



Fort Collins Chapter Newsletter

December
2012

Your local resource for outdoor adventure

Vol. 2012
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Participants on the Third Annual Halloween Hike led by Linda Brisbane with co-leader, Laurie Folladori. The costume hike, with shared seasonal treats, took place on Sunday, October 28 at "Black Cat Ridge", known the rest of the year as Bobcat Ridge.

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New Board and Thanks to Volunteers

This is the time of year to give thanks to the many volunteers who make our organization work.

Thanks to our nominating committee for their effort in filling our slate with well qualified candidates: Bruce Hollenbaugh, Janet Cook and Ward Whicker, who led the effort.

Our Fort Collins Group CMC Officers for 2013 are:

Don Carpenter
Chair

Sharon Lowe
Secretary

Robert Link
Treasurer

Joann Herkenhoff
Activities

Tom Chapel
Leadership / Safety

Scott Farquar
Membership and PR

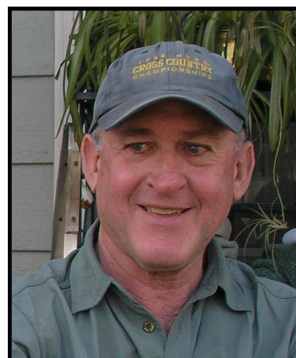
Jim Pisula
Communications

Kevin McCartney
Program Director

A special note of thanks to our outgoing Council members: York – Immediate Past Chair, Linda Brisbane - Secretary, Eric Erslev - Safety and Leadership, Mike Smilie - Activities, and John Wullschleger – Communications.

Our program committee led by Kevin McCartney, with help from Bruce Hollenbaugh, Anne Stewart, Ann Hunt, and Laurie Folladori provided us with a wide array of interesting topics culminating in a terrific dinner and program featuring Laura Pritchett speaking about her book *Great Colorado Bear Stories*.

Chair's Corner



2012 trip leaders were recognized at the Annual Dinner Meeting in November. The Group counts on these leaders for their dedication in safely leading us in the backcountry. Members who led trips in 2012 are:

Dean Allison
Clint Baker
Carl Benvenga
Ruth Billings
Linda Brisbane
Don Carpenter
Tom Chapel
Steve Clark
Janet Cook
Eileen Eidelman
Eric Erslev
Laurie Folladori
Mary Gilbert
Christine Labin
Art Leissa
Bob Link
Mark Lorie
Steve Martin
Kevin McCartney
Kate Polk
Carol Reed
Ed Seely
Mike Smilie
Anne Stewart
Gordon Thibedeau
David Wasson
Paul Weber
Ward Whicker
York

Art Leissa was presented with a special Achievement Award for his many years of contributions to the club as a trip leader and as Program Chair.

We held several schools/ classes/workshops during the year including:

Leadership Training
Eric Erslev

Ski Mountaineering
John Raich, Ward Whicker

Snow Shoeing
Linda Brisbane

Mountain Hiking School
David Wasson, Ward Whicker,
Terri Gerard, Mary McElvaine

David Wasson chaired the 14er's Centennial Climb event on September 8 for the Fort Collins Group.

At the State CMC level contributions from:

York
State Council Chair
Laurie Folladori
State Membership Committee
Lisa Barkley
State Marketing Committee
David Wasson
Centennial Peaks Committee
John Gascoyne
CMC Press, Best of Books

So Thank You to all who have made it a pleasure to work with the Fort Collins Group!

- Don Carpenter, Chair, Fort Collins Group

2013 Training for New Trip Leaders

The Fort Collins Group periodically conducts a Leadership Course. The course is designed to train club members to become safe and effective leaders for outdoor trips and other club activi-

ties. This course is typically taught one or more times per year, depending on demand, and involves evening lectures/meetings and a mentored "Leader-in-Training" trip.

If you are interested in becoming a trip leader please contact Tom Chapel (tchapel3@gmail.com) for more details.

It is Time to Dust off the Skis!

Despite a very slow start to the ski and snowshoe season, recent storms have created pretty good conditions, and it is worth making the effort to get out and limber up those ski muscles. We had a nice, early season CMC cross-country tour just south of Gould on December 15. While the base

was pretty marginal, there was enough new snow to allow for some reasonably good kick & glide skiing through forest and meadow areas. We travelled along abandoned logging roads, as well as some off-trail bush-whacking here and there, to add a little adventure. Although an

occasional stump, rock or downed tree would make contact with our ski bottoms, probably over 99 strides of a hundred were un-hindered with obstacles. We could not see the high mountains that day, but the falling snowflakes more than made up for it after so many weeks of dry



Left to right, Eileen Edelman, Leslie Edmondson, JoAnn Herkenhoff, Linda Floyd, Rick Inglis, Lucie Johns, and Co-leader Kevin McCartney seem happy despite early-season conditions and snowfall near Gould.

weather. Another plus that day was the total lack of other people or snowmobiles. After a few hours of skiing, we shared refreshments and a warm fire at my cabin.

After spending the night at my cabin, John Henry, a new member of the FC-CMC group, and I joined John Raich (CMC leader), Mark Sickles, Dave Grohusky, and Don Eberl at Cameron Pass for a day of AT (alpine touring) skiing. We decided to ski the area just to the south of Montgomery Pass. After well over an hour of climbing or "skinning" we found some fine powder conditions at, and for some distance below, treeline.

While there was plenty of base in the alpine bowls, much of the new snow had either blown away or turned to hard wind-slab. The visibility was poor as well, so we started our first run at treeline. Trees provide good contrast with the ground during snowstorms and in flat light, and thus provide a safer experience.

Having skied this area frequently and for several decades, John Raich knows it extremely well and can normally find delightful glades with tree densities that shelter the snowpack from the strongest winds and yet allow one with adequate skills to ski through the woods with grace (usually!). We made two delight-

ful runs in nearly a foot of powder that day, never having to cross tracks made by other skiers. The lower third of the tree runs are presently quite difficult due to a marginal base and lots of dead-fall.

This might be called "survival skiing" due to the many obstacles and trees too dense to ski through with any speed. This kind of AT skiing experience mainly appeals to those who love to ski unbroken powder so much that the climbing effort, ungroomed snow, and survival skiing in dense woods is worth it.

-Ward Whicker-



Montgomery Pass Bowl in early December, after a foot of new snow fell on alpine areas near Cameron Pass, followed by light winds. This typifies the occasional reward for getting up early in the day to ski unbroken snow soon after a storm. The skiers this day were John Raich, Mark Sickles, and Ward Whicker.

2013 Mountain Hiking School

Are you new to mountain hiking and want to hit the trails in the new year? Are you an experienced backcountry traveler who wants to gain mountaineering knowledge and improve skills? Plan to join the 2013 edition of the Fort Collins CMC Mountain Hiking School.

We will meet in four interactive classroom sessions, practice skills learned on four field trips, and utilize the gamut on graduation peak day. Topics include dry land travel (gear, weather, knots, scree, and talus), navigation with map and compass, emergency survival, and snow travel. Experienced volunteer instructors

will help you learn and practice techniques in an open group environment.

Sessions begin in February with completion in June. You must be a CMC member. 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. Experience on CMC hikes required for participation on field trips. Contact David Wasson at wasson3@msn.com or call 970-217-9068 (evenings between 6 and 9pm or weekends) to enroll or ask questions.

Tentative Schedule:

Introduction to Mountain Hiking (equipment and more) - Feb 5	Field trip - Feb 9
Map and Compass Navigation - Mar 5	Field trip - Mar 9
Snow Day/Intro to Ice Axe - Apr 9	Field trip - Apr 13
Wilderness Survival - May 14	Field trip - May 18
Graduation Hike	TBD

Be safe and leave no trace!

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 be included 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.

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Basic Mountaineering Course	Gordon Thibedeau	(970) 223-1758	gthbedeau@uwaylc.org
Rock Leading Course	Vacant – need volunteer		



Colorado Mountain Club
Fort Collins Group
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/fortcollinscmcgroup