Bobcats Leader Gathering – January 11, 2018

Members Present: Sue Ahlberg, Suzanne Allexan, Cheryl Ames, Jeff Damp, Linda Jagger, Tom Jagger, Roger Leikas, Robbie Monsma, Durrie Monsma, Carol Munch, Martin O’Grady, Vaune Pelletier, Kevin Schaal, Ralph Shroba, Jeff Stevens, Bob Watkins, John Wethey, Mark Wolf, Stephanie Wright, Ken Yaphe.
Unable to attend: Bob Collins, Tom O’Connor, Russ Peterson,

Thanks to Carol Munch for hosting the meeting in her home and for her gracious hospitality.

Bobcats board members introduced themselves: Mark Wolf, Treasurer and Trip Leader Coordinator; Robbie Monsma, Publicity Director; Stephanie Wright, Social Director; Kevin Schaal, Secretary; and Vaune Pelletier, Trip Coordinator.

Mark Wolf reported the Bobcats Section has approximately $786 in the bank.

Robbie Monsma reported that the ranks of the Bobcats now stood at 515 members.

Robbie Monsma and Carol Munch represent the Bobcats by serving on the Denver Group Council. Durrie Monsma, Mark Wolf, and Kevin Schaal are members of Denver Safety and Leadership Committee. Kevin has also taken over the responsibility of Trip Leader School Director.

Robbie Monsma is member of the Denver Group Council’s new Denver Member Initiative Committee and discussed the following topics:

1) Quick Start School is an idea developed by Council to offer training opportunities without students having to commit to multi-week schools such as WTS. Quick Start School is starting soon and if any Bobcats Leader is interested in teaching or assisting with field days, let her know.

2) ‘New Member’ hikes and ‘Try Snowshoeing’ trips are being offered and Bobcats Leaders can offer their help and expertise if anyone is interested and available.

3) Offering specialty trips like navigation practice or training in the use of avalanche beacons were mentioned as being of interest and would be quite useful.

4) A “Bootstrap Hike Series” is being considered. This type of series is designed to raise a member’s level of fitness gradually over a period of weeks and months with multiple trip offerings so that by the end of the series, a member will have the ability to successfully summit a 14’er.

5) Occasionally offering to substitute for Robbie at New Member Night meetings and leading New Member hikes would be greatly appreciated. The script for the New Member Night presentation has already been prepared.

6) Robbie showed and distributed the new Bobcats business cards.

7) Robbie is interested in publishing bios of Bobcats Trip Leaders if there is a leader whose bio hasn’t already been published in a Bobcats newsletter.

Optional “after-Hike socialization activities” were discussed and Bobcats Leaders generally supported that this was an excellent way to further increase camaraderie within the Bobcats Section. Jeff Stevens wrote some comments on this topic which were distributed to the group prior to the meeting.
John Wethey expressed interest in becoming a road bike trip leader. Doing an LIT bike ride is required. Names of 3 people able to conduct such an LIT were giver: Pete Spandau, Jeff Flax and Wayne Tomasello, all of whom lead bike trips for RMOTHG.

Mark Wolf mentioned that key exchange hikes, after work hikes, backpack trips, ski trips, hut trips, doggie hikes, car camping, and backpacking trips such as those presented via email by David Greist and essentially any other types of hikes were allowed and encouraged.

Suzanne Allexan polled the group about interest in overnight hut tut trips. Suzanne is considering organizing and offering a hut trip for some time in the future.

Bob Watkins mentioned that for some of his upcoming multi-day backpack trips, it would be better to list them in the activity sooner that just one month prior to the trip. It was agreed that each trip leader could activate his/her trips at the time they deemed most appropriate.

If a trip leader is a little late in putting a trip in the calendar, the leader should simply activate it and notify Vaune and Robbie that it has been added. Robbie will then list it as a new trip offering in the next weekly communication email message.

The requirements for leading Winter Trips were discussed.

- If a leader is venturing into ‘avalanche-prone terrain’, the leader must have taken AIARE Level 1. An AIARE Level 1 certificate has a lifetime of 5 years, following which the certificate must be renewed. The leader is responsible for deciding if his trip falls into the category of being in ‘avalanche-prone’ terrain.
- If a Winter trip will not be in ‘avalanche-prone terrain’, ATA (Avalanche Terrain Avoidance) is the class which is required. An ATA certificate is good for 3 years, following which the certificate must be renewed. The leader is responsible for deciding if his trip falls into the category of being in ‘non avalanche-prone’ terrain.
- Ken Yaphe commented that AIARE does NOT agree with the above described practice endorsed by CMC. Ken is an AIARE instructor and is the Bobcats Leader having the most experience with Avalanche Science. The group of leaders was of the opinion that CMC’s Safety & Operations Director, Philip Swiny, would be reviewing CMC’s policies on this topic.

Other trip leader requirements:

- Wilderness First Aid must now be renewed every two years following a recent policy revision by the certifying agency, ECSI (Emergency Care & Safety Institute).
- CPR is NOT required UNLESS a member is serving as an Instructor in one of the Denver Group Schools and instructing a field trip in one of the Colorado State Parks. For a more complete explanation of the CPR requirements, it is recommended contact Jeff Flax.