



Fort Collins Chapter Newsletter

August
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Your local resource for outdoor adventure

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Wildflowers are not the only sources of summertime color in the Colorado outdoors (photo by April Whicker - see more photos by April on pg. 5).

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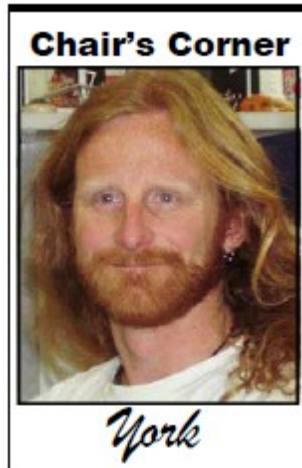
**Beaver Mountain
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Annual Dinner, Elections and Upcoming Trips

Howdy

August and the summer of 2011 are rapidly coming to a close. Hopefully you have been able to get out and enjoy the mountains, trails, lakes, streams, rocks, woods, animals, flowers, and weather.

As we move through the second half of the year a couple of annual projects move up the priority list: 1) The annual dinner and program are being put together for November 19th by the Program Committee under Kevin McCartney's Leadership. Mark your calendars now! 2) Annual elections for new Fort Collins Group Council Members. To start this process we need people on the nominating committee. Per our bylaws, each council member may only serve three consecutive years and then they are term-limited. Thus the positions of Group Chair and Leadership & Safety Chair need new people for 2012. Please let me know if you'd like to be on the nominating committee or are interested in one of the term-



limited positions.

Mike Smiley, Activities Chair, organized a trip leader planning session at the City of Fort Collins' Primrose Studio on August 4th. Thank you Mike! Plans for several trips were hatched among the leaders present. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful Primrose Studio facility and setting as well.

Trip leaders, we could use some more activities on the schedule. In particular, it would be great to

schedule some additional A and B trips for weekends. The third Friday Trips fill up fast too, so figure out a trip to offer on a third Friday and get it on the schedule before someone else does.

Hiking around the area I've seen the stands of pine beetle kill grow, the noxious weed leafy spurge infest new areas, wild flowers blooming along streams that are normally dry this time of year, and the days getting a little bit shorter, if not cooler (yet). The Colorado environment continues to change. While we don't have control over all of these changes, they don't stop us, as members of the Colorado Mountain Club, from getting out to see what the Colorado outdoors has to offer.

See you on the trail.

Play and Think Hard!

York, The Red Lion Chair, Fort Collins Group, Colorado Mountain Club

Share your
summer
experiences
with
others



By putting
them in the
Fort Collins
Group News-
letter

email John - jgw311@hotmail.com

Middle St. Vrain

July 12 2011



On July 12 Art Leissa led a group of nine on a hike up the Middle St. Vrain valley. He had not been up it since 1962, and the trails had changed somewhat in the meantime! They followed one trail for four miles up the valley on the north side of the stream. This picture shows the group crossing a slope (by trail) on the way (photo by Art Leissa)



There was a lot of water lying around from the recently melting snow, which made the trip more difficult. But here the group is at the west end of the trail, where it crosses the Middle St.Vrain river on a sturdy bridge to meet a "road" (4WD trail) going back east four miles to the cars. Pictured, from left to right are: Art Leissa, Maryann Babbs, Patty Kroesen, Bob Babbs, Trudi Leissa, Lisa Angell, Betsy Munson and Bob Huey. Dennis Kovatch was behind the camera. The "road" was full of rocks and water. Dennis describes it as a "4WD road/river/lake/stream". At one point a side stream gushed across it, and the group had to protect each other in crossing it (photo by Art Leissa).

Sandbeach Lake

July 31, 2011



On July 31st, Laurie Folladori and Linda Brisbane led a hike to Sandbeach Lake. The other participants were Ann Hunt and Bruce Hollenbaugh. Warm temperatures and partly cloudy skies allowed the group to spend a pleasant hour at the lake. Considering it was the end of July, the flowers were quite beautiful and included coral root (which has no chlorophyll) and elephant head (photos by Laurie Folladori).



Summer on a Smaller Scale

Summer, which was at least a month late arriving in the high country, is now in full swing. After record-breaking snowfalls during the winter and spring, trails are finally dry, streams have melted, and wildflowers are out in profusion. Now is the time to catch up on those long-postponed hikes and to get up where the air is cool and clear. If you take the time to slow down and look closely you may see some of the small but colorful creatures that inhabit the Colorado's short warm season (all photos by April Whicker).



Beaver Mountain in Winter

Editors note: The following is a trip report from a winter ascent of Beaver Mountain, led several years ago by Steve Martin . Yes, it is still summer in Colorado, but trip report is included here in as reminder of the fleeting nature of our warm weather and in the hope it will inspire leaders to plan trips to some of Colorado's less frequently visited peaks and destinations.

Beaver Mountain, 10,491'
Rocky Mountain National Park
Starting Point: Beaver Meadows Winter Closure Gate on Highway 36, at 8,300'

Round Trip Distance: 7.6 miles

Cumulative Elevation Gain: ~2,250'

Route: Off-trail from highway parking west across Beaver Meadows to southeastern flank of Beaver Mountain; ascend SE flank and SE ridge to saddle between Point 9952 and Beaver Mountain; thence directly upwards to east summit ridge and on to true summit. Take ascent route back to saddle and then descend steep northeastern slopes through dense forest to Beaver Brook; follow brook to Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead and make diagonal traverse to connect back with the original route and take it to vehicle parking.

Participants: Lori Abe, Lisa Barkley, Steve Dean, Bob Dietz, Eric Erslev, Joe Grim, Paul Hardebeck, Laura Hinds, Steve Martin, Steven Morgenstern, Carolyn Randall, Pam

Sollazzo, Tom Stuve, Ron Tuttle

Who would have believed it? Fourteen people turning out for an all-day snowshoe climb of an obscure peak when the weather forecast called for frigid temperatures, snow, wind, and downright unpleasant conditions! But that's exactly what happened ... and soon after we left the parking area, the light snow stopped, the foggy, misty air started brightening, blue skies swept in from the west and the surrounding peaks that had been shrouded in clouds were suddenly highlighted by the sun. Temperatures warmed, winds were light or calm and nothing that was in the original weather forecast turned out to be true. The snow was deep, with a fresh layer topping the base layers making for perfect 'shoeing conditions. We were off on a wonderful outing in the sun!

After a long pull across Beaver Meadows we took a short break at the base of Beaver Mountain's southeastern flanks. Now the work would begin: from this point we still had more than 2,100 feet to gain, all in deep snow.

We started off again and got into the standard winter routine of breaking through the snow to mid-calf or deeper. Step after step after step. But with fourteen people to share the work, trail-cutting went quickly. After

taking a turn at breaking trail, it was neat to drift to the rear and walk on the firmly-packed snow tropped down by thirteen companions.

I wish all winter travel was this easy. Too often it's just me, or me with only one or two others sharing the work. With fourteen people to share the work people had the energy to chat continuously and enthusiastically. Everyone was having a great time. That's what these group outings are supposed to be. Pretty neat.

When we gained the saddle west of Point 9952 we stopped to munch, talk and get ready for the final 550' push up to the summit. Three-quarters of the elevation gain was behind us. Things felt good.

The sun warmed us and did a bit of sunburn damage on the pessimists who hadn't applied adequate protection earlier. Lips were beginning to dry and flake a little. Some folks became more serious about the sun and smeared sun block on.

We began the final uphill push, enjoying the bright, white snow. Near the summit ridge trees became sparse and we weaved back and forth, finding optimal ways around the rocky outcroppings that dot the ridge. And then we were there, believing that it had probably been a long time since anyone else had been to this special

<p>place. It was 12:30 PM, just 4 hours and 10 minutes after we left the parking area. No breeze. Sunny radiant warmth. Views of deep snow on the peaks of the Mummy Range, on Battle and Storm and Lady Washington and Meeker and Longs—even on the Keyboard.</p> <p>To the northwest, 0.8 miles away and 800 feet higher, we could see Peak 11,338. Standing on the summit of one of the 125 named peaks in RMNP we wondered why that deserving neighbor was nameless. But we had work ahead of us if we were to complete our loop</p>	<p>route, so we didn't take time to discuss prospective names for this neighbor or who we'd appoint to fly back to Washington, D.C. to convince the USGS to accept it. Instead, we began our descent.</p> <p>We stopped for a full lunch at the saddle, then began a steep descent through heavy timber to the northeast. Steve Dean, Carolyn, and I had been up and down this slope on previous winter trips and we now compared it to the more moderate ascent route we had used today. We liked the southeast flank/ridge better for a winter climb than this east/northeast</p>	<p>route. The SE route is more moderate, which is nice when snow is deep, and it's caught by much more sun, so it's warmer.</p> <p>About 2/3 of the way down the NE slope, the terrain became gentler so the going was easier on legs that were starting to complain. Once we reached Beaver Brook it was simply a matter of resigning ourselves to the long trek out on relatively flat country. We reached our cars at 3:30 PM, a little more than 7 hours after our start. What a pleasant outing with fun people.</p> <p>- <i>Steve Martin</i></p>
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Fort Collins CMC wishes to thank businesses that have previously supported us with paid advertising in our newsletter. However, due to a policy change , we will no longer be including paid commercial advertising.

This newsletter is published by the Fort Collins Group of the Colorado Mountain Club. Please send submissions to jgw311@hotmail.com to by the 10th of the month to include in the next month's edition. Please call the CMC State Membership office at 800.633.4417 to notify them of address changes.

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