

Hands Off

A look at new products that incorporate clever carrying concepts. *By Emily Walzer*

New product technology offers a range of function while leaving hands free to juggle gear, ride a bike or climb a boulder. For instance, fun backpacks for kids now come hydration-ready, keeping junior hikers thirst-free and eliminating fumbling for water bottles. Clothes have pocket systems and loops aplenty, making it a snap to stash extra layers or tools. And a wide variety of accessories provide simple solutions for hiding a key or holding a safety device. Whatever the need, there are now ways to clip it, zip it or sip it with no hands involved. ■



◀ **Quick Fix** Even mid-ride, the Damselify by Isis makes quick work of converting a jacket to a vest. The sleeves easily zip off and fit into the zippered back pocket of this lightweight topper, meaning there's no need to stop to change clothes. The jacket has a wicking inner liner and reflective trim on the back pocket for nighttime visibility.

SRP: \$140
Contact Info:
 866-875-8689 or
www.isisforwomen.com



◀ **Ankle Support** From its roots in the novelty business, Zip It Gear is now entering the active and outdoor sports segments. The new Ankle Sox have a small, horizontal zipper pocket on the cuff designed to hold a car key, cash or ID card securely during a workout. The cotton blend hosiery is sized for men and women. A performance fiber line of Sox are slated for Spring '04.

SRP: \$12

Contact Info: 888-494-7769 or
www.zipitgear.com



◀ **Brush Off** The Prana men's Mantis has all the necessary features for climbing or cruising, such as soft-yet-strong fabric, cargo pockets, and an inseam gusset for ease of movement. For the hordes that are hooked on the sport of bouldering, these knicker-

