

Colorado Front Range Crags. Chockstone Press, Evergreen, CO, 1993. 279 pages, black-and-white photographs, topos, maps, \$18.00.

Colorado Front Range Crags is the latest guidebook to focus on the lesser known climbing spots that dot the Denver-Boulder-Fort Collins area. This book further accents the variety of climbing to be found in Colorado. Within an hour of the Denver metro area lies an abundance of climbing little known to the masses. Overshadowed by Boulder and Eldorado Canyons, areas like Cache la Poudre, Jackson Creek, and Lyons have remained “aces up the sleeve” for climbers hoping to avoid the crowds on sunny, Front Range days.

A 1992 *Rock & Ice* issue (#54) showcased some of the then up-and-coming Colorado rock-climbing spots (i.e., Rifle, Clear Creek Canyon, and North Table Mountain). By the summer of 1993 Mark Rolofson’s *1993 Boulder Sport Climber’s Guide* appeared in mountaineering shops and area indoor climbing gyms, and last December *Colorado Front Range Crags* was released. The two seem to be in direct competition with one another (Mr. Rolofson’s book was self-published, whereas Chockstone Press produced the latter). However, upon closer inspection, you will find that both authors exchanged information, and although the two books have overlaps, they cover many different areas. Those chapters that do cover the same regions show very distinct and divergent approaches. For example, on the cover of *Colorado Front Range Crags* Robyn Ebersfield is featured on a climb called *Evil* (5.13b) in Clear Creek Canyon. Hubbel offers no route description whereas Rolofson devotes a quarter of a page detailing the dangers of this climb (*Evil* is NOT RECOMMENDED! Due to its location directly above the road and the loose rock on the lower-off landing—*Evil* is an accident waiting to happen. Although bolting has not proven itself an access issue in Clear Creek, a car wreck or death due to climbers will put climbing access in a tough situation).

Colorado Front Range Crags catalogues climbs surrounding Fort Collins, Lyons, Gross Reservoir, Golden, Mount Evans, Highway 285, Jackson Creek, and Castlewood Canyon State Park. This translates into 250+ pages of routes. Hubbel offers good directions to the crags, with the “newcomer in mind.” This book is among the new generation of guide books that target the sport-climbing market. However, there is plenty of information given on traditional, aid, and ice climbs throughout the book (even a few boulder problems). He dedicates a section of the chapter on Castlewood Canyon to ice climbs, and you will find areas like Mount Evans, Highway 285, and Castlewood, filled with protection-sucking cracks.

The book was designed with maximum compression in mind. There are no route descriptions, quality ratings, or route history given. What it does offer are pages and pages of first-rate topos. I found these computer-generated images highly accurate and incredibly informative. They are among the finest I have seen. Hubbel also includes paragraphs on access and the environment, references for area camping, equipment, and further reading. If your motivation is climbing away from the crowds, exploring new areas, and getting route facts

without having to read through paragraphs on its history, then *Colorado Front Range Crags* is a worthwhile pound to add to your pack.

Many areas covered are quite pristine. I would hope that all climbers at any location will tread lightly and treat the environment with affection and respect.

JEFF SUSKIN

NOLS Wilderness Mountaineering. Phil Powers. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA. 241 pages, many drawings, glossary and index.

NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) has taught wild country camping, mountaineering and skiing for thirty years following this excellent guide for teachers and students, written by a senior instructor. In ten chapters Powers discusses climbing techniques, hazards, safety, mountain clothing and equipment, environmental philosophy and ethics. He stresses safety and accident prevention on rock, snow and ice, as well as rescue techniques and improvisation. This isn't a rucksack book but a highly readable text, not medically sophisticated (like Auerbach and Geehr *Management of Wilderness and Environmental Emergencies*), nor as focused as Warren Bowman's National Ski patrol manual *Outdoor Emergency Care*. The material is less medical than Wilkerson's *Medicine for Mountaineering* but it's more diverse. Highly recommended for the general mountaineering community.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.

Talus: A History of the Dartmouth Mountaineering Club. Dean Engle. Peter Randall, Hanover, 1993. 253 pages, index, three appendices, many illustrations, two maps. \$24.50.

The DMC (not to be confused with the DOC—Dartmouth Outing Club) was started in 1936 by a small group of undergraduates, most of whom would become distinguished mountaineers. This collection of twenty short essays tell the story of the club, and fills the gap between 1969 and 1990 when the *DMC Journal* was not published. More importantly it preserves scores of photographs of people and both great and small climbs throughout New England—and what some of the DMC climbers accomplished elsewhere in the world. Engle interviewed many veterans, studied climbing articles, and has written a unique and fascinating record of daring, humor, bravery, tragedy, and philosophy from Dartmouth. It's a rich, light-hearted companion to *Yankee Rock and Ice* by the Watermans, and puts the DMC one-up on the older Harvard Mountaineering Club. Required reading for all who are interested in how New England climbing and climbers have flourished in the last fifty years.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.