The deadline is fast approaching! The RMOTHG New Leader Initiative will be held Monday, February 5 and the **sign-up deadline is January 31**.

Anyone interested in becoming a leader is invited to this informational meeting at 4pm at the American Mountaineering Center. Current leaders are welcome also. There will be a presentation on the process to become a trip leader. Our activity coordinators will discuss the support we provide to our leaders. There will be testimonials from current leaders and a question and answer period. There will also be plenty of time for just talking informally to our current leaders. Refreshments will be provided. All current trip leaders are also invited. The event is free but registration is required — please sign up on the CMC.org: [https://www.cmc.org/Calendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=39986](https://www.cmc.org/Calendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=39986). Attendance at the meeting does not obligate you in any way but will help inform you about the process. Please come and find out how to get started and have your questions answered. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any member of the trip leader recruitment committee:

Lue Fratantuono,  [fratantu@comcast.net](mailto:fratantu@comcast.net)
Martha Mustard,  [mustardo3@comcast.net](mailto:mustardo3@comcast.net)
Elaine Shirley,  [elaineshirley@q.com](mailto:elaineshirley@q.com)

Have you noticed how fast our trips fill up? Additional trip leaders mean additional trips, more members on the rosters and less on the waitlists. Please consider whether this may be a way for you to give back.
Hello fellow RMOTHG members!

Not that we don’t love our blue skies and sunny days here on the front range, but wasn’t everyone just a little excited to get an actual winter storm? Time to review the upcoming trips being offered, strap-on those snow shoes or cross country skis, and enjoy winter in the Rockies.

At the January 8th Board meeting, we found our Section holds steady at 853 Members & 5 Social Members. With such a large membership and given the responsibilities involved, it was decided that the Membership Chair position will be officially held by an elected Board Member. In the past it could have been held by a non-Board Member volunteer. The membership position is a busy on-going job that includes monitoring our membership list twice per month, sending welcome letters to new members, checking on delinquent dues, interfacing with new and exiting members, as well as dealing with other issues that arise. Our current Membership Chair, Lue Fratantuono, has been doing a fantastic job! Thank you Lue for the many hours you have contributed to our Section.

Related to membership, the Board wants to make sure that RMOTHG Section is keeping up with YOU. We are in the initial stages of putting together a brief survey to determine what type of activities YOU are interested in that we may not currently offer, as well as what improvements can be made to our existing activities/events. I know we all get enough survey requests these days, but this is serious stuff....this involves our play time. Watch for the roll out of this survey in the near future and please give us your 2 cents.

The RMOTHG New Trip Leader Initiative kick-off meeting is fast approaching on February 5th. There is still time for YOU (or for YOU to encourage one of your other RMOTHG buddies) to sign-up and attend this very informative meeting. You will learn a lot, as well as become more familiar with our existing Trip Coordinators and Trip Leaders.

Have fun out there!

Kirsten Tollefsen
RMOTHG Section Chair

Event Calendar

FEB 5
FEB 12
FEB 26
MAR 26
APRIL 9
APRIL 11
APRIL (TBD)
MAY 23
LEADER RECRUITMENT MEETING
FORNEY MUSEUM
CPR/AED
FLY FISHING SCHOOL
CPR/AED
INTRO TO HIKING SAFETY
BOTANIC GARDENS
INTRO TO HIKING SAFETY
We experienced a wonderful snowshoe last month on lovely Lily Pad Lake Trail where newer members shooed in the deeper snow next to the trail under blue skies and sunshine. We meandered in the trees, loved the quiet shush of each step in contrast to the clatter of snowshoes on hard packed trail. It was a wonderful true snowshoe experience we’d like you all to have this winter when you join us on a snowshoe outing! We accommodate newbies and experienced shoers, and usually shoe or spike-hike for two hours to a scenic spot for lunch, enjoy each other’s company, and return. We offer optional snack stops afterwards where newer members get acquainted with regular ones. If you’re not yet on the email list Jeff sends out on Friday afternoons between 5 and 6 p.m. listing the following Wed trips, email Jeff.Flax@gmail.com to let him know. Read the trip descriptions to see which trip is right for you and sign up on links to CMC Jeff provides. Sometimes we add trips not on the schedule so look for Friday night emails!

We’ve been lucky in warm weather, but cold is the usual experience. We prepare with our usual ten essentials and extra warm winter gear so we can handle any weather changes. We don’t start miserable, though, so leaders watch weather, avalanche forecasts, CDOT road conditions, and will change starting times or trip locations or even cancel if necessary. We want to be able to offer you fun experiences and safe trips there and back. Come join us, and meet the fun RMOTHG members who’ll shoe with you!
We have two RMOTHG cross-country (XC) scheduled trips in February. Please note these trips are tentative and subject to change, particularly due to weather, and road and snow conditions. Additional RMOTHG trips lead by XC certified trip leaders will be offered based on their availability.

The trips scheduled for February are:

**Thursday, FEBRUARY 1** - Corral Creek (Easy III)

**Tuesday, FEBRUARY 18** - Peru Creek (Easy III)

Our XC trips often fill up quickly. We suggest still signing up for waitlists as slots may open as trip participants change their plans.

RMOTHG XC trips are rated as Easy II and Easy III using the CMC’s trip classification system. These are 4-8 miles with an elevation gain of 500 - 1,200 feet. Members will need to have XC skills to be able to ski up and down selected trails. Members interested in being notified of RMOTHG XC trips should e-mail jeff.Flax@gmail.com. E-mails will be sent through the RMOTHG XC activity list as trips are scheduled. Please also let Jeff know if you have any questions about RMOTHG XC skiing.

The CMC Denver Group’s Wilderness First Aid School (WFA) is offering two separate 2 ½ hour ECSI nationally certified CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) evening classes at the AMC/CMC, one on Mon, Feb. 26th, and one on Mon, April 9th (take one class only.) Both classes are from 6:30 to 9:00. The class also covers how to relieve choking victims. The class tuition is $20.

(Denver Group leaders can apply for SALT scholarships, which covers the cost of the class — see [https://goo.gl/XuhvKm](https://goo.gl/XuhvKm).) For more information, contact Jeff Flax, Denver Group WFA School Director, at jeff.Flax@gmail.com. Registration sign-up is available on the CMC calendar at [https://www.cmc.org/Calendar.aspx](https://www.cmc.org/Calendar.aspx).
**INTRODUCTION TO HIKING SAFETY SEMINAR**

FIVE 2018 SESSIONS, APRIL 11, MAY 23, JUNE 20, JULY 25, SEPTEMBER 19, 6:30 – 9:00 PM

**Contact:** Art Hogling, director, ahogling@aol.com  
**Location:** AMC, Golden  
**Fee:** CMC member $5, non-member $10  
**Registration:** cmc.org/calendar/classes or membership services at (303) 279-3080

*Invitation to a CMC seminar on hiking safety. Learn how to be safe in the backcountry.*

Learning how to be safe in the backcountry is a major reason many members join the CMC. So we've developed a **one-evening seminar** especially for new members and others who want to learn the basics of hiking safety.

The Introduction to Hiking Safety seminar will teach you:

- the many aspects of safety you need to be aware of, including subjects such as lightning, avalanche, animal encounters, getting lost (or staying found), cold weather gear, staying warm, hypothermia and cold weather injuries, and being stranded over night,
- how to avoid, how to prepare for, and how to respond to safety challenges,
- an introduction to the extensive program of in-depth, hands-on safety training offered in the CMC Denver Group's adult education curriculum.

For more information, go to [www.hikingdenver.net/schools](http://www.hikingdenver.net/schools)

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**FLY FISHING SCHOOL**

**STARTS MARCH 26**

The 2018 Fly Fishing School will be held on March 26 and April 2 at the CMC building and includes three field trips scheduled for April 7, 14 and 21.

Our school (or similar experience) is required for ALL Denver Group fly fishing trips. The CMC Denver group member fee is $195 and other CMC members is $205.

If interested, go to the CMC Website and pull it up on the calendar or go directly to [https://www.cmc.org/Calendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=39409](https://www.cmc.org/Calendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=39409) for more information and to sign up.

If you have any questions please contact Pablo Balan, School Director at [pablobalan@comcast.net](mailto:pablobalan@comcast.net)
FUN PHOTOS

PLEASE Email YOUR photos to Maryann - tophillnews@gmail.com

WINTER GLORY!
ROCKY MOUNTAIN OVER THE HILL GANG
A Section of the Colorado Mountain Club Denver Group

RMOTHG SECTION BOARD

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Section Vice Chair
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DOWNLOAD NEWSLETTER
http://hikingdenver.net
www.rmothg.org/UploadedUserFiles/nlarchive.aspx
http://www.cmc.org/RMOTHG

SEE BOARD MINUTES
http://www.rmothg.org/BoardMinutes.aspx

READ BYLAWS

IN CASE OF A SERIOUS ILLNESS OR DEATH,
please contact Jane VanderKolk to send out a
note to our members from RMOTHG. Her email is
jane.vanderkolk@comcast.net