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Outdoor Retailer Winter 2014 Takeaways

Featuring: Kode ABS

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Outdoor Retailer Winter 2014 Takeaways

I spent three days in Salt Lake City on the floor of the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market last week, to check out what's on the way in travel and outdoor gear. While in past OR shows I've been accompanied by Tim Leffel or Amy Whitley, this time I hit it solo.

If there's one thing harder than three days of sprinting through a packed convention center for back-to-back meetings, it's doing all of it with a knee brace. But I powered through to get you a look into the outdoor gear future—Fall 2014, to be exact. Here are a few trends I noticed at the show:

Backcountry packs with ABS. If you're not a skier, boarder, or otherwise snow freak, this won't mean much to you. But for the rest, there are a bunch of packs being introduced that use avalanche airbag systems. Some bags come complete with [ABS](#) and others, like the new [Osprey Kode](#), come as regular packs with an ability to zip off one portion of the pack, zip on the ABS base unit, and use it when you want. Most of these packs use cartridges or canisters of gas or air. [Black Diamond](#)'s new Jetforce Avalanche Airbag pack uses a battery-powered fan.

