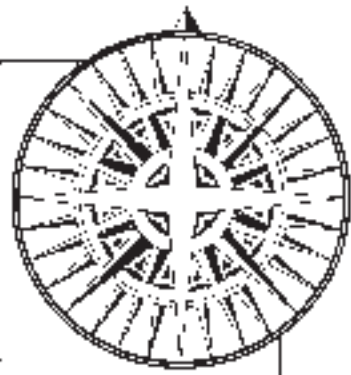




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THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXVII Number 4

April 2011

In This Issue

- Over the Hill* 1
- Chair's Report*..... 2
- April Trips & Activities*..... 3
- Rock Lead School Begins* 5
- Clubroom Move Help Needed* ... 5
- Spring Equipment Sale* 6
- Centennial Climbs* 6
- Call for Rock/Hiking Trips* 6
- CMC Membership Winners* 7
- Backcountry Incident Conf*..... 7
- Italian Alps Trip*..... 7
- Monthly Programs Needed*..... 7

Editor's Note

In our fourth story on near-epics, Tonya Clement shares a climbing tale of leading and getting injured on a popular Eldorado Canyon climb. It reminds us that even the most experienced and competent among us need to remember that safety should come first when climbing or engaging in any other dangerous outdoor activity.

Many thanks to Tonya for sharing her story. To read about her amazing adventures outside of Boulder, visit www.beyondeverest.com

— Donna Marino
Compass Editor

Over the Hill - A Climbing Drama

-contributed by Tonya Clement

I remember part of that day, but not all of it. I'm told that often happens with head injuries. I had been rock climbing for about five years and leading for maybe four years. We rallied a group of several friends (and CMC'ers) who were planning to climb Ama Dablam the following fall. I'd been climbing some big mountains for awhile, but Ama Dablam was to be my first big Himalayan peak. Prior to that, I'd summited Mt. Rainier in Washington, Ishinca and Urus in Peru, Mt. Kenya in Africa, and an ice route on Mont Blanc in France. We headed to Eldorado Canyon on this day for a team building experience -- we would tie into the ropes to bond with one another.

At the last moment I invited a customer of mine, a couple good friends, and another climber who was interested in joining our fall expedition. We were a group of about 12 people. It seemed to work as we were climbing in the Rincon Wall area where there are several moderate trad (a style of rock climbing in which a climber places gear in order to protect against falls) routes in close proximity and also a lot of room to hang out on the ground and socialize.

That day, I had a personal goal to lead Over and Out and follow the second pitch of Over the Hill. Since Eldo is always crowded on weekends, we planned to see what routes were available that day.

continued on page 4



First Pitch of Over the Hill

Chair's Report

Balancing safe recreational access with conservation is at the heart of CMC's mission. This was also one of the priorities I set for myself and the Boulder Group when I became Chair this year. Sadly, the desire to be community leaders does not always come to fruition in group that is comprised entirely of volunteers, with many roles such as our Conservation Chair position currently unfilled. Many dedicated volunteers have tried to help fill in, but we are simply lacking in resources of time and people.

For this reason, it has been difficult for the Boulder Group to witness, largely from the sidelines, some major changes forthcoming in the ways Boulder Open Space will be utilized. We were lacking in the personnel to be fully involved in the process of the long studied and debated West Trails Study Area. The outcome of this process is that a WTSA proposal was adopted by the Community Collaborative Group and Boulder Open Space Mountain Parks staff. This proposal has been the subject of no small amount of controversy. It seems that no matter how much time and effort went into arriving at the best compromise possible, there are still people from a wide variety of interest groups who are extremely unhappy with the proposal.

Boulder CMC wishes we could have been more involved in the WTSA process all along. However, because this was not possible, the Boulder Council has chosen not to take any formal position, either for or against the WTSA proposal. The majority of our Council feels that the issue is just too complex, and that no matter what position we might take, it would likely alienate many of our members.

It is our hope, however, that our members will help us get more involved in the future in the delicate process of balancing conservation and recreation in the Boulder area. We need members who will step up to help us form a viable Conservation Committee, with a non-partisan representation of a broad variety of interests. Such a committee could help the Boulder group be more directly involved in future matters that arise, as well as being involved in the short term with implementation of some of the

imminent changes resulting from the WTSA plan.

Through all of this, the forefront of our club's activity remains our upcoming Clubroom move and the work to complete renovations to our new clubroom. Thanks to Roger Drake, my Vice-Chair, for his continued efforts to move us towards completion of the renovations, so we can get our move underway. And thanks to all our hard working volunteers putting in time to design and implement the renovations. There is still plenty more help needed from additional volunteers and a separate article about the current volunteer needs appears in this issue.

In closing, I will share these thoughts: Like many, I find myself teetering between eager anticipation of springtime recreational activities, yet still not ready to let go of a winter which moved far too quickly for me this year. Luckily, this is Colorado, so for the next couple of months, we get to have our spring and still have winter, too! Oh the challenge of having to choose between hiking and skiing. Oh wait; no challenge; simply go skiing and then come home to weather warm enough to hike and barbeque in shorts. I love this state!!!

Respectfully submitted,
— *Janine Fugere, Boulder Chair*



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Editor: Donna Marino

Email: compass@cmcboulder.org

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

Boulder Group Chair: Janine Fugere

Email: chair@cmcboulder.org

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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.

April 2011 Trips & Activities

Editor's note: The following is a list of BCMC trips and events for the month. It is possible that trips may change or be 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, April 6

After Work Social Hike

Moderate A

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.

Leader: Steven Haymes

Wednesday, April 13

After Work Social Hike

Moderate A

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.

Leader: Marilyn Fellows

Thursday, April 14

Canyoneering Skills Practice Session 1

Instruction Session

Difficulty: Scrambling

After work practice session near Boulder to sharpen rappelling and anchor skills. Will work on safely rappelling skinny rope, single rope, and rappel w/ deploying rope skills. Solid basic rappelling skills and harness/helmet required.

See also Canyon Movement Skills Day on April 16th, Northwash UT trip on April 29, and Ouray wet canyon trip in August.

Location TBD

Leader: Jill Yarger,
jill.yarger@prodigy.net

Saturday, April 16

Canyon Movement Skills

Difficulty: Scrambling

We'll head out to work on movement/travel techniques and rappelling skills. We'll be on and off trail, scrambling, and rappelling. Good chance to test gear and warm up for Northwash UT trip on Apr 29, and Ouray wet canyon trip August.

Location TBD

Leader: Jill Yarger
jill.yarger@prodigy.net

Saturday, April 16

Big Canyon Toproping

Experience some great but lesser known topropes in the Big Thompson Canyon west of Loveland. Great area for newer climbers but has range from 5.6 - 5.10. A long 5 minute approach. Carpool from Boulder.

Leader: Gary Schmidt
gsc@frii.com

Saturday, April 16

Climb and ski Mt. Niwot

Snowshoe/Ski Tour

Ski Mt. Niwot! Expect a tough trip.

We'll spend the morning kicking steps carrying our skis, then we'll ski down.
<https://picasaweb.google.com/kentcrites/NiwotCouloirWRussMay12#>

Trail mileage: 4 miles
Elevation gain: 1200 feet
Prerequisite: SkiMtng
Driving distance: 40 miles
Leader: Kent M. Crites
kentcrites@aol.com
303-284-3059

Wednesday, April 20

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.

Leader: Caryl Shields

Wednesday, April 27

After Work Social Hike

Easy A, Casual. On trail

Don't call -- just show up at the Boulder clubroom between 5:45 - 6:00pm; departing in carpools by 6:15pm for a social hike along one of the local Boulder foothills trails. This outing is meant for casual hikers who enjoy each others' company, talking along the trail, and sharing snacks along the way. Destination to be selected by leader on the evening of the hike.

Leader: Karen L. Baldwin

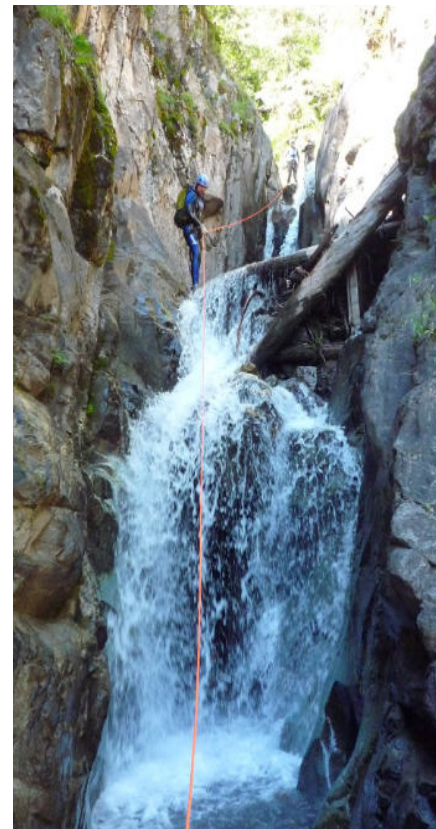
April Monthly Program

Wednesday, April 13

7-8:30pm

Boulder Clubroom (around the corner from Neptune's in the Table Mesa Shopping Center)

Boulder CMC member Jill Yarger will show photos and tell stories about technical canyoneering trips. She'll cover a basic introduction to canyoneering, some of the gear and skills needed, and share tales of trips down canyons in Escalante, Zion, and best of all—getting soaking wet in Ouray, our Colorado back yard.



Over and Out is a classic route in Eldo, known for its wonderful finger crack. Some climbers even consider this the best finger crack on the Rincon Wall area.

Now for true confessions....I was just at that stage where I was getting a little cocky with my climbing. My confidence was skyrocketing. It was the first season that I'd climbed four to five days a week. There were days when I was the first car to arrive in Eldo, and other days where I was the last car to leave. This was the year I'd recorded close to 200 days of climbing. All my friends joked that Eldo was my home away from home. Like anything else, when you have a routine, you start to get comfortable. I was feeling comfortable with my partners and with my gear. I'd climbed many routes numerous times and was beginning to feel very comfortable on the sharp end. But I'd also started to develop some bad habits -- it seemed I was running pitches out with little protection and rarely wearing my helmet. Climbing is also a social activity, and there were often lots of people around, along with a lot of distractions.

On this day, I was going to be climbing with my long time climbing partner, Ted Handwerk. Unfortunately, the customer I'd invited to climb with us became uncomfortable with the person she was left to climb with by default. So, I said to her, "Let's go up the hill and climb Over and Out," the one I was looking forward to leading....and I suggested she trail a rope that Ted could follow on a bit later and then lead us up the second pitch of Over the Hill, making the climb a two pitch route rated at 5.8.

Ted was busy making sure everyone else felt comfortable so he would not tie in until I was halfway finished with my lead of the first pitch. Things went according to plan. It was a perfect day, perfect temperatures, surrounded by friends. I led the first pitch with comfort and ease, only adding to my already overbuilt confidence. I felt like I could have led anything that day. My partner arrived at my belay station which is about 100+ feet off the ground; we started high fiving each other over the pitch we just

climbed. Then I asked, "Where's the rope for Ted?" There is no rope -- she forgot to bring it up with her.

This presented a dilemma. We could walk off at this point, but our hearts were really set on doing the upper pitch of Over the Hill which is just at both of our limits (rated at 5.8+ or 5.9- depending on who you ask). We draw straws for the lead and I win. This climb is a face climb with good crack features, high off the ground. What made it difficult was the fact that I had never followed it first, so I did not really know what to expect.

I also had no details or beta about the pitch since I'd expected Ted to lead it. With confidence, I start out and it is not too hard at all. I make it through the crux with ease which only adds to my cocky attitude. And then, I reach a point and am lost. I do not know which way the route goes. I am at least 15 feet runout (since I'd last placed a piece of gear) and at this point, since I am above the crux, I expect that it will only get easier. I yell to the ground for advice and hear all sorts of advice to follow the protection, which seems to be a crack fading off to the left. I follow the suggestions, placing a very poor piece of gear (a small cam). I think to myself, this will not hold me, but at least it will slow my rate of fall.

Gear in, legs trembling, hands sweating, and heart throbbing I move above the poor piece. Seconds later, I slip and the cam catches me just long enough to flip me upside down, where I proceed to fall past my last good piece 15 feet below. Fortunately the piece holds but I take a 40 foot whipper of a fall and my head slams into the wall.

My accident was called in as a fatality as head injuries bleed with such magnitude. I was dangling upside down only maybe four feet from the ledge where my belayer was in shock over the situation. I was unconscious for about five minutes. When I regained consciousness, I remember only the piece popping. I did not recall the impact of hitting the rock. This gives me some solace in knowing that people in plane crashes will not know they hit the ground.

While it took over two months for the

black eyes and cuts/scrapes to fully heal, only four days passed before I begged two friends to take me back to the crag and lead me up it so I could see what I did wrong. These two very dear friends (Jordan Campbell and John Parsons) made sure I got back on the horse. While it did not take me long to lead again, to this day, I have not led that pitch again (my wimpiness just won't allow it).

The lessons that I learned are plentiful and are in order of the value I personally place on them:

- 1) Do NOT leave the ground without a helmet.
- 2) When one thing goes wrong, it is usually a sign of more trouble. On this particular day we had a lot of warning signs....an upset climber, followed by a last minute change in plans when she arrived with no trailing rope...
- 3) Try hard not to place a piece of marginal gear. This is my opinion only. I knew the piece I placed would not hold. But had no piece been there, I would likely have dropped straight down in an upright position.
- 4) You are the one leading the route. Do not seek counsel from the ground below but instead follow your own instinct. My gut was telling me to go right but to those on the ground it appeared the route went left.
- 5) Don't run out your gear; it's crazy. I paid a lot for my rack, I might as well use it.

Probably the most embarrassing thing about the whole episode was to have Malcolm Daly, the founder of the Trango Company (where I worked at the time and still do) visit me in the hospital. Mind you, we sell helmets and I was at the time his VP of Sales. My scrapbook boasts a clipping from the Daily Camera that reads, Tonya, Age 40, Takes a Leader Fall on Over the Hill.

Compass Ad Rates

\$245	full page
\$150	half page
\$90	quarter page
\$55	eighth page
\$45	business card 2x3"
- ads must be prepaid	
- can be black and white or color in PDF or JPG format.	
- contact: compass@cmcboulder.org	

Rock Leading School 2011

The 2011 Rock Traditional Leading School is coming up! In this school, we will cover the safe and effective use of natural and artificial protection, construction of simple and complex anchors during multi-pitch climbs, and other skills needed of a traditional rock climbing leader. Students will also practice safe and efficient construction of belay anchors and discuss route finding and lead rack management. Prerequisites for this class are CMC Basic Rock School or its equivalence. Sign-up preference is given to BRS assistants and aspiring rock trip leaders.

You must be able to attend all meetings of the school. If you miss, everyone is affected. The dates of the school are:

- Introductory lecture: Wednesday, June 1st at 7:00 PM, CMC Club Room (next to Neptune)
- Field trip #1: Saturday, June 11th, all day, location to be determined by instructor
- Field trip #2: Saturday, June 18th, all day, location to be determined by instructor
- Field trip #3: Saturday, June 25th, all day, location to be determined by instructor

Go to

www.cmcbooulder.org/bms/rls.html for the RLS letter, application and student waivers.

Field Trip descriptions

Traditional Rock Leading School

Introductory Lecture

Wednesday, June 1st

Boulder Group CMC Clubroom, 7 p.m.

For those registered for the 2011 Rock Traditional Leading School, the course begins today. Discussion will focus on safety considerations and psychological factors associated with making the transition to the sharp end of the rope.

Traditional Rock Leading School

Field Trip 1

Saturday, June 11th

This is the 1st of 3 field trips for the 2011 Rock Traditional Leading School participants. The use of natural and artificial protection, construction of belay anchors, racking of equipment and placement of gear on lead will be introduced.

This field trip is only open to students of the CMC Rock Leading School. Contact your pre-determined instructor for meeting time and place.

Traditional Rock Leading School

Field Trip 2

Saturday, June 18th

This is the 2nd of 3 field trips for the 2011 Rock Traditional Leading School participants. Students will practice placing protection, extending placements with runners, clipping the lead rope and construction belay anchors on single-pitch climbs. This field trip is only open to students of the CMC Rock Leading School. Contact your pre-determined instructor for meeting time and place.

Traditional Rock Leading School

Field Trip 3

Saturday, June 25th

This is the last of 3 field trips for the 2011 Rock Traditional Leading School participants. It will emphasize multi-pitch leading techniques, including route finding and lead rack management. This field trip is only open to students of the CMC Rock Leading School. Contact your pre-determined instructor for meeting time and place.



Clubroom Move Volunteers Needed

Have a pickup truck or van ? Help is needed ASAP to transport lumber for our new clubroom renovations. Please contact Chuck Hardesty at chinboulder@yahoo.com if you have a truck or van and can help. Chuck will also need assistance with building our new gear storage area, so please let him know if you have handyman skills and are willing to help.

Volunteers are also still needed to sort out records, archives, and all the other stuff in the old clubroom. Please contact Jill Yarger at jill.yarger@prodigy.net to help.

We also need volunteers to help build a small kitchenette area using some existing cabinets that will be raised to counter height with a base & have counter top added. Please contact Roger Drake at chair@cmcboulder.org if you or anyone you know can help build the kitchenette.

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.

Spring Equipment Sale

The Spring Equipment Sale will be Friday, April 15, 6-8 pm at the AMC in the conference room on the ground floor.

Sellers

For each item you are selling, attach an envelope on which is printed your Name, Item, Selling Price and whether you will accept a check; attach envelope to item. All items must be tagged before bringing them to the sale. Bring your items to the AMC on Thursday, April 14 from 4-7pm or Friday, April 15 from 3:00-5:30 pm in the conference room on the ground level. All unsold items must be picked up from the clubroom the night of the sale, by 8:30 pm unless prior arrangements are made with the Sale Coordinator only. Any items left after sale on Friday night will be donated. Please be sure to share this with any other members you tell about the sale. The office staff will retain sale envelopes for one week after the sale. Any monies not picked up by April 22, will be donated to the CMC.

Any outdoor gear that might be used on a CMC trip is appropriate for the sale, technical clothing only, no street clothes. Also no older model straight downhill skis. All monies go directly to sellers. If you want to donate the sale of your item(s) to the CMC, please note "CMC" on the envelope with the price; checks to be made payable to CMC. CMC is not liable for lost/stolen sale items or items left behind after the sale pick up deadline. It is suggested you keep a list of items in the sale to keep track.

Buyers

Bring varying bill denominations or checks for purchases. No change-making by CMC will be available. Doors for sale will open at 6:00 pm; no "early birds" (including sellers dropping off items).

Volunteers are needed to help with pre-sale setup, sale monitoring, cashiering, and post-sale cleanup. Hours needed for volunteers: 4-7pm Thursday, April 14, and 4:00 pm-8:30 pm, Friday, April 15. Pick a few hours you can help and contact Zoe Katsulos by email (preferred) at zfoto@aol.com or phone, 303-666-7672.

Centennial Celebration Climbs

The guidelines for trip leader participation in the Centennial Celebration Climbs to help celebrate the CMC's Centennial Anniversary have changed. Groups will no longer be allowed to reserve peaks for their leaders, and more than one leader can lead a trip to a particular Centennial Peak. To participate in this celebration, qualified Boulder trip leaders may now lead a trip to one or more of the Centennial Peaks (top 100) between now and December 31, 2012. Interested trip leaders should email bdwyer192@gmail.com and indicate which trip(s) they wish to lead. Leaders will be responsible for scheduling the trip in the CMC online schedule. Instructions, formats and assistance will be provided to help streamline the leader's participation. Starting March 1, there will be a link on the CMC website (www.cmc.org) to a spreadsheet for the Centennial Peaks. This will show the sign ups, schedules, completions, trip reports and photos of the trips. Participation in this program will help provide advertisement for the CMC and help allow members to climb the Top 100 peaks.

Calling All Trip Leaders - Hikes and Rock Climbs

Spring has arrived, and it's time to shake the dust off of our outdoor climbing and hiking gear. The Outings Committee is calling on trip leaders to submit some hiking and rock climb trips. Trips scheduled for the end of May and all of June would be especially helpful for recent graduates of the Hiking and Basic Rock Schools, all of which are completely full. Hiking School graduates will be eager to apply their newly acquired trekking and navigation skills. Basic Rock School graduates will be especially interested in signing up for easier rock climb trips, where they can further enhance their climbing and rappelling skills. Please submit your trips on-line or e-mail us at outings@cmcboulder.org.



Francesco Sangiorgi and Roger Hedrick practice their skills at the Basic Rock School Instructor Review in March (Photo courtesy of C.Red)

Winners of CMC Boulder Group Membership

- submitted by Janine Fugere

“We’ve thought about joining for so long but just never got around to it.” This was Stacy Rapp’s reaction when she and Brian Litwin won a CMC Boulder Group membership at this year’s Banff Film Festival. Brian won the drawing for the free membership, along with a \$50 voucher towards one of our mountaineering schools. The couple decided to upgrade the free membership to a family membership so Stacy could join too. We’re excited that our promotional giveaway attracted people who’ve thought about joining but just hadn’t done so yet. We welcome Brian & Stacy to the Boulder Group of CMC!



Brian Litwin & Stacy Rapp

Backcountry Incident Review Conference

The first annual Backcountry Incident Review Conference for trip leaders and members who are thinking of becoming a leader is set for April 23 at CMC headquarters in Golden. The day-long conference will feature the leaders of trips who faced difficult challenges – including life-and-death decisions - discussing what happened and how they responded. The conference is designed to respond to the request of trip leaders, who indicated in surveys that they want more information about what happens on trips led by other leaders. The conference will also be an opportunity for trip leaders to get together and discuss their own experiences and compare notes with other leaders. Visit <http://www.cmc.org/events/eventdetails.aspx?EventID=2365> for more information and to register. Free for trip leaders; \$10 for others.

Italian Alps Trip

Mountaineering Trek & Ferrate - Bernina to Dolomites
Dates: Aug 29 - Sep 12, 2011
Cost: \$3795 inclusive, except for airfare; max. 8 participants, incl. leader.

Trek Italy’s Alps from the beautiful lakes of Como and Garda to the majestic Bernina Range and awesome pillars and spires of the Brenta Dolomites, replete with itinerant “rifugio” hut-based lodging and “via ferrata” climbs certain to inspire a memorable adventure for 7 energetic and validated C-E > D level hikers.

Ascend through forests and alpine meadows over passes and across glaciers with breathtaking vistas to summit awe-inspiring peaks, many via the famous “path of iron” ferrate where multi-colored rock face and ledges are outfitted with anchored cables, ladders and bridges. These climbing networks dating from WWI to facilitate troop movements to strategic reconnaissance positions in the Alps have been restored and expanded; today they are maintained by CAI (Club Alpino Italiano) as a safer alternative to unprotected climbing and to enhance the alpine experience.

Trekking and exposure will be complemented by interludes of cultural exposure motoring between trailhead gateways: Bellagio (by boat), Merano, wine-tasting at Lake Caldaro, Verona, Bergamo and many quaint medieval towns. Italy’s rifugi at various altitudes provide rustic lodging with basic amenities and warm food, so this trip requires only a light 40-55L backpack with 10 essentials, climate-appropriate clothing, gloves, poles, bag liner, crampons, harness, and a spirited smile of determination and anticipation.

Most everything except airfare is included. Our Italian guide, an experienced mountaineer/trekker, age 50, fluent in English, created the itinerary with fallback options to cope with Mother Nature and otherwise optimize a successful adventure.

Visit <http://www.cmc.org/AdventureTravel/AdventureTravelDetails.aspx?EventID=2405> and click the More Information Link to review the complete itinerary with illustrative photos, notes and terms.

Leader: Eugene Culbertson
Tel: (970) 690-3272
Email: geneculb@gmail.com

Monthly Programs Needed

We’re looking for Boulder group members to present monthly programs of their choosing from May through Oct “which are always the best programs”.

You can pick any date that’s open on the clubroom calendar (not just Wednesdays) and submit a request for that date to clubroomscheduler@cmcboulder.org. We welcome suggestions on topics that members would like to learn something about with or without speakers. If you want to nominate someone (anonymously of course) as a potential speaker who may be shy we’ll contact them and try to talk them into it. We’re also willing to research a topic and try to locate a good speaker for it. Send any and all of your ideas to monthlyprograms@cmcboulder.org.