



# Newsletter



Vol. 2015, No. 6

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# From the Editor:



Scott Farquhar

In this issue .... “Words of Wisdom from Ward”, two new leaders, upcoming courses, information on using Smart Phones in the woods, a discussion on Personal Locator Beacons, information on Avalanche Beacons, as well as a few trip reports!

I hope you enjoy this month's issue. My thanks go out to Ward, Clint Baker, Carol Reed and Sheila Dielman for contributions to the newsletter. Ellie Awards for all! Keep those contributions coming, the alternative is you have to put up with more of my writing style ☹

As I do in every newsletter I would like to welcome the 13 new members that have joined the Fort Collins Group since September (see the next page for a listing). If you need any help in taking advantage of the resources the club has to offer don't hesitate to contact me or Chris Haugen, our Membership Director. For all of you existing members remember to extend a hearty welcome to any new members you see.

See ya on the trail ..... Scott

and remember “A positive attitude does not insure you will overcome every obstacle. However, a negative attitude will guarantee that all obstacles are insurmountable.”

Farq on Life - 2015

# Welcome New Members!

September	October
Philip Turk	Frank and
Stacy Rezak	Amanda Marrs
Jean Runyon	Andrea and
Brianna Flint	Wayne Larson
Meg Corwin	Cindi Harding
Amparo Maya	
Corine and	
Kris Knudsen	

# Message from the Chair:

By Ward Whicker



A few recent experiences have reminded me of the many joys of being in the mountains, especially with people important to me, regardless of the exact location or the type of activity. And, these joys are especially magnified and rewarding when one has the opportunity to lead or pass on a few helpful skills to others. For example, I'll start with a recent visit to my cabin in Gould, 10 miles west of Cameron Pass, by my son and grandson from New Mexico.

My oldest son Jeff, has always loved biking, hiking, and fly fishing. He is fit and good at all these things, but with a family and in the peak of his career as a scientist at Los Alamos, he seldom has time for them. His son Matt, age 22, is a recent graduate of the University of New Mexico, and a tennis pro for now, while he prepares to apply for medical school. He is super fit, but with limited experience in mountain travel and very little prior interest in fishing. One day at the cabin, we drove to Cameron Pass, hopped on our mountain bikes, rode around the ditch and up the American Lakes trail till it got rocky and steep, then hid them. Now on foot, we hiked to Thunder Pass, turned west, and climbed the "Electrode", an unofficially named peak at 12,018' sporting some of the best views in the area.



# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

We spotted a band of bighorn sheep down in Box Canyon, but they were too far away for a good photo. The dad and granddad would never have thought to try this, but Matt found the sheep through his small binoculars, then took his cell phone to record a picture through the binoculars! The result was pretty good! Unexpectedly, Matt did not want to leave our airy perch-he simply loved being up there, marveling at nature's handiwork.

Finally, after a good hour, we dropped down to the lower two Michigan Lakes, and whenever the wind gusts died down, we saw a few rings of rises from cutthroat trout taking tiny insects from the surface. We set up our fly rods and started casting. Within a few minutes, Jeff and I were hooking into the willing trout, while Matt was spending most of his time untangling his line or retrieving his fly from his clothing or the bushes behind him. Jeff and I both spent time trying to help Matt learn to cast, and what to do once his fly settled on the water. After some 90 or so minutes, Jeff and I had landed and released perhaps a dozen trout, while Matt's casting slowly improved. We were about ready to call it quits and head down, when Matt finally hooked a trout. He was so excited, he quickly lost the fish. But, he was "hooked" on the process, and refused to quit. In the next 30 minutes he landed three fish! His dad and I were thrilled, not so much in our success, but in Matt's. What a day it was! Just priceless was the realization that three generations (me, my son, & his son) were together, in such a beautiful place where one can do all these things in one day without seeing another person! Matt is likely to carry this memory for a very long time. I certainly will.

# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

Another recent experience was taking a wonderful old friend who just had celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday elk hunting near my cabin. This he told me, would likely be his last elk hunt, after a history of hunting with me nearly every year over past 20 years or more. And, since we only had a couple of days and expecting them to be very warm and dry, we were not very optimistic. Still, we were up at 4 something AM, grabbing a cup of coffee and breakfast, and soon trudging off into the dark woods with headlamps. After a couple of miles, we could begin to see the landscape around us, and it became legal to shoot. We were in a lovely aspen draw with a few clumps of pine and spruce mixed in, tall grasses all around, and near the edge of an old clear-cut where we could see any animal that might wander by. We both hid ourselves as best we could, some 75 yards apart, and waited and watched. Thirty minutes later, the sun poked over the Never Summers and it's warmth felt most welcome. Another 30 minutes went by, and I was thinking of finding my friend and moving a bit to warm up, when a rifle shot pierced the silence. I could not see my buddy, but knew it must have been him. I donned my pack, picked up my rifle and headed toward his location. Soon I found him, 40 yards out in the clear cut, standing over his prize, a yearling cow elk! I could not have been happier for him. He had a cow elk only tag, and we knew from experience that the younger animals were typically better eating than older ones. Now the real work was to begin. Occasionally while field dressing the animal, we would need to just sit a few minutes and



# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

recover from the physical effort of moving 350 pounds around. All one could do was look at the immediate country and mountains in the distance, and wish for a non-existent cigar or more energy. Many hours later, sitting by the fire at the cabin, meat cooling in the night air, a celebratory bourbon in hand, and saying little, we felt complete.

Our great mountains, CMC trips and courses, all bring similar feelings of deep satisfaction to me, and I'm sure to most other leaders and course instructors. We have a great cadre of such people, and yet current demand, especially for trips, indicates that we can always use more leaders and more trips.

Ward Whicker

# New Trip Leader- Chris Haugen

By Clint Baker



Chris Haugen on Hallett's Peak –  
Photo by Clint Baker

The trip up Longs was planned and posted on the schedule five months in advance. Chris Haugen was one of the early signups and the trip was filled almost immediately with several more people requesting to be added to the wait list. In order to prepare our participants, I wanted to post a conditioning hike the week prior to the trip. Not only would this allow everyone to get to know each other, it would be planned for higher elevation and long distance. So a hike was scheduled for Hallett's Peak not only would it meet the needs listed, it would also provide a preview of the back side of Longs, allowing us to assess lingering snow and ice conditions in the trough. This could present unique challenges for our group the following week on Longs.

Carolyn Hammond was my co-leader for Longs, and as we considered moving people from the wait list to the roster I wanted to find an additional co-leader to help out so I asked Chris about his leader status. Chris said that he had completed both the leadership training course and his first aid was up to date, so he only needed to complete his Leader-in-Training hike. We agreed that the Hallett's Peak conditioning hike would serve as Chris' Leader in Training (LIT) trip.

# New Trip Leader (cont.)

We reviewed the participants, trip conditions, logistics and contingencies. Carolyn and I developed various leadership scenarios to test Chris' skills on the trip. Chris welcomed all participants at the trailhead, ensuring that everyone was fully prepared and served in a leadership capacity throughout the trip. Afterwards, we reviewed and discussed his experience. I'm pleased to report that Chris successfully completed his LIT hike and everyone had a wonderful time.

The following week, Chris served as an additional co-leader for our Longs trip, successfully leading ten people to the summit including eight first timers.

Please join me in welcoming Chris as a new trip leader with the Fort Collins group. The following are a few fun facts about Chris.

- Moved to Fort Collins Jan 2013 from Austin
- Mountain Hiking School (MHS) in 2013
- Alpine Scrambling Course (ASC) in 2014
- Only 2 14ers bagged
- Goal is to eventually complete all 54
- Favorite 13er: Mt. Fletcher at 13,951'
- Works as a network engineer in Fort Collins



The whole crew on Hallett's Peak with their future goal in the background - Photo by Clint Baker

# New Trip Leader- Jim Pisula

By Ward Whicker



Jim Pisula's group on Lulu Mountain, with Teepee Mtn, Mt. Richthofen, Static Peak and the Nokhu Crags in the background. Left to right are Jim, Diane Quinn, Sheila Dielman, myself, Tom Stuve, Joan Avens and Carolyn Hammond. Photo taken by Steve Dielman.

Welcome Jim to our roster of trip leaders for the Fort Collins Group, CMC! Jim completed his Leader-in-Training (LIT) trip, a climb of Lulu Mountain (12,228') on September 5, 2015. I served as Jim's mentor for the LIT requirement. Jim was very well-prepared for leading this trip, having scouted it previously. Also, Jim is a graduate of our Mountain Hiking School, as well as our Alpine Scrambling Course, both of which expose students to a great variety of terrain, challenging routes on snow and rock, and a wealth of information needed to travel safely and competently in our mountains in all seasons. Jim has participated in many CMC and other hikes and thus has an excellent base of experience.

The hike/climb from the trailhead to the summit was accomplished in 3 hours; not too bad for Jim's old mentor! We descended via the west ridge to Thunder Pass, then after following the Thunder Pass trail for a bit, we descended off trail and ultimately connected to the established American Lakes trail that essentially follows the Michigan River. The trip went just as planned and took about 6.5 hours overall.



# New Trip Leader (cont.)

The trip was roughly 8 miles and 2,500' of vertical gain, thus a high B or low C level, Class 2 hike. As per normal, Jim was required to conceive of the trip, scout it, register it on the CMC calendar, communicate with participants, arrange travel, lead the trip, and file a trip report. Jim handled the trip in exemplary fashion and was strongly endorsed to be formally installed as a leader in our Group.

Jim has an extensive background in business, finance and manufacturing, and he and wife Brenda maintain homes in Fort Collins and St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. He is great fun to be on a trip with, and I heartily recommend him as a highly-responsible & safety-conscious leader.

Ward Whicker

# What's Coming Up?

## Beginning Snowshoe and X-Country Ski Courses

Are you looking to get out on those sunny days in the winter, but hesitate because you have never been on snowshoes or “skinny skis”? Well hesitate no further, the Fort Collins Group again plans to sponsor courses this season. The timing has not yet been finalized, but they should be on the schedule in the next month or two. Look for them in your weekly e-mail! ..... We ain't afraid of no snow!!!

### Beginning Snowshoe Course

Experience the thrill of winter when snow covers all and the mountains are a winter playground. Join us for a fun, easy day learning how to handle equipment, walk, turn around, get up, etc. on snow shoes.



### Beginning X-Country Ski Course

If you have always wanted to try cross-country skiing, if you have downhill skied but never tried the skinny ones, if you have skied in groomed track but have never tried the backcountry, please join us. This workshop is designed to help beginners and novices feel comfortable on skis.



# Did you Know?

## Using your smart phone as a GPS/Personal Locator Beacon Alternatives/Avalanche Beacons

I don't pretend to be a Technology Wizard, however, I do know that eventually many of us will be carrying one device that is a Camera, GPS, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and communication device (could I get that packaged with a Bionic Knee?).

We are not there yet, but in this month's newsletter Sheila Dielman agreed to share her knowledge on using your smart phone as a GPS. Additionally I have provided a summary of a couple of internet articles that review PLB options (note that some of them can also be used as a GPS and a communications device). This information is not meant to recommend or condemn any of the options, the intent is only to provide a bit of information to get you started. If you are interested in any of the options I recommend you do additional research to determine if any of them are right for your particular needs.

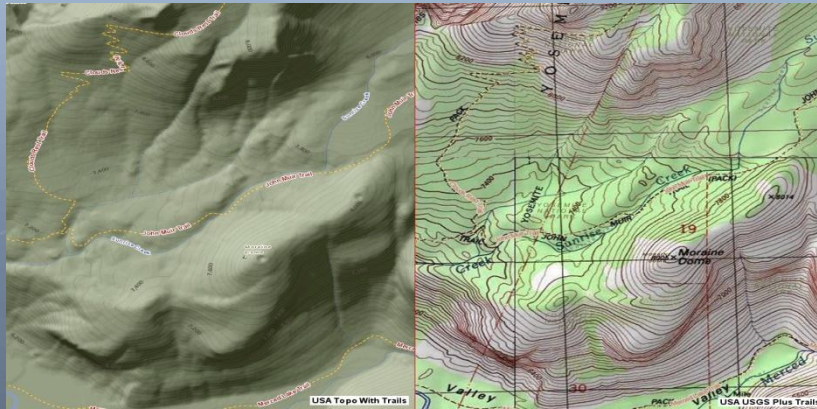
The Editor



# Viewranger - GPS App for your Smartphone

By Sheila Dielman

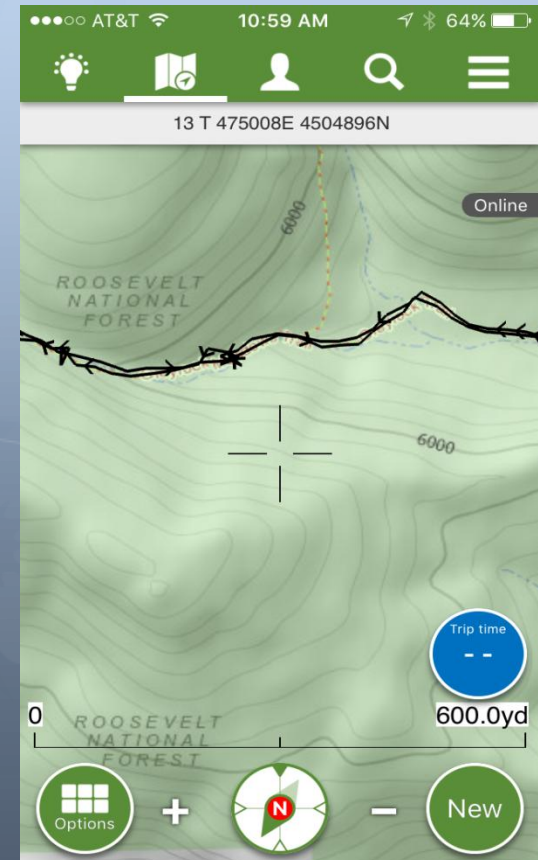
Viewranger is a GPS navigation app that works on various smart phone platforms. There is also an online site to facilitate trip planning. It allows users to access free open source maps as well as high resolution Accuterra topo maps for the entire U.S. These are similar to the USGS topo maps but are made specifically for small devices so you are able to zoom in and still have the map details be clear, not blurry.



# Viewranger - GPS App for your Smartphone

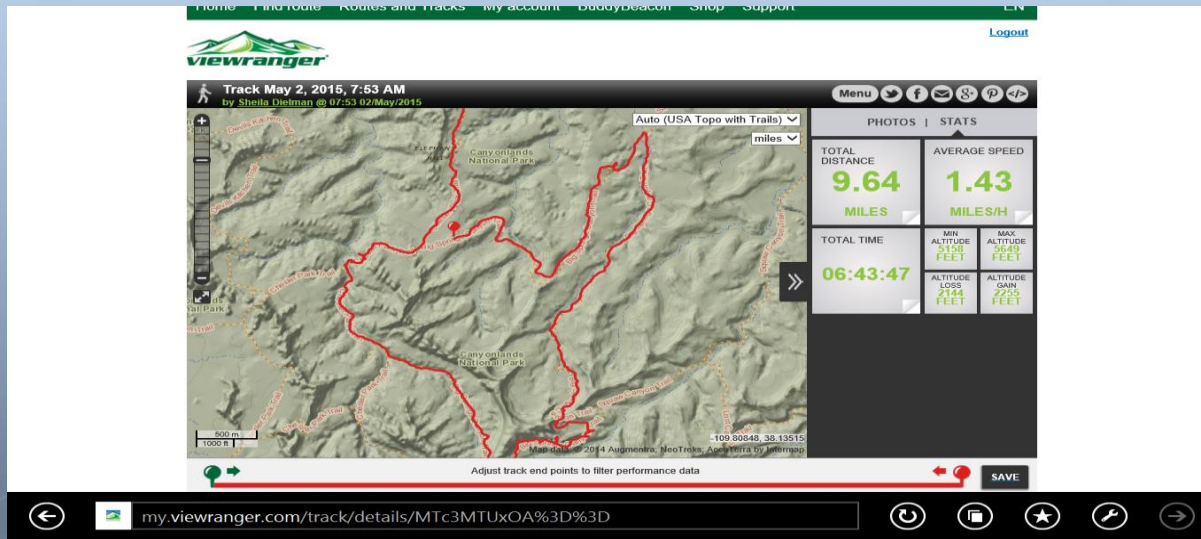
Trails are marked and are very complete. Topo map access generally costs around \$20.00 and maps can be downloaded to your device as needed so as to not fill available memory. Once the map area has been downloaded there is no need for a WIFI or cellular connection so the maps may be used anywhere. A backup battery may be necessary for longer (usually multi day) trips depending on your phone's battery.

You can use the app simply to track your hike. It will show your path and direction on the map. It also records time, trip distance and speed. Waypoints may be added and the app can notify you when the waypoint is reached. This is an easy way to follow a trail and make sure you are on track.



# Viewranger - GPS App for your Smartphone

You can also create a route in advance either on the phone or on a computer. This can be done by entering individual waypoints or by importing a gpx file.



I have found the GPS accuracy of this app to be very good. When compared with a traditional GPS device, they both show current location correctly, though it may be easier to see on the smartphone as the screen is larger. Viewranger also has an arrow showing the direction you have been moving to make it easy to figure out how to get back on track if you get off trail. The only thing I have noticed is that it seems to slightly under report the mileage of a trip.



# Did you Know?

## Personal Locator Beacons

By Scott Farquhar

Although I hike alone quite often and my wife worries about me, I hesitated to purchase a personal locator beacon (PLB)/ satellite messenger. However, two incidents occurred which changed my mind. The first was an off trail hike up Thunder and Lightening Peaks in the late spring, during the hike when I signed the registers I noticed that no one had been on the summits for three months (hmm, I would have to wait quite a while for someone to hike passed to save me if I got injured). The second incident occurred while mountain biking with a friend in Horsetooth Mountain Park. He had a heart attack and in this case we had cell phone reception, but I wondered what would have happen if that had not been the case. These were enough to push me over the edge and I now own a satellite messenger!

As you know from the September newsletter the Fort Collins Group now has two PLBs that leaders can check out (you did read the September newsletter didn't you!). Although these are now available, I have heard a number of people expressing an interest in purchasing their own device. This summary is intended to help those folks decide which device to purchase.

Let me start by saying ALL of the people I talked with about the different options presented here were happy with the device that they owned. My intent in this article is NOT to say one device is better than another, it is just to point out the advantages and disadvantages of each. Which device that is optimal for your needs will depend on what you want to do. This article a very brief summary of the pros and cons for each device, for more information refer to the two articles listed below

Article 1

<http://www.outdoorgearlab.com/Personal-Locator-Beacon-Reviews>

Note click on the tabs to see all the information contained in this article

Article 2

<http://andrewskurka.com/2015/plbs-satellite-messengers-phones-pros-cons-my-picks/>

# Personal Locator Beacons (cont.)

## General Summary

### PLB

Best if you only want a device to send a SOS signal. Cheapest and most reliable signal.

### Satellite Messengers

This is your choice If you want ability to send messages and allow someone to monitor your route in “Real Time”. The signal is a bit less reliable and they require monthly fees. Two brands are the Spot 3 and inReach

**Spot 3** – Less expensive and lighter. Can not receive communications

**inReach** – Allows two way communications. More expensive

### Satellite Phones

Two way communications (expense to buy and maintain, this article will not discuss these)





# Personal Locator Beacons (cont.)

## Personal Locator Beacons (PLB)

A couple of PLBs available include;  
ACR Electronics ResQLink  
Ocean Signal rescudME

### Pros

- Most reliable signal/Best Coverage (world wide) COSPAS/SARSAT (essentially military satellites)
- Long term cost is the lowest (just pay for the device, no monthly fee)
- 5 year battery life
- Simple

### Cons

- Can only send SOS signal
- Does not confirm SOS has been received
- No communication back during an emergency
- Cannot use to communicate (in group or outside)



# Personal Locator Beacons (cont.)

## Satellite Messengers

Some of the Satellite Messengers available include;

- Spot 3
- DeLorme InReach SE
- DeLorme inReach Explorer

### Pros

- Can send pre-programmed messages as well as SOS (i.e. "I am on the summit", "I'm done for the day, I'm ok", "I'm ok, but we are running a bit late")
- Tracking - Can send a signal showing a track (route), this can be shared so others can monitor your "real time" progress on a home computer. (Note the monthly fee for the inReach is increased if you desire this option)
- See additional Pros for different models below

### Cons

- The signal is not as reliable as a PLB (see Article 1)
- There is a monthly fee (see table in Article 1)



# Personal Locator Beacons (cont.)

## SPOT 3

### Pros

- Lightest messenger
- Less expensive to buy and operate than inReach
- Uses AAA batteries
- Longer battery life (150 hrs with lithium batteries vs 100 hrs for inReach)

### Cons

- It cannot receive messages/no confirmation that an SOS has been received
- Can not send communications that have not been pre-programmed



# Personal Locator Beacons (cont.)

## inReach SE

### Pros

- You receive a confirmation that an SOS or message has been received
- During an emergency you have two way communication (they can ask what the problem is and you can respond)
- You can type in and send messages to a cell phones or e-mail addresses. The keyboard is not too swift, but you can pair the device with a smart phone to send messages through the phone. So you could explain what is happening if you are running late.
- Can send texts between units to stay in touch if your group splits up (but must be set up before a trip using the web page)
- In the test performed in Article 1 the network performed better than the Spot 3.

### Cons

- It is larger and heavier than the Spot 3 (7 oz vs 4 oz)
- It is more expensive to purchase and the monthly fees are higher than the Spot 3
- The more options you have the more the monthly fee is.
- It has an Internal rechargeable battery. No option for a spare
- The keys are not protected so it tends to "turn on" in your pack (my personal experience, since I normally only turn it on to send a message).



# Personal Locator Beacons (cont.)



## inReach Explorer

### Pros (vs the inReach SE)

- You can use it as a GPS device – Free maps, can plan route, create waypoints, digital compass, etc.
- You can program it to use your smart phone as the screen.

### Cons

- More expensive

**In conclusion** ..... well you will have to draw your own conclusions based on you needs

In any case I want to thank John Raich and Derick Page for bringing the articles to may attention. I also want to thank Manuel Fillon, Mary Jackson and Steve Martin for answering specific questions I had on devices.

# Did You Know?

## Avalanche Beacons

By Scott Farquhar

When John Raich found out I was writing an article on Personal Locator Beacons, he wondered why I was not also including Avalanche Beacons. Well, mostly it was because I don't know squat about them.

However, John pointed out that all backcountry skiers and probably also people that snow shoe into avalanche terrain should have beacons, shovel, probe and take a basic avalanche course.

Additionally, with winter coming on it is timely to share information on this type of equipment. He was correct so I have attached a link to an article discussing some of the different beacons available. This is a pretty comprehensive piece so I will not try to add to it. As in the PLB article this one has "tabs" that you need to click on if you want to see all of the information. Enjoy!

<http://www.outdoorgearlab.com/Avalanche-Beacon-Reviews>

Thanks go out once again to John for sharing the link and bringing this issue to my attention.



# Trip Reports – Table Iron & Iron Mountains 9/26/15

By Scott Farquhar

Stats; 8 miles, 3000 ft elevation gain, Time on trail 7.3 hours  
Leader: Scott Farquhar, Co-leader John Wullschleger

This trip can best be summed up by a line from a Beatles song "Good day sunshine, do, do, do, do, Good day sunshine, do, do, do, do Gooooood dayyy, sunshinnne." (younger folks will just have to Google it).

As the song goes we started out bright and early at Cameron Pass on a beautiful sunny day. We had already left a car at the Zimmerman Lake trailhead to allow us to end the day without having to hike on the road. From the parking lot we crossed the road and headed almost due east straight uphill. On this portion of the trip I was pleasantly surprised that the tree downfall was not too bad and we quickly made our way up the hill to tree line. Here we skirted around a high point then turned slightly to the southeast to follow the long rising ridge that led us to Table Iron Mountain and Iron Mountain.

We were making good time until we noticed how beautiful the high meadows were and I involuntarily found my arms rising as I was forced by some primeval urge to run, turn, and break into song..... The Hills Are Alive!!! .....

View of Static, Richthofen, Nokhu  
Crags, and Mahler

Photos by  
Scott Farquhar



Walking up the ridge toward Table Iron



# Trip Reports – Table Iron & Iron Mountains (cont.)

Once the group got me back under control we continued across the ridge/high meadows toward Table Iron (Note Table Iron is a high point on the ridge northwest of Iron Mountain, I don't believe this is an "official" name, but I use this because more experienced Group members call it that). The hiking surface made climbing relatively easy as we continued to gain elevation. The group made pretty good time, but we were "forced" to stop multiple times to enjoy the views that surrounded us.

We pressed on to the summit of Table Iron (approximately 12,040 ft) and were rewarded with a 360 degree panorama. Even without the wildflowers in bloom this was a place of wonder, if a person came with the flowers in full bloom it might be more beauty than they could take in at one time! After snapping a few pictures we reluctantly continued on. We could see that we would need to descend into a saddle and make our way up a gnarly looking ridge. I knew from discussing the route with others that it was Class 2, but from a distance you could tell it would be more challenging than what we had done so far.

Great View of Snow Lake  
beneath Static Peak



On top of Table Iron

Photos by  
Scott Farquhar





# Trip Reports – Table Iron & Iron Mountains (cont.)

Down into the saddle we went, and on the way down Ward Whicker pointed out a arch that looked out over the views to the west. We then climbed up the ridge toward the summit of Iron Mountain. As we got closer to the summit, John W and I discussed options and decided to proceed pretty much directly up toward the summit just past a couple of small snow fields and rock outcroppings. This route proven to be challenging, but did not require the use of hands (except for the occasional need to balance a poor foot placement through the rocks). Once past the rock outcroppings we made our way to the top.

The summit of Iron Mountain (12,265 ft) once again provided the group with great views. The weather was a bit breezy, but sunny and warm so the group settled in on the leeward side of the summit to have a well deserved lunch. After lunch we made our way back down the saddle then climbed back up toward Table Iron. Before reaching the summit we veered to the northeast to follow a wide flat ridge. The group followed this ridge for a little over a mile until we reached a drainage that flowed to the northwest toward Zimmerman Lake.

Natural Arch  
between Table Iron  
and Iron Mts.



Checking out the way  
up Iron Mountain



# Trip Reports – Table Iron & Iron Mountains (cont.)



Group photo on the summit

Photo by John Wullschleger

Initially the hiking was not too bad and we stayed high just east of the drainage. However, as we descended into the forest it became increasingly difficult to maintain a bearing across minor ridges, downed trees and small marshy areas. As we neared the lake some in the group recalled a more open area to the east they took during a winter trip, so we followed this course for a while. However, as it became apparent that this course was not leading to the lake. The “humalo” in me kicked in (half human, half buffalo) and I plotted a course directly west to the lake. It was a bit marshy in spots, but we picked up a ski trail that led us to the north side of the lake. Once at the lake the group rested a bit and took in the views. At this point we located the Zimmerman Lake trail. Finally “on trail” after a full day of “wandering”, we made our way down to the Zimmerman Lake Trailhead on CO14. Here there were hugs all around for the tired, but happy crew.

All and all, it was a great day. My thanks go out to all who participated to make this hike so enjoyable. Special thanks go out to John W. for once again watching my back and to Ward Whicker for his route input and for sharing map printouts before the hike.

View from Zimmerman Lake

Photo by  
Scott Farquhar



# Trip Reports – Aspen Hike 9/22/15

By Carol Reed

There could not have been a more perfect day to hike through the changing colors in RMNP. Laurie Folladori led a group of nine on a 6 mile loop starting at Wild Basin and passing by Copeland Falls, Calypso Cascades, and finishing up at Finch Lake Trailhead. The yellow and orange hues of the aspens made it a challenge to keep focused on where our feet were headed as we looked all about us out yonder. This loop is pretty anytime of the year but especially in autumn. The elevation gain is minimal making it accessible to most everyone.



A creek crossing on the trail.

Leslie Edmondson, Eileen Edelman, Gloria Gleave, Janet Cook, Laurie Folladori, Anita Wright- all of Fort Collins; Delia Arias from Erie, and Barb Hill from Longmont. Not shown is Carol Reed taking the photo.

Photos by Carol Reed

Great views from Finch Lake Trail



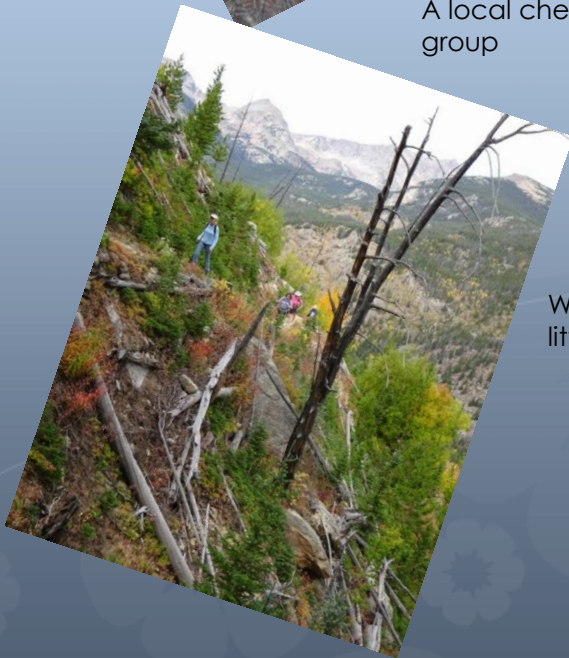
# Trip Reports – Aspen Hike (cont.)



A local checks out the group



The Aspen "show off"



What fun is a hike without a little uphill

View of Long's & Meeker

Photos by Laurie Folladori





# Trip Reports – Backbone, Breakfast and Culture 9/21/15

By Scott Farquhar

Stats; 2.1 miles at Devil's Backbone, 1.5 miles at Benson Sculpture Garden, and at Breakfast 100 ft to restroom  
Time on trail; Good times!  
Leader: Scott Farquhar, Co-leader Eileen Edelman

I like to tell people that CMC is not just about epic climbs in the high country; it is about enjoying nature as well as the many other great parks and open spaces where we live. In keeping with this theme Eileen and I led a group of six hearty souls on a trifecta (hat trick?): a morning stroll on the Wild Loop at Devil's Backbone, breakfast (to build up our strength) at Fireside Café, and then a guided tour of the Benson Sculpture Garden in Loveland.



On trail at Devil's Backbone.



AT the Keyhole

Photos by Scott Farquhar

# Trip Reports – B, B, & C (cont.)

It was a wonderful sunny morning and we started off on the trail after a short visit with a fellow CMCer going out on the trail for a morning run. As we walked down the trail I was lucky to have Eileen as co-lead, because she was able to point out all the interesting flowers and plants along the way, including a wild(?) clematis. At the Keyhole we took in the view, snapped a few photos, and then I shared stories of local resident Alfred Wild “Colorado’s Pioneer Hop Grower and Plaster King”. Alfred owned the south end of the rock formation where he grew hops and fruit. He also built the Buckhorn Mill which operated from 1887 to 1965 producing plaster from gypsum on the property. I also noted that while digging the gypsum, local miners found fossils of a prehistoric elephant with 5-foot long tusks.



View of Keyhole from below

After our short hike we proceeded to a local establishment to build up energy for the next portion of our quest; touring the Benson Sculpture Park. The group was excited because before the trip I contacted the Loveland High Plains Art Council for information on the sculpture park and they informed me that George Walbye one of the founding artists of the park was willing to give us a guided tour!



Eileen points out some interesting flora



# Trip Reports – B, B, & C (cont.)

What a tour it was! In addition to giving us insights into the formation of the park, George also provided personal/humorous stories of many of the artists with work displayed in the park. I always enjoy walking around the park, but this added icing (and chocolate sauce) to the cake. The bottom line was that a good time was had by all.

George points out grass landscaping which accents a sculpture of lions hunting



Unfortunately, the information I obtained on the history of local trails from the FC Museum of Discovery is no longer available on line, but for information the Benson Sculpture Garden go to

<http://www.sculptureinthepark.org/garden>



George poses in front of the park's "best" sculpture ☺ (yeah, I know they are his)

Photos by Scott Farquhar

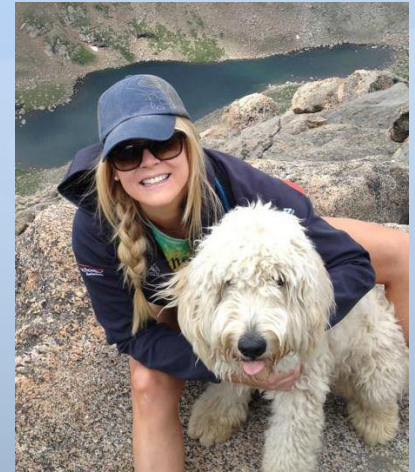
# Meeting the CMC State Staff Members

This is a continuation of a series of articles to meet the State Staff Members. This month covers Lauren Shockey the new Membership Manager

## Lauren Shockey, Membership Manager

### 1. Can you provide a bit of your background?

*I'm originally from Texas and moved to Colorado about 6 years ago. I love to downhill ski, cross country ski, hike, backpack, climb 14ers, and just recently, mountain bike. I've always worked in the non profit world, first with a university, then with the American Alpine Club for 5 years in Membership and then with The Colorado Trail Foundation before recently coming to the Colorado Mountain Club.*



### 2. Can you outline your responsibilities as Membership Manager?

*I am responsible for leading CMC's efforts to build and maintain an active and engaged membership base.*