



Fort Collins Chapter Newsletter

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Your local resource for outdoor adventure

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Ward Whicker and Steve Dielman make the most of snow conditions that are still marginal on the forested slopes above Zimmerman Lake on December 20 (Wullschleger).

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New Officers and Scheduling Trips

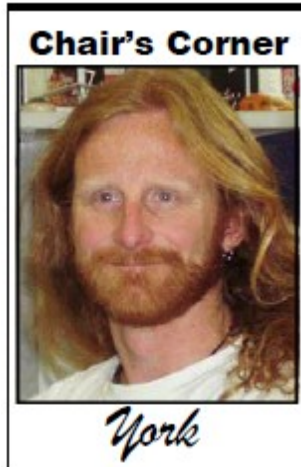
Howdy,

If you missed attending the Annual Dinner we elected a new Group Council. Starting on January 1st, 2012 the following members continue or start these roles:

Chair: Don Carpenter
Treasurer: Bob Link
Secretary: Linda Brisbane
Activities: Mike Smilie
Safety & Leaders: Eric Erslev
Membership & PR: Scott Farquhar
Programs: Kevin McCartney
Mountain Hiking School: David Wasson
Newsletter: John Wullschleger
Immediate Past Chair: York

Thank you to Art Leissa, Ward Whicker, and Paul Weber for serving on the nominating committee and recruiting this council to guide our group in 2012. Please congratulate these folks when you see them out and about. My three years as Chair is quickly winding down. I look forward to working with the new Council to help get them started.

During the Annual Meeting we also honored two school leaders who are retiring: Dean Allison from the Rock Leading School and Steve Martin from the Basic Mountaineering School. Both leaders provided many members with the opportunities to learn not only mountaineering skills, but more about themselves as they became more confident in the



outdoors. Thank you Dean and Steve for all of your teachings. All of our schools need more instructors, so if you are interested in helping, please speak up.

A big THANK YOU to Kevin McCartney and his committee (particularly Bruce Hollenbaugh) for putting the Annual Dinner/ Meeting along with the program together for the rest of us to enjoy. It was one of the largest turnouts for this event in several years. Jonathan Waterman enlightened us all about the state of the Colorado River. Most importantly it was a great event for reconnecting with members who don't always make the same outings together.

It has also been almost three years since the printed trip schedule ceased publication. One of the side-effects has been the removal of the publishing

deadline that drove planning trips four or five months in advance. The demise of this deadline allows leaders more last minute flexibility but also tends to result in fewer trips in the schedule over-all. I encourage all leaders to put in trips at least six weeks in advance to allow members to plan ahead to attend.

Personally I'm looking forward to getting some alpine turns in at some of the ski resorts and breaking out the snowboard as well. Most of the ski areas are now open, but I have not been up yet because of other commitments. But soon :-)

I'd like to name and thank everyone that has helped keep the club running smoothly during the last three years. Unfortunately, I'm sure I'd miss naming some people if I tried to list them here. So let me just say Thank You to all of our volunteers, our leaders, and to you our members for giving us a reason to have a Colorado Mountain Club Group in the first place. Keep getting out in the mountains to explore, hike, ski, snowshoe, climb, bike, and generally have fun.

See you on the trail.

Play and Think Hard!

York, The Red Lion
Chair, Fort Collins Group, CMC

Walking off the Pie



Linda Brisbane led a post-Thanksgiving hike to Bobcat Ridge on November 25th. The group from left to right, consisted of Laurie Folladori (shadow only), Patricia Rettig, Bruce Hollenbaugh, Lucy Johns, Linda Brisbane, and Ronald Zais.

Trip Report: Steep and Emerald Mountains

Editors Note: Another installment in an intermittent series on lesser known peaks. Steve Martin will be leading this trip again on February 25th, 2012. Please contact Steve if you are interested in participating!

Steep Mountain,

Elevation: 9,538'

Starting Point: Rocky Mountain National Park, Hallowell Park Trailhead, at 8,180'

Rountrip distance: 2.4 Miles

Elevation gain: ~1,300'

Emerald Mountain

Elevation: 9,237'

Starting Point: Rocky Mountain National Park, Bear Lake Bus

Transfer Parking Lot, at 8,600'

Elevation Gain: ~700'

Roundtrip distance: ~1.6 Miles

Participants: Bob Dietz, Jeff Eisele, Eric Erslev, Terri Gerard, Frederique Grim, Joe Grim, Laura Hiebenthal, Laura Hinds, Steve Martin, Carolyn Randall, Jaimie Robinson, Kristina Sower, Tom Stuve.

Carolyn and I had been up these peaks in the winter before; we looked forward to sharing them with friends and new acquaintances. On clear days, views of the surrounding higher peaks of the park are stunning from the tops of Emerald and Steep, and we had

hoped for one of these days.

Alas, weather was murky for the majority of both climbs, and the greyiness rarely lifted. When it did, we were permitted only short -to-mid-distance glimpses of the mighty mountains around us. In fact, we felt fortunate that from the summit of Steep we actually saw our next objective, Emerald – and from Emerald we were briefly treated to sightings and photo opportunities of Steep Mountain.

Because large portions of the routes go through forested cover, we were protected from the winds, which were somewhat serious that day. When we broke

out of the trees near both of our summits, the wind did not let us forget that it was in full control! Yes, it was still winter in Rocky Mountain National Park!

From the Hallowell Park TH we followed the Mill Creek Basin Trail a short way west before starting directly up the eastern slopes of Steep Mountain. The lower portion of our route supports a mountain shrub plant community and was melted out, free of continuous snow. We carried snowshoes on our packs until we eventually reached trees, about 600 vertical feet above our start. From there to the summit, 'shoes were essential and snow was deep with stretches of awful sugar snow that gave way under pressure and made upward progress interesting / tiring. But all 13 of us kept a good pace, and we were up about 1,000 feet after the first hour—not bad for off-trail snowshoeing in RMNP. We stopped just below “upper” tree-line to get wind gear on for the final push to the top. The last 1/8 mile of the route follows an easy, rocky ridge that's fully exposed to the wind. No munching on sandwiches at the summit in those

conditions, and the greyiness obscured any longer-distance vistas that we'd hoped for. Many people in the group signed the summit register before we started down. We reached the trailhead in less than 2 ½ hours after our departure.

The drive from Hallowell Park TH to the Bear Lake Shuttle Bus parking lot took only a few minutes. Wind chilled the parking area, so everyone ate lunch before we left the cars and began the ½-mile hike from the parking lot to the Glacier Basin Campground. Above the campground we put on snowshoes and started up the western slopes of Emerald Mountain.

I've been up this mountain several times in the winter, and have never been on an easier route than the one Carolyn selected as she led the group. She found a way that avoided the occasional rock outcrops while maintaining a gradient that was perfect for snowshoeing. As on Steep Mountain, winds at the summit were pesky. We dealt with the unpleasantness long enough for some group photos and to take in the

short and intermediate-distance views that the closed skies allowed. We could see Twin Sisters and Lily Mountain and Rams Horn Mountain (complete with Teddy's Teeth) well, and had nice looks up toward Estes Cone with “Lightning” and “Thunder” Peaks standing out in highlight against the darker cone. But views toward Longs Peak and the marvelous mountains along the Continental Divide to the west were obscured by the grey haze hanging in the middle distance, and we could see nothing of the superb Mummy Range to the north. For a short while clouds lifted briefly and we saw our earlier summit, Steep Mountain! We started down, making good time and arriving back to the shuttle bus parking area about 1 3/4 hours after we had left the cars.

We had fun snowshoeing up a couple of mountains that are only occasionally visited during the winter season. Folks talked throughout the ascents and descents of both mountains, and everyone enjoyed the special time we shared on these peaks!

-Steve Martin

Death Hollow / Slickrock Wilderness Trip

Dates: April 24—28, 2012.

Description: This trip takes you into the high desert area between the Escalante River and Boulder Mountain, Utah. You will make a base camp in a seldom used, or even seen, area that is a transition zone between mountain and desert vegetation. Expect to see verdant clumps of manzanita and some ponderosa pine, as well as abundant slick-rock paintbrush and twisted, shaggy bark junipers. The numerous rock formations make this a painter's paradise! From the base camp you will spend one day hiking into the narrow and famous Death Hollow

Wilderness. Another day will be spent in remote Sand Creek. On several day excursions you will come across Anasazi Indian ruins and abundant lithic (stone artifacts) sites. Expect to see many interesting geologic formations, plunge pools, archeological sites and, hopefully, lots of wildflowers. For photos of previous trips please go to <http://picasaweb.google.com/bobseyse/Llama?feat=directlink>

The \$1035 price of the trip includes llamas carrying all gear, camping equipment (including tents, sleeping bags and pads) and food. The price does not

include transportation to Utah, motel and meals in Boulder, Utah, or outfitter tips. You will carry your daypack with your usual 10 essentials and will be allowed to bring an extra 15 pounds of personal items which will be packed on the llamas. You need to be a B hiker and will be expected to do an A or B level hike each day of the trip. You will need to be able to navigate slick-rock, climb with some exposure and do water crossings.

For more information please contact Carol Kurt at kurt-skarma@aol.com or 970-925-6648.

CMC Centennial Celebration

A Letter from Katie Blackett

CMC members,

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we've dramatically expanded our plans to celebrate the club's 100th birthday next year. We're going to hold a series of "big-tent" events to better take advantage of the once-in-a-century opportunity to honor our history, drive fundraising, increase membership, and celebrate in style. Here's your chance to be a part of club history.

Some of these events will be held outside Denver, and for those in Denver we're making an extra effort to accommodate those members who live around the state by matching them with members in the Denver area who are willing to host them. So it's everyone on board!

In addition to the already announced centennial peak climbs and a summer fest in Buena Vista in July, we're adding centennial celebrations every two months next year.

The series kicks off with a party on Saturday, Feb. 11. We've got a star-studded line-up to help us celebrate, including the author of a book on the year he climbed all the state's 14ers, landscape photographer John Fielder, former governor Dick Lamm, and Tom Noel, Colorado's best known historian. We'll have special presentations on the club's remarkable history, we'll preview the upcoming events in the centennial celebration series, and there will be music, food and a cash bar. Member admission is only \$20.

Registration for the kick-off party is open now. Seating is limited, so early registration is encouraged. For all the details click [here](http://www.cmc.org/centennial) or go to:

<http://www.cmc.org/centennial>

I look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as you can attend. One thing I know for certain: we will end our centennial year knowing we did everything we could to celebrate this once-a-century milestone in style.
Happy 100th CMC!

Katie Blackett
CEO

Susan Ershler to Keynote 2nd Annual Backcountry Incident Review Conference

The CMC has secured a dynamo speaker to be the keynoter at its annual Backcountry Incident Review Conference next year.

[Susan Ershler](#) of Seattle is the 4th American woman to climb the seven continental summits and the 12th to climb Everest. She was an executive in the corporate world for years. She routinely charges corporations around the world tens of thousands to inspire their sales teams with tales of how she sets ridiculously difficult goals – and meets every one of them.



Susan Ershler

Now she's agreed to share her experience and insights with backcountry trip leaders in Colorado to help them push themselves – and their trip participants – to new heights in the backcountry while managing the risks they face.

Ershler's presentation is set for Saturday March 10 during the 2nd annual Backcountry Incident Review Conference. The purpose of the Conference is to analyze backcountry trips that went awry, and understand how leaders responded to the situations.

There's nothing theoretical here. The discussions will focus on real trips on which people's lives were in danger. The goal is to hear directly from the trip leaders themselves, to look into their eyes and understand what they went through and what they learned.

It's spine-tingling stuff. At the 1st Conference, attendees heard from the leaders of trips on which all sorts of things went haywire, including one trip on which a participant died.

Comments from those who attended the first conference included the following:

"A wonderful event...inspiring and educational,"

"I thought this would be a loooong day, but time went fast and all the speakers were so interesting."

"The content was uniformly great."

"I've been in the backcountry for 25 years and I still learned a lot."

"Making this an annual event would be much appreciated."

The conference is open to

anyone who leads trips into the backcountry – or wants to learn more about doing so. It runs 9 am – 5 pm. in the CMC headquarters auditorium at 710 10th Street in Golden. Lunch will be served. Admission is \$10 for active CMC trip leaders (will lead at least three trips during 2012), \$20 for all other club members and for search and rescue volunteers, and \$30 for non-members. To register, go [here](#).

Seating is limited; early registration is encouraged

-Ryan Ross, Chair, Ad-hoc Committee for the Backcountry Incident Review Conference

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 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.

Editors note: the following list identifies officers for the 2012 calendar year.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| Chair | Don Carpenter | (970) 267-6793 | dec5018@comcast.net |
| Secretary | Linda Brisbane | (970) 223-6968 | tbris@lamar.colostate.edu |
| Treasurer | Bob Link | (970) 631-8600 | robertlink97@comcast.net |
| Activities | Mike Smilie | (970) 231-2923 | mssmilie@frii.com |
| Leadership and Safety | Eric Erslev | (970) 231-2654 | erslev@warnercnr.colostate.edu |
| Membership and Public Relations | Scott Farquhar | (970) 204-6936 | farqman@q.com |
| Newsletter - Editor | John Wullschleger | (970) 206-4880 | jgw311@hotmail.com |
| Programs | Kevin McCartney | (970) 266-0283 | kmccartn@frii.com |
| Trails | Vacant – need volunteer | | |
| Mountain Hiking School | David Wasson | (970) 207-1795 | wasson3@msn.com |
| Trip Leadership Course | Eileen Edelman | (970) 482-3399 | eileen@theedelmans.net |
| Basic Mountaineering Course | Gordon Thibedeau | (970) 223-1758 | gthbedeau@uwaylc.org |
| Rock Leading Course | Vacant – need volunteer | | |



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