



Canyon to Crest Call

Western Slope Group

December 2020

Light and shade in Crack Canyon, San Rafael Swell, Utah. Photo by John Broadbooks.

Happy Holidays!

See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!

OUTINGS

DECEMBER TRIPS (click on titles for more info and to sign up):**

[Friday-Sunday 12/4-6 Winter Camping and Uncompahgre Peak](#) Pikes Peak Group.

[Saturday, 12/5 - Bighorn Loop, Gunnison Gorge NCA](#) Mod A. Brenda Leach.

[Sunday 12/13 - Sunset Rocks, Gunnison Gorge NCA](#) Easy B. John Broadbooks.

[Friday, 12/18 - McInnis Canyons D4/D6 loops](#) Mod A. Anne Keil.

January TBD: Rifle falls state park plus Rifle ice cave snowshoe, Easy A. Anne Keil (email WSGofCMC@gmail.com to get on the sign up list as conditions will determine when we can schedule this trip).

**All members and guests must sign a new [liability waiver \(effective March 2020\)](#).

Starting July 1 revised COVID policy:

- Expanded activities to include overnights, backpacking trips, climbing, & scrambles.
- Group size max of 10 (including trip leader).
- At least 6 feet social distancing required (otherwise use a mask or mouth/nose covering) at the trailhead pre-trip, when passing other recreators, and at the trailhead post-trip.

PRESENTATIONS

[Tuesday 12/1 6-7pm. Grand Adventures with Charlie Winger](#) Zoom webinar.

[Tuesday 12/1 self paced online. Navigation Level 1](#), State CMC. Fee. Free for leaders.

[Wednesday 12/2, 6-7pm. Intro to Backcountry Ski/Splitboard Instructor and Trip Leader Meeting](#). Anyone potentially interested in leading backcountry trips, this is for you! Online. State CMC.

[Thursday 12/3, 6-7:30pm. Technical Climbing Schools Orientation](#). State CMC.

[Monday 12/7, 7-8pm. Ski Touring \(webinar\)](#). State CMC.

[Wednesday 12/9 6-8pm. Open Snow and Road West Traveled Powder Party](#). Fee.

[Thursday 12/10 7-11pm. Best of Back Country Film Fest](#). Fee.

CLASSES

Wilderness First Aid is now a hybrid 16-hour online plus a 1-day in-person field class. This serves as both an initial certification and recertification. \$200 members, \$245 nonmembers, and 5 spots each class are free for leaders with online application and 6 trip commitment in 2 years. Western Slope field day location TBD. More info [here](#) and dates added regularly.

Trip leader training: We are seeking new trip leaders! The free training consists of online modules and one training hike plus wilderness first aid. Self paced online class portion of trip leader training is now available. This is also available to current leaders as a refresher. If you are interested, please contact wsgofcmc@gmail.com

Trip classifications

Ski Tour Classifications

Ski tours use a classification system to describe the skiing skills and stamina required for participation in a trip. If you are unsure whether your skiing abilities (especially turning and stopping skills) are suitable for a trip, please contact the trip leader.

Easy I: 1 to 3 miles round trip on generally flat terrain. Suitable for beginners.

Easy II: 3 to 6 miles round trip and up to 600 ft. elevation gain.

Easy III: 6 to 8 miles round trip or 600 ft. to 800 ft. elevation gain.

Moderate I: 800 ft. to 1100 ft. elevation gain.

Moderate II: 1100 ft. to 1500 ft. elevation gain.

Moderate III: 1500 ft. to 1800 ft. elevation gain.

Advanced I: 1800 ft. to 2500 ft. elevation gain, 15-20 miles

Advanced II: Over 2500 ft. elevation gain.

Snowshoe trips use the following classifications:

Easy: Up to 5 miles round trip and 600 ft. elevation gain.

Moderate: Up to 8 miles round trip and 1200 ft. elevation gain.

Difficult: Over 8 miles round trip or 1200 ft. elevation gain.



Video of Sage Grouse Habitat

Restoration Project Presentation

If you missed the November 17 zoom presentation, you may now view it [here](#). This was a very interesting and informative presentation given by Matt Vasquez, District Wildlife Biologist for the Gunnison Ranger District which includes the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.



Snow Ranger Opening

The CMC is accepting applications for a seasonal Snow Ranger position in Southwest Colorado (Montrose/Ouray area). The Snow Rangers support the Forest Service in managing winter recreation to include patrolling, visitor education, monitoring, sign installation, partnership development and more. This field-based position includes frequent backcountry travel via touring equipment (i.e., touring ski or split board set ups) and snowmobile from January through April. The full position description is available at <https://www.cmc.org/About/Jobs.aspx#SnowRanger>

Outings Chair: OPEN

We are looking for an Outings Chair for 2021. The current Outings Chair, Anne Keil, will be my mentor. Some of the tasks of the Outings Chair include contacting trip leaders to post trips, adding trips to the WSG monthly newsletter, encouraging new trips leaders and attending WSG Council meetings every odd-numbered month. Contact Anne at WSGofCMC@gmail.com if you're interested.

Who do we Email the Newsletter to?

We've been emailing our *Canyon to Crest Call* newsletter to:

1. Current CMC WSG members.
2. Former CMC WSG members whose memberships expired up to 5 years ago.
3. Current CMC non-WSG members who live in the Western Slope.
4. Current and former CMC members who have requested to be put on the email list.



For those in the 2nd group, if (over time) you fall outside of the 5-year window and still want to receive our *Canyon to Crest Call* newsletter, please let us know. Send an email to WSGofCMC@gmail.com and we'll add you to the distribution list.

Photo by Terry Randall of a November WSG hike to Little Dominguez Canyon.

Seeking Monthly Newsletter Volunteers

We'd like your help! If you have requests for newsletter content or would like to contribute, let us know! Deadline to submit information, articles or photos is the **25th of each month** for the following month's newsletter. Email us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

We are also looking for a volunteer to be the **Newsletter Editor**. We use myEmma, a tool which has many features that facilitate creating our monthly newsletter.

Click on these links to see past issues of our monthly *Canyon to Crest Call* newsletter.

2020: [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), [October](#), [November](#).

2021 Western Slope Group Council

Chair: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Vice Chair & Outings Chair: Anne Keil (Montrose)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: Karen Mann (Montrose)

Conservation Chair: Ross Mittelman (Palisade)

We've set our Council meetings for the 2nd Tuesday of odd-numbered months, 5:30 - 7pm. The meeting schedule for 2021 is January 12, March 9, May 11, July 13, September 14 and November 9. The location will be determined closer to the meeting date. It could be via Zoom while we're dealing with COVID-19. WSG members are welcome to attend.

CMC connects Coloradans with more than 3,000 trips, hikes and activities annually. Members also receive huge deals on outdoor gear, lodging, events and more.

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