



*Published by CMC Denver Safety and Leadership Committee
Deb Robak, Content Editor*

www.hikingdenver.net
www.cmc.org

LEADER APPRECIATION – Sunday, November 4, 2012 – 12:30 to 5p

Because we appreciate all you do throughout the year, your Safety & Leadership Committee cordially invites all Denver Group Leaders, Instructors, and TLS attendees to an afternoon of complimentary food and refreshments, informative talks, and individual recognition. Signup under Social Activities <http://www.cmc.org/events/events.aspx?categoryID=5>

Are You Really Sure It's Safe?

Remembering a Tragedy near Guanella Pass

by Darlene Boettler

Several years ago I was a member of the Alpine Rescue Team. Frequently we were called for rescue missions involving avalanches. There is one story I would like to share with readers that may help them someday avoid mistakes made by others. Two young men were visiting an older couple that lived in the mountains near Guanella Pass. These young men decided to go out snow shoeing and asked the people they were staying with if it was safe to venture up the slope behind their cabin. It was a little steep and concave in shape, but the people who

lived there assured them, that in the past 25 or so years, there had never been a slide on that slope. Later that morning, as the young men got pretty high on the mountain, the slope suddenly gave way and one of the fellows was immediately buried. The other young man ran in a panic back to the cabin to get help. The sheriff was called and the Alpine Rescue Team was brought in, but of course it was too late to help the buried fellow. Although he was buried less than a foot under the snow, with one hand above it, he had been unable to extract himself. **

Lessons learned:

- A slope may have been stable for 25 years, but that does not guarantee that it is safe.
- The only person who can really save the buried person is their buddy. Walk back up the slope and look around. Often there is some telltale sign that indicates where the body is. The snow may be very compacted but with determination, enough might be removed to allow that person to breathe.
- There was one other very unusual situation in this avalanche. There had been no fresh snow. The whole slope came down in one big slab, and then fractured into smaller pieces, something that rescue team members had never seen before.

Many thanks to Darlene for submitting this article. She is an experienced mountaineer, having served on the Alpine Rescue Team for 6 years. Darlene has been a member of the CMC for 35 years.

****To see a full account and interesting analysis of this incident go to the CAIC website at**

http://avalanche.state.co.us/acc/acc_co.php?accident=19971230

The point of this article is to encourage you to sign up for the ATA (Avalanche Terrain Avoidance) or AIARE Level I. Information and application forms can be found under Schools on the Denver Group website at www.hikingdenver.net

AVALANCHE TERRAIN AVOIDANCE

The Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA) Seminar is meant to teach casual winter hikers (such as snowshoers and cross country skiers) how to avoid avalanche terrain. This course is the mandatory minimum for any CMC Denver leader, certified as a leader after October 1, 2011, who wishes to lead hikes during the winter season (November through April). All leaders certified prior to October 1, 2011 are grandfathered from ATA for 5 years beginning October 1, 2011.

AIARE LEVEL 1

Denver Safety & Leadership Committee is again offering **50% tuition scholarships for the 2013 AIARE Level 1 sessions**. AIARE Level 1 training is required for all new winter backcountry trip leaders certified after September 30, 2011. All existing winter backcountry leaders were grandfathered for five years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to the following Service Award recipients to be presented at the 100th Denver Group Annual Dinner on November 11, 2012.
Jorge Dominguez, Linda Jagger, Dan Kunz, Joe Leahy, Mark Porter, Wayne Tomasello, and John Walters





Sign up for the 100th Denver Group Annual Dinner 11/11/12
<http://www.cmc.org/events/events.aspx?categoryID=5>



Don't forget to vote for Denver Group Council members. Ballots went out last week via Survey Monkey. If you have questions please contact Janet Martel at jmartel98@gmail.com. Council Candidate Bios are in September MHM which is under Member Resources at www.hikingdenver.net



SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITIONS OPEN

Both of these School Directorships are of EXTREME importance since both WFA and TLS are required for Trip Leaders to be certified. View the brief descriptions below and contact those indicated if have an interest in serving in these valuable positions.

Wilderness First Aid Director

Jeanette Kehoe and Lynda Wacht are unable to continue in their Co-Director Positions as Wilderness First Aid School Directors. Applicants need good organizational skills and a medical, EMT, or backcountry wilderness medical background. WFA is offered quarterly in two alternate formats: three evening lectures during three consecutive weeks and one Saturday or two full days on Saturday and Sunday. The course has a cadre of instructors in place and a power point provided by the certifying organization. Contact: Jeff Flax, Chair DG, at Jeff@JFlax.com

Trip Leader School Director

Martha Mustard has been the Trip Leader School Director for four years and has announced her retirement. TLS is offered one evening per quarter; a job description is available as are course content materials. Time required is approximately 10 hours per TLS session. Applicant needs to be an experienced leader and have knowledge of Denver Group policies and processes. Contact: Linda Lawson at lk14er@comcast.net or Martha Mustard at mustardo3@comcast.net



Congratulations to our newest leader, Jane Mataich.

