

**Exclusive: With the Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan**

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**Special Issue**

**Secrets to a STRESS-FREE**  
**SUMMER**

How to... *12482 p. 53*

- Slow down and enjoy
  - Land a last-minute getaway
  - Find the best books, DVDs, and CDs
  - Make chores fun
  - Start a summer garden
  - Be a high-tech camper
- And more!**

**Plus:**

**Dave Matthews, Bob Vila, Newt Gingrich, and Lemony Snicket share their tips for a super summer**



slipping cameras on and off the top using magnets (safe around film and digital memory) with a safety clip as backup.

And how about a barbecue grill in your back pocket? The **Grilliput** (\$30, *can-dlelantern.com*) is a stainless-steel grill that assembles in minutes and stores in one small tube, about 11 inches long. The partner **FireBowl** (\$13, out later this summer) can pack the charcoal when cold, and keep it contained when hot. At the same website, check out the **Light My Fire** outdoor meal set (\$22), which puts an end to boring, aluminum mess kits with colorful, durable plastic dinnerware. Added bonus: The set floats!

After dinner, lie back in the **Comfort-Lite** lounge (\$100, *brookstone.com*). The colorful chair folds up for easy toting, at only 7 pounds, and has a conven-

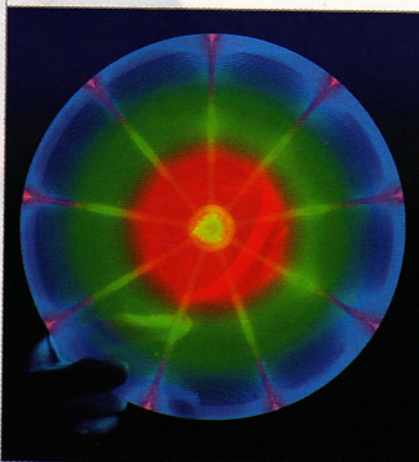


ient carrying strap.

When the fire dies down, you can slip into the warmth of the **Marmot Atom** sleeping bag (\$250, *marmot.com*). The Atom is one of the lightest bags out there—1 pound of down and nylon. But it'll keep you warm in temperatures as chilly as 40 degrees (the chili-red color must help a little). For a final touch, plop your tender head on a soft **Contour Travel Pillow** (\$50, *cocoonusa.com*). It stuffs into a small traveling bag, but its memory foam bounces back to a comfy curve. Sleep well, for in the morning comes breaking camp—and the 30-second task of folding away that two-second tent. That is, if you've studied the instructions and watched the film on the website. Or maybe your kids can figure it out. —David LaGesse

## Tech to the Rescue

**H**aving wandered deep into the woods, I turn to my wristwatch—not for the time but for directions. New electronic gear can ease your ventures, from tracking routes in the deep forest to keeping in touch with friends. More on these and other tech devices at [usnews.com/davesdownload](http://usnews.com/davesdownload). —D.L.



### FLASHLIGHT, JR.

(\$13, *flashlight.com*). Kids, join the after-dark Frisbee crowd with the soft-edged, 8½-inch-diameter disk, lit by fiber optics and LEDs. The smaller Flashlight mini (\$9) fits in a back pocket.

### SIDEKICK 3

(\$300 with service plan). The T-Mobile device gains an MP3 player, high-speed Web browsing, expandable memory, and wireless headset connections. All this in a smaller, rounder package that, like its predecessors, focuses more on messaging than phoning. It retains its generous QWERTY keyboard, which makes it too bulky for pockets.



### PURE DIGITAL POINT & SHOOT

(\$130). Digital video-making is simpler than ever with this push-button-easy device, aka the RCA Small Wonder. Software shrinks its videos for sending via E-mail. Just don't expect big-screen image quality.



### SUUNTO X9i WATCH

(\$500, *suunto.com*). No two-way radio, but it's got perhaps the smallest GPS receiver sold, an altimeter, barometer, compass, and PC connectivity—if you can master its buttons and menus.

### OLYMPUS 720SW

(\$400). Follow your kids under the waves and then continue snapping with this camera, which can capture serene scenes as deep as 10 feet down. The 7-megapixel digital cam can also withstand a 5-foot fall, in or out of water.