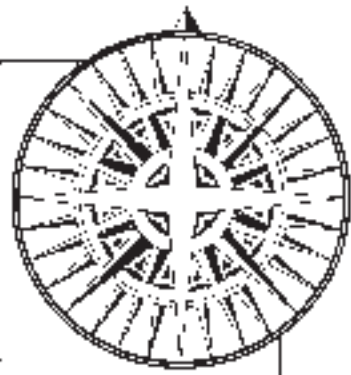




Compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXVII Number 1

January 2011

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Editor's Note

When it comes to playing in the outdoors, the CMC is all about safety; it's the first priority in all of our schools. On our own, we study the lessons to be learned from great mountaineering epics. And while we are not all elite climbers or expert skiers, each of us in our hiking, climbing, or skiing outings has faced a decision critical to personal or group safety. As the new editor of the Compass, I would like to share a series of safety and survival stories from our own membership. The issues faced and the lessons learned in these tales are no different than those confronting leaders on headline-making trips. In fact, they might even be more useful since the context in which they arise can seem ordinary or mundane. If you have a story you would like to share, please contact me at compass@cmcboulder.org.

— Donna Marino
Compass Editor

Descending the Divide

- contributed by John Fernandez

The Set-Up. A team of four guys in their early 30's decided to ski from Bear Lake to Grand Lake via Flattop Mountain. Two of the four, John and Ralie, were good friends and had done many back-country trips together including regular forays above tree line. The other two, Tom and Bill, were colleagues with basic cross-country skills. All were athletic and fit. The foursome had never skied together as a group. The only direct experience with the route was John's hike to the top of Flattop the previous summer. Bill had just earned his Master's degree with a thesis evaluating the use of local land use regulation to mitigate avalanche hazards for new developments.

The trip was set for Easter weekend. As it happened, the wives were to drop off the guys at Bear Lake and rendezvous late the next day at the Tonahutu/North Inlet Trailheads on the north side of Grand Lake. It would be an overnight trip of 18-20 miles depending on the exact route. The planned camp was at the headwaters of Hallett Creek, a tributary of North Inlet.

The Trip. At the Rocky Mountain National Park Visitor Center, we confirmed with the backcountry ranger a favorable weather forecast: some wind, relatively warm, no precipitation. The ranger cautioned the group about heavy snows on the west side of the Divide.

The foursome was deposited mid-morning at Bear Lake and quickly began the climb north, then west up and around Flattop Mountain. We summited early

afternoon after an elevation gain of 2800 feet and took a group photo in strong winds just west of Tyndall Glacier.

The group continued skiing south along the broad Divide, taking advantage of heavy spring snows and dodging the occasional rocks and grasses. The "trail" was to take the team south at this high elevation for a bit less than two miles, then turn southwest for a mile, then zig-zag sharply in a steep descent to Hallett Creek.

Continued on page 5

John Fernandez Receives CMC President's Award

On December 12, John Fernandez was given the prestigious CMC President's Award. The award was presented to John by Wynne Whyman, CMC President. The CMC President chooses the award recipient. It is given to those who go above and beyond their CMC volunteer responsibilities. John was the 2010 Chair of the Boulder Group. He did an outstanding job of leading the Boulder Group and contributing to the CMC.



Wynne Whyman & John Fernandez

Chair's Report

My induction into my new role as Boulder Council Chair has been facilitated by the strength and support of those who've come before me. I'm grateful to John Fernandez for his accomplishments as Chair, notable enough for Wynne Whyman to honor John with the President's Award at December's Council. I am well aware that I have quite some shoes to fill, yet I take comfort in knowing that John and many other talented people are here to guide and assist me. I'm grateful for all the past and new Council Members, Committee Chairs, and countless advisors and volunteers who are along for the ride! Thank you all.

The most immediate issue facing me in my new role is our impending clubroom move. For those not aware, we will be moving to the space between H & R Block and Neptune's. The reason is the old clubroom will become unaffordable once the current lease expires and we lose the far below market value rent we've been paying. We are lucky that the space beside Neptune's became available and we're extremely grateful to Gary Neptune for working out a very amenable sublease, thus allowing us to keep our Clubroom "close to home" in the same prime location. Since the old lease is not expired, we will have two clubrooms until a new tenant is found for our current space. We are fortunate that a generous financial arrangement will allow us to afford both spaces in the interim. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Dick Munro, John Fernandez, and Brenda Leach for their ongoing and tireless negotiations to secure this new clubroom space and their work to successfully navigate through the complex sublease negotiations. As a result, we are beginning the exciting process of planning the layout and renovations of our new home!

Another big priority for our group and all of CMC is the need for marketing to attract and retain members. I'm excited that the state's new Marketing Director, Rachel Scott, is eager to work closely with us on our marketing efforts. We are also still seeking a Marketing Director for the Boulder Group, and welcome anyone interested in the position.

Closely related is the importance of attracting and retaining school directors, instructors, and assistants, as well as trip leaders. Our schools have been running very strongly, of which we are proud. We need to take that further by recruiting more graduates to become instructors & trip leaders, and also by increasing the number of trips offered on our activity schedule. This will provide graduates chances to practice their skills and a reason to remain members. More trips will attract new folks also. I believe regularly offering a large number of trips of a widely varied nature is one of the best ways we can attract and retain members. For this reason, I'm very excited that our new Outings Chair, Eric Brehm and his Assistant Chair, Eileen Monyok have hit the ground running and are making great strides at vitalizing our Outings Committee.

Safety in our schools and on CMC trips is another priority for our group and the state. An ongoing effort to establish statewide Safety and Leadership Standards continues and the Boulder group is actively involved in this state level process. The exciting news is that our safety and leadership trainings and practices are ahead of many other groups. Yet, there is always still more we can learn about preventing accidents and, worse yet, tragedies in Colorado's mountains.

Another main concern for me is to become more informed about issues surrounding the difficult attempts to balance conservation with recreation, so that our Council can help our entire membership be more informed. There are countless groups and organizations lobbying for various positions on both sides of this issue, and changes are impending close to home that many of members and the community may not even be aware of. I'm learning very quickly that this is a complex and controversial topic with no easy answers. However, since conservation is a huge part of CMC's mission, and so is providing safe and rewarding recreational opportunities in Colorado's Mountains, I'm eager for our group to learn more about how to achieve a balance.

I certainly have my work cut out for me in many ways, but I'm very excited about the opportunity for this to be my year to serve the Boulder Group as Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

– Janine Fugere, 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.

compass

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Subscribe to GPS e-newsletter: cmcboulder.org → Publications → GPS → E-GPS

Clubroom hours: Mon. -Thurs., 5 to 7 pm

Clubroom Telephone: 303-554-7688

CMC information: bcmc@cmcboulder.org

Website: cmcboulder.org

All Boulder members automatically receive the Compass via email.

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

DISCLAIMER

Events published in the Compass are for informational purposes only. They are not endorsed by the Boulder Group of the CMC except for the events that are explicitly led, taught or instructed by the Boulder Group. The Boulder Group of the CMC makes no assessment as to their merits. Participants are advised to make their own assessment as to whether to participate in these events.

January 2011 Trips & Activities

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

Saturday, January 8

Brainard Cabin Ski Tour

Mod. I Ski Tour

Ski the Little Raven Trail to the lake and on to our warm cabin. Then out on the more difficult North Trail. Bring a lunch and 50 cents if you're a member, or \$1.00 if not, for cabin fee.

Leader: Steve Priem 303-499-0577
s.priem@yahoo.com

Trail mileage: 7 miles
Elevation gain: 753 feet
Driving distance: 50 miles

Sunday, January 9

Black Lakes Ridge Telemark

Moderate III Ski Tour

Difficulty: Blue Downhill

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.** Later start and dinner in Frisco to avoid the traffic. Register with leader BY PHONE between 9 AM and 9 PM only.

Leader: Steven Haymes 303-444-4765

Trail mileage: 9 miles
Elevation gain: 1800 feet
Prerequisite: Avalanche School
Driving distance: 210 miles

Saturday, January 15

University Camp

Moderate III - LIT Ski Tour

Difficulty: Green Downhill

Starting with the Sourdough Trail, we will turn west and kick, glide, and climb steadily on a mix of University Camp trails and roads until we reach a view of the Indian Peaks for lunch and then return for a long run back to the trailhead. Register with leader BY PHONE between 9 AM and 9 PM only.

Leader: Steven Haymes 303-444-4765

Trail mileage: 8 miles
Elevation gain: 1700 feet
Prerequisite: XC School
Driving distance: 50 miles

Wednesday, January 19

Boulder CMC Open House

Boulder Clubroom

7-9pm

Want to learn more or share your knowledge about the CMC? New and prospective CMC members, join us at this open house. Experienced CMC members, share your enthusiasm and knowledge about hiking, camping, peak bagging, rock climbing, snowshoeing, or cross country skiing and more. You're always encouraged to BRING A FRIEND!

Sunday, January 23

Coney Flats Ski Tour

Easy III Ski Tour

From Beaver Reservoir ski up the gently-sloping road to either the magnificent views or ferocious winds of Coney Flats. A good outing for skiers with at least basic skills who'd like to improve their technique. Leader will provide tips and some time to practice. Register with leader.

Trail mileage: 6 miles
Elevation gain: 600 feet
Driving distance: 50 miles
Boulder Leader: Patricia Butler
303-440-0586

Sunday, January 29

Yankee Doodle Lake Ski Tour

Mod. II Ski Tour

Start at Eldora Ski Area, then ski up Jenny Creek to Yankee Doodle Lake for a good day of skiing.

Boulder Trail Mileage:10

Elevation Gain:1900

Drive Distance:110

Leader: Steve Priem 303-499-0577

Amateur Radio Community Meeting

- Contributed by Steve Priem

"N0YIV, Mayday- Mayday, Please respond"

"This is KC6USN . What is your situation?"

This was the beginning of a conversation that resulted in my rescue from Guinn Mountain five miles west of Eldora Ski Area parking lot on a cold winter night last February.

I have had a Technician class license from the FCC for 17 years. I use my radio at the Brainard Cabin, occasionally when we stop for lunch. I take it with me hiking and skiing. I have used my radio to report missing persons. I organized the rescue of a friend who broke his leg skiing on Treasure Mountain above Wolf Creek Pass in the San Juan Mountains.

On Thursday January 13 at 7pm, I will host a discussion about the Amateur Radio Community and how mountain travelers can access it. The meeting will be held in the Boulder Group Clubroom.

I invite Boulder Group radio operators to come and share their experiences, equipment and favorite repeater frequencies with you all who are curious and interested in learning about a radio community network that is a fun hobby and in my case, really made my day.

In closing, signing off with "N0YIV clear!"

Please RSVP to Steve Priem at s.priem@yahoo.com or call 303-499-0577 if you have any questions.

[Editor's Note: Steve's rescue was described in the March 2010 issue of the Compass.]

Introducing the New Outings Committee Chair and Assistant Chair

We'd like to introduce you to the new Boulder Group Outings Chair, Eric Brehm, and Assistant Outings Chair, Eileen Monyok. They're taking over the reins from Gary Schmidt who has held the Outings Chair position for around four years. Many thanks to Gary for his contributions over the years. Gary looks forward to continuing to lead rock climbing trips for the Boulder Group.

Eric and Eileen are working toward increasing the number of trips and the number of trip leaders in the Boulder Group. They are currently in the process of building up the Outings Committee. Kent Crites has agreed to be the Ice Climbing Coordinator and Steve Haymes has agreed to be both the Ski Touring Coordinator and Ski Mountaineering Coordinator. Eileen will take on the role as the Rock Climb Coordinator. Eric and Eileen are in the process of filling the other positions – A-B Hike Coordinator and C-D Hike Coordinator -- with some candidates already identified. If you're a current or prospective trip leader, you may have heard from them already. A few sections of the Trips page on the website have been updated. See www.cmcboulder.org/trips.

Eric joined the CMC in 1988. He's a Group II rock trip leader and a C-D hiking trip leader for the Boulder Group. Eric has led many peak climbs and rock climbing trips for the Boulder Group since the early 1990s. He was also a Senior Instructor for BMS from 1994 through 2001 and the Rock Leading School Director in 1998 and 1999. Eric is a retired mathematician who enjoys his free time climbing in the Flatirons and Boulder Canyon. He can often be seen on the trails near town, with one or two of his beloved canine companions in tow. He also enjoys hiking and backpacking in the remote desert regions of the Colorado Plateau.

Eileen and her husband Bob joined the CMC in 1994 because of their interest in climbing the high peaks of Colorado, inspired by a climb of Mount Baker in the northern Cascades.



Eric Brehm

After several years of absence to return to school and change careers, Eileen became active again with the CMC when she took Basic Rock School in 2007. She has served as an Assistant Instructor in BRS since then. She was recently approved as a Group I rock trip leader and will be co-leading two ski touring trips soon to become a ski touring trip leader. Eileen and Bob climb often in the Flatirons, Boulder Canyon, and Eldorado Canyon. Eileen is a Physician Assistant with Clinica Family Health Services.



Eileen Monyok

If you have any questions for Eric and Eileen or would like to become a trip leader for the Boulder Group, contact them at outings@cmcboulder.org. The Outings Committee always welcomes comments and suggestions for how the Outings program could better meet the needs of the membership.

Spring/Summer School Sign-up Night

This year's spring and summer schools will include Hiking I, Hiking II, Basic Rock School, Basic Snow Travel, Intermediate Snow School, Backpacking School and Rock Leading School. See www.cmcboulder.org/bms/springSchedule.html for the course dates.

The first opportunity to sign up for classes is at the Spring/Summer Schools Sign-Up Night on Monday, February 28 at 7pm, in the BCMC clubroom. Please note that applications will be available online and in the clubroom on February 21, 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 February 28. If you are unable to attend the spring schools, check out the fall schedule at www.cmcboulder.org/bms/fallSchedule.html. Contact bms@cmcboulder.org if you have questions. Bring your checkbook!



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Descending the Divide, from page 1

About half-way through the Divide leg of this route, Bill shouted out for the group to halt. He wanted to know where the trail was and specifically how the team was going to drop from the Divide into the valley. In the winter, of course, there is no trail in the summer sense of the word. The skier makes his trail by where he tracks his skis.

The team stopped, gathered and in between pulses of wind, I painted the trail in the air by tracing with my gloved hand the slowly descending contour south then west, then identifying the descent slope by a vertical line of rocks blown clear of snow. The rocks suggested a stable slope and were located exactly where the summer trail should be. Bill said he didn't like the looks of the slope, he was concerned about possible avalanche hazard, and he wanted to explore other possible descents along the two-mile long arc of snow slopes spread out from where they stood and around to the west.

I thought the group should continue contouring around to the rocky line of the "summer trail" for two reasons: first, because it was the marked trail, it might be less steep than the other slopes in that basin; and second, the scattered rocks suggested less snow depth or at least some additional stability in the snow pack. I tried to reassure Bill that the slope probably wasn't as steep as it looked because the view was straight on to it. However, the basin was deep enough that there was no clear sight to the bottom of the valley. Following a spirited discussion, the decision was made: as the more experienced skiers, Ralie and I would probe the slope to the west, directly in front of the group.

Gravity quickly pulled us downward and whoops of delight could be heard as we telemarked in deepening snows. Tom and Bill edged down the hill behind to keep us in sight. The slope steepened and even with snow now above our knees, the skiing got too fast with the heavy packs. In reaction, Ralie and I turned uphill and coasted to a stop. Our skis immediately slipped deeper into the snow until it was mid-thigh. We suddenly realized we would not be able to climb up the slope to escape. It would be one step up, and two steps back, literally.

Ralie and I turned and looked down to the head of the valley, now perhaps only 200 feet below. We kick-turned, traversed, kick-turned, traversed, and kick-turned again. We found ourselves standing on our skis atop a cliff perhaps 20 feet high. Below, a steep slope of snow lapped at the bottom of the cliff and ran quickly down to the creek. Above loomed an 800 foot slope of impossible snow.

Ralie and I were stunned: we couldn't go up and we were cliffed out. Silence for a time... Ralie then informed me calmly that we had to jump. After absorbing that reality, I agreed. We threw our packs and then our skis over the cliff and managed to stick the skis vertically, butt end first to keep them from racing off into the trees below. We turned and waved to our teammates high above -- the wind and distance made it impossible to communicate otherwise. Ralie and I then jumped and landed feet first in shoulder-deep snow, unscathed. We gathered our packs and skis, then pushed off, traversed the headwall, and turned to enter the forest below. We found the creek, and followed it to a small meadow where we set up camp. By now it was perhaps 4 o'clock. After some hot tea and candy bars we discussed what to do next.

We decided to check whether Tom and Bill had circled southwest on a contour to the top of the summer trail. We hoped to find them on the descent. We headed south, skiing up a gentle gradient through the trees heading for the slope where the summer trail met the valley bottom. We broke through the trees, saw no one and so, proceeded to zigzag upwards some 800 feet. The vertical line of rocks we had seen three hours earlier in fact demarked a stable, windswept slope. The compacted snow provided a safe and easy base for the slog upwards. The northwest aspect of this slope and its open exposure to wind rendered it a very different micro-climate than the westerly slope that had trapped Ralie and me above the cliff.

It was now beginning twilight, the sun below the horizon. We had reached an elevation that intersected the path skiers would take as they circumnavigated the basin above the creek. We scanned the windblown, white and tawny terrain of

the tundra Divide and saw no one. We climbed up and east another 100 feet, looked east again and saw some big, house-sized rocks on the horizon. In front of one such rock, we could barely discern two figures walking to the east, showing briefly against the rocks. Blowing snow and the gloaming obscured any further sighting.

Ralie and I screamed, but wind and distance frustrated the effort. With the twilight rapidly darkening and facing our own 900 foot descent, Ralie and I turned back west, then traversed and kick-stepped our way down the crusty snow and in 20 minutes were back in camp.

After a long night, we awoke early, eager to search for our teammates. We ate breakfast, then we retraced our zigzag path up and out of the valley, appreciating the softness and "tooth" of three inches of new snow. The sky was blue, the wind was quiet and even though the sun was in our eyes, the view east to the Divide was markedly better than the previous evening. After watching awhile and without much hope, suddenly we saw a hooded figure emerge from behind one of the large boulders, then disappear. The figure emerged again long enough for us to see that it was probably Tom -- the build, stature and jacket color were his.

Ralie and I took off fast on our skis, poling and striding hard. As we drew nearer and hollered, out from behind the boulder stepped Tom, recognizable in his red parka. The three of us waved at each other, and within minutes were reunited. Tom was piling gear into his pack and on the ground a sleeping bag was undulating like a caterpillar. Tom said he and Bill had spent the night huddled behind the boulder, using it as a shelter from the buffeting wind. Unable to keep a fire lighted, they munched on very hard salami sandwiches seasoned with freeze-dried pea soup. Sometime during the night, they had run out of water. Tom said Bill had been freaked out by the sight of Ralie and me jumping from the cliff and refused to descend any farther.

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After much argument, they had decided to head back to Bear Lake but stopped for the night when they saw the boulders. Tom said it had been a miserable night and Bill was acting incoherently.

Bill was in bad shape. After giving him some water, we lifted him to a standing position. We helped him walk westward along the new ski tracks. At the top of the descent slope, we told Bill he'd have to put on his skis to get down. Bill began a quiet kind of baying howl, then blurted that he was seeing "green things" in the snow and wasn't going to go down.

Tom skied away in disgust and began his descent. Ralie and I took turns helping Bill traverse and turn by grabbing him from behind and steering him. Halfway down, Bill seemed to recover and finished the descent under his own power. At camp, Bill was fed eggs and coffee and by the time he finished eating, he was talking, mostly complaining about the long night above treeline, the dehydrated pea soup, and his hallucinations on the descent.

With a long day still ahead of us, perhaps 12 miles, we quickly broke camp and began the long, steady descent punctuated by a steep drop from Hallett Creek's hanging valley to enter the main valley of the North Inlet creek. The rest of the descent was uneventful. The team arrived at the trailhead two hours behind the scheduled rendezvous.

Things We Did Wrong or Could Have Done Better

- **Vetting of teammates:** We should have done at least one easier ski trip together to get a better feel for our skills, fitness, group judgment and compatibility before setting out on such a challenging trip. Ideally, this would have been done as an overnight, in-and-out trip on a familiar trail that could expose us to all the elements of the ultimate trip such as distance, elevation gain, and avalanche potential.
- **Scouting out the route:** Undoubtedly, it would have helped to have at least done the route in the summertime or solicited another team member who had already crossed over from Bear Lake

to Grand Lake in the winter. We might also have spent more time talking with the Visitor Center ranger rather than the cursory conversation we engaged in. Note that this trip happened before cell phones, avalanche beacons, digital maps or GPS had been invented. The task of trip planning is certainly easier today with the various technologies and internet resources.

- **Splitting the team:** This was, of course, the most negative consequence of the group indecision over a safe descent route. In hindsight, as Ralie and I made our exploratory descent, we should have realized sooner that we were about to pass a point of no return, that the slope of unconsolidated snow was too difficult to climb and might have been avalanche prone. Our exploratory descent quickly became a one-way street.

Things We Did Well (or Where We Were Lucky)

- **Showing resourcefulness:** Ralie had the presence of mind to allow a stark reality to enter his calculation of alternatives -- the only way off the cliff was to jump. That sounds like an obvious option but in the moment, it didn't occur to either one of us for some time as we stood immobilized between a rock (the impossible slope) and a hard place (the cliff's edge). For their part, Tom and Bill didn't panic, made a smart decision to not descend to Bear Lake in the dark, and found a modicum of shelter, enough to survive the night.
- **Teaming up:** At least we remained teams of two. And each team was fully provisioned.
- **Having the basics:** We had strength and fitness, clothing, food, some water and enough shelter. Without these, someone might have succumbed.
- **Avoiding really bad weather:** We had checked the weather forecast before we left and proceeded only upon the news that no storms were expected. A blizzard or extremely cold temperatures might have been catastrophic.

Something Unresolved

Even after all these years, I am left pondering my role as the nominal trip leader and whether I should have insisted that we stick with the original plan to descend via the summer trail. If we

had forced ourselves to a formal vote, it would have been one for the summer trail (me), one for some other route (Bill), and two abstentions (Ralie and Tom). For my part, it was difficult to insist on the summer trail since none of us had ever done it before and besides, a snow-covered mountain-side allows, in theory, any number of possible routes. In the absence of any concrete proof that the summer trail was the best choice in winter, it seemed reasonable to defer to the one team member's anxiety and look for an alternate route down. That said, however, we should have explored the alternatives together and collectively made a decision whether to proceed or whether to turn back.

One difficulty we would have had in reversing course is that we had no alternate plan for alerting our spouses as to our whereabouts (remember, no cell phones). They would have arrived in Grand Lake and waited at the trailhead until we somehow managed ourselves to drive to Grand Lake. Realistically, we could not have reached Grand Lake until many hours after the scheduled rendezvous and by that time, we were sure, our spouses would have contacted the authorities. The desire to avoid such a result certainly played on our drive to finish the route as planned.

Observation

The four of us were looking for an adventure. If we had been asked, I think each of us would have readily acknowledged that the trip carried significant risk; by design, we were pushing our personal envelopes. After all, a trip isn't much of an adventure if every aspect of it has been subject to a dress-rehearsal. We accepted that but I also think it's true that this trip carried more risk than we appreciated. We were traveling into personal *terra incognita*, following a line on a map indicating a summer trail -- except this was winter in a heavy snow year. None of us was absolutely certain about the safety of that trail in the winter. We attempted some exploration and got separated. One more link in the adverse chain of events and the results could have been disastrous.

Colorado Stewardship Forum

- Contributed by Doug Yohn

Though many Coloradans are active in restoring and protecting our natural resources and public lands, land management agencies are challenged by increasing demands on their limited human and financial resources. As a result, the need for citizen involvement has grown.

Last month, representatives from land management agencies and outdoor stewardship organizations gathered for the first Colorado Stewardship Forum. This event was sponsored by VOC and the CMC as a means of developing a “sustainable citizen movement aimed at providing a long-term solution in addressing Colorado’s natural resource management needs.” During round-table discussions and breakout sessions, participants explored ideas for meeting resource needs, building partnerships and developing a sustainable coalition of natural resource stewardship agencies. It is hoped that, by building this movement, we can “mobilize a million people who love Colorado.”

For more information, please visit <http://www.stewardshipforum.blogspot.com/> to read forum notes and find links to other resources. The next Outdoor Stewardship Forum is scheduled for January 19, 2011.

To learn about the CMC’s conservation efforts and how to get involved, visit www.cmc.org/conservation. Regarding other volunteer opportunities, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (www.wlrv.org) will begin work on a long list of projects next spring and the Boulder Climbing Community (email boulderclimbingcommunity@gmail.com) has begun stewardship efforts at local climbing areas.

Clubroom Renovation and Move - Volunteers Needed!

The Boulder Group will be moving to a new clubroom, near our current space, in-between H& R Block and Neptune Mountaineering. We will still be maintaining the current clubroom for meetings and business operations until a new tenant is found. We hope to begin using the new clubroom for schools and lectures soon. A Clubroom Move Committee has been formed to begin renovations on the new space and plan the move. Volunteers are needed to help with renovations such as cleaning, spackling to fill holes, painting, carpentry, plumbing, as well as helping to sort through all the years worth of “stuff” in the old clubroom. Eventually we will need help moving everything that will go in the new clubroom. To volunteer, contact chair@cmcboulder.org. The progress of the move will be detailed in future Compass issues.

Call for Winter Trips

The Outings Committee is calling on trip leaders who are interested in leading winter trips – snowshoe trips, ski trips, ice climbs, hikes – to submit their trips on-line or to e-mail us at outings@cmcboulder.org. If you are a hiking trip leader, you are also automatically approved as a snowshoe trip leader at the same level. Consider making your favorite summer hike into a serene winter snowshoe trip. And members too, if you have ideas for winter trips that you would like to see, please contact us, and we will do our best to make the trip happen.

GPS Editor Needed

Do you have about three hours each week to help edit the GPS? A new editor is needed to create this weekly publication that lists upcoming trips and events. As the Editor of the GPS you’ll be among the first to know of club happenings and events in the outdoor community in and around Boulder. Contact chair@cmcboulder.org if you are interested.

