

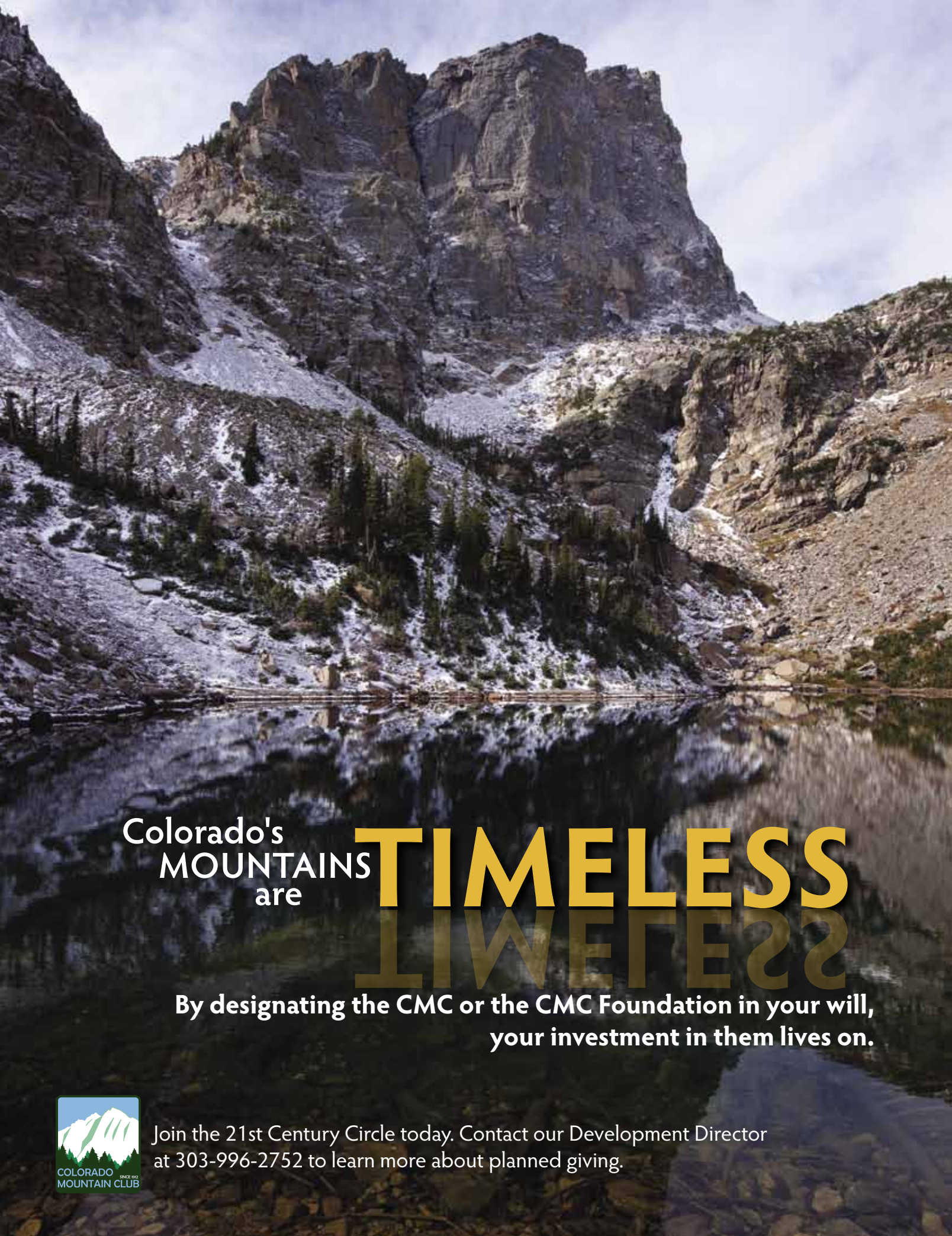
HIGHER THAN EVEREST 16 • MAKE IT SPIRITUAL 28 • THE FOURTEENERS AND BEYOND 36

TRAIL & TIMBERLINE

The Colorado Mountain Club • Winter 2011 • Issue 1013 • www.cmc.org

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH





LETTER FROM THE CEO

CELEBRATING IN STYLE



On October 1, the CMC officially launched its 100th year anniversary. I'm pleased to announce we've dramatically expanded our plans to celebrate the club's milestone. We're going to hold a series of "big-tent" events to better take advantage of this 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.

We've got a star-studded lineup to help us celebrate, including a few local celebrities. None of this would be possible without the help of a few committed and hard working volunteers. Our 100th Anniversary Committee is comprised of Linda Lawson, Giles Toll, Steve Bonowski, Al Ossinger, John Devitt, and Bob Reimann. Beth Dwyer has worked tirelessly on the Centennial



Climbs, and Ryan Ross is helping to put on a majority of the events throughout the year. Thank you!

Registration for the first two events is open now at www.cmc.org/centennial. See the entire calendar of events on page 6.

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.

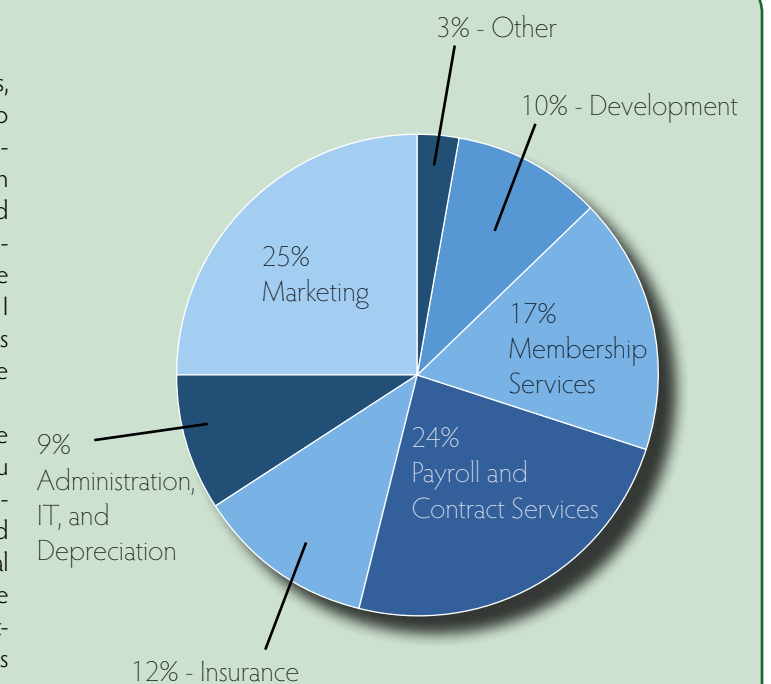
Happy 100th, CMC!

Katie Blackett
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WHERE YOUR DUES GO

Many of you enjoy the CMC through a variety of our offerings, whether they are trips (local and international), stewardship projects, schools, volunteering with our youth program, reading one of our world class guide books, or meandering through our mountaineering museum. As a responsible nonprofit and charitable organization, we feel it's imperative to show transparency to our members and supporters and help to educate everyone on "where your membership dues go." Oftentimes, I hear comments like "Why do you need to fundraise, my dues should cover all the programming?" or "How can I support the programs beyond the adult activities I participate in?"

Well, it's our hope that the chart explains exactly where your yearly membership dues go and what they cover. As you can see, most of your dues cover direct benefits to you as a member. A couple of our programs areas such as conservation and youth education rely solely on foundation grants and individual donations to survive. The good news is that we have a diverse circle of revenue that helps us get through tough times. Even better news is that many of you are generous with your donations to help our youth, conservation department, and museum grow. Please don't hesitate to ask me, your trip leaders, school instructors, membership services, or any other CMC ambassadors if you have questions about the chart.



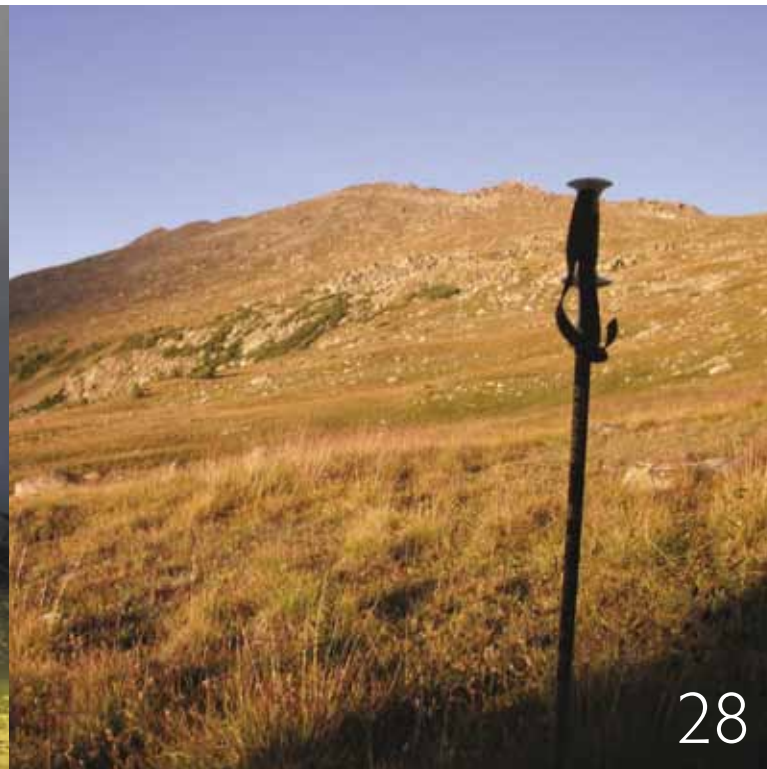
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your investment in them lives on.



Join the 21st Century Circle today. Contact our Development Director at 303-996-2752 to learn more about planned giving.



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To climb or not to climb? Sacred or revered? The mystery of the Four Sacred.

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John Minden doesn't think of himself as disabled—or able-bodied. He just climbs.

By CHRIS CASE

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Another beautiful day high in the Rocky Mountains.
CHRIS CASE

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Yeah... We Can't Wait Either.

Mark Husbands "deep" in the Aspen backcountry • Photo by: Nick Sprang



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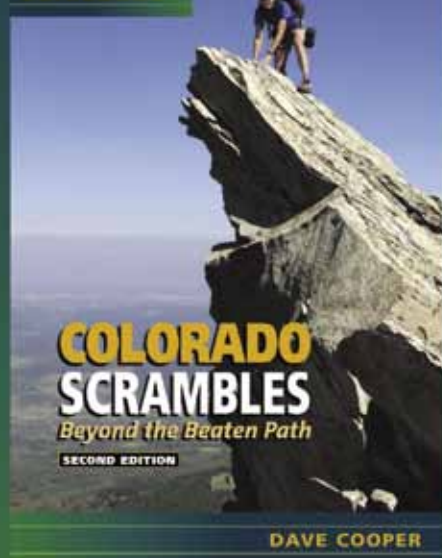


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TRAIL & TIMBERLINE

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The Colorado Mountain Club is organized to

- ▶ unite the energy, interest, and knowledge of the students, explorers, and lovers of the mountains of Colorado;
- ▶ collect and disseminate information regarding the Rocky Mountains on behalf of science, literature, art, and recreation;
- ▶ stimulate public interest in our mountain areas;
- ▶ encourage the preservation of forests, flowers, fauna, and natural scenery; and
- ▶ render readily accessible the alpine attractions of this region.

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opportunities to get more involved

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Join our select donors who give back to the club every month by using electronic funds transfer (EFT). It is easy and convenient, you can discontinue anytime, and you'll provide support for critical programs. Sign up at www.cmc.org/support.

By naming the Colorado Mountain Club in your will, you will be able to count yourself among the proud members of the 21st Century Circle. Read more at www.cmc.org/legacy. Please consult your financial advisor about gift language.

By donating \$1,000 or more to the Annual Campaign, you'll enjoy the exclusive benefits of the Summit Society, including hikes to places that the CMC's conservation department is working to protect, an annual appreciation event, and a complimentary copy of a new CMC Press book.

If you have any questions about donations, please contact Sarah Gorecki, Development Director, at 303.996.2752 or sarahgorecki@cmc.org.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

If you want to share your time and expertise, give back to the club by volunteering on a variety of projects, from trail restoration to stuffing envelopes. Visit www.cmc.org/volunteer for a complete listing.

CONTACT US

Our Membership Services team can answer general questions every weekday at 303.279.3080, or by email at cmcoffice@cmc.org.



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- ▶ 10% at The Trailhead, Buena Vista
- ▶ 10% at Rock'n and Jam'n, Thornton

CENTENNIAL KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

WHAT A fun, low key dinner event celebrating people in the club throughout the decades

DATE Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, 4 - 8 pm

WHERE AMC

INVITATION Open to the public

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Mark Obmascik, author of a hilarious book about his climb in 2004 of all the 14ers, and a book about bird watching (the movie of which stars Steve Martin and will be released next month).

The agenda will feature presentations for every decade in club history in which someone recalls what they, or their parents/grandparents did in the club and what it meant to them. There will be a table in an exhibition area for every decade in club history, featuring memorabilia (gear, T&Ts, maps, etc) from that decade. And we'll preview the upcoming centennial celebrations and the centennial climbs program being run by Beth Dwyer.

CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP GROUP PHOTO

WHAT A group photo of every club member who turns out. John Fielder has agreed to take the photo. We will sell these pictures later in the year.

DATE April 28, 2012, which is 100 years and two days after the club's founding on April 26, 1912.

WHERE YMCA camp outside Rocky Mountain National Park.

INVITATION CMC members only

CENTENNIAL SUMMER FESTIVAL

WHAT A day-long party to relax and play. The day will consist of multiple outdoor events for kids, families, and more advanced recreationalists. The evening will commence with a B-B-Q and band.

DATE Saturday, July 21

WHERE McPhelemy Park, Buena Vista.

INVITATION Open to the public

CENTENNIAL FOURTEENER CLIMBS

WHAT Climbs of all the fourteeners

DATE Saturday, September 8, 2012

INVITATION Open to the public on a case by case basis

On the CMC's 50th anniversary in 1962, the club led trips up all of the state's fourteeners. That's the plan for the 100th anniversary. Teams will be equipped with 100th anniversary flags for unveiling at the summits. Photos will be taken and sent by smart phones to the fourteener climb headquarters which will be at the Genesee Mountain Park, where we'll have a big tent, screen, and bulletin boards to track the progress of every team as signaled by "spot" phones.

On Sunday, August 19, we'll have a party at Genesee Mountain Park to hear first-hand accounts from the teams that summited the fourteeners.

CENTENNIAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

WHAT A day-long fest just for trip leaders, course instructors, and other volunteers.

DATE Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012

WHERE TBD

INVITATION CMC members only

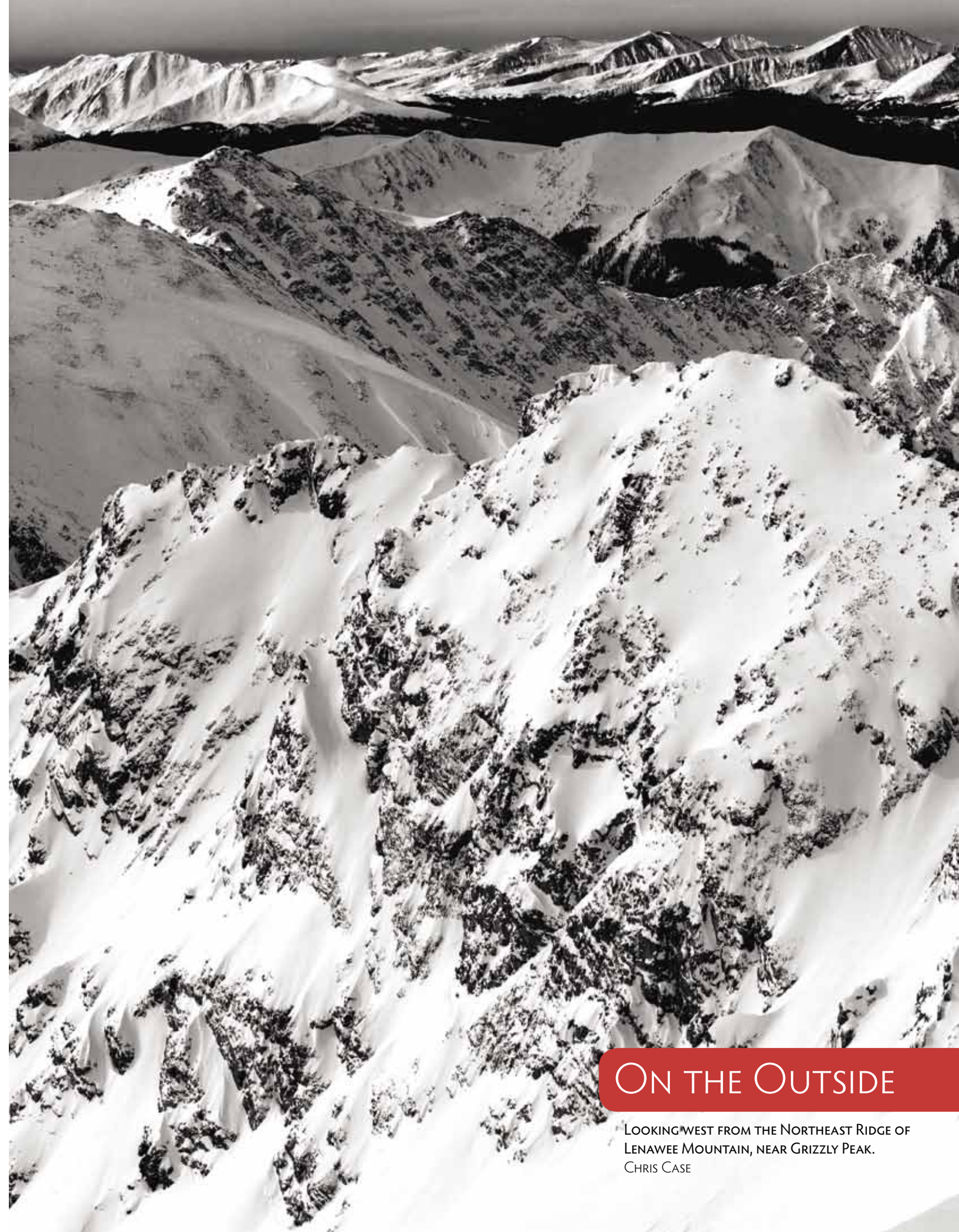
CENTENNIAL HOLIDAY PARTY

WHAT A party highlighted by the official unveiling of a large print of the membership photo taken in April.

DATE Sunday Dec. 9, 2012, 3pm to midnight.

WHERE TBD

INVITATION Open to the public



ON THE OUTSIDE

LOOKING WEST FROM THE NORTHEAST RIDGE OF
LENAWEE MOUNTAIN, NEAR GRIZZLY PEAK.
CHRIS CASE

LINK YOUR ADVENTURES TO VOLUNTEERISM
CMC OFFERS 2012 VOLUNTEER SERVICE TRIP TO LADAKH IN THE HIMALAYAS OF NORTHERN INDIA

BY LAURIE MATHEWS, FOUNDER OF GLOBAL DENTAL RELIEF

CMC MEMBERS CAN JOIN their love of adventure with immersion in the local culture of Ladakh on a unique 22-day volunteer trip offered by the club, in partnership with the Colorado-based charity Global Dental Relief (GDR). For seven days a team of volunteers will work at GDR's field dental clinic to bring first-time dental care to children. The clinic, set in the village of Leh at 12,000 feet in the shadow of the Himalayas, offers a remote and spectacular project setting. GDR volunteers have worked in Ladakh since 2004, bringing first-time and follow-up dental care to over 5,000 Ladakhi children.

The September 2012 trip is open to six CMC non-dental volunteers who will join six volunteer dentists and hygienists to treat up to 700 children from local schools. Non-dental volunteers play a crucial role in managing the patient lines, handling records, sterilizing instruments, working as chair-side assistants, and teaching critical tooth-brushing and oral health skills. Clinic days are intense and rewarding for everyone involved as kids receive critical care and volunteers are immersed in the local culture.

After the clinic, volunteers join CMC trip leader Chip Drumwright on an eight-day trek through the remote Markha Valley. Trekking in the shadows of the massive Himalayas, the group follows a trail that scales two 17,000 foot passes, crosses numerous rivers, and passes through remote villages with ancient monasteries high on the hillsides. Geographically, Ladakh spans the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges and the upper Indus River Valley. The scenery is spectacular—from the green valley fields to the surrounding barren hills, all under towering, snow-capped Himalayan peaks.

Based in Denver, GDR provides free dental care to children in five countries—India, Nepal, Vietnam, Guatemala and the United States. Care is provided by volunteer dental professionals and non-dental volunteers who donate their time to work in seven-day clinics. Since 2001, GDR has treated over 54,000 children with first-time and follow-up care.



COURTESY OF GLOBAL DENTAL RELIEF (2)



Chip Drumwright, CMC trip leader for the Ladakh 2011 Trip, has staffed GDR trips in both India and Nepal, and previously served on the GDR Board. "Providing care for these kids in such remote locations is

life changing—the work is meaningful and effective, and makes a substantive difference in the health of children," Drumwright says. "I have been hooked by GDR's mission—it truly matters." Δ



For more information and prices for the Ladakh 2012 trip, visit the Adventure Travel pages at www.cmc.org, or contact GDR's Kim Troggio at kimt@globaldentalrelief.org, (303) 858-8857. And be sure to visit www.globaldentalrelief.org.

YEARS IN THE MAKING
PUBLIC ACCESS RESTORED TO WILSON PEAK

BY STEVE BONOWSKI

AFTER A MULTI-YEAR EFFORT by multiple parties, public access was restored this year to Wilson Peak via its northern standard route through Silver Pick Basin. The basin was closed to public access in 2005 by a private mining claim owner who was interested in a land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Several variations of the exchange were tried, but comparable value could not be confirmed for the mining claims versus the lands elsewhere desired by the property owner.



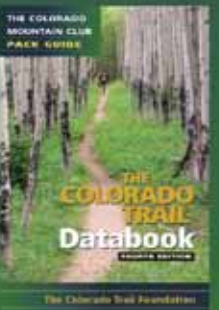
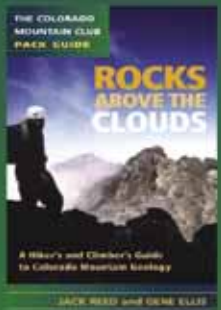
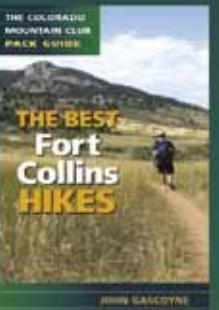
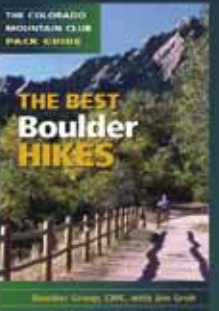
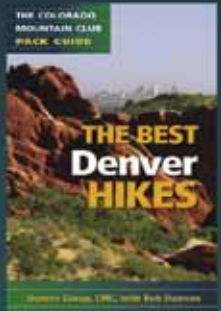
The CMC engaged in a variety of meetings and planning with its partners: the USFS, San Miguel County government, and the Telluride Mountain Club (TMC). The Trust for Public Land (TPL) intervened and secured purchase of most of the claims in Silver Pick and the neighboring Elk Creek Basin to the west. Title will eventually be conveyed to the USFS. The property owner retained three claims in Silver Pick Basin, one of which contains his summer cabin. The CMC and TMC raised money to assist the USFS in obtaining a lands survey of the two large claims in the lower basin, which was done by the Bureau of Land Management. Unfortunately, there was no place on the east side of Silver Pick that would support a sustainable trail bypassing the claims, due to unstable rock.

The USFS then turned its attention to the creation of a new trail to the north of the Elk Creek drainage that would utilize old mining roads to enter into Silver Pick on the west side. The landowner agreed to grant an easement across the Bedrock claim (the larger of his retained claims in the lower basin) in order to gain access to USFS and TPL land in the upper basin. The CMC and TMC worked with the agency in the summer of 2010 to build a new trail and place signage, to take the route across the Bedrock claim and also to the Rock of Ages saddle, thus avoiding the third, and smallest, retained claim.

The USFS completed work for a new camping area and trailhead in early summer of 2011. Major upgrading of an old logging road was needed to access the new trailhead about two miles west of the road into Silver Pick. The landowner generously donated money to assist in this work. At the end of summer 2011, the USFS formally opened the new trailhead and trail route to the Rock of Ages saddle. Δ

Many persons are due thanks for their work in this six-year access effort, but primary recognition must be given to: Kathy Peckham from the USFS; Tor Anderson from the TMC; Steve Johnson, Esq., from both the TMC and Access Fund; Justin Spring from TPL; CMC's former conservation directors Clare Bastable and Bryan Martin; Art Goodtimes, chair of the Board of County Commissioners for San Miguel County; and multiple county employees. The author also played a role.

Put One in Your Pack
and Go for a Hike



TO ORDER PACK GUIDES
See CMC Press Order Form on Last Page

Moving Mountains

Stewardship in 2011

By Lisa Cashel, Land Partnerships Manager

IN AN EFFORT TO RENEW the CMC's commitment to stewardship, the state office coordinated 13 projects in 2011. We hosted a number of additional special events, such as a leadership training, Blanca Fest, and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. On the ground, more than 300 citizen stewards volunteered over 3,100 hours to make our recreation areas safer and more enjoyable. Most importantly, stewardship project participants improved the state of natural resources by mitigating recreation impacts. Volunteers were rewarded with great camaraderie, improved fitness, and spectacular landscapes. Many of the projects were family friendly, offering the opportunity for shared outdoor experiences and service learning. Furthermore, the CMC is now integrating stewardship into our Youth Education Program classes and outings.

The club's groups around the state were also dedicated to stewardship, maintaining trail systems, monitoring wildlands, restoring habitat, and caring for backcountry cabins. These regional efforts account for thousands of additional hours of service to the Colorado recreation community and our extraordinary mountain landscape. The Colorado Mountain Club is grateful for all of our volunteers, partners, and supporters.



COURTESY OF CMC CONSERVATION STAFF (2)

▲ TRAIL MAINTENANCE ON BUCKSIN PASS.

◀ MOUNT YALE TRAIL RESTORATION.

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Adams State Adventure Programs
Alamosa Live Music Association
San Luis Valley Brewing Company



A Pinnacle of Success

Youth Education Program Satellite Classroom at REI

By Brenda Porter, Director of Operations

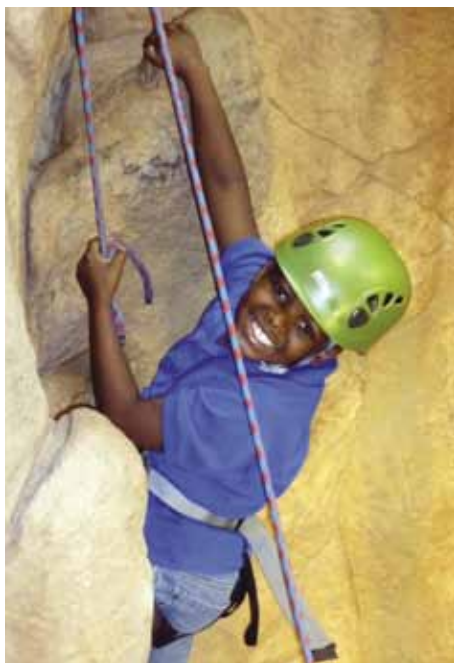
A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT filled the air when kid after kid stepped off the public bus in downtown Denver. All 56 of them moved into a single-file line and walked the rest of the way to the REI Flagship store and the climbing pinnacle. They had traveled from their elementary school in the Park Hill neighborhood, anticipating their first time rock climbing with the CMC's Youth Education Program (YEP).

The fourth graders had arrived to spend the day learning "The Science of Rock Climbing." YEP stands apart from other outdoor education programs because we link outdoor recreation with school academic curricula. So, in addition to climbing, the students also participated in a class about the adaptations that enable animals to climb well. Through hands-on activities, the students learned that mountain goats have large, oval hooves with rubber-like, spongy soles that help them climb steep rock. Spiders are able to climb and travel on vertical surfaces because the dense hair tufts under the claws of their tarsi (feet) and their silk webbing help them stick.

The idea of YEP programming at the REI store came about during a conversation about the challenges for inner city youth participating in the outdoors, and how the cost of transportation to Golden and open space parks can prove prohibitive. For example, a school bus can cost more than \$250 for a field trip to the American Mountaineering Center. At the same time, REI was looking for ways to use their climbing pinnacle more often. What if YEP used REI's facilities during the school day? Then school groups could take public transportation and reduce their costs significantly. The idea of the YEP Satellite Classroom at REI was born.

Everyone agreed that the pilot class last September was a success. "This was an experience my students will never forget and for some this will be the highlight of fourth grade," said Molly Tobin, one of the teachers. "We could not have had this experience without CMC and REI's generosity."

In fact, the programming at the REI Satellite Classroom worked so well, Stedman Elementary has already scheduled another class this fall.



COURTESY OF YEP STAFF

YEP is dedicated to working with all students, especially those from low incomes and limited access to outdoor recreation. Partners like REI, and our many financial supporters, help make our goal a reality. Δ

Finding Fascinating Nuggets

Woody Smith Named Club Historian

By David Hite

THE NAME WOODY SMITH is familiar to readers of *Trail & Timberline*. Beginning in 2005, he has contributed a steady stream of compelling articles on the history of the CMC. Having climbed all of the fourteeners before joining the club, Woody became interested in the CMC's colorful early history by reading the book "A Climber's Climber, on the Trail with Carl Blaurock," and back issues of *Trail & Timberline*. After joining the club in 2001, he discovered the club archives. Although stored in the most unwelcoming and forgotten basement area of the American Mountaineering Center, for Woody the archives contained nuggets of fascinating—and often amusing—CMC history.

As a result of his interest and his willingness as a volunteer, Woody was appointed CMC Archivist in 2003. His volunteer title changed to the more appropriate title

of Club Historian in 2011. In addition to his *Trail & Timberline* articles, Woody is collecting information on the first 100 club members to have climbed the state's fourteeners. Many of these early climbers are still alive; others require meticulous research.

Most recently, Woody's knowledge of club history was helpful in locating images and supporting the gathering of historic information for the new CMC Press title, "100 Years Up High, Colorado Mountains and Mountaineers," written in celebration of the club's centennial next year. As 2012 approaches and the CMC's membership interest builds for its 100th year, Woody Smith's knowledge of the club—from countless hours spent in the underground archives—will receive renewed notice and appreciation. Δ



DAVID HITE

SUCCESS ON RED MOUNTAIN PASS

SNOW RANGER PROGRAM BRINGS MANY BENEFITS

By Jay Heeter, Campaigns Coordinator

AS SNOW FALLS IN the higher reaches of our state, the minds of our members begin to turn from hiking, biking, and climbing to mountaineering, skiing, and snowshoeing. The CMC conservation department's staff and volunteers work in all seasons to promote good travel management and protection of Colorado's winter landscapes. We have much to celebrate this year, from improved projects in the Routt National Forest to the release of a travel management plan for the White River National Forest that has been a decade in the works. Though we may not always get everything we ask for when we work with federal land managers and other user groups, the products of these collaborative efforts are always better for quiet recreation and Colorado's environment than they would be if CMC members were not involved.

Once a travel management plan has been put on paper, the work is far from over. That's why the CMC is working again this season to help the U.S. Forest Service field a snow ranger to educate, inform, and police the public as we enjoy our shared public lands. Our program at Red Mountain Pass and in surrounding areas—began several years ago by local members including Debbie Wheeler and Roger Schimmel of Ouray—is set for another successful season. Funded by contributions from the Backcountry Film Festival and the CMC's Backcountry Bash, the track record of the program is promising.

"The conflict and tensions between the self-powered and motorized users on Red Mountain Pass diminished substantially after the initiation of the Forest Service patrol," says Wheeler, who leads local fundraising for the project in Ouray. "The officer was informative and educational, rarely having to resort to discipline, but set a respectful tone that appears to be impacting the overall relationship of users on Red Mountain Pass. We appreciate the work the Forest Service does on our public lands, and we're always happy to work with them."

The professional land managers at the Forest Service's Ouray Ranger District are happy to have more resources to manage this busy section of the forest. According to Ken Straley, who worked last year as Recreation Staff for the Ouray Ranger District,

the Snow Ranger Program has resulted in numerous benefits, among them: reduced travel violations, resource damage, and visitor conflicts; better informed and educated visitors; enhanced stewardship among some visitors; improved winter sign maintenance; GPS data collection for the creation of visitor maps; outfitter-guide monitoring; visitor assistance; documentation of illegal activities and conflicts; and monitoring data about the types, volumes, patterns, and locations of winter use.

"Over time," said Straley, "we hope to use the information collected by the Snow Ranger to develop a winter recreation program for the district. Currently, one does not exist, and use occurs largely independent of planning or management." With the new ranger already bringing better forest use data to the Forest Service and more education and enforcement to the field, the program is a model success.

Andrew Naher, whom many Red Mountain Pass visitors have now met, is happy to work the new position. "I'm glad this [new program] came through," said Naher. "It's definitely a worthwhile thing to be doing up there. We're putting the money to good use."

As a bonus to the CMC partnership, the Forest Service has used funds from other sources to put Naher through snowmobile training. Since the agency has a policy that requires at least two people to go on all backcountry forays, the training allows Naher to join a Forest Law Enforcement Officer as they bring education and enforcement to deeper areas of the backcountry that would otherwise not be reached.

Naher says forest visitors have reacted positively to the Forest Service presence in the backcountry. He is in a good position to know the public's reaction, since he personally contacted 1,083 visitors between December 24 and April 3 last season. "I'd say I've talked with 75 to 150 people up there each weekend," said Naher, "and I've had no negative contacts. People are happy to see me; everybody's always happy to see a map." Ninety-three percent of the individuals Naher contacted were non-motorized users (including skiers, snowshoers and ice climbers), and many were likely CMC members. ▲



COURTESY OF CMC CONSERVATION STAFF (4)



CMC's conservation department and many forests are interested in exploring opportunities for this kind of snow ranger partnership elsewhere. If you see an education or enforcement need in your area or would like to help raise funds to expand these programs, contact Jay Heeter at bsi@cmc.org.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

INTRODUCING NEW CMC STAFF

By Brenda Porter, Director of Operations

OVER THE COURSE of the last year, we have been reviewing the roles and goals of our CMC professional staff, looking for ways to improve and become more responsive to the needs of our organization. As a result, we have reorganized and created two new jobs, the Director of Operations and the Director of Conservation and Education.

Brenda Porter is a familiar face at the CMC office. She has worked for the CMC since 1998 when she was hired to develop the new Youth Education Program and has been the Director of Education since then. However, as of October 1, she moved into the new role of Director of Operations. The purpose of this new job is to provide strong leadership and day-to-day management for the program areas of the CMC, including education, conservation, marketing and membership services, CMC Press, and the American Mountaineering Museum. Porter will continue to manage the CMC special use permits on public lands, the AMC climbing wall, and will liaise with and support CMC groups.

Porter has a Masters of Nonprofit Management and a B.S. in Life Science Education. Throughout her career, she has been active in the Association for Experiential Education, serving in a number of leadership roles; she guides professionally for Adventures in Good Company and is currently the board chair for the Women's Wilderness Institute.

Scott Braden joined our staff in late August as the new Director of Conservation and Education. His unique professional experience in outdoor education and conservation advocacy work is an ideal fit for this new position. He will supervise CMC's stewardship program, conservation advocacy, and the Youth Education Program.

Braden comes to the CMC from neighboring Utah with over a decade of experience in conservation and lands-based education work. After graduation from the University of Georgia, Braden headed west to work for Colorado Outward Bound School. In his six years there, he worked in logistics and in the field as an instructor and course director. He led multi-day wilderness trips, leading to a desire to work on conservation issues. During his tenure as staff at the Southern Utah

Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), he worked as a field advocate in Moab, legislative advocate in Washington, D.C., and development director in Salt Lake City.

Two other new faces on our CMC staff are in the Youth Education Program.

Melanie Joyce, YEP School Programs Manager, grew up near the Green Mountains of Vermont. She believes that the substantial amount of time she spent playing outside as a kid led her to her chosen career path. After graduating with a degree in Recreation and Parks Management from Penn State University, Joyce spent several years working for residential environmental education centers. During the past six years, she taught in the Denver school system, providing environmental science, field work, and adventure education. She even brought her classes to YEP for field trips. Joyce also guides kayak, canoe, backpack, and climbing trips for a variety of organizations.

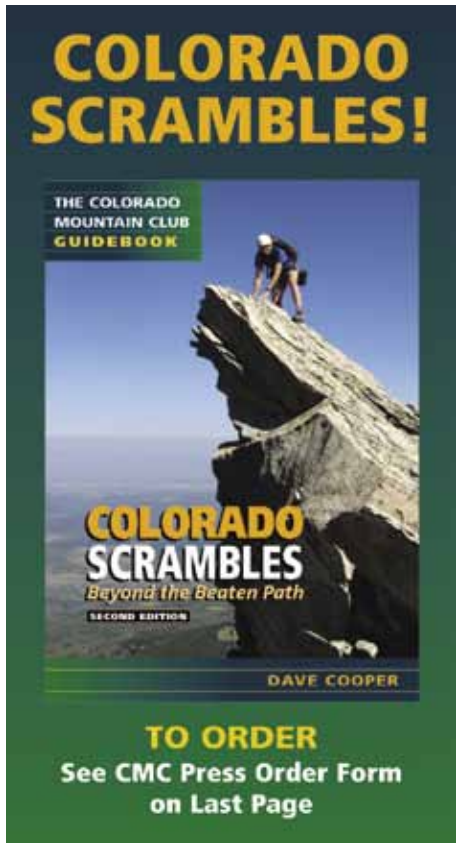
Ryan Johns, YEP Manager and Summer Camp Director, jumped into action last spring and directed the summer camp program, after joining the CMC full time. His background in science education and extensive training in outdoor leadership makes him a wonderful addition to the YEP staff. Johns enjoys working with youth of all ages and backgrounds and has a passion for providing experiences that get youth outside as often as possible. Johns spends his free time hiking with his family and climbing as often as possible. He has a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies and a Certificate in Outdoor Leadership. ▲



▼ FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: RYAN JOHNS, SCOTT BRADEN, AND MELANIE JOYCE.



COURTESY OF CMC CONSERVATION STAFF (3)



AROUND COLORADO

OUR GROUPS ACROSS THE STATE

BOULDER

The Boulder group came into existence in 1920, eight years after the Colorado Mountain Club was founded. A predecessor hiking club in Boulder, called the Front Rangers, affiliated with the CMC and has been the Boulder Group since that time. Today, the group's 1,100-plus members enjoy a variety of climbing, hiking, backpacking, and skiing activities. Boulder Group outings range from casual after-work hikes and leisurely

flower photography walks to high mountain summit climbs.

With our proximity to the Flatirons and Eldorado Canyon, it's no surprise that rock climbing is a favorite activity.

We help our members enjoy the outdoors safely with highly regarded training such as Basic Rock School, for beginning climbers; Hiking and Survival Essentials, with foundational skills for

Colorado mountains; Boulder Mountaineering School, as series of courses ranging from trip planning, survival, and navigation, to rock and snow climbing skills; and also courses in cross-country, telemark and alpine touring/backcountry skiing.

Get Involved

Drum roll please; we have a very exciting upcoming event which is our clubroom move! During December, the

Boulder group will be moving into our new clubroom, two doors south of our current space, in between H&R Block and Neptune's. We're excited that the renovations on the new clubroom are complete. We will also now have a professionally lit sign over the entry, giving CMC improved visibility and a more professional image. Assistance is needed with the physical move during December. To help, please contact: chair@cmcboulder.org.

Learn More

The next open house will be held January 18, at the CMC clubroom in Boulder at 7 p.m. We post current open houses on <http://www.meetup.com/Colorado-Mountain-Club-Boulder-Group>. Please check our current listings on meetup.com or cmc.org.

New members are welcome to join at any time; if you have questions, please contact Carrie Simon at marketing@cmcboulder.org or click on the link for quick and easy online membership application <http://www.cmc.org/join/joinnew.aspx>



New Boulder CMC Clubroom - Opening December 2011

PIKES PEAK

The Pikes Peak group of the Colorado Mountain Club is based out of Colorado Springs. We are a diverse group of some 600 members offering a variety of activities and challenge levels including hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, biking, ice climbing, skiing, and snowshoeing.

We offer many courses, including basic mountaineering, which entails wilderness fundamentals, land navigation,

rock climbing, alpine snow mountaineering, ice climbing, and backpacking. Our high altitude mountaineering course includes glacier travel. Other courses include backcountry skiing, anchor building, lead climbing, avalanche awareness, snowshoeing, mountain-oriented first aid, beacon search practice, and winter wilderness survival.

Get Involved

The Pikes Peak group is actively recruiting instructors for our 2012 basic mountaineering school series. Please contact Collin Powers, powerscollin@yahoo.com, if you are interested in giving back.

Colorado Ice Climbing class begins January 9, 2012. Contact Uwe Sartori ppg_bms_director@yahoo.com for more information.

Technical Ice School begins February 9m, 2012. Contact Grant Wilson n2sngltrk@yahoo.com for more information.

Learn More

Attend the Pikes Peak group monthly meeting the third Tuesday of each month (except in May, November, and December) at 7:30 p.m. at the All Souls Unitarian Church. Or, connect with members of the group by joining us on one of our many trips or classes.



WESTERN SLOPE

The Western Slope group is 100 members strong, from all professions and walks of life, each with a keen interest in hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, cycling, geology, wildflowers, stewardship, and conservation. The group has adopted Flume Canyon in the McGinnis Wilderness Study Area for trail monitoring and restoration. Our members contribute stories and photos to our monthly newsletter, *Canyon Call*. The chapter is currently compiling a Western Slope

hiking pack guide to be published by CMC Press.

Learn More

If you are interested in joining our Grand Junction meetings, they are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the American Bank Building at Sixth and Rood in downtown Grand Junction. For more information, contact membership chairperson Lon Carpenter at (970) 250-1601 or lcarpenter@anbbank.com.



DENVER

The Denver group has over 3,700 outdoor-loving, fun-seeking members living in Metro Denver. Our diverse membership ranges from young adults (18+) to the Trailblazers (21 to 40) to our very active Over the Hill Gang (50+). Want to learn a new skill? Winter 2012 will be offering the following courses: Backcountry Ski Touring School begins December 6; Telemark Ski School Session A begins January 16 and session B begins February 14; High Altitude Mountaineering School (HAMS); Ski Mountaineering School begins March 6; Ice Climbing; Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) orientation meetings on January 10 or January 16 with applications due by February 29; Winter Camping School begins January 11; and NEW IN 2012...The Denver group is thrilled to announce that we are now an official course provider for the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) and will be offering our 1st ever AIARE Level 1 course beginning



January 19, 2012.

Already have the skills so now you want to play? Check out the online activity schedule and signup. We have something going on just about every day of the week from leisure wildflower hikes to technical climbs over 14,000 feet, fly-fishing adventures, rock-climbing in Eldorado Canyon plus so much more. Check out the official Denver group website for more information & updates: www.hikingdenver.net. Also signup for our monthly electronic newsletter the *Mile High Mountaineer* which includes all of our fun "Out and About Town" activities including group dinners, movies, happy hours and more.

Get Involved

The Denver group also has many fantastic volunteer opportunities open to our members. We are always looking for new trip leaders to lead A,B,C & D hikes throughout the year and we do offer Trip Leader Training to help you get started. Keep an eye on the *Mile High Mountaineer* for upcoming Trip Leader training. Do you have publishing/editing experience? Our fabulous and dedicated editors of the *Mile High Mountaineer* have decided it's time to share the trail and are looking for a few experienced members to take over the *MHM* beginning winter 2012. If this might interest you, please contact Dana at cmcmhm@comcast.net.

Learn More

Keep an eye on www.hikingdenver.net and the *Mile High Mountaineer* for upcoming special events and monthly new member hikes and orientations. We are adding new events all the time. Have a question today? Contact Denver Group Council member Sharon Kratze at skratze@gmail.com. We invite you to join the Denver Group and look forward to playing with you this summer!

ASPEN

The Aspen group, with 200 members, continues to grow in the Roaring Fork Valley. In August we hosted a Wilderness Seminar at the 10th Mountain's Margy's Hut with Paul Andersen as our leader and facilitator. It was a tremendous success with many young adults and veteran members from near and far sharing a dialogue about

wilderness values in a beautiful wilderness setting for three days. We are working to be more efficient administratively and have started using Google's Gmail and calendar applications. You can now email the group at aspencomtclub@gmail.com.

Our winter calendar of events starts off with the group's annual banquet on December 11th and is followed by a flurry of ski tours, hut trips, and evening travel slideshows. With so much variety there is something that will suit nearly every member. Follow what we're up to on facebook ("The Official Aspen Chapter of the Colorado Mountain Club") or email us at the address above to find out about what we're up to.



EL PUEBLO

The El Pueblo group of the CMC is looking forward to an exciting ski season! We have sponsored a free cross-country ski school for many years. The school is appropriate for "never-ers" to seasoned skiers, and is always a lot of fun. This year the school will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2011, weather permitting, on the closest good snow, usually near San Isabel or Monarch Park. Watch the schedule for details!



HIGHER THAN EVEREST

HOW TO TAKE CLIMBING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

BY JAKE NORTON



"You've got to set your sights on something higher than Everest."

Those Zen-like words, uttered years ago by the great Willi Unsoeld, haunted me for decades. Willi, with Coloradan Dr. Tom Hornbein, climbed the fabled West Ridge of Mount Everest in 1963, and together they made the first traverse of the mountain. Their ascent went down in the record books as one of the greatest ascents of Everest, ever.

But, Willi wanted to go higher. A physical impossibility, of course. But philosophically? Quite possible indeed. Post-Everest, Willi continued to climb and push the limits of his avocation, but where he truly excelled was in going higher and higher in his life, deriving meaning and purpose from his every endeavor. Willi was Director of Peace Corps-Nepal, a notable instructor at Outward Bound, one of the founding faculty at Evergreen State College, and an avid—almost evangelical—proponent of experiential, outdoor education.

In the end, Willi's life, philosophy, and personality both influenced and fundamentally changed the lives of many others, tak-

ing him far higher than the West Ridge ever allowed.

Like Willi, I've long yearned to make my passion for climbing (and my career in climbing) transcend the mere action of ascent. I've wanted it to mean more to me, and affect some sort of lasting change in our world. To that end, my wife, Wende Valentine, and I founded Challenge21 (www.challenge21.com), a four-year climbing project to raise funds for and awareness of the global water and sanitation crisis. The goal is a big one, mirroring the scope of the crisis: Over four years, I plan to climb the Triple Seven Summits (the three highest peaks on all seven continents), and leverage

the drama and visibility of those climbs to raise at least \$2.1 million for our nonprofit partner, Water For People, and engage and impassion at least 2.1 million people in the water and sanitation situation.

Challenge21 is just getting going. In August, my team and I climbed the third highest peak in Africa, Mount Stanley's Margherita Peak in the Rwenzori Mountains. We have 15 peaks to go, and a lot of money to raise. But, we're passionate and committed to climbing higher than Everest.

If you've ever wanted to take your climbing a step further philosophically, to set a climbing goal to achieve a social end, here are some ideas to help you take the first step.



FIND YOUR PASSION

For Willi, passion was the power of nature and the outdoors to help others find the sacred in themselves. For Joe Rogers and Nick Spivey of Climb for Sudan, it was education and schools for South Sudan. For Alan Arnette, it's Alzheimer's research. For me, it is water and sanitation—the fundamental building blocks of development. What is your passion? It might be climate change, cancer research, schools, libraries, wildlife preservation, the Colorado Mountain Club, or a myriad of other important topics and issues.

But, one thing remains certain: you must have a passion. To embark on a multiyear project like Challenge21, or on a single fund- or awareness-raising climb of Grays Peak, means to be climbing for something larger than yourself. You've got to truly believe in the cause or you won't have the drive to reach the goal.

So, find your passion, embrace it, and focus on enacting it. As Gandhi said: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."



SET A TANGIBLE, REALISTIC GOAL

Just saying you're going to go out and climb for cause X, Y, or Z won't cut it—for you or anyone else. There needs to be a tangible goal—one that you think you can attain, but that will also be digestible to the outside world.

With Challenge21, I knew I needed to establish a goal that was at once big enough to attract corporate sponsors and give them something substantial to sink their teeth into, challenging enough to mirror the severity and complexity of the water and sanitation crisis, and also be approachable and comprehensible to the world. The answer was the Triple Seven Summits: a goal within my ability, but big, long, and tough.

You'll need to determine what type of climbing objective fits your philanthropic goal and climbing ability. It might be all the 14ers in winter, the Diamond in a day, or the Kelso Ridge on Torreys. Whatever it is, if it's a reasonable challenge for you and is coupled with your philanthropic passion, you're off to a solid start.



GET SOCIAL

Way back when—say, less than a decade ago—it took strong PR connections (or deep pockets) to get a project out into the public sphere.

Today, thanks to social media, it's a lot easier. With literally a few clicks of a button, you can create projects online and share them quickly and effectively with as many people as you want.

But, it's a veritable wilderness out there, with options—good, bad, and indifferent—at every turn. Where to start? Here are a few of my favorites for spreading the word:

FACEBOOK It's not just for kids anymore. With the number of users rapidly approaching the one billion mark, there are a lot of eyes to attract to your project. Once you have a Facebook profile, you can easily start a community page to spread the word, post updates, and solicit donations. You can also set up your own Facebook Cause (www.facebook.com/causes) to reach an even greater audience with your mission, and make it easy for them to give.

TWITTER It's hard to imagine that anything can be accomplished in 140 characters or less. But, Twitter has proven this naysayer wrong. Simply put, it's one of the most powerful conveyors of information out there today. But, the key is to offer valuable information, and become a trusted resource to your followers. As you do that, they'll start reading—and sharing—the information you provide. That, in turn, gives you the power to direct them to your Facebook page, website, or other portal to get involved in your project and make it a success.

There are a plethora of other general social media sites available, each with its advantages and disadvantages. Explore them, and find the best fit. Here are a few to think about: LinkedIn, Four-Square, Flickr, MySpace, Tumblr, Bebo, and Orkut.

In recent years, social media has embraced cause-based work, and some great sites make the job of sharing your project a lot easier.

► **Facebook Causes** (www.facebook.com/causes): As noted above, this Facebook-powered app allows you to integrate your cause relatively seamlessly with your Facebook profile and activity.

► **Crowdrise** (www.crowdrise.com): Actor and activist Edward Norton started this site in 2010, and with it has helped raise hundreds of millions of dollars through crowdsourcing. As Norton put it: "Instead of telling the world what you're eating for breakfast, you can use social networking to do something that's meaningful."

► **Climb for Change** (www.climbforchange.com): Much like Crowdrise—only smaller, but far more focused—Climb for Change is focused on climbing projects with a philanthropic goal.

► **One Day's Wages** (www.onedayswages.org): Dedicated to eradicating poverty in the developing world, ODW asks people—as the name implies—to give one day's wages to a cause or project of their choice. Simple, but effective!

As with everything web and social media related, there's a lot of options out there. Google is your friend, so use it to find the best match for you and your effort!



OLD SCHOOL STILL WORKS

With the flurry of social media and online efforts bombarding us at every turn, it's easy to forget the old ways of doing things. Print media still craves interesting, authentic stories, so talk to your local reporter and see if they'll spread the word. You can also share in the less-old school way by using a bit more than 140 characters and starting a blog to share your efforts. Free services like Blogger, Typepad, and Wordpress are great ways to start.



KNOW WHEN TO SAY WHEN

It's never easy to turn around short of a summit, but we climbers know how quickly things can turn against us in the mountains. Most of us prefer a good decision to an injury. But, when climbing is combined with a project you're passionate about and there's the "push" of public interest in your success, good decision making can become tough business.

So, before you start, know that the success of your project doesn't lie on the summit. It lies in your heart, in your effort, and in your willingness to make a difference. ▲

"I've long yearned to make my passion for climbing (and my career in climbing) transcend the mere action of ascent. I've wanted it to mean more to me, and affect some sort of lasting change in our world."

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The Paramount Theatre is located at 1621 Glenarm Place. Tickets will be available beginning December 6 at REI Boulder, Denver, Englewood, and Lakewood locations, online at www.cmc.org/BANFF and at the Paramount Theatre. Show tickets include parking. Proceeds will benefit the Colorado Mountain Club. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets purchased at the Paramount Theatre will incur additional service charges. During the third week in February, visit www.rei.com/stores for the local playlist and other information.

QUANDARY PEAK

A MOUNTAIN FOR ALL SEASONS

BY BRENDAN LEONARD



CHRIS CASE

NONE OF US was going to admit that we should have tried the climb a couple weeks earlier, when there was more snow. We slogged up the upper parts of Quandary Peak's North Couloir, by mid-June just a thin layer of snow barely covering the scree. Not exactly what crampons were designed for, but there was no place to stop and take them off, so we plodded on, delicately crunching through the wet rock and trying not to slip.

As I walked out of the top of the couloir, waiting to take 10 more breaths before I continued walking the last 400 vertical feet to the summit, I put the North Couloir near the top of my mental list of hardest days I've had in the mountains.

"This feels sooo good," Nick said from my right. I looked over to see him collapsed, a few steps after he had topped out of the couloir, cheek directly on the windblown snow, ice axe still in his hand, skis still strapped to his backpack.

Four years earlier, Nick and I had hiked up the fourteener-beginner-friendly East

Ridge of Quandary Peak, one of our first fourteeners during our first summer in Colorado. And now, although we maybe weren't in the best physical condition for it, here we were at the top of one of the mountain's advanced routes, in crampons, skis, ice axes, and avalanche beacons.

Nick insisted that he was fine lying right there, that he didn't need to finish the climb, but with a little prodding he got up and continued with the rest of the group to the snow-packed summit, his second time on top, and mine too. I would go back three more times after that to tag the top via different routes.

Quandary Peak may not be as famous or alluring as Longs Peak, or have the knife-edge ridge of Capitol Peak, but it's a great training ground for Colorado mountaineering in its own right. Five routes to its 14,265-foot summit require a progression of skills, route-finding and fitness—hiking, scrambling, snow climbing, technical rock climbing, and backcountry skiing. With Quandary's close proximity to Front Range cities, each of the routes can be done in a day. Regardless of the route to the top, the view of the surrounding mountains never gets old—in any season.



COURTESY OF BRECKENRIDGECLIMBING.COM

EAST RIDGE

The standard first-time route to the summit, the East Ridge is a Class 1 walk, but a stout hike: 3,400 feet of elevation gain in just under 3.5 miles. A great first fourteener for anyone, the hike is straightforward and follows the obvious ridge once out of the trees. On a clear winter day, the East Ridge is a great snowshoe hike and the choice for a first winter fourteener—and the East Slopes just to the north of the trail make for a mellow backcountry ski descent with minimal avalanche potential, especially in the spring.

DO IT: The East Ridge trail starts at the McCullough Gulch Trailhead. From Breckenridge, drive 9 miles south on Colorado 9, turning right onto Blue Lakes Road, then immediately turn right onto McCullough Gulch Road. The trailhead parking lot is 0.2 miles on the right.

CRISTO COULOIR

The Cristo Couloir, the mellow snow gully on Quandary's south face, is a perennial spring climb many mountaineers choose to get back in the snow-climbing mindset. The couloir is wide and pitched at a relatively easy grade—never more than 45 degrees, and averaging 35 degrees for all 2,000 feet—making it a perfect entry-level spring snow outing. Competent backcountry skiers can haul skis up the climb and schuss to the bottom in a few minutes; others can plunge-step and glissade back to the car.

DO IT: The Cristo Couloir begins at the Blue Lakes Dam, and the length of your hike depends on how melted out the road is. In a perfect year at the perfect time, you'll park at the dam and begin climbing straight away—but early in the season, you might have to park and walk as much as 2 miles to the dam. From Breckenridge, drive 9 miles south on Colorado 9, turning right onto Blue Lakes Road. Drive west on Blue Lakes Road as far as the snow level allows, and park.



NORTH COULOIR/ QUANDARY COULOIR

The North Couloir is slightly shorter and slightly steeper than the popular Cristo Couloir, but sees a fraction of the traffic—it's rare to see another party on the route, even on weekends. A narrow, steep, 40-foot long section is the crux of the route, and the rest of the couloir is pitched at 35 to 40 degrees. The climb tops out a quarter mile east and 400 vertical feet below the summit. Expert backcountry skiers can ski the couloir if they're comfortable negotiating the steep section, but most will descend the East Ridge route and walk back up McCullough Gulch Road.

DO IT: The North Couloir sits directly above the lake at 11,900 feet on the north side of Quandary Peak, at the end of McCullough Gulch Road. Drive 9 miles south of Breckenridge on Colorado 9, turning right onto Blue Lakes Road, then immediately turn right onto McCullough Gulch Road. Drive 2.1 miles down McCullough Gulch Road, staying left at a fork, and park at a locked gate. Hike approximately one mile on the trail to the lake, and pass the lake on the east side to get to the base of the route.

WEST RIDGE

This Class 3 route is considered a classic by many, and is no walk in the park. For those with a bit of Class 3 climbing and route-finding experience, Quandary's West Ridge provides a full-day challenge. Start from the Blue Lakes Dam and hike west around the north end of the uppermost Blue Lake, ascending a valley to the 13,350-foot saddle between Quandary Peak and Fletcher Mountain, where the fun begins. Pick your way up and across the West Ridge, aiming for the line of least resistance around and over the towers on the way to the summit. The descent down the Cristo Couloir is tedious, but the fastest way back to your car.

DO IT: The West Ridge climb begins at the Blue Lakes Dam. From Breckenridge, drive 9 miles south on Colorado 9, turning right onto Blue Lakes Road. Drive west on Blue Lakes Road to the dam.

IF YOU GO

GUIDEBOOKS "Colorado's Fourteeners: From Hikes to Climbs" by Gerry Roach (fulcrum-books.com)

"Colorado Snow Climbs: A Guide for All Seasons" by Dave Cooper (cmc.org)

"Front Range Descents: Spring and Summer Skiing and Snowboarding in Colorado's Front Range" by Ron Haddad and Eileen Faughey (amazon.com)

MAP USGS Mount Lincoln Quad (store.usgs.gov)

INWOOD ARÊTE

Few Colorado fourteeners near the Front Range have quality rock routes, and the Inwood Arete is probably not a classic route, but nonetheless a fun fifth-class route to the summit, with 2,500 of climbing, of which approximately 500 feet is fifth-class terrain. Many variations are possible, but to keep the route at 5.4, stay to the left of the first set of towers, and after the route levels off up high, head right of the last set of towers, and scramble to the top of the ridge and walk the final quarter of a mile west to the summit. Descend the East Ridge route and walk back up McCullough Gulch Road to your car.

DO IT: The route begins on the ridge just south of the lake at 11,900 feet on the north side of Quandary Peak, at the end of McCullough Gulch Road. Drive 9 miles south of Breckenridge on Colorado 9, turning right onto Blue Lakes Road, then immediately turn right onto McCullough Gulch Road. Drive 2.1 miles down McCullough Gulch Road, staying left at a fork, and park at a locked gate. Hike approximately one mile on the trail to the lake, and pass the lake on the east side to get to the base of the route.



Maroon Peak from West Maroon Basin, Colorado



Colorado Mountain Club members receive a 10 percent discount on all print purchases. In addition, I will donate 5 percent of the retail price of any print purchased by a CMC member through GlennRandall.com to the Colorado Mountain Club. To receive your discount, please make your selection online, then place your order by phone at 303 499-3009. Orders placed online will be at full price.

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▲ HUMPHREYS PEAK IN THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS (DOKO'OOSLIID - ABALONE SHELL MOUNTAIN), SACRED MOUNTAIN OF THE WEST, NEAR FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

The Four Sacred Mountains of the Diné

By John Lacher



▲ MOUNT BLANCA [RIGHT] (Tsisnaasjini' - Dawn or White Shell Mountain), SACRED MOUNTAIN OF THE EAST, NEAR ALAMOSA IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO



▲ MOUNT HESPERUS (DIBÉ NITSAA - BIG MOUNTAIN SHEEP), SACRED MOUNTAIN OF THE NORTH, LA PLATA MOUNTAINS, COLORADO



▲ MOUNT TAYLOR (Tsoodzil - Blue Bead or Turquoise Mountain), SACRED MOUNTAIN OF THE SOUTH, NORTH OF LAGUNA, NEW MEXICO

IN MID-JULY, I CLIMBED to the top of Mount Hesperus, completing my quest to summit the four sacred mountains of the Navajo, or as they call themselves, the Diné. To the Diné, this is known as Black Mountain, and defines the northern extent of their lands. Tom Cope, another CMC member with the same goal, and I had managed to work out a route of sorts from the valley of the North Fork of the West Mancos River to the southwest ridge. The summit ridge was still challenging, but relatively easy compared to the slopes below. They seemed to reaffirm the meaning of the term “angle of repose.” The summit afforded fine views of the Four Corners and the La Plata Mountains near by.

Particularly impressive was nearby Lavender Peak, named for Dwight Lavender, one of the early San Juan Mountaineers, and a CMC member. The ridge between these two peaks appeared to be quite challenging. We had a quick snack and drink, then a few minutes of contemplation before a monsoonal weather god in the form of a dark grey cloud formed directly overhead and suggested we leave.

I had started this quest with my wife, Jan, in 2008. We managed to climb Blanca Peak in southern Colorado, Mount Taylor in New Mexico, and Humphreys Peak in Arizona before we were interrupted from our fun. This year I was fortunate to return to the quest with Jim Gehres (a legend among Colorado climbers, having climbed the fourteeners 12 times) for support and guidance, along with Tom.

During this time I have had occasional opportunities to think about and talk with different people about just what the term “sacred mountain” means. I have always had a mystical feeling after reaching the top of most any summit. Beyond the sense of achievement, and perhaps stimulated by the view of the valleys below, it seems that most hills inspired a thoughtful mood. I found myself thinking about matters other than quotidian concerns. Over the years, although not very religious in the formal sense, I began to find mountain tops to be my refuges for reflection.

I FIRST LEARNED OF THE NAVAJO sacred mountains reading Herbert Ungnade's 1965 guide to climbing in New Mex-

ico. Then, in “Hillerman Country,” I found Tony Hillerman's introduction to the four sacred mountains and the theology associated with them. The four peaks he mentions are the four mountains that may be seen from most places in Navajo country. They affirm a sense of place. As the Diné returned from the Bosque Redondo (the 1864 deportation of the Navajo people by the U.S. government), seeing these mountains reassured them that they were back home. In addition to his discussion of origin, Hillerman states that these four mountains are “...the points where the hands and feet of Mother Earth touch those of Father Sky.” I like that.

Diné shamans go to each of the mountains to gather soil, minerals, and herbs for their four-mountains prayer bundle. This is a deerskin bundle used in curing ceremonies. They often leave a painted stick with feathers tied to it as an offering.

Two years ago, I met a young Diné at the Ganado Trading Post. He was in training to become a shaman, and allowed that he had once taken a trip by foot to Mount Hesperus to make his collection. I did not question him too severely on whether or not he went to the top. I did get the impression that the mountain itself was more important than the summit.

When I was a medical resident at the University of New Mexico during the 1960s, we occasionally had requests to allow for a curing ceremony on the Diné patients. Wherever possible, we arranged a private room and accommodated if the patient was stable enough and it didn't interfere with the flow of business in a busy medical center. I know the families appreciated it, and as far as we could tell, no harm was done. I would love to be able to say that a patient who we were sure was going to die had a miraculous cure, but that was not the case. That is not to belittle the process; I am not sure we pulled off too many miracles either.

The issue of sacredness and exclusiveness has been bothering me for some time.

If a site is considered sacred by someone of a different culture, should I not go there? Sometimes that seems appropriate, but I then ask myself, “Am I not also deserving of the mystical sense from being in such a place?” I've concluded I am no less deserving. When I go to a Jewish wedding in a synagogue, a Buddhist temple in the Himalayas, or the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, I can appreciate the religiosity of the place. I find myself appreciative and am not intrusive nor disruptive. I would posit the same for Native American sacred sites. The ethic of “leave no trace” is probably a good starting point. Being respectful and appreciative are, too. I sometimes wonder if instead of “sacred” they might better be referred to as “revered.” Some peaks must have been sacred; shrines and artifacts attest to that designation. Maybe others were revered in the sense that we use the word: a place that generates feeling of respect tinged with awe.

We are a society of laws, and of course the matter of sacredness cannot just be left to opinion. In 1978, Congress passed the American Indian Religion Freedom Act (AIRFA). In essence, it protects and preserves the inherent right of freedom of religion for Native Americans, including the right of access to sites. If you stop to reflect, that law does not grant much more than existing rights for all Americans. In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled that neither AIRFA nor the First Amendment protected Native American's holiest places. So, it would seem that even though laws do exist, they give little guidance on usage or restrictions of usage. At this point, the legal process has just steepened the angle of repose, but has not provided much in the way of useful visiting guidelines.

THE OTHER THREE SACRED mountains are Mount Blanca, a prominent sentinel in southern Colorado overlooking the San Luis Valley. This is the only fourteener among the revered peaks and, therefore, elicits plenty of mountain climbing interest. Then, there are Mount Taylor, an 11,300-foot peak north and east of Grants, New Mexico, and Humphreys Peak, just north of Flagstaff, Arizona. At 12,633 feet, it is the highest point in that state.

I first climbed Mount Blanca from the southern side in the 1960s with two other physicians and an engineer who was Navajo. We were the only people on the mountain that day and enjoyed the views from the summit—and our own thoughts. There was no trace of the presumably Native American stonework enclosure that the Wheeler survey party noted in 1874 on their “first ascent.” Somehow, with fewer people involved, that time was the most awe-inspiring.

Mount Taylor is the lowest of the four summits, but rising just above timberline from a large mountain massif with views that go on forever, this is perhaps the most mystical. The Diné call it Tsoodzil, and it is the site of their creation story. Tsoodzil is really the turquoise mountain, the large blue landmark on the southern edge of the reservation. In spite of the remnant of a fire lookout on top, this seems a more spiritual place.

Humphreys Peak is the highest remnant of a large volcanic rim, which is known in its entirety as the San Francisco Peaks. It is a pleasant, relatively short climb out of the warm desert air. The hike begins at the Arizona Snow Bowl Lodge, and stays close to the ski slopes. With plenty of company on the well developed trail—along with pets and candy wrappers—this seemed like the

least enchanting of the four peaks. But, the view from the top is spectacular. One can appreciate how the Diné feel about these mountains, being held down to earth by the golden rays of the setting sun. The Hopi also have strong attachments to this area. They believe that the San Francisco Peaks are inhabited by god-like katsinas, or spirit beings, for a portion of the year. The katsinas leave the mountains in the form of large thunderclouds that carry rain to the Hopi mesas.

SHOULD I HAVE CLIMBED these sacred peaks? That is a fair question. On one hand, I am interested in the concept of what is sacred and the peaks themselves. On the other hand, they are really sacred places for other people.

Wyoming offers two examples on how the conflict of using sacred places for recreational purposes has been handled: the Bighorn Medicine Wheel and Devils Tower. The wheel is actually a large stone structure high above timberline on the shoulder of a broad ridge. Some archeologists suggest that it was in existence well before historical tribes inhabited the region. During more recent times, the regional tribes have used it, visiting during the summers for religious purposes. The interesting thing is that when tribes currently at war with each other visited this site, they refrained from conflict. Chief Washakie, in his memoirs, relates spending the summer there with an older Shoshoni shaman. The purpose was to instruct the young man on the history and religious beliefs of his people.

As more and more people visited the medicine wheel, the Association of American Indian Affairs assembled a coalition of plains tribes to negotiate with the U.S. Forest Service. They were able to come to an agreement to protect the site and a large share of the surrounding mountain as a culturally important location. This agreement lasts until today, and has withstood the legal fight by a forestry firm to allow it to cut timber. The

medicine wheel is open to the public. When I visited about five years ago there were many apparent Native American prayer bundles, but also various offerings of feathers, stones, ribbons, photographs, written scrolls, flags, and so forth. The site was open to everyone who wanted to share in its mystery.

Devils Tower is a different matter. It is not only a popular tourist attraction, but also draws the attention of many rock climbers. The problem is that it is used by something like 20 different plains tribes for religious activities. Most of these ceremonies are in June. A coalition of Native Americans, environmentalists, and climbers, along with Access Fund representatives, met and eventually agreed to restrict climbing during June. One of the tribes actually objected strongly to the restriction because they reasoned that was exactly how they were restricted by the government over a century ago. Eventually, the National Park Service (NPS) instituted a voluntary climbing restriction during June. This was evidently in line with the AIRFA law that guarantees the right to religious practice but not exclusive use. At the present time, the NPS estimates that this voluntary restriction is about 80 percent effective. In this case, different groups came together and fashioned a use modification that more or less pleased most involved parties.

THIS BEGS THE QUESTION: Is this the right thing to do? I asked a Taos Pueblo friend, and she opined that it is more a matter of going respectfully than a matter of psychologically trespassing. She pointed out that Native Americans don't really have much of a sense of ownership of land, as much as a sense of caring for Mother Earth. The Diné shaman in training told me that he didn't object, and thought most people of his generation would not object, but that some of the older members of the tribe would not be too pleased.

Speaking for myself, if the goal was merely to tag another peak, then there is little I can say that justifies the climbs. But, like most of us, the appreciation of the surroundings and the nearly magical awe that results, I believe, justifies the activity. I might even be so bold as to suggest that this is the same appreciation and awe that might lead Native Americans to consider these places sacred. Δ

A photograph of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, a wooden post with a metal hook is visible. The background shows a grassy hillside under a blue sky with some clouds. The title 'MAKE IT SPIRITUAL' is overlaid in a stylized, yellow, outlined font.

MAKE IT SPIRITUAL

John Minden doesn't think of himself as disabled—or able-bodied. He just climbs.

By Chris Case

JOHN MINDEN IS MORE determined than most. Or maybe he's just single-minded and obsessed. Or plain crazy. Or, he could be one of those addicts. Actually, he's likely all of the above.

"When I don't climb, stress just keeps building," Minden says. "And it's not just going to the mountains, it's summiting. That's probably not healthy, but it sure sounds like addiction."

But would John be the man he is today if he hadn't suffered an incomplete spinal cord injury when he was 15? The question really isn't worth asking.

"I've gotten to an age where I don't ask 'why?'" he says.

John is John, partially paralyzed and only getting weaker on one side, but climbing just like he did when he was three decades younger.

At 51, John takes a bit longer to rise, a bit longer to recover, but the glory of the summit still pulls at him in interminable tugs.



JOHN MINDEN

Like most kids, John was an adventurous type. Always looking for outlets for his energy, he was jumping on the trampoline in the backyard when he flew crooked through the air and landed badly. He suffered a spinal injury that resulted in partial paralysis. But the energy wasn't taken from him, and the outlet he happened upon was mountains. Due to the asymmetrical nature of his injury, the spasticity, and the weakness, it wasn't speed and agility that clicked.

What did was endurance.

"There's not anyone that's dumb enough to go with me," he says, and, so, solo endurance endeavors became his outlet of choice.

He always climbs with trekking poles, he's much slower than the average hiker, and he's weaker on his left side—and only

"Make it spiritual... Every mountain has a spirit and if it is gracious enough to allow you to summit you are granted a small piece of that spirit, and the mountain takes a bit of you as well."

getting weaker. Still, since he was 30, John has been working with others with spinal cord injuries. In that time, he says he's only worked with two people who have been luckier, in terms of their injuries and prognosis, than he was. And so he just climbs.

IN 1986, JOHN FELL victim to what he calls the "fourteener daze." By 1993, he had climbed them all, but hadn't really explored his other options.

"You can't get quadrangle map blindness like you can get the daze from the fourteener list," he says. You need to look at those other quads to see how you can access something on the border."

In 1995, he started climbing the state's thirteens and twelves, and now has 514 summits under his feet.

"I don't belong to the gimp club," he says. "They don't want me and they shouldn't. But I'm not able-bodied either."

"MOUNTAINS ARE GREAT TEACHERS."

This is something John states often. He's spent a lot of time with mountains, in mountains, battling mountains, so he has seen how well mountains can teach.

And anyone else who has spent ample time in the mountains has probably drawn similar conclusions. But what has John learned?

"There are days you are not supposed to climb."

John has had his fair share of incidents in the mountains. He has been fortunate on many occasion, and he has been observant on most. He has learned from his mistakes.

"The mountains have hurt me bad, or better put, I've hurt myself good in the mountains." But he keeps going back. He just climbs by a powerful philosophy.

"Make it spiritual... Every mountain has a spirit and if it is gracious enough to allow you to summit you are granted a small piece of that spirit, and the mountain takes a bit of you as well." Δ

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

August 1986 - Capitol Peak: quite the learning experience, 12.5 hours of total hiking, taking longer on the way down than up; I was ill prepared to say the least.

August 1987 - Crestone Needle, Crestone Peak, and Kit Carson in one long day, quite exciting on the Needle to Peak traverse.

February 1989 - Torreys Peak via northwest face; first winter fourteener.

July 1989 - Mount Harvard with planned bivy on summit; then traversed ridge to Mount Columbia the next morning.

November 10, 1990 - Mount Princeton on my 30th birthday; 16 hours mostly via skis.

August 1993 - Rag doll tumble down St. Vrain glacier; yard sale of gear left behind, luckily my ice ax was strapped on to beat me about the head and shoulders while cartwheeling.

November 1995 - First and only time I needed medical attention after bashing my skull during a poorly planned glissade off Crystal Peak, resulting in six stitches and a concussion.

April 11, 2010 through October 2, 2010 - 27 consecutive weeks of climbing one peak or more; not bad for 49 years of age.

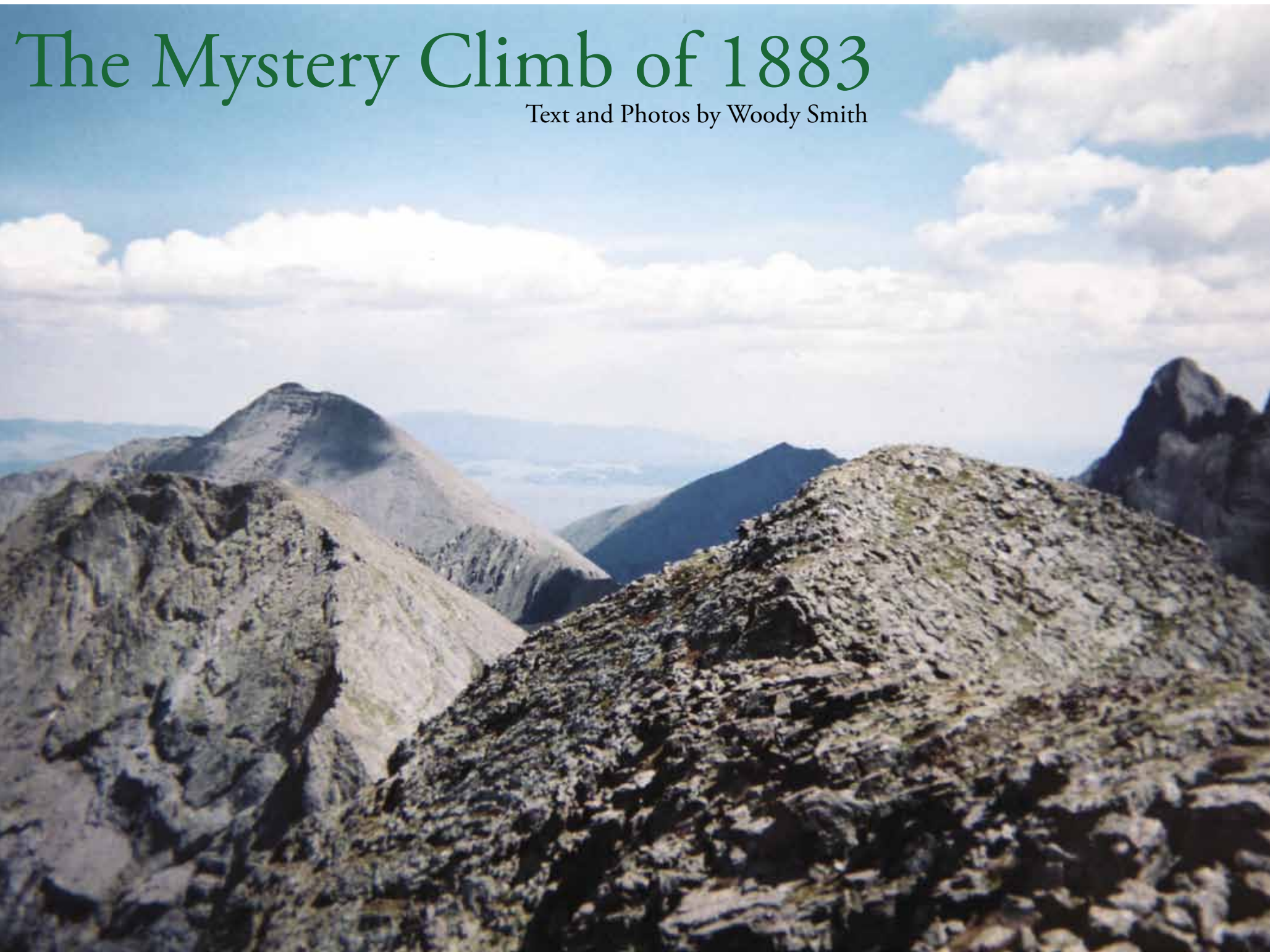
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The Mystery Climb of 1883

Text and Photos by Woody Smith

CRESTONE'S CREST,

Scaled by a Party of Aspiring
Pleasure Seekers.

Description of the Grand Scenery
On Every Side.

...Announced the headline from the *Rocky Mountain News*. The story, printed July 29, 1883, laid out the details:

Correspondence of THE NEWS

CRESTONE, July 23 - On the morning of Wednesday, July 18th, your correspondent, in company with four others, left this little burg, nestling in quiet at the base of the Sangre de Cristo range...to ascend Crestone Peak—one of the loftiest and grandest among the many in

climbability of the Crestones."

Starting from the town of Crestone on the west side of the Sangre de Cristos, the Ellingwood party ascended the trail up Willow Creek, making camp on a ridge above Willow Park (see *T&T*, Fall 2008, "Sorting Out the Crestones").

As a warm-up, on July 20 or 21, 1916, members of the party made the first known ascent of Mt. Adams (13,931 feet), which is just north of Lower Willow Lake (11,564 feet).

The next climb, which may have occurred on July 21 or 22—the exact date is unclear—members of the Ellingwood party climbed the mountain they knew as "*Crestone*," present day Kit Carson Mountain (14,165 feet).

What is known is that on July 24, 1916, Ellingwood and Davis led a climb of Crestone Peak and Needle, which they knew simply as "The Needles."

At the conclusion of their trip, Ellingwood and party were thus able to claim first known ascents of the last three "unclimbed" 14ers in the state.

But it has been long suspected that miners in search of money, rather than climbers in search of summits, had reached the top of all but the hardest peaks in Colorado. Had they also forged a route up the Crestones? Part of the answer lies in the description provided by the unnamed *Rocky Mountain News* correspondent:

Our route, and the only by which the ascent can be made, was up Willow Creek, [which] winds its torturous course high up into the mountain range to the eastward, or just behind the peak... The first scene which attracts the attention...is a little grassy park, level as a barn floor...containing about eighty acres...Its altitude is about 9,500 feet. Following up Willow Creek, the next thing which strikes the admiration of the beholder is the falls—for there are two of them, about one-half mile apart... Hence, upward and onward, just at the verge of timberline...there bursts upon the vision a beautiful little lake, lonely and desolate in all its grandeur. This lake...is surrounded—except at its outlet—by walls of conglomerate from 75 to 150 feet in height, with lofty in the background...while at its head Wil-

low Creek 'takes a grand tumble' by a perpendicular fall of about one hundred feet... [The lake's] altitude is 11,000 feet. At the foot of this lake, amid the scrubby pines, we made our camp for the first night, when we slept calmly under the happy influences around us...

Examination of the 1883 text reveals that the route being described is actually the same one used by the Ellingwood party in 1916, and by hikers in 2011—even the creek is still the same name. Other similarities are the description of Willow Park at 9,800 feet, the twin waterfalls at 10,500 and 11,000 feet, and of Lower Willow Lake at timberline.

Of note is the comment that Willow Creek is the only route "by which the ascent can be made," indicating that the trail was fairly well known and probably used by miners on a regular basis.

The Willow Creek Trail via the town of Crestone remains the standard western approach to *Kit Carson Mountain* over a century later. The pine grove near Lower Willow Lake is still a popular overnight spot for backpackers.

The correspondent continued:

The next morning we left camp at 5 o'clock, jubilant, to finish up the ascent and make the 'top of the peak' which was still towering far above us, in plain view, some 3,000 feet. Continuing up Willow Creek about two miles, to where it has its source in a little lake, nearly round and one-fourth of a mile across, we 'girded our loins,' preparatory (sic) to the final climb; and such a climb, ye gods, it makes me shudder to think of it now. It seems that in searching for an 'easy place,' we had selected the worst possible one. However, 'at it we went,' and at precisely 11 o'clock a.m. were on the top... The 'top' or crest we had reached was about 300 feet in length and from 2 to 10 feet in width, and is separated by deep chasms from its surroundings, but is by several hundred feet the highest 'comb' which crowns the grand old mountain.

As described, the party left camp at Lower Willow Lake, hiked southeast to Up-

per Willow Lake (12,325 feet), and then angled south up the ridge to *Kit Carson*, possibly using the North Couloir route (detailed in Gerry Roach's “Colorado Fourteeners”).

Although the correspondent's account of the upper route is frustratingly sparse, the term “combs” is an accurate description of the unique summit ridges found on the *Kit Carson Massif*.

The correspondent continued:

that overlook La Veta—stand out in bold relief. Northeast, Pike's peak rears his huge proportions... while in the intervening space can be seen the Greenhorn range, Wet Mountain valley, Rosita, and Silver Cliff... Further still away, at the head of the South Park, can be seen Mount Lincoln, together with numerous other peaks...Also to the

and is owned by ex-Governor Gilpin, of Denver.

...Such is a partial and incomplete description of the grand panorama spread out before us, a scene which I will venture to say, for extent and grandeur, cannot be equalled in the state of Colorado—perhaps not in the world.

which the 'Almighty hath wrought,' visible from the grand old mountain's loftiest comb,' we humbly bowed our heads, bid him good bye, and commenced to descend, feeling our way carefully along his shaggy ribs, and in three hours more were safely in camp, when we took a long sleep and rest until the next morning, when we again 'pulled out' and, in a few hours, were at home.

Rocky Mountain News, July 29, 1883

son. He was a respected member of the community, and active in Denver County politics. In 1881, he was part of the procession during a local memorial for slain president Garfield.

Whitehead *did* travel. Between July and October 1880 he is known to have visited Kansas City, Colorado Springs, and the Weld County Fair near Greeley. In April 1883 he was in Trinidad, Colorado, which was accessed by a train line running just 40 miles east of the northern Sangre de Cristos.

He also liked the outdoors. An Au-

excludes Whitehead from consideration for the feat. In the week prior to the climb, July 10-17, Whitehead and his wife were among a group of journalists in Salt Lake City for a national convention. A letter of thanks from Whitehead's convention committee appeared in *The News* on July 18, the same day the 'Crestone' party started. No matter how stalwart, it seems unlikely that Whitehead began a three-day climb 200 miles south of Denver, less than one day after returning by train from a week in Salt Lake City.

The News' second “traveling correspon-

VIEW SOUTHEAST FROM UNNAMED 13,980' WITH CRESTONE NEEDLE AND CRESTONE PEAK IN THE DISTANCE.



...How shall I describe the world which bursts upon your view? ...Seemingly right under us, stretching far to the northwest, west and south lies the San Luis park, spread out in one vast plain, 150 miles long and 50 or 60 miles wide, and surrounded by snow-capped peaks in every direction. Directly south 'Old Blanco,' robed on his northern slope with eternal snow, protruding his huge dimensions far into the park which forms his base...To the southeast the Spanish peaks—twin brothers

westward can be seen Mount Ouray, Uncompahgre, and other lofty peaks unknown to the writer.

...Right under us, is situated the Crestone, or Baca Grant No. 4. I might truthfully say that old Crestone peak constitutes its northeast corner, as the corner is somewhere in that locality, but the exact spot where it is no mortal man has ever seen or is likely to see. (The engineer who surveyed the grant pronounced the place inaccessible.) The grant contains 100,000 acres, being twelve and one-half miles square,

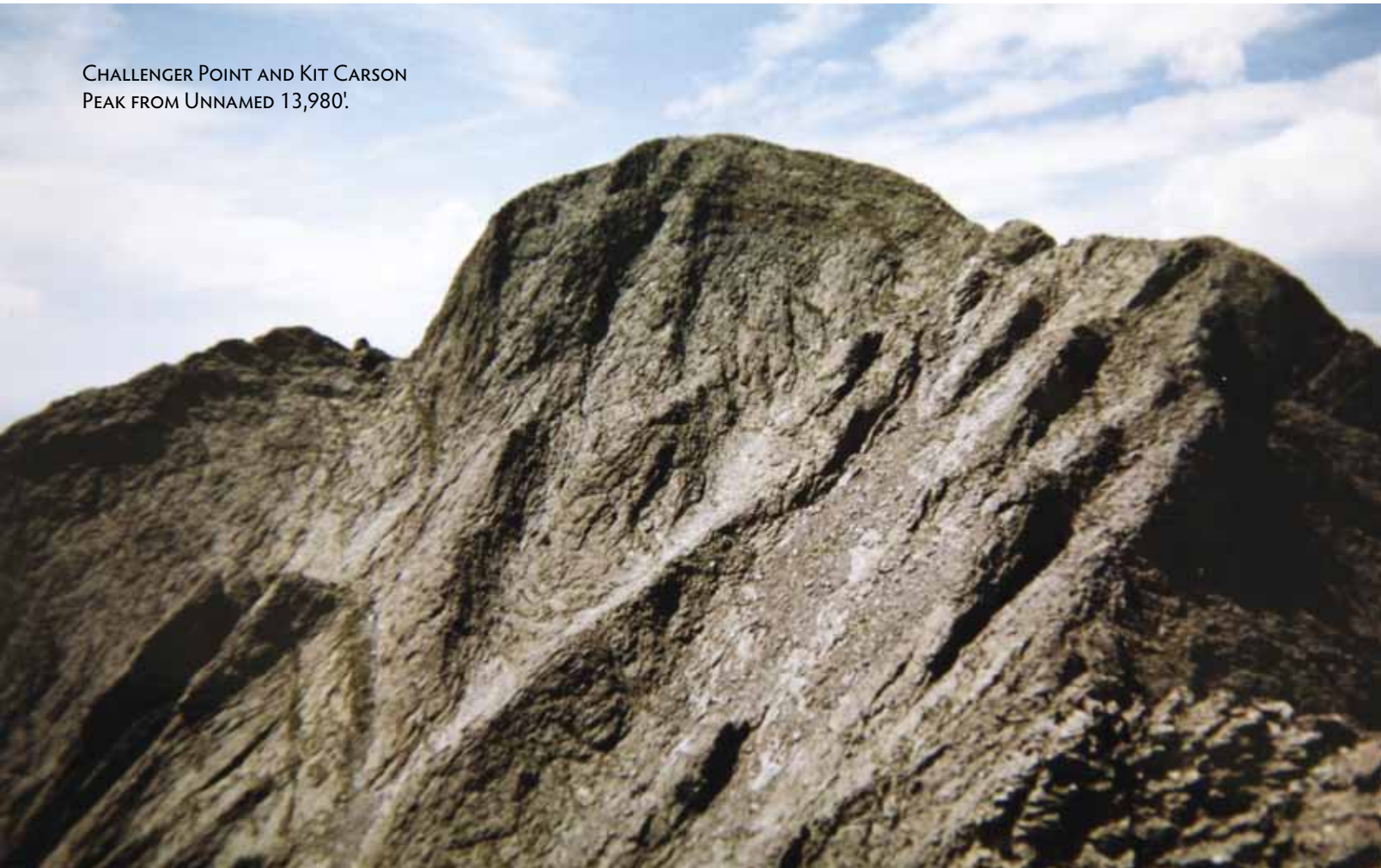
The summit view, hyperbole aside, indicates a successful ascent of the intended "*Crestone*." Of note is the reference to the "*Greenhorn range*," which was a 19th century name for the mountain centered around *La Veta Pass*, but also including the *Crestones* and *Wet Mountains* (see *T&T*, Spring 2010, “The 'Lost' Greenhorn Mountains”).

Also of note is the reference to the Baca No. 4 Land Grant, and its “inaccessible” northeast corner—which is the present day location of *Kit Carson Mountain*.

The correspondent concluded:

Having whiled away over two hours in viewing the wonders

CHALLENGER POINT AND KIT CARSON PEAK FROM UNNAMED 13,980'.



But who was the “correspondent” that wrote the article and presumably made the climb? In 1883 *The News* had four or five editors, at least one reporter, several printers and typesetters—but only two employees are known to have had the title of “traveling correspondent.”

One was George F. Whitehead, who worked for *The News* from summer 1878 to March 1893. Born in Winchester, Kentucky, in 1836, Whitehead came to Denver in 1875. He married on November 5, 1875, a union that produced two daughters and a

gust 1879 *News* item noted the Whiteheads and a family friend were “campers” at Pine Grove, southwest of Denver.

After his time at *The News*, Whitehead went on to be the City Market Master, in charge of vendors, and a police operator. He died in Denver on April 14, 1909, at about age 73.

In 1883, George Whitehead would have been about 47, which certainly does not disqualify him from an ascent of Kit Carson—if he was in decent shape.

But it may be inauspicious timing that

dent” was Horace A. Bird. Though his parents, Franklin E. Bird and the former Ann M. Cole were both from Massachusetts, Bird was born in Kansas in 1860. Since a quarter of Colorado *was* Kansas in 1860, Bird may have actually been born in the state. However, it is not currently known what became of Bird's parents or what brought them west.

What is known is that Bird first appears, listed alone, in Denver City Directory. Though only 14, he had already begun

Continued on page 41 ►►

the FOURTEENER FILES

By LINDA KOTHE CROCKETT



1 KRISTINE AND BRANDON CHALK ON THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT WILSON. **2** JASON FOISSET ASCENDS A RIDGELINE. **3** ON TOP OF MOUNT EOLUS, THE FINAL SUMMIT FOR RYAN MARSTERS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ANDY SIEGMUND, MATT LEWIS, RYAN MARSTERS).

4 JENNIFER BRUCE ON TOP OF HER FINAL SUMMIT, MOUNT PRINCETON.



It's not how fast you go, how high you go, how far you go, or even if you get there—it's the climb! Climb on! - Danny Teusch

"I run the Colorado 14er Snowboard Project, which is a website that documents the history of snowboard mountaineering on Colorado's 14ers (www.14ersnowboardproject.homestead.com)."

- Zach Taylor

THE FOURTEENER FILES

By Linda Kothe Crockett

Those who reported completion of Colorado's fourteeners in 2011

NO.	NAME	FIRST PEAK	DATE	FINAL PEAK	DATE
1397	Travis Canon	Pyramid Peak	Jul 1971	Pikes Peak	Oct 1989
1398	Helen Carlsen	Castle Peak	1982	Culebra Peak	1994
1399	Roger Carlsen	Castle Peak	1982	Culebra Peak	1994
1400	Barton Craig	Mount Columbia	Jun 1990	Crestone Peak	Sep 1997
1401	Kevin V. Duncan	Mount Eolus	Aug 1984	Sunlight Peak	Jul 2000
1402	Doug Farquhar	Mount Bierstadt	May 1981	Pikes Peak	Aug 2003
1403	Bob Kadera	Pikes Peak	Aug 1989	Mount Evans	Aug 2009
1404	James Kampmann	Longs Peak	Jul 1986	Kit Carson Peak	Jul 2010
1405	Julie Claus	Uncompahgre Peak	Jul 1979	Little Bear Peak	Aug 2010
1406	Scott Cull	Longs Peak	Aug 1979	Mount Wilson	Aug 2010
1407	Rebecca Dickenson	Torreys Peak	Oct 1998	El Diente	Aug 2010
1408	Nola Royce	Pikes Peak	Jun 1997	Little Bear Peak	Aug 2010
1409	David Anderson	Mount Lincoln	Jun 1982	Mount Sneffels	Sep 2010
1410	Rob Hutchison	Mount Elbert	Jun 1987	Little Bear Peak	Sep 2010
1411	Mike Schumacher	Longs Peak	1975	Blanca Peak	Sep 2010
1412	Patrick Thornley	Pikes Peak	Jun 2000	Capitol Peak	Sep 2010
1413	Mike C. Smith	Grays Peak	Jun 2006	Pikes Peak	Oct 2010
1414	John Sowell	San Luis Peak	Jun 1993	Culebra Peak	Oct 2010
1415	Phyllis K. Pryor	Mount Democrat	1997	Mount Columbia	Jun 2011
1416	Charles Lee Cavness Jr.	Handies Peak	Jul 1984	Mount Yale	Jul 2011
1417	Carl Drews	Longs Peak	Aug 1982	Uncompahgre Peak	Jul 2011
1418	Denny Teusch	Mount Harvard	Jul 1982	Little Bear Peak	Jul 2011
1419	Mark Wolf	Quandary Peak	Jun 1998	Mount Eolus	Jul 2011
1420	Allan Aldrich	Mount Lindsey	Aug 2005	Capitol Peak	Aug 2011
1421	Kristine Chalk	Grays Peak	2002	Mount Antero	Aug 2011
1422	Mark Grylicki	Mount Elbert	Aug 1988	Maroon Peak	Aug 2011
1423	Tom Huffman	Mount Missouri	Jun 2003	Maroon Peak	Aug 2011
1424	Ryan Marsters	Grays Peak	Jun 2007	Mount Eolus	Aug 2011
1425	David Mattingly	Mount Bierstadt	Aug 2001	Longs Peak	Aug 2011
1426	Michael Navratil	Mount Sherman	Jul 2000	Capitol Peak	Aug 2011
1427	Nick Skubic	Mount Elbert	Aug 2008	Handies Peak	Aug 2011
1428	Jerry Amendola	Longs Peak	1967	Maroon Peak	Sep 2011
1429	Jennifer Bruce	Mount Sherman	Jun 2002	Mount Princeton	Sep 2011
1430	Jim DiNapoli	Mount Yale	Aug 2009	Capitol Peak	Sep 2011
1431	Andrea Eddy	La Plata Peak	Aug 1995	Wilson Peak	Sep 2011
1432	Jason Foisset	Mount Bierstadt	Jun 2005	Wilson Peak	Sep 2011
1433	John Krhovjak	Grays Peak	Jun 1998	Crestone Needle	Sep 2011
1434	Phil Lakin Jr.	Mount Elbert	Jul 1993	El Diente	Sep 2011
1435	Janna Ranson	San Luis Peak	Aug 2003	Little Bear Peak	Sep 2011
1436	Zach Taylor	Mount Bierstadt	Jun 2003	Pikes Peak	Sep 2011
1437	Steven Zsako	Mount Bierstadt	Jun 2003	Capitol Peak	Sep 2011

For recognition in next year's issue, send the registration form (visit www.cmc.org/14erform) by Oct. 15 to the Colorado Mountain Club at 710 10th St., #200, Golden, CO, 80401; or you may send an email to editor@cmc.org. For *Beyond the Fourteeners/Thirteeners* recognition, please include the date and name of the last peak.

Climbing the fourteeners has become a 30-year project for me. When I first started climbing peaks, it was considered rather strange, not admirable as it is today. One rarely saw others and there were no parking lots at trailheads. We wore waffle stompers and wool; much of my technical gear I made on a sewing machine from Holubar kits. Guidebooks were brief and unclear; one had to learn how to read a map and become proficient at route finding.

I would like to encourage climbers who are in the early stages of their fourteeners quest to rethink their goal. Please recognize that climbing is not just touching all those wondrous summits, but about what you learn and who you become in the process. The goal itself is noble, and can provide years of discovery, challenge, and enjoyment; no need to rush. - Julie Claus

I had moved out here with some vague dream of becoming a modern-day Jeremiah Johnson. That first time up Bierstadt was the hardest thing I had ever done. On the way down, my legs felt like Jell-o. But I spent hours staring at the pictures from that hike with love-sick, dilated pupils. I would find ways to bring up my Bierstadt accomplishment in conversation—bragging not overtly, but just uttering the strange German name. No one seemed impressed. Eventually, I started plugging away at the others. Over time, my confidence and skills grew, and here I am! Now, let's do it again! - David Mattingly

Every summer, I've come to Colorado from east of the Mississippi (Memphis and Atlanta) to climb two to three peaks. I've had a great time exploring the state, meeting some great people, and enjoying the Colorado outdoors.

- Rob Hutchinson



BETH DAVIS

BEYOND THE FOURTEENERS

By Chris Ruppert

NO.	NAME	FINAL PEAK	DATE
100 Highest Peaks			
174	Catherine Walter	Mount Meeker	8/5/10
182	John Bregar	Jupiter Mountain	9/10/10
185	Bob Dawson	Thunder Pyramid	7/23/11
186	Sarah T. Meiser	Unnamed 13,832'	7/28/11
187	Albert Valletta	Dallas Peak	8/12/11
188	Beth Courville Davis	Crystal Peak	8/27/11
189	James B. Davis	Crystal Peak	8/27/11
190	Pete Krzanowsky	Phoenix Peak	9/5/11
200 Highest Peaks			
67	Mark Schmalz	Mount Jackson	7/16/11
68	Sarah T. Meiser	Grizzly Peak C	8/28/11
300 Highest Peaks			
34	Mark Schmalz	V3	7/23/11
35	Kim Rea	Whitehouse Mountain	9/3/11
36	Sarah T. Meiser	Hagues	9/19/11
37	Lynn Prebble	Sleeping Sexton	9/23/11
400 Highest Peaks			
23	Craig Patterson	Unnamed 13,302'	9/1/10
24	Mark Schmalz	Kendall Mountain	9/3/11
25	Sarah T. Meiser	Mummy	9/19/11
26	Lynn Prebble	Sleeping Sexton	9/23/11
500 Highest Peaks			
21	Mark Schmalz	Kendall Mountain	9/3/11
22	Craig Patterson	Peak G 13,260'	9/9/11
23	Lynn Prebble	Sleeping Sexton	9/23/11
24	Sarah T. Meiser	Lenawee Mountain	9/24/11
600 Highest Peaks			
21	Mark Schmalz	Kendall Mountain	9/3/11
22	Craig Patterson	Peak N 13,121'	9/19/11
23	Sarah T. Meiser	Lenawee Mountain	9/24/11
24	Lynn Prebble	Mount Flora	10/9/11
All Thirteeners			
21	Mark Schmalz	Kendall Mountain	9/3/11
22	Craig Patterson	Old Baldy 13,308'	9/24/11
23	Sarah T. Meiser	Lenawee Mountain	9/24/11
24	Lynn Prebble	Mount Flora	10/9/11

BEYOND THE THIRTEENERS

By Teresa Gergen

NO.	NAME	FINAL PEAK	DATE
800 Highest Peaks			
7	Debby Reed	UN12848	8/15/11
1800 Highest Peaks			
1	Ken Nolan	Tater Heap	10/11/11

REVIEWED

eLine energy by Trango

By JOSH BEAUDOIN OF SLACKLINE VISIONS

FROM THE PRESENTATION on the box, to the storage bag it comes with, to the directions and diagrams on the instructions, the eLine energy slackline is very convenient for any slackliner.

The parts and pieces that come in the eline energy kit are limited so as not to confuse even the most novice slackliner. The kit includes two non-locking carabiners, an oval ring used as a line locker to keep the line flat, an anchor piece that is 6.5 feet long, and a one-inch tubular line that is roughly 50 feet long. The eLine energy is set up on a two point friction system. From



opening the box to complete set up took less than 15 minutes. Ideally this line is best set up at 20 to 25 feet long and at a height a little above the knee; because the line has a lower stretch, only one person is needed to pull the line tight. The eLine energy is woven in such a way that it provides a grippy but smooth feel when walking, which makes it a perfect line to use barefoot. Standing in one spot, taking several steps, or performing yoga tricks are really fun things to do while on the eLine energy. The slight but firm movement you feel when walking down the line allows you to increase your range of focus and to cultivate the link between the mind and the body. The de-rigging of the eLine energy is quite simple; with two light tugs, the line is down. Trango makes things easy by providing a mesh bag that the eLine energy conveniently fits into. The overall experience that the eLine energy gave was simple, safe, and fun! This line would be suitable for anyone from novice to expert slacker, and would make an excellent holiday gift for the aspiring climbers and slackliners in your family. Δ

The author is the founder of SlacklineVisions (slacklinevisions.wordpress.com).

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Karl Meltzer training on the Wasatch Crest © John Evans

END OF THE TRAIL

ERNIE ANDERSON ► 1914 - 2011

BY WILLIAM J. HIRTH, JR.

I FIRST MET ANDY—the nickname he had outside the CMC—51 years and a few weeks ago, when I started working at a photographic supply store. Although Andy was a medical photographer at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Denver, he was a part-time camera repairman at the store until his retirement from the VA. Then, he worked full-time beside me.

During the Great Depression, he did trail work on California's Mount Shasta with

the Civilian Conservation Corps until he joined the military during World War II. After the war, he went to work for the VA.

He was a member of the VA when we met. Always quiet and unassuming, he had a way of getting things done. He finally got me to join the CMC after years of looking for ghost towns alone.

He was a trip leader for the CMC—mainly in the A and B class and of snow-shoe trips. He joined a group of desert

explorers and was active until age caught up to him. His last trip, on March 26, 1997, took him to Aravaipa Canyon in Arizona at the age of 83.

Andy passed away in his sleep on June 21, 2011, four days after his ninety-seventh birthday. It was an honor to have met, worked, and hiked with a great man. Happy Trails, Pardner.

LENORE GREENE OTT ► 1914-2011

BY BEN RHODES AND SUSAN BROWN

LENORE GREENE OTT, who died on October 11, 2011, at the age of 97, was a member of the CMC for 63 years. Members of the club remember her as the wife of Allen W. Greene. In 1948, Lenore joined the club as an enthusiastic mountaineer and skier. She had outstanding balance and strength and excelled at friction climbing and rappelling. Together with her husband,

diminutive stature. She was only five feet tall and weighed only about 100 pounds. Her characteristic optimism often came in handy in the mountains.

Allen and Lenore encouraged their children and grandchildren to learn the

basics of safe mountaineering. Their idea of a family vacation was to plan and enjoy a climb. What a great example they set.

The authors are the children of Lenore Greene.

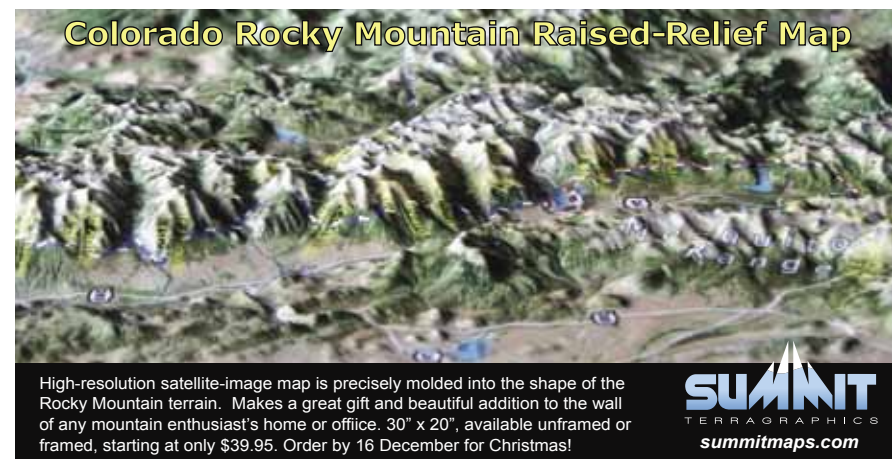
ANATOLY MOSHNIKOV ► 1953-2011

BY STEVE BONOWSKI

MEMBERS OF THE CMC'S high altitude mountaineering community were saddened to learn of the death in early October of Anatoly Moshnikov, from St. Petersburg. Anatoly and two other climbers died in an early season avalanche in the Altai Mountains of Siberia. Anatoly and his company, CET-Neva Mountaineering, provided logistical and guiding services for CMC climbs of Mount Elbrus/Russia in 2007 and 2010. They also provided services for our attempt in 2008 on Muztagh Ata in China.

Anatoly was an experienced climber with many achievements, including a summit of Mount Everest. In 2009, Anatoly and his son, Ivan, put up a new technical route on Lone Eagle in Colorado's Indian Peaks Wilderness. While one of the strongest climbers that I have ever met, Anatoly was also very safety conscious and very watchful over his clients. His positive attitude and cheerfulness were infectious. Rest in peace, my friend.

Colorado Rocky Mountain Raised-Relief Map



she climbed the 54 fourteeners, saving Mount Sherman for last. She and Allen were 96 and 97 on the CMC list of those completing the peaks. Out of state, they bagged Mount Rainier and Mount Baker, the Grand Teton, Gannett Peak, and the three Mexican volcanoes. In Peru she reached the summit of a 20,000 foot peak near Huaraz. She accomplished all this despite her

his career in journalism, as a carrier for the *Denver Tribune*.

His next appearance is in 1878: He is a student, renting a room at 9 Broadway. Within a year Bird is employed as a mailing clerk for the *Rocky Mountain News*. He has also moved downtown, to 21st and Tremont. By 1880, he had been promoted to "teletype editor."

In early 1880, one of Leadville's mining booms gave young Bird a chance to become city editor at a local paper. No small feat for a 20-year-old in any century.

There were apparently no hard feelings at *The News*. Bird even came back to visit:

Horace Bird, the clever city editor of the Leadville Democrat, is in the city. Horace is a bright and modest young gentleman who has an army of friends ready to welcome him to the capital.

Rocky Mountain News, January 11, 1881

Such praise proved magnetic and by March 1881, Bird had returned to his old job in Denver:

Horace A. Bird, the new reporter for The News on the broad gauge, was on the morning train for Fort Collins.

Rocky Mountain News, March 6, 1881

In the summer of 1883 Bird was still employed by *The News* but his exact whereabouts and which stories he wrote are unknown. As of July 18, he is the only *known* correspondent of *The News* who would have been reasonably available to be in the town of Crestone and ready for a three-day mountain trek. He was 23 and should have been in his physical prime. He had also lived in the mountains, and should have been acquainted with their rigors.

Bird remained with *The News* for about five years, until sometime in 1886. He then spent a year at rival newspaper *The Denver Times*.

Apparently needing a break from journalism, in 1888 Bird began working at the passenger depot for the Colorado Midland Railway. He also moved northwest of the city to the Highlands, near Rocky Mountain Lake, off Federal Boulevard. Within a year he received a promotion to "chief" clerk. He stayed at this post until sometime in 1890.

Bird then takes the position of secretary and treasurer of the William H. Jackson Photograph and Publishing Company located in Denver; he stays until about 1894.

Bird's last known job in Denver was in 1895 as a house painter.

Bird resurfaces in Boston in the 1910 census. He is again employed as a journalist for a magazine. He is also a "lodger" in the home of Edward and Harriet Cramm. On September 27, 1911, Edward Cramm passed away, and Horace the lodger moves in permanent. A spare nine months later on June 8, 1912, Horace and Harriet marry in Boston. At the time Horace is employed as an "advertising agent."

The 1920 census reveals that the Birds have moved to Bennington, New Hampshire, where the couple—now in their sixties—have become farmers.

By April 1930 they are in Hanson, Massachusetts, about 25 miles south of Boston. At age 69, Bird is now a cemetery superintendent. Harriet is 75.

The couple lasts 20 more years—with Horace passing away in Hanson on January 8, 1950, age 89. Harriet passed on July 29, 1952, at age 98.

In having found a likely, and colorful, candidate for the climb, a

question which should be addressed is whether the story was actually true. Since 19th-century newspapers sometimes fibbed to increase circulation it is a possibility.

However the correspondent provides enough detail that it seems an actual climb to the top of present day Kit Carson Mountain did occur.

Was this a first ascent? Given the straightforward nature of access, the route seems to have been well travelled. Since neither the writer, nor the newspaper ever claimed a first ascent, the answer seems to be no.

Was *Kit Carson Mountain* climbed on July 24, 1883, by 23 year-old writer Horace A. Bird and a party of three friends, thus claiming a *first known* ascent? The answer seems to be yes.

Thanks to Bruce Hanson, J. Wendell Cox, Roger Dudley, Jen Callaway, James Rogers, and the world-renowned James Jeffrey of the Denver Public Library's Western History Department, and to Donald Colon of the Hanson Public Library, Hanson, Mass. Also thanks to David Hite for technical support.

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YELLOWSTONE IN WINTER

Feb. 1 – 6, 2012
\$1,075 – \$1,200

Steaming geysers, bison, elk, and other wildlife are all part of the experience of Yellowstone National Park in winter. Skiers, snowshoers, and photographers will enjoy the convenient trails leading directly from the lodge to geysers and waterfalls. The trip includes round-trip bus and snow coach transportation between Denver and Yellowstone, a one-night stay in Jackson, three full days and four nights at Old Faithful, snow coach drop-off fees, happy hours, and several meals (four breakfasts, one lunch, and three buffet dinners), and all entrance fees and gratuities. We depart Denver by bus on Wednesday morning, February 1, stay overnight in a motel in Jackson, arriving in Yellowstone on Thursday afternoon. We leave Yellowstone and return to Denver late on Monday, February 6, 2012. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Most rooms have two double beds (we have five king sized beds) and private bath. The trip cost for the newer Snow Lodge hotel rooms is \$1220, the "Western" cabin is \$1195, and the rustic "Frontier" cabin is \$1075. Trip cost does not include remaining meals (one breakfast, five lunches, and two dinners), optional sight-seeing excursions within the park, equipment rental, or trip insurance. There is a 3% guest fee for non-CMC members. Register with the leader, Rick and Deana Pratt, by calling 303-887-3717 or e-mailing rpratt905@gmail.com.



ECUADOR CLIMBING (ILINIZA SUR & ANTISANA)

December 26, 2011 – January 7, 2012
Cost: \$955 plus air fare

Join the CMC for a New Year's climbing adven-

ture in Ecuador. Experience two challenging, technical glacier climbs on Iliniza Sur (17,218 feet) and Antisana (18,700 feet)—two of the less visited peaks in Ecuador—along with the spectacle that is New Year's Eve in Quito. This is a great trip for recent HAMS graduates who want to try out their glacier skills. Graduation from HAMS or equivalent experience is required. Maximum team size is seven, plus the leader. For more information, contact the leader, Greg Long, at 719-659-0345 or AT_90@yahoo.com.



CULTURE AND CYCLING IN VIETNAM

Option A: Feb. 6 – 21, 2012
\$3,295 – \$3,755

Option B: Feb. 6 – 17, 2012
\$2,409 – \$2,875

Experience the culture of Vietnam while bicycling through some of the most beautiful scenery to be found, often on quiet country roads. We'll often be sharing those roads with scooters, school children on bikes, bullocks, chickens, and other traffic. When not biking, we'll stay at mostly three- and four-star French colonial hotels and beach-front resorts. We'll visit a number of cultural sights and enjoy a number of activities such as kayaking, swimming, and short hikes. Our tour starts in Hanoi, where we will be met by our tour guide and visit a water puppet show. We'll travel to Halong Bay World Heritage Site where we will stay on a Chinese-style junk. From there we fly to the imperial city of Hue where our biking adventure begins. We'll bike in segments with a two-day stay at historic Hoi An, another World Heritage Site, before biking on to Nha Trang. From there we'll fly to Ho Chi Minh City, where Option B participants will depart for home. Option A participants continue on to the second phase of the trip—four days of biking in the beautiful Mekong Delta. Trip costs include airport pickup/drop-off, accommodations, most meals, snacks and water, maps, guides with good English, transport in

air-conditioned minibuses, water puppet show, two internal flights, Halong Bay cruise, island cruise, cycling jersey or T-shirt, taxes, and tips. Not included are airfare from the U.S. to Vietnam, entry visa, alcoholic beverages, laundry, a few meals, bike rental, or single supplement. For more information, contact Kris Ashton at (720) 733-6750 or kris@aimhigh.net.



AUSTRALIA/MOUNT KOSCIUSZKO

March 3 – 16, 2012
\$1,675 + \$1,400 airfare (approx.)

Say "G'day" and explore the unique wonders of the land down under. Upon arrival in Sydney, we'll explore this fascinating city and its scenic harbor, and begin getting a glimpse of the unique Aussie wildlife and culture, including an option to tour the world-famous Sydney Opera House. Then we'll head up to explore the hikes, vistas, and waterfalls of the Blue Mountains. From here, we'll drive to Kosciuszko National Park and hike Australia's highest peak, Mount Kosciuszko, one of the fabled Seven Summits. After returning to Sydney, we'll change gears by flying to Cairns in the tropical north of the country, and spend a day snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef, and another with a visit to the rainforest – and keep a good watch out for crocodiles! We will be hiking scenic paths of the Blue and Snowy Mountains, and prospective participants should be fit enough to tackle climbs up to 12 miles round-trip and with climbs of up to 2,000 feet. Basic alpine trekking skills are required. We will be using hostel or budget hotel accommodations, and a maximum of 12 participants will be accepted. Price includes all in-Australia transportation, lodging, park entry fees, and package Great Barrier Reef / rainforest tour; participants will be responsible for own U.S. – Australia airfare, Australian visitor visa, meals, gear, and entry fees for optional Sydney tours. Final trip price is subject to change due to fluctuation in exchange rates. For more information, contact Gary Hellenga at (406) 587-9271 or

hellenga_gary@bah.com, or Daedra Pierce at (719) 510-2453 or daedra-pierce@yahoo.com.



DEATH VALLEY HIKING

March 11 – 16, 2012
\$1262 (Single \$1830)

Castles, abandoned mines, unique wildlife, sand dunes, snow-capped mountains, canyons, layers of multi-colored rocks, and the world's lowest golf course! Don't miss this exciting opportunity to experience the legendary Death Valley, home of the Timbisha Shoshone tribe. Temperatures will be a moderate 65 to 75 degrees. Spring time is Death Valley's most colorful time of the year. Here you will experience a wide variety of wildlife, one that is unique to this desert land. Not only will you hike the one-of-a-kind terrain that only Death Valley can offer, but you will also visit Scotty's famous castle and explore the remains of abandoned mines. Massage therapy, horseback riding, tennis, golf, and horse-drawn carriage rides are only a few of the many enjoyable options that can be enjoyed during your spare time. During the week we will visit the park visitor center and museum, conduct several A or moderate B hikes as well as visit Scotty's Castle. Price includes transportation to and from the Las Vegas airport to the park, hike transportation, lodging, meals, and entrance to Scotty's Castle. An optional last night gourmet dinner can be scheduled for those interested to celebrate the end to our vacation! Lodging will be at the renovated Furnace Creek Ranch which offers a complete resort complex in the heart of Death Valley National Park. Your air-conditioned room is complemented by several restaurants, a saloon, general store, museum, and spring-fed swimming pool, in addition to other resort amenities. Not included in the trip is airfare, single supplement of \$568, alcoholic beverages, dinner on the last night, and any outside activities. A nonrefundable deposit of \$100 is due by December 31, 2011, with the balance due by January 15, 2012. Cancellation: Before January 31, 2012, amount paid is refundable less \$100 non-refundable deposit. No refunds will be given after January 30, 2012, unless a qualified replacement can be found. Contact Terry Hardie at tnjhardie@msn.com or Sharon Silva at ssilva@q.com for more information.



SEMANA SANTA IN THE SIERRA MADRES, MEXICO

April 2 – 12, 2012
\$2,700

On this 11-day, burro-assisted day hiking adventure we will explore the canyons of the Sierra Madre Mountains and the Copper Canyon area. We'll start in Los Mochis, Mexico, and be transported to the historical town of El Fuerte, founded in 1564. Then we'll board the Chihuahua al Pacifico train for an excursion through the mountains and canyons of the Sierra Madre, arriving at the rim of the Copper Canyon. We'll load the burros and head west towards Otero Canyon, one of the main river canyons in the Sierra Madre. We'll hike past Tarahumara ranchos to a small village surrounded by thousand-foot-tall cliffs and corn fields, with the little church on the promontory. Here we'll be greeted by the locals and be treated to the local Semana Santa (Easter week) festivities. Leaving the village we will hike by cliff dwelling ruins and pictographs. Then it's on to Basaseachic Falls, the third highest waterfall in

Mexico, where we will hike to view the falls and then stay at beautiful solar-powered cabanas. We'll be transported to Creel, the lumber and tourist town at the gate of the Copper Canyon area and ride the train back to El Fuerte. The last day we will explore El Fuerte, then continue on to the airport at Los Mochis. Cost includes land transportation from Los Mochis, lodging (camping four nights, hotels six nights), meals (except one breakfast, two lunches). Not included in costs are airfare to Los Mochis (approx \$750 round-trip), three meals, tips, travel insurance, and personal spending money. Cost may decrease depending on number of participants. Contact Janet Farrar wildjc@juno.com or 303-933-3066.



EVEREST MONASTERY TREK

April 14 – 28, 2012
\$2,250

Join Pemba Sherpa, a native of the Khumbu region of the Nepal Himalayas. Pemba has been guiding visitors to his homeland since 1986 and will do so again with the classic Everest monastery trek. This is a classic Nepal experience that will take you into the heart of the world's majestic Himalayan Mountains. The Everest monastery trip walks us through the renowned Khumbu region. In the "Land of the Sherpa," we partake in Nepalese and Tibetan cultures as they have existed for centuries. The Everest monastery trek offers striking scenery. We venture through unspoiled terrain while marveling at the close-up views of Everest and its neighbors. We will also spend time with Pemba's family in the "off-the-beaten path" small Sherpa village of Sengma and will relax for a couple of days in Nepal's colorful capital city of Kathmandu. For more information, please contact Pemba Sherpa 303-525-6508 or pemba@sherpaascent.com



BEST OF THE GRAND CANYON: COLORADO RIVER RAFT & HIKE

April 28 – May 10, 2012
\$4,165 (Limit 18)

Truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, this unique trip to the Grand Canyon offers participants the opportunity to experience this World Heritage Site on a motorized raft for 188 miles through the best of the canyon, departing from the historic Lee's Ferry and ending with a helicopter ride from Whitmore Wash and a plane flight back to the start. It is especially ideal for those who would like to hike in areas which can be reached only from the river, and those who have always wanted to experience the canyon but who do not wish to make the 7 mile, 4,500' backpack in and out. Our outfitter, Hatch River Expeditions, has been guiding river trips through the canyon for over 70 years. We will have four guides and 20 participants on two 35-foot S-rig boats running fuel-efficient and quiet 4-stroke outboard engines. Hatch offers us daily guided hikes at different hiking levels, or one may choose to rest in camp. There are several opportunities for point-to-point hikes where we may hike from one drainage to the next and the raft will pick us up later in the day. Register with leaders Blake Clark or Rosemary Burbank at (303) 871-0379 or blakerosmary@cs.com.



ENGLAND COAST TO COAST -
HADRIAN'S WALL PATH TREK

May 16 – 28, 2012
\$3,100

Hike across England (from the North Sea to the Irish Sea) by following an ancient Roman wall built in the 10-year period beginning in 122 A.D. by Hadrian Aelius. This marvel of medieval engineering amassed about two million tons of stones, which formed the 85-mile wall and integrated forts separating Roman occupied England from Scotland. The Wall is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Carry only what you need for a day hike on each of the eight hiking days, while your bag is transported to the next village. We will stay in small hotels and B&Bs and dine in nearby restaurants and pubs near the wall. Along the way, we will visit the Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum and the Vindolanda Roman Fort and Museum. The price includes guided trekking, 12 nights accommodation in small hotels or guesthouses, with the final night in London. All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are included, except for a few on the travel days. The price also includes transportation from and to London Heathrow Airport, tips, and cultural events. The price does not include airfare to London. Contact Linda Ditchkus lvditchkus@hotmail.com.



YAMPA RIVER RAFTING AND HIKING

June 3 – 9, 2012
\$1,226

The Yampa River is the last undammed tributary of the Colorado River system, and its free-flowing waters surge through cauldrons of big, untamed Class III and IV rapids. In its natural state, the Yampa also displays sandy beaches, deep, colorful canyons, habitats for native plants and animals, and other splendid features of a river unfettered by man-made obstructions. Its location in Dinosaur National Monument adds an intriguing archeological element, and side hikes along the river reveal ancient fossils, prehistoric Native American ruins, and petroglyphs carved into cliff walls. All these treasures are encased in a strikingly beautiful river corridor whose tall, vertical walls are a canvas of yellow and red, sometimes dramatically streaked with jet-black coloration known as "desert varnish." We will carpool to Vernal, Utah, to begin our rafting/hiking adventure. Five days on the river with four nights camping. We will have the choice of paddle boats, oar boats, or inflatable kayaks. There will be day hikes to historic and natural settings from the river. Optional last day visit to private ranch with extensive petroglyph panels in the Vernal area before driving back home. Trip includes lodging first and last nights, all meals on river, dry bags, guides, boats,

transport to and from river. Carpooling to Vernal and meals in transit not included. Participants to provide own tents and sleeping bags. For more information, please contact Janet Martel at jmartel98@gmail.com.



LANDMANNALAUGER TO SKOGAR
(ICELAND)

July 2 – 13, 2012
\$2,734 + \$1,100 airfare (approx.)

Looking for that once-(maybe twice-)in-a-lifetime adventure? Join us in Iceland, the land of many contrasts! From the Reykjavik bay at 11:30 p.m., witness the sun finally setting over the western horizon--and if you're up at 2:30 a.m., you'll see it start to rise! Beginning at Landmannalauger and keeping an eye out for any trolls along the way, our seven-day trek takes us through diverse landscapes: multi-colored hills and gullies with hundreds of steaming hot springs and mud pools (after the first day's hike, we'll have an opportunity to soak in a natural hot springs); the black deserts of Maelifellssandur; a magnificent canyon cut 600 feet down into the rocks; arctic birch forests and colorful flowers; a side trip to the Songhellir cave ("Song cave"); the climb up and thru a high pass dividing two glaciers, one of which is Eyjafjallajokull that erupted in early 2010. Your last trekking day is spent descending from that pass, enjoying the gorges and 29 waterfalls of the Skogaa River and finally spotting the seacoast along the little town of Skogar. You need to be in good physical condition for this trek and at time of registration possess at least a Denver hiking classification B or equivalent. Each day's hike consists of 6-10 miles, and 1,000-3,000 feet of elevation gain/loss. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag that will be transported with your baggage (not on your daypack). Cost of trip covers: all land transports arranged by leader; outfitter 7-day trek services including: guide, participant and baggage transports, lodging in mountain huts, all meals (first day lunch to last day lunch), cookware, 4 nights' lodging in Reykjavik before/after trek. Not covered: air fare (approx. \$1100), lunches/dinners in Reykjavik, travel insurance (recommended), guide tips, personal expenses and optional excursions. Because the Icelandic krona may fluctuate in value, please be aware that the advertised cost of trip may increase slightly. A mandatory pre-trip meeting for all participants is scheduled for sometime in April 2012. Participants are encouraged to attend at least 1 of 2 CMC leader-led hikes in May and June 2012. For more information, contact Marilyn Choske at 303-456-6279 before 9 p.m. or mchoske@juno.com.



HIKING THE ALPS OF BAVARIA AND
AUSTRIA

August 27 – September 7, 2012
\$2,700-3,300

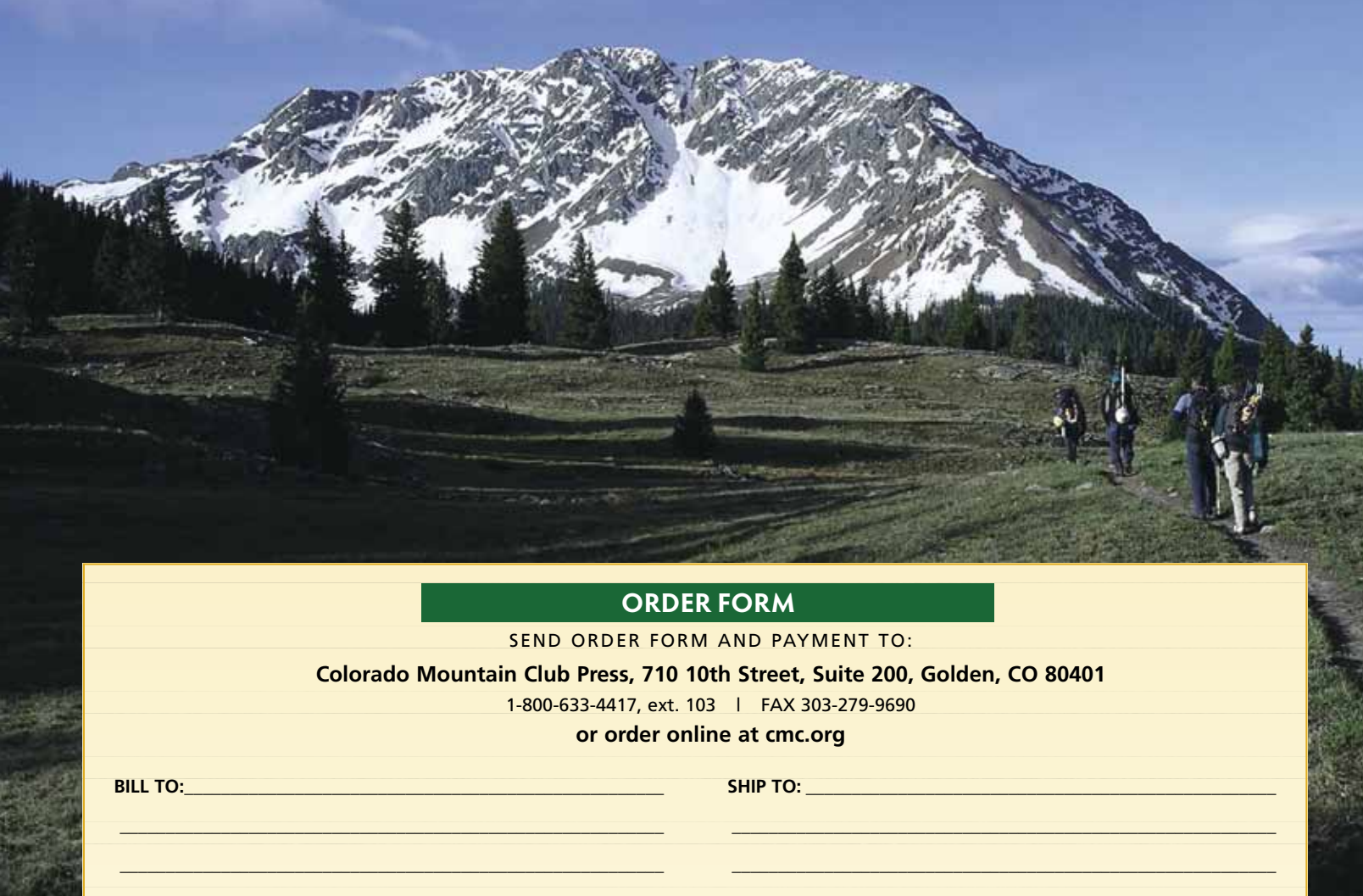
The German and Austrian Alps are a scenic region of pristine lakes and creeks, high mountains, green pastures, and thundering river gorges. The hilly countryside that's dotted by quaint villages is home to some of the most famous castles in Bavaria where we will start our trip. On the Austro-Bavarian border we will visit Germany's highest peak, Zugspitze. In Austria, we will start by exploring the glacier-carved valley of Stubaital, close to Innsbruck. From there we will continue to learn more about the Tyrolean country, while hiking and climbing in the Zillertal area. Finally, we will walk on paths of a thousand-year-old history in Salzkammergut. This area, with spectacular lakes close to the town of Salzburg, had in the past famous mines of "white gold." The historical salt trail started from here. The town of Hallstatt is a World Heritage destination. During the trip, we will stay in comfortable, often family-owned hotels and explore some of the more breathtaking parts of the world. Cost includes lodging in hotels and pensions, transportation during the trip, breakfast and most of the dinners, and leader's expenses. The price does not include airfare or travel insurance. The final cost may vary depending on currency exchange. Hikes up to B and C level. Maximum number of participants is 14. For more information contact the leader, Renata Collard, at (303) 617-4773 or Renata.Collard@ucdenver.edu



SIKKIM HIMALAYAN TREK

October 15 – November 5, 2012
\$3,220

Gyeljen Sherpa invites you to join him on a trek through ancient exotic Sikkim. Once its own Kingdom, tiny Sikkim is now a state of India. Sikkim is home to the third highest mountain in the world, Kanchenjunga (8586m / 28,169ft), one of the largest mountains in sheer size in the Himalaya. From Delhi we will take a domestic flight to Bagdogra, and then on to the legendary city of Darjeeling, home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the Tibetan government in exile. One day by jeep will bring us to the beginning of our two-week trek. We will travel through the Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve; walk in rhododendron forests, camp in small villages, visit Buddhist monasteries and shrines, traverse high alpine passes, and experience breathtaking Himalayan vistas. We will camp beside the sacred lake of Lam Pokhari and cross the high pass of Goecha La, 16,207 feet, the highest point on our route. For more information please contact Gyeljen Sherpa at alpineadventurel@gmail.com or call 720-273-7158.



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