Monthly Program Dec. 10

“A Winter Telemark Ascent of Mount Logan”

A slide presentation by mountain guide and CMC member Ted Handwerk

Join us on Dec. 10 at 7:30pm at the Boulder Clubroom as Ted shares his winter adventures telemark skiing 19,800’ Mount Logan in the Canadian Yukon. Ted calls this a “heavy” trip, with much to share concerning the ever-important group dynamics, winter survival, and misjudgments of epic proportions — like their pilot dropping them off on the wrong glacier in the middle of the largest glaciated area outside the Polar Regions. This ‘enhanced’ their journey for an additional twenty days as they got reoriented. Did they ever find and climb the mountain? Why, upon his return to pick up the climbers, did the pilot forget to put the plane’s skis down before landing? Did they ever get off the glacier?

Come learn how Ted and crew overcame these logistical mishaps to find joy skiing the Bagley ice fields and climbing in the dramatic Alaska/Yukon Saint Elias mountain range.

Ted’s climbing adventures began with pushes and shoveys from his father, a 10th mountain division veteran. Through the years Ted has worked for wilderness schools, guiding and trekking companies and was a park ranger in Alaska. His climbing trips included expeditions to Denali, Mount Logan and Mount Saint Elias in Alaska; Condoriri, Huayna Potosi and Illimani in South America; and Everest, Kangchengungpa, Shishapangma and Ama Dablam in Asia.

Avalanche awareness lectures & field trip

There will be an avalanche transceiver lecture with limited practice on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7-10pm. On Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 6-10pm there will be a lecture on avalanche awareness. Both lectures will be at the CMC Boulder Clubroom. This will be followed by an all-day field trip on Saturday, Dec. 6.

To register, please call Diana Wright at 303-554-7878. She will answer any questions you might have and give specific instructions of where to send your registration fee of $25. All CMC members are welcome to attend the Wednesday night lecture, but only those who have paid the registration fee will be allowed to attend the Tuesday night beacon practice and the Saturday field trip.

You must have good winter travel skills, winter boots and clothing, snow shoes, or telemark skis to attend the field day.

Beginner ski touring clinic January 6

If you have not tried backcountry ski touring, or want to improve your technique, don’t miss this clinic on January 6 at 7pm in the Boulder Clubroom.

The clinic is for beginners (never been on — continued on page 2, see Touring Clinic
Touring Clinic, continued from page 1

skis), advanced beginners (downhilled or cross-country a few times), and beginning intermediate (cross-country some but need to learn more skills).

The clinic covers an overview of the sport, clothing, equipment, technique, and scheduled winter ski trips. This will be followed by one or two days (Jan. 10 and 17) in the backcountry, emphasizing the diagonal stride, uphill and downhill techniques, and turns.

Participants should be fit enough for a day of moderate exercise in variable conditions. Beginners must sign up for both days at no extra cost. Others can come out one day or both days at no extra cost, but must inform us of this when signing up. Equipment will be available for rent, at a discount, for those who need it.

Anyone can attend the indoor seminar, but participation in the on-snow sessions is limited, so call the Clubroom, 303-554-7688, early to sign up and pay the $13 fee in advance. Call Pete Birkeland, 303-442-0304, about rentals or any other questions.

Pat Butler and Pete Birkeland are co-leaders of the class.

Tundra Sale time correction

*Whoops!* Last month’s announcement of the 2003 Tundra Sale included the wrong times. The sale is from **8-9:30pm** at Neptune Mountaineering in the Table Mesa shopping center on S. Broadway on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

For more information, contact John Keller at jkeller@maad.com.

Don’t forget!

**Free yoga class for trip leaders**

As a benefit for volunteering and dedicating their time to the CMC, Boulder Group trip leaders can attend a free yoga class at the Clubroom from 6-7:30pm on Dec. 12.

In this class, taught by CMC member Angel Lin, you will learn:

- basic postures (asanas) and variations of the Sun Salutations to increase flexibility, strength and balance.
- breathing technique and how to use it to maximize freedom of movement.
- basic techniques of meditation and relaxation to cultivate inner stability and mental clarity.

For more information about Angel, go to www.shriyoga.com.

Mailing party December 18

Come to the Boulder Clubroom and help mail out the Compass! This is a relaxed way to meet people and give something back to your favorite club.

The next issue will be ready to mail on Thursday, December 18, at 5:30pm, so please just drop in. Phone 303-554-7688 for more information.

Trip Change, Bowen Gulch

Diana Wright’s ski tour to Bowen Gulch is listed in the activity schedule with the date of December 7. The correct date is February 7.

Annual dinner illness?

If you attended the annual dinner, you know that two people fainted during the presentation. In order to help rule out the food as the cause we would like to know if anyone else felt sick that evening. If you did, please send e-mail to sdeg0325@aol.com or call the Clubroom at 303-554-7688 and let us know.

Get on the list!

The weekly GPS electronic newsletter contains 5 to 10 paragraphs of timely announcements & other useful information. Our e-mail currently has a little over 500 members. Since the Boulder Group of the CMC has over 1,600 members, this means we aren’t reaching everybody by a long shot.

To be included on the list, simply send e-mail to GPS editor Steve Gendron, sdeg0325@aol.com, with the words “GPS E-mail Newsletter” in the Subject area. You can include a message if you want, but it isn’t necessary.
Harrowing experience
at the 2003 Annual Dinner

— by Jim Groh

The highlight of this year’s Boulder Group Annual Dinner was a narration, slide show and video show by Malcolm Daly, Boulder mountaineer and founder of Trango USA. The show centered on Daly’s epic climb of Thunder Mountain in the Alaska Range. He took a long leader fall that ultimately cost him a foot. The climb, the fall, the survival, and the rescue were jaw-droppers enough, but the most harrowing part was watching the show! The video footage of the rescue team cutting away Malcolm’s pants and boot, revealing a compound fracture and frostbite, caused many attendees to contemplate the ballroom ceiling, and two of them to faint dead away! (Both are doing much better, and the show continued after an appropriate delay.)

Earlier in the evening, several unique ceremonies highlighted the festivities. Ken Nolan was honored for climbing all Colorado’s 14ers, 13ers, and 12ers. Cleve Armstrong read a list of all the Boulder Group members who have climbed 8000-meter peaks. And we had the pleasure of honoring 50-year members Kurt and Eva Gerstle.

As always, the graduates of the Boulder Mountaineering School were named, as well as the graduates of the Hiking School, and all those who had volunteered for either school in any capacity were applauded. Don Walker was inaugurated as the new chair of the group in the annual election. About 200 people attended, not counting the paramedics.

Anyone who stayed home this time missed a doozy and really should consider coming to next year’s dinner. It’s always the first Sunday in November, a chance to schmooze with your climbing buddies, all dressed up and respectable. And who knows what other excitement?

Sharing the rocks with raptors

— by Beverly Gholson, Chair Conservation and Trails

Why do the parks people close popular climbing areas for raptor nesting? Why do the closed areas change during the spring? How do they know what areas to close? These are some of the questions that the Boulder CMC has received from our members.

As you are aware, each year about ten areas of the Boulder front range are closed to climbers from February 1 through July 31 to protect nesting raptors. I sat down with Steve Armstead, Lead Ranger/Naturalist with the City of Boulder’s Open Space and Mountain Parks to discuss some of these issues.

BG: What birds use the rocks in Boulder to nest and why is it important that these areas be available to them?

Steve: The raptors that use the cliffs are golden eagles, prairie falcons and peregrine falcons. These birds have very specific physical and biological nesting needs. The rocks provide protection for the young birds from predation by other animals and the proximity of a prey base such as nearby prairie dog colonies minimizes the energy needed to feed the young chicks.

BG: Why is it valuable to protect these birds and their nests?

Steve: By their nature as top of the food chain predators, raptors aren’t as common as many other birds. These birds tend to reach sexual maturity later than other birds, have a smaller number of offspring and take longer to raise them. One species, the peregrine falcon, was just recently removed from the endangered species list. We, in Boulder, are very fortunate to have peregrine falcons nesting here, as well as three active golden eagle nests.

BG: How do you know where the nests are?

— continued on page 6, see Raptors
Friday, November 28, 2003
East Slab, The Dome       I Climb, 5.5
Walk the bridge over Boulder Creek, then follow a
disappearing crack on this short climb in Boulder Canyon.
Bruce Immele 303 665-0888

Saturday, December 06, 2003
Mt. Lincoln 14,286’       Class C
From Quartzville Creek TH, we’ll do a gentle snowshoe up
the east shoulder. If weather and group progress permit,
we’ll continue over Cameron and Bross.
Ellen Flannelly 303 440-0130

Square Top Mtn. 13,794’     Difficult B
Although it missed being among 100 Highest by six feet,
this mountain is a fun and beautiful climb in the
Guanella Pass area. Snowshoes and ice-axe required. BMS
preferred.
Seth W Allen 303 554-5546

Saturday, December 13, 2003
Brainard Cabin       Easy Snowshoe
Snowshoe to CMC Brainard Lake cabin, have lunch and
snowshoe back. Rada Perovic 720 635-7453

Saturday Social for Spirit and Sweat       Moderate A
The Saturday Social is a half-day hike with a social spirit
and a sweaty end. We then try to warm up over some coffee
or lunch. We meet at Einstein’s at the corner of Broadway
and Baseline. Park in the greater BaseMar Shopping Center
lot. Please arrive at 9 AM and help decide our destination.
Come prepared to hike in any weather.
Marilyn Fellows 303 499-6099

Zig-Zag, First Flatiron-East Face
II Climb, 5.7
3-4 pitches of slabs, dihedrals, and roofs. Join us for a fun
climb. May rap or downclimb to escape.
William Clopton 303 776-9612

Little Raven Trail to Brainard Lake
Mod. II Ski Tour
The most exciting route to the Brainard Cabin.
After a break for hot tea, zip back down via the Waldrop
(north) trail.
Steve Priem 303 499-9024

Sunday, December 14, 2003
Lost Lake
Easy A
Hike from townsite of Hessie on scenic jeep road to Lost
Lake. Explore old mine site above lake. Easy pace.
Louis F Genduso 303 530-3795

Tuesday, December 16, 2003
Ice Climb, Leaders Choice
Ice conditions change rapidly so the destination of this trip
will be determined by the leader as the trip approaches.
Tom Walker 303 666-7199

Saturday, December 27, 2003
Forest Lakes       Mod. II Ski Tour
From East Portal Trail, ski to lower and upper Forest Lakes,
returning the same way for a fast downhill run.
Willy Gully 303 939-8382

Sunday, December 28, 2003
Little Raven Trail to Brainard Lake
Mod. II Ski Tour
The most exciting route to the Brainard Cabin. We will
consider skiing up to Mitchell Lake. After a break for hot
tea, zip back down via the Waldrop (north) trail.
Bruce Immele 303 665-0888

Thursday, January 01, 2004
Brainard Cabin       Easy Snowshoe
Snowshoe to CMC Brainard Lake cabin, have lunch and
snowshoe back.
Marilyn Fellows 303 499-6099

Saturday, January 03, 2004
East of the Sun, The Dome       II Climb, 5.7
Pitch 1: Follow the cracks to the left. Climb over the three
roofs. The move over the third roof is the crux; look for
a small notch to reach for with your left hand, and then
bring your left foot up and smear. Move left, follow the
climb up and right.

Pitch 2: Traverse right from belay station about 10 feet, and
then move up the prominent crack. Onto the face, follow the
cliff face and the small pockets up and left. Crank the corner to
the left side up the top via a hand jam. Walk off.
William Clopton 303 776-9612
What is a 12er????

— by Jean Aschenbrenner

It has come to our attention that there are some CMCers out there who do not know what 12ers, 13ers and 14ers are. In an effort to share the knowledge, the following education is provided.

14ers: the 53 (or 54) Colorado peaks higher than 14,000'.

13ers: the 584 peaks in Colorado above 13,000' (but less than 14,000').

12ers: the 676 peaks in Colorado above 12,000' (but less than 13,000').

Only 3 people are known to have completed climbing the 12ers, and 8 people have finished the 13ers.

Debating exactly which peaks belong in the lists provides hours of entertainment for inveterate peak-baggers — hence the hedging on the number of 14ers. To be counted as a ranked peak, the summit must rise at least 300 feet above the saddles to higher summits. Not all of the traditional 14ers meet this criteria, but these are just details for the peak-baggers to get hung up on.

A list of the 13ers is published in Colorado’s High Thirteeners by Mike Garratt and Bob Martin. Garratt, Martin and Ken Nolan have collaborated to compile a list of the Colorado 12ers. These lists also include the ‘unranked’ peaks — those that do not satisfy the 300' rule. The unranked peaks can be every bit as interesting as the ranked peaks.

Each year, during the winter, names of those who have completed milestones in the lists are published in Trail and Timberline. If you are interested in knowing more about recent accomplishments in Colorado peak-bagging, Roof of the Rockies — A History of Colorado Mountaineering (3rd edition) by William Beuhler has an interesting section on ‘Modern Mountaineering.’

Broadening your horizons a bit, there are also 15 peaks over 14,000' in California and one more in Washington.

Conversations like the following between a flat-lander and a peak-bagger are not uncommon:

Peak-bagger: I finished climbing all the 13ers this fall!

Flat-lander: Wow! That’s great! How many of the 14ers have you climbed?

Peak-bagger: Arghhhh!

Although it might be possible to climb all the 13ers before finishing the 14ers, we hope you now realize that no self-respecting peak-bagger would ever miss the opportunity to climb all the 14ers before completing the 13ers.

Editor’s note: As a newcomer to Colorado and the CMC, I don’t know the lingo! Many thanks to Jean for this lesson.

Speed climber Kellogg to speak

Chad Kellogg will present Fast and Alone in the Tien Shan on Saturday, December 13th at 7:30pm in the Foss Auditorium of the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. The talk will benefit the Anatoli Boukreev Memorial Fund. There is no charge for the presentation but donations are welcome. If you’d like more information about the Fund, please check out www.boukreev.org.

Northwest climber Chad Kellogg holds the current speed records for Mt. Ranier and Denali. Chad will talk about his recent trip to Khan Tengri in the Tien Shan region where he beat the Russians on their own turf during the Festival Khan Tengri Speed Climbing Championships. He will also tell stories of his solo ascents of Pobeda and Kyrgyzstan’s Peak Lenin.
— **Raptors**, continued from page 3

**Steve**: We rely on historical reports, including journals from the turn of the 20th century. More recently local conservation groups and biologists have kept records of nesting raptors. Some of our information comes from climbers and hikers who report finding the nests. Now we have a group of experienced volunteers and staff who monitor the progress of each nest site. Each nest has up to five people who spend time each week observing the birds’ behavior.

**BG**: How does climbing impact nesting?

**Steve**: Climbers can have both direct and indirect impacts on nesting behavior. Many popular climbing routes go through the nests themselves. Climbers can damage nests and the chicks. Also the raptor parents become stressed, utilizing great amounts of energy in protecting their young.

**BG**: Why do the closures change during the spring?

**Steve**: We know that several nest sites are highly preferred to the raptors and will be used every year. But there are less preferred sites that are being utilized as more of the young birds return to the areas to nest. Also the reintroduction of the peregrine falcon has meant that some prairie falcons have been displaced from their traditional sites. We are seeing new nest sites such as the 4th Pinnacle and Mt. Sanitas being used. Unfortunately the closures are not a precise science and to a certain extent we have to see what the birds will do before we can determine what areas to close. When it becomes apparent that the birds are not going to use a site, such as the Amphitheater, we reopen the area to climbing.

**BG**: Is there anything else you want to say to the members of the Colorado Mountain Club?

**Steve**: Most of all, I want to thank the climbers for their cooperation with the closures. We realize that a lot of climbing opportunities are displaced in the spring to allow the raptors to successfully nest. Last year, with your cooperation the raptors raised 22 young in this area.

*Editor’s note: This article first appeared in the Compass in the summer of 2002.*

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**Coming soon!**

Be on the lookout for the Boulder Group’s new map! The latest edition of the full-color map of the hiking trails west of Chautauqua will be available soon.

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