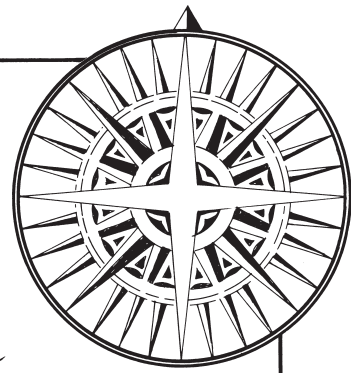




Compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXII Number 12

December 2006

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Annual Dinner: A Good Time Was Had By All!

The annual dinner was held on Saturday, November 4, 2006, at the Avalon Ballroom, with 181 confirmed attendees. The new format broke from tradition in that it was 1) a BYOB potluck, not catered, 2) was not at the CU Memorial Center, and 3) was followed by Swedish folk dancing! It was a huge success, if I may say so, with everyone with whom I spoke, so we are planning on the same format next year. Tonya Riggs delivered a highly engaging presentation on her successful ascent of Mt Everest earlier this year, with a professional video that had been made by the expedition sponsors, followed by her own pictures; there were many poignant moments. You can see the video and all other information about the expedition at www.everestpeaceproject.com. As for photographs of the event: *continued on page 5, Annual Dinner*

Profile: Kent Groinger

[Editor's Note: This month's profile is with one of the leading figures of our club, Kent Groinger, with whom it has indeed been a pleasure to create this interview for your pleasure and enjoyment.]



Kent and Cathleen Groinger at Khumbu Icefall, May 2006

Kent, I know you have a long background with the Club. Could you summarize for our readers how long you've been involved, and the positions of leadership that you've held?

I've been a member of the Club for over 30 years. I joined the Boulder Group in 1975 to take BMS. I followed a common progression of being a "junior," then instructor in the school. I served as chair of the Boulder Group in the early eighties. I was on the board of the Colorado Mountain Club Foundation (CMCF)

for many years and continue to serve on the CMCF's Scholarship Committee. I have been on the CMC State Board for the last four years. I also serve on the five-person CMC Executive Committee and am the current chair of the CMC/CMCF Joint Development Committee.

Your climbing resume is quite impressive: all the Colorado Fourteeners, the highest points in Africa, the Alps, Europe, North and South America, and the former Soviet Union. You also submitted Cho Oyu (at 26,906', the sixth highest mountain) at the age of 50 without Sherpa support and without supplemental oxygen. You have been on nine foreign expeditions, including one to Mt. Everest last year. How important was your training in the CMC in getting you started with that?

In a word, absolutely critical. The skills, experience, and camaraderie offered by the Club have provided the entire foundation for this wonderful hobby that my wife, Cathleen, and I have enjoyed for a few decades. Climbing has introduced us to beautiful, remote scenery in much of Colorado, scores of other states, and many spots in the world. We are very, very, thankful for the fabulous adventures and close friends that the Club has given us.

As we are all aware, the Club has been continued on page 2, Groinger

Groinger interview, continued from page 1 going through a lot of changes the last few years regarding concerns of dropping membership levels—enough so that the state is now forming a Membership Task Force. Given your perspective as a member of the State Board, what actions do you think the Club should be doing to increase and retain our members?

Our declining membership is truly disturbing, although I understand that many civic membership organizations are experiencing the same phenomenon. The Membership Task Force will hopefully provide some careful analysis and creative strategies. Personally, I think two thrusts would be very helpful. One, curtail our large turnover—which runs above 30%! In other words, about every third person that joins doesn't renew the next year. Reducing our turnover by even a few percent would completely arrest our declining membership problem. We need to be sure that new members are given a special, warm, welcome to the Club. Set the hook—let's invite/drag a new member along on our next hike, climb, or ski/snowshoe outing. Each of us is a personal ambassador of the Club, and we have a tremendous opportunity to not only recruit, but to convert a new member into a long-term member.

Two, we need to target young people. Our membership is not only shrinking, but also growing in average age. (I suspect the Club's average age goes up nearly one year each passing year.) I think a good tactic for recruiting the younger generation is to have a state-of-the-art website—one that is engaging and useful. Why shouldn't we be able to sign up for trips online; read the route description; see and download a map; talk with the leader; find out what the snow conditions were on the trip last week, etc. We need pizzazz, and we need tools, on our website. I believe this would be an important way to reach new, young, members. I'm aware that a few dedicated volunteers are working hard to improve our web image. But we need more resources and more talented volunteers to keep the boxcar accelerating in this critical area.

One of the obvious roles that the CMC provides our community is teaching people how to enjoy and be safe in the

mountains. I believe one of the other effects that the Club has is to let people develop as leaders—not just on outdoors trips—but to go back into their community, families, and jobs and provide leadership and contributions in other ways. Could you comment on how the CMC helps people develop in this way, and have you seen examples of where this might have happened?

Rick, this is a perceptive thought; one I hadn't had before. But you are right, our schools, our trips, our opportunities to serve on the Council and other responsible positions, build self-confidence and self-esteem—both essential ingredients in the porridge of leadership. In our current society, beset with inflated grades and unearned compliments, the Club provides a safe environment to genuinely test oneself. We are encouraged to step outside our comfort zone, to reach higher, and to grow from succeeding in something that we didn't dream we could have. Outward Bound, in particular, has made a business of this for many years. Our Club is clearly also making an important contribution.

Regarding examples, Rick, I'm sure you are one, since you had the insight to ask the question. I, too, can certainly be counted among the many beneficiaries of the Club's leadership development. The Club's contribution in this area is certainly unheralded. Nonetheless, I am sure it is privately recognized and deeply appreciated by many current and past Club members. □

Website Updates for cmcboulder.org

► Photo Upload reminder: you can upload your pictures to the website under menu item Groups/Share Your Photo. Submit your picture for an Action Photo of the Month!

► Get informed on all BCMC events with the online Calendar (under menu item Group/Calendar).

► The online reservation system for the Brainard cabin is ongoing. Thanks to the efforts of Tom Crosman, Peter Ruh and Otto for their continuing efforts. This will happen!

► A directory of BMS email addresses for the schools will soon be available under Contact/BMS.

► Please give us your feedback! What works on the website? What doesn't work? The website is still a work in progress where your input could be very helpful. And that goes for the Compass too! □

Got Inspiration?

Though it has nothing to do with the CMC other than being outdoors, I thought members might find the story of Dean Karnazes interesting. This is the fellow who recently completed 50 marathons in 50 days, sponsored by North Face. Get the whole story at www.endurance50.com. Pretty amazing! □

Volunteers Needed

Mailing party December 21

Come to the Clubroom and help mail out the January Compass! This is a relaxed way to meet people and give something back to your favorite club. The next issue will be ready to mail on Thursday, December 21, at 5:30pm, so please just drop in. Phone Sheila at 303-554-7688 for more information. □

compass

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email for general CMC information: bcmc@cmcboulder.org

website: cmcboulder.org

We welcome announcements, articles, letters, artwork, and photos, especially from recent CMC trips and events.

Next Compass deadline: Dec 10

New Rules for Brainard Lake Ski Trails

When you arrive at the winter parking area at Brainard, you will see the beautiful new map of the trail system, as well as the new rules. Little Raven and the CMC-South trails are "skier only". Dogs are allowed only on Left Hand and Brainard roads, and the Sourdough Trail. Remember we are all out there to have fun, we all support the USFS and what they are doing, and we should all comply. If, however, we feel like explaining the rules to others, we should be civil -- after all, this is not Washington, D.C.!

-- contributed by Peter Birkeland

Skunk Recipe

This recipe for ridding yourself of the smell of skunk, should you have such an unfortunate encounter, appeared in the New York Times, September 26, 2006, on page D3. The subject of the article, Luanne Johnson, said that the traditional tomato juice treatment only covers the smell. She is a PhD student in environmental science studying the skunks that live on Cape Code, and knows whereof she speaks. The remedy came originally from William Wood, a chemist at Humboldt State University:

Ingredients:

1 quart 3 per cent hydrogen peroxide
1/4 cup sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)
1 tsp liquid detergent

Directions:

- 1) Bathe the affected person/animal with the liquid.
- 2) Wait five minutes, then rinse with water.
- 3) Repeat as necessary.

Warnings:

- Could result in bleaching of hair color!
- Use immediately.
- Do not store. The mixture releases oxygen gas.

BMS Winter Classes Are Underway

Boulder Mountaineering Schools are in full swing; please sign up quickly to avoid getting closed out! There are full descriptions of all classes as well as application forms available on the website (cmcboulder.org) under the BMS section. This is a brief listing of available classes:

Area Telemark Clinic:

Lecture: 1/3/07 Field trips: 1/7/06, 1/14/07. (Full but can apply to be wait-listed)

Avalanche Level I:

Session 1: Lectures: 12/5/06, 12/7/06
Field Trips: 12/9/06 Session 2: Lectures: 1/16/07, 1/18/07 Field Trips: 1/20/07

Basic Snow Travel:

Lecture: 11/28/06 Field Trip: 12/2-3/06 weekend (either Sat or Sun)



Cross Country Ski Clinic:

Lecture: 12/5/06 Field trips: 12/9/06 and/or 12/16/06);

Ice Climbing School:

Lecture 1/11/07 Field Trip : 1/20/07 or 1/21/07 (either Sat or Sun);

Ski Mountaineering:

Deadline for applications is 2/14/07.
Three Lectures: 3/6/07, 3/13/07, 3/20/07.
Five Field Trips: 3/24/07 or 3/25/07, 4/21/07 or 4/22/07, 4/21/07 or 4/22/07, 5/6/07 or 5/7/07, 5/19/07-5/21/07);

Winter Camping:

Lecture 1/15/07 Field Trip: 2/3/07-2/4/07). □



Joan on 4th pitch of South Ridge of Der Freischutz. Photo by Alan Chudnow

First Full Graduate of the New BMS: Joan Chiasson

Boulder CMC member Joan Chiasson was awarded her BMS certificate of graduation at the Annual Dinner on Nov. 4th. Joan enrolled in the 2006 spring schools and completed her requirements in just 5 months! She joined the CMC after moving to Colorado from New Mexico in Sept., 2000, to meet other people with similar outdoor interests and took the hiking and backpacking schools. However, she says, "when I learned about BMS, I decided to take the entire course because I wanted to have a complete set of mountaineering skills and be able to go on CMC trips for which BMS is a requirement." Learning rock climbing and ice axe skills was a new experience for Joan, who plans to continue her mountaineering education through 2007 by taking Avalanche Level 1, Winter Camping, and Intermediate Snow.

-- contributed by Thom Phillips

Annual Dinner, continued from page 1

there weren't any!

*CMC Annual Dinner
November 4, 2006:
Everyone was having such
a good time
that no one took any pictures!
(Better luck next year!)*

December 2006 Trips

Tuesday, November 28

Avalanche Level 1 Lecture
Lecture #1
Level 1 certifications is an Introduction to avalanche awareness and safety, including identifying avalanche terrain, making good route-finding decisions, & performing field tests to learn snow stability. Recognizing weather, terrain, & snow factors contributing to instability, and learning fast and efficient transceiver rescue. School consists of 2 lectures, 6-10pm, (11/28 & 11/30) One field trip (12/02). (Signup was Nov 6.) BMS Winter Field Trips Overview and Signup Meeting. Meet at Mt Calgary Lutheran Church, Boulder, 6:00 pm. Register with leader. Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564. Pat O'Brien, (303) 926-9548. (Trip#35903)

Basic Snow School Lecture
Boulder Basic Snow school covering snow travel techniques, useful for Colorado peaks in late spring/early summer. Learn about safe ascent and descent of moderate snow slopes using an ice axe, self-arrest, and self-belay techniques, and other considerations for snow travel. Helmets and ice axes provided. Field trip on 12/2 or 12/3. Contact Dick Munro, snow@cmcboulder.org., (303) 499-1489. (Trip#37108)

Thursday, November 30

Avalanche Level 1 Lecture
Lecture #2
Level 1 certifications is an introduction to avalanche awareness and safety, including identifying avalanche terrain, making good route-finding decisions, & performing field tests to learn snow stability, recognizing weather, terrain, & snow factors contributing to instability, and learning fast and efficient transceiver rescue. For registered students only. Meet at Mt Calgary Lutheran Church, Boulder, 6:00 pm. Register with leader. Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564. Pat O'Brien, (303) 926-9548. (Trip#35904)

Saturday, December 2

Avalanche Level 1 Field Trip

Field Trip
Field trip to Berthoud Pass Area. For registered students only. (See listing on 11/28 & 11/30 for details. Signup was on Nov 6.) Meet at 6:00 am. Register with leader. Cindy Gagnon, (303) 938-8564. Pat O'Brien, (303) 926-9548. (Trip#35905)

Basic Snow School Field Trip
Basic Snow School field trip. See listing on 11/28/2006 for details. Dick Munro, (303) 499-1489. (Trip#37109)

Sunday, December 3

Basic Snow School Field Trip
Basic Snow School field trip. See listing on 11/28/2006 for details. Dick Munro, (303) 499-1489. (Trip#37110)

Tuesday, December 5

Cross-country Ski Clinic
Instruction Session
An evening of instruction on the basics of cross-country ski touring for beginning and intermediate skiers. Lectures cover clothing, equipment and technique. This will prepare you for on-snow lessons on one or both of the following Saturdays 12/9 and 1/6. Look for details in October and November Compass. Call Clubroom to enroll and pay small fee. Questions? Call leader. Peter Birkeland, (303) 442-0304. (Trip#35828)

Saturday, December 9

Ski Touring Instruction Field Trip
Ski tour lessons for beginners & intermediate skiers who attended the 12/5 lecture. Learn new techniques or brush up on old ones. Call Clubroom to sign up: 303/554-7688. 5/100'. 70 mi. Peter Birkeland, (303) 442-0304. (Trip#35829)

Sunday, December 10

Nebraska Hill 11534
Difficult Snowshoe
From Moffat Tunnel, follow trail for the first mile then bushwhack steeply through trees to the summit. Snowshoes and wind gear required. East Portal/Em-

pire. 5/2,300'. Seth Allen, (303) 554-5546. (Trip#35940)

Saturday, December 16

Saturday Social for Spirit & Sweat
Moderate A
The Saturday Social is a half-day hike with a social spirit and a sweaty end. We then try to warm up over some coffee or lunch. We meet at the Boulder CMC clubroom. Please arrive at 9:00 a.m. and help decide our destination. Come prepared to hike in any weather. Register with leader. Marilyn Fellows, (303) 499-6099. (Trip#35864)

Long John Wall III Climb
West Ridge 5.8
Eldorado Canyon
Classic. We will take the Break on Through start, giving us a total of 3 great 5.8 pitches. If time permits, we will climb other routes in the area such as Chiante, Vershneidung, and The Unsaid. Larry Pedigo, (720) 938-5178. (Trip#35878)

Little Raven Trail Mod. I Ski Tour
Follow Little Raven Trail to Brainard Lake and return on Waldrop Trail. Ward. 7/500'. 4.5 mi. Register with leader. Bob Lewis, (303) 232-9587. (Trip#35816)

Ski Touring Field Trip

Ski tour lessons for beginners & intermediate skiers who attend the 12/5 lecture. Learn new techniques or brush up on old ones. Call Clubroom to sign up: 303/554-7688. 5/100'. 70 mi. Patricia Butler, (303) 440-0586. (Trip#35830)

Sunday, December 17

The Loch Difficult A
We will snowshoe according to trail conditions starting at Glacier Gorge and ascend to Loch Vale to this lake surrounded by high RMNP peaks. McHenry Pk. 5/940'. Louie Genduso, (303) 518-8948. (Trip#35871)

Long Lake Easy III Ski Tour
Ascend CMC/South Trail to far side of Long Lake and return. Ward. 8/600'.

December 2006 Trips

Register with leader. **Gary Neptune**, (303) 499-6751. (Trip#35849) [*Emphasis added by editor.*]

Little Raven Trail Mod. II Ski Tour
The most exciting route to Brainard Lake. After hot tea, zip back down via the Waldrop (North) trail. Ward. 7/500'. 50 mi. Register with leader. **Steve Priem**, (303) 499-9024. (Trip#35834)

Monday, December 25

[Trip Date change]

Ice Climb Ice Climb

Ice climbing location to be determined by the leader based on current ice conditions. Ice climbing lecture, field trip, and BMS are prerequisites for this trip. **Tom Walker**, (303) 666-7199. (Trip#35895)

Thursday, December 28

Ice Climb Ice Climb

Ice climbing location to be determined by the leader based on current ice conditions. Ice climbing lecture, field trip, and BMS are prerequisites for this trip. **Tom Walker**, (303) 666-7199. (Trip#35896)

Saturday, December 30

Rogers Pass Lake Adv. I Ski Tour
On double cambered skis, we'll follow the South Boulder Creek Trail through the trees to this lake at the base of Rogers Pass. Trail starts at East Portal Trailhead. Climbing skins strongly recommended. East Portal/Empire. 9/2,100'. Register with leader. **Willy Gully**, (303) 939-8382. (Trip#35846)

Sunday, December 31

Sport Park Area Climb
Boulder Canyon 5.5

Walk in the Park! 303-903-4517 (c)
303-665-0888 (h) . **Bruce Immele**, (303) 903-4517. (Trip#35881) □

Brainard Cabin Happenings

Dayhost Spots Are Available!

There's room on the Brainard Cabin schedule for weekend DayHosts. Also lots of room for overnight users. Check out the available dates at calendar.yahoo.com/brainardcabin. Click on MONTH to get a complete view. You can e-mail [brainardcabin\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:brainardcabin[at]yahoo.com) to make a reservation. And check this out: a Day Host and one co-host stay overnight for free!

User and Dayhost Training on December 2

There will be user and DayHost training session at the Brainard Cabin on Saturday Dec 2nd, from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm. E-mail [brainardcabin\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:brainardcabin[at]yahoo.com) to sign up.

For more info on the cabin, you can follow links from CMCBoulder.org.

--contributed by *Otto Verdoner*,
Brainard Cabin Hutmeister

Trips & Clinics Beyond Boulder

Wednesday, November 29

Lecture for Basic Glacier Travel field trip on Dec 1. At AMC in Golden. Contact **Andrew White**, 303-403-1635.

Saturday, December 1

Basic Glacier Travel

A HAMS Sponsored workshop. This half-day course is designed for members of all groups wanting to get a 'taste of' or brush up on technical climbing skills for snow and low-angle ice. It covers the fundamentals of glacier-style travel with crampons and mountain axe, and rope-team dynamics. Attendance at the introductory lecture on Wednesday, November 29 required. Participants will provide their own equipment. Rope will be provided. BMS or similar training required. Contact **Andrew White**, 303-403-1635 for details and qualifications. □

AMC Happenings

Documentary Film "Light Of The Himalaya"

In the spring of 2005, **Jordan Campbell**, an Aspen-based climber and journalist, joined forces with legendary seven-time Everest climber **Pete Athans** and renowned corneal surgeon **Dr. Geoff Tabin**, co-founder of the Himalayan Cataract Project, in a landmark expedition. Their goal was to restore sight to hundreds of people suffering from acute cataract blindness in rural and mountainous regions of Nepal. They then planned to climb a Himalayan peak. The expedition, aptly named *Sight to Summit*, was chronicled in the film "Light of the Himalaya." The November 29 screening will be accompanied by a reception prior to the film with the expedition's core team members. Prior to the film, at 6 p.m., there will be a reception with **Pete Athans**. The film will be introduced at 7:30 by **Jordan Campbell** and will begin at 7:45. After the film, dessert and coffee will be served, and attendees will have the opportunity to get posters signed.. Tickets are \$12 at the door, at 303-279-3080 x2, or online at www.cmc.org/light. Seating limited to 300. □

Wild Films For Free

The Colorado Mountain Club's Wild Films For Free is a series of conservation films that are free and open to the public. Showtime is 7 p.m. in the American Mountaineering Center's Foss Auditorium at 710 Tenth Street in Golden. An optional, casual discussion will follow the presentation. Films are shown on the second Thursday of the month from October through March.

Join us on Thursday, December 14th at 7 p.m. for "A Land Out of Time," a film that explores energy development on our Western public lands, and how some citizens are fighting the pressures to drill for oil and gas. View the film's trailer and read more about it at www.cmc.org/wild_events.

"A Land Out of Time" is an official

continued on page 6, Wild Films

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Wild Films, continued from page 4

selection of major film festivals in Anchorage, Aspen, Taos, and Whistler, and features the CMC's own Clare Bastable.

□