



January 2012 Announcement regarding the Compass



Hello CMC Member,

The year 2012 brings big changes to the Compass.

In addition to a new editor, Clare Reda (pictured here on the Third Flatiron), the Compass will undergo a transformation to bring it into better alignment with other CMC newsletters, such as the Rucksack, as well as improving the effectiveness of the publication.

After deliberation at the December meeting, the Boulder Council approved this fundamental change in the Compass. It was agreed to suspend the January issue of the Compass to allow time to implement the new delivery system changes, and to allow Council time to determine if there will be any other changes to the Compass. This decision will be based in part upon findings of an ad hoc committee who will conduct a survey to determine how members use the Compass. While these changes are being formalized, we are sending this announcement instead of the January issue. Your consideration in answering the survey will help make the Compass a publication that better serves our members' needs.

The first issue of the Compass in the new format will be published in February. Like the Rucksack, the content will focus on delivering information in a compact format that will allow the reader to easily scan the email. Articles with longer content can be viewed by clicking a link that will take the reader to the Boulder Group's section, or blog, on the state website.

The members who receive a hardcopy version of the Compass will continue to receive a copy mailed to them by Clubroom volunteers. This is a courtesy service the Boulder Group is happy to offer for members who don't have Internet access.

Please continue to refer to the weekly GPS for ongoing announcements, edited by Blake Busse.

Below are some essential announcements from Boulder Mountaineering Schools regarding activities in January and beyond.

Backcountry Ski Clinic

Designed to provide basic back country/peak skiing safety skills for the Colorado backcountry, including survival skills, survival skiing and peak skiing/navigation. The backcountry ski clinic is also a great precursor to the Ski Mountaineering School. The clinic is open to Intermediate Telemark/AT skiers/Split Boarders who have minimal backcountry skiing experience. (photo: Kelso Peak in winter)



The BSC will consist of: Lectures: 1/11, 1/25, 2/1 (7-10pm) Field Trips: 1/29, 2/4, 2/12

Prerequisites: Avalanche Level 1, Intermediate ski skills with minimal backcountry experience.

Applications are available online: www.cmcboulder.org/bms/backCountrySki.html

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.

Topics Covered:

Trip planning and preparation, appropriate ski gear and equipment, helpful backcountry ski techniques, routefinding, and avalanche assessment. The emphasis of this course is not on teaching ski techniques but to integrate ski equipment and skills into the mountaineering experience.

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.

Lectures: 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 (6:30-9pm at CMC Golden)

Field Trips: 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5, 5/18-5/20.

Prerequisites include an Level I Avalanche Course(AIARE or NSP) and minimally basic First Aid training.

Instructors

Both schools are looking for instructors and assistant instructors with previous ski mountaineering experience.

For further information, contact Cindy Gagnon, BMS Winter Director, at bmswinter@cmcboulder.org.



Watch the Compass and GPS publications for ongoing notices on the upcoming courses and the sign-up procedures. (photo: from Basic Rock School 2011)

Spring/Summer BMS

Orientation Night (Optional): Monday, 2/27, at 7pm.

SIGN-UPS: Starting Tuesday, 2/28, until classes are full.

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)

Backpacking (starts 7/10).

See www.cmcboulder.org/bms/springSchedule.html for all of the lecture and field trip dates.

Fall BMS

See www.cmcboulder.org/bms/fallSchedule.html for the fall schedule.

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. More information will be featured in future issues of the Compass and GPS.

For further information, contact Brenda Leach, BMS Spring/Summer/Fall Director, at bms@cmcboulder.org.

CMC Eckart Roder Education Fund

This past year, the Ski Mountaineering School was awarded funding from the CMC Eckart Roder Education Fund for instructor training in avalanche education through AIARE.

The CMC Eckart Roder Education Fund was organized in 2003, in honor of Eckart Roder who was a longtime member of the CMC. He exemplified the values of mountain safety, responsibility, and courtesy. The Fund provides support for the educational programs.

Contributions are continuously accepted at: www.cmc.org/support

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