

# Denver Safety & Leader Newsletter

## FIRST QUARTER 2015

*A communication for CMC Denver Leaders*



*Published by CMC Denver Safety and Leadership Committee*

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### **SPRING 2015 LEADER/INSTRUCTOR GATHERING** **ALL LEADERS/SR INSTRUCTORS/TRIP LEADER GRADS WELCOME**

**April 30, 5:30- 6:30 Social Hour/Beer/Wine/Soft Drinks/Food**  
**6:30-8:30 Program, Conference Rooms, AMC, Golden**

**NO FEE BUT YOU NEED TO MAKE RESERVATIONS AT [CMC.ORG/EVENTS](http://CMC.ORG/EVENTS), APRIL 30**

***“Location, Location, Location – Why the 14ers Are Where They Are” –***

*Jack Reed, USGS Emeritus*

***“Flight for Life Chopper Evacuation Landing Criteria”- Flight for Life Colorado Representative***

***“Why Should a Group Follow Me Instead of a Mountain Goat” –***

*Adult Learning Techniques, Stace Williams, Interactive Dynamics, LLC*

***“RMNP Centennial – What’s the Big Deal?” - TBD***

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF HEADCOUNT**

Recently a CMC trip leaving from a trail head with multiple routes found one of the participants missing when the leader completed a head count check before the trip actually got underway. How did it happen?

Coincidentally there were two CMC groups leaving from the same trail head, as well as a third non-CMC group. The missing participant, a former member joining the trip as a guest, was aware the group was planning to “circle up” beyond the restroom facilities before moving on the trail.

Realizing the participant was missing the leader notified a Park Service volunteer at the trail head and dispatched two experienced members with whom the missing participant rode to the trail head. The two took the trail to the destination of the second CMC group.

The first CMC group continued on their intended route; in about 10 to 15 minutes from the trail head, the missing participant was observed walking toward the group. The elapsed time from the point the individual had been missing was about 30 to 40 minutes.

The missing participant recognized the group and explained he/she was rushed and saw a group leaving the parking area thinking it was the group of which she was a participant. The leader explained the two friends with whom he/she carpoled had been dispatched on the route of the second CMC group. The participant continued to the trail head to wait for the two members with whom he/she carpoled.

Upon return from their destination, the leader advised the Park Service volunteer the participant had been found. The leader also called one of the two members who rode with the guest to verify the two members and the guest were safe and accounted for.

### **Lessons Learned**

- The importance of having a headcount at the time a leader and participants form the standard “CMC Circle”
- Set expectations by advising all participants there will be a “CMC Circle” at a particular destination prior to participants gearing up and repeat the location where participants will be gathering
- The importance of advising a park service volunteer in the area of a potential serious situation and of advising of resolution to the situation
- The need to possess cell phone contact information for all participants so a leader can check in with them en route or post trip; having more than one carrier among trip participants is also helpful

## **CALL TO LEADERS - WILDFLOWER HIKES FOR RMNP CENTENNIAL!**

You do not have to be a wildflower expert! We'd like to pair you with a Native Plant Master, who can find and identify the flowers. You will oversee the trip for planning, logistics, safety & first aid. Hoping to have weekly hikes, location your choice or assigned. Highly dependent on lingering snowpack, scouting opportunities in June & start with lower elevation hikes. Optimum bloom times are July/August (team Dan Kunz/Judy King dates TBD). Recommend maximum 12 people per hike, non-CMC guests allowed, weekday trips preferred for the East side of RMNP so as not to impact trails and parking availability (West side RMNP less busy in general). Expect a slower paced hike to observe, discuss, and photograph. Pre-trip scouting advised. Trail recommendations will be available (or if you have a favorite hike--there's bound to be flowers, yes?). Please contact Linda Koshio Rogers, [LKLKRoge@gmail.com](mailto:LKLKRoge@gmail.com).

## **LEADERS NEEDED FOR RMNP CENTENNIAL PEAK CLIMBS & COMBO PACK HIKES**

One hundred years ago CMC members were working towards a common goal of forming a hiking and climbing club to support the movement to have Estes Valley named as a national park. Rocky Mountain National Park has chosen to celebrate its Centennial Year from September 4, 2014 through September 4, 2015. As part of the celebration, CMC is asking leaders statewide to lead 100 of the 125 named peaks in The Park and to lead trips in five of the designated regions of The Park. Through February forty-five trips have been led but leaders are still needed, particularly for peak trips. Of the 125 named peaks in The Park, over thirty are below 12,000 ft elevation of which all but three are classified as A, B, or C trips. Please consider leading a RMNP Peak or a trip within the 5 regions of The Park. Information: <http://www.cmc.org/About/YearoftheMountaineer/TripLeaderResources/RMNPLLeaderResources.aspx>

**HIKE REGISTRATION PROCESS** - Effective February 1, 2015 any member may register for any hike whether or not the member has a hiker classification equal to or greater than that of the hike. Hikes continue to be classified A – D with E indicating exposure. Leaders continue to be able to set prerequisites for their hikes and to screen participants. This change in hiker registration requirements is only applicable for hikes; snowshoe, ski, fly fishing and climbing trip registration requirements have not changed. As a result of this registration process change, leaders now receive an automated e-mail whenever a member registers for a hike. This notice allows a leader to view the roster and assess whether contact needs to be made with a participant regarding his/her hiker classification, experience or the prerequisites set.

How is this new registration process working for you, our leaders? Let us hear from you by clicking on Compliments/Complaints on [hikingdenver.net](http://hikingdenver.net) – right hand side of the page.



## **WFA RENEWAL – 1 DAY**

Wilderness First Aid Training (WFA) offers both the 16-hour class twice annually and an eight-hour renewal class twice annually. The renewal class has a hands-on scenario focus and requires students to score 80% on a written exam. All WFA sessions are held at St. Anthony Hospital, Lakewood from 8:30am – 5:00pm. Register on line at [cmc.org](http://cmc.org) or contact School Director, Carol Giffen at [cgbmeup1@gmail.com](mailto:cgbmeup1@gmail.com)

Full Course: **March 7 & 14; September 26 & October 3** Renewal: **April 12 & November 7**

# **AVALANCHE TERRAIN AVOIDANCE (ATA) APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION**

Four sessions of ATA were held during November, January, February and March. Appreciation goes out to our mountain leaders who taught the sessions and conducted optional field days with students at Jones Pass Road: Bob Collins, Brad Cotton, Ricardo Duarte, Fred Larke, Linda Lawson, Uwe Sartori and John Walters



***AVALANCHE  
EDUCATION  
AIARE LEVEL 1***

The following students completed the 2015 AIARE Level 1 Avalanche School with Tom Creighton, Director. Instructors during both sessions were Brendan Reiss and John Morrone; Assistants during February Session 1 were Ricardo Duarte, Jeff Duke, Chris Ducay, Fred Larke and Linda Lawson. Assistants during March Session 2 were Craig Lewis, Ricardo Duarte, Peter Gabel, Tom Jagger and Linda Lawson. Thanks and appreciation to each of them for their volunteer commitments to this school and to Markus Beck, Alpine World Ascents, for his professional guidance.

Students Session 1: Cheryl Ames\*, Dean Cates\*, Marilyn Choske\*, Blake Clark\*, Bob Collins, Russell Connally, Sean Duckett, Michael Gaudet\*, Jason Gross, Lisa Herbert, Matt Leiphart\*, Paul Marcell, James Margolis\*, Kent McCreary, Rita Morgan, Lucas Novak, Justin Oliver, Greg Olson\*, Brian Parrish, Morgan Reitmeyer, Mark Wolf\* and Ken Yaphe.

Students Session 2: Craig, Margaret, Josh & Noah Brown; John Countryman, John Davis, John Dillon, Andrew Hulburd, Linda Jagger\*, Marisa & Justin Jarae, Roger Leikas\*, Paul Kaster, Lauen Klun, Sheryl Lampert, Roger Leikas, Brady Loomis, Preston & Nathan Osborn, Andrew Schindler, Alex Slucky and Madeline Stein.

\*Leaders who received 50% Scholarships from DS&L. Bob Collins received a scholarship from ROTHG Section.

Leaders completing AIARE Level 1 School meet the CMC Denver requirements to lead winter backcountry trips. "Backcountry" is defined as avalanche prone terrain.

## NEWLY CERTIFIED LEADERS

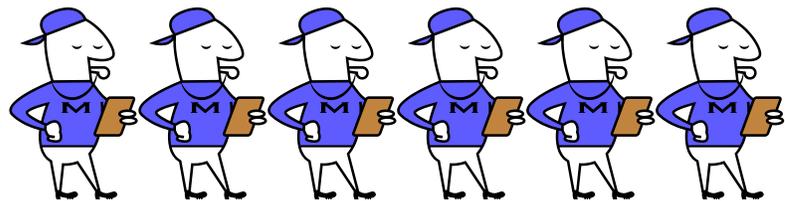
Look for trips by the following newly certified Denver Leaders: Allen Youngs, Andrew Westmeyer, Ken Yapahe, Mariya Cassin, Mike Guadet, Russ Petersen, and Tom Hartzell. Congratulations to these members who have stepped up to become volunteer leaders.

## ACTIVE LEADER STATUS

Just a reminder that to retain Active Leader Status leaders need to lead one trip between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015, or complete one Denver school trip as a senior instructor. If leaders/instructors are unable to lead a trip during this time frame due to injury or accident, they may request a waiver from DS&L. Use this link for necessary actions to return to Active Leader Status: <http://www.hikingdenver.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Form-for-RETURN-TO-ACTIVE-LEADER-STATUS-2.pdf>

## NAVIGATION VIDEO

The Steve Gladbach Memorial Series (Part 4) Video is now posted on cmc.org on the main page. You are missing this navigation video in which Joe Griffith, WTS Director, plays a cameo role, if you simply sign in to cmc.org and never scroll down a bit. Check it out!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TRIP LEADER SCHOOL (TLS)

**Recruiting New Leaders for Trip Leader School on April 4<sup>th</sup>.** The format includes a two-hour lecture and four to six hours of field work. Register on-line. Pat McKinley, Director.

## **PETER LAUX MEMORIAL MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>**

“Pete” Laux passed away peacefully after a short illness on February 6, 2015. Pete was an avid hiker, Native Plant Master, and geologist. He was an active trip leader for CMC Denver and the State Education Program. Pete led many natural history trips and was a wonderful teacher and leader.

“Peter’s enthusiasm and skill in sharing the wonders of nature with CMC members and the public was inspiring. The CMC has been enriched with his leadership. I am grateful to have known and worked with him during his 15 years as a member and volunteer,” Brenda Porter, Membership and Adventure Travel Director.

The Memorial will be held from 11am - 2pm at the Leprino Atrium, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

## **ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS**

There have been no accidents/incidents – or even near misses – reported by Denver School Directors or Trip Leaders for the last several months. Reporting of accidents/incidents or near misses allows leaders to learn from others and stay aware of trail & trip situations. Check the Accident/Incident Reporting form is at this link: <http://www.cmc.org/Portals/0/GoverningDocs/Emergency%20First%20Aid%20Report%20Form.pdf>

## **AVALANCHE FORECASTS**

CAIC normally continues its avalanche mountain range forecasts through April. Post April the avalanche forecasts are general. Be sure to check out avy forecasts and develop a travel plan for your trip.

## **GUANELLA PASS ROAD CONSTRUCTION**



Construction on Guanella Pass Road from the Grant side (Hwy 285) is closed to the public Monday through Friday from 8 – 11 am and from 1 – 3 pm with possible 30 minute delays on each side of this time range. Check Guanella Pass Road Information at 303-679-2422 ext 2. Additional information is available from US Forest Service at 303/567-2901. Some vehicles on CMC trips to the Abyss/Scott Gomer Creek trail head or Burning Bear trail head have been allowed to travel on the road during the week following a pilot truck but this service is not stated in the official information about the road so leaders should not depend on it.

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