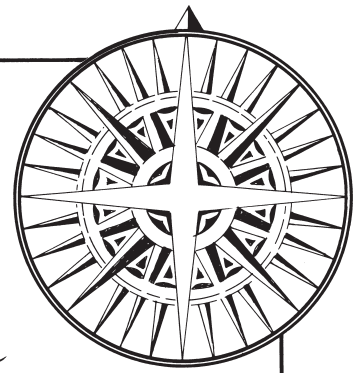




# Compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXIII Number 8

August 2007

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## Deadline for Sept issue is: Aug 10

Website: [cmcboulder.org](http://cmcboulder.org)  
 To see online issues of Compass,  
 browse to: [cmcboulder.org](http://cmcboulder.org) →  
 Compass → Current Issue

## Note from the Editor

This month's news is about the e-Compass and a bit of communication regarding last month's Note from the Editor about the Conservation report by the state office to the Boulder Council May meeting.

First, the first e-Compass mailing last month was a success! Though there were just 81 subscribers last month – not huge, but substantial – I was just glad it worked! Our webmaster, Tom Crosman, did a great job of setting up a listserv at our ISP for the purpose, which actually made it pretty easy for me. This month the number of subscribers is up to 92 – so we had 13.5 per cent growth in one month! Not bad!

*Continued on page 2, Editor's Note*

## Annapurna IV Team Leader Recounts Tough Expedition



*Tonya at Camp II, 19,600, Annapurna IV*

*Editor's Note: This interview with Tonya Riggs, past chair of the Council, and one of the leaders of an expedition to Annapurna IV during May and June, took place June 23. Though not officially sponsored by the CMC, most of those on the trip were Boulder CMC members; so I thought our Compass subscribers would enjoy reading about it in this issue. This provides a more detailed account, from a leader's perspective, than Kirsten Kindt's delightful report in the July issue.*

*Compass: Tonya, can you tell us how the Annapurna trip started, and what significance it might have for our members reading this interview?*

Tonya: Ted Handwerk and I starting organizing trips a few years ago – with our first trip being an expedition to Ama

Dablam, which took a lot of CMC'ers. That trip, to Ama Dablam, gained a lot of attention in the early phases of organizing - there were fifty people who wanted to come: fifty people! And we had to say no to a lot of people, which was painful to us. A lot of them were CMC'ers, because that was our community and our network of friends. So we took the few that we could, had a very successful trip, summiting three different peaks. So this just created more interest from our network of friends and inspired us to put together more trips...

We had a lot of ideas about what mountain to do next. In the meantime, I got to climb Everest [in 2006]. What I realized on that climb, was that it's always more fun to share the climb with friends than with strangers. So, I came back even more fired up to take even more people. We had the idea to do two trips: a climbing group and a trekking group. We wanted to share the trip with more people, and we thought we could pull this off. We settled on limiting the climb to ten climbers and ten trekkers...then we had to pick the peak. Simultaneously, I had made a separate plan to climb Annapurna [I] in 2008, and for preparation for that climb, I wanted to go to the Annapurna region and become more familiar with that specific area of Nepal. I also wanted to take people who had been with us before...so it fell together to climb Annapurna IV.

Ted had been over there ten years ago, and remembered the trekking peaks, Chulu East and Far East, as peaks being walkups. Since they were right across the valley from Annapurna IV, they seemed

*Continued on page 5, Annapurna*

## Editor's Note

*continued from page 1*

However, the delivery of the hardcopy Compass was complicated by the need to filter out the e-Compass subscribers. Sheila and I stumbled through it manually for last month's issue, but this month the filtering process will be done electronically, eliminating the manual part. Thank goodness!

Next month, according to the state office, there will be an entirely new way of subscribing to the e-Compass. By September, assuming all goes well, there will be a new option on your personal data page when you log in to the state website; something to the effect of "subscribe to your group's electronic newsletter," though we'll have to see what it actually looks like. All current e-Compass subscribers will be transferred to this new option. Other groups (Denver and Pikes Peak, at least) are doing the same thing: offering an electronic newsletter to save funds. I was glad to see the state office invest the resources to assist the regional groups in this way, which is certainly a great convenience in coordinating the production of an electronic and hardcopy version of a newsletter.

Finally, there were a number of responses to my Note last month about the Conservation Department's presentation to the Boulder Council's May meeting by Steve Bonowski and Bryan Martin. Some responses were supportive, some not. One communication from the state office was at pains to point out that I had overstated Conservation's budget, based on confusing numbers; another comment was that it was unfair to the state office's attempt at outreach to the Boulder group. Other comments were to the effect of "Right on!"

My own role as editor is not to embroil the readership in the internal affairs of the CMC management which I may observe. Yet, I do feel an obligation to report the significance of what is happening within the organization, in terms that have meaning to our readers – in other words, "call them like I see them," but openly. In that vein, what is clear is that CMC's role in conservation is a rather political issue inside the higher levels of the organization; it is not fixed policy.

I do not pretend to be an authority on the matter, and certainly do not want to become a lightning rod on the issue. Nonetheless, there is certainly a point to be made that the overall CMC membership continues to decline, which is what I wanted to emphasize, whether I got the numbers right on the Conservation's budget correct or not. I believe the decline in membership deserves to be priority number one for club management overall, and a central question in that problem is: are our members being served? The main reason that the Club existed and thrived in the past is because it was an *outings* club, first and foremost. And these days, to have leaders on outings, there must needs be a great emphasis on safety, which leads to having safe leaders, which leads to schools of instruction...and that is the heart of the CMC. Everything else that has been added to the club since then is secondary: high altitude expeditions, adventure travel, youth education programs, *and* conservation, among other programs. I personally don't see how anyone could argue differently, but if you do, and want to express that, please email me. If your letter is worthy of being read by the membership, it may get published, or at least acknowledged. Who knows? The humble Compass might end up having a small 'Letters To The Editor' column!

Until then, hope you are all enjoying some of the many, many outings and schools the CMC has to offer during this fine Colorado summer – no matter what you think about conservation! □

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CORRECTION: In the July issue, page 2, Steve Haymes' name was misspelled as "Stephen Haymes." Sorry about that Steve!

## 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](mailto:outings@cmcboulder.org). □

### Mailing Party: August 23

Come to the Clubroom and help mail out the September 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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**e-Compass subscripton:** [cmcboulder.org](http://cmcboulder.org) → Publications → Compass → e-Compass

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

*Annapurna Leader Recounts, from page 1*  
perfect for acclimatizing. He believed the trekkers could do Chula West as well, but warned it was really more of a climbing peak than a trekking peak. As we starting doing our research, we found out that the significance of these peaks, particularly Annapurna IV, was big for the Club. The last expedition sponsored and led by the CMC was to Annapurna IV, which I believe was in 1996. Two people from Boulder died on that trip; it was really serious. Cleve Armstrong presented an award to Ted Nye at the annual dinner about it. Jordan Campbell was also involved in the planning of the 96 trip and was invited to join our return trip. He decided not to come on our climb because it would be too emotional. There was some discussion about why our trip was not a CMC-sponsored trip, since the club could benefit from the publicity, experience and fundraising. The CMC used to have an expedition committee, which Cleve is trying to start back up. So there were a lot of eyes on us. The history of the climb is that it has seen only one America and no women. Now, fewer people have stood on top of it [Annapurna IV] than have stood on top of Annapurna [I].

*Compass: And what's the height of Annapurna IV?*

Tonya: Roughly twenty-four seven [Ed: Exact height is 24,688']. Now that I've given the beginning of the story, I want to give a picture of the end of the story, and then fill in. Paging forward to the end, we had eight people ready to go for the summit. Everything's great, the weather's good, we can see the summit [from high camp - camp III]; we had no doubts all eight of us could summit. We'd taken rest days, had the right amount of food and fuel, the skies were clear.

*Compass: No oxygen to worry about?*

Tonya: No, we had oxygen in base camp for emergency purposes. You generally don't need oxygen until approximately twenty-six [26,000']. We were all strong, and it was really phenomenal to get on the mountain and have all eight ready to summit. Now, the trials and tribulations of getting all eight of us to the summit was hell. A lot of...feelings...

have emerged from all that in the aftermath. But putting all that aside, we had eight people ready to summit at 3 a.m. on summit day [May 13, 2007], in their tents putting their boots on. There was great energy at that moment; the three of us women were thinking of being the first women on the summit -- and most of the men were thinking they were going to be the second, third, fourth and fifth Americans! We had all the hard stuff behind us, putting up our own ropes, making our own trails, everyone had a role. We had done it: and then that weather report came in. That's when I became a real mountaineer. I've not been mountaineering all that many years, but I became one that day. Because I felt so...accountable. These were my eight people, I brought them there; and then I didn't get to deliver the goods. Everyone had hurt, and angst, and pain.

*Compass: So how much time did you have to make a decision after receiving this weather report about the approaching storm?*

Tonya: We had five minutes to make up our minds; it was horrible. The alarm went off at three, we wanted to be walking by four. It was approximately 3:45 as we were putting on our boots, when Tom Wilson comes into the tent, with me, Brad and Ted, and says "I don't like the weather report we got last night, I think we should call them back. Ted, I would like your opinion." If we had made that call back to NOAA, which was four o'clock in the afternoon here, and those guys hadn't answered, I'd be willing to bet \$10,000 that at least half of us would have been walking to the summit, into a storm and not knowing it.

*Compass: I had heard that the reports got more accurate over time during the expedition...*

Tonya: Yes, it was a model that needed information fed to it, but they also needed to interpret what they were seeing. But there's was some discussion...about the timing of receiving this particular weather report. A lot of discussion afterwards about what it's and whose to blame...but the bottom line was, we got a weather report calling for bad weather, very bad weather, and it was too big a risk to take a gamble as

a team. So now, the team turns around, and they walk down in bluebird, crystal clear skies, just perfect weather, because it was twelve hours until the storm hit. But as we headed down, and couldn't see the summit anymore due to clouds, we couldn't really know what was happening up there: was there a storm or just a whiteout, windy or calm, three inches or ten inches [of snow], so you doubt, the whole way down, never really knowing.

*Compass: I imagine there must have been some bad feelings on the way home...*

Tonya: No one acted it out; but everyone felt the tension, and it was a little sad. We spent the first week just coming to grips with the fact that we didn't do it. You go into denial! I stopped at Camp One, and wouldn't go down. I said "You guys can all go down, but I'm going to stay here, get up in the morning, and go back up." I was the worst! Brad and Ted know that because they were in the tent with me, and there was some real anger [towards me], let me tell you, but not real anger, anger out of love.

So that's it, in a nutshell. Everyone's nice to one another, even though the trekkers didn't make it up their peaks...everyone processed in their own way. The trekkers left a day before us, but we all got back together in Katmandu, and flew out together.

*Compass: Now, did the trekkers share the same base camp?*

Tonya: No. After the two acclimatization peaks, we went separate ways. The first peak, seven people made it to the top, two trekkers and the rest climbers. The two trekking peaks were harder than we thought. They were not a walkup! The first one involved a lot of blue ice and required ropes. The thought was that the sherpas would set lines for the trekkers, but that the climbers would all free it. [i.e. climb without fixed ropes.] But, sure enough, it got hard, and even the climbers needed a rope. Now, here's the thing: it's cold, it's windy, it's in the shade since it's early, and people turn around. There was some confusion around the sherpas not fixing lines, but, in reality, the route was harder than contined on page 6, Annapurna

## August 2007 Trips

Tuesday 07/31/07

Wind Tower - SW Face Routes ( Eldorado Canyon I Climb 5.5 )  
The SW face of Wind Tower in Eldorado Springs offers some moderate two-pitch climbs. Possibilities include Breezy, The Bomb, Boulder Direct, and Tigger. Meet at 4pm. Limited to four participants. Contact Jim Illg, jimillg@hotmail.com, 774-994-7270

Wednesday, August 01

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). Boulder Trail Mileage:4 Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Steven Haymes 303-444-4765 xxx@xxx.xxx Trip#1966

Wednesday, August 08

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). Boulder Trail Mileage:4 Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Marilyn Fellows 303-499-6099 Marilyn@Gracie-Realty.com Trip#1967  
Box and Eagle Lakes      Easy C  
Follow Thunder Lake Trail in Wild Basin past Mertensia Falls, then bushwack into this lush valley to two seldom-visited lakes. Boulder Trail Mileage:14 Elevation Gain:2310 Isolation Peak Ellen Flannelly 303-440-0130 e.flannelly@comcast.net Trip#1996

Saturday, August 11

Cob Rock      Area Climb  
Boulder Canyon 5.7  
Take advantage of the shade on the granite at Cob Rock. We'll climb one or

more climbs as time allows: North Face Center (5.7), Empor (5.7), Northwest Corner (5.8) and North Face Left (5.8). Boulder Brenda Leach 303-525-3660 brenda\_leach@yahoo.com Trip#2215

Tuesday, August 14

Wind Tower - SW Face Routes      I  
Climb  
Eldorado Canyon 5.5  
I Climb 5.5  
The SW face of Wind Tower in Eldorado Springs offers some moderate two-pitch climbs. Possibilities include Breezy, The Bomb, Boulder Direct, and Tigger. Meet at 4pm. Limited to four participants. Contact Jim Illg, jimillg@hotmail.com Boulder James A Illg 774-994-7270 jimillg@hotmail.com Trip#3221

East face of Dome Disappearing Crack  
I Climb  
5.5

6:00 am climb. Limit 2 enjoy the morning with only the Creek, the Canyon wren & yourself. Be to work by 9:00 am or later if we stop for donuts. Boulder Trail Mileage:1 Elevation Gain:200 Drive Distance:2 Bruce Immele 303-903-4517 bimmele@msn.com Trip#2293

Wednesday, August 15

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). Boulder Trail Mileage:4 Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Rada Perovic 303-985-3263 denali@interfold.com Trip#1968

Friday, August 17

Left Book Lumpy Ridge Area Climb  
Area Climb  
5.7

Brave the newly longer approach and join us as we attempt various classic climbs on this classic crag on Lumpy Ridge. Goals include White Whale,

5.7, Manifest Destiny 5.7, and Hiatus 5.7. We should return home tired but happy. Boulder Trail Mileage:5 Drive Distance:70 Estes Park Gary Schmidt 970-481-1048 gsch@frii.net Trip#1595

Saturday, August 18

Watermark      III Climb  
Boulder Canyon 5.8  
Do a fun Tyrolean crossing of Boulder Creek and then enjoy some nice sport and mixed routes in a cool setting. Boulder Ron Olsen 303-449-1935 ron\_olsen@qwest.net Trip#2379  
Standard East Face-3rd Flatiron      I  
Climb  
5.4

THE classic climb, the 3rd Flatiron, 1000 feet of solid rock, 3 rappels, incredible views. Limit of 4 participants. Sign opens Aug 1st. Boulder Trail Mileage:4 Jill Yarger 303-541-9481 jill.yarger@prodigy.net Trip#2339

Tuesday, August 21

BMS Schools Overview and Signup Lecture  
BMS Schools Overview and Signup, 8/21CMC Boulder Group club room, 6.30 pm. For preliminary information about the schools see www.cmcboulder.org. For contact information, see list of Boulder Group officers. Boulder Samuel Levis 303-665-1310 bhs@cmcboulder.org Trip#2961

Wednesday, August 22

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). Boulder Trail Mileage:4 Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Jim Groh 303-604-0024 jimgroh@earthlink.net Trip#1969

Thursday, August 23

Shoshoni Pk 12,967'      Difficult B  
IPW  
Ascend on Long Lake Trail to Pawnee

## August 2007 Trips continued

Pass, boulder hop and tundra walk to airy summit with views of Isabelle Glacier and Indian Peaks. Boulder Trail Mileage:9 Elevation Gain:2487 Ward Ellen Flannelly 303-440-0130 e.flannelly@comcast.net Trip#1995

Monday, August 27

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. (3 quality 5.8 pitches) Finish with P4 (5.5). Rap down. Boulder Larry Allen Pedigo 303-960-8627 larry\_pedigo@yahoo.com Trip#2374

Wednesday, August 29

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). Boulder Trail Mileage:4 Elevation Gain:800 Drive Distance:5 Boulder/Eldorado Springs Debbie Tewell 720-304-9572 dtewell@worldnet.att.net Trip#1970 . □

## New Conservation & Trail Chair Needed

Join the Boulder Group CMC Council as the Conservation and Trails Chair! Sandy has been on the Council as an at-large member for over 4 years and she says it is a great group! Position is open in November but can be started earlier for showing you the ropes. Throughout the month between meetings, you will follow local conservation and trails issues and consult with State CMC conservation staff on broader issues. There are over a dozen current community groups you communicate with. Some issues culminate in the Boulder Group taking a position and you would draft a statement for approval by the Council and State CMC. Annually, you will publicize grant

fund availability then work with the Conservation Committee to make recommendations on funding awards. (See the CMCBoulder.org website for more info.) Once the Council approves the funding for applicants you would coordinate distribution. In addition, you would publicize local projects in the Compass and GPS for members to participate in such as trail construction, weed pulls, restoration work, and others. The time commitment can stretch like newly built trails or stay contained like a patch of noxious weeds. Give it what you can! To apply please contact Sandy at conservation@cmcboulder.org or call her at 303-258-0537 with questions. □

## Original Art in Clubroom

Next time you are visiting the Clubroom take a minute to look at Marilyn Vernon's drawings on display there. They are the original illustrations that appear in Jan Robertson's book *The Front Rangers*. The book is an amusing and accurate account of the Boulder Group's history from 1920 to 1970. It includes the first fifty years of mountaineering in the Front Range by the Boulder Group. There are accounts of the Brainard and Arestua cabins, rock climbing, skiing, conservation and the troubled war years. Thirty-six years after publication this delightful book has become a collector's item; but it is still available, and on sale now at

the clubroom for just \$25.00. Thank you, Jan, for donating Marilyn's drawings and for writing about the Boulder Group's origins.

— contributed by Sheila Delamere

## Best of the Grand Canyon: Colorado River Raft & Hike

During April 12 to 24, 2008, join a motorized raft trip for 188 miles from Lee's Ferry to Whitmore Wash, with extensive hiking opportunities at all levels. Return to put-in via helicopter and airplane. The whole incredible Grand Canyon experience! For full details, cmc.org under Adventure Travel. The leaders Blake Clark and Rosemary Burbank and can be contacted at 303-871-0379. □



CMC Hikers on Pawnee Pass, Indian Peaks, September 2003, led by Peter Gowan, third from left. Looks like it was a cold and windy day — despite those shorts! Contributed by Peter Gowan.

# compass

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*Annapurna, continued from page 5*

we thought it was going to be. Some thought there were too many people on the mountain, which made people wait at the hard spots; but, really, that's just mountaineering, right? But this was hard for them [the trekkers], so some of them turned around at that point...and then the second peak we tried was harder than we thought too.

*Compass: I heard too that some people thought global warming had changed the region since the last time Ted was there.*

Tonya: Ted remembered routes that were simple snow slopes from his earlier visits years ago, but when we arrived and looked at the routes, they had changed to solid rock and ice. So our plans changed; our first trekking peak was a much larger undertaking than planned, and we failed on – or I should say, were unable to attempt – the second of the trekking peaks due to the change of route conditions and how that change affected our allotted time to climb. Some people had bailed on the first peak, thinking they would get the second one; so they were disappointed to find they didn't get a shot at

the second. That's when you can get disappointed being in a large team, since it had to be a team decision. So most of the trekkers didn't get up any of their peaks.

*Compass: So it was more disappointing for the trekkers?*

Tonya: Definitely more disappointing for the trekkers, some of whom were upset since they never got a chance on anything. To add to the chaos, Chuck's [Demerest] son got sick on the first peak, and a necessary helicopter evacuation of another person who got sick, depleted our resources even more.

*Compass: Sounds like it was a tough trip!*

Tonya: It was a tough trip; it's not easy

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up there. Mountaineering is all about suffering, even on a good day. And it's about how far you're willing to push yourself.. ☐

## Rent the Clubroom!

Contact clubroomreservations@cmcboulder.org for more info.