

not a book I would read for enjoyment. It does, however, have many redeeming qualities, and I therefore rate the book 5.8+ (or 5.9—).

It is more than just a rock-climbing guide. The flora and fauna sections help one appreciate the approaches to climbs. The book also contains ample descriptions of the features of Estes Park to assist a newcomer to the area. Since most of the rocks are on national park land, an important chapter "Rules & Regulations" is included. Pay special attention to the descriptions of descents, or you may get down much faster than you wanted.

Now for the important question: "How well does the guide help you find the climbs?" The composite photo in the back of the book is excellent, as it allows you to locate the numerous outcroppings in relation to each other. In addition, each area description contains large pictures with adequate route lines. The route ratings are, surprisingly, not included on this page. Unfortunately, the large pictures produce a guidebook (5" x 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ " ) that barely fits into an oversized back pocket. Because of this, there is a high risk of losing or ripping the guide if carried on a climb. Concerning the durability of the book, the orange cover "bleeds" when wet, and the binding on my guide is already destroyed.

A format lacking in this book, which I think every guidebook should contain, is that used by Jim Erickson in *Rocky Heights*: the designation of quality routes with " \* \* \*, \* \*, \* ," and the protection quality ratings "R" and "X." *Thath-aa-ai-atah* (pronounce it anyway you like) doesn't have such fine distinctions—though it does use (s) for "serious" leads.

One unfortunate side effect of guidebooks is that they tend to bring an influx of climbers to the area. It is important that we appreciate and respect all climbing areas, for they can never be rebuilt. I like to believe that climbers are more sensitive to the ecological balance of areas as beautiful as Lumpy Ridge, but I have been shocked and angered to find litter, wads of tape and cigarette butts stuffed into cracks. I know damn well it wasn't "Joe Tourist." Let us preserve our playgrounds like Lumpy Ridge by paraphrasing the "wilderness ethic" for rock climbing: "Leave nothing but chalk, take nothing but hero shots."

GREGORY R. HAND

*Shawangunk Rock Climbs*, by Richard C. Williams. New York: The American Alpine Club, 1980. 463 pages, 102 photographs, appendices. Price \$14.50.

The new guidebook had a tough act to follow. Almost everyone agrees that the 1972 edition of *Shawangunk Rock Climbs* by Richard C. Williams was a well-laid-out, compact, sturdy and reasonably accurate guidebook. Unfortunately, the 1972 edition has been out of print and unavailable for three years. Any person wanting one had the choices of stealing it,

xeroxing it or paying scalpers' prices as high as \$50.00. Information in the old guide had become dated. It listed thirty-six aid routes that have now been free-climbed. Because this new information was not common knowledge to visiting climbers, some of these routes were still fending off the blows of the aid climbers' hammers. There was also an increasing problem with misinformation on many new free routes. Where were they? How difficult? Many debated which lines had or had not been climbed. So a new book was needed now. The new guidebook may not be perfect, but it exists, it is real—this is an important point.

It is a fat, red book with a not very durable-looking cover that refuses to fit into my jacket or trouser pockets. Let's face it, Chouinard and other mountain chic designers aren't going to help us out on this one. Bigger pockets just aren't fashionable and the market isn't yet ready for chalk bags with pockets attached.

The 1972 edition listed 380 route descriptions on 135 pages. The 1980 guide gives us 530 routes on 463 pages. That's 150 added route descriptions and 328 added pages; more than two new pages for every new climb. Is bigger better, or is someone selling us a lot of paper?

The new pictures of the cliffs *are* bigger and better, with lots of room for drawing in those inevitable new route lines. Some of the gossip complains that the new pictures do not depict the true nature of the climbing. (For example, overhangs not casting shadows; looking like smooth faces.) Perhaps these folks could look up at the rock before they start their climb.

I have no trouble reading the print in the 1972 book. The bigger print in the 1980 edition must be for the benefit of aging climbers and alpine club members. (It didn't, however, benefit the publisher's proofreaders too much.) The printed text could have been reduced 25% by staying with the old format.

The appendixes are nice but I would rather the book fit into my pocket. The same goes for the personality photographs in the front of the book. But who could leave out those great shots of Fritz Wiessner, Hans Kraus and Mike Sawicky? I also would have liked to see an action climbing photo of author Dick Williams. What proof do we have that he climbs at all?

Williams deserves a pat on the back for doing away with the listing of climbs by number. How annoying it was to have someone scream up at you from the carriage road, "What number are you climbing?!" In the same breath let me add that someone deserves a crack on the knuckles for not cross-indexing those pages on which the descriptions appear with the pages on which the photos of routes are and vice versa. The average climber finds it far too much work to turn back to the index and then flip through all those photo plates.

530 routes is a lot of page flipping but it also represents a lot of long hours in research and organization. I think most climbers recognize and

respect the amount of work invested and are thankful for an updated edition of the guidebook. In general, the descriptions are accurate and complete. The rating of the climbs are by Yosemite Decimal System and in all but a few cases they seem to be more accurate and reasonable than in the 1972 guidebook. Originally, a modified Australian rating system was going to be used in the new guide. A lot of research was done and it was found that most people could count to 11 or 12 faster than they could count to 27. So we still have the Y.D.S.

As a final note, I'd like to mention that many excellent new routes and variations did not appear in the new guide because of publication deadlines or inconsistent criteria for including a route in the guide. I know of at least one person working on a supplement to the guide that will include these climbs as well as note any inaccuracies in the 1980 edition.

Lastly, a word to the wise. Take a minute and think about all the mountains of gossip that new routes, guidebooks, supplements and reviews produce: now, try to forget all that and go climbing.

MIKE SAWICKY

*Kluane Pinnacle of the Yukon*, edited by John B. Theberge with the assistance of George W. Douglas. Line drawings by Mary Theberge. Garden City, New York, Doubleday and Co., Inc. 1980. 175 pages. Profusely illustrated with 32 pages of color and numerous black and white photographs, plus maps, diagrams and end papers.

This story of Kluane National Park (8500 square miles) in the extreme southwest corner of Yukon Territory, Canada, is not a climbing book but it should delight anyone with a love of mountains. The park is unique. It takes in most of the St. Elias Mountains including massive Mount Logan (19,525 feet), the highest peak in Canada, 19 others over 14,000 feet, and lower ones still unclimbed, as well as the largest and longest glaciers outside the polar regions. Within this coastal region there is tremendous diversity of climate from winter to summer and even within the space of a day, so that some areas near the Pacific may be pounded by blizzards driving in from the ocean at the same time that semi-arid areas not far away on the eastern side of the range and at a lower altitude are sweltering in the sun. The glacier systems and the rivers that spring from them are a tremendous stimulus to plant and animal life. One hundred eighteen kinds of birds have been seen there, while grizzlies, wolves, moose, mountain goats, occasional caribou and some 4000 of the graceful Dall sheep roam the slopes. Yet much of the park is infrequently visited.

The book has been organized in an unusual way, with 16 scientists writing parts on their special interests. One major section deals with