

TECH TIP
TRAD—P.80

JUST OUT: 9 SUMMER-CRAGGING MUST-HAVES P.34

Climbing

LEADING SINCE 1970

THE BIG D

HOW RIFLE BECAME
THE LAND OF 5.13D

IN SEARCH OF EL CHUPACABRA

MONSTER HUNTING IN PUERTO RICO

PLASTIC PRINCE

NICO FAVRESSE, THE BOLD, SPIRITED
TOP ALL-AROUNDER

PRETTY GNEISS

COLORADO'S CLEAR CREEK CANYON
AND THE EVOLUTION OF HARD SPORT

JAPANIMATION

CONRAD ANKER SETS AN ICE COMP
TO REMEMBER

MORAL DILEMMA

MATT SEGAL ON THE NUANCES OF
5.14 GEAR CLIMBING



\$4.99 US / \$4.99 CAN
NO. 268 AUGUST 2008



PLUS: DANIEL WOODS' NEW V15 ■ ENERGY-HARVESTING BACKPACK ■ MIGUEL VENTURA
CLIMBERS SCRUB SPACE NEEDLE ■ BARBARA ZANGERL TAGS V13 ■ 10TH MOUNTAIN
THE SHERPA GENE ■ RIFLE GLOSSARY ■ KATIE BROWN'S EPIC HOUND ■ *Irene's Arête*
WATER-BOTTLE SHAKE-UP ■ NATASHA BARNES ■ CARRIE COOPER, BOULDERING MOM

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER / A CARBON-NEUTRAL MAGAZINE

Nine cool, new selections for the hot, cruel summer

Hour Power

I haven't worn a watch in ages: I broke one too many, and gave up on the concept altogether. However, the **TIMEX EXPEDITION E-TIDE TEMP COMPASS** (\$169.95, timex.com), has brought me back into the fold. This burly, bling-y hunk of stainless steel has the oversize styling that's the latest rage, plus a slew of features—some of which I always wanted, others I didn't even know I needed. In the former category, mark the push-button temperature sensor, electronic compass, glow-in-the-dark hands, and INDIGLO® nightlight. And in the latter, you have the tide tracker (when I take up surfing, I'm sure I'll appreciate it). So, go ahead—ask me the time, bub.

—Justin Roth

An Easy Daescent

Woe betide the multi-pitch climber facing a long walk-off: she either lugs clunky approach boots up the wall or has to wear toe-hammering rock shoes on the way down. The new **FIVE TEN DAESCENT** (\$89.95, fiveten.com) is a low-profile, light (19oz for a pair of size 10.5) sticky-rubber shoe that solves the descent dilemma. I used them while Flatirons scramble-soloing and on the attendant long approaches/descents, finding a nice blend of light weight and breathability (think micro-fiber mesh upper) with rock-gripping performance (see the Stealth Mystique sole, which wraps over the toe box to form a climbing rand). The shoes also have a handy heel loop for harness clip-off and compress well for stowage in a mini-pack.

—Matt Samet

Jungle Juice

Three days into my Hueco trip, and even the nuclear-grade camp coffee wasn't enough to cut my hangover fuzz. Wishing I hadn't killed that bottle of Stoli before passing out in an ocotillo bush, I popped open a 12oz **SAMBAZON AMAZON ENERGY** (\$1.99, sambazon.com) and took a full swig of the deliciously sweet and fizzy "energy in a bottle." Sustainably produced and made with the immune-system-boosting açai berry, the vitamin-C-packed acerola berry (read: 1,000 percent of your daily recommended C dose), and several caffeine-rich botanicals (guarana and yerba maté, for example), this electric energy drink made me a veritable bouldering Energizer Bunny. And it tasted great, too. Bizzlin'...

—Leah Miller



Bumbler 4 Life

Hi, my name's Kristin, and I'm a bar-oholic. I eat three—OK, five—energy bars a day and have severe mood swings when I don't get my fix. But that doesn't mean I'll scarf any ol' mealy brick—I am a connoisseur. So when a case of **BUMBLEBARS** (\$17-30 for 15 bars, depending on flavor; bumblebar.com) arrived, I quickly discovered the humble Bumbles are the Bordeaux of crag chow. Packed with nuts, seeds, and fruit, these bars deliver long-lasting energy, protein, essential fatty acids, and health-boosting antioxidants. (My favorite flavor? Chocolate Cherry.) The organic, gluten-free bars are also vegan and, despite the "Bumble" name, contain agave syrup, not honey.

—Kristin Bjornsen

Royal Shorts

I'm not proud of my chicken legs, but pride takes a backseat to comfort on a 90 F day. So I was happy to put the **ROYAL ROBBINS MEN'S DISCOVERY SHORTS** (\$50, royalrobbins.com) through their paces on a recent scorcher. I'm not sure how passersby felt about my ghostly gams, but I cruised happily around the boulderfields in these sharp-looking shorts. The length was just my style, falling around the kneecap so I looked neither like a 1970s jogger nor an overgrown skate punk. And the slightly stretchy Nylon fabric allowed for unhindered highstepping. The shorts are also tough, lightweight, exceptionally soft—cotton-like, even—and easily weathered several butt-shuffle descents. Low-profile zippered pockets (good under a harness), a miniscule pack-down size, and wrinkle resistance make the Discoveries, available in Khaki and Shale, a staple for summer adventure.

