CELEBRATING COLORADO WILDLIFE

Thanks to Martha Delporte for the Colorado wildlife photos featured in this issue!

SAVE THE DATES!

TURQUOISE LAKE RMOTHG CAMPOUT
AUGUST 9-12

1. Add dates to Calendar
2. Check and refresh camping gear
3. Watch for signup details to follow in March.

AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE OTHER BIG EVENTS FOR 2021

Saturday, July 10          ANNUAL RMOTHG PICNIC
Sunday, September 12       ANNUAL MEETING / AWARDS /BRUNCH
Sunday, December 5         HOLIDAY PARTY

Turquoise Lake campfire August 2020
As we enter the month of March, I sense a bit of normalcy coming back into our lives. I hope at this point, most of our members have been able to get their COVID shots. Once you get the shot, I am sure you will have the feeling that finally we might be safe from this terrible virus. This downtime has also given some of us the opportunity to have body parts upgraded, so we are good for another 150,000 miles.

Thanks go out to Bea Slingsby for continuing to lead weekly hikes and Jeanne Eiss for her work with scheduling virtual hikes and birding information. You have brought joy to this depressing winter.

Planning for summer activities is in the queue. Martha Mustard and Jeff Flax have set a tentative schedule for the spring leader meeting to coordinate the summer hiking schedule. I am sure biking will be planning the same thing once the time is right.

The social committee, thanks to the hard work of Ronnie Knueven, has planned a summer picnic, as well as the annual meeting and the holiday Christmas party. None of these events happened last year. They are looking at putting together social hours once timing is right.

Dates are set for Turquoise Lake camping. Look for the “save the date” note in the newsletter. Details for signing up will be posted in the April newsletter. It will once again be a lottery drawing. We have 14 sites currently and hope to add one or two more before the final drawing.

This last month, CMC put on the Volunteer Leadership Conference. It was four days of sessions creating better leaders. I need to compliment Maggie Miller and the others that worked with her on an excellent four days. The sessions were very well done and a source of a lot of useful knowledge.

The last thing that is important to mention is the development of the new CMC website. As you may know, the structure of this site is from the Seattle Mountaineering group. There is a lot of excitement about the functionality it will bring to CMC. Look for more information as the website starts to take shape.

Our next board meeting will be on March 8th at 1 pm. If you have any questions or thoughts you would like the board to consider, please feel free to e-mail me.

Soon, I hope to see you on the trail. Stay safe and well.

Scott
WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING ...

This is a time of physically distancing, not socially distancing. In the spirit of keeping socially connected, please share what you’ve been doing and thinking with the Gang.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO tophillnews@gmail.com for next month's newsletter. THANKS!

Pete Spandau hiked on Kinnikinnick Loop trail at Mud Lake - just before he met his new pal, a large, happy, mellow female moose. We saw her two more times.

Carol Wier skied Copper Mountain with daughter Amy Harman
Ida Sansoucy, Joanie Broder, Barb Schwarz and Maryann Mayer hiked Waterton Canyon with the bighorn sheep.

Martha Delporte, Barb Schwarz and Maryann Mayer found the Heart Tree in south Boulder.
BRAIN BLUR FROM FEBRUARY 2020

~by Elaine Kallos

I’ve been in Brain-Blur since February.
Brain-baffled, too.
Brain-fried, sometimes.
Brain-frazzled, often.
Brain-bombasted, too much.
But maybe I’m coming around.
Maybe a little calm up there.

I need the rest.
Have been exhausted with all that going on in my head.
I need a few days of Simple.
A day or two of Clarity.
Another couple days of Quiet.
A week of Peace and Comfort might help, too.

I want my brain to fill again with a bit of Silly, a few rounds of Chuckle, a dose of Dazzle, and a cloud of Light and Fresh.
I’d like to start anew, empty malarkey, add Sagacity, and give my recovered brain its chance to imagine, invent, create its way Out of covid-Awful.

ANOTHER PARAPROSDOKIAN!

Maureen Upton, a new OTHG member sent another paraprosdokian!

It’s one of her favorites by Mae West:

"Too much of a good thing can be wonderful."
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Special kudos to fellow OTHG trip leader Sarah Strandjord, who will NOT want this accolade, but I write it anyway. Thank you, Sarah, our retired pediatric oncology doc, not just for all that work you did before with kids which is laudable on its own, but for trying to get covid VAX appointments for us “olders,” finding out where appointments are, calling to make sure we’ve got the vax but if not, offering appointments you’ve found for us; asking if we know anyone else who needs an appointment, and making sure the appointments are filled with ANYone who needs one. I admire folks who continue doing Good when not required and when we need it most (LOTS of you OTHG members volunteer, and help in MANY places so THANK YOU, too.)

Sorry to annoy you, Dear Sarah, with this, but sometimes annoyance is ok.

THANK YOU, SARAH, and ALL YOU OTHG MEMBERS WHO HELP OTHERS! You make us proud and grateful.

~ Elaine Kallos

Redhead Duck at Main Reservoir

Buffalo at Rocky Mountain Arsenal
I haven’t led a hike or snowshoe since February 2020, so it’s been a year since I’ve felt like a “real” RMOTHG member/leader. I’ve missed you and our snowshoe leaders who attend our annual meeting to post their trips for Snowshoe Season! I’m just grateful that Bea Slingsley has led so many actual trips. She’s our marvel and wonder and THANK YOU, BEA, from all of us and especially those who’ve enjoyed the hikes/shoes you’ve led (and thanks to the others who’ve led hikes/shoes, too, though not quite as many as Bea! Whew!) Bea, you are fearless, gutsy, and just plain fun (Wig in recent newsletter photo!) and definitely the Spirit of RMOTHG and CMC both!! Many of you have also snowshoed or hiked with pals in pairs or small groups so you are Out There! That’s our RMOTHG spirit for sure! You’re getting out of Doldrums, into Doing, and Killing Covid-Catastrophe. I’ve missed our snowshoe articles/snowshoe season, but eventually, we’ll shoe those slopes, hike those trails, and see each other again in usual RMOTHG Robustery! We may still be going uphill with covid, but as RMOTHG members, we’ll get Over That Hill, and race down it to fun times again! Here’s to YOU, RMOTHG!!

Elaine Kallos, for Jeff Flax, too!

Wood duck at Bear Creek Greenbelt
I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.
I don’t have to go to school or work.
I get an allowance every month.
I have my own pad.
I don’t have a curfew.
I have a driver’s license and my own car.
The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and they do not use drugs.
And I don’t have acne.

Life is great.
HAVE YOU MADE CONNECTIONS?

The new e-mail list called Connections has been launched! For those who are unfamiliar with connections@rmothg.org, it is a list of members and their contact information submitted by interested members to facilitate contacting others for outdoor activities initiated by each other. This mechanism is not on the CMC calendar, it is an outside of the club activity. Limited opportunities for interacting with other members during Covid-19 restrictions was the impetus for creating this e-mail. If you haven’t signed up yet, you might give it a try. If you have used the connection e-mail and were able to plan a hike, walk, snowshoe trip, give us some feedback. Suggestions are also appreciated at connections@rmothg.org.

~ Carol Wier, Communications

WHITE-TAILED DEER AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL

GREAT HORNED OWL, MOTHER & BABY, AT BEAR CREEK GREENBELT

ATTENTION Current & Potential Trip Leaders

WILDERNESS FIRST AID (WFA) classes, which are now offered by CMC through Backcountry Pulse, are free for current and potential trip leaders. However, the number of free slots available each session is limited to 5 so it's important to submit your application in advance. Click here to submit your application for free training.

Please note that the CMC State Board of Directors has determined that the 8-hour WFA Refresher course previously offered does not meet the WFA training requirements for CMC leaders and certain school instructors. Click here for more information on the new CMC statewide WFA school.
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN OVER THE HILL GANG
A Section of the Colorado Mountain Club Denver Group

RMOTHG SECTION BOARD

ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

IF A FELLOW RMOTHG MEMBER HAS A SERIOUS ILLNESS, INJURY, OR HAS PASSED AWAY, please contact our RMOTHG secretary to send a friendly note to that member/member’s family