



world, all quite ready to tell you in technical detail how their products are the biggest revolution in diving since Haldane invented the table. With hyperboles lost in the interim, here are some products hitting the shelves this year that may appeal to northern divers.

Hot suits

Chemical heat packs, handy for warming wetsuit divers, have been refined by Australia's Hotsuits. Its Neoprene Heated Kidney Belt straps around the waist and positions the chemical pack as a warm cushion in the small of the back. Strap it on while gearing up and then activate it with a punch of a thumb even with the activation button buried beneath a thick wetsuit. www.hotsuits.com.au.



Liquivision F1

Some digital and diving savvy is required to customize this new computer to personal tastes, but it's got design features that may rearrange the market. Forget flooding worries. The F1 is completely sealed in a polymer block, including its battery that gets up to 35 hours of diving between recharges. And bright big numbers on its display let you leave your bifocals on the dive boat. The F1 is an open-source data logger, which means you can use any dive analysis software that you know how to program. www.liquivision.ca.



Sensus Ultra

Sensus Ultra, ReefNet's third generation dive data recorder is smaller and more precise than ever. Just clip this matchbox-sized unit to your gear and it logs up to 1,500 hours of depth in 0.5-inch increments and temperatures to within 0.01C at a user-set sampling rate. Data retrieved from this diving "black box"



can be analyzed with Sensus Manager software or other popular programs. www.reefnet.ca.

Gear Keeper



Danglies are the bane of diving. In warm water, they immediately identify a diver as a bumbling boor. In cold dark water, they can be deadly snags. Gear Keeper attaching systems from Hammerhead Industries can save your image and maybe your life by keeping consoles, lights or other tools under control.

Gear Keepers hold gear close to your body, yet have a retractable cord that extends 19 inches. That's long enough to check a gauge or extend a light into a lobster hole. www.gearkeeper.com.

Amphibian



Who hasn't been troubled by tripping over fins while stumbling from a dive boat seat to the platform. The Amphibian's hinged blade allows divers to walk as easily as if they were wearing street shoes, and then snap the blade in place just before taking the plunge. Foot pockets are available to accommodate everything from a small foot to a serious drysuit boot. And detachable fin blades can customize the fin to personal preferences in length and thrust. www.omegaquatics.com.

Kapitol Reef

People have been improving on snorkels since Scyllias breathed through a reed to

sink the Persian fleet in BC 325. Kadence Technology has reinvented the reed. A regulator at the top of the tube and exhaust port at the bottom are intended to minimize anxiety-raising CO2 inside the snorkel. Mark Johnson, MD, designed the tube to aerodynamically draw in the most fresh air with the least inhalation resistance. www.kapitolreef.com.

Auto reeler



A hands-free, automatic reel from Spectrum Diving Equipment is intended to minimize task loading for divers who penetrate shipwrecks and caves. Line feeds out of the Autoreeler through a tensioning system designed to prevent bird nesting. Flip a switch at the turnaround point and a motor powered by four AA batteries reels in line as you head toward the exit point. www.spectrumdiving.com.

Buddy Call



Buddy Call from New Zealand's Scientific Divers Ltd. may help overcome buddy separation, which is a leading contributing factor to diving accidents. With this ergonomic unit strapped on a wrist, calling for your buddy is as easy as pushing a button. It emits an electronic siren signal that can be heard for 150 feet underwater. Batteries are user replaceable and the unit is rated to 120 feet. www.buddycall.org.

Hang Air

Hang up a suit is easy, but getting air to circulate though it can be a different matter. The HangAir drying system has a two-speed fan mounted into a sturdy nylon hanger that pumps 130 cubic feet of air into