



2014 Winter Outdoor Retailer Recap

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Featuring: Mutant 28

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/jvzwx26>

Now that the 2014 Winter Outdoor Retailer is over, I have some time to reflect on a few pieces of new gear introduced this year. There was a big push in the backcountry skiing market with a ton of new skis, bindings, poles and apparel unveiled. On the climbing side of things, only a few things really stood out as really interesting. A lot of apparel was updated, some new products revealed, but there weren't too many new big-ticket items shown. Nonetheless, here are a few items I found interesting during this year's winter OR.

Osprey has redesigned their Mutant pack series this year and made them more for four-season use. The design is pretty simple and stripped down. It has cinch straps on the side so when it's not completely full you can make it less bulky. Other features include a removable frame; a helmet carrier that tucks away in the top lid; the hip belt can be wrapped around the back of the pack to get it out of the way when it isn't needed on the 28L or removed from the 38L. The only thing I didn't like about the pack is the mesh on the shoulder strap and the back panel. Seems like snow will get lodged in there and when moving around this could melt and get you wet. But I've gotta use it to give a full opinion. Otherwise, this pack will be pretty sweet. Retail will be \$160 for the 38L and \$130 for the 28L.

