



compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXII Number 1

January 2006

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Introducing the New Council Chair: Tonya Riggs

Editor's Note: This month's profile focuses on your new Council Chairperson, Tonya Riggs. I had the pleasure of climbing with Tonya last month, where I took this picture of her on the climb Allosaur in Eldorado Canyon, and got this interview.

1) How did you get involved in the CMC, and how has it been rewarding for you?

In 1997 two CMC members, Sharon and Austin Connolly, invited me to join them on a CMC "In State Outing." This was a week long camping and hiking trip down in the San Juans. Of course you had to be member of the CMC to participate. It is on this trip that I fell in love with hiking the Colorado 14ers. It is also on this trip that I met Marilyn Fellows and other great people who shared a great love of the outdoors. About a year and a half later at the encouragement of Cindy Gagnon, I signed up for the BMS



Tonya nearing top of first pitch of Allosaur in Eldorado Canyon photo by Rick Casey

course. It was my hope to gain the skills to safely climb the more technical 14ers. I was the most problem student the BMS had ever seen. Despite the safe back up belay, Andrew Halperin had to get on a rope beside me and patiently coax me through a rappel and Tom Wilson had to shake his head in disbelief when my pony tail got caught in my ATC. Before my first big mountain outside the state of Colorado, I learned glacier travel, crevasse rescue and how to respect and honor the Nepalese Sherpas, from Mark Scott Nash in the AMS program. Shelly Scott Nash invited me on an all womans winter climb of Mt. Elbert to teach me how to pack a load, carry the weight and more importantly how to pee in a bottle without leaving my warm sleeping bag. John Keller came along during this window and not only taught me how to survive a night in a snow cave but had many side conversations on the importance of picking "the right" climbing partners. I treasure the time and lessons shared by these folks. The CMC enabled me to know great mentors.

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Announcing: The "XL" Celebration!!!!

Come Celebrate XL (40) Years of Excellent Ski-Touring in Boulder.

WHEN: Saturday, January 21st.

WHAT: A day of ski touring. An evening of pot-luck dinner, party, and dance. A ski-in, be-in, flash-mob of X-country skiers. A happening.

WHY: The 40th (XL) anniversary of the arrival from Norway, in 1965, of 100 pairs of skis, boots, poles and bindings, air-freighted in for 100 CMC'ers and their friends.

WHERE: Pick a destination: the Brainard Cabin, the Årestua Hut, the ghost of the old Piffner Hut near Heart Lake, or the groomed tracks at Lake Eldora. Find other XL celebrants at the trailheads at 8:00 or 9:00 or 10:00. Recognize each other by the '60s clothing and equipment. Maybe we should all wear large XL signs.

PARTY: At the Avalon Building, 6185 Arapaho in Boulder. Doors open at 5:00pm. Pot-luck dinner at 6:00. Easy dances, for people who are primarily skiers, till 10:00. The Avalon features a fabulous dance floor, a large kitchen, and changing rooms with showers. Dance in your socks, or bring smooth soled shoes.

WHO: Come to the party whether you went skiing or not. We will have door prizes for people who bring in the most

Continued on page 2, XL Celebration

XL Celebration

Continued From Page 1

unusual or well-worn ski touring clothing or equipment. Wear your pine-tar stained knickers. Along with the old stuff, there will be a display of the latest in equipment and waxes.

PHOTOS: Bring your digital cameras so we can download and project pictures from the day's outings. We would love to include old pictures of ski-touring, hut building, or trail-blazing. Send digital images to daveR@robssoft.com, before January 15th. Mail old prints to: XL Party, c/o Dave Robertson, 1001 Pine Street, Boulder 80302. Write your name on the backs!

SNOW DATE: Saturday, January 21st. (Duh)

LOOK TO: <http://www.cmcboulder.org/> for possible late-breaking info. Contact OttoV@csd.net if you have questions or can help with further organizing.

SPONSORS: Boulder CMC, Village Arts Coalition (VAC), and Neptune Mountaineering. □

Ingvar Sodal and The Norwegian Ski-Touring Invasion

The XL Celebration Instigator

Ingvar Sodal arrived in Boulder in 1962 to attend CU. Ingvar and his then wife, Jofrid, became active members of the CMC. By 1965 he had worn out the light touring skis which he brought from Norway. All he could find in Boulder were old Army skis with skins and heavy-duty cable bindings. So, he got six friends together to order good touring equipment from Norway, and share the shipping costs. As word got out, the six friends became 100: ski-touring in Boulder was getting a jump start.

With pine tar from McGuckin's, and Norwegian engineering students recruited as field instructors from CU, Ingvar proceeded to teach. By the third year there were 200 people signed up for the CMC's classes. Now there was a need for trails. The North and South trails to the Brainard Cabin were scouted, cleared and blazed. The trail from East Portal to

the Piffner Hut was re-aligned for better winter use. By 1968, ski touring was well established as a sport on the Front Range.

Now there was a thirst for more destinations, sheltered places to get warm and eat lunch. In 1969, while the Public Service Company (now Xcel) was building a gas pipeline across Rollins Pass, Ingvar and friends convinced the Forest Service to let the CMC build a cabin near Guinn Mountain. Jofrid, a trained architect, did the design and drawings based on a traditional Norwegian house with an open fire pit in the center, an *Årestua*. Materials were pre-cut and partially assembled in Boulder, then trucked up the mountain via the pipeline construction roads. After a lot of site preparation and foundation building, two large work parties on two successive weekends got the frame and roofing up.

Now, 36 years after the *Årestua* was built, and 40 years after that memorable order of skis arrived, it's time to celebrate our terrific ski touring trails and destinations. Hence the "XL" celebration of 40 years of Excellent X-country skiing: all day on the trails and all evening at a party! Ingvar and Sall will lead the dancing, you betcha! □

— both contributed by Otto Verdoner



Ingvar and "friends"

Overheard at the annual dinner

A woman remarked to her friend, "So, I've been training really hard to prepare myself for the Big D." To which her friend asked expectantly, "You mean Denali?" "No," she replied, "Divorce!" (only at the CMC...)

Volunteers Needed!

Mailing party January 19

Come to the Clubroom and help mail out the February 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, January 19, at 5:30pm, so please just drop in. Phone Sheila at 303-554-7688 for more information.

CMC Archivist

Anyone who interested in contributing to the organization of the Boulder Group's archives, please call the Clubroom at 303-554-7688.

New PC in the Clubroom

A spanking new Dell PC is operational in the clubroom with a DSL highspeed connection. Any CMC member is entitled to use it during clubroom hours; of course, please cooperate with Sheila or the volunteer on duty if they need to use it. Logon with the username "CMC guest"; the password will be taped to the monitor.



compass

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Telephone: 303-554-7688

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website: cmcboulder.org

We welcome announcements, articles, letters, artwork, and photos, especially from recent CMC trips and events.

DEADLINE: Please submit material to the Editor by the first Friday of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

Feb deadline: Jan 6

Profile: Tonya Riggs
Continued From Page 1

It has been extremely rewarding. My closest friends and most valued climbing partners are CMC members. Eleven out of the 14 of us that went on and expedition to Nepal last year were CMC members. All four that stood on top of Ama Dablam are current and active CMC members. As referenced above, it is CMC members that armed us with the knowledge and skills to get us safely up and down that very big mountain. In fact, I jokingly tell others that after joining the CMC is has been all uphill.

2) *As the new leader of the Council, what goals would you have for the club this year?*

I would like to postpone this answer to allow time to summarize the collective desires and wishes of the entire Boulder Council. Perhaps the answer will make for a good follow-up report in a future issue of the Compass. Nickie Kelly, our newly elected Member at Large, and I just discussed, last week, the value of holding an off site strategy meeting for the Council members to discuss exactly why we are here and what it is we would like to accomplish over the next two years. My personal goals include making sure we have a strong team with a vision as this will result in forward progress.

As a member of the Boulder Road Runners I certainly appreciate how Rich Castro has evolved the club along side the changing needs of the members. Those of you familiar with the BRRs know this club started out as a club mainly for singles seeking camaraderie for runs. As the membership got married, the BRRs began conducting races for couples. As those couples began having children, the club added races for kids. It is those kids who will be the future leaders of that organization. Kent Groninger summed it up so nicely at the Annual Banquet by stating, "We should invite more young people to this dinner, even if we have to pay their way." So although I have no desire to ever boulder two to ten feet off the ground, maybe I have a hidden personal goal of offering a class on bouldering to attract today's younger climbing population so we too have a membership base to carry our torch forward? Look at all the wonderful talent among our own membership. Our whose-who list of mountaineers and outdoor enthusiasts is something that any young aspiring climber would lose sleep over knowing.

3) *I think it's pretty well known to the CMC community that our member-*

ship has been declining for some time, and was one of the reasons for the big jump in the annual dues last year. Do you think this is something the Boulder chapter should do something about itself, independent of the state office? If so, what do you think we should do?

I have been amazed at the scorn and ridicule I hear regarding the image of the CMC from the general public. With the combined experience and talent of the members of each chapter within the Colorado Mountain Club, we should be the premier club in the United States. I think it was Ghandi that was once quoted as saying, "The key to the masses is through the individual." If each member of the Boulder Chapter asks one person to join them on one of our many great outdoor offerings or to take a class or attend an event, just imagine what could be. □

A Tale of Two CMC Members

Editors Note:

The following piece, short fiction, is unusual for the Compass. It is the first of a two part series designed to illustrate difficult issues currently facing the club and to help foster understanding between trip leaders and participants. We hope you enjoy them and would welcome any comments or feedback you may have.

The First Tale

Heather was heartbroken. As her mom hung up the phone and turned to her, Heather could see that the trip wasn't going to happen this time either. Heather thought back to a couple months before when she and her mom had taken BMS together. Going in, Heather had been looking forward to learning about climbing 14ers. Their group had been fun and she'd really liked all three instructors. One of the assistants had this funny way of telling stories that had them all in stitches every weekend. At 15, Heather had been the youngest participant, and while it had taken her a while to figure out the belay motion, she had found that she loved the movement over rock. Her senior instructor said she had "good feet". After the five field trips, all Heather could talk about was rock. The graduation climb on Seal Rock had

been one of the coolest things she'd ever done. Heather remembered how the trees had looked like small toys as she looked down the 165 foot rappel rope. Her mom, on the other hand, hadn't liked exposure at all. Since then they'd been trying to sign up for club rock climbs. Several of Heather's friends said they knew how to climb, but her mom was worried they didn't have enough experience to be safe. They had talked about it, and her mom had said that if Heather wanted to climb, then they would go together on club trips. They had looked through the schedule and listed all the Group 1 climbs that didn't interfere with soccer practice. The first two had been full even though they'd followed the rules and called two weeks in advance. The third had been rescheduled. The fourth time had been the charm, and they were on the list. The climb was this Sunday, and Heather had been getting more and more excited all week. Her mom had gotten her a pair of rock shoes and they'd been practicing their knots. But then the phone rang and she had just heard her mom say "Cancelled" while talking with the trip leader. Heather was starting to wonder if she remembered how to belay or if she'd ever get to climb again. (To be continued next issue...) □

— contributed by John Keller

"May the mountains keep you safe"

New CMC Database Coming

Check Your Personal Data!

The state office of the CMC is developing a greatly enhanced database to serve the club and all chapters. It will keep detailed information about trips, members and schedules, and will be web-accessible. Members, trip leaders and committee heads will be able to input and access appropriate levels of the database. An exact deadline date has not been announced, but it should be "soon" (which we believe is a few weeks).

A very useful part of it is already in use, the "Personal Data" section. To use it, go to www.cmc.org, and login to the Member Area on the right side of the screen. Your username is either your membership number or your first and last name (e.g. John Doe), depending on when you joined the club; older members need to use their membership number. If

continued on page 6, New CMC Database

January 2005 Trips

SPECIAL NOTE:

All AMS (Advanced Mountaineering School) lectures and classes were cancelled due to low signup this fall, and so do not appear.

Wednesday, January 4

Cross-country ski clinic Instruction Session. An evening of instruction on the basics of crosscountry ski touring for beginning and intermediate skiers. Lectures including clothing, equipment and technique. This will prepare you for on-snow lessons on one or both of the following 2 Saturdays. Call Clubroom to enroll and pay small fee. Peter Birkeland, 303-442-0304. (Trip#31662)

Telemark Clinic Lecture

The 2-day Telemark Clinic is intended for intermediate & advanced telemark skiers and beginners to never-evers who have some downhill, ski touring, or limited telemark skiing experience. You will learn and practice new techniques and skill at a resort area. At this mandatory lecture, various technical topics will be discussed including gear requirements, curriculum, and field trip details.) Attendance Required at lecture(1/4/06) and 2 field trips (1/8/06 & 1/15/06). Meet at Boulder Group clubroom, 6:30 pm. Cindy Gagnon, 303-938-8564. (Trip#31573)

Thursday, January 5

BMS Ice Climbing School Lecture
Intended for those who would like to gain experience with the basics. Attendance at lecture (1/4/06) & field trip (1/15/06 or 1/16/06) required.
720-562-6740 BMS-B required. Meet at Boulder Group club room, 7:00 pm.
Andy Halperin, 720-562-6380.
(Trip#31570)

Saturday, January 7

The Loch Difficult A
From Glacier Gorge Trail, ascend on unnamed and icy brook drainages past icicle-curtained canyon walls to this lake which is surrounded by high RMNP peaks. Meet at Park Hdqtrs McHenrys Pk. 5/1,000'. Todd Nelson, 303-417-9166. (Trip#31619)

North Star Mountain. 13,614'

Moderate B

From Hoosier Pass, follow old mining roads to well above timberline. The ridge, which is sandwiched between Quandary Pk and Mt Lincoln, is long and rocky. Ice axe, snowshoes and BMS required. BMSB required. Alma/Breck-enridge. 8/2,400'. Cindy Carey, 303-530-3103. (Trip#31659)

Ski touring Field Trip (Instructors)

Ski touring lessons for beginner and intermediate skiers to follow the 1/3 lecture. Learn new techniques or brush up on old ones. Call Clubroom (303-554-7688) to sign up
. Peter Birkeland, 303-442-0304.
(Trip#31663)

Sunday, January 8

Telemark Clinic Field Trip Field Trip #1

For registered participants of the Telemark Clinic. Field trip at Loveland Ski Area. See description on 1/4/06 for more details. Cindy Gagnon, 303-938-8564.
(Trip#31574)

Black Lakes Ridge Ski Tour

Telemark Mod. III
Starting at Vail Pass parking area, ski up the ridge between Shrine Pass Rd and Black Lake. Ski down the ridge 2 or 3 times. Climbing skins and good tele/downhill skills required. Later start and dinner in Frisco to avoid traffic. Call leader between 9 am and 9 pm only. Fee. Vail Pass. 9/1,800'. 210 mi. Register with leader. Steven Haymes, 303-444-4765. (Trip#31668)

Thursday, January 12

Leaders Choice Ice Ice Climb
Sharpen those tools and strap on the crampons. Ice season is here. Come join Tom on a trip of his choice based on current conditions. BMS and Ice Clinic or equivalent. Tom Walker, 303-666-7199.
(Trip#31716)

Saturday, January 14

Royal Arch Moderate A
Hike along the Royal Arch Trail from Bluebell Shelter to this rock arch for great views. The trail is quite steep at times. Moderate pace. Eldorado Springs. 5/1,200'. 0 mi. Rada Perovic, 303-985-

3263. (Trip#31633)

BMS Ice Climbing School Field Trip
For registered BMS Ice Climbing School participants only. See 1/5/06 for more details BMS-B required. Andy Halperin, 720-562-6380. (Trip#31571)

Ski touring Field Trip (Instructors)

Ski touring lessons for beginner and intermediate skiers to follow the 1/3 lecture. Learn new techniques or brush up on old ones. Call Clubroom (303-554-7688) to sign up.
Peter Birkeland, 303-442-0304.
(Trip#31664)

Sunday, January 15

Tele/AT Backcountry Ski Clinic
Application deadline for application to Tele/AT Backcountry Ski clinic. To provide basic back country/peak skiing safety skills for the Colorado backcountry, including Backcountry Survival skills, Backcountry Survival skiing and peak skiing/navigation. Open to Intermediate or above Telemark/AT skiers. Clinic consists of 3 lectures (2/8/06, 2/22/06 & 3/01/06) and 3 field trips (2/19/06, 2/26/06, 3/11/06). Deadline for signup is Jan 15, 2006. Applications available at the 11/14 BMS Winter Clinics Overview and Signup Meeting. Meet at 12:00 am. Cindy Gagnon, 303-938-8564. (Trip#31612)

BMS Ice Climbing School Field Trip Field Trip

For registered BMS Ice Climbing School participants only. See 1/5/06 for more details. BMS-B required.
Andy Halperin, 720-562-6380.
(Trip#31572)

Telemark Clinic Field Trip Field Trip #2

For registered participants of Telemark Clinic. Field trip at Loveland Ski Area. See description on 1/4/06 for more details. Cindy Gagnon, 303-938-8564.
(Trip#31575)

Emerald Lake Mod. Snowshoe
From Bear Lake, snowshoe past Nymph and Dream Lakes on frozen drainages to Emerald Lake, which lies in the craggy base of Flattop Mtn. McHenrys Pk.

January 2005 Trips

4/685'. 80 mi. Louie Genduso, 303-518-8948. (Trip#31638)

Thursday, January 19

Leaders Choice Ice Ice Climb
Sharpen those tools and strap on the crampons. Ice season is here. Come join Tom on a trip of his choice based on current conditions. BMS and Ice Clinic or equivalent. Tom Walker, 303-666-7199. (Trip#31717)

Monday, January 16

Winter Camping &
Snow Structures Lecture
(Date change from Jan 25)
This clinic is geared toward those with minimal winter camping experience, and topics will include tenting and snow structures. Emphasis will be on site selection, cooking, staying warm & dry. Those with little or no previous winter camping experience will put up tents, build kitchens, snow-walls, then build an emergency snow shelter if time and weather permits. Those with appropriate previous experience will put up a tent and then build snow cave which they may choose to sleep in. Lecture and Overnite Field trip (2/4-2/5/06) Signup begins at 11/14 BMS Winter Clinics Overview and Signup. Meet at Boulder Group club room, 633 S. Broadway, Unit N. 7:00 pm.

Friday, January 20

Brainard Lake Area Mod. Snowshoe
Join in a good snowshoe loop from road closure on St. Vrain/Sourdough Trails. Call leader for details and meeting times. Ward. 7/800'. Ruth Eastman, 303-652-3097. Laurette S Terrell, (970) 669-8828. (Trip#31622)

Ski Idlewild Easy II Ski Tour

This area is good for beginners. Ski the well groomed trails at Idlewild Ski Area on gently rolling terrain. Trail fee about 3. Leader will find some interesting trails in area to ski. Fraser. 6/200'. 100 mi. Register with leader. Steve Priem, 303-499-9024. (Trip#31687)

Little Raven Trail Mod. I Ski Tour

Follow Little Raven Trail to Brainard Lake and CMC Cabin and return on Wal-drop (CMC North) Trail. Ward. 7/500'.

50 mi. Register with leader. Bruce Immele, 303-903-4517. (Trip#31677)

Arapahoe Lakes Adv. I Ski Tour
From the East Portal TH, follow the Forest Lakes trail to a branch that takes you to Arapahoe Creek. Continue on a steep climb up Arapahoe Creek to the lakes which are located above timberline in a picturesque cirque. Great tree skiing on the descent. AT/Tele gear and skins and strong intermediate skiing skills required; beacons suggested. East Portal. 7/2,000'. 110 mi. Register with leader. Ronald Spoerl, 303-494-7977. (Trip#31679)

Sunday, January 22

Joe Mills Mtn. 11,078' Difficult B
In RMNP, hike from Bear Lake to Lake Helene and up wooded ridge to Joe Mills Mtn. McHenry's Pk. 7/1,603'. 84 mi. David U Longenecker, 303-440-7023. (Trip#31635)

Womens Ice Climbing Trip Ice Climb
Cindy will select a location for this womens ice toprope, based on current conditions. BMS and Ice Clinic or equivalent. Cindy Gagnon, 303-938-8564. (Trip#31721)

Fall River Road Easy II Ski Tour RMNP

Once again, we'll hope it snows like crazy so we can ski up the Old Fall River Road, the original road over trail ridge in RMNP. If the road is bare (as it was last year), we'll ski up Trail Ridge Rd from the closure at many parks curve to rainbow curve, with a safe, fun run down. Fall River Pass. 5/800'. 150 mi. Register with leader. Janet Robertson, 303-442-7793. David Robertson, 303-442-7793. (Trip#31682)

Thursday, January 26

Leaders Choice Ice Ice Climb
Sharpen those tools and strap on the crampons. Ice season is here. Come join Tom on a trip of his choice based on current conditions. BMS and Ice Clinic or equivalent. Tom Walker, 303-666-7199. (Trip#31718)

Saturday, January 28

Bierstadt Lake Easy II Ski Tour

Start at Bear Lake trailhead in RMNP, climb Bierstadt Moraine, a bit steep for the first 1/2 mile, then a rolling gentle downhill glide to Bierstadt Lake. Additional side adventures depend on group and weather. McHenry's Pk. 5/800'. 100 mi. Peter Gowen, 303-494-5420. (Trip#31683)

Sunday, January 29

Butler Gulch Mod. II Ski Tour
A dependable powder stash for beginning telemark skiers. Trailhead near Berthod Pass. Yo-yo the 800' vertical several times. Skins. Ronald M Pasquini, 303-641-8514. (Trip#31725)

Monday, January 30

Leaders Choice Ice Ice Climb
Sharpen those tools and strap on the crampons. Ice season is here. Come join Tom on a trip of his choice based on current conditions. BMS and Ice Clinic or equivalent. Tom Walker, 303-666-7199. (Trip#31719)

Tuesday, January 31

Avalanche Level 2- Lecture
Lecture #1
Avalanche Level 2 Certification. Attendance at 5 lectures and 3 field trip required. (Level 1 Certification pre-req) The field trip will be in a winter avalanche environment of intermediate back country terrain. Beacons, skis or snowboards with climbing skins or snow shoes required. Only people who have paid the registration fee will be allowed to attend lectures and field trip. Lectures 1/31, 2/1,2/7, 2/8,2/9. Field Trips 2/4,2/11/2/12.. Signup begins at the 11/14 Winter Clinics Overview and Signup. Meet at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder 6:30 pm. 0/0'. 0 mi. Pat O'Brien, 303-926-9548. Cindy Gagnon, 303-938-8564. (Trip#31567) □

Italian Dolomites – Hut-to-hut trekking reminder

July 15 – July 24, 2006

A reminder of the story last month, that Marianne Curtis is leading a week-long trip to the Italian Dolomites next summer. See the December issue for full details or contact Marianne at mchiker@juno.com.

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Origin of the "Branding Iron"

I chaired the Brainard Lake Cabin committee from 1961 to 1970. In that time I had a great crew, and we remodeled the interior of the cabin. The kitchen used to be in the lean-to shed on the north side of the main cabin! The stove was badly rusted, so we replaced it and rebuilt the kitchen into the SE corner of the main room. Dave Lind located a replacement stove in a warehouse in Salt Lake City or in Grand Junction, I am not sure which. In my basement shop I personally constructed the three lift-up tables hinged to the north wall along with the six wooden benches. I bought new tools, some of which had wooden handles, so I purchased the branding iron and branded the wooden handles with CMC in the hope that the tools would not stray. We put a Franklin Stove in the fireplace, and extended the chimney above the stone with insulated stainless steel chimney sections to replace the old single wall steel pipe that was badly rusted and which would be so cold that it kept the fire in the fireplace from drawing well.

I passed the branding iron and other equipment on to my successor. I have no idea how the branding iron went from being a part of the cabin tool-kit to being the symbol of office for the Boulder Group officers. □

— contributed by Al Bartlett

New CMC Database

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you don't know your password already, click on 'Forgot password?' and if your email is on file, an email message will be sent to you with your password.

If none of that works, just call the state office at 303-279-3080 x 2 and they'll be glad to help. It would be *quite helpful* if members could correct their mailing address as it takes the burden off of the staff, which occurs regularly each month when mailed issues of Compass are returned to the clubroom with incorrect mailing addresses. I have been staying in close touch with the state office about this, and believe it will begin contributing to better data management for the club in the very near future. □

— contributed by
Rick Casey



And remember: ski safe!

Compass ad rates

\$245 full page
\$150 half page
\$90 quarter page
\$55 eighth page
\$45 business card (2"x3")
- all ads are black and white
- ads must be prepaid and ready for printing; pdf format preferred.
- contact Editor with ad before deadline.

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