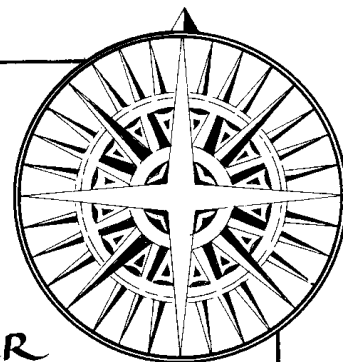




# Compass

## THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXI Number 4

April 2005

### No Monthly Program in April

Due to circumstances beyond our control we will not be offering a Monthly Program this month (there will be a May program, however).

Because Bob Guthrie will be out of the country this month making a bid to climb Mt Everest, please direct inquiries to Phil Congdon if you'd like to arrange a presentation of your own or perhaps suggest a good presenter you'd like to see.

You can reach Phil Congdon at [PSCongdon@kable.com](mailto:PSCongdon@kable.com)



Yak loaded with mountaineering provisions

### Photos and Stories Wanted

Do you have any neat photos you've taken recently (either digital or film)? How about a story of one of your hikes or climbs? If so, the Compass would like to hear from you!

The Compass newsletter is the chronicle of the Boulder Group, keeping our members informed and sharing stories about CMC'ers for more than twenty years. If you have a tale to tell or a picture to share with your friends, please send it via email to the Compass at [dwyattwalker@direcway.com](mailto:dwyattwalker@direcway.com) or via the U.S. Postal Service to: *Compass Newsletter*, c/o Boulder Group, Colorado Mountain Club, 633 South Broadway, Unit N, Boulder 80305

### 4 CMCers Head for Everest this Month

April and May will be exciting. Four CMC members from Boulder are attempting Everest in two separate parties! Bob Guthrie and Steve Paulson are in Nepal and so are Kent and Cathleen Groninger, all for the purpose of tackling the crown jewel of the mountaineering world.

Many of you may know Bob Guthrie from the Monthly Program series which he has run in our Boulder Clubroom for the past several years. This will mark the completion of the "Seven Summits" for Bob. And of course Steve Poulson has been a Senior BMS Instructor with us for years, as well as an AMS Instructor and dedicated member of Rocky Mountain Rescue. They will attempt to summit this month.

Kent Groninger is a Boulder Group CMC member who currently serves on the CMC State Board of Directors. He is also a Past Chairman of the Boulder Group. He and Cathleen will become the oldest married couple ever to climb Mount Everest together, and Kent hopes to wave a Colorado Mountain Club flag at the summit in late May.

Attempting Everest is an incredible feat in itself and represents the fulfillment of many years of mountaineering. We are pleased and honored to wish Bob, Steve, Kent and Cathleen our very best as they set out on this great adventure. We look forward to hearing their stories when they return!

For information and news you can check the Web pages at: [www.everestnews.com](http://www.everestnews.com) and [www.alpineascents.com/everest.asp](http://www.alpineascents.com/everest.asp) and [www.adventure-zen.com](http://www.adventure-zen.com)

### Hiking School Registration Begins April 7th

Have you ever wanted to take a hike or go backpacking somewhere but didn't know where to go or what to bring along? Ever wondered how to read a trail map or use a compass to find your way? Concerned about what to do if you have to spend the night in the wilderness? Then the Boulder Hiking School (BHS) may be just the school for you!

BHS is a thorough beginner to intermediate course that will teach you those specific skills and more, plus provide you with the opportunity to review the skills you already have. The school concentrates on the non-technical skills that will increase your enjoyment of the mountains and help you deal with unexpected situations that may arise. It will also allow you to meet other hikers with the same interests.

BHS consists of five classes with two required field trips, two optional field trips and hikes on the other weekends. It is open to all CMC members who are at least 14 years



— continued on page 2, see **BHS**

— BHS, continued from page 1

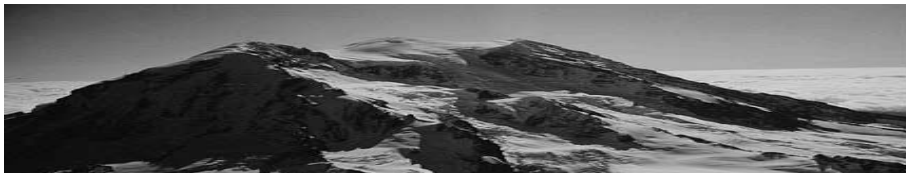
old as of April 21. The cost of the school is \$50. Non-members may join the CMC and register for BHS at the same time (two separate checks will be required). Applications may be obtained at the Clubroom during regular hours or online anytime at <http://cmcboulder.org/>.

You may register in person on April 7th from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Boulder Clubroom or after April 7th. Applications with payment may also be mailed to the Boulder Clubroom. All classes are from 6:30 to 9 on Thursday nights at the Clubroom, starting April 21.

### Boulder Hiking School Spring 2005 Schedule

April 21, Thursday	intro, slide show, trip planning & safety, clothing lectures
April 28, Thursday	map & compass lecture
April 30, Saturday or May 1, Sunday	map & compass field trip (required)
May 5, Thursday	nutrition & environmental illness, weather lectures
May 12, Thursday	snow travel, backpacking lectures
May 14, Saturday or May 15, Sunday	snow travel field trip (optional)
May 19, Thursday	survival lecture
May 21, Saturday or May 22, Sunday	survival field trip (required)
June 4 & 5	backpacking field trip (optional)

For more information contact the Hiking School Director, Phil Congdon at 303-926-1408, email [bhs@cmcboulder.org](mailto:bhs@cmcboulder.org) or [PSCongdon@kable.com](mailto:PSCongdon@kable.com)



## Climb Mt Rainier with the CMC, July 6-10

Experience Mount Rainier with the High Altitude Mountaineering section of the Denver Group of the CMC. We will approach via the Camp Schurman route and summit via the Emmons Glacier. Mount Rainier rises 14,411 feet above sea level. BMS and HAMS graduates or equivalent experience necessary for the Difficult D-E trip. Maximum 8 participants plus leaders; so sign up early.

Participants of this outing will learn the vital importance of teamwork for safe and successful mountaineering while experiencing the physical and mental challenges of the highest freestanding mountain in the lower 48 states. Mount Rainier is the most heavily glaciated peak in the contiguous United States with 26 officially named glaciers that covers over 35 square miles. Mount Rainier is part of the "Ring of Fire", 14 major volcanic peaks in the Cascades. The team will travel through Mount Rainier's lowland forests and sub alpine meadows through the alpine zone onto the permanent ice and snow. The team will utilize skills of roped glacier travel and winter camping developed through Denver's HAMS School.

Participation in conditioning trips, including an overnight trip and crevasse rescue practice, is required. Price includes all land costs including celebratory post summit meal all other meals, post climb hotel and airfare are not included in price. Application deadline is April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Fees include \$4251 and cost plus \$360 estimated airfare. A waiting list will also be created. Contact leaders Greg Olson C: 303 587-2847, [gpolson@comcast.net](mailto:gpolson@comcast.net) or Doug Cook H: 303 471-1241 for information and application.

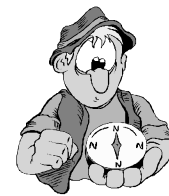
## Compass Mailing Party April 21

Come to the Clubroom and help us mail out the May Compass. This is a relaxed way to meet people and give something back to your favorite club.

The newsletter will be ready to mail on Thursday, April 21, at 5:30pm, so please just drop in and pitch in! Phone Sheila at 303-554-7688 for more information.

## Get Your Maps for Free!

We have a bunch of free topo maps and calendar photographs in the clubroom so please stop by and see if there's anything you'd like to take with you.



## Where Are We?!?

The Boulder Clubroom is located in the Table Mesa Shopping Center on Broadway. It's on the upper level, around the west corner from the Neptune Mountaineering store and straight back. You can also park on the lower level and walk up the stairs in front of the Movie Gallery.

## Compass

**Editors:** Don Walker, Danita Dickinson

**Published monthly by:** Boulder Group, Colorado Mountain Club, 633 South Broadway, Unit N, Boulder 80305

**Boulder Group Chair:** Doug Turley, email [dougsturley@yahoo.com](mailto:dougsturley@yahoo.com)

**Clubroom hours:** Open Monday thru Thursday, 5 to 7 pm. (Voicemail always activated).

**Telephone:** 303-554-7688

**Email:** [bcmc@bcn.boulder.co.us](mailto:bcmc@bcn.boulder.co.us)

**Web Page:** <http://cmcboulder.org/>

Annual CMC membership dues start at \$63. For membership information, call the Clubroom.

*We welcome announcements, articles, letters, artwork, and photos. Please submit material by the first Monday of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Contact Compass editor at [dwyattwalker@direcway.com](mailto:dwyattwalker@direcway.com)*

## Hey, guys, we need volunteers Right Now!

For more than 90 years the Colorado Mountain Club has been a volunteer-driven organization and as a CMC member you can be an important part of the formula for our success, so please step up and offer a little of yourself to keep the club going.

Why not serve on a committee this year? It's easy. Below are a few immediate openings we need to fill. For information call Sheila Delamere, CMC Volunteer Coordinator, at 303-554-7688 during Clubroom office hours, Monday through Thursday, 5pm to 7pm.

• *Publicity Committee* • *Safety Committee* • *State Board*

• **Compass Newsletter Editor.** The Boulder Group's beloved newsletter is in need of a new editor. The Compass newsletter is the chronicle of the Boulder Group, keeping our members informed and sharing stories about CMC'ers for more than twenty years. Qualifications for editor include a minimal knowledge of desktop publishing and some familiarity with the Club. Plenty of OJT is available so if you even vaguely think you might be interested, then please contact Boulder Chair, Doug Turley, for more information at [dougsturley@yahoo.com](mailto:dougsturley@yahoo.com), or temporary editor, Don Walker at [dwyattwalker@direcway.com](mailto:dwyattwalker@direcway.com).

### CMC Mountaineering Gear Sale

The 2005 CMC equipment sale will be on Friday, April 22, 6-8 pm in Golden at the **American Mountaineering Center** ground floor conference room. So please stop in and buy (or sell) some great gear!

#### SELLERS:

For each item you are selling, attach an envelope upon which is printed your NAME, ITEM, SELLING PRICE, WHETHER YOU WILL ACCEPT A CHECK; attach envelope to item. All items must be tagged before bringing them to the sale. Bring your items to the Golden clubroom on Thursday, April 21, 4-7:00 pm or on Friday, April 22, after 9:00 am and no later than 5:30pm.

Any outdoor gear is appropriate for the sale, technical clothing only, no street clothes. Also no older model straight downhill skis. All monies go directly to sellers. If you want to donate the sale of your item(s) to the CMC, please note "CMC" on the envelope; checks to be made payable to CMC. CMC is not liable for lost/stolen sale items.

All unsold items must be picked up from the clubroom the night of the sale, Friday, April 22, by 8:30 pm or prior arrangements for unsold item pickup must be made. Any items left after sale on Friday night will be donated. The office staff will retain sale envelopes for one week after the sale. Any monies not picked up by Friday, April 29, will be donated to the CMC

#### BUYERS:

BRING VARYING BILL DENOMINATIONS OR CHECKS FOR PURCHASES; NO CHANGE-MAKING BY CMC WILL BE AVAILABLE. Doors for sale will open at 6:00 pm; no "early birds" (including sellers dropping off items).

Questions? Want to volunteer to help out? Contact Zoe Katsulos by email (preferred) at [zfoto@aol.com](mailto:zfoto@aol.com) or phone, 303-772-4504. Thanks!

### How Do I Choose a Climbing Partner?

—an article by John Keller

This question has probably started more heated discussions than most others within the context of climbing and mountaineering. It comes up quite often during BMS the Rock Leading School from both students looking for partners and among instructors trying to find ways to teach this topic. This article is the result of many of those discussions.

#### Not like choosing a running partner

I'll start by putting this question into the context of risk. If you make a poor decision about a running partner, what sort of risk are you incurring? They may be too slow or too fast. They may want to push you or ask you to wait. Your biggest risk is ending up running alone. The likelihood of the bad choice of running partner resulting in serious injury or death is pretty slim. The same can be said for many other activities. Climbing or technical mountaineering however, is different. How many climbing 'accidents' resulting in serious injury or death can be attributed to choosing a bad partner? Even at the most basic level of top roping, climbing with a partner is about trusting them with your life. One way to help figure out how to choose good partners is to think about it in this context.

#### Finding someone who thinks about risks the same way as you

You always want to pick someone who is safe. However, it is very difficult to talk about who is safe and who is not when it comes to climbing. A better term to use is the sense of risk. Risk and safety are fundamental concepts to mountaineering, and take years to learn, and are of primary importance in choosing a partner. The most comfortable kind of partner is one that thinks about risk the way you do. Someone who is less willing to take risks than you may result in a boring outing. Someone who is willing to take much greater risks than you may result in an outing that is way too scary for you.

#### Interpersonal interaction and risk

Don't forget that your risk can be increased if there are interpersonal problems between partners. The most common example is the couple, both of whom are safe but get into trouble because they let some sort of

— continued on page 4, see **Partner**

— **Partner**, continued from page 3

climb with. We just don't get along either because I have a problem with them or them with me or both. It isn't a matter of trust; it's just that when emotions get mixed up with judgment, bad things can happen.

### **Experienced climbers have learned how to pick**

You've probably seen the bulletin boards in the climbing shop, gym or crag with notes asking for climbing partners. I used to think this was crazy. I thought, "These people are nuts to just go out and climb with somebody they don't know. That just isn't safe." Recently, I found myself on a road trip with a few days to kill and no partner. In desperation I went climbing with somebody I'd just met and found that I had enough background through teaching and more than 20 years of climbing to be able to assess their safety level fairly quickly. This is not something I recommend for novices.

In thinking about how to write this article, I realized that I was not a good judge of how beginning climbers should choose a partner. Experienced climbers and mountaineers have all kinds of ways of determining if a new partner is safe or compatible. So I went back to ask my dad. The climbing community in which I grew up had examples of both good and bad choices for partners. My dad and I were fortunate enough to connect up with some really good mentors. So as someone with little climbing experience, how did he choose these people rather than some who might have been a worse choice?

### **Finding a mentor is one way to go**

I was very fortunate growing up to have several terrific climbing mentors in a large part due to the ability of my father to assess good partners. There are many stories of experienced climbers who take novices out on hard routes that they aren't ready for. This is not what I mean by a mentor. A mentor is someone who is willing to spend time working with you at your level rather than dragging you out to try to do things at their level.

## **CMC-approved Adventure Travel**

### **Lewis and Clark at the Pacific Ocean August 7-12, 2005, \$1092**

We will meet in Portland to visit some of the same sites as Lewis and Clark after their 4,132 miles of swollen rivers, backbreaking portages and difficult mountain passages.

See Beacon Rock where they detected tidal effects, hike in old growth forests of hemlock and redwood, spend a day with a Yakima/Bannock tribesman to watch dip net fishing and hear about the importance of salmon and sturgeon to the tribes. At the Indian community at Celio Falls, visit a long house and hear stories about the expedition. Hike to a rock art site, tour Bonneville Dam, do a loop hike in the Columbia River gorge.

We'll see the replica of Fort Clatsop where the expedition spent the winter of 1805. Enjoy a beach hike through a virgin coastal forest the same as 200 years ago.

Class B. Price includes three nights camping, two nights hotel in Cannon Beach, transport to trailheads, most meals, cook, guide, tents, Native American speakers, entrance fees.

For more information contact leader Bea Slingsby, 303-422-3728 or [beahive@comcast.net](mailto:beahive@comcast.net).



"Ok John, that's all well and good but I'm a beginner; I don't have all this experience and background to draw from... how do I pick?" Here are a few rules and suggestions that beginners might find useful when choosing a partner. Basically, the idea is to get to know them before you put your life in their hands and you must be willing to say no.

**1) Research their background** - Ask around. If you have somebody in mind, find out about their reputation. This is especially easy to do with climbers involved in the CMC. They have either been students or instructors and you should be able to find out something about their background either through other instructors or through the BMS committee.

**2) Do something less demanding or dangerous** - Patience is important. Try something less risky than a difficult 14er in the Elk Range as your first trip together. Go top roping and assess their ability and knowledge with the gear. Go on a hike and talk to them about how they assess risk.

**3) Last chance** - If they won't let you check their knot, go home! This is one thing I have told all my climbing students. If you are out with somebody you don't know well and you are tying into the rope, ask to check their knots and harness and ask them to check yours. If they won't do it or seem to have an attitude about it, just untie and go home. Remember, if Lynn Hill, arguably one of the best rock climbers ever, can forget to tie in completely a take a 70ft ground fall, anybody can.

May the mountains keep you safe!

### ***ABACUS TAX SERVICE***

Great Rates / Free Estimates

House Calls

1040 and Business Returns

Financial Planning

E-filing • All States • Prior Years

Ray Lewis, Boulder CMC Member

720 519 0563

[raylewis@mac.com](mailto:raylewis@mac.com)

## April 2005 Boulder Group Trips

### Saturday, April 02

#### *The Boulderado, Idle Hands* **II Climb, 5.6**

This Boulder Canyon crag offers a variety of climbs in the 5.4 to 5.8 range. We will climb Idle Hands 5.6. James Garnett 303 564-8173

### Sunday, April 03

#### *Front Range Powder Stash* **Telemark Ski Trip**

Leader will choose from one of several Front Range powder pockets. Must like trees! Climbing skins and good telemark/downhill skills required. Avalanche gear encouraged. Call between 9am and 9pm only. Steven Haymes 303 444-4765

#### *Bastille Crack, The Bastille* **II Climb, 5.6**

This is truly an Eldorado Classic! Climb four pitches of cracks ranging from hand jams to finger cracks up the nearly vertical Bastille Wall. Irina Overeem 720 304-8134

*South Mesa Trail Loop* **Difficult A**  
Leader's choice of a loop using the trails at the south end of the Mesa Trail. Weather and group preferences will be controlling factors. Don Kava 303 494-2632

### Saturday, April 09

#### *James Peak* **Telemark Ski Trip**

Ski to the summit of James Peak from St Mary's trailhead. A classic Front Range high alpine tour and a relatively safe introduction to ski mountaineering. Intermediate telemark/downhill skills required. Willy Gully 303 939-8382

#### *Verschneidung Dihedral* **II Climb, 5.7**

A classic climb on good quality rock starts with two right-facing corners, either a 5.6 left or a 5.4 right. The crux is a 5.7 'V' slot via a unique 1.5-inch crack. Christa Cline 303 530-4686

### Sunday, April 10

#### *Mt. Sanitas* **6,863'** **Difficult A**

A short, hard hike that has rewarding views of the plains from the top of a rocky ridge at the mouth of Sunshine Canyon. Don Kava 303 494-2632

#### *Mt. Bierstadt 14,060'* **Moderate C**

From Guanella Pass, climb one of the easy 14ers. Fine views of the other 14ers and the Sawtooth. If we're lucky, snowshoes will be required. Seth Allen 303 554-5546

### Saturday, April 16

#### *East Face, Dinosaur Rock* **I Climb, 5.4**

This prominent rock is seen from the Mallory Cave Trail as it approaches the first tier of rocks on Dinosaur Mountain. Climb 300 feet of enjoyable rock on this Flatiron classic. A sunny (if the weather is right) two-pitch romp. Walter Pienciak 303 527-0936

### Sunday, April 17

#### *The Riviera, Boulder Canyon,* **Sport Climbing** **II Climb, 5.7**

Come join us in exploring a wide range of sport climbs from 5.7 to 5.10. Ron Olsen 303 449-1935

### Thursday, April 21

#### *East Slab, The Dome* **I Climb, 5.5**

Walk the bridge over Boulder Creek, then follow a disappearing crack on this short, fun climb in Boulder Canyon. Bruce Immele 303 903-4517

### Saturday, April 23

#### *West Ridge Sampler* **Area Climb, 5.7**

5.6/5.7 one-pitch climbs. "Mescaline" (5.8), Dr. Michael Solar, Washington Irving, Knights Moves. We will do some or all of these and more as time and inclination allow. Brenda Leach 303 525-3660

### Sunday, April 24

#### *Mt. Sanitas 6,863'* **Difficult A**

A short, hard full-moon hike that has rewarding views of the plains from the top of a rocky ridge at the mouth of Sunshine Canyon. Rada Perovic 303 985-3263

### Wednesday, April 27

#### *East of the Sun, The Dome* **II Climb, 5.7**

This two pitch is a great test for the new climber. A couple of the moves require really trusting the footwork. Christa Cline 303 530-4686

### Thursday, April 28

#### *Calypso, Wind Tower* **II Climb, 5.6**

Afternoon climbing. Dance up a face (or cop out to the chimney), and dihedrals on this sustained Eldorado three-star classic. Irina Overeem 720 304-8134

### Saturday, April 30

#### *Duh Dihedral, West Ridge,* **Eldorado Canyon** **II Climb, 5.6**

Practice your liebacks and offwidth techniques on this excellent one-pitch crack at the top of Eldo's West Ridge Trail. Rappel descent. We'll pass and point out many classic Eldo climbs on the approach, including the Naked Edge. James Garnett 303 564-8173

#### *Catscratch, Fifth Flatiron* **I Climb, 5.4**

Hike up the Royal Arch Trail to this Flatiron, which is identified by the deep parallel cracks on the east face known as the Catscratch Cracks. The east face can be climbed in four to six pitches. A spectacular 75-foot rappel returns you to the ground. George Barisas 970 229-9872



**compass**  
Colorado Mountain Club  
Table Mesa Shopping Center  
633 South Broadway, Unit N  
Boulder, CO 80305

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Boulder, CO

## CMC-sponsored Adventure Travel

### Trekking in New Zealand

**Feb 25 - Mar 12, 2006, \$3,565 (includes air fare)**

Join us for another great CMC outing to the land of Lord of the Rings. This trip will feature moderate backpacking and do both the Milford and Routeburn Tracks on the South Island. These are among the most scenic and rewarding walks of the world and some consider them as New Zealand's "flagship tracks."

Off days are scheduled for Queenstown, the recreation center of the South Island, and on the North Island, Auckland, the country's largest city.

Besides air fare, the price includes ground transportation, boat ride on Milford Sound, lodging, any group gear, CMC outing fee, and track fees. Tents and stoves are not needed on the tracks as we'll stay in bunkhouses. Food is individual and can be purchased in New Zealand.

Participants should be in condition for backpacking 35 lb. loads on occasional moderately steep grades and at a CMC B/C level. Snow or sleet may be encountered on high passes, and rain is always a possibility.

Limit is 11 hikers; recent graduation from an entry level hiking skills program such as the Boulder Hiking School is desirable. Final cost may vary depending on air fares and the currency exchange rate.

For a trip packet, contact the leader, Steve Bonowski, at [nztrekker@earthlink.net](mailto:nztrekker@earthlink.net), or P.O. Box 280286, Lakewood CO 80228. Packet is available only by regular mail. No phone calls, please.