

Climbing in the Adirondacks. Don Mellor. Adirondack Mountain Club. Black-and-white photos, maps. 460 pages. \$24.95.

Comment: The Third Edition is roughly 200 pages fatter than the last (1989) and incorporates some of the latest firsts from such local heroes as Pat Purcell, Pat Munn, Tad Welch, Tim Beaman. One of the chief pleasures of the book is Mellor's easy writing style. Only criticism: a pity the photos, though more numerous, are no better in quality than the 1989 edition. (JT)

Desert Rock: Rock Climbs in the National Parks. Eric Bjornstad, graphics by Chris Becker. Chockstone Press, Evergreen, Colorado, 1996. 242 pages. \$20.00.

Comment: One of four titles in Bjornstad's *Desert Rock* series, this one includes a subjective selection of routes in Arches and Zion National Parks and the known routes of Capitol Reef and Canyonlands National Parks. It also includes the adjacent Glen Canyon National Recreational Area and Green River area just outside the park boundary of Canyonlands. Recommended gear list included for each climb and a convenient "Paraphernalia Size Comparison Chart." Bjornstad's claim that Chris Becker's topos set a standard for detail, accuracy and artistic excellence is no idle boast: These are the best I've seen. (DS)

Exotic Rock. Sam Lightner, Jr. Self-published. P.O. Box 591, Teton Village, WY, 83025. Color and black-and-white photos. 138 pages. \$24.95.

Comment: Though Lightner's coverage of each area seems scanty, half the world is included: Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Morocco, Greece, Norway, South Africa. There is some good travel advice on the way to the rock scenes. As on page 61, about Thailand. "Don't accept any food on train or buses as there have been cases of people being drugged and then robbed while they slept. (There have also been cases of transvestite prostitutes putting drugs on their nipples, so don't accept these either)." (JT)

Hooked on Traprock: Rock Climbing in Central Connecticut. Ken Nichols. Amereon House. Photos, cartoons. 504 pages. \$27.95

Comment: Ken's talents as a guidebook writer are less famous than his exploits in the "bolting wars." His descriptions are limpid and his frequent jokes pretty funny. This book is rich in historical anecdote and sticks to the tradition that geology matters. Alas, the photographs are very inferior to those

in his masterly *Traprock* (1982) and the fine line drawings of that edition have been dropped. Another difference: In 1982 Nichols had not yet made his unique contribution to protection technology, the skyhook tied down and secured with an 11 millimeter rope to an anchor 20 to 40 feet below at the base of the climb. These routes merit the new "H" rating. Nichols says he has taken some big whippers on those. Funny, they've not caught on outside Connecticut. (JT)

Hueco Tanks: Climbing and Bouldering Guide, Second Edition. John Sherman. Chockstone Press, Evergreen, Colorado, 1996. 407 pages. \$25.00.

Comment: Possibly the most routes and boulder problems ever compiled between the covers of a single volume. All routes clearly described, lots of photos, the V rating system explained, quality ratings, doubly indexed by grade and name, plus Sherman's ratings of Mexican restaurants in El Paso. Even if bouldering is not your thing and even if you think Sherman has a juvenile (or worse) sense of humor, this book is an impressive achievement. Putting together this guide was clearly another labor of love for Sherman, who dedicates the book to those who climb for fun. (DS)

Indian Peak Descents: Ski Mountaineering and Snowboarding in Colorado's Indian Peaks. Ron Haddad and Eileen Faughey. Sigma Books, Boulder, Colorado, 1996. Paper, 13 topos and 90 photos. 147 pages. \$15.95.

Comment: Describes 56 spring and summer ski descents on 26 peaks in the Front Range. Descents are rated intermediate, advanced, and expert, determined by the steepest slope angle encountered on the descent when the snow is in ideal condition. (DS)

Red Rocks Select, Second Edition. Todd Swain. Chockstone Press, Evergreen, Colorado, 1996. 246 pages. \$25.00.

Comment: Swain's second edition contains nearly 800 routes, 300 more than the first edition and nearly four times the number included in Joanne and Jorge Urioste's 1984 guide. This edition is not intended to be either comprehensive or a "best of" guide, but is meant to be representative of the Red Rocks climbing experience. A thumbs-up icon denotes routes of high quality. Indexed by both rating and route name. Clear topos and photos. (DS)

Rifle: Climber's Guide to Rifle Mountain Park. Hassan Saab. King Coal West, Boulder, Colorado, 1995. Paper, 72 pages. \$7.95.

Comment: The "How To Use This Book" page is a model of clarity and thoroughness. Routes' equippers are noted, in addition to its first ascenders.