



❑ Ski Canada didn't get a chance to conduct a winter mountain test of **Motorola's Talkabout SX700**, but in the deep bush around Ontario's cottage country it performed handily. Our intrepid woodsman Mark was sent on a mission while checking in with those guarding the base camp beer fridge. The terrain was heavily forested on undulating Canadian Shield, landscape notably unfriendly to personal two-way radios. While signal dropout was frequent in hollows, once some elevation was reached the signal was strong to acceptable more than two km from base. The Talkabout should be able to handle any mountain short of trying to reach over the top or beyond ridgelines. It requires four AAA batteries or NiMH rechargeable, and features 22 channels with 121 interference eliminator codes, weather radio access and hands-free option. \$120. www.lenbrook.com/motorola



❑ The warmest in **Kombi's** collection, the Low Down Glove (\$69) keeps your digits comfy with goose-down insulation, dry with Waterguard Flex membrane and Accu-dri wicking lining, sweet with Microban anti-microbial protection and cool with a leather Griptex palm. www.kombisports.com

❑ The coolest ski rack we've seen in a while not only holds six pairs of skis or four boards, it saves your back and keeps your clothes clean, too. The best feature of the lockable **Saab Ski/Snowboard Extendable Holder** is that it slides out for easy access. Of course, at \$1,300 it's one of the more expensive racks we've seen, but you can amortize it along with your new 6-speed, V6 turbo, 250 hp 9.3 SportCombi payments. www.saabcanada.com



❑ The Shuttle 30 pack (\$140) by **The North Face** is an ideal-sized winter touring pack designed for daylong use in the backcountry. Envidable features: Mountain Guide Flex suspension, Fly-Trap carrying system for skis or board, insulated hydration channel in the shoulder strap with zip closure, and plenty of strategically placed tool loops for your probe, shovel, axe and backcountry umbrella. www.thenorthface.com



❑ If **Phenix** is good enough for Norwegian Kjetil Andre Aamodt, the first alpine skier to win seven Olympic medals, it's gotta be good enough for you. With features like Diaplex lining (an environmental temperature mechanism to control heat and moisture) and 3-D Air Cutting technology (where Phenix tells us 85 per cent of the pressure exerted to the shoulders is lifted so skiers can feel as if they are floating on air), the Norway World Cup Replica jacket (\$950) is going after skiers who know their gear. www.vphenix.com

