Profile: Mark Scott-Nash

Editor’s Note: This month’s profile is with another member with a deep and active history in the club. He is also different for his dual membership in Rocky Mountain Rescue, and has now authored a book on that organization, and its close connection to the CMC. This profile is also different in that I taped the interview, and transcribed it. I hope you will find it more immediate and engaging, as well as having more human color in the interview. This is also a longer interview than usual, so it will be continued in the next issue.

Compass: Guess I’ll start at the beginning: when did you join the CMC?

Mark: I think it was 1989.

Compass: And what kinds of things have you done in the CMC?

Mark: Let’s see, (laughs), I was a lot more active in the past, but let’s see…we took BMS right away. We [Mark and Shelly] didn’t get into teaching right away, there might have been about a year in between. I started out being an assistant instructor, then became a senior [instructor] in 1994, I think, then taught about eight times in a row, both spring and fall BMS. I was on the BMS Committee for a few years, did a lot of stuff with them. Then when AMS started up, I helped form that with the early directors, then was teaching in that. I think I taught in it almost every year it’s been around.

Compass: Do you remember when that was, when AMS started?

Mark: It was probably 94, 95…yeah, 95, was the first class.

Compass: Do you recall who else helped start AMS at that time?

Mark: I think Dan Berek was the drive behind it. And Dave Cooper. There was a steering committee, I, and Shelly, were on that, and, well, I’d hate to try to mention all the names because I wouldn’t want to leave anybody out.

Compass: Do you remember who else helped start AMS at that time?

Mark: I think Dan Berek was the drive behind it. And Dave Cooper. There was a steering committee, I, and Shelly, were on that, and, well, I’d hate to try to mention all the names because I wouldn’t want to leave anybody out.

Compass: Do you remember how many students you were getting those first few years [in AMS]?

Mark: The first year we had to limit the number of students, and for many years continued on page 2, Profile
December Potluck Festive and Fun

Traditionally, the December meeting of the Club Council is a short meeting, followed by a potluck open to all members. This year’s meeting was spirited and brisk with an excellent review of new financial statements prepared by Carol Kotchek, the BMS Committee treasurer, that consolidated the Council and BMS activities, a new direction for the club. The meeting broke up after some quick planning for the second annual Council retreat at the CMC Cabin on January 8-9. The potluck dinner then got under way, with a few curious members showing up to see what it all about, as shown here. There was much serious talk about not so serious topics as snowfall, ice conditions, past trips, future trips and...well, you get the picture.

December Potluck
Lost & Found

The following dishes were left after the potluck:
1. White oval casserole dish 11 by 8.5”
2. Corning-ware square dish with glass lid 7”by7”
3. Wild Oats canvas bag
4. Glass “Anchor” casserole dish 9” by 13” (Maybe someone took Fern’s dish in error)

Please contact the clubroom (303) 554-7688 or sheilacmc [at] comcast.net.

Bradford Washburn
American Mountaineering
Museum To Open

The American Alpine Club and the Colorado Mountain Club announced November 17, 2006 that the Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum will open in Golden in 2008. A joint venture of the AAC and the CMC, it will detail the history of mountaineering and the role that Americans have played in it. A pioneer of aerial photography, Bradford Washburn with his wife, Barbara, climbed, trekked, and flew over the Alaska Range beginning in the 1930s and returning nearly every year for over 60 years. Somewhat controversial, it should be noted the museum is being supported without any CMC membership dues. More information available from its director, Niña Johnson, 303-996-2763.

AMS Lectures Open To All

These Tuesday evening lectures, part of Advance Mountaineering School, take place in the CMC Boulder Group Clubroom, (in the Table Mesa shopping center, above Video Update or around the west corner from Neptune Mountaineering) 303-554-7688. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Jan 9, 8pm Winter Climbing in Colorado (lecturer TBA)
Jan 16, 7pm Winter Clothing- Shelly Scott Nash
Training for Expeditions-Gary Neptune
Jan 23, 8pm Mountaineering Equipment- Kevin Volz
Jan 30, 7:30pm Expedition Planning-Chuck Demarest
Feb 6, 7:30pm High Altitude Physiology- Doug Hill

Online Trip Submission, continued from page 1

at www.cmc.org as a member and go Events. Additional training may be conducted in Boulder. Please contact Seth Allen for more information, at outings [at] cmcboulder.org.

Volunteers Needed

CMC Orientation,
Wednesday, January 15

This is for new or prospective members, and is a great way for existing members to give back and learn more about the club. Come join with other outdoor enthusiasts for information on hiking, camping, peak bagging, rock climbing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and more. It’s 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, BCMC Clubroom, 633 S. Broadway (around from Neptunes). Details: (303) 554-7688 or cmcboulder.org.

Mailing Party
Thursday, January 18

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 18, at 5:30pm, so please just drop in. Phone Sheila at 303-554-7688 for more information.

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January 2007 Trips continued

Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue
AMS Field Trip #1. Students practice techniques in team glacier travel, building snow anchors, crevasse self-rescue, and crevasse team rescue with a Z-pulley system. Crampons and Ice Axe required. For registered AMS students. Tom Wilson, (303) 247-1450. (Trip#35919)

Sunday, January 28
Butler Gulch Adv. I Ski Tour
Telemark Practice

Beaver Reservoir, Coney Flats, Peaceful Valley Adv. I Ski Tour
From Beaver Reservoir ski to Coney Flats on gentle terrain, descend a niece jeep road into Peaceful Valley, follow a trail to Camp Dick; return to the cars via a short, steep climb. Ward/Allens Park. 12/1,000’. 70 mi. Register with leader. Bruce Immele, (303) 903-4517. (Trip#35853)

Tuesday, January 30
Advanced Mountaineering School Lecture #4
Advanced Mountaineering School lecture and slide show. Topic: Expedition Planning. Meet at CMC Boulder Group Club Room 7:00 pm. Tom Wilson, (303) 247-1450. (Trip#35927)

Wednesday, January 31
Ice Climb Ice Climb
Ice climbing location to be determined by the leader based on current ice conditions. Ice climbing lecture, field trip, and BMS are prerequisites for this trip. Tom Walker, (303) 666-7199. (Trip#35900)

Profile: Mark Scott-Nash
continued from page 1
we had to limit it, because of the number of teachers, and what we were trying to do. So every year we had to limit it to twelve to fifteen people, and we’d get twice that many applications. There was a lot of competition at first, a lot of pent up demand for it. Later on that tapered off. I think it was not even run last year, but it’s going this year. The first few years were pretty difficult, since we were just figuring out how to teach it.

Compass: So did you find it would improve a little bit from year to year, in terms of curriculum and...
Mark: Oh yeah. We had to refine it, what we should add, what should we drop, and it settled into the curriculum it is today. I was on the committee up until a few years ago, and even now the committee discusses what should be on the curriculum.

Compass: Did it [Boulder AMS] ever have any interaction with other CMC groups or outside groups, that you sought input from?
Mark: We got a lot of ideas from HAMS, a state level group out of Denver.

Compass: So there was no formal coordination, or connections...
Mark: No, we wanted to come up with stuff on our own. The only thing that was formally tied between the two was that the [Boulder] AMS graduates could go on the HAMS graduation climb, which was Rainier.

Compass: That’s exactly what I did!
Mark: Yeah, we worked that out a long time ago. I don’t think that’s advertised very well. HAMS had a different kind of goal than we did, so we taught slightly different things. Pretty similar, but they really wanted to run trips. Their organization is a lot bigger, and they put a lot more effort into running trips outside the country. That’s something I always wanted to do with AMS but the consensus pretty much was that people would just announce climbs they would do themselves. But it was fun!

Compass: Now, I understand you’ve also been involved in Rocky Mountain Rescue?
Mark: Yes, but before we get into that, the other things I’ve done with the CMC is lead all kinds of trips, every kind of trip: rock, ice climbing. Fourteeners, winter climbs, overnight, whatever there was. Then that kind of faded out. After a while, you know, when it gets to the point where it seems like it’s more work than fun, or even getting close to that, then… I’m not saying I don’t enjoy climbing mountains, and leading people, but at some point, you know, you kind of move on. So at some point I started getting involved in Rocky Mountain Rescue because I knew a lot of people who were in Rocky Mountain Rescue who were CMCers, like Ken Baugh, who’s not that active in the CMC right now, but he was. Also Steve Poulsen. And there were a couple of other people that I knew as friends, like Pat Libra and others. I can’t remember all of them now. But I got into it and moved up pretty quickly. I first started getting interested in Rocky Mountain Rescue back in 1988, before I was ever in the CMC. I thought it was a pretty cool thing, and maybe a good place to learn to climb. Now, it’s not really a good place to learn how to climb! (laughs) It’s a good place to learn how to be part of a rescue team. It’s not even a particularly good place to learn to do self-rescue, because what you learn is how to be part of rescue team. And I was just too busy at that time to really put the effort into it to become a member.

Compass: Yes, I know. I tried to join once but realized what a big time commitment it would take.
Mark: Yeah, it’s huge. I initially became involved because I was involved in a rescue on Mount Sneffels in 1988. Someone got injured there near the summit, and the rescue team was coming up, so I helped carry the litter up, which was a lot of work, but I thought all the camaraderie was really great. It’s really hard to describe. Then about ten years went past, in which I did a lot of climbing, met a lot of the people that I went on expeditions with through the CMC.

But to finish the RMR story, I learned about as much as could learn during this ten year time [with the CMC]. Towards the end of that, about September 1998, we were on Quandary Peak, on a CMC climb, which got kind of botched, because people missed each other at the trailhead, and ended up climbing

continued on page 6, Profile
**January 2007 Trips**

**Wednesday, January 3**

Area Telemark Clinic
Lecture #1
This two-day clinic is for the beginner to intermediate telemark skiers who want to improve their techniques. Clinic consists of a single lecture plus 2 days of area skiing at Loveland. Lecture 1/3/07, Field trips 1/7/07 & 1/14/07. Signup was Nov 6. Meet at CMC Boulder Group Club Room 6:30 pm. Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564. (Trip#35909)

**Friday-Sunday January 5-January 7**

Tenth Mountain Hut
Adv. II Ski Tour
Drive to Leadville and trailhead for a moderate ski into this hut with great views to the south toward the Collegiate Peaks. Call leader for experience and equipment requirements. Leadville. 12/1,500». 250 mi. Register with leader. Bob Lewis, (303) 232-9587. (Trip#35818)

**Saturday, January 6**

Saturday Social for Spirit & 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 the Boulder CMC clubroom. Please arrive at 9:00 a.m. and help decide our destination. Come prepared to hike in any weather. Register with leader. Debbie Tewell, (720) 304-9572. (Trip#35876)

Little Raven Trail to Long Lake
Mod. II Ski Tour
Follow Little Raven Trail to Brainard Lake, circle Long Lake and return on CMC South (or Waldrop) Trail, depending on conditions Ward. 10/700». 42 mi. Register with leader. Gary Neptune, (303) 499-6751. (Trip#35833)

**Sunday, January 7**

Black Lakes Ridge Telemark
Mod. III Ski Tour, Moderate
Start at Vail Pass, ski up the ridge between Shrine Pass Rd and Black Lake. Ski down the ridge 2 or 3 times. Climbing skills required. Later start and dinner in Frisco to avoid traffic. Call leader only 9am - 9 pm. Register with leader, Steven Haymes, (303) 444-4765. (Trip#35820)

Area Telemark Clinic
Field Trip #1
Area skiing at Loveland for this clinic; registered students only. See full description on Jan 3 lecture, where logistics will be determined. Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564. (Trip#35910)

**Tuesday, January 9**

Advanced Mountaineering School
Lecture #1
This school covers trip planning, winter camping, ice climbing, glacier travel, and crevasse rescue. For the final field trip, students will plan and execute a winter overnight peak ascent. School consists of 6 lectures (1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13) and 4 field trips (1/27 or 1/28, 2/3 or 2/4, 2/10 or 2/11, 2/17-19.). Registration was Nov 10. Lecture #1 topics include introduction to expeditions and winter climbing in Colorado. Guest Speaker Meet at CMC Boulder Group Club Room 7:00 pm. Tom Wilson, (303) 247-1450. (Trip#35922)

**Thursday, January 11**

Ice Climbing Clinic Lecture
Lecture
Basics of ice climbing lecture. This is a prerequisite for Saturday or Sunday field trip as is BMS or equivalent. Cost is $60 for lecture and field trip. Sign up was Nov 6. Andrew F Halperin, (720) 562-1450. (Trip#35892)

**Friday, January 12**

Ice Climb Ice Climb
Ice climbing location to be determined by the leader based on current ice conditions. Ice climbing lecture, field trip, and BMS are prerequisites for this trip. Tom Walker, (303) 666-7199. (Trip#35897)

**Saturday, January 13**

Blue Lake (Indian Peaks)
Mod. III Ski Tour
TRIP CHANGE: Unfortunately Gary Neptune has a conflict and will not be able to lead this ski trip. (Trip#35850)

Arapahoe Lakes telemark
Adv. I Ski Tour
Climb to the lakes and enjoy a 1000 ft tree and powder run back to a fast trail; climbing skins, avalanche gear, and good tele/AT skills required. East Portal. 7/200`. 40 mi. Register with leader. Ronald Spoerl, (303) 494-7977. (Trip#35841)

**Sunday, January 14**

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 Mt. McHenrys Pk. 4/685`. 80 mi. Louie Genduso, (303) 518-8948. (Trip#35872)

Area Telemark Clinic
Field Trip #2
Area skiing at Loveland for this clinic; registered students only. See full description on Jan 3 lecture, where logistics will be determined. Register with leader. Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564. (Trip#35911)

**Monday, January 15**

Application deadline for Tele/AT Backcountry Ski clinic. This clinic will cover basic backcountry/peak skiing safety skills for the Colorado backcountry, including survival skills, survival skiing and peak skiing/navigation. The clinic consists of 3 lectures (2/1,2/15,2/22) and 3 field trips (2/11,2/25,3/4). Sign ups started Nov 6. Application deadline Jan 15. Applications available at www.cmcboulder.org. Register with leader. Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564. (Trip#35932)

Winter Camping Lecture
Lecture #1
This clinic is geared toward those with minimal winter camping experience. The course covers tent camping, building snow structures such as kitches, walls & emergency shelters such as snow caves. Travel via snowshoes or skis.
January 2007 Trips

Avalanche Level 1 Lecture
BMS Winter Field Trips Overview and Signup Meeting. Level 1 certification is an introduction to avalanche awareness and safety, including identifying avalanche terrain, making good route-finding decisions, and performing field tests to learn snow stability. Recognizing weather, terrain, and snow factors contributing to instability, and learning fast and efficient transceiver rescue. School consists of 2 lectures (1/16 & 1/18) and one field trip (1/20). Sign up started Nov 6. Meet at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder, Co 6:00 pm. Register with a leader, Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564, or Pat O’Brien, (303) 926-9548. (Trip#35906)

Avalanche Level 1 Field Trip Berthoud Pass Area
Level 1 certification is an introduction to avalanche awareness and safety, including identifying avalanche terrain, making good route-finding decisions, and performing field tests to learn snow stability. Recognizing weather, terrain, and snow factors contributing to instability, and learning fast and efficient transceiver rescue. Register with leader, Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564, or Pat O’Brien, (303) 926-9548. (Trip#35908)

Ice Climbing Clinic Field Trip
Ice climbing lecture and BMS are prerequisites. Cost is $60 for lecture and field trip. Helmet, crampons, and warm clothing are required. Ice tools will be provided. Andrew F Halperin, (720) 562-6740. (Trip#35894)

Peaceful Valley or Coney Flats Easy Ski Tour II
The area we choose will depend on snow conditions. This tour is for beginners who have attended the ski clinic or have equivalent experience. Leader will offer tips on technique improvement. We’ll aim for 6 miles and 600 ft elevation gain. 6/600’. 50 mi. Register with leader, Patricia Butler, (303) 440-0586. (Trip#35851)

Advanced Mountaineering School Lecture #3
Advanced Mountaineering School lecture and slide show. Topics include Expedition gear and equipment and an overview of AMS Field trips. Meet at CMC Boulder Group Club Room 7:00 pm. Tom Wilson, (303) 247-1450. (Trip#35926)

Ice Climbing
Ice climbing location to be determined by the leader based on current ice conditions. Ice climbing lecture, field trip, and BMS are prerequisites for this trip. Tom Walker, (303) 666-7199. (Trip#35899)

Bierstadt Lake Easy Ski Tour
Good views to the south of Longs Peak and Glacier Gorge. From Bear Lk TH in RMNP, climb Bierstadt Moraine (somewhat steep for first 1/2 mile) and follow a rolling, gentle glide to Bierstadt Lk. Additional side adventures depend on group and weather. McHenry’s Pk. 5/800’. 100 mi. Register with leader. Peter Gowen, (303) 494-5420.

Saturday-Sunday, January 27-January 28
Advanced Mountaineering School Field Trip
Profile: Mark Scott-Nash
continued from page 5
the peak independently, in two different groups. We were climbing the West Ridge, which is kind of loose, fourth class in places, and turns out there was an accident near the summit.

Compass: But not in your party?
Mark: No, not in our party. But Mary Walker was ahead...with the group ahead of our party...but by the time we got near the summit there was this accident. It didn’t look like an accident, just like a couple of people down in this loose couloir messing around. Well, turns out there was an accident, and Mary Walker was down there helping with this woman who’d been hurt. She fell on one of the downclimbs, one of the holds might have broke loose. So I went down to see if I could help, but Mary, who was a nurse anesthetist, was doing a lot already. She really knew what to do medically. So we just hung out and waited for the rescue team to show up.

Compass: And this was before you had joined RMR?
Mark: Yes, but it was the second time I’d seen an accident on a Fourteener. It turned into a pretty exciting thing, as they called in a helicopter. She was in pretty bad shape, since she had a head injury, and had been knocked out. She was never really a conscious victim the whole time. Eventually they brought in a Blackhawk helicopter, this military helicopter from Fort Carson. They hovered right over us, about thirty feet above. They lowered down an evacuation litter, and we loaded the victim on the litter, and hooked it all up. It was amazing! This helicopter whirling just thirty feet overhead...

Compass: Jesus! So this woman wasn’t part of the CMC group?
Mark: No, it was just her and her boyfriend who were climbing. Anyway, she ended up dying, though not there.

Compass: Were there any other groups involved?
Mark: Yes, Summit County Rescue. This military guy had come along too, with a radio. They threw us a line from the helicopter so we could rig up a hand line out of there. They got the whole operation set up, and I was just really impressed. This was the second time that I’d seen a rescue in the mountains....

Mark Scott-Nash’s interview will be continued in the February Compass

Cascade Canyon Ice Climbing Demo
On Saturday Jan 6-7, Southwest Adventure Guides and Backcountry Experience will host the 1st Annual Cascade Canyon Ice Climbing Demo in Cascade Canyon, 20 m north of Durango. The event is completely free, and all attendees will have the opportunity to try out and test gear from Black Diamond, La Sportiva, Lowa, Petzl Charlet, and more. Contact 970-259-0370 or info@mtnguide.net for more information.

Compass Ad Rates

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