged it, used it, repeat all, and then concluded that this compact solar charger generates enough juice from the sun to provide up to 15 hours of flashlight use with 3 LEDs on and 35 hours on 1 LED (full charge requires 12 - 15 hours in the sun), as claimed. In addition to the two settings, the flashlight feature has a strobe setting. With a USB outbound charger, the Sol Jus is capable of charging most USB-compatible devices, including mp3 players, cell phones and cameras. The easy-grip exterior, which fans out (displayed) to expose the solar panels, has a rubberized coating and is shock-resistant. Outbound DC charge: 1.2 amps/5.6 volts, 8 oz., Brightness: 25,000 MCD (with 1 LED), 65,000 MCD (with 3 LEDs), Battery: Lithium Ion (capacity: 3.6v 700mAh). \$49.95; (800) 632-6163, [seattlesportsco.com](http://seattlesportsco.com) — JN

