



# Newsletter



Vol. 2017, No. 6

November, 2017

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# From the Editor:



Scott Farquhar

I may or may not help out with the January Newsletter so I figured I would get my “last shot” into this Newsletter. I have served as your Communications Director/Newsletter Editor for three years and in keeping with our Fort Collins Group By-Laws it is time to “pass the baton (pen? keyboard?). As I said in my very first newsletter “I don’t do perfect”, however, I hope that the newsletters for the last three years have been informative and at least a little bit entertaining. I realize my writing style can be a bit tongue in cheek, but as Popeye would say “I yam what I yam” (not to mention that every now and then the articles have been written while indulging in a malted beverage).

Thanks go out to the many folks who contributed to the newsletter over the last three years. Special thanks go out to Ward Whicker for the great “Message from the Chair” articles he has written for each of the newsletters. I would also like to thank the folks that have helped with our web page; York, Chris Haugen and Sheila Dielman. Finally, VERY SPECIAL thanks go out to the folks that release the weekly e-mail. Paul Weber is the person primarily responsible for this and Don Carpenter is his back up. I have always said this is the best tool we presently have to communicate to our members. It takes time weekly and it has required “cutting and pasting” activities since the change in the state web page. Thank you Paul and Don!

# From the Editor (cont.)

I am a believer in term limits since they bring new ideas to the table. I am sure the new Communications Director will do things a bit different and give our group a new perspective on things. Please support that person by “offering” to contribute to the newsletter every now and then and by sharing photos of your CMC trips on our Group Facebook page.

Of course, you won't be rid of me completely, I still plan to lead trips. You can count on seeing me on the trail referencing old songs, making bad puns and passing out smiles (smiles are free and I can always make more).

Finally, as I always do, I would like to welcome the 5 new members that have joined the Fort Collins Group since August (see the next page for a listing).

For all of the new members, 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

*“May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. ....”*      Edward Abby

# Welcome New Members!

September	October
David McNeill	Tim Stabbe
Natalie McNees	
Teresa Bagshaw	
Hayden Holbrook	

My apologies to Haley for typing Smit rather than Smith in the September Newsletter, but after all it isn't an "easy" name to spell like Farquhar ☺

# Message from the Chair:

By Ward Whicker

I am exceptionally pleased & proud to announce that our own Dr. Steve Martin, a member of the Fort Collins Group for some 25 years, has been selected to receive for 2017 the *Ellingwood Golden Ice Axe Mountaineering Achievement Award*. This is the very highest honor bestowed annually by the Colorado Mountain Club. Steve has for many years stood out prominently as a prolific climber, gifted instructor, innovative trip leader and extraordinary mentor. He displays exceptional skill, leadership, dedication, ethics and kindness in all his mountaineering efforts, and has served as an admirable role model for dozens of CMC leaders and instructors.



Ward Whicker

The following represents some highlights of his accomplishments and contributions to the ideals of the Colorado Mountain Club:

## **Personal Accomplishments-**

- He has summited all 53 of the Colorado 14ers, with most repeated by different routes.
- He has been to the summits of all the 126 named and 24 unnamed but ranked peaks in Rocky Mountain National Park.

# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

- Steve summited the highest points in each of the 50 States of the USA, the 64 Colorado County highpoints and the 23 Wyoming County highpoints.
- He has been to the summits of five of the seven Continental Highpoints, lacking only Everest and Vinson, as well as several of the high volcanoes in Ecuador, some exceeding 20,000'.
- First to climb all of the 255 ranked peaks (that is, peaks of greater than 300 vertical feet of prominence) in Larimer County, CO.
- “Ellingwood Appreciation Climbs”- In October 2003 he climbed the Ellingwood Arete on Crestone Needle. Four days later he climbed the Ellingwood Ridge on La Plata Peak.
- He recently completed successful climbs of all 87 ranked peaks in Boulder County, CO.
- Steve climbed all the significant mountains in Wyoming's Teton Range during the 1960s, before modern ropes, leader protection hardware, and climbing harnesses had been developed.

## **Informal Trips involving CMC members-**

Steve organized and led or co-led more than 200 “unofficial” (not on the actual CMC Activity Schedule) mountain summit-destination trips involving CMC members. Most of these trips were designed to help aspiring CMC climbers achieve personal goals. Example mostly high-altitude destinations have included:

- Denali (20,310') in Alaska (two expeditions, one via West Rib, one via West Buttress);

# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

- Aconcagua (22,841', highest point in South America; two expeditions);
- Mt. Elbrus (the highest point at 18,510' in Europe & Russia);
- Mt. Blanc (15,774') and the Matterhorn (14,692') in the European Alps;
- Orizaba (18,491') in Mexico;
- Grand Teton (WY); Granite Peak (MT); Humphries Peak (AZ); Mt. Wheeler (NM); Kings Peak (UT); Guadalupe Peak (TX); Washakie Needles (WY); and many more great peaks.

## **Official CMC trips-**

Steve has led more than 100 CMC trips, almost all involving off-trail adventures to mountain summits—some to remote and challenging destinations not typically included on CMC schedules. I can attest to the uniqueness and level of adventure that Steve Martin's CMC hikes & climbs have provided. Without exception, they have been exceedingly well-organized and run, often taking participants a little beyond their previous experience and comfort level, and yet always providing valuable experience with ample margins of safety. For me, his trips have mostly been confidence-building endeavors.

# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

## **Education and Service-**

Steve has actively participated in many CMC educational and service activities. Examples include:

- Directing/instructing in the Fort Collins Group Basic Mountaineering Course.
- Giving a High Altitude Mountaineering School (HAMS) seminar on the Denali West Rib Expedition.
- Served twice as a Denver Group HAMS Instructor for Crevasse Rescue Training.
- Served as a co-leader of a Denver Group HAMS graduation climb of Mt. Rainier.
- Served as an instructor for the Pikes Peak HAMS program for their overnight and crevasse rescue training module.
- Served as Sr. Instructor in a Fort Collins Group special skills course for the Group's Leaders.
- He gave several monthly programs for the Fort Collins Group (For example, one on the West Rib climb of Denali and another on the 150 peaks of Rocky Mountain National Park).

# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

- He served on a State CMC Ad hoc Committee constituted by the State Safety and Leadership Committee to recommend improvements to safely practices across all Groups.
- He served on the State High Altitude Mountaineering Committee.
- He is a true expert on the use of GPS technology and geocaching. He frequently shares this expertise with others and has led specific educational trips on these subjects. He is probably the most active mountain-oriented geocache expert in Colorado, if not the U.S.

## **Mentoring-**

Steve has mentored perhaps a dozen or more prominent mountaineers and leaders in the Fort Collins Group and other Groups of the Colorado Mountain Club. He has done this mostly by example, quietly, efficiently and effectively. I am proud to say that he has been my primary general mountaineering mentor in the past decade. Our relationship has simply been one of sharing many adventures in our mountains as good friends with common interests and backgrounds.

# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

About 10 years ago, Steve was riding his bicycle down CO Highway 14 in Poudre Canyon, when he was hit by a random falling rock and knocked over the guardrail and into the riverbed. He narrowly survived, and was left with only about half of his normal lung capacity. Nevertheless, with great determination and effort, he was back to climbing within a year. From him, I and others have learned critical lessons about pace, patience & persistence, efficient route selection, and many other things that add up to making amazing goals possible for people of varied abilities and ages.

I personally know numerous other hikers and climbers who have been deeply inspired by Steve to set climbing goals and to achieve them. He is truly a man who is “one with the mountains”, and one who’s passion, knowledge and leadership has infected many CMC members with the full spirit and intent of our great club.

# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

## Finally-

I'm so very happy that Steve Martin was selected for this award, because his character and accomplishments truly embody the core goals of the CMC, and the mountaineering ideals and feats of Albert Ellingwood, a truly legendary mountaineering pioneer and a founder of the CMC.

Ward Whicker

Steve Martin, West Ridge of  
Quandary, August 11, 2017

Photo by Ward Whicker



# Did you Know?

## What to do if you change your e-mail address

PLEASE PASS THIS ON IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT IS HAVING AN ISSUE (in the past couple of months more than one person has asked about this)

Note when you change your e-mail, information from the state organization and the weekly e-mail our Fort Collins Group sends will continue to go to your old e-mail address. To fix this issue first go to [cmc.org](http://cmc.org) and log in.

Next click on the box labeled "My Membership". On the left side of the page there is a list, click on "My Member Info". When you scroll down you will see a box labeled "E-mail", in that box type in your new e-mail address. AFTER YOU CHANGE THE ADDRESS YOU MUST SCROLL DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE AND CLICK ON "Update Information". Note that Paul Weber does not download every week, so it might take a couple of weeks. You can contact the Communications Director if you continue to have an issue (for a couple more months that is me at [fccmcguy@gmail.com](mailto:fccmcguy@gmail.com)).

P.S. – While you are changing your e-mail make sure your Emergency Contact Information is current!!!

# Did you Know?

## Winter Boots

The following are a couple of Outdoor Gear Labs reviews of Winter Boots. I have to admit I believe the article on women's boots does not contain as much information on "technical" foot wear, but it still may be informative to many folks. By the way from personal experience be careful of boots that have a hard plastic base and leather upper. I found the base cut into my foot when I contoured across a steep slope (try any boots out in the store and try to walk at an angle to see if this is an issue). Shoe On!

<https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/topics/shoes-and-boots/best-winter-boots>

<https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/topics/shoes-and-boots/best-winter-boots-womens>



# Did you Know?

## Cal Topo – A fun tool to play with

Cal Topo is a great tool to play with before you go into the woods. I am certainly not an expert, but the following discusses a few easy things that can be done.

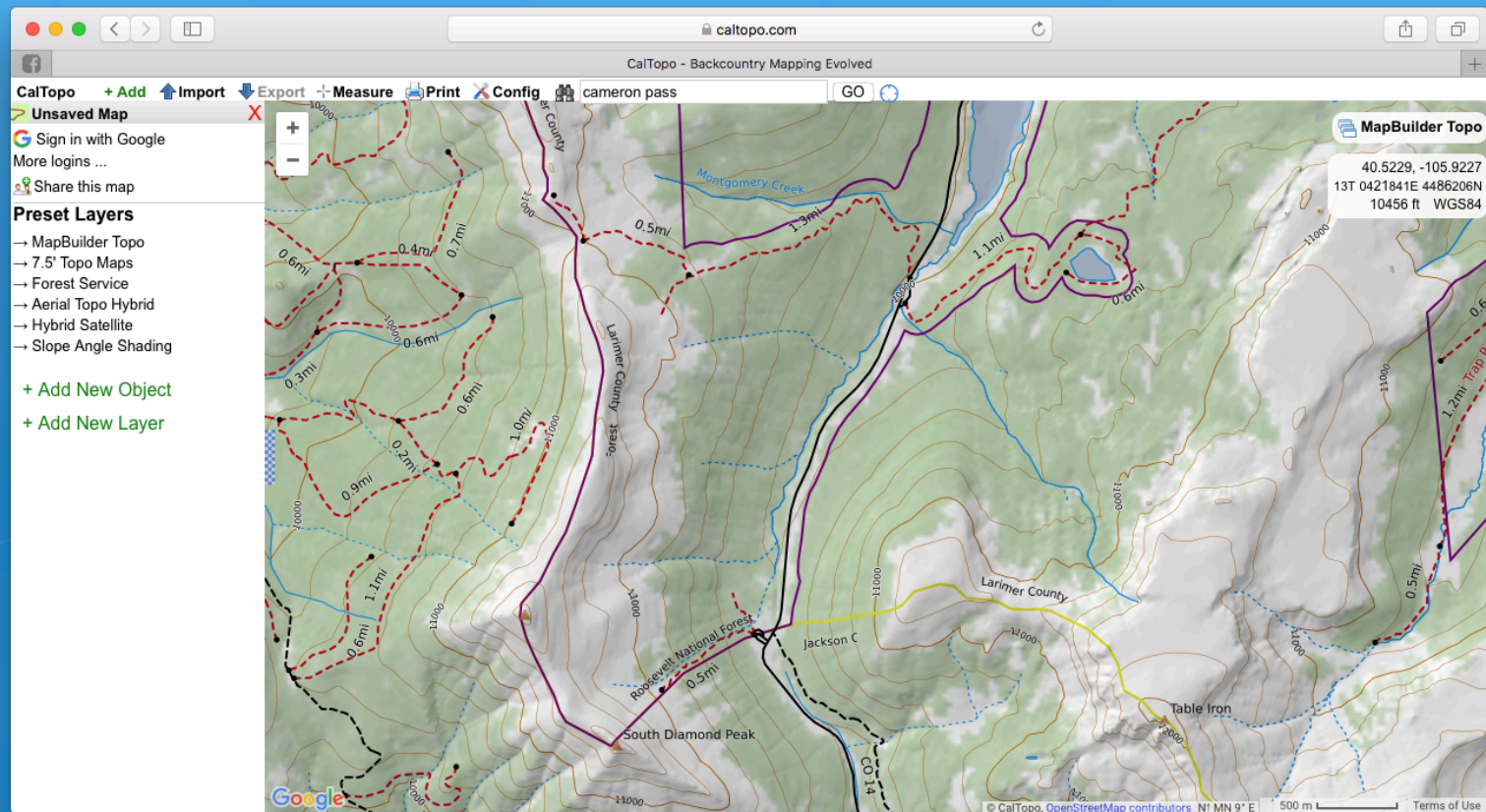
Cal Topo is available for free on the internet at [caltopo.com](http://caltopo.com). Once in Cal Topo I went to the box next to the “binoculars” and typed in Cameron Pass then clicked on “GO”. The map it pulled up is shown in Figure 1 on the next page (note this is the MapBuilder Topo Preset Layer on the list on the left). Figure 1 demonstrates that the map shows trails in the area and other items normally found on a topographic map (lots more trails than my Garmin Maps show).

From here you can go to menu on the top and “Measure” (see Figure 2). Under “Point” you can click on one of the options then click on a point on the map and get the following information;

- Position and Elevation – a table of this info
- Sun Exposure – Shows a graph for the entire year for this point showing exposure as Sun, Shade or Night
- NOAA Forecast- Goes to NOAA and gives the forecast for that point!!! (how cool is that!)
- Simulated View – Shows a profile of what you would see from that point (also very cool)

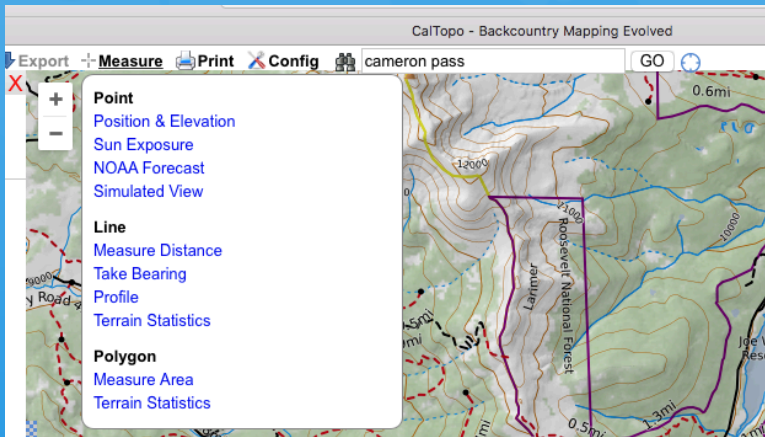
# Did you Know?

## Cal Topo (cont.) Figure 1



# Did you Know?

## Cal Topo (cont.) Figure 2



In “Measure” under “Line” you can get the following information by clicking once on a starting point then clicking twice on the ending point.

- Measure Distance – Gives the distance between the points
- Take Bearing – Gives the bearing from the start point looking towards the end point
- Profile – Gives the profile of the land between the points
- Terrain Stats – Gives a number of graphs showing elevation, slope, aspect, tree cover, and Land cover (you have to try this!!!)

# Did you Know?

## Cal Topo (cont.)

I am not going to go into adding objects (i.e. waypoints) or importing/exporting gpx files since that gets a bit more complicated. However, I do want to mention two other features that are valuable. The first (my favorite) is to go to the “Preset Layers” list on the left and click “Slope Angle Shading”. This brings up the map in Figure 3 on the next page which shows slope angles, a very good thing to know when you are planning trips during avalanche season (note you can zoom in to get a better look).

The final feature I want to discuss is the “Hybrid Satellite” option in the “Preset Layers” list. Clicking on this brings up a map with a satellite image showing tree cover. I have found this to be very useful when planning a fun off-trail ski or snowshoe route through the woods that does not present “too” much of a challenge (see Figure 4, once again not you can zoom in).

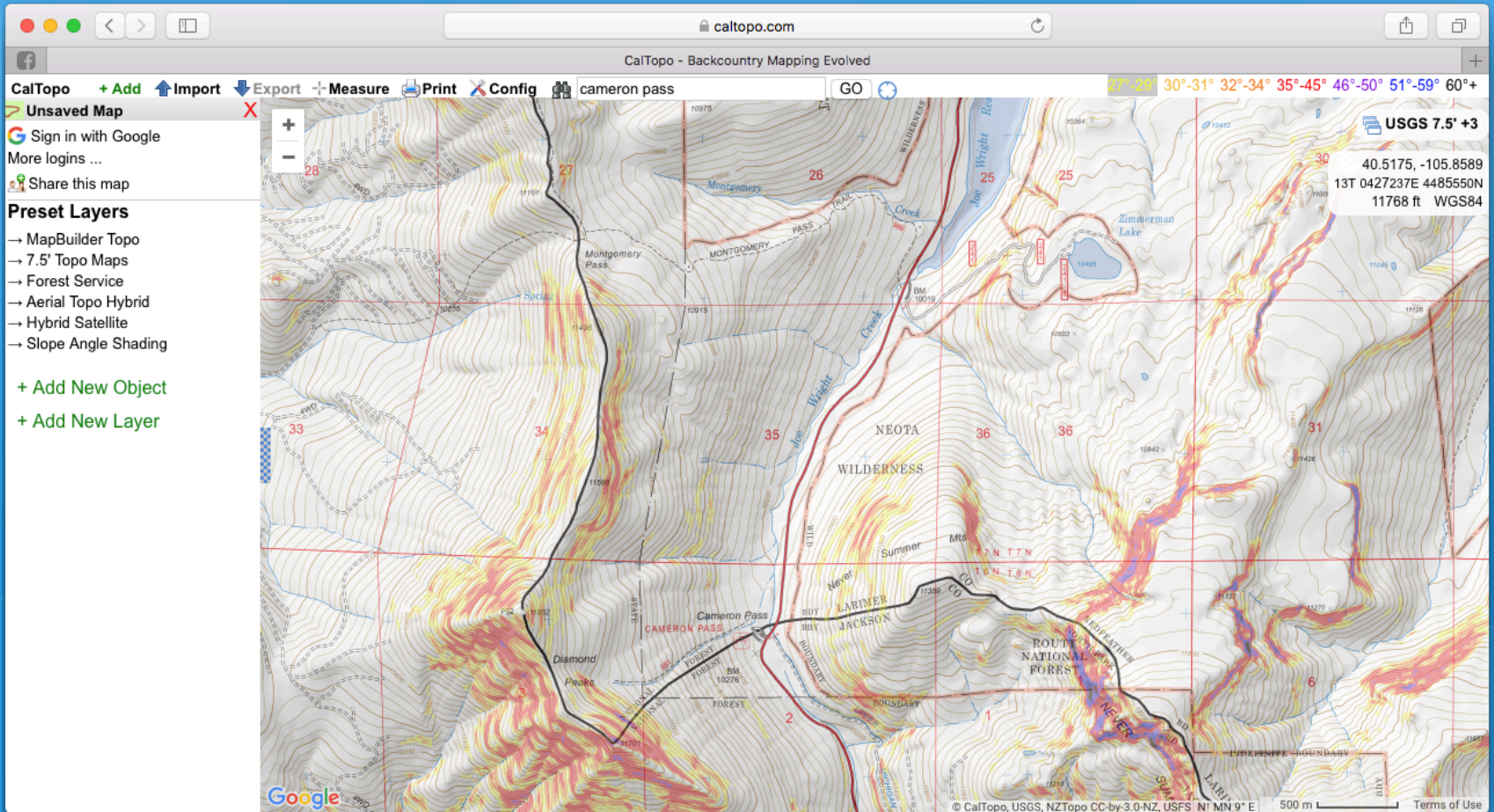
So if you are a “TechnoWizard” or still using a slide rule, I believe that Cal Topo can be a useful tool. “Try it You’ll Like it”

P.S. – Leaning more to the slide rule side, I have not been successful in uploading detailed maps to my Garmin GPS. I tried to export to BaseCamp, it will show a route but it did not show the details. I then tried uploading directly to my GPS and messed up my GPS. Loading to your Garmin GPS may be possible, but I could not do it ..... maybe I need to ask someone’s grandchild ☺

# Did you Know?

## Cal Topo (cont.)

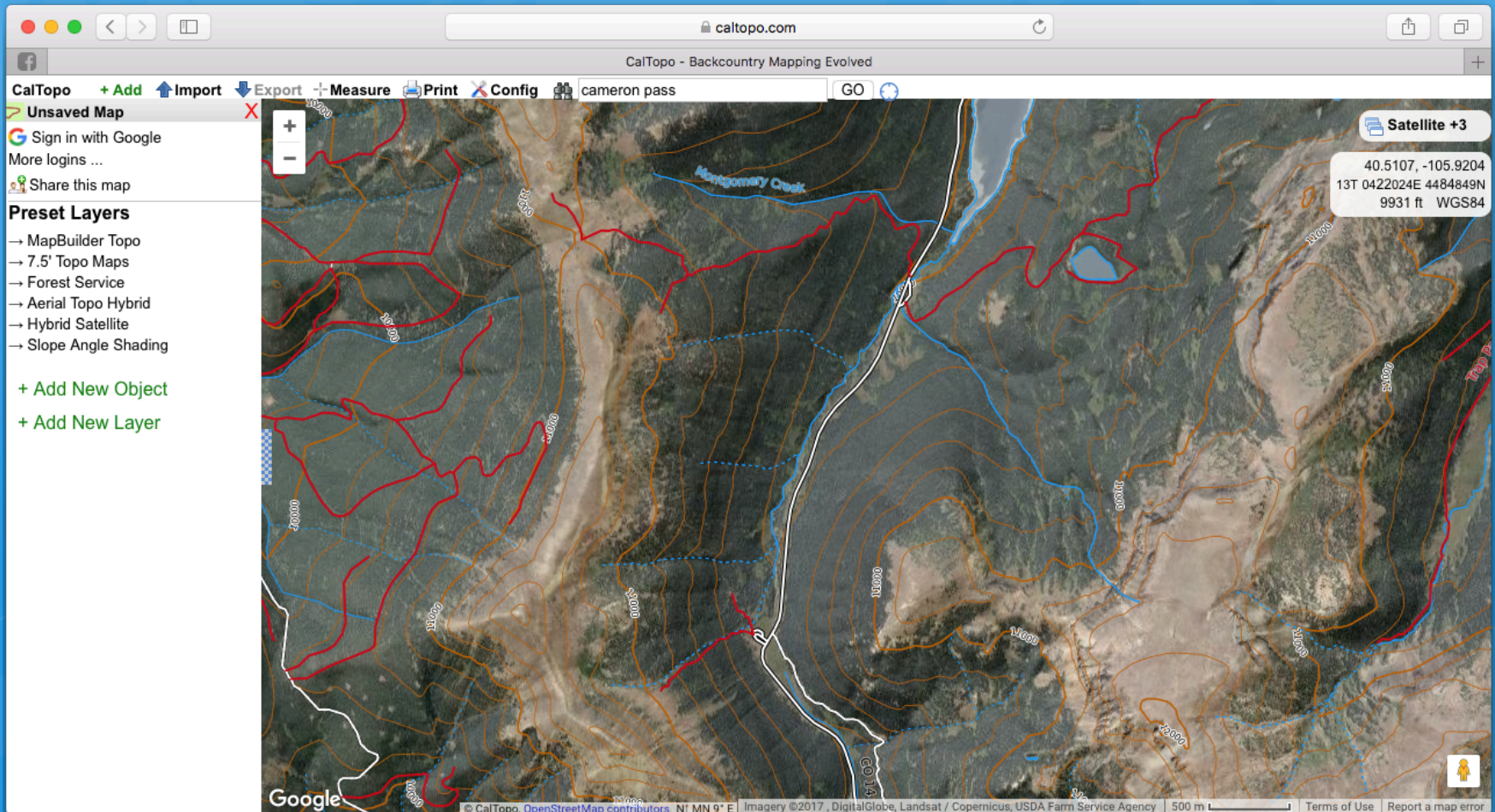
### Figure 3



# Did you Know?

## Cal Topo (cont.)

### Figure 4



# Trip Reports

## Gemstones Scramble – 10/14/17

By Scott Farquhar

Mileage – 5 miles, Elevation Gain - 1600 ft

Leader – John Raich

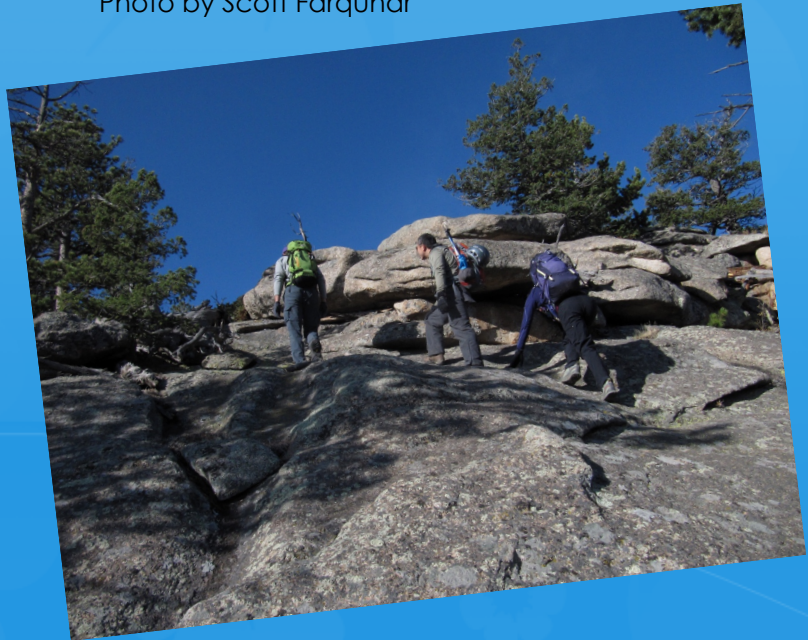
Time on Trail – 7 hours

When I was growing up our playgrounds did have equipment to climb on, but in the past I was a bit envious of the elaborate Jungle Gyms that playgrounds now have (and envious that kids no longer have to dodge the pterodactyls ☺ ). However, my jealousy subsided when I recently realized that nature has created natural Jungle Gyms all over Colorado for us “vintage” folks to enjoy. In October John Raich introduced a group of us to another of these magical areas where one can scramble around and be a kid again!

The group assembled early at the Lumpy Ridge Trailhead and was welcomed by a brisk, but sunny day. It was early enough that we did not run into many people on our way on-trail up to Gem Lake. After a brief stop at the lake we continued on-trail for a couple hundred feet to the edge of East Gemstone. At this point John led us off trail to the

Climbing up Middle Gemstone

Photo by Scott Farquhar



north-west into the woods towards Middle Gemstone. The group made our way to the N-N-E ridge of Middle Gemstone, and this is where the real fun began.

# Trip Reports – Gemstones (cont.)

Gem Lake from Middle Gemstone



The rough slabs of rock were perfect for scrambling. In most areas, we could “crab” up the rock using our hands and feet, but some places required a bit of actual climbing. As the group approached the summit, we reached a Class 3+ to 4 pitch. However, by moving around the cliff to the west side there was a ramp with a bit of exposure. Once up the ramp we climbed up a bit of rock to the top. Our efforts were rewarded with a spectacular 360-degree vista of the Rocky Mountain Range, Gem Lake, Comanche Peak Wilderness and the rocky peaks along Lumpy Ridge. The breath-taking views captivated the entire group and many bits of digital storage were filled with photos of the splendor the mountains provided. However, our journey was not over and there was another “playground” to enjoy, so the group reluctantly started back down off the peak.

Photos by Scott Farquhar

The summit of Middle Gemstone



From the summit, we retraced our steps back down to where we started up the N-N-E ridge of Middle Gemstone. When we reached the point where we started up the ridge we turned to the north-west going down almost to a low saddle between the Gemstones, then hiked to the south to a point south-east of the summit. Here you could see a ramp going up to the north-west so we started climbing. In general, the climbing was relatively easy Class 3 with a few places “interesting” for us folks that are height challenged. The

# Trip Reports – Gemstones (cont.)

route moved back and forth making its way to the north-west then to the north towards the summit. In some locations, there were cairns to help point out a route, but in other places the group made our way by trial and error. As we approached the summit we actual went past it on the east side then came around and approached from the north-east.

Once again, the views from the summit were awe inspiring, however, by this time the wind had picked up and photographers had to brace themselves against the wind to get a good shot. So after a few photos and high fives the group made our way back down to a spot protected from the wind for lunch. After fortifying ourselves we retracted our steps back down off "The Rock" to the saddle area. From here we hiked off trail and followed a drainage with a bit of downfall to the south-west until hitting a larger drainage which flowed to the south-east. We followed this drainage back to an unofficial trail that broke from the drainage where it tuned south. The unofficial trail ran south-east where it intersected the Gem Lake Trail near "Paul Bunyan's Boot".

View of West Gemstone. We Climb That!



On our way up West Gemstone

Photos by Scott Farquhar

# Trip Reports – Gemstones (cont.)



View on the way up

From here the happy group made our way down the steps and through the large number of people making their way up to Gem Lake. At times, we got strange looks from folks wondering if "they" also needed climbing helmets to get to Gem Lake, but we didn't care. We had just finished recess and had mastered Nature's Jungle Gym.

Photos by Scott Farquhar

Almost on the summit of W. Gemstone

What goes up must come down



# Parting Shots

No one shared photos of CMC trips on Facebook the last couple of months so I don't have any to "leverage". As a substitute I am offering my following thoughts.

## THE MOUNTAINS ARE ALIVE!

The more time I spend in Mountains, the more I am sure they are alive.

I have witnessed them grouchy in the morning as they throw graupel down and cover themselves with fog. Hours later I've seen them slowly change moods as they sparkle with the reflection of the late morning sunshine off frosted boulders.

I've seen them smile with Alpine Glow in the early morning and in late evening. Seen them breath deeply as the afternoon upslope whistles across high meadows.

In the spring, they show off by adorning themselves with wildflowers of every shape, color and size.

In the summer, they angrily lob lighting bolts down at those silly enough to believe they can summit late in the afternoon.

In the winter, they may grant permission to summits for those who plan carefully, but can cruelly punish those who do not respect the steep avalanche slopes.

If you have not spent a significant amount of time in the high country I am sure you think I am crazy, but as for me; I believe Mountains are alive.

