



Newsletter



Vol. 2016, No. 1

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Table of Contents

❁ From the Editor.....	4
❁ New Members.....	5
❁ Message from the Chair.....	6
❁ Upcoming Programs.....	10
❁ Get to Know the Trip Leaders.....	12
❁ Trip Leaders Wanted!.....	13

Table of Contents

❁	What's Coming Up – Courses.....	14
❁	Did You Know?.....	18
❁	Respect the Mountains.....	22
❁	Trip Reports.....	23
❁	Meet You New Council Members.....	34
❁	Parting Shots.....	38

From the Editor:



Scott Farquhar

In this issue Upcoming Programs, a new Meet your Trip Leaders section, upcoming courses, a couple helpful hints, a Quandary Peak rescue story, interviews with our new Group Council Members, as well as a few trip reports

Thank-yous go out to: Clint Baker, Don Carpenter, Ward Whicker, Paul Weber and Sheila Dielman; for contributions to the newsletter. I am running a bit behind on Ellie Awards, but don't worry I will get one to you!

As I do in every newsletter, I would like to welcome the 16 new members that have joined the Fort Collins Group since October (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

Welcome New Members!

November	December
Cheryl Giambrone	Frank Reid
Scott & Francis Dawson	Dan Zimmerman
Donald Mitchell	Anthony Gonzales
Ben Spang	Will Davidson
Chris Huizenga	Benjamin Irvine
Charley Teal	
Bruce Kolacny	
Matt Baier	
Kerstin Weule	
David Manobla	

Message from the Chair:

By Ward Whicker



Most people join the CMC Fort Collins Group because they want to hike with others. Yet, for many members, the weekly trip offerings seem pretty bleak. At times, there are very few, if any, trips for which they can sign up. And, trips often tend to fill up quickly, so those who decide they want to get out on a trip in the next week or so can get discouraged when the trips listed are full. In this message I want to summarize the trips we have recently offered the membership, mention some of the challenges in trying to offer more of them, and indicate what we might do to improve the situation.

This last year our 35 active leaders led 75 hikes and climbs, 17 ski tours, 15 snowshoe outings, 4 bike rides and 4 backpack trips for a total of 115 trips of all types. This averages out to about 2.2 trips per week. This is not too shabby for a group of our size (currently, about 300 members). We are certainly thankful to all active leaders who volunteer their time and talents to lead trips. Yet, it turns out that about 75% of our trips are led by only 30% of our active leaders. So, while it would seem reasonable to ask those who only lead one or two trips per year to offer more, it is not for me or anyone else to judge the amount of time individual leaders should devote to leading. On the positive side, the great majority of our trips are very well organized and led, they truly offer many interesting and unique experiences, and our safety record is exemplary.

Message from the Chair: (cont.)

Our goal is to offer more trips, but there are significant challenges in doing so. For example, many leaders have full-time jobs and families, and simply lack the time to offer more. There are hoops to jump through in organizing a trip—listing it, emails, phone calls, updates, roster lists, etc.-- all before the fun starts. And of course, there are seasonal variations in weather, snow and road conditions, and other factors that may cause some leaders to have a hesitation to offer trips in transitional seasons. For example, in October or November, there may or may not be snow on the ground, so some leaders may wait until further into winter to offer ski or snowshoe tours, and some leaders might feel a reluctance to register a hike due to such uncertainties. Sometimes, it may seem easier just to call a couple of friends and go rather than planning a trip weeks or months in advance.

So what can we do to offer more trips for the membership? JoAnn Herkenhoff, our recent Activities Director, asked this same question, as will our new Director, Sheila Dielman. We try to identify and encourage Group members who demonstrate good leadership potential to become leaders. This past year, we certified five new trip leaders. We try to reward leaders, such as giving them recognition and organizing periodic meetings to encourage trip offerings, to compare experiences, form bonds of friendship & collegiality, and brainstorm about unique and interesting trip ideas. To deal with weather and snow-cover uncertainties, leaders can do things like changing an expected hike into a snowshoe, if unexpected snow arrives, or changing a snowshoe into a hike, if there is a lack of snow. Also, leaders can and should have a back-up plan so the trip can go on if the primary destination proves unfeasible or too unpleasant.

Message from the Chair: (cont.)

For example, changing an alpine goal to a trip lower down in the forest can still allow for a good outing in case of high winds. Additionally, less-experienced leaders who might be hesitant to lead trips during times of uncertain conditions, can always ask more experienced leaders to co-lead. Experienced leaders might enlist a new leader to co-lead a trip with them to help build confidence and collegiality.

We are trying to help the situation through improved communications. For example, those looking for a trip, on which to register, can do more than just rely on word-of-mouth or reading the weekly email announcement of trips and events. For many the weekly email is likely the primary way of finding out about trip offerings. However, it is only “up-to-date” for a short time after the information is obtained from the Statewide CMC Trips Schedule. This difficulty can be eased by searching for trips listed under the “Fort Collins” Group on the CMC website. This website is instantaneously updated whenever a leader adds a new trip, or makes any other change. A newly-added shortcut to get the most up-to-date listing of trips offered by our Group is to click on the “Fort Collins Trips” link in the weekly email announcement. From that listing, each trip has a link “page”, showing the updated trip description and number of tickets or spots available. Another easy way to access the latest information on our Group trips is to go to <http://www.cmc.org/>, then click on “Quick Trip Search” at the top of the page. Then, under “Group”, select “Fort Collins” and click on the box “Apply”. This will provide the updated listing, including ticket availability. One can also search on a particular leader.

Message from the Chair: (cont.)

The Council and I will strive to encourage a good number and wide variety of trips for the membership. We encourage the membership to make any suggestions for improvements in our activities and programs. In terms of trips, please feel free to request specific types and levels of trips, and even specific destinations. Email me at ward.whicker@colostate.edu or any of the other Council members or trip leaders. We really would love to hear from you!

Ward Whicker



Programs! Programs!



Bob Dietz
Program Director

January Program Avalanche Awareness – Tom Chapel

What: January Program

Where: Senior Center

When: January 27, 7:00 PM

Who: Fort Collins CMC Members AND Public Welcome

Tom Chapel will discuss how to be aware of the risks associated with avalanches in the backcountry and what steps can be taken to try to minimize those risks.

Programs! (cont.)

February Potluck

What: Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Program

Where: Senior Center

When: February 24, 7:00 PM

Who: Fort Collins CMC Members

Bring a dish to share. Coffee and hot tea provided. Some paper and plastic-ware provided.

This year's speakers, Sheila Dielman and Scott Farquhar, will discuss GPS and back country technology.

Get to Know the Fort Collins Trip Leaders

Clint Baker



Clint has been a member of the Colorado Mountain Club since 1998. A BMS graduate and trip leader with the Fort Collins Group, he enjoys leading trips up many of Colorado's 14ers including Longs Peak, Maroon Bells, Snowmass, and Little Bear. Other notable trips include Mount Whitney, several state high points and segments of the Colorado Trail. Clint enjoys being in the outdoors and sharing his passion of hiking with friends and family. Leading a trip up Pyramid, for the 14er Challenge Day, was a unique opportunity to participate in the CMC's centennial celebration with others who share respect for Colorado's magnificent mountains.

During the summer of 2015, Clint led a trip up Desolation Peaks in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park. Clint works for Keysight Technologies and during his free time enjoys playing and teaching the French Horn.

Trip Leaders Wanted



WE WANT YOU!

Do you want more club trips?
Want to do trips on your “wish list”?
Want to share your outdoor skills with others?
Want to give back to the club?

Become a trip leader!!!

If you are interested in becoming a trip leader contact Paul Weber, the Fort Collins Group Leadership and Safety Director, at pweber.cmc@comcast.net

What's Coming Up?

Mountain Hiking School

Are you new to mountain hiking and want to hit the trails this season? Are you an experienced backcountry traveler who wants to gain mountaineering knowledge and improve skills? Plan to join the 2016 edition of the Fort Collins CMC Mountain Hiking School. We will meet in four interactive classroom sessions, practice skills learned on three field trips, and utilize the gamut on our fourth field trip: the graduation hike. Classroom topics include: dry land travel (gear, weather, knots, route-finding), navigation with map and compass, Leave No Trace, emergency survival, snow travel, and scenarios from real life situations. Experienced volunteer instructors will help you learn and practice field techniques in an open group environment.

A course schedule and outline is shown below. You must be a CMC member to participate (go to www.CMC.org/Join.aspx for membership cost and details). You may participate in a specific class and the related field trip if you are not seeking knowledge in the other areas, if space allows. Recent experience on hikes at equivalent difficulty is required for participation in first field trips (4 miles/800' gain).

Contact David Wasson at wasson3@msn.com or call 970.217.9068 evenings between 6 and 8PM or on weekends to ask questions or to enroll.

What's Coming Up?

2016 Mountain Hiking School Schedule

Tues, Mar 1 – Classroom: Intro; Gear; Map & Compass Fundamentals; Scenarios

Tues, Mar 8 – Classroom: Map & Compass Navigation; Nutrition/Hydration; Hygiene; Knots; Scenarios

Sat, Mar 12 – Field Trip

Sat, Mar 19 – Field Trip

Tues, Mar 29 – Classroom: Snow Travel; Mountain Hazards; Leave No Trace; GPS Intro; Online resources; Scenarios

Sat, April 2 – Field Trip

Tues, April 12 – Classroom: Emergency Situation Process; Wilderness Survival; Weather; Scenarios

Sat, April 16 – Field Trip – Graduation Hike

What's Coming Up?

Backcountry Powder Skiing: Introductory Clinic January 30

This clinic is for those interested mainly in powder skiing in backcountry terrain. Participants should be at least intermediate-level downhill or telemark skiers with considerable experience at lift-served areas. Equipment required for this clinic will be either alpine touring (AT) gear or area telemark gear along with climbing skins and a helmet. The clinic will involve practice in up-climbing on packed and unpacked snow with climbing skins, transitioning to downhill mode, and skiing low-angle (<20 deg) terrain that may be open or treed. Participants should be able to make linked turns and ski glades with low-to moderate-density trees in powder and variable snow conditions. During the trip, the leaders will point out potential backcountry skiing hazards and discuss basic avalanche awareness.

Contact trip leader, Ward Whicker, for information and to register. Email: ward.whicker@colostate.edu; phone 970-225-3747.

What's Coming Up?

Beginner/Novice X-country Ski Workshop January 31

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 back country, please join us. This workshop is designed to help beginners and novices feel comfortable on skis. Those who have taken the workshop before, but would like to continue working on skills are also welcome to join us. We will go to the Moose Visitor Center in the Colorado State Forest State Park near Cameron Pass with its beginner-level trail, warm bathrooms and a dry place for lunch. Limited to 10 people. For more information contact Don Carpenter 970-267-6793 or dec5018@comcast.net.

Did you Know?

Using your Analog Watch as a compass

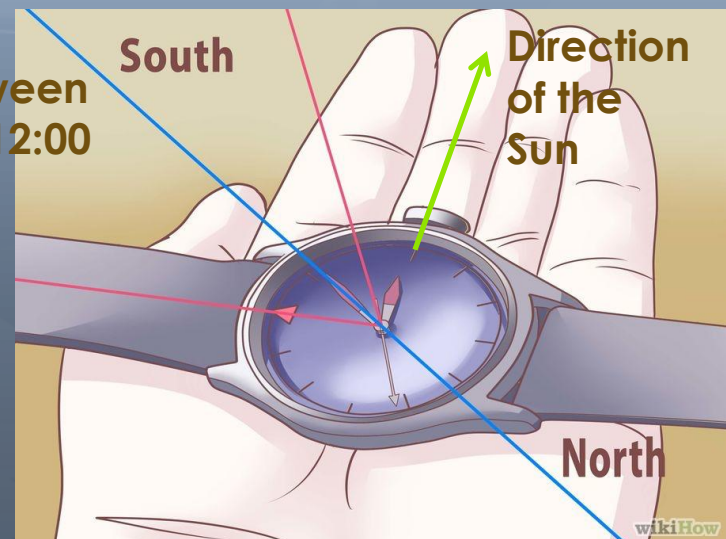
Did you know you can use your analog watch as a rough compass? Well you can and here is how. NOTE: these are directions for the northern hemisphere

1. Hold the watch horizontally.
2. Point the hour hand at the sun.
3. Draw a line halfway between the 12:00 position and the hour hand
4. That line points south. North is “30 minutes” from this line, West is “15 minutes” to the right and East is “15 minutes” to the left.
5. Note that during daylight savings time you should assume the hour hand is one hour early than it is (i.e. if it is 3:00, “pretend” the hour hand is at 2:00).

Notice in the afternoon south will be between the 6:00 position and the 12:00 position

Line $\frac{1}{2}$ way between hour hand and 12:00

Line at 12:00



Did you Know?

Estimating On Trail Times

Have you ever been stumped when your spouse/significant other/friend/etc. asks how long your hike will take? Well there are a number of estimating techniques that may help. Note that neither of them are exact and you may need to adjust them for your hiking style or the number of people in a group. In any case they will give you a place to start.

For simple routes, *The Mountaineering Handbook* by Craig Connally provides a formula:

$$T = R/3 + C + H$$

T = time in hours

R = trail travel distance in miles

C = off-trail travel distance in miles

H = elevation gain in feet/1000

For a student group the time estimate may not be far off. Connally finds that the formula gives times that overestimate times by at least 50% for a small group of well conditioned and motivated mountaineers. Make sure that your group fits that description before you reduce your time estimates. Travelling with a heavy pack takes more time.

Did you Know?

Estimating On Trail Times

Another estimating technique comes from Trip Planning Section of the

Alpine Scrambling Course Student/Instructor Manual – Summer 2015 (pg 24)

Typical ascent rates

- 2.5 mph on good trails with moderate elevation gain
- 1.5 mph off trail on easy terrain
- 0.5 mph off trail on difficult terrain
- <0.5 mph off trail in rough terrain, poor visibility, darkness, bad weather conditions
- Add 0.5 hour for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain

Typical descent rates

Descent on snow or scree takes 1/3 of the ascent time.

Descending a steep trail takes ½ of the ascent time.

Down climbing takes about the same amount of time if climbing was easy and fast.

Did you Know?

You Can Help Keep the Trails in RMNP Clear!

Want to help keep the trails in RMNP in great shape?

To help out all you have to do is send an e-mail to Doug Parker the Trails Supervisor for RMNP at the following e-mail address

doug_l_parker@nps.gov

In order to avoid being overwhelmed Doug noted that he is only interested in the following three trail condition reports;

1. Downed trees across the trail
2. Large rocks/boulders that have moved onto the trail or
3. Bridges that have fallen apart

Include in the report photos, sizes, and specific location of the issue/s

Note only send Doug information on Trails in Rocky Mountain National Park. Also note you should only include "official" trails and not ones like the "winter trail" up to the Mills Lake/Loch intersection.

Respect the Mountains

The following link takes you to a story about a winter rescue on Quantary Peak. The story is from the web page “Because it’s there – Adventures of a medical student”.

Thank you York for sharing this on our Facebook page.

<http://graysoncobb.com/5221-2/>



My take on this story is that

1. Things can go bad REALLY quickly.
2. Remember wearing too many layers can also be bad.
3. Having a personal locator beacon is great, but it takes time to be rescued. Once again there is a reason they are called 10 ESSENTIALS.
4. When you are helping someone out remember to take care of yourself.
5. RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS (anytime of year).

Trip Reports – Rattlesnake Arches

10/28/15

By Scott Farquhar

Stats; 13.8 miles, 3200 ft elevation gain, Time on trail 8 hr

Leader: John Raich

Participants: Steve Dielman & Scott Farquhar

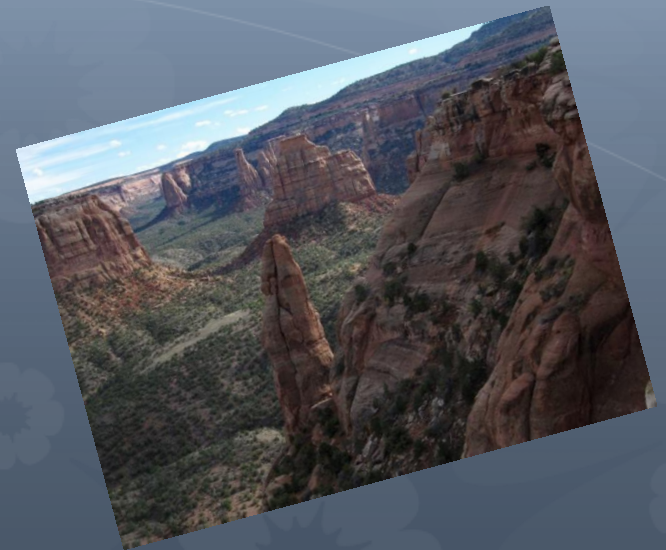
Welllllll, the trip was supposed to be a multi-day backpack trip in canyons of Escalante National Monument. Even though there were only three of us going, we all decided we were up for the trip as an “un-official” event. Unfortunately, heavy rains had messed up the back roads where they crossed washes, which impacted our best-laid plans. Undaunted, the three of us put our heads together and decided to hike the Rattlesnake Arches “loop” in McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area. The Rattlesnake Arches “loop” had been on my “wish list” for a while. It has the largest concentration of arches outside of Arches National Park and the hike to the loop takes you through a number of interesting canyons.

The McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area is part of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness and is right next to Colorado National Monument near Fruita. During the summer there is a rough Jeep road that allows for a shorter hike. However, this road is closed in the late fall so you must access the “loop” from either the river or the Pollock Bench trailhead near Fruita.

Photos by
Scott Farquhar



Canyon Rim Trail - Colorado National Monument



Trip Reports – Rattlesnake Arches (cont.)

The good news is that the trail to the “loop” takes you through a couple of interesting canyons. The bad news is that it makes the hike significantly further because it is a bit over 4 miles out to and 4 miles back from the “loop”. At this point I should also explain what I mean by “loop”. In reality there is an Upper Rattlesnake Arches Trail and a Lower Rattlesnake Arches Trail. Officially they do not make a loop, however, if you are willing to do some Class 3+ scrambling you can make it a loop. For folks that are not interested in scrambling I would recommend taking the lower trail since it passes all of the arches.

It is a five-hour drive to the Fruita area and we assumed it would take at least eight hours to complete the hike. So we decided to car camp at Colorado National Monument to allow us to rest a bit before and after the hike. Note we called ahead to make sure the water was still turned on in the campground. For folks that plan this trip early in the spring or late in the fall you should check to make sure that the water is on because we did not run into any water on the trail. So you will need to have adequate water before starting the hike.

A “Local” at Colorado National Monument



Photos by
Scott Farquhar

Window Rock Trail –
Colorado National Monument



Trip Reports – Rattlesnake Arches (cont.)

We left from Fort Collins mid morning and after an uneventful trip arrived in Fruita early in the afternoon. Since the trailhead was much closer to Fruita than our campsite and because we would most likely be driving to the trailhead in the dark, we decided to check it out before going up the hill to Colorado National Monument. The following link contains a description of how to get to the Pollock Bench Trailhead:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca/recreation/Hiking/Rattlesnake_Arches_-_Pollock_Bench.html

It turned out the trailhead was easy to find, but it was good to confirm this rather than worry about it all evening. With that chore accomplished, we drove up the hill to Colorado National Monument. Being late in the year, one of the camping loops was closed. But there were still lots of sites left to choose from. After picking the “perfect” site, we set up tents and then wandered around a bit near the campsite. Talk about being in a spectacular location! Even close to the campsite the views of arches, balanced rocks, and hoodoos were impressive. This was a good prologue to our hike.



A chilly start on Pollock Canyon Trail



The sun “Lights up” the canyon – Pollock Canyon Trail 25

Trip Reports – Rattlesnake Arches (cont.)



I guess we go down?

The weather got cool quickly as the sun began to set. So after hiking a bit, we quickly prepared dinner, ate, and then went to bed with visions of canyons dancing in our heads.

The next day we woke early (thank goodness the campground was not very full), ate a quick breakfast, and drove to the trailhead. The trailhead parking lot was empty and the sun was just starting to peek out above the horizon as we started off down the trail. The trail was pretty well marked and there were signs at the major trail intersections. The following links contain a detailed description, pictures of some of the major intersections, and a map of the “loop” area:

<http://www.gjhikes.com/2009/09/rattlesnake-arches.html>

http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/co/field_offices/grand_junction_field/permits.Par.80085.File.dat/Upper%20Arches%20Info.pdf



Window Rock Tower/Aztec Window

Photos by
Scott Farquhar

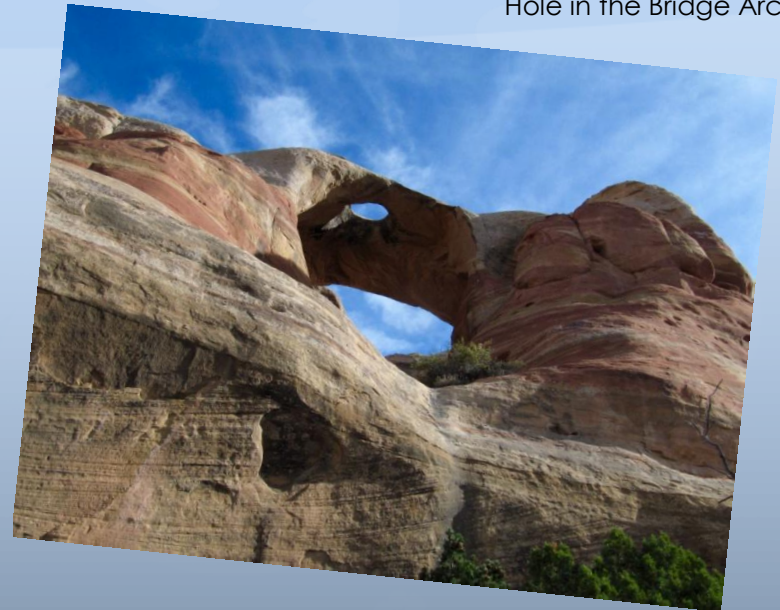
Trip Reports – Rattlesnake Arches (cont.)

At the beginning of the trail there was a slight rise, then the trail followed a ridge above a small canyon. As the sun came up, it lit up the canyon walls and I attempted to capture the moment, without great success (the camera never seems to capture the “picture in my heart”). After following the ridge for a while the trail dipped down into a branch of Pollock Canyon. From here the trail went up and down through a number of drainages until finally reaching Pollock Canyon. The trail was marked by cairns, but we had to be careful to spot them. In a number of places the trail dropped sharply down and we nearly missed turns. In a number of areas we needed to scramble a bit, but they were only Class 2.

The trail followed Pollock Canyon for approximately a quarter of a mile before it climbed steeply out. In the description contained in the link above it describes a section that is a Class 3+ scramble. Although we did need to use our hands a bit, our group agreed that it was at best 3-. Once out of Pollock Canyon, the trail once again went up and down through a number of drainages. At one high point in this section we saw Window Rock Tower and Aztec Window, just a small preview of arches to come.

Photos by
Scott Farquhar

Hole in the Bridge Arch



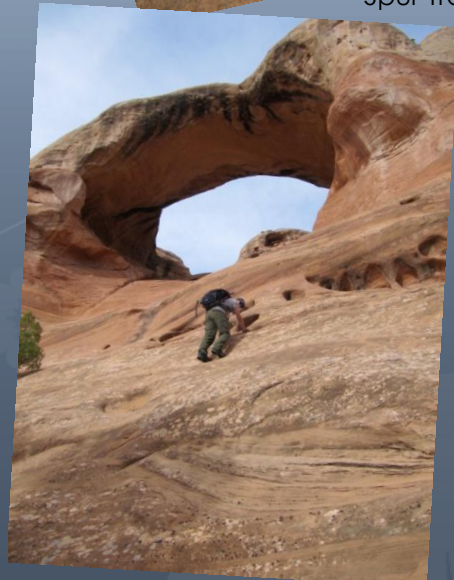
Rattlesnake Arch?



Trip Reports – Rattlesnake Arches (cont.)



Spur Trail Scramble to an Arch



Connecting the "Loop" at First Arch

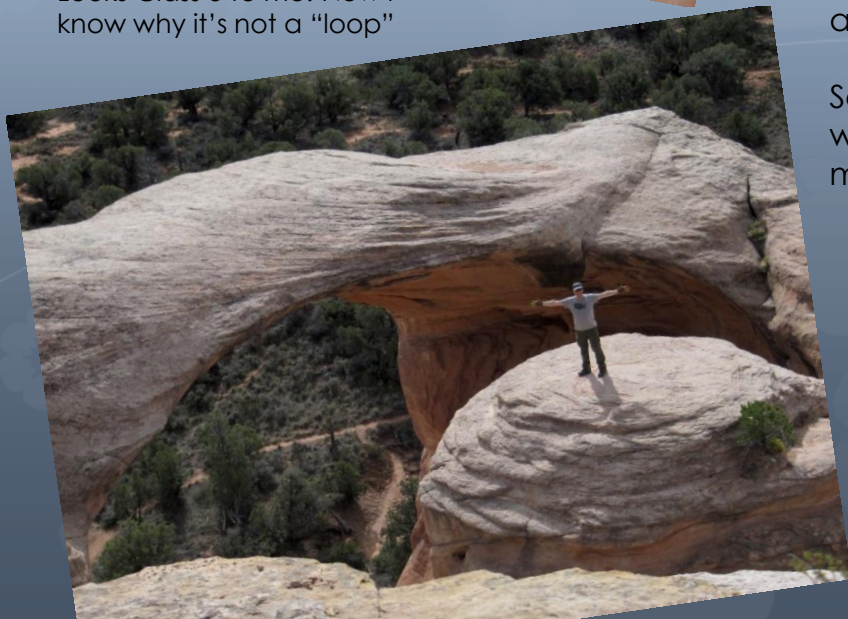
The trail continued to climb to the level of Window Rock Tower before leveling off and heading west to the intersection of Upper Rattlesnake Trail and Lower Rattlesnake Trail. From here the trail continued West by North-West around a ridge. Once around the ridge the trail headed South-East around the other side of the ridge. At this point I felt like I was in an Old Milwaukee commercial, noting to the others that "It don't get no bett'n this", but it DID. In the next mile there were seven arches starting with Hole in the Bridge Arch and ending with First Arch. Around most every corner there was another spectacular view or side trail leading to an exciting short scramble into one of the arches. We wanted it to go on and on, but we finally reached First Arch (I guess it is first if you come from the Upper Trail). Here we needed to decide whether we could scramble up the arch or if we would need to retrace our steps back on Lower Rattlesnake Trail. However, before we could think about it too much Steve starting scrambling up the Arch. We climbed slowly, traversing back an forth on the slickrock where the going was easiest. Just below the opening of the arch it got very steep, but there were a set of indentations that looked like they were man made. These allowed us to make the final push to the just beneath the arch (note that at this point I would classify the scramble as Class 3+).

Trip Reports – Rattlesnake Arches (cont.)



Looks Class 3 to me! Now I know why it's not a "loop"

Once through the arch we continued to climb to the ridge behind the arch and arrived at the Upper Rattlesnake Trail. Here we ate lunch and basked in the great views. After lunch we did a bit of exploring on the ridge to the tops of many of the arches we had passed earlier. After exploring a while we noticed the sky was starting to get a bit cloudy so we hiked out along the ridge top on Upper Rattlesnake trail then descended steeply down the trail back to the intersection with Lower Rattlesnake Trail. From here it was up and down the drainages and canyons back to Pollock Bench Trailhead. After eight hours without seeing another soul we approached the trailhead. About 100 yards from the end of our day we laughed as a man on a horse approached so close to a day all on our own.



So for the three of us, the slot canyons and moki of Escalante will have to wait for another time. But we can take solace in memories of the riches of Rattlesnake Arches.

We made it! On top above First Arch. The connection to Upper Rattlesnake Trail

Photos by
Scott Farquhar

Trip Reports – Beginners Snowshoe, Bierstadt Lake 12/19/15

By Don Carpenter

We have held a beginners snowshoe the past several years. Last year – in early December we barely had sufficient snow cover. Our event this year was late December and, although the snow at lower elevation was barely adequate ie. Sprague Lake, once we arrived at the Bear Lake Trailhead, we were greeted by a nice snow pack. We were greeted by a temperature inversion that morning with the temperature in Fort Collins in the twenties, while Estes Park was in the mid forties. Temperature at the trailhead was in the upper twenties with little to no wind, making a nice start to the day. By the end of the day the temperature had warmed considerably, but snow conditions were still okay.

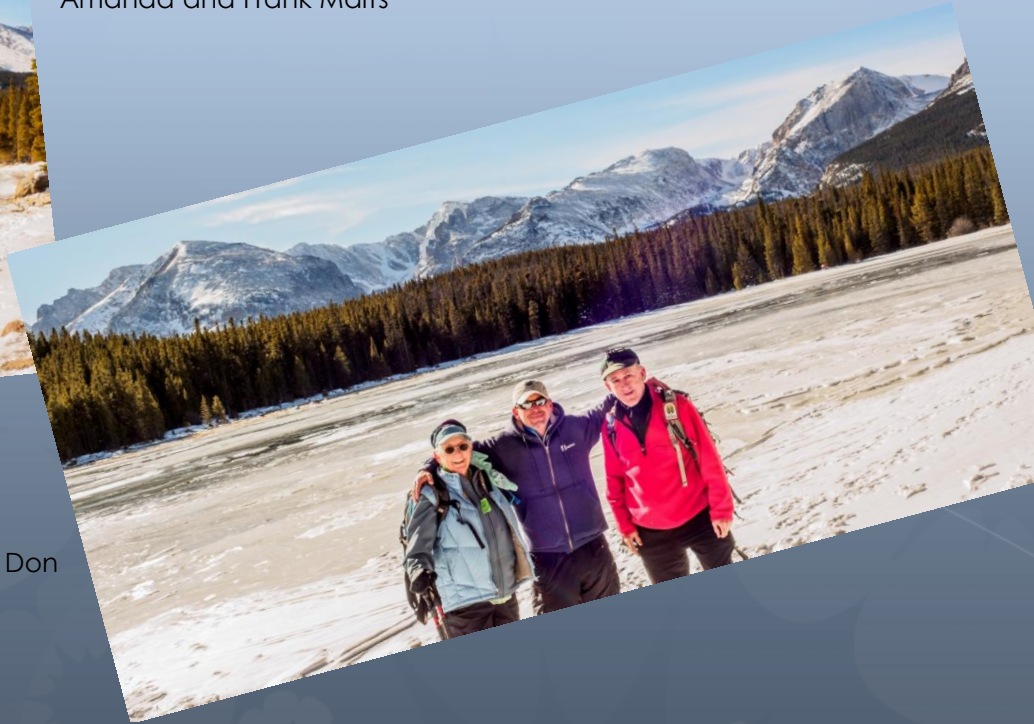


Lunch break at horse corral at Bierstadt
MaryCarpenter, Denver Moore, Richard Gonet, Amanda, Frank Marrs, and Don Carpenter

Trip Reports – Beginners Snowshoe

We covered snowshoes and types of bindings as well as winter safety basics on the benches under the canopy at the trailhead. On the trail Mary demonstrated the technique for falling and getting up. We all practiced trail finding, trail breaking, and trail etiquette as we encountered many other snowshoers as well as cross country skiers along the way. We were rewarded by wonderful views of the snow-covered peaks as we proceeded around the eastern side of Bierstadt. We topped off the afternoon with a stop at Coffee on the Rocks at Estes.

View from the east side of Bierstadt Lake
Amanda and Frank Marrs



Mary, James Denver and Don

Trip Reports – Tour de Horsetooth Mountain Park 12/26/15

By Ward Whicker

The day after Christmas 2015 dawned cold and cloudy, but 6 brave souls agreed to follow me on snowy trails around a good chunk of Horsetooth Mountain Park despite the slightly discouraging forecast. Because of unexpectedly light winds and lots of up and down hiking, the cold was hardly noticeable, and most of the latter part of the day was sunny and very pleasant. The rugged rock outcrops and strong topographic features of this local park are particularly striking under fresh snow, and this day was definitely a winter wonderland.

Group at the base of Horsetooth Falls



Photo by Ward Whicker

Trip Reports – Tour de Horsetooth Mountain Park

After visiting the icicles of Horsetooth Falls, we followed the south extension of the Spring Creek trail, and then made a connection with the Stout Trail where it follows the eastern-most ridge of the park to the North. This is a particularly fun trail because of very light use, lots of wildlife, and great views to the east, south and west. We then accessed the Wathen trail via the Herrington and Spring Creek trails. This trail offers great views of Horsetooth Rock and connects with the Horsetooth Rock trail quite near the rock itself. We did a short off-trail walk to the base of the southern “tooth” of Horsetooth Rock. Snow and ice on portions of the main route up this feature discouraged us from trying this normally fun scramble. We managed to find a sheltered and sunny spot for lunch nearby, and greatly enjoyed the rest and happy chat. After that, we bushwhacked a short distance to the Audra Culver trail which offered scenic views of the high country and Redstone Canyon. We returned to the cars after about 6 hours and 8 miles of pleasant hiking. How fortunate we are to have such marvelous places to hike so close to the City!

Ward Whicker, Trip Leader

Photo by Ward Whicker

On the Wathen Trail, with Horsetooth Rock in background. Standing, L to R, Kate Polk, Jessica Auman, Marvin Godsey, Kim Cunningham and Betsy Perna. Sitting, Carolyn Hammond.



Meet Your New Council Members

At the November Annual Meeting of the Colorado Mountain Club Fort Collins Group we elected two new members to the council. This is a conversation with Paul Weber the new Leadership and Safety Director and Sheila Dielman the new Activities Director



Paul Weber, Leadership & Safety Director

1. How long have you been a club member, and what got you interested in joining the club?

I joined CMC in 1998 when I moved to Colorado. I didn't know my way around the mountains and saw a lot of value in joining CMC to learn about local trails and meet others with similar interests.

2. What do you like most about being a Fort Collins CMC member?

I've met many interesting people in CMC. The club draws members from many different walks of life and that makes for interesting conversations.

3. Other than CMC activities what are your other interests?

Travel, history, archaeology, botany, environmental conservation, and current events.

Meet Your New Council Members

Paul Weber, Leadership & Safety Director (cont.)

4. What do you do for a living (you know those pesky times when you have to do something to pay the bills)?

I recently retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. I have a BS in Natural Resource Management, specializing in agricultural systems. I advised farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in managing resources for conservation. I ended my career providing support with technology to our field personnel.

5. What do you see as the most important responsibility as the new Leadership & Safety Director?

To recruit, mentor, and support leaders of the Fort Collins CMC Group. Trip Leaders perform one of the most important roles in CMC. My role is to provide leaders with the opportunities to learn and enhance leadership skills.

6. One of the good things about changing up officers is that new people bring new perspectives, what do you think you would like to do differently as the new Leadership & Safety Director?

The Fort Collins Group has generally had a good program for developing and supporting leaders. I hope to continue that record with activities targeted toward leadership development.

7. Do you have any closing comments?

Volunteer organizations thrive when members actively participate in local activities. I encourage members to get involved with your local group in what ever capacity interests you.

Meet Your New Council Members

Sheila Dielman, Activities Director

No Photo Available

1. How long have you been a club member, and what got you interested in joining the club?

I found the CMC entirely by chance almost as soon as I moved to Colorado in 2009. As a result, many of my now-favorite local places were first experienced on CMC trips.

2. What do you like most about being a Fort Collins CMC member?

I appreciate being able to tap into the collective knowledge of the group. It is a great resource for learning about the area. As a member, I am continually learning about new places to explore and ways to explore them.

3. Other than CMC activities what are your other interests?

No comment

Meet Your New Council Members

Sheila Dielman, Activities Director (cont.)

4. What do you do for a living (you know those pesky times when you have to do something to pay the bills)?

I own and manage rental properties in Fort Collins.

5. What do you see as the most important responsibility as the new Activities Director?

I hope to provide data, information, and avenues of communication to help the leaders continue to bring a diversity of trips, courses, and other activities to the membership.

6. One of the good things about changing up officers is that new people bring new perspectives, what do you think you would like to do differently as the new Activities Director?

I plan to do some analysis of trips from previous years to provide leaders with additional information about which trips are popular and what activities might interest members.

7. Do you have any closing comments?

See you on the trail !

Parting Shots

Miscellaneous FC Group Photos



Photo by Bruce Hollenbaugh

Photo by York



Photos by Kim Cunningham

