

ADIRONDACK

The magazine of the ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

by non-members

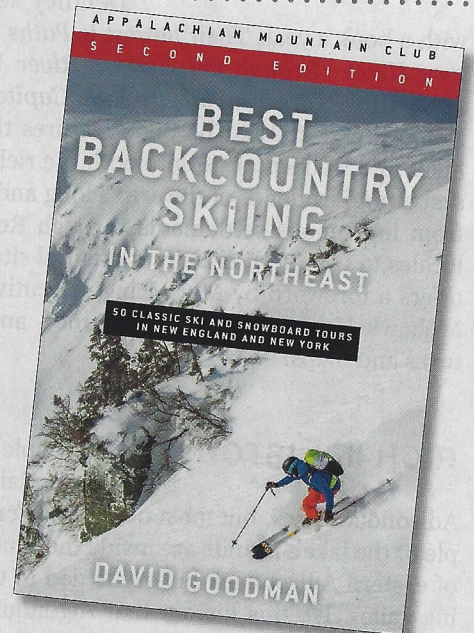
noteworthy books

When a renowned investigative journalist produces a regional guidebook for an activity that he is obsessed with, the results can be stunning. **David Goodman** melds decades of research and nuanced travel details in his latest book *Best Backcountry Skiing in the Northeast* (Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 2020), a 252-page description of the evolving game of Northeastern adventure ski play.

Goodman delivers fifty ski tours, with numerous sub-tours, in some of the finest backcountry skiing spots in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire. Routes range from gentle groomed trails suitable for skinny cross-country skis to steep ski mountaineering routes in avalanche-prone alpine areas. As an update to his 2010 book, new tours have been added and some removed as the forest reclaims the land or access issues arise.

Although Goodman has been a longtime Vermont resident, he has a clear fondness for the Adirondacks. His sampling of the park's amazing mix of narrow trails, rollercoaster streambeds, and open slide tracks influenced his perspectives on skiing. His Adirondacks chapter lists the favorites of locals and visi-

Featuring noteworthy historic memories, including the days of Jackrabbit Johannson and Otto Schneibs



tors, and features some of the best historical descriptions in the book (for an example, see the excerpt on the Wright Peak Ski Trail on page 22).

More than just a guidebook, this is a history lesson about skiing in the Northeastern mountains. Unlike the great ski routes in the West, with their open forests and abundant alpine terrain, many of the Eastern routes were cut into thick forests during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps and other ski pioneers. The ghosts of those men and women come alive with history lessons laced throughout the book.

—Todd Eastman