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Introducing the 2010 Boulder Group Council

We would like to introduce the 2010 Boulder Group Council. The Council is the governing body of the Boulder Group. At the annual dinner on November 7, the attendees approved the following members as the new Officers:

Chair: John Fernandez
Vice Chair: Janine Fugure
Secretary: Deb Tewell
Treasurer: Holly Freeman
At-Large Member: Rick Casey

The Council also includes the following:

Past Chair: Dick Munro
At-Large Member: Sam Levis
At-Large Member: Chris Klotz
Cabins Committee Chair: Linda Gathany
Conservation Committee Chair: Chris Klotz
Mountaineering School Co-Chair: Cindy Gagnon
Mountaineering School Co-Chair: Roger Linfield
Outings Committee Chair: Gary Schmidt
Safety Chair: Cindy Gagnon
State Board Member: Nickie Kelly
State Board Member: Paul Raab

In addition, at the December 2009 Council meeting, Gabi Pfister was approved as an At-Large Member to serve the rest of Otto Verdoner’s term. Many thanks to Otto for all that he’s done for the Brainard Lake cabin over the years. We are still searching for a Marketing Committee Chair. If you’re interested, please contact John Fernandez at chair@cmcboulder.org. We wish the 2010 Council a successful year!

Lost And Found

The following were left at the Avalon after the Annual Dinner. They are at the Clubroom for you to claim:
glass bowl, brown casserole dish, SS bowl, small green & white bowl with flower decoration, oven pads, assorted plastic containers, flatware and spatulas.

Scary Night On Long’s Peak

It was to be a classic day: the forecast was perfect for the time of year, August 22: calm, clear and warm. I was to lead a CMC rock climb up the North Ridge of Spearhead, and had formed a strong team. Kent Crites, a mountaineer of deep experience, was my co-leader, and Heather Pore was the sole participant, both strong climbers. Since Spearhead is about a four mile hike in, and since Kent and I were a little older (in our fifties), we decided to hike in the night before and bivouac below the climb to have a fresh start in the morning. Heather, a mere 20 something, of course thought nothing of hiking in and climbing the same day, so she was to meet us the next morning.

Kent and I enjoyed a pleasurable and leisurely hike in the balmy weather. Rocky Mountain Park was in its full summer glory, as we drank in the majestic sights that make up Glacier Gorge: Mills Lake, MacHenry’s Peak, Spearhead, Chiefshead, Arrowhead, Pagoda Peak and, of course, the west face of Long’s Peak. This is certainly one of the most scenic valleys in the park, and the compact clustering of high quality rock routes makes it especially exciting to climbers. Arriving in the cirque below Spearhead, we chose a flat grassy area about midway up the slopes towards the start of our route. With such benign weather, we would be fine sleeping without a tent, bedding down under the starry sky. We cooked and ate our simple meals, enjoying quiet conversation as dusk deepened into twilight. We were alone in the cirque, and savored the immense silence.

All seemed well as I snuggled into my bag, glancing up at the first stars ap-
paring in the inky sky. The dark rocky ramparts of the west face of Long’s were directly across the valley from us, the exact ridgeline hard to make out in the dark, as I tried to make out exactly where the Keyhole would be. All of a sudden, I noticed two tiny points of light moving slowly along, bobbing and winking; a few seconds of steady observation confirmed that they must be hikers returning along the Keyhole route, the most popular trail up Long’s. I called over to Kent, and he noticed them too. Those poor guys! It was past nine o’clock, but they looked like they would be through the Keyhole soon, and, I thought, at least they would then be past the most exposed and dangerous part of the route.

A few minutes later, this assumption of safe harbor for the hikers seemed to be going terribly wrong: instead of the two bobbing lights going up and over the ridge as they neared the Keyhole, they seemed to be going down the ridge, toward Black Lake! I spoke in alarm to Kent, who confirmed what I saw -- but there was absolutely nothing we could do. Communication was impossible at that distance, and we couldn’t call anyone for help; nor was it advisable to leave our camp to try to reach them in such dangerous terrain. I knew what that face looked like in daylight: steep, large, loose boulders, even large blank sections of rock face; at night, even with headlamps, it would be a nightmare to negotiate. But down they went, first left, then right...at times the lights would disappear, and I could only think the worst. I half expected one or both of them to cheat death! Kent and I congratulated each other on not having to participate in a rescue, and turned back into our bags, finally able to go to sleep. We never heard anything about the pair again; just another scary night in RMNP...

~submitted by Rick Casey

Global Updates With e-Compass

Some members are having trouble receiving the e-Compass. The Council has decided to implement a policy where the state office will do a global update of all Boulder members each month before the e-Compass is sent out. “Global update” means to refresh the email database for the e-Compass with that of the CMC state database. This means there is no longer a need for members to subscribe to the e-Compass directly as long as members have an accurate email address in the state database. If a member’s email changes, it’s their responsibility to make this change on the Personal Data page: www.cmc.org/members/editdata.aspx. You may also view the current Compass by going to www.cmc Boulder.org/docs/compass/currentIssue.pdf.

Eric Larsen: Save The Poles

February 4, 2010, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
American Mountaineering Center, Free

The polar regions of the world are home to an amazing variety of life. Seemingly desolate and vacant, these areas support vital ecosystems and are integral to regulating and maintaining world climate. On November 12, 2009 Polar explorer Eric Larsen began the Save the Poles Expedition, a first-ever journey to the North Pole, South Pole and summit of Mt. Everest in a continuous 365-day period. His purpose? To travel to the “front lines” of global warming to document the changes occurring in these last great frozen places. Fore more info, go to www.cmchams.org/eric


Volunteer Opportunities!

To volunteer call the clubroom or email clubroom@cmcboulder.org

Clubroom Hosts Needed
Monday through Thursday from 5-7 pm

New Compass Editor Wanted
The Boulder CMC is in need of a new Compass editor. Gain valuable skills while filling a key position in the Boulder Club. Applicants should have some experience with the Club, the responsibility to deliver a monthly newsletter, and some computer skills. If interested please email Compass@cmcboulder.org.

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.
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.

To view trips online and register:
- Browse to 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

Wednesday, January 6

Ice Climbing Clinic, Lecture
The ice climbing clinic is an introduction to basic ice climbing safety and techniques. Basic Rock School or equivalent skills required. School consists of one lecture (1/6, 7pm) and one field trip 1/16. Boulder Leader: Kent Crites 303-284-3059 kentcrites@aol.com

Sunday, January 10

Black Lakes Ridge Telemark, III Ski Tour, Blue Downhill, Moderate pace
Register with leader - Starting at Vail Pass parking area, ski up the ridge between Shrine Pass Road and Black Lakes. Ski down the ridge 2 or 3 times. Climbing skins and good telemark/downhill skills required. Leader: Steven Haymes 303-444-4765 srhaymes@yahoo.com

Wednesday, January 13

Winter Camping Clinic Lecture
This clinic is geared toward those with minimal winter camping experience. The course covers tent camping, building snow structures such as kitchens, walls, emergency shelters (snow caves). Travel via snowshoes or skis. Clinic consists of one overnight field trip (1/23-1/24). Leader: Willy Gully 303-939-8382 wgully@ball.com

Thursday, January 14

WeekDAY Warrior Gathering Special
Come share stories and plan activities for weekDAYS. 7-9 Boulder clubroom. Bring snack or drink to share. No signups - just show up. Leader: Jean Aschenbrenner 303-786-9411 jeanasch@hotmail.com

Saturday, January 16

Jim Creek, Easy III Ski Tour; Easy, Ski, Casual pace
A pleasant trail with usually good snow. Trailhead is directly east of the Winter Park ski area entrance. Leader: Ken Baugh 303-881-2465 robson93@comcast.net

Ice Climbing Clinic
The ice climbing clinic is an introduction to basic ice climbing safety and techniques. Basic Rock School or equivalent skills required. School consists of one lecture (1/6 at 7pm) and one field trip 1/16 or 1/17. Boulder Leader: Kent Crites 303-284-3059 kentcrites@aol.com

Sunday, January 17

Ice Climbing Clinic
See Saturday, January 16 description

Saturday, January 23 – January 24

Winter Camping Field Trip
This clinic is geared toward those with minimal winter camping experience. The course covers tent camping, building snow structures such as kitchens, walls, emergency shelters, (snow caves). Travel via snowshoes or skis. Clinic consists of one overnight field trip (1/23-1/24). Leader: Willy Gully 303-939-8382 wgully@ball.com

Wednesday, January 27

Tele/AT Backcountry Ski Clinic, Lecture
This course will cover basic backcountry/peak skiing safety skills for the Colorado backcountry including survival skills, survival skiing and peak skiing/navigation. Prerequisite: Students should be intermediate area skiers with backcountry skiing experience and have Avalanche Level 1. Course consists of 3 lectures (1/27, 2/3, 2/10 7-10pm) and 3 field trips (1/31, 2/7, 2/21) Applications (due 1/10) available on line at www.cmcboulder.org/schools. Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 gagnone2@comcast.net

Sunday, January 31

Tele/AT Backcountry Ski Field Trip
This course will cover basic backcountry/peak skiing safety skills for the Colorado backcountry including survival skills, survival skiing and peak skiing/navigation. Prerequisite: Students should be intermediate area skiers with backcountry skiing experience and have Avalanche Level 1. Course consists of 3 lectures (1/27, 2/3, 2/10 7-10pm) and 3 field trips (1/31, 2/7, 2/21) Applications (due 1/10) available on line at www.cmcboulder.org/schools. Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564 gagnone2@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 or Sharon Silva 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 will take us into the heart of the world’s majestic Himalayan Mountains and into the rarely visited Lumbding Valley. Very few westerners have ever ventured into this completely unspoiled valley! We will be surrounded by striking scenery and will also spend time with Pemba’s family in the small Sherpa village of Sengma. We will also relax for a few days in the colorful capital city of Kathmandu. The cost is $2526. For more information please call Pemba Sherpa at 303-525-6508 or pemba@sherpaascent.com.
The Boulder Group’s 2009 Annual Dinner

Thanks to photographers John Brooks and Gabi Pfister. See www.cmcboulder.org for more pictures.

The Avalon Ballroom is the perfect venue. We had 170 attendees this year!

Elli Johnson, our Annual Dinner Coordinator, did a fabulous job.

The gals from Fairview High School were, once again, great with handling the food.

Holly Freeman (Council Treasurer) manages the Best Boulder Hikes sales table.

Dick Munro (2009 Chair), Brenda Leach (2008 Chair) and Sheila Delamere (Clubroom Manager Extraordinaire).

Rick Casey (left, At Large Council Member) and John Fernandez (2010 Chair) enjoying the Social Hour.

Janine Fugere (2010 Vice Chair and Hiking School Director).

Tom Wilson (left, 2007 Chair), Steve Priem and Gabi Pfister (GPS E-newsletter Editor).

Mike Anstett and Jill Yarger.

Marilyn Fellows, Jim Groh, Gail Blandford and Steve Blazo.

Tessie DeLaney (left, Compass Editor) and Val Hovland (Advanced Mountaineering School Director).

Everyone enjoyed the Social Hour.
The Boulder Group's 2009 Annual Dinner

We certainly had no shortage of great food this year!

Photographer John Brooks stands guard over all of the desserts in the kitchen.

A group of members enjoying the delicious potluck dinner.

Dick Munro conducts the Business Meeting.

John Fernandez accepts the “branding iron” from Dick Munro.

Cindy Gagnon (Mountaineering School Chair) highlights the school accomplishments for the year.

Gerry Caplan presents the prestigious Ellingwood Award to Jean Aschenbrenner for her long and productive mountaineering career.

David Robertson discusses the successful Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum.

Annual dinner speaker Val Hovland.

Val’s presentation and video of her successful climb up Mt Everest.

Gifted musicians Gary Schmidt and Danielle Lewis perform a duet.

Recycling expert Steve Priem manages the recycle center to minimize the trash at the dinner.