



# Newsletter



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# Table of Contents

❁ From the Editor.....	4
❁ New Members.....	5
❁ Message from the Chair.....	6
❁ New Trip Leader – Erin Ann Bohler and/ Cercle de MacGregor.....	9
❁ Nominating Committee .....	15
❁ Basic Mountaineering Course.....	14

# Table of Contents

❁ Did You Know?.....	22
❁ Internet Links	
❁ Information on the Group Web Page	
❁ Colorado Outdoor Adventure Blog	
❁ Trip Reports.....	26
❁ Parting Shots.....	30

# From the Editor:



Scott Farquhar

What's in this Issue? A tribute to David Wasson as he "retires" from leading the Mountain Hiking School, we welcome a new Trip Leader, a request for Nominating Committee help, a request for new Council Members, Basic Mountaineer Course students praise their BMC experiences, a review of information on our group web site, Trip Reports, and a few Parting Shots. Thanks go out to Ward, Bill, Christina and Jason for their input to the newsletter.

One issue I do want to touch on here is the weekly e-mail. Data the system records indicates less than 55% of the members open it. The e-mail lists important information and all trips sponsored by the Fort Collins Group. I would encourage all members to monitor the weekly e-mail for news flashes and for new trips. Sign up as soon as possible on trips that look interesting since most weekend trips tend to fill up fast (as a side note, often trips scheduled during the week go unfilled). The only way to get involved is to stay informed!

Next, as I always do, I would like to welcome the 10 new members (actually memberships, my apologies to the family members not mentioned) that have joined the Fort Collins Group since April (see the next page for a listing).

For all of the new members, 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!

May	June
Chris Ingram	Marta Thorne
Eileen Hendee & Family	Luke George & Family
Mandy Hartman	Carol Ann Moorhead & Family
	Kaitlyn Maloley
	Anthony Giancursio
	Michael Scherer
	Eric Price

# Message from the Chair:

By Ward Whicker

After some six years of directing the Group's Mountain Hiking School (MHS), David Wasson has decided to "retire" from that effort. I have had the privilege over this time of helping David with the school as one of several instructors. It is my strong belief that this course has been extremely successful in providing Group members with the skills, experience and confidence to be active hikers with the club and for many, the motivation to continue mountain skill building, to become trip leaders and to serve the club in other ways as well. I speak for myself, and I think for the other instructors, that we have truly enjoyed working under David's guidance and feeling sincere gratitude from the many students who have participated in the course.

David directs MHS Students  
on a navigation exercise

Photo by Scott Farquhar



Ward Whicker



# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

The MHS's general goal has been to provide instruction in safe backcountry hiking practices to allow one to confidently plan, participate in, and eventually lead mountain hikes in all seasons. Subjects taught have included navigation, off-trail travel, clothing and equipment, weather, nutrition & hydration, sanitary & environmental practices, recognizing & managing hazards year-around, response to accidents or unplanned events, and related topics. These subjects have been taught in the classroom and experienced in the field. Some 30 MHS field trips were offered over the period in a wide variety of settings and weather/snow conditions.

In the past six years, the MHS has provided instruction for 108 students with 76 completing requirements for graduation. Six graduates later became Fort Collins Group Council members, including four current Council Members, while fourteen MHS graduates later became Trip Leaders. Six graduates later became instructors in the MHS.



David Instructs a MHS Students on how to glissade and self arrest

Photo by Scott Farquhar



# Message from the Chair: (cont.)

On a personal note, I will miss working with David, as he is a true gentleman, a fine and highly knowledgeable instructor, and a great organizer/communicator. More than that, he has become a highly-valued friend. He has given his time, heart and soul to the club for years, in several different capacities, and we all owe him a sincere THANK YOU for the generosity of his time and efforts.

Ward Whicker

***Editors Note – I took the MHS in 2012 and have assisted in the course the last four years. The course has been very beneficial to the Group, but the real value is the exuberant expression I have witnessed on all the student's faces at the completion of the graduation hike. Thank You David for exposing so many to the joy of the mountains!***

David and Sarah on one of their many Alpine Adventures in RMNP

Photo by Scott Farquhar



# New Trip Leader – Erin Ann Bohler

By Scott Farquhar

Talk about a valuable Fort Collins Group Member!! Erin became a Group Council Member as Treasurer in January, she is helping out as a Basic Mountaineering Instructor, and NOW she is also a Trip Leader!!!

Please join me in congratulating Erin Ann Bohler for doing a great job completing her Leader-In-Training (LIT) Trip on June 3. A trip report of her Leader in Training hike follows. However, let me say that even though climbing is her specialty, Erin proved her navigation skills on the off-trail climb up MacGregor Mountain, the off-trail decent down to MacGregor Campsite, and then off-trail again to McGregor Falls. She hit every waypoint we discussed “right on”. All that while having a “turkey” as a mentor (see photo in the Trip Report that follows ☺).

All of us that love to scramble look forward to future trips led by Erin “on the rocks”.





# Trip Report -Cercle de MacGregor 6/3/2107

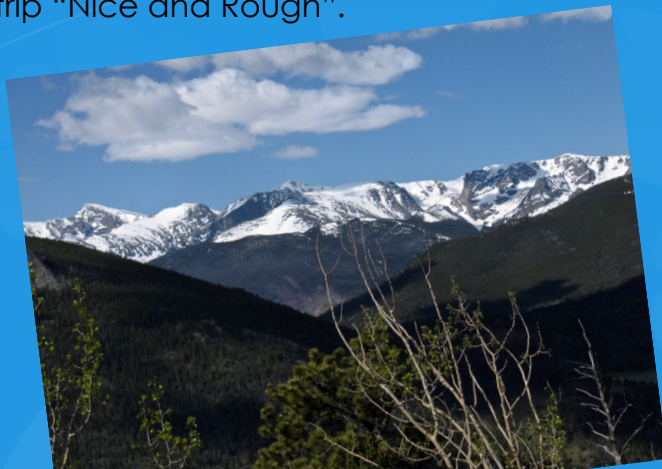
by Scott Farquhar

Leader in Training – Erin Ann Bohler, Mentor – Scott Farquhar

Mileage – 8.1 miles, Elevation Gain - 2830 ft

Time on Trail – 7.5 hours

A car was left at the Lumpy Ridge Trailhead and the whole group met at the Fall River Visitors Center. In the parking lot Erin led us through introductions, discussed the route planned, pointed out features we would be hiking through as well as pointing out the southern slope of the mountain. Once the formalities were completed the group crossed the US-36 and starting uphill on the private road through the Della Terra property (NOTE before the trip Della Terra personal were contacted to get permission to cross the property). As the group neared a high point on this road Erin cut right over a small stream and we were off trail on our way up. Erin's plan was to follow the off-trail route suggested by Lisa Foster in the guidebook "Rocky Mountain National Park, The Complete Hiking Guide". She had also talked to Steve Martin and obtained a print out of a route from a previous trip he had led. For future reference, it should be noted that a participant on the hike from the Shinning Mountains Group indicated that there is an on-trail route which starts at the National Park Check in Booth on Fall River Road. Erin and I consulted on whether to change plans, but decided to stick with the original plan and like Tina Turner signing Proud Mary we decided to do the trip "Nice and Rough".



View of Taylor, Otis, Hallett's and Flat Top while climbing the south side of MacGregor Mountain

Photo by Scott Farquhar

# Cercle de MacGregor (cont.)

The route up first followed a drainage then took a hard right just to the north of a 9160 ft knob. From previous “experience” I knew not to continue up this drainage because it narrowed and forced you to deal with lots of deadfall or do some fairly tough scrambling. This having been said, the correct route also involved picking and choosing the best path around obstacles. However, like a mountain goat, Erin led the way picking a route that minimized the energy expended by the group. Once around the knob we headed north just to the east of a 9700 ft knob then continued up towards the McGregor Mountain summit. For most of the way the group continued to deal with boulders and trees.



This is FUN!!

Starting to scramble

Photos by Scott Farquhar



However, as we closed in on the summit the trees gave way to large slabs and boulders that provided the group with some fun scrambling. Close to the very top the group had a choice to do a tougher scramble directly up the south face of the mountain or to move to the west a bit to do an easier scramble. I offered to take part of the group on the easier route so that Erin (a very experience climber) could do the more exciting pitch with experienced scramblers. Erin wisely decided that it would be much better to keep the whole group together so we all scrambled up to the summit on the south west face.



# Cercle de MacGregor (cont.)



Are we there yet?

Photos by Scott Farquhar

At the summit, we were rewarded with spectacular views to the south and to the north west. It was a beautiful sunny day so the group stopped for a bit to share high fives, take some photos, and to relax. After a short rest, Erin roused up the troops and we all started down towards Black Canyon Trail. Going down off the summit we followed the ridge to the west for a while before turning to the north. We did this to avoid the extremely steep rock slabs on the northern slope of the mountain. After about 1/3 mile we cut downhill to the north, our target was to hit the MacGregor Campsite just off the Black Canyon Trail so we could use the bridge to cross Black Canyon Creek.

Erin deftly lead the group down the hill ..... over, under, around and through the obstacles until we reached a trail. At this point we scratched our heads because on the map the trail shows up on the other side of the creek, was the map wrong? Well, to check it out I asked the group to stay put while I walked downstream on the trail for a bit. Well, within 100 yards I came upon a three-sided structure with a "throne" (an outdoor reading room ☺ ). We had hit the campsite right on (well ok the privy trail in the campsite)!!

MacGregor Summit



# Cercle de MacGregor (cont.)

After crossing the creek on the bridge Erin got to relax a bit as we followed Black Canyon Trail. Along the trail, we got a good look at the north slope of MacGregor and most of us were glad that Erin did not test our skill level by taking us down the steep slabs. As we continued on-trail, Erin was careful to keep the group together and made sure everyone made the turn to the south at the junction with the Dark Mountain trail. A little more than ½ mile from this junction it was time for a bit more off-trail adventuring.

The North Face of MacGregor

Photos by Scott Farquhar



MacGregor Falls

At this point I asked Erin if we could let Shelby, one of our recent Mountain Hiking School Graduates, get in some practice by leading the group. Erin agreed so Shelby and I looked at the map, discussed what bearing to follow, and discussed some of the features on the map that we wanted to avoid. Shelby did a great job of avoiding cliff bands and leading us down the steep slope to McGregor Falls (hmm, future trip leader material?). Due to the spring runoff, the creek was high and the falls were spectacular. It was such a lovely spot we stopped for lunch before moving on.



# Cercle de MacGregor (cont.)



East Face of MacGregor

Photos by Scott Farquhar

At the trailhead, we all congratulated Erin on the wonderful job she had done on her Leader in Training Hike before the drivers jumped in the "shuttle car" to retrieve our other vehicles. As we drove away from the Lumpy Ridge Parking lot I realized we had seen the north, west, south and east faces of MacGregor ..... a Cercle de MacGregor!!!

From the falls, it was relatively easy to follow the trail along the creek towards MacGregor Ranch. As we neared the ranch boundary we were rewarded with a view of the east side of MacGregor Mountain. At the ranch boundary, they have added an opening in the fence so we followed the road in the ranch for a short distance before seeing a sign above us to the left. From experience, I knew this sign was on the Black Canyon Trail so the group took a short off-trail jaunt to intersect with the maintained trail. From this point, we continued on-trail towards the Lumpy Ridge Trailhead. Even though the group was now on-trail we still got to see numerous wildflowers, a view of Long's Peak, a turkey (NOT the LIT Mentor) and a nice look at the Twin Owls.

NOT a photo of Scott





# Volunteers Wanted!!



1. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee to fill Fort Collins Group Council positions in 2018.

The duty of the Nominating Committee is to recommend specific Group Members to serve as Council Members for the Fort Collins Group. The recommendations are voted on by the Group Membership at the Annual Meeting in November each year. Members of the Nominating Committee for a specific year are not eligible to be candidates for Council Positions for that year.

2. Volunteers are needed to be considered as Council Members for the Fort Collins Group beginning in 2018

Council positions opening in 2018 include Group Chair (currently Ward Whicker); Membership/Public Relations Director (currently Chris Hougan) and Communications Director (Currently Scott Farquhar). Each of these positions have become term-limited, and must be re-filled starting in 2018.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, or in being considered for an open Council position, please let the Group Chair, Ward Whicker at [ward.whicker@colostate.edu](mailto:ward.whicker@colostate.edu) (phone 970-225-3747)

# Another Successful School, Basic Mountaineering

Intro By Scott Farquhar

Even though the course is not quite complete, I sent a “broadcast request to all of the Basic Mountaineering Course (BMC) Students for a write up on the class. I was overjoyed to get the following two write ups discussing their experiences. Thank you Christina Jan and Janson Barker for your submissions, you will receive your Ellie Adventure Awards next time we connect.



Practice at Horsetooth

Photos by John Wullschleger



# From Couch to BMC and Beyond

By Christina Jan

Ok, so I am not a writer, but here goes. I was sitting on my couch earlier this year thinking about adventures I have been on in the past, more recent trips and how I have been hankering for some serious hikes. By serious I mean hiking with safety-minded people out for some stupendous fun sprinkled with some sobering off-trail business. Of course I moved to Colorado two years ago with mountains and snow glinting in my eyes and *The List* on my mind. I heard tell of this wonderful club called CMC, so, I joined in March thinking these could be my kind of people and signed up for the BMC - Basic Mountaineering Course – and lo, solid gold.



Climbing a snow field

Photo by John Wullschleger



# From Couch to BMC and Beyond (cont.)



Before I move on, though I am writing from my perspective, I think it is safe for me to speak for the group when I say a hearty Thank You to CMC, Kevin Willey and Gordon Thibedeau, all the instructors, assistants, helpers, guest-lecturers, and all of the students for making this such a great experience.

So about *The List*, so cliché I know, but after BMC the whole world has opened up. Now, I am thinking Ben Nevis, Pine Creek canyoneering, Pico de Orizaba, Tasman Glacier, and maybe even beyond. And not in a 'that sounds cool' kinda way but in a 'wow – I can do this' kinda way..... Pause – please go look these up now..... Resume - I am thinking about all the cool adventures that are nowhere near mainstream and you might be sitting there thinking either:

- A. No Way
- B. Been there, Done that
- C. Difficulty is sub-standard
- D. Something else (too much to cover in this article)



On the snow

# From Couch to BMC and Beyond (cont.)

Once upon a time I thought 'No Way' they are out of my reach, however, my attitude has changed, the BMC instructors have made experiences they are familiar with new and shiny for someone like me. One thing I have noticed about the BMC and the CMC so far; the experienced usher in the novice and make sure we know our stuff so we can not only survive out there, but pay it forward when we become the experienced someday. This reminds me of a comment from a hiker on our snow field day. She said "That looks fun but there's no way I can do that" and I said "All it takes is money; join this group and sign up for this class..." And no joke, the gear is not cheap, but considering how much you might pay for a 4-wheeler, a trip to Tahiti, or a craft to get you to the good noodling, it's on the cheap side. We had a good chat about CMC classes and she had this serious look on her face. The 'I can't do that' is solved with good physical conditioning, the mental attitude of 'Yes, I can' and the expertise of the BMC staff.

So if you are reading this thinking 'No Way', I am telling you, just take the class on the next offering and give it a go, you never know. If you are thinking 'Been there, Done that' and you have not been an instructor or assistant, give it a go! If you are thinking 'Difficulty is sub-standard', please write us an article about your trips because we love being inspired. Maybe you have already written a hundred, so in that case, just start recycling. To all the class – good luck on all the grad hikes and I want to read about them! Challenge thrown down.

To all of you thinking about offering more classes in our Fort Collins Chapter...yes, please. To all of you thinking about taking this class in the future – Do It. Two people even made Ninja status. How cool is that.



# BMC Another Perspective

By Jason Barker

BMC was simply awesome! This was my first class with the Fort Collins CMC, and I was impressed with the breadth and depth of the instructors' skill and experience. Being a guy who's been out of the mountains for a bit, I was definitely a little tentative signing up, but once I started working with the instructors, their skill and dedication put me to ease. Fort Collins is lucky to have this group of people so dedicated to helping others develop their skills. While all the actual experiences were great, I have to put the emphasis on the instructors who made this a success for all the students. I'm excited to use this course as a jumping off point for more courses with the CMC because the instruction and organization was so great.



Going Up?

Photo by Erin Bohler

# BMC Another Perspective (cont.)



Playing "Follow the Leader"

So, if you've been considering signing up for the BMC, what are you waiting for? I can't recommend it enough for people who want to improve upon their scrambling skills and wanting to get a little more technical in the mountains!

Climb on!

Photo by Erin Bohler

# Did you Know?

## Internet Links Related to Outdoor Activities

During Mountain Hiking School I always provide a list of interesting links related to outdoor activities. Lately I figured it makes sense to share these with all the membership so I added the document to our group web page. The document includes links related to weather, trip planning, agency web pages, sites related to navigation, wildflower/bird sites, and mapping software. So go to our group web site and check it out.

<https://www.cmc.org/Groups/FortCollins/MemberResources.aspx>



Note it is a WORD document that downloads to your computer when you click on it. I only update it once a year during the Mountain Hiking School, but if you run into a problem let me know. Also if you have any other interesting links forward them to me and I can add them.

# Did you Know?

## Information on our Group Web Site

Quite often I get a question from folks and my response is “That is on our Group Web Site”. To help you out here is a short list of Items on the web site ..... GO CHECK IT OUT!  
<https://www.cmc.org/fortcollins>

**Home Page** – General Info, Newsflashes, Link to latest Newsletter, note on upcoming Programs

**About/Council** – List of current Group Council Members and contact information

**Membership/New/Prospective Members** – Notes last/upcoming New Member meetings, General Information about the club

**Membership/Member Resources** – Trip Classification, Interesting Internet Links, link to state Member Resources, Group By-Laws, National Forest Closure link, and link to Membership Benefits and deals for members.

**Membership/Trip Leader Resources** – Link to State Trip Leader Resources, Trip Leader Manual, FC Group - Leader Policy, Instructions on how to add trips/close out trips, a list of equipment owned by the FC Group, a patient assessment form (for injuries in the field), Leader in Training Checklist, and a link to the Denver Group Leader Newsletter



# Did you Know?

## Information on our Group Web Site (cont.)

**Activities/Trips**– Instructions on how to check on Fort Collins trips and a which opens a page showing the Fort Collins Group Trips

**Activities/Events & Programs** – Notes information on the next monthly program and lists past programs.

**Schools** – Short write up on schools that are offered by the Fort Collins Group

**Connect/Newsletters** – A link to the latest and past newsletters

**Connect/Photos & Social Media** – A link to the Fort Collins Group Facebook page (note you must log into Facebook to see it).



# Did you Know?

## New Outdoor Adventure Blog

There is a new Colorado Outdoor Adventure Blog that folks might find interesting. Believe it or not It is related to ..... Outdoor Adventures in Colorado (Who da thunk it). It is located at the following link

<http://blog.colorado.com>

They are always looking for contributors, but be forewarned!!! If I see any Fort Collins Group members contributing, I will be coming to you to also share your literary skills in this newsletter! 😊

# Trip Reports – Twin Sisters – 5/6/17

By Bill Trout

On May 6, 2017 Diane Quinn led a group on a Twin Sister hike. The trip was co-led by Terri Gerard and included Bill Trout, Pete Langer, Amparo Maya, Amy Parker and her son Drew Parker (guest). Twin Sisters at 11,428 feet elevation has 3 summits, east, west and the little known south summit. The trip was to climb to the top of the west summit. Trip length was about 7.5 miles with an elevation gain of about 2,475 feet.

We carpooled to the trailhead across the highway from Lily Lake. The initial part of the trail is in Rocky Mountain National Park, but after a short distance crosses the Park boundary into Roosevelt National Forest and then back into the Park. We had a beautiful morning, geared up and headed up the trail.



Getting close to the Summit

Photo by Pete Langer

# Twin Sisters (cont.)

The beginning of the trail is along a gravel road which was dry so we began by carrying micro spikes in our packs. After hiking about 10 minutes we came to a kiosk on the left and hiked the actual trail up Twin Sisters. In about 1 mile we came to a overlook with great views of Longs Peak and Estes Cone. Shortly after we came upon the large landslide caused by the heavy rains of September 2013. The landslide destroyed this section of the trail. We followed rock cairns and managed to cross without to much trouble.

After the landslide the trail continued to climb and the trees started to thin. As we ascended, the trail became pretty icy and slick. We found a convenient log along the trail to put on our micro spikes and continue up the trail. At about 3 miles the group finally reached tree line. From here we had to ascend and traverse a good sized snow field to reach the saddle between the east and west summits. We continued up to the foot of the west summit, took off our micro spikes and rock hopped to the top. On top we had a light lunch, enjoyed the spectacular views and perfect weather. You felt you could almost reach out and touch Longs Peak! We then headed back down to the trailhead. All in all another great hike! Thank you Diane and Terri for putting this trip together!



View of Long's and Meeker



The saddle between "The Sisters"  
from the Summit

Photos by Pete Langer



# Trip Reports – Wathen, Audra Culver and More – 5/31/17

By Scott Farquhar

This was a wonderful hike on some of the less used trails in Horsetooth Mountain Park. First we took the Horsetooth Falls Trail for a quick look at the Falls which were beautiful in the spring. We then cut up hill to the Spring Creek Trail and went south-east (due a closure on that trail between Soderberg and Wathen). After a bit the group intersected with the Stout Trail. We turned and hiked uphill where we were compensated for our efforts with wonderful views of the Rocky Mountains and views of Horsetooth Rock. When we hit the intersection with the Herrington Trail we followed that trail downhill to the north-west until it intersected with the Spring Creek Trail. On that trail we hiked downhill to the Wathen Trail. After a short bit on the Wathen Trail I pointed out the “Amazing Easter Island Head” just off the trail.

With our energy renewed by that spectacle the group continued uphill to Horsetooth Trail. We followed Horsetooth just to the intersection with the Audra Culver Trail.

Photos by Scott Farquhar



The Group at Horsetooth Falls



View of Long's Peak from the Stout Trail



# Trip Reports – Wathen, Audra Culver and More (cont.)



View of Horsetooth Rock along the Stout Trail

The group turned on to the Audra Culver Trail and stopped for lunch at a spectacular overlook on a rock outcropping with a bench. During lunch I shared information and pictures I had found on the internet related to the Wathen Family and the Culver Family.

Having fortified ourselves we continued on the Audra Culver Trail to the South Ridge road, we followed this to the lower Horsetooth Rock Trail where we met with the multitudes using that trail. However, we were now close to the end of our loop and the group quickly made our way back to the trailhead.

Having conquered Horsetooth Mountain Park we decided to reward ourselves at the TCBY near our meeting place. All and all another good day in the woods.

Photos by Scott Farquhar



The AMAZING Easter Island Head on Wathen Trail

# Parting Shots

## Miscellaneous FC Group Photos



Gem Lake/Balance Rock Trip  
Artist Unknown

Could be tough to walk back to the  
trailhead!!

Wilderness First Aid Training  
photo by Joe Allen



That has to hurt!!

Wilderness First Aid Training  
photo by Joe Allen



A happy Horsetooth to Lory Trip  
Artist Unknown

