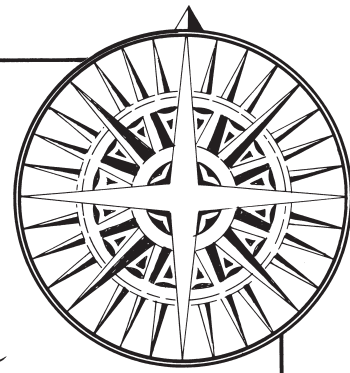




# compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXV Number 12

December 2009

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## Ellingwood Award Recipient: Jean Aschenbrenner

Jean Aschenbrenner is the 2009 recipient of the Ellingwood "Golden Ice Axe" Award. This award is given each year to a CMC member who has outstanding mountaineering accomplishments and has inspired CMC members to follow in their path. She's very proud to wear the small golden ice axe pin. Jean, who hails from Iowa, fell in love with the mountains as a 16-year-old Girl Scout during a trip to Colorado. The scouts stayed on the edge of Garden of the Gods and Jean reports, *I used every free moment to climb on the rock formations, trying to get to the top. We drove up Pike's Peak but some of us opted to hike up the last part to the top. I was hooked! I loved the rocks and the mountains and knew I wanted to live near them when I grew up.* Jean spent her junior year in college in Geneva, Switzerland. She climbed in hiking boots and rappelled using the Dulfersitz. This is also where she started cross-country skiing, using actual seal skins on the bottom of downhill skis. While she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya (1973-76) she had many interesting adventures including summiting Kilimanjaro and Point Lenana on Mt. Kenya. Finally, after traveling all over Africa for 8 months, she made it back to Colorado in 1977. She soon began



*Jean on top of Independence Monument in Colorado National Monument in 2003*

working on the *Highest Hundred*, finishing them on Little Bear in 1983. Slowly she committed to doing the highest 200, then 300, until she finished all the 13ers in 1993. She was the first woman, and the fourth person, to achieve that milestone. Working seriously on the 13ers required lots of effort. Jean says that it helped her balance her life. Her job at IBM as an electrical engineer initially, and then as a software engineer, was very demanding. She could have easily put in an infinite amount of time there but she knew she would be climbing peaks both days of almost every weekend. While working on her Master's degree she put in many hours of studying – often while riding to the peaks. But she never gave up her mountains. After completing the 13ers Jean was anxious to put more time into rock climbing. The CMC helped her get started. Since she had done BMS and IRCS with the Denver group back in 1979, the Boulder Group let her become involved as an assistant instructor in BMS. She owes much to Boulder CMC, since involvement with BMS connected her with many wonderful climbing part-

*~continued on next page*

## Membership Anniversaries

At each Annual Dinner, members who have reached their 50 and 40-year CMC anniversaries are recognized. This year we had one 50-year anniversary -- Art Wainwright. And, we had four 40-year anniversaries -- Charles Garthwaite, Stan Huntting, Richard Jones and Clyda Stafford. Stan, Richard and Clyda were present at the Annual Dinner to be congratulated and recognized.

## Boulder Group Holiday Party

When: Sunday, December 13, 6pm

Where: Boulder CMC Clubroom

Every year the Boulder Group has a Holiday Party open to all members, which follows the December Council meeting at 5pm. Consider yourself invited! (RSVP not necessary) The traditional Holiday Party will be held in the BCMC Clubroom, around the corner from Neptune Mountaineering. The format will be pot-luck, BYOB and strictly informal. It will be a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your Council and State Board members, get familiar with them and ask any questions you might have.

## Successful Year For BMS

This past year the Boulder CMC offered 22 classes with over 260 students and 108 instructors. There were 3 instructor parties with pizza, beer, and prizes to thank the instructors who volunteered. In addition, we offered free wilderness first aid and CPR courses for instructors. In 2010 the focus will continue to be on instructor retention and recruitment. Thank you to all who helped make the BMS schools a success!

~Jean Aschenbrenner, continued.

ners and mentors. Jean taught BMS for six years and still continues to lead a few rock and peak trips each year. She felt strongly about a need for more activities for older CMC members which prompted her to start the WeekDAY Warrior group. It is off to a slow start, but is providing a few more weekday trips which retired people and others who work only part-time are participating in. Jean loves climbing winter peaks and winter backpacking trips. She has summited 45 of the 14ers in winter. She also does some ice climbing and cross country skiing in the winter. In the spring and fall, she has gotten involved with canyoneering and did some fabulous canyons in Zion in September. She enjoys rock climbing at 'destinations', particularly Red Rocks, Joshua Tree, City of Rocks, The Gunks and El Potrero Chico (Mexico). She has climbed all the state high points in the western states, many of the volcanoes in the Cascades and all 125 of the named peaks in Rocky Mountain National Park. Jean feels incredibly lucky to have shared adventures with so many wonderful people. To learn more about Jean, you can read an interview with her on Fourteener World <http://fourteenerworld.com/ClimbersCorner/HTML/JeanAschenbrennerInterview.htm>

## Chair's Report

This issue of the Compass brings my turn as chair of the Boulder Group to an end. From my perspective, a lot has happened over the past year and I foresee continued changes in the future for our group and the entire CMC as a whole. Much has been and will be accomplished through our wonderful volunteers who give selflessly of their time. I could not have accomplished even a small part of what was done without them. But we continue to need the same support for our new officers, Council and committee members. No matter how small you might think your personal contribution might be, it is needed and will be appreciated by not only other volunteers but by all members. Again, thanks for all your support.

Respectively submitted,

Dick Munro  
Boulder Group Chair

## Winter Schools

The Boulder Group is excited again to offer a variety of clinics and schools for this coming winter season. On the winter schedule are the following clinics: Intro to Cross Country Skiing, Telemark Skiing, Avalanche Training Level 1, Basic Ice Climbing and Winter Camping. In addition, we are offering four advanced schools: Avalanche Level II, Telemark/AT Backcountry Skiing, Advanced Mountaineering School (AMS) and Ski Mountaineering School (SMS). All the advanced schools are by application only and have various application deadlines. Please check out our website at <http://www.cmcboulder.org/bms/winterSchedule.html> for the schedule and more information. Applications for all schools can also be found on the web.



*Ted Handwerk demonstrates the perfect swing during last year's Ice Climbing School.*

## Snowshoe Trips

The Boulder CMC is looking for leaders to take members on snowshoe trips this winter! If you are a hiking trip leader you automatically qualify to lead snowshoe trips (not snow climbs). Consider converting one of your favorite hikes to a snowshoe trip this winter. Just post them online for quick review and approval. Of course we would also welcome qualified leaders to submit ski trips, ice trips and hut trips as well.

~ submitted by Gary Schmidt, Outings Chair,  
Boulder Group

## Volunteer Opportunities!

*To volunteer call the clubroom or email [clubroom@cmcboulder.org](mailto:clubroom@cmcboulder.org)*

### Clubroom Hosts Needed

Clubroom Hosts are needed Monday through Thursday from 5-7 pm

### Raptor Nest Volunteers

The City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department is looking for volunteers to help monitor nest sites for rare birds of prey along the Front Range - falcons, osprey and eagles. Volunteers have the unique opportunity to witness the courtship, nest development and fledging of these local raptors. For more information and an application, visit [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov)

### Wanted: Your Stories!

The Compass newsletter wants to hear from you! Please consider sharing your personal stories or consider writing an article of interest for a future issue. Email [compass@cmcboulder.org](mailto:compass@cmcboulder.org).

### BMS Winter Instructors Needed

We are looking for instructors for all of our winter schools. Check out the website for the Schedule and more information. If you are interested, please send an email to [bms@cmcboulder.org](mailto:bms@cmcboulder.org) or directly to the school director. Anyone who has taken any of the schools is encouraged to help with teaching.

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**Published:** Monthly by Boulder Group, Colorado Mountain Club, 633 South Broadway, Unit N, Boulder 80305

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**e-Compass subscription:** [cmc.org](http://cmc.org) → login → Personal Data → e-newsletters

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

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# December 2009 Trips & Activities

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*Editor's note: The following is a list of BCMC trips and events for the month. It is possible for trips to be changed or posted after this issue goes to press. Please check online for current trip status, to see club trip policies, or to learn about becoming a trip leader: [cmcboulder.org/Trips](http://cmcboulder.org/Trips).*

*To view trips online and register:*

- ▶ Browse to [www.cmc.org](http://www.cmc.org)
- ▶ Login with your CMC member number and password. For first time users, the default password is your ZIP code.
- ▶ Click on 'Trip Signup' in left margin
- ▶ Enter trip selection parameters (CMC group, date range, etc) & click Search
- ▶ To register, click Register
- ▶ For Boulder trips, you must contact the leader by phone (preferred) or email; for Denver trips, you may register online.
- ▶ Schools require previous signup. Info at [www.cmcboulder.org](http://www.cmcboulder.org)

## Tuesday, December 1

### *Cross Country Ski Clinic Lecture*

An evening of instruction on the basics of cross-country ski touring for beginning and intermediate skiers. Lectures include clothing, equipment, and techniques. This will prepare you for snow lessons on one of the following 2 Saturdays. Bob Olson 303-443-3280 [boulderbob@comcast.net](mailto:boulderbob@comcast.net) Patricia Butler 303-440-0586 [butler@csd.net](mailto:butler@csd.net)

## Wednesday, December 2

### *Area Telemark Clinic Lecture*

For beginner to intermediate/advance telemark skiers who want to learn more technique. Clinic will be held at Loveland Ski Area. Cost does not include lift tickets. [areatele@cmcboulder.org](mailto:areatele@cmcboulder.org)

## Saturday, December 5

### *Cross Country Ski Clinic Field Trip*

Part of the cross-country ski clinic. This field trip will consist of ski tour lessons for beginners and intermediate skiers held at Eldora Mtn. Resort's nordic and beginner downhill areas. Bob Olson 303-443-3280 [boulderbob@comcast.net](mailto:boulderbob@comcast.net) Patricia Butler 303-440-0586 [butler@csd.net](mailto:butler@csd.net)

## Sunday, December 6

*Area Telemark Clinic Field Trip*  
[areatele@cmcboulder.org](mailto:areatele@cmcboulder.org)

## Tuesday, December 8

### *Avalanche Level I Certification Lecture*

This Level 1 Avalanche course is a National Ski Patrol (NSP) Certification. Topics covered include identifying avalanche terrain, making good route finding decisions, performing field test to learn snow stability, recognizing weather, terrain and snow-pack factors contributing to instability and learning fast and efficient transceiver rescue. Course is taught by certified NSP instructors. Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 [gagnonc2@comcast.net](mailto:gagnonc2@comcast.net)

## Thursday, December 10

### *Avalanche Level I Certification Lecture*

Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 [gagnonc2@comcast.net](mailto:gagnonc2@comcast.net)

## Saturday, December 12

### *Brainard Lake Area BSA Welcome Ski, Easy III Ski Tour, Green Downhill*

The Boulder Group would like to welcome new members from the Backcountry Snowsports Alliance with a loop ski in the Brainard Lake area. We will ski the Little Raven trail and either the North or South trails with a possible stop at the Brainard Lake cabin. Register btwn 9 am - 9 pm. Steven Haymes 303-444-4765

### *Avalanche Level I Certification Field Trip*

Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 [gagnonc2@comcast.net](mailto:gagnonc2@comcast.net)

### *Cross Country Ski Clinic Field Trip*

Bob Olson 303-443-3280 [boulderbob@comcast.net](mailto:boulderbob@comcast.net) Patricia Butler 303-440-0586 [butler@csd.net](mailto:butler@csd.net)

## Sunday, December 13

### *Avalanche Level I Certification Field Trip*

Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 [gagnonc2@comcast.net](mailto:gagnonc2@comcast.net)

*Area Telemark Clinic Field Trip*  
[areatele@cmcboulder.org](mailto:areatele@cmcboulder.org)

## Wednesday, December 16

### *WeekDAY Warrior Special Gathering*

Come share stories and plan activities for weekDAYS. 7-9 Boulder clubroom. Bring snack or drink to share. No sign-ups - just show up. Jean Aschenbrenner 303-786-9411 [jeanasch@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanasch@hotmail.com)

## Saturday, December 19

### *CMC/South Trail, Easy II Ski Tour*

We'll ski both in and out the easy South Trail. Bob Olson 303-443-3280 [boulderbob@comcast.net](mailto:boulderbob@comcast.net)

## Future Trips and Activities

### *Death Valley Hiking, 2/28-3/5, 2010*

Enjoy the beauties of Death Valley next spring. During the week you will visit the park Visitor Center and Museum, conduct several A or moderate B hikes as well as visit Scotty's Castle. Costs are \$998 including transportation to and from Las Vegas airport, hike transportation, lodging, meals. Non-refundable deposit due 9/15. For more information contact Terry Hardie [tnjhardie@msn.com](mailto:tnjhardie@msn.com) or Sharon Silva [ssilva@q.com](mailto:ssilva@q.com)

### *Trekking in Nepal 9/25 -10/10, 2010*

Join Pemba Sherpa, a native of the Khumbu region of the Nepal Himalayas on this spectacular trek along the foothills of some of the world's highest peaks. Pemba has been guiding visitors to his homeland since 1986 and will do so again in 2010 taking us into the heart of the world's majestic Himalayan Mountains and into the rarely visited Lumding Valley. Very few Westerners have ever ventured into this completely unspoiled valley! We will be surrounded by striking scenery as we trek through virgin terrain while marveling at views of Everest and its neighbors. We will also spend time with Pemba's family in the small Sherpa village of Sengma and will relax for a couple of days in Nepal's colorful capital city of Kathmandu. The cost is \$2526. For more information please call Pemba Sherpa 303-525-6508 [pemba@sherpaascent.com](mailto:pemba@sherpaascent.com)