



Newsletter



Vol. 2015, No. 3

May, 2015

Table of Contents

❁ From the Editor.....	4
❁ New Members.....	5
❁ Message from the Chair.....	6
❁ Message from your Program Director.....	7
❁ Upcoming Courses.....	10
❁ What Have we been doing.....	11

Table of Contents

❁ Mountain Hiking School.....	12
❁ Did you Know? /Sharing Information.....	15
❁ Trip Reports.....	17
❁ Meet your Group Council Members.....	23
❁ Membership Survey.....	25
❁ Member Feedback.....	40

From the Editor:



Scott Farquhar

Communication is a two way street, with that in mind much of this issue is dedicated to summarizing the results of the recent membership survey (see page 25 To 38). Thanks to all that took the time to fill out the survey. A few of the preliminary actions the council is taking are listed on page 39. Additional actions will be taken as the council continues to digest the results. Note there were a couple of suggestions asking for more trip reports well BRING THEM ON! I always welcome contributions to the newsletter, I have yet to turn someone down.

Next I would like to welcome the 10 new members that have joined the Fort Collins Group since February (see the next page for a listing). 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. Also see page 16 for a link to a tutorial on the CMC State Web page on how to use that site to sign up for trips and perform other member actions. For all of you existing members remember to extend a hearty welcome to any new members you see.

Finally, thank you JoAnn Herkenhoff and Sheila Dielman For your contributions to this month's newsletter. For everyone else, if you have an suggestions related to communications, feel free to contact me at fccmcguy@gmail.com.

See ya on the trail Scott

Welcome New Members!

March	April
Margaret Bacon	Valerie Steen
Marjorie Kroeger	Sean Wright
Matthew McKeon	Steven Matson
Tom Trout	David Boss
	Christian Matthews
	Nicole Gruet

Message from the Chair:



Ward Whicker

The Fort Collins Group Council and I plan to do all we can to better-communicate with the membership. One small way we can do this is to start our monthly programs with a short (5-minute) business meeting to welcome all, introduce new members, make announcements of interest, and respond to questions concerning the club activities. Another gesture is to add a short “Message from the Chair” to the Newsletter. So, here is my first such attempt.

The Council and I wish to thank those who participated in the Membership Survey, the results of which are summarized in this newsletter. We feel this was a worthwhile effort to better-understand the feelings of the membership at large about the activities of the club, so we can focus our efforts in the future on those things of greatest importance. One clear desire of many appears to be the need for more trips, and a greater variety of them. It is obvious that many if not most of our trips fill up quickly, making it difficult to get on a roster as the trip date nears. An obvious way to have more trips is to have more leaders. The survey provided some great information on numerous individuals who might consider becoming leaders, and such people have received our encouragement and advice on how to make this happen. Another potential survey benefit is finding willing and able mentors for those indicating a desire to occasionally learn informally with more experienced people as a way of building their outdoor & mountaineering skills. I can personally attest to the effectiveness of this practice and plan soon to contact those with potential interest.

Message from the Chair: (cont.)

Formal courses offered by the Group are highly valued by the membership. We recently formed an Ad hoc Education Committee that has examined our current and potential course offerings. Presently, the Mountain Hiking School (MHS) is well-underway with 15 enthusiastic students involved in learning many basic skills needed to enhance one's safety and enjoyment in our great mountains. The Alpine Scrambling Course (ASC) will be offered again this year, starting with lectures in late May and skills on rock and snow in early June. This course follows naturally from the MHS, and adds the experience and confidence to climb perhaps 90 % of the high summits in Colorado. The MHS and ASC both provide a strong base for those interested in higher-level mountaineering skills that we plan to offer in 2016 through a most-welcome return of the Basic Mountaineering Course. After a hiatus of several years, Kevin Willey and Gordon Thibedeau have committed to bringing this great course back to our Group. Last winter we had several practical workshops on snowshoe and cross-country ski travel, which provided a strong start to these methods of travel over our superb wintertime routes. We hope in the next year or two to be able to offer numerous other courses on a wide variety of subjects, so stay tuned.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or other members of the Group Council with questions, advice, comments, or even complaints! We plan to do everything possible to maintain & enhance the special qualities of the Fort Collins Group that have developed over the years.

Ward Whicker

Message from your Program Director:

May Program – Weather Preparedness While Hiking in the Mountains Dr. Joe Grim

What: May Program

Where: Senior Center

When: May 27, 7:00 PM

Who: Fort Collins CMC Members AND Public Welcome

In this presentation, Dr. Joe Grim of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, will discuss how to prepare for, and identify, potential weather hazards while hiking in the mountains. Topics covered will include: 1) preparing for all possible types of weather, 2) locating the best sources for mountain weather forecasts *before your hike*, 3) *identifying potential weather hazards during your hike*, and 4) *what to do if, unfortunately, you do get caught in adverse weather*. Please bring your questions, and your own personal stories of encounters with mountain weather; this will be an interactive event.



Bob Dietz

Message from your Program Director: (cont.)

Annual BBQ – The social event of the year?

What: FC Group Annual BBQ

Where: Rollin Moore, Shelter #2 (by the sand volleyball court)

When: June 24, 6:00 PM

Who: YOU!

Fort Collins Group Annual BBQ. The club will provide burgers, bratwurst, veggie burgers, drinks, and dishware. Please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share. The picnic will be held at Rolland Moore Park, shelter #2, near the sand volleyball court. Start time is 6:00pm. The BBQ this year will feature sand volleyball and other games!

Upcoming Courses

Alpine Scrambling 2015

Photo by Scott Farquhar



Dates: Two evening lectures, May 21 and May 28, and a basic skill field trip June 6 . Additionally there will be a snow climb later in June, an alpine rock scramble in July and an overnight backpack and rock scramble in August.

Scrambling covers the realm between hiking mountain trails and technical climbing of extremely steep terrain, and involves coordinated use of hands and feet to ascend and descend terrain too rugged to simply walk. The majority of Colorado's alpine peaks can be ascended in good weather without roped protection, providing climbers have appropriate knowledge, adequate scrambling skills, and use good judgment. This course provides instruction and field practice on steeper rock and on moderately steep snowfields that can be traversed without crampons. Instructors will be prepared to provide roped belay to those requesting it. Topics to be taught include gear and equipment, mountain hazards, planning, route-finding, decision making, ascent & descent techniques, snow travel, and emergency procedures.

John Raich is Technical Director of the course, and Ward Whicker is the Course Coordinator. Contact Ward Whicker [email: ward.whicker@colostate.edu phone: 225-3747] for more information. A link to the application form is: fortcmc.org/schools/ApplicationFormforASC2015.pdf or <http://fortcmc.org/schools/ApplicationFormforASC2015.doc>

What Have We Been Doing?

By Scott Farquhar

It has been a busy year so far for the Fort Collins CMC Group. The following is my rough count of what we have done from January 1 to May 1.

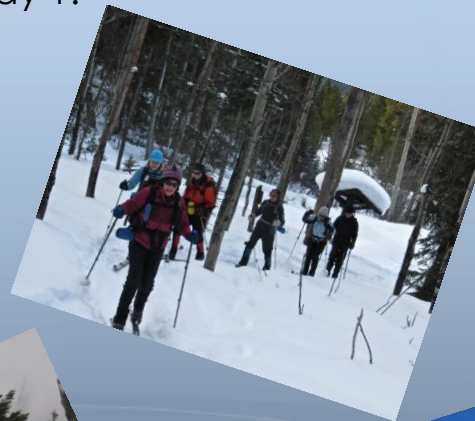
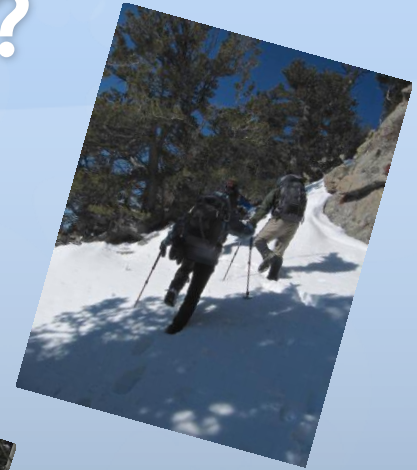
Trips

- Snowshoes – 3 As and 12 Bs
- X Country Ski – 2 As and 3 Bs
- Back Country Ski – 2
- AT Ski – 5
- Hikes – 5 As, 6 Bs, and 2 Cs

Courses

- Beginner Ski – 2
- MHS – 5 Field Trips
- Wilderness First Aid

...and the trips just keep coming, check out the weekly e-mail and join in on the fun!



Photos by Scott Farquhar



Mountain Hiking School

By Scott Farquhar

The 2015 Mountain Hiking School, which started in February, is winding down and students are getting ready for their graduation hike. Classroom lectures covered gear, nutrition, hydration, personal hygiene, wilderness survival, mountain hazards, snow travel, avalanche awareness, use of a GPS and a review of on line resources available. Additionally, the class welcomed Guest Lecturers Joe Grim and Sharon Lowe as they imparted knowledge on Mountain Weather and First Aid respectively. If that weren't enough, the classroom sessions also included interactive sessions on knots, wilderness emergency scenarios and lots of work with map/compass.



Eagle Cliff , Navigation – Photos
by Scott Farquhar

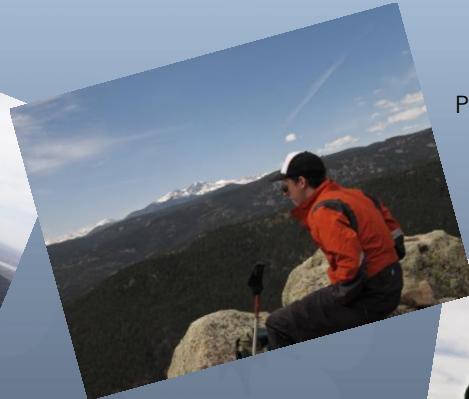


Wind River , Navigation and
Snow Travel
– Photos by David Wasson

Mountain Hiking School (cont.)

Field trips included navigation sessions at Lory State Park, Wind River in RMNP, and Eagles Cliff in RMNP. Field trips also included emergency situation practice at Stone Mountain and ice axe/winter travel practice at Montgomery Pass.

Stone Mountain, Navigation and Dealing with Emergencies



Photos by Scott Farquhar

Photos by David Wasson



Mountain Hiking School (cont.)

Good luck to all the students on their upcoming graduation hike and thanks to all that made this valuable course possible. A special thanks goes to David Wasson who has lead the course for the last 4 years. Others that contributed include assistant instructors Scott Farquhar, Terry Gerard, JoAnn Herkenhoff, and Ward Whicker as well as the guest lecturers mentioned above. I believe I speak for the other instructors when I say that it is a great group and a joy to work with.

Montgomery Pass, Ice Axe
Practice – Photos by Scott
Farquhar



Did you Know?

Informative and Just for Fun Web Sites

A few more web sites “for the fun” of it (see January and March 2015 Newsletters for additional sites)

Photos by Scott Farquhar

Informative Sites:

NOAA Declinations - <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag-web/>

USGS Topo Map Symbols - <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70039164>

Videos on Knot Tying -

<http://www.animatedknots.com/knotlist.php?LogoImage=LogoGrog.jpg&Website=www.animatedknots.com>

For Fun:

Wildflowers of Colorado - <http://www.wildflowersofcolorado.com/index.html>

Birds of Colorado – <http://www.pbase.com/rhopper>

Identifying Colorado Native Trees –

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/media/sites/22/2014/09/native treeguide.pdf>



Did you Know?

Did you know that the State Web site has helpful tutorials on how to sign up for trips, how to put a trip on the schedule and how to file a report on a completed trip? I have included a few of the links below. If you have had issues using some of the tools, or if you are just curious to see what is available check them out.

Contact me at fccmcguy@gmail.com if you have questions. I can't guarantee I will have the answer, but I can assure you I will do my best to connect you with someone that does. NOTE YOU MUST BE "SIGNED IN" to the State Web Page for these links to work



Page listing all the tutorials: (this is under "Members", "Help & FAQs", "Docs & Forms" on left)
<http://www.cmc.org/About/FAQsResources/DocsForms.aspx>

Tutorial on Signing up for a Trip:

<http://www.cmc.org/Portals/0/Documents/member%20guide%20to%20the%20cmc%20website.pdf>

Tutorial for Trip Leaders on How to Add a Trip, How to Manage a Trip, and HOW TO FILE A REPORT on a completed trip:

http://www.cmc.org/Portals/0/TripLeaderJune12_2014.pdf

Note this page also lists discounts available to CMC Leaders

Trip Report – East Twin Lake X-Country Trip

By Sheila Dielman

This trip started with predictions of wind and several cancellations. However, when we reached the trail head the weather was sunny and calm. The group was a mix of new and experienced skiers with most using lightweight cross country skis. With ten inches of new snow and no tracks we were breaking trail from the beginning.



Photos by John Wullschleger

The weather stayed calm except for a section along Chambers lake. Most of the trip was off trail heading toward East Twin Lake. Everyone took turns breaking trail. Though it was a bit slow we had the advantage of not seeing anyone else all day. Lunch was a sheltered, sunny spot before the lake.



East Twin Lake X-Country Trip (cont.)

A couple people chose to rest in a meadow area with great mountain views that was about half a mile before East Twin lake. The rest of us continued on with John W. leading the way. The lake was quite windy so we took a couple quick photos and returned to meet up with the rest of the group. It was getting late so everyone agreed that using our trail was the best way back rather than trying the West Twin loop that had been the original plan. This made for some nice long glides on the way back.

Thanks to Ward for another new and enjoyable ski trip.



Photos by Joe Wullschleger



Trip Reports – Estes Cone 3/21/15

By Scott Farquhar

"To snowshoe or Not to snowshoe that is the question!" - Willie the Shake

Stats; 7 miles, 2300 ft elevation gain, Time on trail 7 hours
Leader Scott Farquhar, Co-leader John Wullschleger,

The original plan was to do this trip on a Sunday in February. However, with 3-5" of snow predicted Saturday, 3-5" predicted Saturday night and 3-5" predicted on Sunday I was afraid we might have to snowshoe from Fort Collins to the trailhead!

Sometimes weather turns out bad when a trip is rescheduled and sometimes you get lucky. In this case the hiking deities smiled on us and provided a beautiful day. Sunshine, warm temperatures, and very little wind it don't get no better'n that!

Our trip started at the Lily Lake Trailhead. At the trailhead the ten of us discussed whether snowshoes would be required. Even though it had not snowed recently we were going off trail so I persuaded everyone to carry snowshoes. I told them if we did not need snowshoes the extra exercise would entitle them to miss a trip to the gym the next week! I even agreed to sign a "note to their trainer".



A view of Long's and Meeker on the way up



A few in the group pose with one of the "locals" at Storm Pass

Photos by Scott Farquhar

Trip Reports – Estes Cone (cont.)

Estes Cone was visible from the trailhead so we snapped a few photos of our goal before started down Storm Pass Trail. The trail was easy to follow and well trod, but was covered with snow and ice. It became very slick as we descended down towards Aspen Brook so we put on our traction devices. Once across the brook we started the long climb up toward Storm Pass. The trail continued to be snow covered, but was hard packed so we made good time. The trail continued to climb as the group made its way past a rock face on the east side of Estes Cone then to Storm Pass which was south-west of the summit. On this portion of the trail we were “teased” with a few views of Long's Peak, Meeker and Battle Mountain.



A final scramble to the summit



Blue skies and happy faces on the summit.

Photos by
Scott Farquhar

Trip Reports – Estes Cone (cont.)

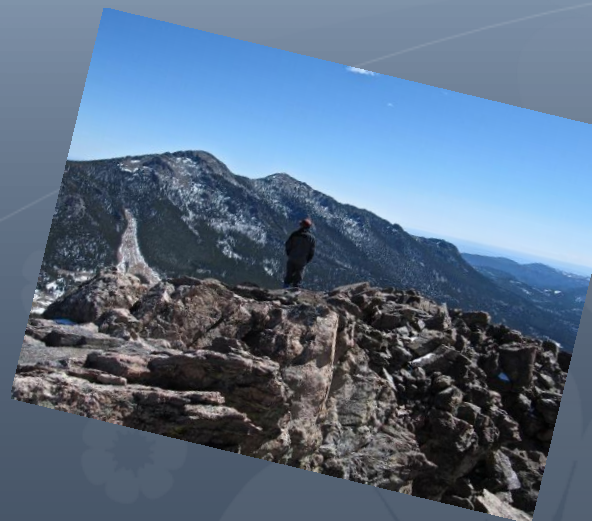
The “Lunch Bunch”



Photos by Scott Farquhar

At Storm pass we spent a few minutes with “a local” and grabbed a quick snack before starting the final push up 800 feet to the summit. Above the pass the trail was a bit more difficult to follow, but we generally were able to follow cairns. When we lost them we just continued to go up! Near the top we reached a rocky ridge, which extended to the north-west from the summit, at this point we removed our traction devices to prepare for the scramble up. The scramble was not technical (Class 2), but exciting enough to be fun and once on the summit we were rewarded with great views of Long’s Peak, Meeker, Twin Sisters, Thunder, Lightning, the Mummy Range the list goes on and on. It was enough to take your breath away (at least for those that still had some left after the climb). It was such a beautiful, calm day that we took our time on the summit, eating our lunch as we basked in the sunshine.

Reluctantly, we started down off the rocky summit after lunch. We followed the ridge just past a rock face, scrambled down off the ridge then proceeded down the mountain off trail on a steep south by south-west track. This allowed us to cut off quite a bit of a very large switch back and added to the adventure of the trip. We quickly reached the trail once again and started down Storm Pass Trail. By this time the snow was much softer and the group started to post hole quite a bit. Lower down the trail, I led the group off trail into the woods once again. In this area the snow was much deeper.



Taking in the view towards Twin Sisters

Trip Reports – Estes Cone (cont.)

I put on my snowshoes to “break trail” for the others. Note that there were many in the group that accused me of doing this just to “justify” carrying the snowshoes all the way up the mountain, but they followed in my tracks just the same. We returned to the trail above Aspen Brook. From here we followed the brook down to a bridge, crossed the brook, and made our way back up the hill to Lily Lake parking lot. Along the way there were a few final views of the Mummy Range and a parting view of Estes Cone as we loaded up the cars at the trailhead.

Another great day with a group of wonderful folks. It's easy to lead trips when you have such a great crew and have John W. to watch your back!



What scrambles up must scramble down



Photos by Scott Farquhar

One last view from near Lily Lake

Meeting the Council Members

This is a continuation of the series to introduce the Fort Collins Group council members. This month we interview JoAnn Herkenhoff the Activities Director

JoAnn Herkenhoff, Activities Director



JoAnn Herkenhoff
Activities Director

1. How long have you been a club member, and what got you interested in joining the club?

I joined the CMC in November 2010 at the prompt of a fellow CMC member, who has since become a very close friend and mentor to me. I wanted the opportunity to maintain my active lifestyle, learn new skills and push my comfort level. I have since learned that I have desire to help the club meet its challenges and opportunities.

2. What do you like most about being a Fort Collins CMC member?

While I do value the chance to get out and be active, I also appreciate learning more about this wonderful playground in which we live. I have also found the friendships developed through the club very rewarding.

3. Other than CMC activities what are your other interests?

I'll try anything! I really love anything that pushes my body. In addition to those activities regularly offered by the club, I like to cycle, mountain bike, run and whitewater raft. Gardening and taking care of the acre and a half that surrounds my home also bring me great pleasure, as does routine walks in the park with my husband and four-legged companion, Moki.

Meeting the Council Members

JoAnn Herkenhoff, Activities Director, (cont.)

4. What do you do for a living (you know those pesky times when you have to do something to pay the bills)?

Who would have thought that you can get paid for expressing gratitude? My role as development coordinator for the Poudre Valley Hospital and Medical Center of the Rockies Foundation does just that! In addition to donor stewardship, I manage our funds and programs.

5. What do you see as the most important responsibility as the Activities Director?

The activities director liaisons with the leaders to inspire a full calendar and ensure that they have the resources they need to schedule and lead trips.

EDITOR'S NOTE – There is a Leader Collaboration Meeting scheduled for June 9th, see the Activities Calendar on the state web page for details.

6. JoAnn, you are not new to this office, but with the coming of a new year, is there anything you are thinking of doing differently?

One of the challenges that faces the Fort Collins group (as well as many other groups) is offering a full schedule of activities for our members, partly due to a need for more leaders. I hope that increased collaboration among our leaders, modified school structure, and increased recruitment of new members (leading to new leaders) will boost the quantity of activities we can offer.

7. Do you have any closing comments?

Word of mouth is our greatest recruitment tool. If the CMC has been a fulfilling experience for you, share it!

Membership Survey

The following is a summary of the results of the membership survey. If you have any questions related to this information contact Ward Whicker, JoAnn Herkenhoff, or me (our contact information is on the home page at fortcmc.org).

Memberships – 213 (302 members)
Responses – 72 (34% of memberships)
24 Leaders responded (73%)

Age Group	Membership	Responses
>60	50 %	54 %
51-60	20 %	22 %
41-50	15 %	14 %
31-40	10 %	7 %
<30	5 %	3 %

54% of responses were females /46% Males
Age of Responses matched our membership (see table)

NOTE – The present membership age range probably has an large impact on the responses. We certainly want to satisfy existing members, but If we want to change the age range of the membership we will have to dig deeper into the survey results.

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q1. Why did you join CMC?

Mid- Range

Item	% Very Important/Important
Conservation/Environmental Protection	56
Indoor Programs	39

Most Important

Item	% Very Important/Important
Get Outdoors/hike	99
Climb mtns with those having similar ability	88
Exercise	86
Make Friends	83
Learn Outdoor Skills	80

Least Important

Item	% Very Important/Important
Adventure Travel	33
Family Activities	9

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q2. How did you hear about the CMC

Word of Mouth/Friend	50%
CMC Website	25%
Newspaper	8%
Fort Collins Brochure	7%
Fort Collins Web Page	4%

Q3. How satisfied are you with CMC in meeting expectations?

Note there was an issue with this since the totals below do not include the members that added a comment. This was because if you added a comment it would not allow you to make a choice Very Satisfied/Satisfied/Neutral, etc.)

Very Satisfied/Satisfied	55%
Neutral	8%
Unsatisfied	7%

- Most of the comments indicated there were too few hikes and they filled up too fast.
- Others responded they wanted more moderate hikes.

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q4. What types of trips are you most interested in?

Mid- Range

Item	% Very Important/Important
Easy hikes generally on trail	58
Hikes in the deserts/canyons	56
Scrambling class ¾ (non-technical)	53
Cross Country skiing (gentle terrain)	52
Backpacking	50

Editor's Note on Least Important –
Rats, apparently, I like the road less
traveled

Most Important

Item	% Very Important/Important
Moderate Hikes in the Mountains	96
Climbing Peaks a lower altitudes	80
Hikes in local area (less driving time)	77
Snowshoe Trips	76
Longer more difficult hikes	75
Climbing higher peaks	69

Least Important

Item	% Very Important/Important
Mountain Biking	18
Technical Climbs	19
Snow climbs using ice axe, crampons, etc	20
Flyfishing that requires a hike	21
Backcountry skiing (non-AT in more challenging terrain)	28

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q5. What courses would you enroll in if they were offered by the Fort Collins Group?

Mid- Range

Item	% Very Important/Important
Snowshoeing	63
Survival	59
Canyoneering	52
Advanced cross country skiing	50
Outdoor Leadership	48
Mountain Hiking	47
Basic Mountaineering - Rock Scrambling	41
BMS - snow travel on steeper terrain	40
BMS Technical Climbing	40

Others above 30% included BMS High altitude climbing, Backpacking, Basic Cross country skiing, and Backcountry powder skiing

Most Important

Item	% Very Important/Important
Wilderness First Aid	79
Avalanche awareness and avoidance	78
Basic map and compass/GPS/navigation	70

Item	% Very Important/Important
BMS - Ice climbing	11
BMS - Multi pitch Technical Climbing	17
Winter Camping	22
Ski Mountaineering	27
Mountain Biking	29

Note - Many folks commented that they checked neutral because they have already taking the courses they were interested in.

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q6. Would you be interested in becoming a CMC Trip leader?

6 -Yes

16 -Maybe

What types of trips?

- Moderate Hikes, Biking, Trail Running
- I'm working on becoming an A-B Hike Leader
- Class 2, 3 and higher elevations
- A , B
- A and. B level
- Ski mountaineering, A/T backcountry powder trips

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q7. Which of the following educational hikes/bike trips would be of interest to you?

Local History	75%
Geology	73%
Wildlife	73%
Flower/trees	57%
Photography	39%
Group meetings/programs	36%

Q8. Would you be interested in teaching one or more of the topics above?

4 -Yes

- Yes - geology
- Yes- Eventually local history, but in the future, because this year I'm focusing on planning and leading hikes and snowshoes.
- Yes-GPS Use; Wildflower Hikes

15 -maybe

- Maybe- I'm not ready yet, but perhaps local history. Also, I am ready to facilitate meetings, as needed.
- Maybe-I am not skilled in the above areas, but I do teach ASC and have taught BMS in the past
- Maybe Photography

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q9. Would you be interested in being a mentor to 1-3 CMC members?

1 -Maybe

12 -Yes

- mountaineering skills
- backcountry skiing; general mountaineering; fly fishing
- mountain hiking
- beginning hiking preparation
- rock climbing, alpine scrambling, off trail and backpacking
- General, non-technical, snowshoeing
- Helping especially lightweight women with basic hiking/snowshoeing, to stay warm and comfortable in mountains, clothing, gear after they've studied this
- General interest
- Hiking and Physical Fitness

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q10. Would you be interested in being a mentee?

16-yes

If yes, what areas do you wish to be mentored in?

- climbing in scrambling terrain
- basic mountaineering
- Cross Country skiing
- Mountaineering
- using navigation more effectively as well as more advanced hiking skills
- rock climbing (you can always improve), alpine skiing/x-country
- ski mountaineering, avalanche awareness, backpacking
- backcountry hiking, fly fishing
- Map and compass Backpacking
- GPS/Navigation ongoing
- Would like to see
- Technical Climbing

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q11. What do you feel are the most effective methods that CMC has used to communicate with members? Check all that apply

Weekly Fort Collins Group e-mails	98%
CMC State Web page	46%
Fort Collins Group Bi-monthly newsletter	42%
Fort Collins Group website	38%
Fort Collins Group monthly meetings	28%
Word of mouth: CMC members	28%
Fort Collins Group Facebook	22%

Q12. Do you have suggestions to improve communications with members?

There were 11 comments

Some of the comments included the following;

- Three people suggested we somehow use Meet Up for communications.
- One person suggested we use facebook for short notice trips.
- One person just indicated there needs to be a way to communicate between members when you are not a leader.
- More trip summaries with pictures.

Editors notes – 1) Presently anyone that is a member of the Fort Collins Facebook group can use it for a shortnotice trip. 2) I am open to suggestions on a way to communicate between members that are not leaders, my proposed method for short notice trips did not go over well (see Member Feedback on page 40). 3) Finally, I am always looking for folks to submit trip summaries with pictures!! BRING THEM ON!

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q13. Do you have any suggestions on how the club could do a better job of retaining CMC members?

There were 26 comments

Some of the comments included the following;

- More nearby trips.
- Five comments involved offering more variety in trips weekly/more trips. (a trip suggestion box on the FC Web page?)
- Step up the social factor, example would be a wine and cheese fundraiser.
- Three people suggested engaging new members, one suggested contacting folks that have not taken a trip.
- More backcountry skiing/ski mountaineering. More trips during the week for those who can not go on weekends.
- Two people suggested more monthly meetings, one suggested discussing upcoming trips and other shared interests as well as having the program.
- Three suggested that the state should reduce dues or offer tiered dues
- Three people suggested more moderate hikes and snowshoes, one suggested we recruit older leaders that go slower.

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q13. Do you have any suggestions on how the club could do a better job of retaining CMC members? - Continued

- More trip summaries with pictures.
- Specify on the website, in brochures, at info booths at fairs, in new/prospective member meetings and at every reasonable opportunity that we have leaders trained and cross checked in safe hike planning and leading, so hiking groups avoid getting lost or separated or ending up in the mountains after daylight or in storms, which can cause dangerous hypothermia and dehydration. This needs to be stated plainly and not vaguely. This is what we offer over meet-up groups. Many people new to the mountains don't know the importance of this.
- Add road bike rides.
- One was confused with how to sign up for trips on the state web site and other suggested that there be one or two contacts that can help out new members with questions.

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q14. How long have you been a CMC member?

1 year or less	16%
1-2 years	14%
3-4 years	17%
5 years or more	50%
40 year or lifetime member	3%

Q15. When your current membership expires, do you plan to renew it?

Note there was a problem with this question since it would not let you give a response if you checked yes or no.

Of the 68 people that answered only one said no, six said they just joined or renewed so it was too early to tell, and one was looking for organizations that fit their interest better. The rest were positive feedback on classes, leadership, trips, and one person singled out how great John Raich's trips are.

Membership Survey (cont.)

Q16. Please add any additional items you would like to share about the CMC:

There were 12 responses. Some of the comments included;

- While I think hiking safety is extremely important. Sometimes it feels like there is so much focus on the "correct" way to do everything, it takes the fun out of hiking. Maybe it would help to blend the rules into the hikes, discuss as hiking.
- Bring back the February multi-person program.
- More moderate hikes
- Would like to see more diversity in age of the members
- Programs that would get my kids involved.
- Great experience in the MHS.
- In the benefits section of the Group and State web page note the advantage of hiking with trained leaders (see comment above in Q13).
- At the state level there is too much focus placed on Youth Education and Outdoor Conservation. Many members may not be interested in these aspects.
- Two folks commented that they enjoy the trips and the company of the people on them.

Membership Survey (cont.)

So What is next?

1. JoAnn will review the results on “what trips the group wants “, the desired “educational trips” and “recommendations to retain members” at the next leader meeting in June.
2. The Education Committee is using the survey information to help decide where to concentrate efforts. A limiting factor will continue to be finding qualified instructors.
3. Those who indicated interest in becoming Trip Leaders will be contacted and given information on the process involved.
4. Ward is in the process of trying to connect those who wish mentoring with potential mentors for given goals and activities.
5. Scott Farquhar will take another look at how the Group might be able to use MeetUp.
6. Ward has started additional discussions at the monthly meetings
7. Chris Haugan is reviewing the suggestions on how to retain members.
8. It looks like “Word of Mouth” is our best advertizing So everyone, SPREAD THE WORD

Member Feedback!

Short Notice Trip Contact List

Wellll, the membership has spoken (or not spoken). Only two Fort Collins Group members and one Shinning Mountain Group member indicated interest in being on a Short Notice Trip group as outlined in the January Newsletter. In our recent survey some people did voice an interest in short notice trips, but apparently they did not like the proposed format. It's back to the drawing board!

Specific Trips Desired

At this point I have not received any feedback on any specific trips that members would like to see on the schedule (see page 20 of the November Newsletter). While it is a bit late to request winter trips, there is a Trip Leader Meeting scheduled for June 9th, so contact JoAnn Herkenhoff or me if you have a specific trip you would like to have added to the schedule.

Happy Hiking!