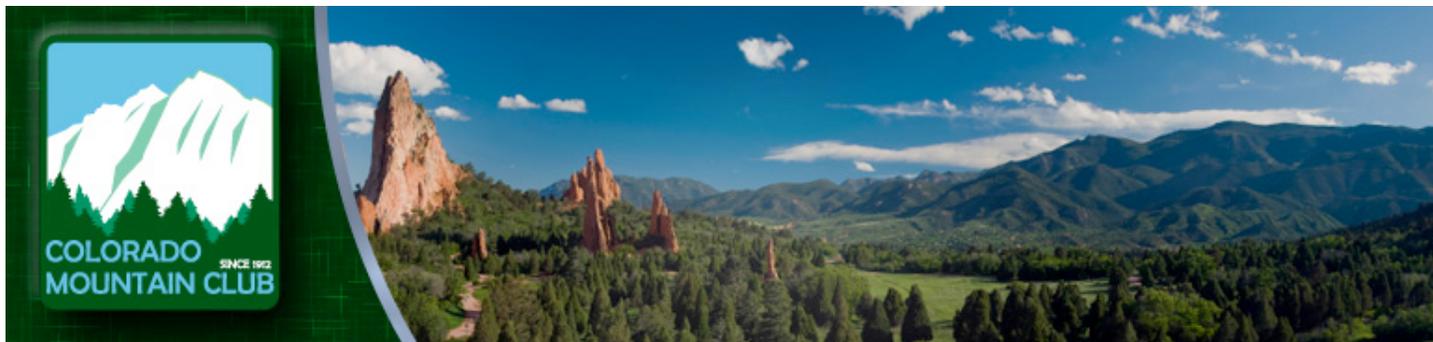


Denver Safety & Leader Newsletter

March 2017

A communication for CMC Denver Leaders



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New Skills Requirement for “B” Trip Leader Classification

The growth of CMC membership has led to an increased emphasis on member and leadership training. In response, the Denver Safety & Leadership Committee (DS&L) has set a skills requirement for all “B” leaders certified after December 31, 2017.

“B” classified trips may require navigation, weather assessments, stream crossings, winter travel, dry land travel over a variety of surfaces (slick rock, talus, scree, and boulders) as well as an overnight bivvy in the case of accident or injury.

Denver Group Council (DGC) approved the DS&L’s recommendation that all “B” leaders certified after December 31, 2017 be trained in the following mountain skills:

- Map and Compass Navigation
- Stream Crossing
- Glissading/Snow Travel
- Dry Land Travel

- Overnight Survival
- Nutrition/Hydration/Sanitation
- Field Weather Observations

These skills may be best learned through completion of Wilderness Trekking School (WTS) or an equivalent, subject to a waiver granted by the WTS Committee, or through skills training offered in other CMC schools.

All current leaders with a “B” classification and those certified prior to year-end are grandfathered from the skills training requirement, but are strongly encouraged to seek training in the above areas if they have not already done so.



Salt Update

The **Support Aid for Leader Training (SALT)** program which DGC launched last year allows existing leaders to enroll in several safety skills schools (including WTS) **tuition free** if the certified leader applicant leads a minimum number of trips within a specified period prior to date of the application, or if active members are interested in becoming CMC Denver leaders.

Through March 10, the SALT program has approved 147 applications from current or aspiring leaders to attend the schools they need to obtain or refresh CMC leader qualifications, or learn new skills. Not counting Trip Leader School (TLS) – which is fully subsidized – the program saved applicants a total of \$5,090. Most applications were for Wilderness First Aid (WFA) (68), TLS (53), and AIARE Level 1 (10). So far 17 leaders have been certified through the SALT program, and many more are in the pipeline.

Eckart Roder Education Fund Dinner April 6

The Eckart Roder Education Fund was organized in honor of Eckart, a long-time member of CMC. The Fund seeks primarily to support the educational programs of the Denver Group.

Forty-nine certified CMC Denver leaders have benefited since 2012 from a grant that funded avalanche training. Those benefiting include Jason Gross, Greg Olson and Richard O'Brien Moore who each recently completed AIARE Level 2 .

Each year a potluck dinner is held to honor Eckart's memory, raise additional funds, and recognize grant recipients. This year's speaker is Alan Stark, who coordinates the 35 backcountry ski patrollers who cover all the major trailheads along the Peak to Peak Highway.

Reservations are required by March 31. If interested, please contact Jay Cordes at 303-996-2752 or jaycordes@cmc.org by March 31 with your dish and number attending.



Welcome New Leaders

Congratulations to these leaders who were certified since the November DS&L newsletter: Barbara Fahey, Valerie Hawks, Martha Delporte, Chip Furlong, Kenneth Haag, Doug Fries, Robert Scheinman, Kerry McCaig, Sheryl Lampert, and Angie Perris-Raney. Debra Lachowetz was certified to add downhill ski trips to her current qualifications and Ken Wolma returned to Active Leader status.

Required Training for Ski Leaders



Some leaders may have been discouraged from leading ski trips because of an inaccurate understanding that all ski leaders must take AIARE Level 1, “Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain.” AIARE Level 1 is only required if winter leaders are traveling into avalanche prone terrain. However, only the three-hour seminar, Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA) , and a half-day field trip is required of winter leaders who are NOT traveling in avalanche prone terrain.



Trip Leader’s New Member Support Kit

CMC is enjoying its longest streak of membership growth since 2010. Statewide, the number of members grew 10% year over year to 6172 members in January. Denver Group grew even faster (19%) to 3,682, and boasted a 30% increase in memberships, which include families with multiple members. That’s the good news.

But – last year only 20% of new CMC Denver members renewed at the end of their first year! We are happy to report that, after Council’s year-long engagement efforts, that number edged up in January to almost 28%.

Why such a low renewal rate? Surveys show that having an excellent “first trip” is one of the keys to improving member retention. But most of the non-renewing members never engaged with the club. A good proportion of new members find the calendar system intimidating, have a fear of “not keeping up,” and don’t understand CMC trip classification lingo. What seems routine to long-time members is sometimes overwhelming to them.

Council is asking all trip leaders to lead at least one “[New Member Trip](#)” in the coming year.

No need to notify anyone. *All you need to do is enter a trip as you normally would, with “[New Member Trip](#)” in the first line of the trip title.* There appears to be enough demand for at least one weekday and one weekend trip per month for the foreseeable future. You will find that long-time members may sign up too, which is a big help to the leader and beneficial for the new members.

If you are a recently certified leader who has not yet developed a “following” because not enough members know you, this is an excellent way to do it. Find out what your new member participants can do and are interested in doing, then offer those type of trips to them for next time.

If you are wondering if you want to lead such a trip, Denver Group Council has developed a [Trip Leader’s New Member Support Kit](#) to help you. The Kit was developed by Councilmember [Robbie Monsma](#) with lots of help from John Walters and others. The kit is offered as a series of aids (sample trip sheets, emails, trip suggestions, etc.). If you are curious about what issues might arise on a new member trip, give it a read. Some of the anecdotes are pretty humorous! [Write Robbie](#) if you have any questions or comments on the Kit or on leading New Member trips in general.



Colorado Public Lands Day - May 20th

Lead a trip for the first **Colorado Public Lands**

CMC Conservation will provide materials to help you educate participants on the importance of Public Lands while you celebrate recreating in the great outdoors!

For more information, email conservation@cmc.org

Additionally, leaders can register for CMC Conservation campaign updates and action alerts at www.cmc.org/conservation

Save the Date for Get Outdoors



If you're looking for a great volunteer opportunity or just a fun day with the kids or grandkids, plan on celebrating National Get Outdoors Day on Saturday, June 10 at Sloan's Lake Park (north shore) in Denver. [See \[getoutdoors.colorado.org\]\(http://getoutdoors.colorado.org\) for details.](http://getoutdoors.colorado.org)

CMC is supporting this event, along with the US Forest Service and Colorado Parks, which issue permits for CMC schools and some hiking activities. More info will be coming on how leaders can get involved.

Hessie Trail Head

The Hessie Trail Head Shuttle normally operates from Memorial Day through the first week in October. Each shuttle holds 12 passengers. Although the 2017 schedule is not yet available leaders can check it out at this link

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/arp/recreation/recarea/?recid=28274>

Note: Day Hiking permits are needed for organized groups - this means CMC trips. Please see instructions in the link for obtaining a day hiking permit for your trip. As the IPW trails are very popular it is important to request your permit well in advance of your trip date because the permits are snail mailed to you as the leader.

Parting Thought...

True leaders do not work to do better than anyone else, they work to do better than themselves. And that's what makes them better leaders.

--Simon Sinek

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