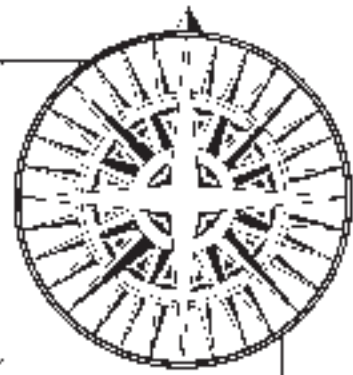




Compass

THE BOULDER GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume XXVII Number 12

December 2011

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Bending the Map

- contributed by Peter Stout

The annual ski trip from Vail Pass to Red Cliff was all set. Eight of us plus a Golden Retriever. We had ferried the van over to Red Cliff in the morning and were unloading at the Vail Pass parking lot, when I suggested we take an interesting diversion "Just one drainage over." I said, "And it ends up at the same place." A quick huddle, as I showed them the map, and everyone agreed. So started our day trip up Wilder Gulch and down Wearyman Gulch to Redcliff. It was a Colorado bluebird day, sunscreen necessary. We skied up a wide trail, blazed by others (our first mistake), and eventually arrived at the top of Ptarmigan Pass (11,765ft). As you can see by the map on page 4, we had already bypassed the

right turn to Wearyman Gulch, without realizing it. So, as we took our lunch break, my friend Luke (a NOLS graduate) and I got out the map to check our position. Ok, now, I have been a competitive Orienteer (the thinking person's sport) and had competed in ski orienteering on Rabbit Ears Pass. And I thought I knew my way around a map and compass, as did my friend. But at this point we were, what they call, "bending the map" as we were already off of the USGS quadrangle we were using. We looked at the surrounding terrain and said to ourselves, "Um, that peak looks like this one here, and that pass could be this one. I think we're in the right place." As you can see by the photo below, Ptarmigan Peak is used for Sno-Cat skiing excursions, which is the track we had followed.

continued on page 4

Editor's Note

In our final story on near-epics for the year, Peter Stout shares his tale about a ski trip gone awry. Some other exciting news in this issue includes the Grand Opening of our new Clubroom, as well as a beautiful new sign that makes our new location really stand out. Also, if you're looking to get out and enjoy the snow, check out the Backcountry Ski Clinic and Ski Mountaineering School described in this issue.

— Donna Marino
Compass Editor



Ptarmigan Peak/Machine Gun Ridge

Chair's Report

For my last Chair's Report, I'd like to share the speech I presented at the Annual Dinner recently. Many members were not able to be present to hear it and these words truly sum up my thoughts as I conclude my last month as Council Chair.

I was a member of Colorado Mountain Club for a year before I got involved in anyway; I hadn't even gone on a trip or anything. Then I attended the 2007 Annual Dinner a year later. That night's presentation was by a speaker, whose name I couldn't remember since, but who had a huge impact on me. I remember sitting transfixed in the audience watching this gentleman recall with such pride and passion all his years in CMC. It was obvious that he had been part of the organization for a long time. Among other things, I remember him speaking of the way CMC had been part of helping get Rocky Mountain National Park established, and I started to realize the magnitude of the club that I had become a part of. As I sat in the audience listening, I so deeply admired this man, and I was almost envious of his obvious sense of belonging, especially since that night was my first CMC event ever and I didn't know anybody yet. But it didn't matter that I didn't know anyone, because as I listened to that man speak, I sat there and thought, "That's how I want to be. I want to be the kind of person who someday, years down the road, stands up there and can say, "I've been a part of CMC all this time." His speech gave me such a sense of what an important organization CMC is, that I knew right then it was something I want to be a part of for life.

I didn't remember who he was and I never found out until just before our recent Annual Dinner. Ironically, I just happened to meet for coffee to talk with Gerry Kaplan about our award winners for this year's Ellingwood and Blaurock awards. Towards the end of our meeting, I told Gerry that story. He just sat and smiled, as he patiently let me finish recounting my memory and then he said, "Do you know who that was? It was me!" In that moment, let me tell you, I just got warm fuzzies all over! It felt a serendipity and like something had really come around full circle. There I was sitting with man, who without even realizing he had done it, had inspired me to know I want to be

a lifetime member of Colorado Mountain Club. And now there he was, entrusting me to be the person to present the state's two highest awards for this year. So Gerry, I want to say, "Thanks for the inspiration."

Thus far, I've only been a part of all this for five years, but as I reflect on all I've done in that time, I'm truly proud of my contributions. It recently occurred to me that it's pretty poignant that the year Colorado Mountain Club is heading into its centennial celebration, I had my half-century celebration. If I had any doubt what an important part of my life CMC has become, I need only look at the list of people who attended my 50th birthday party to see what a big part of my life this group is. Many of you have grown to become some of my greatest friends, and you were there for me when I had an important landmark in my life. That means the world to me.

It's important with any centennial celebration, or half-century celebration, to be reflective. I have reflected a lot on my life and I know that I've found my way, partly through my involvement with CMC, to a way of life that really fulfills me and brings me joy. Similarly, as the Club reaches its Centennial, we in the Boulder group have been reflecting on what we want out of our group.

We're working on strategies to increase membership and retain members. We've begun to meet our goal of starting to attract younger members into the club and we're excited to see some of them taking on leadership roles. We're encouraging more members to become trip leaders and instructors and also working to meet our goal of offering more varied trips. We've furthered our commitment to providing outstanding safety skills to our leaders and members. We're also working toward becoming more present in the Boulder community with regard to balancing conservation with safe recreational access to our beloved mountains. Perhaps one of the biggest goals we worked our way towards this year is our upcoming move to our new clubroom. If you don't know, it's two doors down from our current clubroom. We're extremely grateful to Gary Neptune for his generous offer to sublease the new space to us when we learned that our current clubroom's rent will become unaffordable at the end of this year. Renovations of the new clubroom have been underway since early this year. I'm pleased at the

way so many of us came together to design the smaller space and do the work needed to fulfill this project. I'm also thrilled that we now have a professionally illuminated sign installed over the new location, with the CMC logo and the words Colorado Mountain Club, proudly announcing to our community: "CMC is here!" Our work is nearly complete, and the move will soon be accomplished. Please join us for the Grand Opening of the new clubroom on Sunday, December 11 at 6 PM.

There are many goals I set, both for myself and for our CMC group, which we've made great progress on over the past year. I owe huge credit to the rest of the group for helping us get this far. I wish I could thank individually every person who's been supportive to me this year, but I can't possibly name you all. I do want to thank past chairs Brenda Leach, Dick Munro and our immediate past chair John Fernandez for your never-tiring support to me over this past year.

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compass

Editor: Donna Marino

Email: compass@cmcboulder.org

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

Boulder Group Chair: Janine Fugere

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

All Boulder members automatically receive the Compass via email.

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

DISCLAIMER

Events published in the Compass are for informational purposes only. They are not endorsed by the Boulder Group of the CMC except for the events that are explicitly led, taught or instructed by the Boulder Group. The Boulder Group of the CMC makes no assessment as to their merits. Participants are advised to make their own assessment as to whether to participate in these events.

December 2011/January 2012 Trips & Activities

Editor's note: The following is a list of BCMC trips and events for the month. It is possible that trips may change or be 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, December 17

Lunch at Brainard Cabin

Easy III Ski Tour, Casual, On trail

We will ski the Sourdough Trail to Little Raven, Left Hand Res. Rd to upper Little Raven Trail to Brainard Lake and the Boulder Group cabin for lunch. Return via North Trail and cross over to the South Trail.

Trail mileage: 7 miles

Elevation gain: 650 feet

Driving distance: 50 miles

Leader: Steve Priem

Email: s.priem@yahoo.com

Saturday, December 17

Pear Lake, Easy Snowshoe

We'll hike/snowshoe from the Wild Basin trailhead in RMNP to Pear Lake, via Finch Lake, gaze up at Mt Copeland, and hike back. Moderate pace and difficulty. Contact trip leader, Rick Casey, at caseyrick@gmail.com, with your phone number, to join.

Trail mileage: 12 miles

Elevation gain: 1800 feet

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Coney Flats Area

Easy I Ski Tour

This is a beginner backcountry trip for students completing the Boulder Group XC ski school skills class. We will work on diagonal stride and downhill control technique. Contact leader, Pat Butler for further information.

Trail mileage: 6 miles

Elevation gain: 650 feet

Prerequisite: XC School

Driving distance: 70 miles

Leader: Patricia Butler

303-440-0586

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Easy I Ski Tour

Brainard Area XC School Field Trip

Beginner backcountry trip for students completing the Boulder Group XC ski school class. We will work on diagonal stride and downhill control

Prerequisite: Cross Country Ski School

Driving distance: 40 miles

Leader: Bob Olson

303-443-3280

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Easy Snowshoe, Casual, On Trail

Snowshoe the CMC snowshoe trail to Brainard Cabin for lunch and toe warming - day use fee (\$1.00). Register with leader Lorna Greeno at highmnts1@yahoo.com.

Trail mileage: 6 miles

Elevation gain: 400 feet

Driving distance: 52 miles

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Coney Flats Ski Tour

Easy II Ski Tour

From Beaver Reservoir, glide into the valley below dramatic Sawtooth Mountain (then we'll see if conditions permit!). Register with leader Patricia Butler at butler@csd.net Patricia Butler

Trail mileage: 6 miles

Elevation gain: 650 feet

Driving distance: 50 miles

Boulder CMC Open House for January

January 18th, 2012, 7-8 pm in the Clubroom

Want to learn more or share your knowledge about the CMC? New and prospective CMC members, join us at this open house. Experienced CMC members, share your enthusiasm and knowledge about hiking, camping, peak bagging, rock climbing, snowshoeing, or cross country skiing and more. You're always encouraged to BRING A FRIEND!

Contact Samuel Levis for information: atlargemember2@cmcboulder.org

Bend the Map, continued from page 1

As a Sno-Cat drove up, we talked with the driver about our perceived position. He could neither confirm nor deny that we were on our projected route. Well, fine. Let's proceed anyway. So, down we skied into a beautiful bowl with sun crust over powder. It was kind of grabby, resulting in numerous falls and one broken ski tip and a broken pole. This was back in the days when I carried a spare replacement ski tip, which was slipped over the broken ski in order to continue. Crisis averted. As we skied down Resolution Creek to 9,330ft over the next 6 miles, it dawned on us, the leaders of our party, that we were not where we thought we were. We opted not to let the rest of the group know this, to forestall any undue concern in the less experienced members of our party. Well, darkness began to settle in and the moon to rise, which was a cheering sight, at least, as we hadn't packed any flashlights for our easy day trip. Luke and I continued to ski ahead of the group scouting the darkened terrain for anything recognizable. Well, we all finally assembled on the edge of the Camp Hale flats, and we owned up to the bad news. Our trudge across those flats, in the dark, seemed much longer than the 9/10ths of a mile it actually was. (See the photo of Camp Hale).

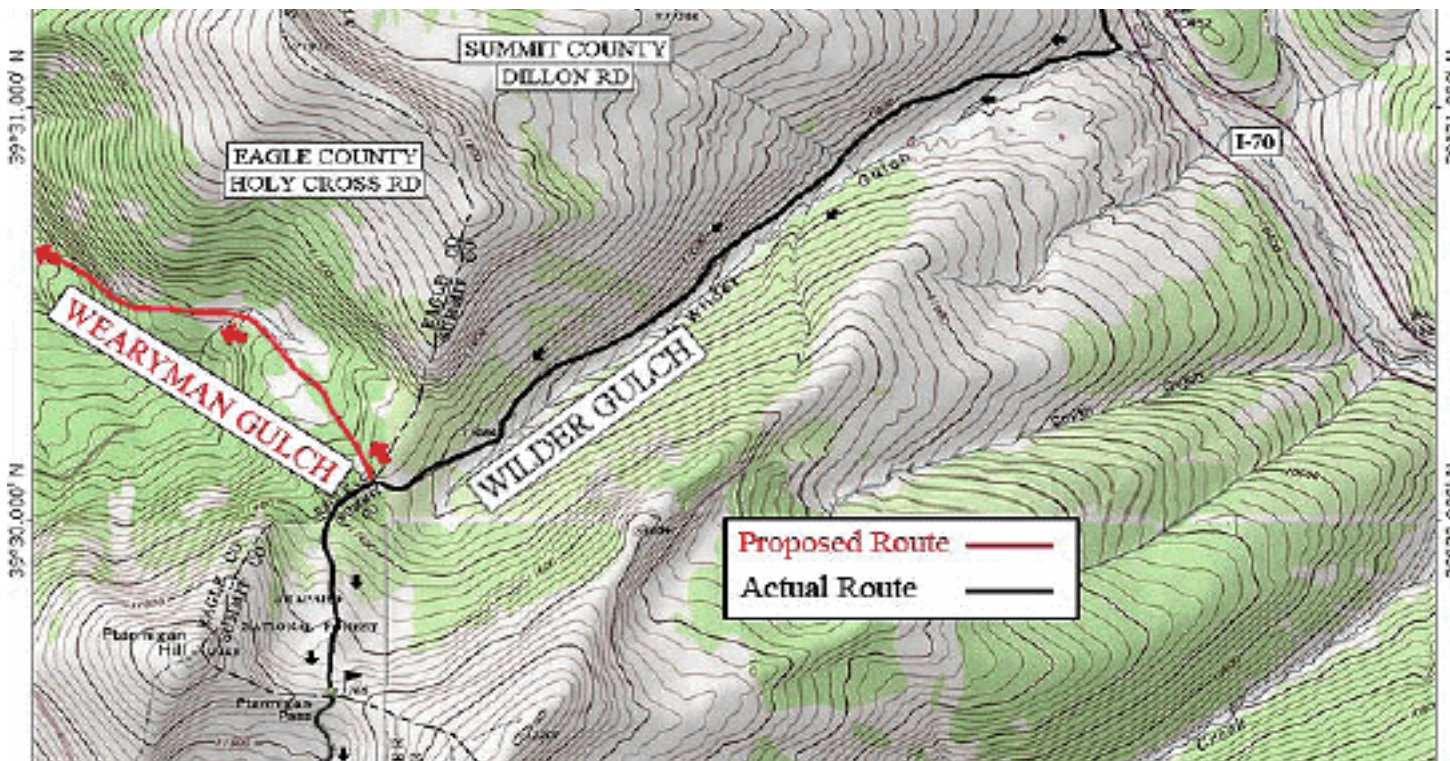
And we were still over six miles from the van we had parked at Red Cliff that morning. The two of us continued to outpace our friends (we hoped they were still) yet something must have been watching over us, for just as we got to the edge of the highway a pair of headlights went by... in the wrong direction. Traffic on the road over Tennessee Pass from Leadville to Minturn is light after 8pm on a winter's night. But lo, the headlights were turning around... and coming back! A jeep pulled up to us, the window rolled down, and the driver asked, "Say, do you know how to get to Red Cliff?" Luke said, "I'll take you there!" We were saved! As the rest of our group straggled up to the road, I was able to give them some good news, and we wrapped ourselves in space blankets and huddled together to await Luke with the van.

Needless to say, we decided to forgo the pitchers of margs and Mexican food that we had looked forward to in Red Cliff, and drove straight back to our start on Vail Pass. It was a long day, and a bonafied adventure, and for some it was truly an epic trip. I believe that it resulted in one divorce, but our trip was perhaps just the last straw. I went on to teach map and compass with the CMC's Boulder Hiking School largely because of this trip where I "bent the map". Finally, here is a quote that sums it all up: *"Of course we weren't lost. We were merely where we shouldn't have been, without knowing where that was."* ~ T. Morris Longstreth, *The Adirondacks* (1917)

P.S. Then there's our trip up to the Fowler Hilliard hut, on a full moon night, so we decided to leave the trailhead at 5pm and ski in the moonlight, but that's another story...



Camp Hale



I also want to thank our vice chair Roger Drake, for being such a hands on Vice-Chair and especially for his work to organize the design and renovations of the new clubroom. It is with complete confidence I can say, I know I'm leaving you in good hands with Roger Drake taking over as our new Council Chair. To everyone else who has supported me in any way, shape, or form, thank you; I'm so grateful.

This has been such a rewarding year of my life and I couldn't have done it without all the help that I received from everybody. I know we have a long way to go to meet all our goals, but I'm excited about such a great slate of incoming officers, who I know are going to take us the next stretch. Thank you for the honor, of leading our Council, this past year of our history as the Boulder Group of CMC.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Fugere
CMC Boulder Council Chair 2011

Clubroom Move Volunteers Needed

Help is needed to move furniture, artwork, and artifacts into our new clubroom on Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30pm and Friday, December 9 at 5:30pm. Help will also be needed on and after these dates to clean out the rest of the old clubroom before Christmas. Please contact Janine Fugere at chair@cmcboulder.org to volunteer on any of these dates.

Backcountry Skiing Anyone?

Imagine traveling over the winter landscape on skis under human power rather than with the assistance of ski lifts or snow vehicles. Imagine arriving at the top of a mountain with pristine untracked powder awaiting you. Imagine only your close friends standing at your side. No, this is not your local Colorado ski area, this is the Colorado backcountry. The Boulder group is offering two courses to help you will learn about backcountry skiing the variety of ski equipment choices, and the skills required to safely venture into the backcountry on skis.

Backcountry Ski Clinic: The Backcountry Ski Clinic is designed to provide basic back country /peak skiing safety skills for the Colorado backcountry, including survival skills, survival skiing and peak skiing/navigation . The clinic is open to Intermediate Telemark/AT skiers/Split Boarders who have minimal backcountry skiing experience. The Clinic will consist of three field trips and related lectures. Lectures: 1/11, 1/25, 2/1 (7-10pm)
Field Trips: 1/29, 2/4, 2/12
Prerequisite: Avalanche Level 1, Intermediate ski skills with minimal backcountry experience. Applications are available online at www.cmcboulder.org/schools. The backcountry ski clinic is also a great precursor to the Ski Mountaineering School.

Ski Mountaineering School: This school is intended to develop the skills, attitudes, and awareness needed for ski mountaineering tours. Such tours might include ski descents of Colorado's 13'ers and 14'ers, and ski traverses and ski mountaineering routes in Europe and Canada. Some of the topics covered include trip planning and preparation, appropriate ski gear and equipment, helpful backcountry ski techniques, route finding, and avalanche assessment.

Participants using alpine touring, telemark, or split snowboard gear are welcome. This school is designed for CMC members with a good level of fitness (should be able to hike 1,000 vertical feet in an hour), the ability to ski black diamond slopes at downhill ski areas, some familiarity with backcountry skiing, and basic mountaineering skills and experience. The emphasis of this course is not on teaching ski techniques but to integrate

ski equipment and skills into the mountaineering experience.
Lectures March 6, 13, 20 (6:30- 9pm at CMC Golden)
Field days: Mar 24, Apr 7, Apr 21, May 5, May 18-20. Prerequisites include an Level I Avalanche Course (AIARE or NSP) and minimally basic First Aid training.

This past year, the Ski Mountaineering School was awarding funding from the CMC Eckart Roder Education Fund for instructor training in avalanche education through AIARE. The Eckart Roder Education Fund was organized in 2003, in honor of Eckart Roder who was a long-time member of the Colorado Mountain Club. He exemplified the values of mountain safety, responsibility and courtesy. The Fund provides support for the educational programs of the CMC . Contributions to the fund are continuously accepted at www.cmc.org/support

Instructors: Both schools are looking for instructors and assistant instructors with previous ski mountaineering experience. For further information, contact Cindy Gagnon at skimountaineering@cmcboulder.org.

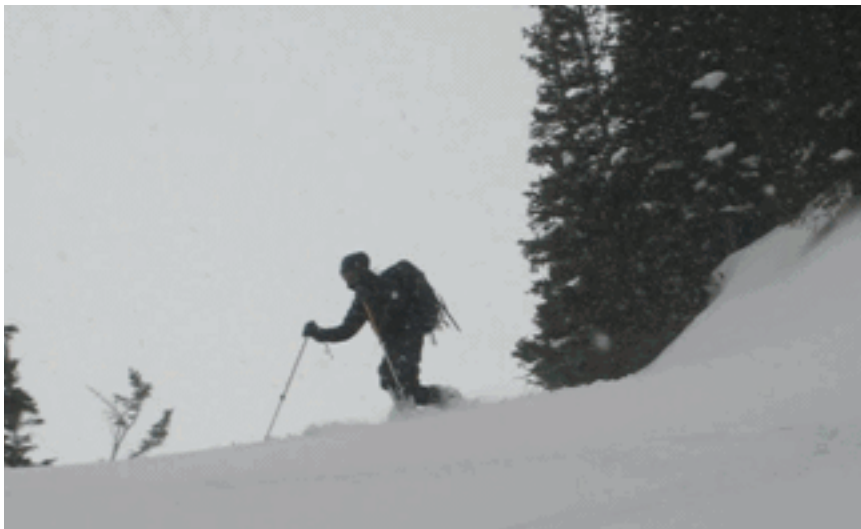


Call for Winter Trips: Ski Trips, Snowshoes, and Hikes

Winter has arrived in the Colorado high country, and it's time to get out and enjoy the snow. The Outings Committee is calling on trip leaders to submit ski trips, snowshoe trips, and hikes. Forget the crazed holiday shopping season, and relax in the high country instead. Please submit your trips on-line or contact any member of the Outings Committee for assistance with planning or scheduling of trips:

Outings Chairs: Eric Brehm or Eileen Monyok, outings@cmcboulder.org
A/B Hike Coordinator: Chris Marotta abhikecoordinator@cmcboulder.org
C/D Hike Coordinator: Rick Casey, cdhikecoordinator@cmcboulder.org
Rock Climb Coordinator: Eileen Monyok, rockclimbcoordinator@cmcboulder.org
Ice Climb Coordinator: Kent Crites, iceclimbcoordinator@cmcboulder.org
Ski Touring and Ski Mountaineering Coordinator: Steve Haymes, skitouringcoordinator@cmcboulder.org and skimountaineeringcoordinator@cmcboulder.org

To all trip leaders, we thank you for your continuing contributions to the Boulder CMC Outings program. For those interested in learning about becoming a trip leader for the Boulder Group, please contact any member of the Outings Committee listed above for further information.



Kent Crites skiing Herman's Gulch, April 2010 by Rick Casey

New Clubroom Grand Opening and Holiday Party

The Boulder Group of CMC is proud to announce the Grand Opening of our new clubroom along with a Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11th at 6 PM. Potluck dinner & BYOB. All members and prospective members welcome. Our new clubroom is located in the Table Mesa Shopping Center, two doors south of our current clubroom, in unit 633K, between H&R Block and Neptune Mountaineering.

Our new professionally designed Colorado Mountain Club signed is installed over our new clubroom! If you haven't seen it, stop by the new clubroom to take a peek! You can also see pictures on the CMC Boulder Facebook Page at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=37239305287> If you haven't become a fan of our Facebook page yet, please do! For more information, contact contact Janine Fugere at chair@cmcboulder.org

Conservation Committee Needs Volunteers

The Conservation Committee needs assistance with fundraising, organizing film and discussion events, researching current issues, and a variety of other tasks. If you can help, please send an email with your areas of interest to conservechr@cmcboulder.org.

Calling Attention to the CMC

Editor's Note: When you visit CMC Boulder Group's new clubroom, one of the first things you'll likely notice is the "Colorado Mountain Club" sign now mounted above the west-facing entrance (see the photograph on the next page). I spoke with John Fernandez, the Boulder Group's immediate Past Chair, to get a little background.

Editor: How did the idea for the sign originate?

John: When I was group chair in 2010, I received monthly reports on a major, long-term threat to the club -- steadily declining membership statewide and locally as well. The Boulder Group Council made it a high priority to reverse this trend through a variety of steps. These included offering more trips, providing more incentives to trip leaders, securing a new and improved clubroom and strengthening group leadership. Through my tenure and certainly under Janine Fugere's leadership, major progress has been made in all these areas. But we also felt that CMC simply needed to enhance its visibility in the community. We've done that in various ways, through electronic media, newspaper articles, public presentations and various open house events. But one burr under my saddle was the seeming invisibility of our clubroom even though it occupied a fairly prominent location in the Table Mesa Shopping Center. It had virtually no signage or other identifying feature. I had been told many times by friends and acquaintances that they had no idea where the Boulder CMC Clubroom was located even though they might have walked right past it or under it for many years. With the imminent move to a somewhat smaller, less visible location, the concerns that other Council members and I had were increased. It seemed to me a simple problem to solve: erect a welcoming sign over the front door, large enough to be visible by day and internally illuminated for nighttime visibility. I proposed the idea to the Council and received approval to develop a design and obtain cost estimates.

Editor: What happened then?

John: Cost happened. It turns out that signs conforming to the shopping center regulations are fairly expensive. The Council discussed the matter on a couple of occasions and ultimately voted to approve the expenditure but not without a lot

continued from page 6

of soul searching. Fortunately, the club has been very prudent with its finances over the years and we were in a good position to absorb the cost. The real question was whether the expenditure would be worth the expense. In the end, the Council majority decided to make the purchase as a significant investment in the club's future. There is no objective way of knowing at the outset whether the cost/benefit analysis will pan out but several considerations carried the day:

- the sign is intrinsically attractive and takes advantage of CMC's new logo
- the sign will announce the club's presence and should increase foot traffic that might otherwise bypass us -- Janine reports that since its installation last week, many passers-by have excitedly stopped in and remarked that they never even realized Boulder had a mountain club.
- the sign conveys an impression of professionalism, solvency and permanence
- the sign precisely meets the City of Boulder and shopping center sign regulations

Editor: Now that the sign has been paid for and installed, will there be additional expenses? And, who owns the sign?

John: CMC owns the sign and we anticipate no additional expenses beyond a very minimal annual electrical bill; because the sign uses LED lighting, the annual cost will likely be as little as \$10. Since it is so well constructed, the sign

should hold its value and appearance well beyond the six-year lease we have at the new clubroom.

Editor: Do you have any other comments about the sign?

John: I just happened to have read the new National Geographic for December and it contains a provocative article on the role of cities in saving the planet. One sentence in particular caught my eye: "No technology yet invented -- not the telephone, the Internet, or videoconferencing--delivers the fertile chance encounters that cities have delivered since the Roman Forum was new".

CMC needs the chance encounters that a simple sign can create. People detouring to the clubroom on their way to King Soopers, Neptune's or Southern Sun can well play a role in sustaining our membership long into the future.

Possible Compass Changes

The format and frequency of the Compass will possibly be changing next year. The Council will vote on the details at the December meeting.

Gift Wrap Volunteers Needed

REI Boulder, Saturday December 17 5-9pm. We have some old maps for gift wrapping that were provided by USGS. Please sign up for a time and bring a pair of scissors, tape, raffia, or other natural decorations and a BIG SMILE. Proceeds will benefit our conservation fund.

Clubroom Manager Needed

This is a volunteer position on Council and the work is being shared to simplify the manager's job. The main duty is scheduling our volunteer hosts for Tuesday - Thursday evenings. Other duties are attending our Council meeting once per month, maintaining clubroom supplies, sending out the new member welcome letters and supervising the general running of the clubroom. If you are interested or know anyone who is, please contact chair@cmcboulder.org.

Winter Stewardship Project

The CMC has planned an Adopt-A-Crag project at Cathedral Spires for January 14th. CMC is working in partnership with the Access Fund and Jefferson County Open Space to improve approach routes to this popular climbing area. It is a great project for climbers, but anyone is welcome, including non-members. The Boulder Climbing Community is also helping to spread the word. For more information visit www.cmc.org/cathedralspires

Protecting Greater Canyonlands

An organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6 for those interested in the Greater Canyonlands campaign. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance are working on building support for Utah wilderness among Coloradans. The meeting will be held at the Meadows Library at 4800 Baseline Road, Boulder from 6:30-8:30 pm. Pizza will be served.



The New Clubroom Sign

Annual Dinner A Memorable Success

- submitted by Monica DeWitt

We would like to start by thanking the many volunteers for their hard work in making this year's CMC Boulder Group Annual Dinner truly a success. Thank you especially to Brenda Leach, Rick Casey and Janine Fugere for supporting those new to the planning process of the event.

The Annual Dinner is a special event for Boulder's unique set of members to come together to enjoy a beautiful potluck, great company and entertainment. We owe a special thank you to Blake Busse for being our Master of Ceremonies, keeping the flow moving throughout our eventful night. We also appreciate Gary Schmidt for adding a touch of musical talent to our evening. With coffee donated from Caffè Sole, delicious punch and a wide assortment of food and desserts, we could feel the warmth and positive energy in the room. As always, thanks to Steve Priem, we maintained a mostly compostable, waste-reduced event.

The Annual Meeting portion of the evening is time each year for us to honor those who have faithfully served the CMC. We had the great honor this year of presenting two prestigious awards, the Ellingwood and Blaurock awards, to a pair of dedicated members, Kent Groninger and David Ellingwood. The Annual Meeting is also a time to excitedly honor those Boulder Group members who have reached 40, 50, and 60 year anniversaries of becoming CMC members and we applauded quite a few anniversary memberships this year. The Annual Meeting is also a chance for final words from the current Council Chair, the vote to approve our new Council officers and words of introduction to those incoming. Let us not forget the poetic passing of the Council Chair CMC Branding Iron! As Janine Fugere shared her final words as Boulder Group Council Chair, we proudly welcomed Roger Drake as 2012 Chair. I think we can all agree that we have an exciting year ahead of us as the Boulder Group moves forward.

This year's entertainment was remarkable, featuring long-standing members David and Janet Robertson. Janet spoke briefly early in the evening about the CMC Centennial Celebration book *100 Years Up High: Colorado's Mountains & Mountaineers*. Jan is one of the book's five authors, along with James Fell, David Hite, Christopher Case, and Walter Borneman. We're grateful that four of the five authors were able to attend our Annual Dinner to help promote the book.

This year's featured guest speaker was David Robertson, who shared photos and memories of his extraordinary ten day 1969 skiing expedition across the Juneau Ice Fields of Alaska. Dave, a CMC member since 1956, has served many leadership roles in CMC, including five years as the Chairman of the CMC Conservation Committee, and he was this year's Blaurock Award winner. Dave gave a wonderful recount of the ten day ski trip which he shared with Harry Waldrop, Walt Gove, and Loren Adkin, which to their knowledge, was the first trip of its kind at that time. Their trip also helped to establish a new code of ethics around skiing roped up.

The Boulder Group Annual Dinner is a tradition where we come together to honor those who have worked so hard to make our Boulder Group exceptional. The sense of community and appreciation felt at this event each year is truly special. Thank you again to all who made this year's Annual Dinner possible!

Winter Trails Day

Not certain which snowshoe brand or model to buy this year? Are you a first ever snowshoer? Come to Winter Trails Day at either Echo Lake or Estes Park where snowshoe vendors will allow you to try a variety of models in the surrounding area. Free to General Public but registration preferred. Dates are January 7 at Echo Lake and January 14 at Estes Park. The link to the REI registration page is <http://www.rei.com/event/32456/session/40599>

Boulder Group Awards

It is a great honor for the Boulder Group that this year set a new precedent in the history of Colorado Mountain Club. This is the first year ever that members of the same group of CMC have received both of the state's two highest awards: the Ellingwood Award & the Blaurock Award. This year, both awards were presented to Boulder Group Members at our Annual Dinner on November 5, 2011.

The Albert Ellingwood Golden Ice Ax Mountaineering Achievement Award is given to CMC members who have distinguished themselves in mountaineering, and inspired other club members to follow in their paths. These are members who've not only excelled in climbing, but have also gone on to teach others and served as an outstanding role model of climbing safety skills. Prior Ellingwood award winners include: Jim Gehres, Terry Root, Glenn Porzak, Gary Neptune, Gerry Roach, Bob Martin, Jack DePagter, Jean Aschenbrenner, and Dale Johnson.

This year's Ellingwood award winner was Kent Groninger. Kent started climbing in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in the early 1960s. After Kent and his family moved to Colorado in 1975, he joined the Colorado Mountain Club, graduated from our Boulder Mountaineering School, and later served as an instructor. Kent's wife, Cathleen, is also an accomplished climber and shared many of his ascents. Both Kent and Cathleen have contributed in served in many capacities in CMC over the years. Kent's climbing résumé includes well over 100 peaks in the US, including all the Colorado 14ers, and he is among the first 200 climbers to reach the highest point of all 50 states. Kent has also been on international climbing expeditions spanning 28 years, including his first, which was Denali in 1980, through his most recent in 2008, which was an attempt to become the oldest American to reach the summit of Mount Everest. At that time Kent was age 66; the record is 64. Although he was unsuccessful in reaching the summit of Everest, his even attempting this climb at age 66 is an amazing accomplishment. It's never easy to make a decision to turn back on an expedition which has been a lifetime

dream, yet those are the kind of choices which make Kent Groninger not only an outstanding mountaineer, but an exemplary safety role model. The Boulder Group is honored that Kent Groninger was the recipient of this year's Ellingwood Award.

The Carl Blaurock Silver Piton Award is given to Colorado Mountain Club members who've shown great service and leadership over the years, investing a substantial amount of effort in CMC activities, which have resulted cumulatively in significant improvements to the club. Prior Blaurock award winners include Gerry Kaplan, Susan Baker, Dan Bereck, Chip Drumwright, Steve Bragg, Russ Hayes, Jan Robertson, Al Ossinger, Sherry Richardson, John De'vitt, Steve Bonowski, Madeline Framson, Giles Toll, Jack Reed, and Walt Borneman.

This year's Blaurock Award marked another historic CMC event because it is the first time that a husband and wife have each been the recipients of the award. Jan Robertson won the Blaurock in 2002 and this year's Blaurock Award winner was her husband, David Robertson. Dave and Jan met through Dave's leadership in CMC; he was her rock climbing instructor. Dave, coincidentally, was also our guest speaker at the Annual Dinner this year.

David Robertson has been a Colorado Mountain Club member since 1956. He has served in many capacities over the years in CMC, including serving five years as chairman of the CMC Conservation Committee. He later served on Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee for many years, an area of service that is especially relevant to the Boulder group of CMC. Dave is known for always being willing to volunteer and lend his skills and assistance in countless areas within our club. Aside from his expertise in conservation and land management, Dave also often offers his services from everything to joining in trail maintenance projects, to helping others with his outstanding computer skills. He has a reputation for being dependable, humble, and extremely giving. The Boulder Group is honored that David Robertson was the recipient of this year's Blaurock Award.

The Boulder Group is proud that two of our members as the newest Ellingwood and Blaurock recipients, demonstrating once again that the Boulder Group sets high standards in mountaineering, safety, service and leadership.

Save the Dates: Spring/Summer 2012 Boulder Mountaineering Schools (BMS)

We've set the dates for the spring/summer/fall BMS courses for 2012. The optional Spring/Summer Schools Orientation Night will be held on Monday, February 27, at 7pm. SIGN-UPS START ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28. Watch the Compass and GPS publications for more notices on the upcoming courses and the sign-up procedure.

This year's spring/summer schools include Hiking and Survival Essentials (starts 3/6), Hiking Navigation (starts 4/3), Basic Rock School (starts 4/17), Hiking Route and Trip Planning (new course, starts 4/19), Basic Snow (starts 5/15), Intermediate Snow (starts 5/29), Rock Leading School (starts 6/5) and Backpacking (starts 7/10). See www.cmcboulder.org/bms/spring-Schedule.html for all of the lecture and field trip dates.

If you're unable to attend all of the lectures and field trips this spring, we'll also offer some of the courses in the fall. See www.cmcboulder.org/bms/fallSchedule.html for the fall schedule. Contact bms@cmcboulder.org if you have questions.

Longtime CMC Member Dies

Virginia Nolan recently passed away at the age of 96. Virginia was a member of the CMC since 1946 and was a past president of the CMC. In the 1950s she became the first woman to climb all of the lower 48 14,000 foot mountains and did some exploration of the Grand Canyon for the club and the NGS.

Montenegro Trip

June 12 – 26 2012

Rada Perovic, resident of Golden, born in Montenegro, will be your host for a two week excursion to this unspoiled Mediterranean and mountain paradise. Montenegro, with a population of 730,000 and area of 5,300 m², gained independence in May, 2006 and has the distinction of being one of the world's newest countries. We will begin our journey on the coast, where beautiful beaches meet the azure water of the Adriatic Sea. From our base in the coastal town Petrovac, we will explore the 15th century fortresses and other towns and quaint villages along the coast. We will hike on coastal trails, spend time on the beach and enjoy the warm hospitality of the Montenegrin people while exploring the culture and history. We will then journey to the mountainous interior, where 7,000 foot peaks rocket up from sea level, creating stunning canyons, deep valleys, and dense pine and fir forests surrounding alpine lakes, known locally as "mountain eyes." We will visit four National Parks Lovcen, Biogradska Gora, Durmitor and Skadar Lake.

In addition to hiking, there will be a 2-day rafting trip down the Tara River, known as The Jewell of Europe. While hiking, you will often encounter sheep herder's settlements, where you will experience people who provide the best hospitality on earth. At the end of our trip, we will visit the old capitol Cetinje and hike at Mt. Lovcen. We will also visit some historic sites in this area. The cost of this trip (\$2,264 + airfare) includes all ground transportation in Montenegro, lodging, most meals, 2 days of river Tara rafting, guides, all parks and museums fees, leader expenses, and the CMC administrative fee. Final cost may vary depending on currency exchange fluctuations. Montenegro uses the Euro as the currency of exchange.

For people experienced with hiking rating systems, these outings are classified as Hiking at A and B level, hike length 2-8 miles, elevation gain up to 1500'. Number of participants 10. We will have mandatory pre-trip meeting in March, and optional hike in April. Contact trip leader Rada Perovic at 303 985 3263, radaperovic@msn.com

CMC Stewardship Efforts in Boulder Canyon

In 2010, a group of Boulder area climbers (including some CMC members) formed the Boulder Climbing Community (BCC) and immediately began a stewardship effort for Boulder Canyon, a heavily used climbing area. Previously, there had been no oversight to provide sustainable access to the crags. Networks of social trails had eroded unstable slopes and damaged vegetation. The BCC made plans to create a single, sustainable access route for each crag, eliminate social trails and restore damaged areas. Earlier this year CMC's Land Partnership Manager, Lisa Cashel, provided the leadership which soon led to a BCC / Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) partnership. The first step in the stewardship plan has been completed at Castle Rock. This involved adding road base to eroded areas, building rock walls and steps, trash removal and other work.

The CMC Boulder Group awarded a \$1500 grant to the BCC to cover costs associated with Boulder Canyon stewardship, such as securing the services of trail designer/planner Scott Gordon. He is assisting with the BCC's climbing crag inventory, mapping, developing a partnership with the Forest Service and design and maintenance of access routes. The BCC is currently constructing Restop2 Bag stations to help solve the human waste problem. (There are currently no toilet facilities in the canyon, but a long term goal is to have one built at Castle Rock.) To prepare for the next step in the process, a study to determine exact property lines at another crag is underway.

Other community partners for stewardship projects include the AmeriCorps volunteers. They worked on cleaning up the Castle Rock Area. About 35 tons of road base was moved and put in place. Trash was picked up, graffiti removed and old broken CCC picnic tables were hauled off.

"100 Years Up High" Book Signing and Presentation

Thursday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m, Neptune Mountaineering in Boulder.
100 Years Up High celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Colorado Mountain Club by focusing on the significant people, events, and developments in climbing, hiking, skiing, conservation and art in the High Country. Come with us to explore the hiking, climbing and skiing and learn how Coloradans worked to protect our home mountains. Colorado mountaineering saw dramatic changes in the 20th century. Building on earlier developments, hiking and climbing began the century as a home-made sport. Heading for the summit, climbers traveled on trains or horses. Men wore coats and ties and women full skirts. Later in the century, as mountaineering expanded, entrepreneurs created special equipment, clothing, and food for the outdoors, and the car became the key form of transport to the trailhead.

Moab Mountain Bike and Hike Adventure

June 6 - 9, 2012

\$295 before March 1

We will base camp near Moab in this new adventure and explore the famous mountain biking and hiking trails in the Moab area, and Arches & Canyonlands National Parks. You will ride (or hike) with groups of various sizes and abilities for four days of adventure in this amazing desert wonderland. You provide your own transportation to and from the rides and hikes which are accessible with any automobile. You also need to bring your own camping gear and bike (if you ride) or rent one in Moab. Carpooling is encouraged. There are rides and hikes suited for beginning to advanced riders of all ages. Not included: Transportation to Moab, bike and helmet if needed and personal camping gear. Price increases after March 15 to \$325; March 16-April 30 \$350; After April 30 \$375. Contact Rick Pratt at rpratt905@gmail.com 303-887-3717