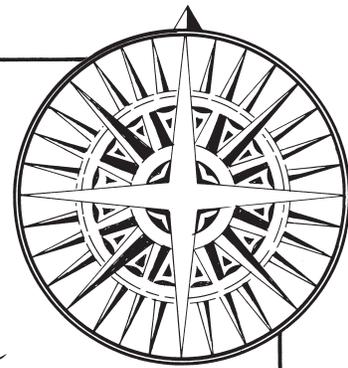




Compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXV Number 8

August 2009

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Mountains Without Sherpas

The world has seen a dramatic change in the style of climbing the world's highest peaks. Once a playground for alpine purists and the world's most technically skilled climbers, these mountains have become increasingly accessible to just about any climber with the willpower and the money. With this in mind, CMC member Ted Handwerk reflects on the changes he's seen in climbing these peaks since his early days in the Himalayas. The following is from his 1988 climb on Mt. Everest.

It's 1988 and I'm on the North Ridge of Everest. They call this China but all I feel is Tibet. Only a handful of expeditions have been here since Mallory and Irvine in 1924. We share the entire north side of Everest with just one other team. We camp at the same fresh water spring as Mallory and Irvine. My tent could be set on the exact same spot as theirs 64 years earlier. We traveled 18 exhausting days to reach BC (base camp) from Lhasa. We pushed, pried, and hauled our vehicles across washed-out jeep roads. An earthquake destroyed the last major bridge we had to cross just one day before reaching BC. Today teams travel three days in air conditioned SUV's on paved roads to reach BC. My team of five climbers is the first to leave BC for the mountain. We know which valley



Ted (right) on the summit of Denali, 1978

to ascend. We have a vague idea what to expect. On this first trip up the mountain I find a hidden memorial to Mallory and Irvine, and a section of their telegraph wire they ran from BC to ABC (advanced base camp) which is twelve miles long. We turn the yaks back above camp II because of a gaping impossible-to-cross crevasse. We continued on to ABC with minimal supplies. We cook dinner using bamboo stakes and cardboard and we freeze that night. The next day, in an old Chinese expedition dump, we find enough materials to make a bridge over the crevasse so yaks can haul our equipment from BC to ABC. After a week we returned to BC. I make four such trips up the mountain, always with new challenges and new dangers. We lead every pitch, set every rope, and haul every load and stake out every tent. We are just a tight-nit group of American climbers. No sherpas. No guides. No miles of fixed line. Today there are 500 climbers at this

BC every season. Fixed lines are set by an army of sherpas from the base of the mountain to summit. Sherpas also carry a majority of the loads, set tents, and cache mounds of oxygen bottles on the mountain. The mountain is literally lines of climbers ascending miles of fixed lines. It would be rare to find expedition members on any team who had ever climbed together before. Life-long climbing partners are rarely found together on the slopes of Everest these days. Our modern world and its modern ways have arrived on Everest. Climbers look for achievement instead of the enjoyment of exploration. Instead of personally interacting with nature, it's a battle to overcome nature. Perhaps having lost the true meaning of exploration and adventure, our new climbers feel compelled to measure themselves in other ways, not by hard-earned skill and experience but lists of summits conquered. Lost are the delights of the struggle, whether we succeed or fail. Decades of alpine climbing to gain skill and experience are traded for guides, sherpas, and an excessive number of oxygen bottles. What happened to the sheer joy of climbing? I think we are witnessing the slow death of exploratory mountaineering. I cannot deny that today's Everest climbers are still mountaineering. These climbers still have to have fortitude; they still need strength and courage. I guess I'm just an old mountaineer sad to see my old mountaineering ways coming to an end. Times change, and time demands change. But I do feel sorry for Everest's soul. I think it must be weeping.

~submitted by Ted Handwerk

The Boulder Compass Is Going Green!

The Boulder Group will stop printing the hardcopy version of its monthly newsletter with the October 2009 issue. Beginning in November, the Compass will be published in its electronic version only. The decision was made at the Boulder Council's June meeting, based on the substantial cost of printing the newsletter (the paper version of the Compass consumes 30% of the group's discretionary income). This will also align with the club's conservation efforts to reduce paper production. (Reducing is better than recycling!) The Council still recognizes that the Compass is a very important and integral part of our club and it will continue much the same in its online form, which many members are already reading. We realize this change may require a modification in the way you access the Compass. If you have not already done so, the first step is to subscribe to the Compass electronically through an option on the state website. The Compass will be sent to your email address each month. Please check your "profile" on the state website to ensure your email is correct. For those who do not wish to provide an email address, current and past Compass issues are always available on the Boulder CMC website. Detailed instructions on how to access the electronic version of the Compass will be provided in a future issue and individual help will be offered at the upcoming Annual Dinner on November 7. For questions or concerns contact the current Council chair, Dick Munro, at chair@cmcboulder.org.

Monthly Program:

Film: Climbing Annapurna IV presented by Ted Handwerk Tuesday, August 11, 7pm

Join CMC member Ted Handwerk for a viewing of his Annapurna IV film and a discussion on how a group of close friends can put together a low cost, no frills expedition to a remote peak in Nepal. Social hour begins at 6 pm. Bring a drink or snack to share.

Future Monthly Programs

Sept. 8 Colorado Canyon Country Wilderness, Kurt Kunkle

Oct. 13 Open 'mic' night. Members Claim 15 minutes of fame!

Nov. 7 Annual Dinner - Val Hovland will present the documentary film she made of her successful ascent of Mt. Everest.

Dec. 13 Christmas Potluck

Upcoming Classes

CPR - Wednesday, Sept. 9

The Boulder group is sponsoring a CPR course at the Boulder Clubroom. The course will be held from 6-10pm. The cost is \$15. Please send an email to Cindy at safety@cmcboulder.org for more information.

Wilderness First Aid Sunday, Sept. 13

The Boulder group is sponsoring a Mountain Oriented first aid course at the Boulder Clubroom. The course will be held from 8am-6pm. The certification is through the American Safety and Health Institute which is valid for 3 years and recognized internationally. \$75 includes books, handouts and reference cards. Current First Aid/CPR are required for all BMS senior instructors and new leaders, and highly recommended for BMS assistants and seasoned trip leaders. Please send an email to Cindy at safety@cmcboulder.org for more information.

Trip Leadership Seminar Thursday, Sept. 17

Interested in learning how to become a trip leader with the Boulder Group? Your first step is to attend this free seminar, offered from 6:00-10:00pm at the Boulder Group Clubroom. In addition to attending this lecture, there will be some on-line training you must complete prior to Sept 17. Please send an email to Cindy at safety@cmcboulder.org to sign up.



Mike Amato belays Christa Cline on Eldo's Rosy Crucifixion

Leader And Instructor Party And Prize Drawing

The BMS and Outings Committees are throwing a party and prize drawing for Boulder trip leaders and school instructors. All leaders and instructors are invited. The party will be at the clubroom starting at 6 pm on Friday August 14th. We will provide beer, pizza and soda. You do not need to be present to win. Trip leaders need to submit their trip reports by July 31st to be entered in the drawing. Prize drawing includes two passes to the Lyons Folk Festival! Come by and share some tall tales with your friends.

Volunteer Opportunities!

To volunteer call the clubroom or email clubroom@cmcboulder.org

Program Co-Director Wanted

to assist with organizing monthly programs. Please contact Nickie Kelly at 303-579-9629 for more information or if you are interested.

Clubroom Hosts Needed

Clubroom Hosts are needed Monday through Thursday from 5-7 pm

August 20, Mailing Party

Come to the clubroom and help mail out the March Compass. Drop in at 5:30 pm.

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Email: chair@cmcboulder.org

Subscribe to GPS e-newsletter: cmcboulder.org → Publications → GPS → E-GPS

Clubroom hours: Mon. -Thurs., 5 to 7 pm

Clubroom Telephone: 303-554-7688

CMC information: bcmc@cmcboulder.org

Website: cmcboulder.org

e-Compass subscription: cmc.org → login → Personal Data → e-newsletters

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

August 2009 Trips & Activities

Editor's note: The following is a list of BCMC trips and events for the month. It is possible for trips to be changed or posted after this issue goes to press. Please check online for current trip status, to see club trip policies, or to learn about becoming a trip leader: cmcboulder.org/Trips.

To view trips online and register:

- ▶ Browse to www.cmc.org
- ▶ Login with your CMC member number and password. For first time users, the default password is your ZIP code.
- ▶ Click on 'Trip Signup' in left margin
- ▶ Enter trip selection parameters (CMC group, date range, etc) & click Search
- ▶ To register, click Register
- ▶ For Boulder trips, you must contact the leader by phone (preferred) or email; for Denver trips, you may register online.
- ▶ Schools require previous signup. Info at www.cmcboulder.org

Saturday, August 1

Arestua Hut Work Party

The Arestua Hut needs new cedar siding on the east-facing wall. We will need at least 10 people to help carry it up to the hut (1.5 miles) and assist with installation. Meet at Rollinsville Pass & Highway 119 at 8am. RSVP Mark Buchanan, Arestua Hutmeister at Arestuahut@gmail.com

Best of Boulder Hikes: St Vrain Mtn 12,162, Difficult C
Neal Zaun 303-449-8547
nhzaun@aol.com

Sunday, August 2

Best Boulder Hikes: Twin Sisters, Moderate A
Deb Tewell 720-304-9572
dtewell@worldnet.att.net

Best Boulder Hikes: Arapahoe Pass & Caribou Pass, Moderate B
NEW DATE (WAS JULY 25) Marilyn Fellows 303-499-6099
Marilyn@Gracie-Realty.com

Wednesday, August 5

After Work Social Hike, Moderate A
Don't call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room
Leader: Steven Haymes 303-444-4765

Saturday, August 8

Sleeping Beauty, Boulder Canyon
Brenda Leach 303-525-3660
brenda_leach@yahoo.com

Tuesday, August 11

Third Flatiron, East Face, II Climb
Eric Brehm 303-664-5912 eric_brehm@comcast.net

Wednesday, August 12

After Work Social Hike, Moderate A
Don't call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room
Marilyn Fellows 303-499-6099
Marilyn@Gracie-Realty.com

Saturday, August 15

Sandbeach Lake 10,283', Easy B
Tom Walker 303-666-7199
tmwalkerco@comcast.net

Twin Owls, Organ Pipes 5.7, II Climb
Gary Schmidt 970-481-1048
gsch@frii.net

Sunday, August 16

Grapevine, Sundance Trilogy Part 2, Lumpy, III Climb
Larry Pedigo 303-960-8627
larry_pedigo@yahoo.com

Monday, August 17

Fall Schools Overview and Signups
Come find out about the Fall Boulder Mountain School and sign up for the schools of your choice. 7pm CMC Boulder Clubroom. Bring your check-book. Cindy Gagnon 303-938-8564
gagnonc2@comcast.net

Wednesday, August 19

After Work Social Hike, Moderate A
Don't call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room
Deb Tewell 720-304-9572
dtewell@worldnet.att.net

Thursday, August 20

WeekDAY Warrior Gathering
Come share stories and plan activities for weekDAYS. 7-9 Boulder Clubroom. Bring snack or drink to share. Just show up. Jean Aschenbrenner 303-786-9411
jeanasch@hotmail.com

Thursday, August 20 – August 22

Vedauwoo Rock Climbing Road Trip
Join us for a Vedauwoo, WY rock climbing trip, land of the Fat Cracks! We'll climb a variety of top ropes and leads in the 5.6-5.10 range. Car camp Thursday and Friday night. Prepare to be sand-bagged. BRS or equivalent required. Limit of nine climbers. Boulder drive distance: 120m Gary Schmidt 970-481-1048 gsch@frii.net

Wednesday, August 26

After Work Social Hike, Moderate A
Don't call-just show up before 6:00 pm at the Boulder Group Club Room
Karen Baldwin 303-420-8162
karenbaldwin@hotmail.com

Saturday, August 29

Fern Lake Trailhead to Bear Lake
Difficult B, Casual pace
Tom or Mary Walker 303-666-7199
tmwalkerco@comcast.net
mawalkerco@comcast.net

Dyer Mountain, 13,955', Difficult C
Cindy Carey 303-530-3103
careyc@colorado.edu

Future Trips and Activities

Death Valley Hiking, 2/28-3/5, 2010
Enjoy the beauties of Death Valley next spring. During the week you will visit the park Visitor Center and Museum, conduct several A or moderate B hikes as well as visit Scotty's Castle. Costs are \$998 including transportation to and from Las Vegas airport, hike transportation, lodging, meals. Non-refundable deposit due 9/15. For more information contact Terry Hardie tnjhardie@msn.com or Sharon Silva ssilva@q.com

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

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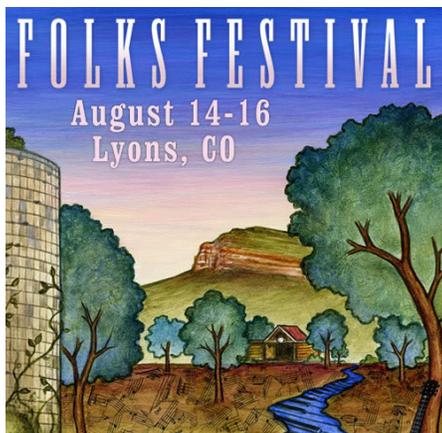
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19th Annual Rocky Mountain Folks Festival, August 14-16 Planet Bluegrass Ranch, Lyons, CO

Plant your chair in the St. Vrain River for a weekend of songs, stories, and summertime at the Rocky Mountain Folks Festival, just 20 minutes north of Boulder in Lyons. The “summit on the song” brings together many of the world’s great songwriters. Bring a picnic and relax under the sandstone cliffs and mature Cottonwoods of the Planet Bluegrass Ranch. Single-day tickets, 3-day passes, and camping are available. www.bluegrass.com or 303-823-0848.



Theatre-Hikes Colorado Presents “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”

Join us for the premiere of the touring version of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” at Chautauqua Park on August 1, 2009. Running every weekend through September 19 at 3pm. Audience and actors alike are taken on a hike while scenes are performed along the trail to promote health, family activity, culture and non-conventional theatre. Discounted tickets available for kids and club members! (303) 413-7270 www.Theatre-Hikes.org

Boulder County Nature Association

Presents “Pika Encounter: A
lecture and hike exploring the
natural history and
photography of pikas

Lecture: Thurs., Aug 6, 7-9 p.m.
Hike: Sat., Aug 8, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuition: \$65 (\$10 discount for BCNA
members)
Contact: Chris Ray at 303-489-8863 or
cray@colorado.edu

Reserve or Rent the Clubroom!

If you have a CMC EVENT where you need to use the clubroom, remember to *reserve* it first. Go to www.cmcboulder.org/calendar.html to check the schedule.

If you have a NON-CMC EVENT, you will need to *rent* the clubroom. See our rental policy at www.cmcboulder.org/clubroomPolicy.html. We have audio-visual projection, seating for about 60, kitchen, wireless internet connectivity and the best room rates in town!

For info or to request your reservation:
clubroomreservations@cmcboulder.org

Compass Ad Rates

\$245	full page
\$150	half page
\$90	quarter page
\$55	eighth page
\$45	business card 2x3”
- all ads need black and white version, (color can be used in e-Compass)	
- ads must be prepaid and in PDF or JPG format.	
- contact: compass@cmcboulder.org	