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May 2007

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Deadline for June issue is: May 11
Website: cmcboulder.org
To see online issues of Compass,
browse to: cmcboulder.org →
Compass → Current Issue

Note from the Editor

The latest developments about the future emailing of the Compass is: no change for now. As this issue goes to press, only twelve people have signed up on the website to receive the e-Compass, and two people have sent me handwritten letters asking that they not be put on the email list (which I thought rather charming). The online forum that was set up on the website for discussion of this issue was not received a single post from any members, only a slew of spam which I have to delete. Obviously, that's not working for member feedback, so I will be asking our webmaster to remove it soon. One idea someone suggested was to put a notice in the GPS, the weekly

BCMC'ers On Annapurna IV

As you read this, a large party of your fellow BCMC members will be on an high altitude Himalayan expedition. On April 16th several Boulder CMC members, including our own Boulder Chair, Tom Wilson, left for Nepal to climb in the Annapurna Region. The expedition will climb Chula East and Chula Far East before attempting Annapurna IV which stands at 24,700 feet. Less than 75 people have reportedly stood on top of this beautiful peak. The team will be required to set all of its own line and establish the most appropriate route to the top. Sherpa support will only be utilized to base camp. While half of the team climbs Annapurna IV, the other half will climb Chula West. Though not an official CMC-sponsored trip, the expedition will be composed mostly of BCMC members, with a few trekkers coming along. The Expedition is led by Tonya Riggs, Past Chair and includes: Ted Handwerk - AMS Instructor, Tom Wilson - AMS Chair, Cindy Gagnon - BMS Chair, Kirsten Kindt - Publicity Chair/AMS graduate, Steve Maddy - AMS Instructor, Mary Ann Dornfeld - Rock Leader, Madison Post - AMS, Chuck Demarest - Frequent CMC Speaker/RMR Instructor, and Dick Munro - BMS Instructor, among others. While there will be no live dispatches back to the U.S., look for a comprehensive article in the June (or possibly July) Compass. It is great to see so many council members living the mission!

— contributed by Tonya Riggs

Profile: Old Pete Speaks

Pete on summit of Specimen Mountain, RMNP, Colorado, 1965. (He used zinc oxide on his lips to protect against sunburn.)

Editor: Allow me to introduce Pete Ratcliffe, a long-time past member of the CMC. Though not currently a member, his past involvement with the club, to my mind, grants him an audience here. I met Pete through the occasional slide show at Neptune's, and then more recently discovered we occasionally share the same bus route. This prompted me to introduce myself, and when I learned of his wealth of experience, to ask if he would be willing to grant an interview for our newsletter; he agreed. I am glad, for Pete is one of those fellows who has followed his passion for the Colorado mountains, certainly in his own way, and who was deeply involved with CMC in the past. His experiences are part of a heritage I would like to enter into these pages. This interview with Pete is an introduction (i.e., expect future periodic stories).

[Editor's Note: an excellent description of the Annapurna region can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annapurna]
Old Pete Speaks
continued from page 1

Here he narrates one of his first experiences in the Flatirons: perhaps some of you will find some parallels in your own explorations. Pete’s memories go back a long ways, so you may find his speech somewhat old-fashioned, but I found it quite interesting to hear him out; I hope you will too, as there are more stories that Pete could share.

Compass: So, Pete, how did you learn about the CMC and become a member?

Pete: Well, I first heard about the organization when I was in grade school. My mother was a member in the 1920’s. I don’t know how long she was a member, but I’m sure she dropped out in the 1930’s, because of the Depression and lack of money. My father was a civil engineer, and my family moved a lot. My father passed away when I was seven, after which my mother supported our family as a librarian at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. She had graduated from there in 1931, and was climbing mountains in the area with the Colorado Mountain Club. The only specific trip I remember her telling me about was a trip to hike up Pike’s Peak in time to watch the sun rise. They didn’t quite make it, by a couple of hours…

I do remember her telling me back then there were two classes of members: plain members and so-called “qualified” members. The difference was a qualified member had climbed at least one fourteen thousand foot mountain. And my mother said it was rather common for people who were planning to join the club to go out, alone or with friends, and climb a fourteen thousand foot mountain so they could start out as a “qualified” member. By the time I joined the organization, in March 1962, that distinction had disappeared. I might have joined the organization as much a year earlier, had I not encountered a description of how the Denver group divides their members into A’s, B’s, C’s, D’s and E’s. Someone told me the Boulder Group did not bother with that stuff and I signed up and paid up shortly afterwards. … I climbed my first mountain in 1959, and it had to do with the space program.

Continued on page 5, Old Pete

Editor’s Note
continued from page 1

electronic newsletter written by Brenda Leach. By now, I hope those of you who subscribe to it will have seen this link, and if you want to, used it to sign up for the e-Compass on the website.

It may be of interest to learn that the Denver Group is making a similar move. This year they will start charging their members a $7 fee in order to receive their monthly printed newsletter, The Mile High Mountaineer, and sending an email version for free to all members. This is being done through the state website; (although this policy is not yet shown on the Denver Group website). I’ve heard a rumor that the Pikes Peak group may be doing the same, but have not yet confirmed this. Rest assured that the Boulder Group will not be charging you extra to continue to receive the Compass (the annual dues are already high enough!) On another note, it has been learned that the new online trip reporting and scheduling system on the state website has caused some major problems for our group’s trip scheduling and reporting; more on that in the June Compass.

Website Volunteer Needed

If you have HTML experience, and would like to help organize online biographies of the BCMC club officers, please send email to webmaster@cmcboulder.org. This will be an important new feature to the website! We are hoping to soon post pictures and biographies on the Council, BMS Committee and instructors.

Outings Chair, Scheduler Needed

A new Outings Chair will be needed by October 2007. Seth Allen, the current chair, has diligently served in this role for three years and is ready to move on. This is a real opportunity to network and serve the club. A more detailed description of the required duties will be published in the next Compass, but the most prominent are interfacing with the state office and club schedulers, and attending the monthly Council meetings.

Also needed is a scheduler for A/B trips. Please contact outings@cmcboulder.org for more information.

Volunteers Needed

Clubroom Librarian(s) Needed

The Clubroom Library could use your help! Several shelves of new donations of historic mountaineering journals and books need to be indexed and categorized. This would be an enjoyable, valuable task that would have enduring value for the Boulder CMC. Also, this could be done at your own pace when the clubroom is open (Monday-Thursday, 5pm to 7 pm). If you would like to help, please contact the Clubroom at 303-554-7688 or bcmc@cmcboulder.org. For those not aware, the Clubroom Library contains several hundred classic books on mountains and mountaineering for your use and enjoyment, which can be checked out for a month at a time. Drop by the Clubroom and check it out!}

Mailing Party: Thursday, May 24

Come to the Clubroom and help mail out the June 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, May 24, at 5:30pm, so please just drop in. Phone Sheila at 303-554-7688 for more information.

compasstoday.com

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Clubroom Telephone: 303-554-7688
email for general CMC information: bcmc@cmcboulder.org
website: cmcboulder.org
We welcome announcements, articles, letters, artwork, and photos, especially from recent CMC trips and events.
Deadline for June issue: May 11
Rock Leading School Applications Open

The annual Boulder group CMC Rock Leading School is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, June 6, 2007. The course will train prospective leaders in safe and efficient techniques of lead climbing on 5th class rock. Participants will learn the use of natural and artificial protection, construction of various types of climbing anchors, and practice single-pitch and multi-pitch leading techniques. The course consists of an evening lecture session on Wednesday, June 6th, and three Saturday field trips on Saturday’s June 16th, 23rd and 30th. Class participants must be current CMC members, able to follow moderately difficult rock climbs (at least 5.6), able to attend the lecture and all field trip sessions, and have attended BRS (Basic Rock School). Prior rock leading experience is not necessary and BRS skills equivalent course will be considered. The cost of the course is $70. Preference will be given to Boulder Rock School assistant instructors and CMC rock climb co-leaders. For applications and additional information, stop by the CMC Clubroom; or phone (303) 554-7688, or contact the school’s director, Clint Locks, at rockleadschool@comcast.net.

BCMC Orientation, May 16

Though intended for new or prospective members, all members are welcomed to come join with other outdoor enthusiasts for information on hiking, camping, peak bagging, rock climbing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and more; all free! 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday; BCMC Clubroom, 633 S. Broadway (around from Neptunes). Details: (303) 554-7688, or contact the school’s director, Clint Locks, at rockleadschool@comcast.net.

— contributed by jolly Bernel Sawyer

Summer Youth Program Opens

Are you looking for something fun for your child to do this summer? Join the CMC Youth Education Program for rock climbing, hiking and outdoor adventures. Multi-day camps run Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Based at the AMC in Golden.


Saturday Adult/Child field events open to youth ages 7-10. Meet at the AMC at 8 a.m. and return by 3:30 p.m.


Outdoor Rock Climbing: July 28. Cost: $30/participant.


REGISTER TODAY at www.cmc.org


Compass: I see; now, getting back to Bear Peak…

Pete: I went to elementary school in Colorado Springs…and California…but my mother enrolled in a librarian master’s program in Denver University. There were two more stops before we moved to Boulder: one, in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Oklahoma summer’s are hot! … After Weatherford, we moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. We were there from 1950 to 1955. Then my mother got a job as a librarian at the government radio laboratory that’s still about a mile north of here on Broadway.

Compass: That’s fascinating. So, when did you move to Boulder?

Pete: Well, after attending high school through the eleventh grade we moved to Boulder, and I completed the twelfth grade at Boulder High.

Compass: You mean NIST?

Pete: Yes. Back then it was called NBS, the National Bureau of Standards. I guess it was about ten years ago the organization was renamed NIST, the National Institute of Standards and Technology; but it was a very old organization that dates back into the nineteenth century.

Compass: That’s fascinating. So, when did you move to Boulder?

Pete: I went to elementary school in Colorado Springs… and California… but my mother enrolled in a librarian master’s program in Denver University. There were two more stops before we moved to Boulder: one, in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Oklahoma summer’s are hot! … After Weatherford, we moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. We were there from 1950 to 1955. Then my mother got a job as a librarian at the government radio laboratory that’s still about a mile north of here on Broadway.

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Compass: That’s fascinating. So, when did you move to Boulder?

Pete: When did you move to Boulder?

Compass: I see; now, getting back to Bear Peak…

Pete: In 1957, on October fourth, the Russians launched the first artificial earth satellite. Within a few weeks I was hearing that if you looked at the right time, in the right place, you could actually see the thing with the naked eye.

Compass: Was that Sputnik?

Pete: That was. And I got rather interested in watching the thing. In fact, I was a rather enthusiastic satellite watcher for about five years. As a result, I obtained several telescopes, … [including] satellite telescopes, which were designed just for watching satellites. Pretty soon I started pointing them at other things, during the daytime, like Bear Peak. Now, there was an object on top of Bear Peak that I could never quite figure out.

Continued on page 6, Old Pete
**May 2007 Trips**

**Tuesday, May 1**

Hiking 2 Lecture  
Navigation & Route Finding  
Lecture No. 1  
Learning to find your way with a topo map and compass is a fundamental skill to safely enjoying the outdoors. This course covers navigation, route-finding problems, navigating in adverse conditions, weather, clothing, and trip planning. Prerequisites are Hiking 1. Lectures 5/1, 5/8, and 5/17. Field Trip: 5/19-20 (either Sat or Sun). Sign-ups begin at the 2/27 BMS Spring/Summer Schools Overview and Signup. Meet at CMC Boulder Group Club Room. 6:30 p.m. Sam Levis 303-665-1310 bhs@cmcboulder.org Trip#333

**Wednesday, May 2**

Afterwork Social Hike  
Moderate A  
On Trail, Casual pace  
Enjoy a relaxing 1-2 hour hike on south Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space. Don’t call, just show up at 6 p.m. at the Club Room (around the left corner from Neptune Mountaineering and above Video Update in the Table Mesa Shopping Center). Trail Mileage: 4 Elevation Gain: 800 Drive Distance: 5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Steven Haymes 303-444-4765 Trip#1954

**Saturday, May 5**

AT/Ski Mountaineering School  
Adv. II Ski Tour  
Field Trip #5  
Ski Mountaineering  
A 1-day ski tour and field instruction. Te-native location: Quandary Peak. For SMS participants. Topics: uphill and downhill backcountry ski techniques. Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 gagnone2@comcast.net Trip#2281

Boulder Slips  
III Climb  
Boulder Canyon  5.8  
Join us for an after work seige on this newly developed crag in Boulder Canyon. Nice sport and mixed climbs in the 5.8-5.10 range. Ron Olsen 303-449-1935 ron_olsen@qwest.net Trip#2375

**Saturday, May 5 – May 6**

BMS Basic Rock Field Trip (Sat & Sun)  
Field Trip  
Prussik and Rappel  
(Sat and Sun) For registered BMS students only. Participants will practice techniques for ascending/descending on a rope. Attend only one day. Steve Poulsen 303-258-7552 Trip#334

**Sunday, May 6**

St. Vrain Mtn 12,162’  
Adv. II Ski Tour, Free Heel Skiing Section, Blue Downhill, Ski Tour Telemark, Moderate pace  
Ski a remote peak on the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area - Rocky Mountain National Park boundary. Beautiful views of Mt. Meeker and Longs Pk. Good telemark/downhill skills, climbing skins and avalanche gear required. Optional after ski dinner. Register with leader between 9 AM and 9 PM only.  
Trail Mileage: 8 Elevation Gain: 3400 Drive Distance: 40 Allens Park Steven Haymes 303-444-4765 Trip#1679

Bakers Way 1st Flatiron  
I Climb  5.4  
Climb the fun route up and across the 1st flatiron and end with a short rappel  
Trail Mileage: 2 Elevation Gain: 500 Bruce Immele 303-903-4517 bimele@msn.com Trip#2086

**Tuesday, May 8**

Hiking 2 Lecture  
Navigation & Route Finding  
Lecture No. 2  
Learning to find your way with a topo map and compass is a fundamental skill to safely enjoying the outdoors. This course covers navigation, route-finding problems, navigating in adverse conditions, weather, clothing, and trip planning. Prerequisites are Hiking 1. Lectures: 5/1, 5/8 & 5/17. Field Trip: 5/19-20 weekend (either Sat or Sun). Meet at CMC Boulder Group Club Room, 6:30 p.m. Sam Levis 303-665-1310 bhs@cmcboulder.org Trip#335

**Wednesday, May 9**

Afterwork Social Hike  
Moderate A  
On Trail  
Enjoy a relaxing 1-2 hour hike on south Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space. Don’t call, just show up at 6 p.m. at the Club Room (around the left corner from Neptune Mountaineering and above Video Update in the Table Mesa Shopping Center). Trail Mileage: 4 Elevation Gain: 800 Drive Distance: 5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Natalie Mack 303-543-8305 nataliemack@yahoo.com Trip#1920

Review Session for Rock climbing knots  
Instruction Session  
Get ready for the climbing season by reviewing your knots and belaying in this casual refresher. Meet at the Boulder CMC clubroom at 7 pm and you are welcome to bring a snack and a beverage to share, as well as your climbing harness, carabiners, prussiks, etc. Jill Yarger 303-541-9481 jill.yarger@prodigy.net Trip#2336

**Saturday, May 12**

Hillbilly Rock, East Face  
I Climb Flatten 5.2  
Enjoy 2 pitches of flat iron like climbing with nice rappel down, as a reward for sneaking around the poison ivy to reach this nice climb  
Trail Mileage: 3 Jill Yarger 303-541-9481 jill.yarger@prodigy.net Trip#2337

Basic Snow School Field Trip  
Field Trip  
Basic Snow School field trip. See listing on 4/30/2007 for details. Richard Munro 303-499-1489 dickmunro@gmail.com Trip#1364

**Sunday, May 13**

Basic Snow School Field Trip  
Field Trip  
Basic Snow School field trip. See listing on 4/30/2007 for details. Richard Munro 303-499-1489 dickmunro@gmail.com Trip#1365

**Wednesday, May 16**

Afterwork Social Hike  
Moderate A  
On Trail  
Casual pace  
Enjoy a relaxing 1-2 hour hike on south Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space. Don’t call, just show up at 6 p.m. at the Club Room (around the left corner from Neptune Mountaineering and above Video Update in the Table Mesa Shopping Center). Trail Mileage: 4 Elevation Gain: 800 Drive Distance: 5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Marilyn Fellows 303-499-6099 Marilyn@Gracie-Realty.com Trip#1955

**Thursday, May 17**

Riviera - After work top roping  
Top
May 2007 Trips

Roping
Boulder Canyon 5.7
A sunny disposition makes this Boulder Canyon slab a popular destination. Lots of variety for all levels. We’ll do several routes ranging from 5.6 to 5.10. Meet at 4:00 p.m. Gary Schmidt 970-481-1048 gsch@frii.net Trip#1598

Hiking/Lecture
Navigation & Route Finding
Lecture No. 3
Learning to find your way with a topo map and compass is a fundamental skill to safely enjoying the outdoors. This course covers navigation, route-finding problems, navigating in adverse conditions, weather, clothing, and trip planning. Prequisites are Hiking 1. Lectures: 5/1, 5/8 & 5/17. Field Trip: 5/19-20 weekend (either Sat or Sun). Meet at CMC Boulder Group Club Room, 6:30 p.m. Sam Levis 303-665-1310 bhs@cmcbooulder.org Trip#336

Walk in the Park at the Sport Park I Climb 5.5
1 pitch bolted route up Boulder Canyon. Late afternoon evening climb. Bring your headlamp! Trail Mileage:1 Elevation Gain:100 Drive Distance:15 Bruce Immele 303-903-4517 bimmele@msn.com Trip#2087

Saturday, May 19
Introductory Hike Moderate A Casual pace
To all those new to the Club or needing to start the summer season off right this is for you. We will hike the day away in the Open Spaces of Boulder and possibly even reach a peak or two (or not depending on the group). Trail Mileage:6 Elevation Gain:1000 Drive Distance:10 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Marilyn Fellows 303-499-6099 Marilyn@Gracie-Realty.com Trip#2325

Tour of Avalon III Climb Boulder Canyon 5.8
This crag is 500 feet tall and next to Vampire Rock. We will do several sport and mixed routes ranging from 5.8 to 5.10, including some of Richard Roszter’s new routes in Crackland. Ron Olsen 303-449-1935 ron_olsen@qwest.net Trip#2376

AT/Ski Mountaineering School Adv. II Ski Tour
A 3-day hut trip and field instruction. Tentative location: Castle Peak. For SMS participants. Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 gagnonc2@comcast.net Trip#2282

Long John Wall in Eldorado Canyon
III Climb 5.8
We’ll start with P1 (5.8) of Break on Through. P2 (5.8) consists of a finger crack and a roof. Stem your way up P3 (5.8) using the finger/hand crack. Finish with P4 (5.5). Rap down. Brenda Leach 303-525-3660 brenda_leach@yahoo.com Trip#2211

Saturday, May 19 – May 20
Hiking 2 Field Trip
Navigation & Route Finding Field Trip
Learning to find your way with a topo map and compass is a fundamental skill to safely enjoying the outdoors. This course covers navigation, route-finding problems, navigating in adverse conditions, weather, clothing, and trip planning. Prerequisites are Hiking 1. Field Trip: 5/19-20 weekend (either Sat or Sun). Sign-ups begin at the 2/27 BMS Video Update in the Table Mesa Shopping Center. Trail Mileage:4 Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Debbie Tewell 720-304-9572 dtowell@worldnet.att.net Trip#1957

Wednesday, May 23
Afterwork Social Hike Moderate A Casual pace
Enjoy a relaxing 1-2 hour hike on south Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space. Don’t call, just show up at 6 p.m. at the Club Room (around the left corner from Neptune Mountaineering and above Video Update in the Table Mesa Shopping Center). Trail Mileage:4 Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Debbie Tewell 720-304-9572 dtowell@worldnet.att.net Trip#1957

Thursday, May 31
Disappearing Crack Dome Boulder Canyon 1 Climb 5.5
Climb the East Face of the Dome with the Crack that disappears. Fun steep, friction and a crack to discover. Afternoon Climb Bruce Immele 303-903-4517 bimmele@msn.com Trip#2085
Old Pete Speaks

continued from page 5

up into Bear Canyon, and got into the woods…

Compass: So, were by yourself? How old were you?

Pete: That would have been the summer of 1958, when I was twenty years old. … And, so I got some distance up into the woods, and was finding the bushwacking very displeasing…

Compass: There was no trail?

Pete: No. I had left the trail...

Pete’s interview will conclude in the June Compass

Advanced Crevasse Rescue Assistants Needed

The deadline for taking the Advanced Rescue course has passed, but the course still needs assistants to help with it. It is comprised of two parts, a classroom lecture and practice session followed by a field trip to Loveland Pass. The dates are: Lecture: Monday, 4/30, 6:30-9:30pm, Field Trip: Saturday 5/5, all day. You must be a HAMS graduate or have comparable experience. While this course is not an introduction to crevasse rescue it is intended to be a detailed and complete hands-on review of glacier travel and crevasse rescue. Please contact Brendan Oldham at brendan_oldham@yahoo.com if you can help.

Use the Clubroom for Your Meeting!

Are you a Boulder Group member looking for a place to hold your get-together? If so, our clubroom in the Table Mesa Shopping Center may work for you. Check out the revised policy on the website at www.cmcboulder.org/clubroomPolicy.html. Send email to clubroomreservations@cmcboulder.org with any questions or fill out the online form at the above webpage to submit a reservation.

Clubroom Presentation on Gannett Peak, May 9

On Wednesday, May 9, 7:30pm there will be a slide show at the Clubroom on Gannett Peak by Brian Senjam, Brendan Oldham and Rick Casey. Gannett Peak (13,890’) is the highest peak in Wyoming. This trip required a 52 mile backpack trip (round-trip) and ascended the North Face, an ice climb in summer. A preview is available at http://www.summitpost.org/trip-report/224002/Gannett-Peak-North-Face.html

Compass Ad Rates

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[Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Brenda Leach for her work on this.]