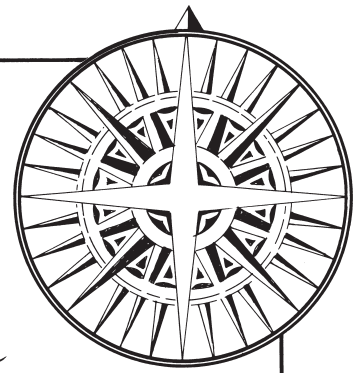




Compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXIII Number 7

July 2007

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Deadline for August issue is: July 6

Website: cmcboulder.org
 To see online issues of Compass,
 browse to: cmcboulder.org →
 Compass → Current Issue

Note from the Editor

There are several topics of note to pass along in this issue. First, a long-awaited important meeting occurred Thursday, June 7 at the CMC Clubroom, that discussed how to change the CMC state website to work better for the Boulder group's trip management process, including the online creation, approval and post-trip reporting. The genesis of the meeting was a request from our state representatives Kent Groinger, Kent Crites and Peter Gowan, who suggested it at the last state board meeting earlier this year. At the meeting, from the state office came Kristy Judd, executive director, Tom Smith, technical liaison, and Mike Jaltuch, the programmer hired by

Continued on page 2, Editor's Note

Profile: Old Pete Speaks

Editor: This month we conclude this interview with Pete Ratcliffe, which started in the May issue. I hope you enjoy Pete's story of an early climbing attempt in the Flatirons. I will have periodic articles on Pete's many stories and memories of the Colorado mountains.

Pete: But, I continued to think about it, and looked at it through my telescope occasionally. Also, in my last semester in high school I had taken a geology class and we had studied topographic maps... little bit. So, after my first failed attempt, I studied a topographic map [of Bear Peak], and came up with a plan. Mike Edwards, who lived next door to me then, was twelve years old, got interested in it also. So, next summer, in 1959, we set one fine day on what turned out to be maybe not the hottest day of the summer but still a solidly hot day, with one one-quart canteen full of water. We had a terrible fear of drinking any of the water in the streams; so it never occurred to us to refill the canteen from Bear Creek, or even from a spring we found on the side of the mountain.

The plan that I'd worked out from studying the topographic map was that it showed a West Ridge Trail to Bear Peak. But it didn't show the Fern Canyon trail. In fact, I don't think modern topographic maps show the Fern Canyon trail. So, we went up into the canyon, studying our topographic map. I'd seen where the high voltage power lines run up the canyon, which come from the Boulder Canyon hydroelectric plant, which is very old – it probably dates back to the beginning of the last century – but there's a place where the line changes

Continued on page 5, Old Pete

Annapurna IV Team Member Recalls Expedition



Camp III at just under 21,000' with summit of Annapurna IV in sight-- photo by Kirsten Kindt.

Our Annapurna IV (24,832') expedition) was a milestone for me because it was my first attempt at a big mountain without sherpa support. Our strongest climbers fixed lines over long sections of vertical ice and we roped together over heavily crevassed glaciers. Somewhat surprisingly all eight climbers that made attempts on the mountain made it up to Camp III, at just under 21,000 feet, where we took a rest day. On summit morning, we called our weather connections at NCAR on the satellite phone and learned there was a storm moving in. After an emotional, but short debate we decided to descend. It turned out to be the right decision because by the time we got back down to Camp I, the wind was blowing and it was snowing heavily. Unfortunately, the snow deteriorated to soupy, monsoon type conditions and we were unable to make a second attempt. We lost a few tents stashed up at Camp III, but everyone came back with ten fingers and ten toes. There were several obvious factors that played into our deci-

Continued on page 4, Annapurna IV

Editor's Note

continued from page 1

the state office, as well as Seth Allen, our Outings Committee chairperson, myself and Stephen Haymes, a longtime CMC member and trip leader, and all of our state representatives, namely, Peter Gowan, Kent Groinger and Kent Crites. This was an important meeting because it had been in doubt whether the Boulder Group could even continue to use the state website for online trips. The Outings Committee had experienced significant frustration in fitting the state website's new online trip registration into their trip management process, because the system seemed to be designed solely for how the Denver group manages its trips. However, it was a positive, productive meeting, and has resulted in a clearer understanding of the changes needed to be made to this important feature work for the Boulder Group; the changes will, hopefully, be implemented within the next month or two. Regardless, the meeting was a clear demonstration of the willingness of the state staff to help the Boulder group. The outcome of the changes may help the other smaller groups within the CMC as well, who also differ from the Denver group in how they manage their trips.

On the next note, the e-Compass will be sent out with this issue. If anyone experiences any delivery problems please let me know at compass@cmcboulder.org. As it turns out, other CMC groups are also developing email versions of their newsletters, for reasons of cost and convenience. Consequently, the state office is developing this as an option in your personal data on the state website. This would simplify the delivery of the Compass. For the present, if you wish to subscribe to the e-Compass, please continue to sign up on the Boulder CMC website. However, in the future, sign up could become an option on your personal data profile on the state website. There will be an update on the status of this feature in the August issue.

Finally, the project to put online biographies of the Club officers is progressing, slowly but surely. We should see more evidence of this by next month. Until then, enjoy your Colorado summer!

□

CMC Orientation July 18

This is the regular bi-monthly meeting for new or prospective members, open to all current members who would like to help introduce newcomers to the Club. Come join with other outdoor enthusiasts for information on hiking, camping, peak bagging, rock climbing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and more. Free! 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday. BCMC Clubroom, 633 S. Broadway (around from Neptunes). For details, call Clubroom at (303) 554-7688 or visit cmcboulder.org

— contributed by EB "Bernel" Sawyer

Volunteers Needed

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. A more detailed description of the responsibilities for this office (from the current Chair) are: "...making sure the call for trips is advertised; helping the schedulers record trips as they come in; organizing meetings to review and approve trips on time; working with leaders to change trips that are not approved; helping get the proofs for the printed schedule verified; organizing meetings to approve new leaders; helping members become leaders; speaking at leadership seminars yearly on outings and trip scheduling; picking up permits for trips in the Indian Peaks; helping leaders reschedule trips when permits are not available (acting as a liaison between the Forest Service and the leaders); keeping safety and BMS in the loop on information that affects all three groups, attending the monthly council meetings."

This is a real opportunity to network and serve the club. Also needed is a Scheduler who assists in the timing and location of trips, interfacing with the Outings Chair and trip leaders, but no regular meeting attendance required. Please contact outings@cmcboulder.org. □

Clubroom Librarian Needed

The Clubroom Library could use your help to index published materials. If you would like to pitch in, please contact the Clubroom at 303-554-7688 or bcmc@cmcboulder.org. □

Found: Nice Sleeping Bag

A nice sleeping bag was found at the Brainard Lake cabin in early May. The club would really like to return this to its owner. Please call the clubroom at 303-554-7688 and describe to claim it. □

Mailing Party: July 19

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



compass

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email: compass@cmcboulder.org

Published: Monthly by Boulder Group, Colorado Mountain Club, 633 South Broadway, Unit N, Boulder 80305, mailed the third week of previous month

Boulder Group Chair: Tom Wilson

email: chair@cmcboulder.org

To subscribe to GPS, the weekly

e-newsletter: gps@cmcboulder.org

Clubroom hours: Open Monday through Thursday, 5 to 7 pm

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 August issue: July 6

Old Pete Speaks from page 1

direction by about twenty-five degrees at one of the towers, so I figured that tower would be easy to recognize. It was near where the West Ridge Trail came closest to Bear Peak. I decided Mike and I would go up the slope and reach the West Ridge Trail there; we did. It involved some bushwacking...and showed how comparatively unsophisticated I was in using topographic maps. For, the fact that this was where the trail came closest to the creek, necessarily meant that we went up the south wall of the canyon in one of its steepest places!

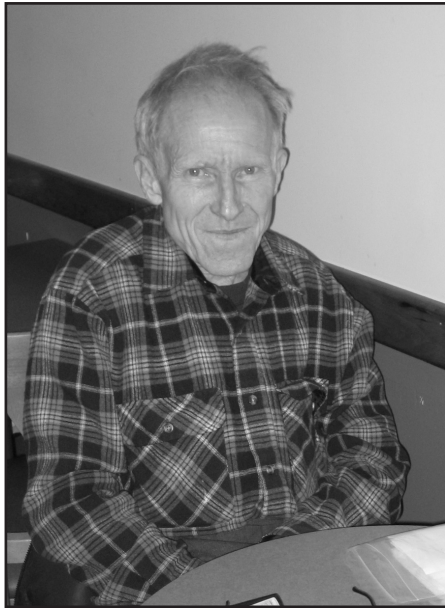
Compass: Well, at least you took a direct route!

Pete: Anyway, we reached the West Ridge Trail without any trouble, and followed it to the top of the mountain. By the time we got there we were so hot and dry...and, as it was to turn out, so sunburned, though only on our faces, as we remained fully clothed. But we couldn't stand our sandwiches, and threw most of them away. We were very much impressed by the view though, I must say that. During the five years I'd lived in Lincoln, Nebraska I'd read the book *Annapurna*, not because I was interested in mountain climbing particularly, but because it was best-selling book back then. I remember thinking on top of Bear Peak how different, how opposite, our condition was than Maurice Herzog and Lewis Lachanal suffered on *Annapurna*. They were cold and wet, and threatened by avalanches, and we were hot and dry. Then we got the bright idea that we'd get down quicker if we went down the east side...

Compass: You mean the Fern Canyon

Trail?

Pete: Well, actually I don't think we ever hit Fern Canyon, since we went straight off the east slope from the summit. It was steep, and aside from grabbing a few trees occasionally, it wasn't technical. Years later, I wondered what we did when we encountered that formation called The Slab. I went back up there in the 1970's, and though I couldn't by any means retrace our steps, it was pretty obvious to me that we must have bumped into the back side of it, and we must have gone around it one way or the other.



Pete at Cafe Sole interview, February 2007

When we got down to Bear Creek, we started following it downhill. We came to a place where some workmen were drawing a well. As I said, this was private ranchland at that time, the city had not yet acquired it as open space, I believe one of the ranchers was thinking about selling to a developer. But the city council had already passed the Blue Line Ordinance, which said the city would not supply water to any place that 5,750 feet above sea level. This crew was drilling a well, hoping to come up with a useful supply of water. We had stumbled into their camp very thirsty, and they had a large camp cooler full of water, so we asked if could have some. I guess we looked like a couple of desert prospectors on the verge of dying of thirst, so they quite enthusiastically pointed up to a large tin cup and an empty quart beer bottle, and watched while one of us, I forget whether it was me or Mike, socked away two one quart bottles of water, and the other one of us drank cup after cup after cup. At some point, they said 'Hey, you better slow down or you'll burst!' I've forgotten exactly how we got back out to civilization and called someone to come and get us, but that was my introduction to mountain climbing. And we discovered what the strange thing on top of Bear Peak was. There were several bench marks on top of Bear Peak. For the benefit of surveyors work-

ing out on the plains, a couple of twenty foot two-by-four's had been nailed together, and stood up on top of one of the benchmarks. Wires ran out in three directions from the top and the middle, wrapped around rocks, to keep the thing standing up. So that was a one-off deal: I'd solved the problem of something that had puzzled me for a long time. □

CMC Helps at SoboFest '07

The Boulder CMC was an integral part of the Southern Boulder Festival, or SoboFest, on Saturday June 9, 2007. Like last year, we had a booth to inform the public about the CMC, but unlike last year, this time the Clubroom was rented for the day by the Southern Sun micro-brewery, which organizes the festival. From 1 to 10 pm, the Clubroom was transformed into a backstage area for the musicians (there were four sizable bands playing) and VIPs, who were treated to a food buffet, massage and place to relax between appearances onstage.



Bryan Martin, assistant director of Conservator for the CMC, answers a question at CMC booth at SoboFest, June 9, 2007. His wife Sally is seated behind him.

I was the sponsoring CMC host, as required by (our clubroom rental policy) and observed the Clubroom during its use. Other volunteers helping out at the booth were Brenda Leach, Bryan Martin, Kirsten Kindt, and Deanna Hoover. Although no new members signed up on the spot, we had a steady stream of interested persons, some of whom I'm sure join, as well as many existing members who stopped by to say hello. SoboFest itself was bigger than ever, with four top bands, an improved beer garden, and a host of booths of vendors and non-profits from south Boulder. See you there next year! □ — contributed by Rick Casey

July 2007 Trips

Wednesday, July 4

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 Shop-
ping Center). Trail Mileage:4 Eleva-
tion Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boul-
der/Eldorado Springs Steven Haymes
303-444-4765 Trip#1962

Stairway to Heaven I Climb
Ridge One 5.4 The Flatirons
This classic 1,000' climb ascends the en-
tire ridge of the first big rock seen while
hiking up Skunk Canyon. There are
three distinct summits along the ridge,
each higher than the last. Jill Yarger
303-541-9481 jill.yarger@prodigy.net
Trip#2340

Saturday, July 07

North Face Couloir Flattop
Moderate C-E Semi-tech
Moderate snow climb up gully of North
face of Flattop Mountain, descend
Parmigan Glacier. Ice axe, crampons,
helmet, previous snow experience re-
quired. This is a technical snow climb.
Trail Mileage:7 Elevation Gain:4000
Drive Distance:60 Mc Henrys Pk Todd
Nelson 303-417-9166 tnelson@world-
net.att.net Trip#3081

Tuesday, July 10

Disappearing Crack, East Face of the
Dome I Climb 5.5
6 am start time. Limit 2 Be at work by
9:00 am. Cross the creek and hike up to
the start. Enjoy the creek and the canyon
wren as you climb. Trail Mileage:1
Elevation Gain:200 Drive Distance:2
Bruce Immele 303-903-4517 bim-
mele@msn.com Trip#2278

Wednesday, July 11

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 Shop-
ping Center). Trail Mileage:4 Eleva-
tion Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boul-
der/Eldorado Springs Marilyn Fellows
303-499-6099 Marilyn@Gracie-Realty.
com Trip#1963

Saturday, July 14

Niwot Ridge Wildflower Hike
Difficult B Off Trail
An early summer hike for those who
want to know more about flower identifi-
cation. Hike quickly up to Niwot Ridge
from Long Lake through subalpine and
alpine zones to the tundra, which has
several interesting flower habitats, then
identify flowers on the ridge and the
return hike. Off-trail travel to find the
best specimens. Parking fee at the Brain-
ard trailhead. Joint trip with Denver.
Boulder members register with Leader:
Pat Butler. Trail Mileage:8 Elevation
Gain:2000 Drive Distance:50 Ward
Patricia Butler 303-440-0586 butler@
csd.net Trip#1539

Witch's Tower/Sherwood Forest
III Climb Boulder Canyon 5.9
Sport and mixed routes (5.9 to 5.10)
including some new routes. Ron Olsen
303-449-1935 ron_olsen@qwest.net
Trip#2382

Tyndall Glacier, Hallett Peak
Moderate C-E Semi-tech
Hike past Emerald lake to Tyndall Gla-
cier and ascend snow field to summit.
Descend Flattop mountain trail. Ice axe,
crampons, helmet required. This is a
technical snow climb. Trail Mileage:12
Elevation Gain:4000 Drive Distance:60
Mc Henrys Pk Todd Nelson 303-
417-9166 tnelson@worldnet.att.net
Trip#3082

Tour of Avalon Top Roping
Boulder Canyon 5.7
We'll do a tyrolean traverse to reach
this popular crag in Boulder Canyon.
Toprope several one-pitch routes ranging
from 5.7 to 5.10. Brenda Leach 303-
525-3660 brenda_leach@yahoo.com
Trip#2212

Sawtooth via East Ridge
Moderate C Off Trail
Fast pace
From Beaver Reservoir, hike to Coney
Flats then up the trail toward Buchanan
Pass. At an open meadow along the
Buchanan Pass trail bushwhack SW to
intersect the East Ridge. Follow the
East Ridge to the East Face for some
easy 3rd class scrambling to the summit.
Return via the same route. See scouting
report on Boulder website (<http://www.cmcboulder.org/forums/viewtopic.php?t=32>) Early start. Leader prefers
initial contact via email: tom@crosman.
org Call before 9 PM Trail Mileage:13
Elevation Gain:3060 Drive Distance:55
Ward William (Tom) Thomas Cros-
man 720-494-1732 tom@crosman.org
Trip#1385

Sunday, July 15

Bob, Betty and Woodlands Lake Loop
Easy C
Hike through abundant wildflowers to
Betty and Bob Lakes at treeline. Climb
the ridge and then descend to Sky-
scraper Reservoir. Continue out passed
Woodland Lake and several waterfalls.
Register with leader between 9 AM and
9 PM only. Trail Mileage:13 Elevation
Gain:2800 Drive Distance:50 Neder-
land Steven Haymes 303-444-4765
Trip#2202

Monday, July 16

Watermark - After Work Top Roping
Top Roping 5.7
A fun area of moderate sport climbing
top ropes. As an added bonus you get to
cross Boulder Creek with a tyrolean tra-
verse! Meet at 3:00 p.m. Gary Schmidt
970-481-1048 gsch@frie.net Trip#1599

Wednesday, July 18

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

July 2007 Trips

Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5
Boulder/Eldorado Springs Connie
Schwab 303-516-9797 cjs230@juno.
com Trip#1964

Thursday, July 19

Breezy on Wind Tower
Eldorado Canyon I Climb 5.5
Afternoon climb. Enjoy the coolness of
Breezy. 2 pitches to a walk off ledge.
Limit 3. Trail Mileage:1 Elevation
Gain:100 Drive Distance:6 Bruce
Immele 303-903-4517 bimmele@msn.
com Trip#2279

Friday, July 20 – July 22

Backpacking School
Field Trip
For registered participants of the
Backpacking School. This course covers
equipment, trip planning, site selection,
meals, leave no trace principles, bear-
bagging, and more. School consists of
1 lecture (6/12, 6.30 pm, Boulder club
room) and 1 or 2 field trips (one and/
or two-nite option) Samuel Levis
303-665-1310 bhs@cmcboulder.org
Trip#1757

Saturday, July 21

Diamond Lake Moderate B
Wildflower Hike Casual pace
This is a spectacular place for all the
wildflower power you could want. Hik-
ing from Buckingham Campground, the
Lake is just below the continental divide
and the trip there is so Awwwwwsome
you will want to come back. Trail Mile-
age:8 Elevation Gain:2000 Drive Dis-
tance:50 Nederland Marilyn Fellows
303-499-6099 Marilyn@Gracie-Realty.
com Trip#2328

Wednesday, July 25

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 Shop-
ping Center). Trail Mileage:4 Eleva-

tion Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boul-
der/Eldorado Springs Debbie Tewell
720-304-9572 dtewell@worldnet.att.net
Trip#1965

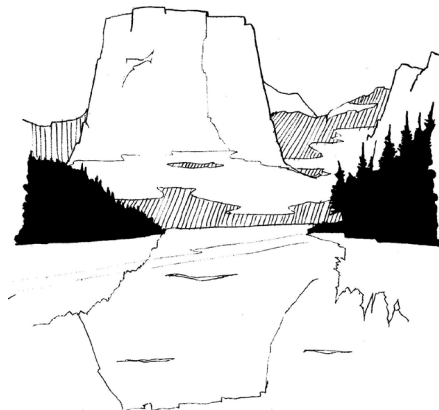
Saturday, July 28

Middle St Vrain Weed Hike
Moderate C
Do your part for conservation! Join our
10th and FINAL annual trip to control
noxious weeds in the Indian Peaks Wil-
derness Area. In partnership with the US
Forest Service, we'll hike swiftly up the
Middle St. Vrain, checking on the impact
of last year's USFS herbicide treatments
and pulling Canada thistle on our way
down. Register with leader. Patricia But-
ler (303)440-0485. Trail Mileage:12
Elevation Gain:1700 Drive Distance:60
Patricia Butler 303-440-0586 butler@
csd.net Trip#1361

Upper Dream Canyon
Boulder Canyon 5.8 III Climb
Sport and mixed routes (5.8 to 5.10) in a
secluded spot. Ron Olsen 303-449-
1935 ron_olsen@qwest.net Trip#2378

Sunday, July 29

Shoshoni Peak, 12,967' Difficult B
Off Trail
Ascend on Long Lake Trail to Pawnee
Pass, boulder hop and tundra walk to
summit with views of Isabelle Glacier
and Indian Peaks. Trail Mileage:9
Elevation Gain:2500 Drive Distance:70
Ward/Monarch Natalie Mack 303-
543-8305 nataliemack@yahoo.com
Trip#1976 □



Action Photo of the Month



Tom Crosman and Brian ascending Sky-
walker Couloir on May 19, 2007 during
a Boulder-Denver joint trip to S. Arapa-
hoe Peak, 13,397'. Photo by
Brannan Cass

Annapurna IV Member Recalls Expedition

continued from page 1

sion to abandon the mountain for this
trip including the fact that Dave fell in a
crevasse during our descent, (he was on
his rappel device and was able to climb
out by himself), and we were repeatedly
kicking off loose snow slides low on the
mountain.

Of course, these trips are about a lot
more than just mountaineering. The
Nepalese people, and the non-egotisti-
cal nature of the sherpas in particular,
are beautiful and unforgettable. And
the daunting Himalayas are a worthy
paradise and yet they present such chal-
lenges. I shared so many laughs, discus-
sions, and songs with my teammates
(many of whom I met through the CMC)
over the many miles we covered on foot.
I have plenty of amusing stories to tell
(ask me about the "Ed Viesturs 3" tent).
"Getting away from it all" reminded me
what is important in life (friendship for
example), and what is not (materialism
for example).

I was in one of the most beautiful places
in the world and I have returned to one
of the most beautiful places in the world.
Upon my return, I was reunited with my
daughter, my friends, giardia, work, and
for now little desire to get off the couch.

— contributed by Kirsten Kindt

compass

Colorado Mountain Club
Table Mesa Shopping Center
633 South Broadway, Unit N
Boulder, CO 80305

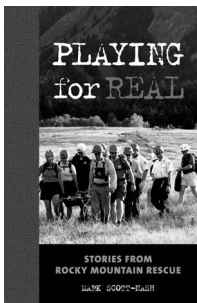
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Boulder, CO
Permit No 528

printed on 100% post-consumer
recycled paper

CMC Member Becomes Published Author

For some gripping, authentic tales about the Colorado outdoors to read this summer, you might want to pick up *Playing for Real* by Mark Scott-Nash, recently released by CMC Press. Mark, who was profiled in the Compass earlier this year,



is well-qualified to author this collection of stories about Rocky Mountain Rescue, having become an RMR member in 1988 and serving on over 100 “missions,” or rescues. In its early history, RMR

was closely tied to CMC membership. Though that’s not quite so true today, the tie remains strong, with some of our most experienced CMC members having served in both organizations; indeed, the techniques for self-rescue taught in BMS classes are much the same as what is taught in RMR. But for anyone at any experience level, you will enjoy hearing what it is like first-hand to participate in

this rewarding, demanding, and all volunteer rescue team, which is yet thriving and strong to this day. And if you have ever considered volunteering with RMR, and wondered what it might be like, there is no better reference. The book can be published on the CMC website (cmc.org). □

Rent the Clubroom for Your Meeting

Are you a member of an organization looking for a place to hold your meeting, or know of someone who is? If so, you might consider our Clubroom in the Table Mesa Shopping Center. Our rental policy is on our website at www.cmcboulder.org/clubroomPolicy.html. Send email to clubroomreservations@cmcboulder.org with any questions. □



Compass Ad Rates

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- ads must be prepaid and in PDF format.
- email contact: compass@cmcboulder.org