Editor's Note

Hope everyone’s enjoying the great summer weather. We never get out as much as we like, but hope you’re getting out enough.

In this issue, I would call your attention to the Roger Briggs interview, if you’re interested in what’s happening in the Boulder climbing community; this will be a significant event, and sure to impact the direction of local climbing policy.

Otherwise, the Council and BMS are always looking to improve; your suggestions are always welcome. Look for a few more upcoming social events in the Clubroom, especially!

— Rick Casey, Compass Editor and Webteam / Council Liaison Person

Fall Schools Sign-Up Night

Monday, August 16, 7 pm

This year’s fall schools will include Hiking I, Hiking II, Basic Rock School and GPS Navigation. See www.cmcboulder.org/bms/fallSchedule.html for the course dates. The first opportunity to sign up for classes is at the Fall Schools Sign-Up Night on Monday, August 16, in the BCMC clubroom. Please note that applications will be available online and in the clubroom on August 9, but will not be accepted until the Sign-Up Night. Attending the Sign-Up Night gives you a higher priority of getting into the schools. Applications may still be submitted to the clubroom after August 16. Contact bms@cmcboulder.org if you have questions. Bring your checkbook!

Major Open Space Study Under Way

Open Space and Mountain Parks is developing a plan for the City of Boulder’s western open space. The West Trail Study Area (WTSA) plan will guide the use and management of these lands for the next 10 years.

The City of Boulder is currently reviewing the details of the use of Open Space on the west side of the city. They are considering making changes in dog regulations, allowing mountain bikes to share hiking trails, and creating new mountain biking trails on Open Space, including a bike connector from Chautauqua to Eldorado Springs. These trails are well visited by many Boulder Group CMCers, so we need to be involved.

continued on page 5, Open Space

A New Organization Begins: the Boulder Climbing Community

Roger Briggs recently leading Incarnation, 5.12, Eldorado Canyon State Park.
Photo credit: Cody Blair

[Editor’s note: the following is based on an interview I had with Roger Briggs, July 22, 2010 at the Cafe Sole in Boulder. -- the Editor]

There’s a new organization forming in Boulder which reflects yet another stage in the evolution of Boulder’s dynamic climbing scene. Called, appropriately enough, the Boulder Climbing Community (BCC), it is an effort started by Roger Briggs to fill a void he perceived as needing to be filled. Roger’s climbing accomplishments are legendary in the local climbing community, going back to the Sixties, so his backing gives it instant credibility. Now retired after teaching physics and coaching the distance runners at Fairview High School for thirty years, he is devoting the latter half of his career to this pursuit.

continued on page 4, BCC
Chair’s Report

Greetings Fellow Club Members:

The recent rash of climbing accidents in Eldo gave me pause when I realized that four deaths have occurred in the past two years on routes I have led. In that same time, I have witnessed two very serious incidents: a woman’s leg crushed by a rock dislodged by a scrambling photographer as she belayed her partner at the Bowling Alley in Boulder Canyon; and a climber seriously hurt at the Bhedral, when her belayer was using a rope too short for the pitch and the rope ran through the belay device, turning the climber into a faller, hurling 40 feet downward to a ledge and bouncing out to the gully below. She was saved only because another climber caught her rope as she flew by.

My own introduction to the inherent hazards of the mountains occurred the week I moved to Colorado, August of 1970. My brother and I went off to do Long’s, ridiculously outfitted in blue jeans and flannel shirts. Fortunately, the weather was bright and sunny but when I grabbed the thick metal of the old Cable route, I learned all about verglas and how slick and invisible that surface can be on a hot summer day. Fortunately, I was in a three-point stance and slid only a short ways.

Of course, it’s not just technical climbing that is hazardous. I am reminded of the time in the mid-1990’s when I took a job at a local consulting firm and found out that I was replacing someone who had been killed by lightning after hiking to the top of Mt. Princeton. And we all know about a certain solo hiker who lost an arm after getting stuck between a rock and a hard place.

All these incidents have this in common: none involved a CMC trip or school. In fact, the Bhedral accident arose out of unsafe behavior exhibited by an informal meet-up group: people meeting for the first time at the belay ledge, unknowledgeable about each others’ abilities or experience, unaware of basics such as the minimum rope length needed for a given route. It’s okay to be a social climber but far better to be a safe social climber.

Boulder CMC Open House Next Month

When: Sep. 15th, 7-8 pm
Where: At the Clubroom, around the corner from Neptune’s

Inviting new and prospective CMC members to learn more about the club and its many classes, trips, and activities. Experienced members will be on hand to share their enthusiasm and knowledge about hiking, camping, peak bagging, rock climbing, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, and more. Bring a friend!

Trip Leader and Instructor Appreciation Party

This Friday, August 13, 6pm at the Clubroom will be a party in appreciation of all trips leaders and instructors. Cindy Gagnon, director of winter BMS, has sent out invitations to recent instructors via Evite. Phil Congdon has been working with volunteers to get door prizes. So if you’ve ever been a trip leader or instructor, consider yourself invited! (Raffle open to only recent instructors though!)

You know The WARNING found inside of each guide book — Rock climbing is a dangerous sport that can result in death, paralysis or serious injury...If you are unsure of your ability to handle any circumstances that may arise, employ the services of a professional instructor or guide.

To this we should add — the CMC is another option. Here we offer professional grade instruction and a dual mission of being safe while having fun. Please encourage your friends and acquaintances to join our trips and enroll in our schools to help keep the mountain experience a safe one. The hazards of playing in the mountains cannot be eliminated but solid training and preparation will bring you home safely.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Fernandez, Boulder Chair

Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer call 303-554-7768 or email clubroom@cmcboulder.org

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

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.

New Compass Editor Wanted
If you have the time, and would like to gain valuable experience with the Boulder CMC, please consider volunteering as editor for the Compass. You will gain a rich experience of how the Club functions by overseeing the production of a tradition that has been published continuously for decades. You will also get experience in using inDesign, a standard software tool in professional graphic design. If so, please contact the editor at compass@cmcboulder.org.

compass

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Website: cmcboulder.org
e-Compass subscription: cmc.org → login → Personal Data → e-newsletters
We welcome announcements, articles, letters, artwork, and photos, especially from recent CMC trips and events.
**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)

**Wednesday, August 4**

After Work Social Hike  Moderate A  Casual pace
A relaxing, slow-to-moderate paced, 2 to 3 hour hike close to Boulder. Don’t call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room (behind Neptune Mountaineering at Table Mesa and Broadway). Be prepared for any weather with good footwear, water and a light. Optional after-hike food and drink.  Boulder Trail Mileage:6  Elevation Gain:600  Drive Distance:5  Topo Map(s):Boulder, Eldorado Springs  Leader:Steven Haymes  303-444-4765 srhaymes@yahoo.com  Trip#11418

**Wednesday, August 11**

Wednesday Evening Endeavors  Moderate A  After Work Hike
A relaxing, slow-to-moderate paced, 2 to 3 hour hike close to Boulder. Don’t call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room (behind Neptune Mountaineering at Table Mesa and Broadway). Be prepared for any weather with good footwear, water and a light. Optional after-hike food and drink.  Boulder Trail Mileage:6  Elevation Gain:800  Drive Distance:5  Topo Map(s):Boulder/Eldorado Springs  Leader:Marilyn Fellows  303-665-6312 buchloe111@aol.com  Trip#12476

**Monday, August 16**

Fall Schools Overview & Signups Special
Come find out all about the Boulder Mountaineering Schools Fall Schools including Hiking 1, Hiking 2, GPS Navigation and Basic Rock School. Applications for all schools will be available. Bring your checkbook! School descriptions are at [http://www.cmcboulder.org/bms/fallSchedule.html](http://www.cmcboulder.org/bms/fallSchedule.html). 7pm in the CMC Boulder Group Clubroom.  Boulder Leader:Brenda Leach  303-525-3660 brenda_leach@yahoo.com  Trip#12628

**Wednesday, August 18**

After Work Hike  Moderate A  Wednesday Evening Endeavors  Casual pace
A relaxing, slow-to-moderate paced, 2 to 3 hour hike close to Boulder. Don’t call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room (behind Neptune Mountaineering at Table Mesa and Broadway). Be prepared for any weather with good footwear, water and a light. Optional after-hike food and drink.  Boulder Trail Mileage:6  Elevation Gain:800  Drive Distance:10  Topo Map(s):Boulder, Eldorado Springs  Leader:Caryl Shields  303-665-6312 buchloe111@aol.com  Trip#12246

**Saturday, August 21**

Evening rock climb, Group 1, 5.5
A fun tradition in Boulder is a moonlit ascent of the Third Flatiron; this night in August should be perfect! If you are qualified -- can climb 5.5 & rappel -- please join us for this unique experience. Trip limited by # of co-leaders and 3-person rope teams. Contact: caseyrick@gmail.com

**Wednesday, August 25**

Wednesday Evening Endeavors  Moderate A  After Work Hike
A relaxing, slow-to-moderate paced, 2 to 3 hour hike close to Boulder. Don’t call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room (behind Neptune Mountaineering at Table Mesa and Broadway). Be prepared for any weather with good footwear, water and a light. Optional after-hike food and drink.  Boulder Trail Mileage:6  Elevation Gain:800  Drive Distance:5  Topo Map(s):Boulder/Eldorado Springs  Leader:Marilyn Fellows  303-499-6099 Marilyngfellows@yahoo.com  Trip#12246

Eldorado Classic Climb Series - Bastille Crack  III Climb 5.8
This is truly an Eldorado Classic! Climb 5 pitches of cracks ranging from hand jams to finger cracks up the nearly vertical Bastille Wall. Finish with the 5.8 option. Limit 2 participants.  Boulder Leader:Brenda Leach  303-525-3660 brenda_leach@yahoo.com  Trip#12628

Neptune Mountaineering at Table Mesa and Broadway. Be prepared for any weather with good footwear, water and light. Optional after-hike food and drink.  Boulder Trail Mileage:6  Elevation Gain:800  Drive Distance:10  Topo Map(s):Boulder, Eldorado Springs  Leader:Caryl Shields  303-665-6312 buchloe111@aol.com  Trip#12246

Chris Endres (left) and Kevin Piacentini relax on a belay ledge on recent CMC climb of Gambit in Eldorado Canyon State Park (photo credit: Brenda Leach)

continued on page 5, Trips
How Do I Become a Boulder Group Trip Leader?

Have you thought about becoming a trip leader for the Boulder Group? We encourage our members to become trip leaders! The requirements, application and process are documented on the website at http://www.cmcboulder.org/trips/#TripLeaders. Here are the general requirements:

There are two categories of trip leader applicants:
1. New -- those who have never been approved as a Boulder Group trip leader.
2. Upgrading -- those who are currently a Boulder Group trip leader and are now applying to lead a different trip type. For instance, a member who is currently a rock leader may apply to lead ski touring trips.

The following are required for new trips leaders only:
1. Current Standard First Aid card or Mountaineering First Aid (MOFA, preferred) card.
2. Current CPR card.
3. Complete the Leadership Seminar. For more information, go to www.cmcboulder.org/bms/leadership/leadershipseminar.html.

The following are required of all trip leader applicants:
1. Be a Boulder Group CMC member.
2. Co-lead one Boulder Group trip of the same trip type that they wish to lead and receive a favorable written recommendation from the leader of that trip.
3. Participate in or co-lead a second Boulder Group trip of the same trip type that they wish to lead and receive a favorable written recommendation from the leader of that trip. Note that the two trips must be with two different trip leaders.

Please refer to www.cmcboulder.org/trips for more information or send an email to outings@cmcboulder.org.

BCC, continued from page 1

years, while raising a family, he now has the time to put into such a venture, and is quite intent on its success. Realizing the significance of this development, I contacted Roger, and we recently spoke about his motivation for starting and goals for the BCC.

The kickoff meeting was held at Neptune Mountaineering on Thursday, July 8, which unfortunately I could not attend, but was apparently an encouraging start. The purpose of the BCC is to serve as an umbrella organization for the numerous other climbing-related organizations in the local area, and to fill any needs in the local climbing community that are not being addressed by existing organizations. It is a totally free, purely volunteer effort, supported strictly by the energy of its participants. Although Roger started the BCC, he has been heavily assisted by Scott Rennak, an active member of the FCC, and an advisory group that includes Beth Bennett, Becky Hall, Roger Linfield, and Mike McHugh. So far all communications are being handled through an email list (to get on it just send email to boulderingcommunity@gmail.com), but communications will be expanding into Facebook, blogs, and a website. Roger made it clear that he will be seeking how to make the BCC into a self-perpetuating organization, not owned by him, and where he can find his place within it. At this time, he is not seeking for it to be funding-supported, but did not rule that out in the future. To keep it simple, there is no intention to add more structure to the organization at this time.

The motto of the BCC is “community, stewardship, and activism,” and it is meant to be inclusive of all elements of the local climbing community, which, Roger stressed, will include anyone who climbs here, not just those climbers who live here. The need for such an organization is more than just a good idea; as Roger put it, he seems to have simply “lit a match” to a community passion needing to express itself.

The primary events will be organized around four seasonal gatherings a year, to be held on a rotating basis at Neptune’s, The Spot, The Boulder Rock Club, and Movement. These gatherings are meant to be a place where participating groups (13 so far) can report on their relevant activity, and everyone can have some fun with films, slide shows, interviews, and socializing. The next BCC event (it’s second!) will be the Fall Event on Friday, September 17 in conjunction with Thursday night’s Reel Rock Film Tour at the Boulder Theater. People on the BCC mailing list will be able to receive discounted Reel Rock tickets. Roger and local film producer Peter Mortimer of Sender Films are discussing the possibility of combining Reel Rock, the BCC Event, and other local happenings into a sort of Boulder Climbing Festival in the fall of 2011.

Another purpose of the BCC will be to help land managers connect with the climbing community; these are primarily the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP), Boulder County, the US Forest Service (USFS) and Eldorado Canyon State Park. Despite the progress made over the years in managing climbing issues that impact public lands, there are still some areas with serious problems. A prime example is Boulder Canyon, which has been under development by climbers for decades, but in the last few years has seen heavy use and extension of activity into some contentious areas. The canyon is a complex land management problem, being a choppy mix of USFS, Boulder OSMP, Boulder County Open Space, private property and mining claims. With the increasing impacts from climbers, there is a burning need for trail-building and other stewardship as well as transparent and practical policies. As anyone who has descended from the top of Cobb Rock knows, there is a complete lack of any kind of trail management and the trail erosion at such popular crags is atrocious. Another issue are the multiple tyrolean traverses erected annually by climbers to get across Boulder Creek during high flow season; these have been handled informally up to now, but the demand for access to the south bank is apparent, and perhaps the community could be better served by a more standard approach.

At the moment, Roger says that he is seeking volunteers for any of the work BCC is undertaking, including stewardship.
Cabin Fall Work Parties

The fall work parties to prepare the cabins for winter are always fun events and fill up quick. If you want to learn more about the cabins, and meet a lot of fun people, make sure you sign up early! They will be listed as Work Party Trips at the state website.

Árestua Cabin Annual Work Party:
Saturday, Sept 18.
Help get our beautiful Guinn Mountain cabin ready for the winter. Projects include - wood cutting, hauling, splitting, and stacking; cleaning the cabin inside; and some small repairs. Bring: work boots/shoes, work gloves, your lunch, chain saw if you own one. Sign-up is not necessary but is appreciated. Be prepared for hot/dry &/or wet/cold. Meet at the hut or the Rollinsville Store at 8:00am. For more info, contact: Mark Buchanan (303) 717-1187, or arestuaht@gmail.com

Brainard Cabin Annual Work Party:
Saturday Sept 25. Come for any part of either day to help haul, split & stack wood, clean the inside of the cabin, and make minor repairs. Bring: work boots/shoes, work gloves, your lunch. Be prepared for hot/dry &/or wet/cold. Sign-up is not necessary but is appreciated, especially if you plan to stay Saturday night. Meet at the cabin, or car pool at 8:00 AM from the parking lot in the N.E. corner of Iris and Broadway in North Boulder. For more info, contact: Jason Kintzel (303) 776-1218, or cabins@cmcboulder.org

BCNA Classes

[Editor’s Note: Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) is a non-profit dedicated to teaching about Nature. Find out more at www.bcna.org]

Boulder Bugs: An Introduction to the World under our Feet! — Scott Severs

Discover the hidden world of insects and spiders. The classroom session will focus on the identification features of the major orders of spiders and their kin, grasshoppers, true bugs, beetles, social insects (bees and ants) and others. In the field we will practice our newly learned identification skills, see how insects interact with each other, and observe the roles they play in the local environment and in our daily lives.

Indoor class: Wednesday, August 4, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Field class: Sunday, August 8, 9 am to noon
Tuition: $55 ($50 BCNA members).
Limited to 8 participants.
To register, contact Scott at (303) 684-6430 or rostrhamus@aol.com

Mushrooms of the Front Range — Jennifer Frazer

Thousands of species of mushrooms lurk in the woods and yards of Colorado. This class will cover basic mushroom biology, important mushroom toxins, common Colorado mushrooms, how mushrooms make a living, and how to recognize major mushroom families. We’ll also learn how to make the beautiful spore prints that can be vital to identification. In the field, you’ll get hands-on experience collecting and identifying mushrooms, and be trained in the lost art of the mushroom hoot.

Indoor class: Thursday, August 19, 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm. Field class: Saturday, August 21, 9 am to 1 pm. Field class: Saturday, September 4, 9 am to 1 pm
Tuition: $80 ($70 for BCNA members).
Limited to 12 participants.
To register, contact Jennifer at (303) 549-6430 or ranatrafusca@yahoo.com

Open Space Plan, continued from page 1

Current proposals aim to increase use of South Boulder trails by:
- Opening most trails to mountain bikes
- Adding more trails for mountain bikes
- Building parking lots across from Telluride and Smuggler

If you are interested in learning more about this process, the Boulder City website has a large section devoted to this project. Just go to http://bouldercounty.gov and search there for “West Trail Study Area” (the URL was too long and complicated to print.)

Forest Stewardship Tip

The majority of mountain pine beetles fly once per year from mid-July to mid-September. We are quickly approaching the MPB flight window for the 2010 season and it is important that we plan our forestry cutting projects accordingly. Each year it is strongly recommend that you try to remove as many currently infested trees as possible from your forest before the MPBs fly.

Over the next two months MPBs will emerge from the host tree they developed in and fly to a new suitable host tree. In general, they will most aggressively attack forests that are overcrowded, stressed and unhealthy. Studies suggest that MPBs shy away from forests that are more open grown with few trees per acre. One reason beetles are less likely to attack open forests is because there is more air circulation in these forests, which helps to disrupt the pheromones (love signals) that beetles use to communicate.

If you would like to refresh your memory about beetle biology we recommend taking a look at a Bark Beetle Presentation found on Boulder County’s Forest Health Webpage. (http://www.bouldercounty.org/foresthealth/pdf/Bark-BeetlePresentation052009.pdf)

— submitted by Chris Klotz, Conservation Chair
Wild Work: Volunteering for Boulder County

Looking for a way to give back, have fun, get some outdoor exercise without making a long term commitment? Then check out the monthly one day work parties with Boulder County Open Space. Here’s a brief list of this month’s projects:

August 1 & 7: pick Oxeye Daisy, a noxious weed and pretty flower, at Caribou Ranch.
August 2 & 14: Native Seed Collection
August 14: Remove old fences at Caribou Ranch
August 21: Limber pine cone collection

For full information, see www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/volunteering

Hiking and Exploring in Ecuador

Dates: September 6–17, 2010
Price: $2,501 + air travel

Travel to a private preserve nestled in a rustic mountain setting in the Pichincha Foothills where you will find peace and tranquility. Experience Ecuador’s bird and animal life, following the footsteps of the ancient Incas on the Last Inca Emperor’s Trails. Take in incredible views of the mountains and volcanoes and enjoy superb photo opportunities.

Our starting point will be Quito. After arriving we will explore the capital of Ecuador, learning about colonial art, history, archaeology and folklore. In the preserve we will trek to the Highland Rainforest, with opportunities to visit five sacred waterfalls. There are 250 varieties of native medicinal plants in the region and we will learn about some of them. While hiking in a wild virgin cloud forest around Pichincha Mountain and trekking jungle trails, we will observe a variety of birds, including hummingbirds at feeders. Ecuador is a paradise of about 450 bird species, majestic waterfalls, and 300 varieties of orchids.

A visit to the world famous Otavala Indian Market will give you a chance to shop for local handmade products. Guided hikes at a moderate to easy hiking level on 8 days of the trip will be in the itinerary including after dark hikes to hear wild voices of the night jungle.

There will an optional 5 or 7 day trip to the Galapagos Islands before the trip. For more information, please contact: Betsy Weitkamp at 303-722-1656 or elaw@q.com.