



Newsletter



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From the Editor:



Scott Farquhar

What's in this issue?

A message from Ward, congratulations to new trip leader Robert Seward, a wildflower identification site, information on the 2017 Mountain Hiking School, a trip report on Neota/Thunder, snowshoes available on Gear Swap, and a few "Parting Shots" (Thank you Ward and Paul Weber for your input!). However, most important is information on a new Fort Collins Group web page that we have worked with the State CMC Staff to put together. See page 14 for more details, then check it out and "take it for a spin".

Next, as I always do, I would like to welcome the 11 new members that have joined the Fort Collins Group since June (see the next page for a listing). NOTE, the state has revised things a bit, they used to list all members, but now only list as a "family membership" in the report I pull up. I apologize to family members on family memberships for not listing all by name, I'll try to figure this out by the next newsletter.

For all of you if you need any help in taking advantage of the resources the club has to offer don't hesitate to contact me or Chris Haugen, our Membership Director. For all of you existing members remember to extend a hearty welcome to any new members you see.

See ya on the trail Scott

Welcome New Members!

September	October
Milt Brown	Kathleen Greenfeder
Teri Burks	Bridger Gladney
Jerry Partin & Family	Anthony Accomando
Kim Dunlap & Family	Sara Hall
Jon Ashburn	
Jan Moraczewski	
Kacie Boden	

Message from the Chair:

By Ward Whicker



As I write this, we are only a few days from our November 5 Annual Meeting. During the meeting, we plan to give recognition to those in the Fort Collins Group who have climbed all 53 “Fourteeners” in Colorado, and to those who have climbed the “Centennials”, the highest 100 peaks in our State. It turns out that with a bit of help and advertising, I could identify 13 members who have summited all the Fourteeners, and one member who completed the Centennials. I also plan to recognize one of our members who was selected

for the Blaurock “Silver Piton” Volunteer of the year Award. So, let me briefly offer such recognition here, in case you miss the Annual Dinner Meeting this year, or forget some of these remarkable individual achievements. Some of these climbers may have been recognized years ago, before I was a CMC member, but it is important I think for the newer members to realize these achievements by those who share our mountain experiences presently.

Message from the Chair: (cont.)

As to the Fourteener's, Mary Gilbert was the earliest among current members, so far as I know, to complete them in 1988. Joan Avens and John Raich completed this achievement in the '90s. Steve Martin completed all but Culebra in 1998, because this peak was not accessible then. However, Steve was selected by lottery to access Culebra in 2004, and climbed it that year. Remarkably, Steve has re-climbed each of the Fourteeners at least once, many by different routes, each of which qualifies as a totally different climb. Steve is clearly one of the most prolific climbers in our Group, if not in the State or Nation, as evidenced by his full climbing resume which is too lengthy to detail here.

Other finishers of the Fourteeners are Paul Metz and Ron Tuttle in 2001, Joe Skelton and Jen Sajbel in 2005, Ann Hunt and Clint Baker in 2007, April Gray in 2008, Tom Chapel in 2009, and Jim Finley in 2013. These people have already, or will, receive an engraved plaque from the Colorado Mountain Club documenting this achievement. These members deserve respect & admiration because of the dedication, perseverance, fitness and skill required to complete this goal. It is quite possible that other past or current members of the Fort Collins Group have also completed the Fourteeners. If readers know of any such people, please let me know and I will try to recognize them in the future.

Message from the Chair: (cont.)

Even more impressive, is the feat of climbing the Centennials, namely all 53 Fourteeners, plus the next 47 highest peaks in the State of Colorado. I can easily imagine that some of the next 47 highest peaks are less accessible and much less frequently climbed than the Fourteeners. I have no doubt that some of these are likely as difficult, if not more so, than the hardest Fourteeners. Our sincere congratulations are owed to Mary Gilbert, who completed this amazing milestone in 2002. My apologies Mary, we as a group may be some 14 years late in recognizing this fact! Mary has more energy than I can fathom, still pursuing race walking in many, many organized competitions.

I was extremely pleased very recently to learn that John Raich was honored by the CMC this year with the Blaurock Silver Piton Award for Volunteerism. Named after Carl Blaurock, a founder of the Colorado Mountain Club and an influential mountain instructor and climber. This award is presented annually to a CMC member who serves as a positive and inspirational example of volunteerism, investing a substantial amount of volunteer effort in Colorado Mountain Club activities. Carl Blaurock, with climbing partner Bill Ervin, was the first person to complete all of the Colorado Fourteeners in 1923. A little about John Raich follows.

Message from the Chair: (cont.)

John is a prolific backcountry skier, climber, and innovative trip leader. He displays exceptional knowledge, skill, leadership, ethics and kindness in his mountaineering efforts, and has served as a role model & mentor for dozens of other leaders and instructors in both the Fort Collins and Denver Groups. He has volunteered a tremendous amount of time to the CMC over a period of 50 years! Importantly, he has continued a very high level of service to the CMC to this very day. He has served as Chair of both the Denver and Fort Collins Groups. He has been a leader of hundreds of trips for CMC members; he has directed and taught many courses on a wide variety of year-round mountaineering skills; he has served on many CMC committees to further the goals of the organization; and he serves as a highly knowledgeable resource on essentially all aspects of mountaineering.

I wrap up this message with a feeling of just how fortunate we are in the Fort Collins CMC Group to have the opportunity to be in the mountains from time to time with so many other members who have such a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge to share.

Ward Whicker

John Raich on a ski
mountaineering day.



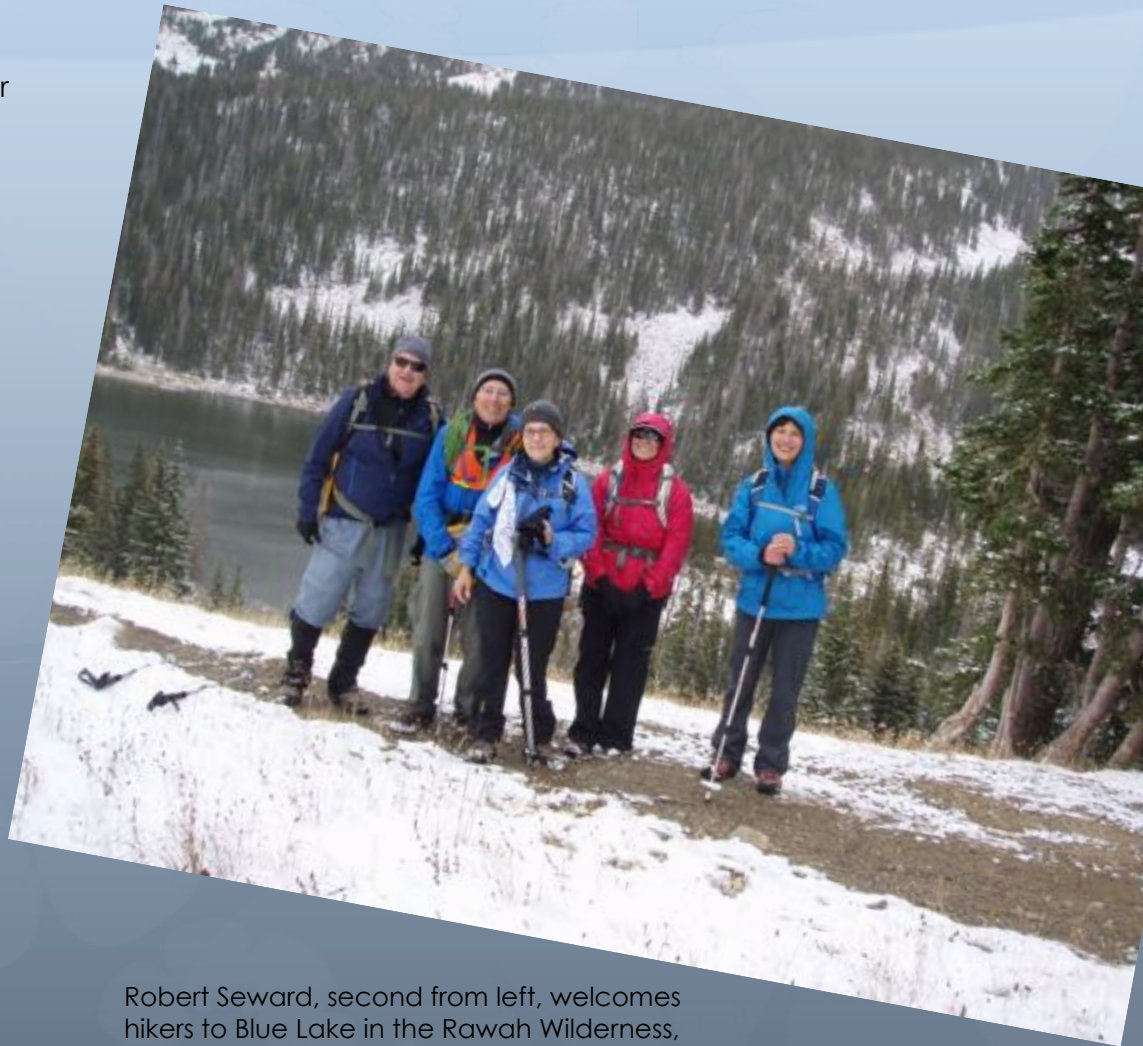
New Trip Leader – Robert Seward

By Paul Weber

The Fort Collins Group welcomes another new leader. Robert Seward has been certified to lead trips. Robert completed his Leader-In-Training hike with seven hikers to Blue Lake in the Rawah wilderness area of the Medicine Bow Mountains. The day was September 24th, and promised to be an early fall hike. But the mountains had other ideas. The group experienced winter conditions as it approached the lake. Graupel fell from the sky and a few inches of fresh snow blanketed the forest. It could have been December 24th!

Robert plans to lead A and B hikes, perhaps a C class hike. Please welcome Robert Seward as our Group's newest leaders.

Photo by Paul Weber



Robert Seward, second from left, welcomes hikers to Blue Lake in the Rawah Wilderness, September 24th, 2016.

2017 Mountain Hiking School

Are you new to mountain hiking and want to hit the trails this season? Are you an experienced backcountry traveler who wants to gain mountaineering knowledge and improve skills? Then you may want to consider signing up for the 2017 Mountain Hiking School.



We will meet in four interactive classroom sessions, practice the skills learned on four field trips, and utilize the gamut during a graduation hike. Classroom topics include dry land travel (gear, weather, knots, scree, and talus), navigation with map and compass, emergency survival, and snow travel.

Mountain Hiking School

Experienced volunteer instructors will help you learn and practice techniques in an open group environment. Sessions begin in early March with completion in April. You must be a CMC member to participate and experience on CMC hikes at equivalent difficulty is required for participation on field trips.

Contact David Wasson at wasson3@msn.com or call 970-217-9068 evenings between 6 and 8 PM or on weekends to enroll or ask questions.

Note there will be a fee associated with the school to cover meeting room costs and course materials.



Did you Know?

Another good Wildflower Site

While you are warming up sipping hot chocolate this winter you can get ready for spring by studying up on wildflower identification. I found another site that I have found to be very handy for flowers this side of the divide

<http://www.easterncoloradowildflowers.com>



The Goldie Locks Group – New Fort Collins Group web Page on the State CMC page

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes, turn and face the strain.....

The state CMC organization is attempting to consolidate all Group web pages to make them more consistent and more accessible to all members across the state. To start this effort the state looked at the Denver Group and said “This group is TOO BIG” they then looked at the Aspen Group and said “This group is TOO Small” then they looked at the Fort Collins Group and said “This group is JUST RIGHT!”.

Jeff Golden the Digital Marketing Manager has been working with members of the Fort Collins Group Council on this project the for the last couple of months and we are ready to roll it out! The following pages provide a bit of information on navigating the site. In general everything on our existing site has been added to the new site, however, the structure is a bit different. Having had experience with starting up industrial plants I am sure there will be a few bugs, but I believe we will be able to work through them.

So check out the site, and if you have any suggestions contact me at fccmkguy@gmail.com. Note that we have limited control over structure, but we can see what we can do.

New Web Page (cont.)

Pull Downs on Home Page

The screenshot shows the Colorado Mountain Club website. At the top, there is a blue header with the club's name and a 'Quick Trip Search' button. Below the header is a navigation bar with links to various sections. The main content area features a large banner image of a mountain range with the text 'FORT COLLINS GROUP' overlaid. Several green arrows point to specific elements on the page, each with a corresponding text label.

Annotations:

- Info on Council Members (points to the 'Council' link in the navigation bar)
- See More detail (points to the 'More' link in the navigation bar)
- Page on "Trips" and Page on "Programs" (points to the 'Trips' and 'Programs' links in the navigation bar)
- Link to Newsletters and link to Facebook under Social Media (points to the 'Newsletters' and 'Facebook' links in the navigation bar)
- Info on all FC Group Schools (points to the 'Schools' link in the navigation bar)
- On any page click photo to return to Fort Collins Home Page (points to the banner image)

New Web Page (cont.)

Bottom section of Home Page

Fort Collins Group

Welcome

Ward Whicker, Group Chairman, welcomes you to the Fort Collins Group of the Colorado Mountain Club. We are a community of more than 300 adventure-loving outdoorspeople who enjoy experiencing Colorado's mountains. Whether it's a hike around Horseshoe Reservoir, a climb of Longs Peak, a fishing trip on the Poudre River or simply a potluck social, we invite you to get involved with our active and exciting Group.

Please check out our [Activity Schedule](#) page for upcoming trips and other club activities. Guests are welcome, please don't be shy to ask what we have to offer! Note that all of our leaders are trained in leadership, safety and first aid skills.

If you decide to join us on a trip as a guest, you will need to call the trip leader to see if the trip is still open (sometimes there are participant limits). You will also need to sign a [Release of Liability](#) form. If you need further assistance, please contact CMC Membership Services at 303-275-3080.

The Fort Collins Group is one of 13 regional chapters of the statewide Colorado Mountain Club. The CMC is headquartered in Golden, Colorado.

[Member Resources](#)

[Trip Leader Resources](#)


Group Newsletter

The September 2016 newsletter is now available.

[READ MORE](#)

Monthly Program

The last monthly program of the year was held in October, and the Annual Dinner was November 5th. The next monthly program will be in January, details will be shared when they are available.



Link to Fort Collins Member Resources page

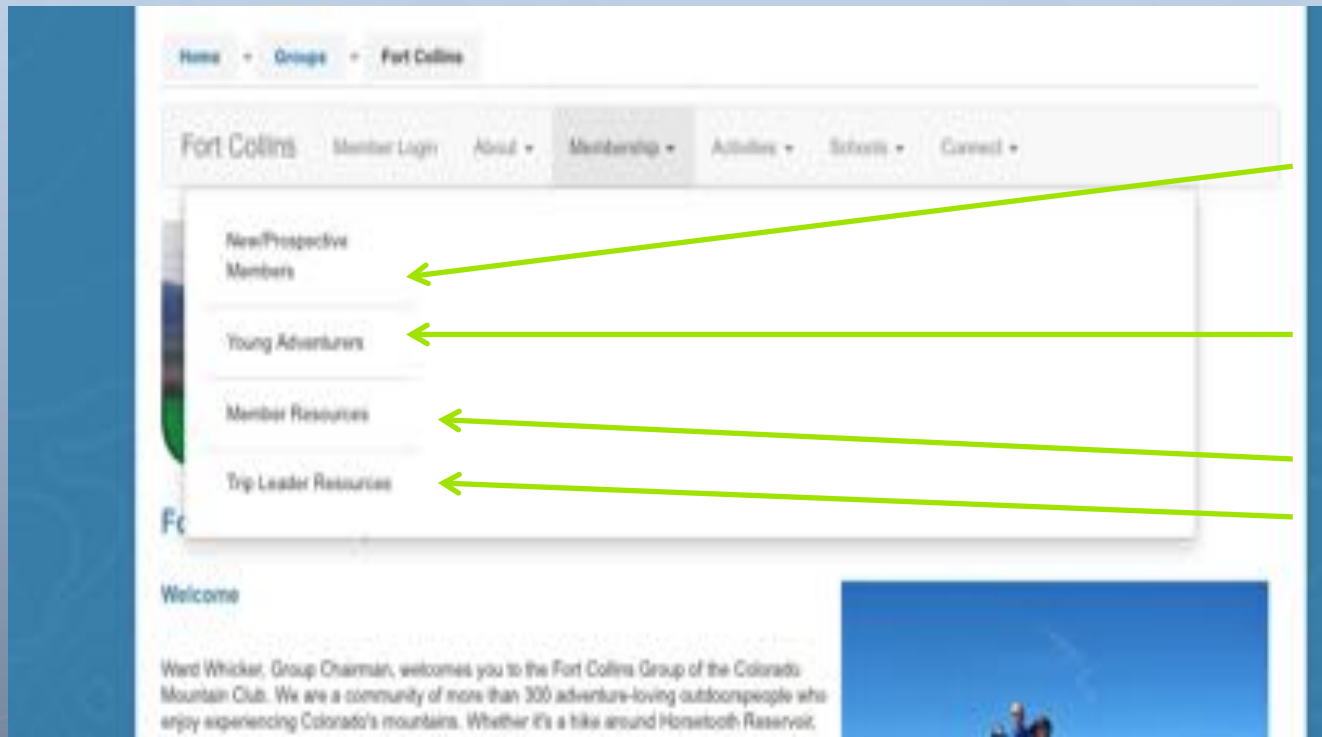
Link to Fort Collins Trip Leader Resources page

Button links to the latest newsletter

Link to latest Program

New Web Page (cont.)

Membership “Pull Down”



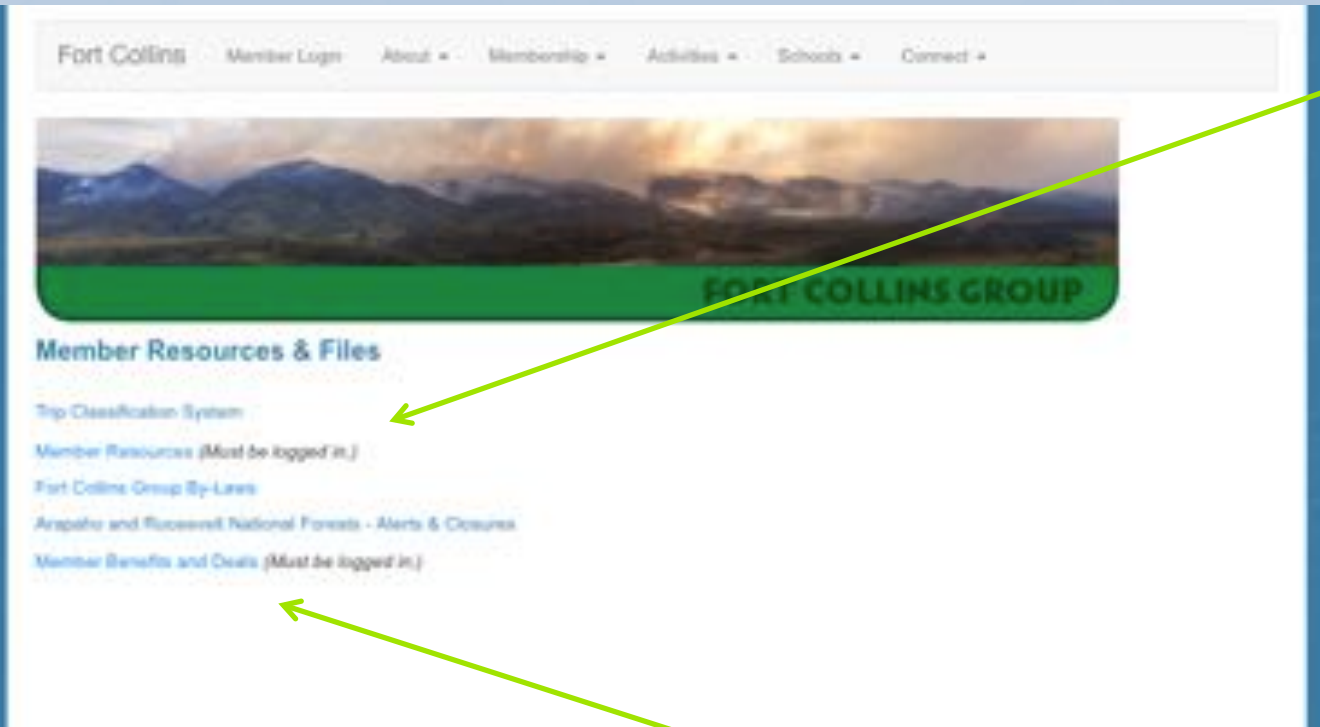
Next New Meeting and
General Membership
Info

Young Adventurers Info

See following pages

New Web Page (cont.)

Member Resources Page

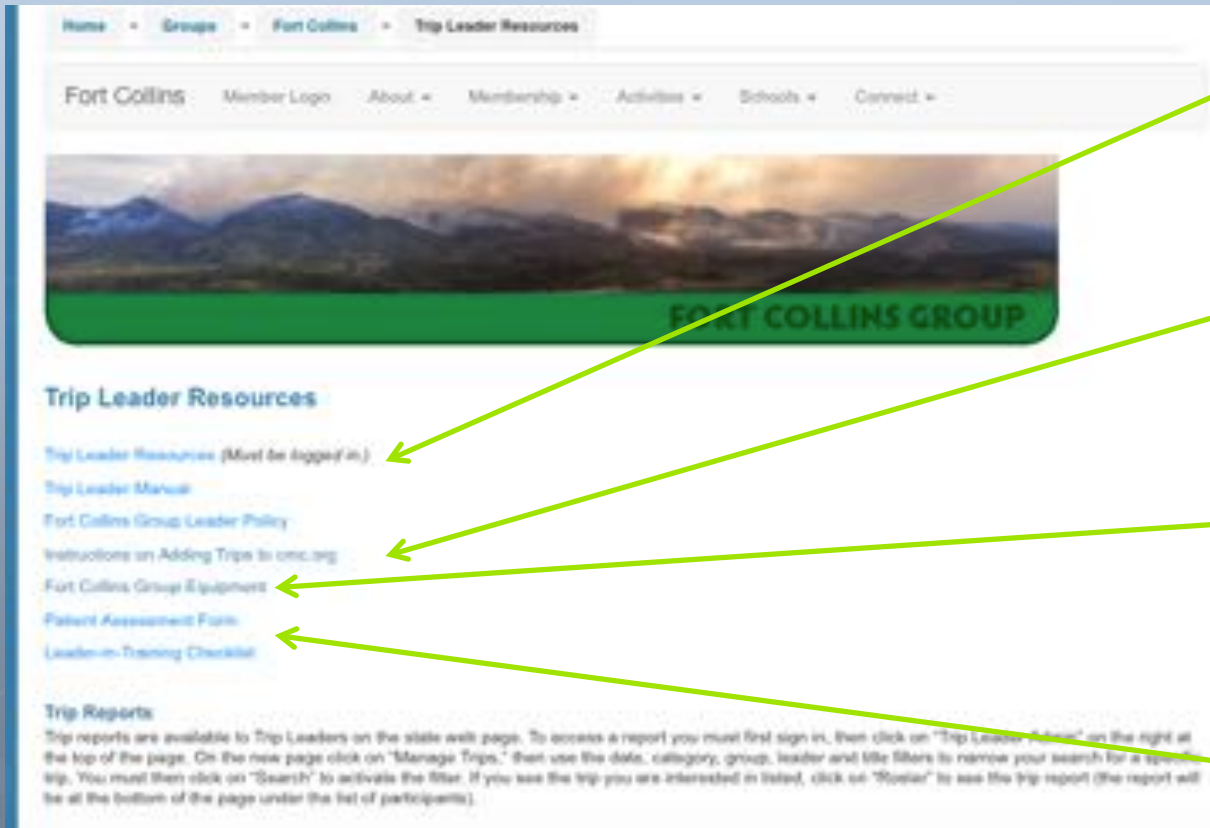


Link to State CMC Info

Link to Discounts on
State CMC Page

New Web Page (cont.)

Member Resources Page



Link to State CMC Info

Simplified instructions developed by Fort Collins for Trip Leaders

Click on this to download a EXCEL file that shows equipment owned by the Fort Collins Group (climbing, trail building, picnic, projector, etc.)

A form from Wilderness First Aid Training to Access someone with an injury/illness

Trip Reports - Mt. Neota and Thunder Mtn. – 9/17/16

By Scott Farquhar

Mileage – 5 miles, Elevation Gain - 2100 ft

Time on Trail – 4.5 hours

Leader – Scott Farquhar,

Co-Leader – John Wullschleger

I have to start off this piece by saying that this is now one of my favorite hikes. I did it twice within a month time period (once to scout it) and it was fantastic both times. The hike is not long but, the initial ascent is mostly off trail and is a pretty steep climb. However, on a nice day the rewards at the top are well worth the effort. So if you ever get a chance to do these summits I highly recommend it!

Even though the weather was predicted to be fine, the group met early in the morning to get a jump on the day (as I always say, "It's just a FORECAST."). We drove all the way to the end of Long Draw Road to Poudre Pass. From the parking area at the end of the road the group entered the thick forest and proceeded off trail to the west. In the forest there were quite a few downed trees so we were careful to maintain our desired course uphill to the west.



In the woods



Approaching the scree field

Mt. Neota and Thunder Mtn. (cont.)

As we continued uphill the trees thinned out a bit and the going got easier (well we were still going uphill). As the trees thinned I could see that we had made our way around the rock face to the north so we turned uphill to the north-west, by turning at this point we also missed a rock face slightly further to the west.

At tree line we came upon a scree field a couple hundred yards long which led up to the eastern ridge of Mount Neota. At this point I asked group members that had climbing helmets to put them on. To minimize the risk of sending rocks crashing down upon folks below we were careful not to “cross above” others and stopped to gather when changing directions. At the top of the scree field we were rewarded with views of Long Draw Valley to the east and Rocky Mountain National Park to the south.

Once above the scree field the group made our way through some krummholz before reaching the eastern ridge of the mountain. From here it was a “relatively” easy stroll to the summit of Mount Neota. As we neared the summit the view to the west of Nokhu Crag, Mount Lulu, Static Peak and Mount Richthofen was so impressive it almost knocked us off our feet. When we reached the summit we looked back as the views of the Kawuneeche Valley, the Never Summer Range and the Mummy Range were wonderful.

The Crag peaks up above Mt. Neota



Climbing up to Thunder Mtn. from Neota

Mt. Neota and Thunder Mtn. (cont.)

The sun continued to shine, but there was a stiff breeze, so after high fives and photos the group started down to the saddle that separates Mount Neota from Thunder Mountain. Above tree line the desired path was easy to follow, so the group quickly made our way down to the saddle and trudged up the south-east ridge of Thunder Mountain. Reaching the summit was almost like an Old Milwaukee commercial, just when we thought the views couldn't get any better THEY DID! Once again the views literally took our breath away and the group had to steady themselves to take it all in. Views to the south-east of the Mummys, views to the south-west of the Never Summer Range, views to the west of the Craggs area (almost close enough to touch), and views to the north of the Rawahs.



Never Summer Range



View toward Richthofen, Static
and Nokhu Craggs



Rawahs

Mt. Neota and Thunder Mtn. (cont.)

It is at times like these I wish I had paid more attention during my few Liberal Arts Courses so that I could come up with the words to describe the scene (the pictures do not do it justice). It was a wonderland, but unfortunately all good things must come to an end and the wind was still pretty brisk, so after trying to absorb the beauty for a while the group headed down the north-east ridge of Thunder Mountain. At a point where the ridge starts to turn slightly more to the east we turned slightly to the north towards a creek drainage to avoid what looked to be some rougher terrain (note you might be able to stay on the ridge and go down a drainage south of the ridge, however, I did not do this on my scouting hike or on this day). Once into some thin trees, protected from the wind we settled down to have lunch.

At our lunch spot we still had beautiful views of Iron Mountain and the long flat plateau which spreads from that peak to the east. While eating, in the distance we saw a few of the locals checking us out. Since they were not close, it was hard to tell if there were 2, 3 or 4 Bull Moose. However, they were out there prancing about in the drainage trying to show how big and tough they were.



On Thunder Mtn.



Coming down off Thunder, view of Iron Mtn.

Mt. Neota and Thunder Mtn. (cont.)



Down into Neota Creek drainage

After lunch we continued to move towards a drainage to the north-east. However, rather than hiking all the way down to the drainage we stayed high, skirting around the ridge above to the south of us still following the creek below. We continued to walk downhill staying above the creek picking our way through trees and brush. Note this section of the hike is all off trail and at times the group encountered down trees and tall weeds, but these were hardy souls and we made our way down to a knob where Neota Creek meets with three other drainages. To the west of the knob we hit the Neota Creek trail (almost like I knew what I was doing). From here we followed the maintained trail back to Long Draw Road and the trailhead. On the trail we saw our first other humans of the day 4.5 hours on trail on a sunny day with the views all to ourselves It don't get no bett'n that!!!

Wait what is that peak to the south of Long Draw Reservoirthat looks interesting.....

Author's note – The maintained trail is to the west of Neota Creek. It is shown correctly on the Trails Illustrated Rocky Mountain National Park map, but it shows up incorrectly to the east of the creek on my Garmin maps (this made my scouting trip a bit more exciting).



Backin thick woods

Gear Swap

Note this page is ONLY for Fort Collins Group CMC Members (not stores or personal businesses) AND the intent is for advertising used gear (selling or swap?) or looking for used gear NOT for services or selling new products (since I put together the newsletter I have total control BawHaaaaaa). If you have something you would like added to the newsletter send the information to fccmcguy@gmail.com . Note I complete the newsletter during the first couple of days every other month (on the odd numbered months) so please send the information before then (i.e. this newsletter was completed on July 2).

For Sale

Men's MSR Lightning Ascent 30 in. Snowshoes

Original price: \$300

Asking: \$135.00

Contact: Rich Enenstein

303-388-6305

renenste@comcast.net

Parting Shots

Miscellaneous FC Group Photos

Trip Leaders taking the Wilderness First Aid Training Class



Tom Trout gives a History of Water Use on the Poudre River Tour



Relaxing on The Big South

