



Newsletter



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Table of Contents

❁ From the Editor.....	3
❁ New Members.....	4
❁ Upcoming Courses.....	5
❁ Did you Know?.....	7
❁ Trip Reports.....	9
❁ Annual Dinner.....	13
❁ Meet your Group Council Members.....	14
❁ Member Feedback.....	20

From the Editor:



Scott Farquhar

Another election and another new Communications Director/Newsletter Editor for the Fort Collins Group. In this newsletter I have tried a few different kinds of articles and included opportunities for members to provide some feedback. Let me know what you think, I'm open to suggestions. Note that my role also carries the responsibility for overall communications, so if you have any suggestions feel free to contact me at fccmcguy@gmail.com. As I always tell Sandy, "I don't do perfect", but I will work to improve the newsletter as I go along and do what I can to keep communication lines open within the club.

As of November 1st, the Group has more than 50 new members who have joined in 2014. Some are pictured in this newsletter and all of whom are listed in the following page. Welcome to all of you; take advantage of the resources the club and other members have to offer.

See ya on the trail Scott

Welcome New 2014 Members!

January		March		August	
Ted, Eric & Jake	Arther	Peter	Gill	Kevin, Jared, Ava & Leilani	McDonlad
Annie	Wood	Mario	Campos	David	Walters
Kevin	Dischino	Clifford & Janice	Moore	Ryan	Reese
Dani	Flores	Dave	Collins	Julie	Downs
Mallory	O'Connell	Jerry	French	Monika	Riedel
Chip	Dever			Tom	White
February		May		September	
Nicholas	Kuon	Nancy & Michael	Maller	Katie	Lei
Amanda	Wisell	Victoria	Hamilton	Brittany	Pennington
Megan	Cruise	June		Joe	Allen
Diane	Giffin	Jette	Carlson	David	Manobla
Amanda	Stone	July		October	
Patricia and Bob	Pickering	Andrew	Nicklawsky	Laura	Davis
		Sue, Zach and Ted	Turner	Thomas	Peterson
		Sherri	Goering	Shelly	Hearne
				Regis, Jessica, Regis III, Sebastian, and Kim	Cunningham
				Karl	Fisher

Upcoming Courses

The outdoors is so much more fun when you have the skills to fully enjoy the experience. The following are a couple of courses the Fort Collins Group is sponsoring in the coming months. Keep watching the Trip Schedule weekly to discover additional courses that may be offered. Note you can also go to the state web page www.cmc.org to find courses being offered by other groups.

Beginning Snowshoe Workshop

Experience the thrill of winter when snow covers all and the mountains are a winter playground. Join us for a fun, easy day learning how to handle equipment, walk, turn around, get up, etc. on snow shoes. The class is scheduled for December 7th. Contact Don Carpenter to sign up.



Photo by Scott Farquhar

Upcoming Courses (cont.)

Mountain Hiking School



Photo by
Scott Farquhar

Are you new to mountain hiking and want to hit the trails in 2015? Are you an experienced backcountry traveler who wants to gain mountaineering knowledge and improve skills? Plan to join the 2015 edition of the Fort Collins CMC Mountain Hiking School. We will meet in interactive classroom sessions, practice skills learned on field trips, and utilize the gamut on graduation hike. Classroom topics include dry land travel (gear, weather, knots, scree, and talus), navigation with map and compass, emergency survival, and snow travel. Experienced volunteer instructors will help you learn and practice techniques in an open group environment.

Although this course is not yet on the schedule, the classroom sessions will most likely start in February or March. This has been a VERY popular class in the past, so stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Did you Know?

Is Rock Climbing your Thing?

Would you like to try Climbing to find out?

If the answer to either of these questions is yes, then you may be interested in joining other CMC members at the Inner Strength climbing wall on Friday evenings (5:30 pm +/-) . This is an informal get together and not an "Official" Trip, but it is a great way to meet other Fort Collins Group members that are interested in climbing. If you are interested contact Manuel Fillion (manufillon@gmail.com). Manuel sends out an e-mail on the Fridays that the group plans to get together.

There are two ways of climbing at Inner Strength: Top rope or Bouldering. The cost to climb is \$ 6.5, you will either need to bring your own climbing gears (shoes, harness and belay device) or you will need to rent them at the gym at a cost of \$10 . for more information go to (www.innerstrengthrock.com) . CLIMB ON!

Did you Know?

2014 was an Active Year!

According to my very rough count the Fort Collins Group sponsored; 34 Hikes, 16 X-Country/Backcountry/Downhill Ski Trips, 15 Snowshoe trips, 2 Wildflower Walks, 4 Bike/FC Culture Trips, 10 Mountain Scrambling Trips, 1 Mountain Bike Trip, 1 Fly Fishing Trip, and 8 Programs.

In addition to all the trips, the group also sponsored classes in Mountain Hiking, Alpine Scrambling, Novice X-Country Skiing, Beginning Snowshoeing and Leadership Training.

Thanks goes out to all the Trip Leaders that make this possibleHeck if you're not getting out you're just not trying.



Photos by
Scott Farquhar

Trip Report – Joe Mills Mtn./Lake Helene

By Scott Farquhar

Stats – 7.3 miles, 1800 ft elevation gain, 5.5 hours on trail



Joe Mills Summit – Photo by Scott Farquhar
Front: John W, Jim Pisula, Scott Farquhar, Sheila and Steve Dielman
Back: Pete Langer, Jack L, Renee Loria, Diane Quinn, Julie Downs

The group met at 6:45 am in Fort Collins in order to get a jump-start on the day. The weather was predicted to be sunny with low winds and a high of 51 F on the mountaintop, but this leader has been misled by the weather service in the past. After picking up additional hikers in Loveland and the Estes Park Visitors Center the group made it's way to the trailhead at Bear Lake.

At the trailhead it was sunny, but the temperature was in the 30s, so we quickly shouldered our packs and got on trail. The initial part of the hike followed the trail uphill towards Bierstadt Lake, stopping only momentarily for the obligatory view of Long's Peak and the Keyboard of the Winds (I never get tired of that view). We took the hard left on the Flattop Mountain Trail to the Fern-Odessa trail. We continued to climb gradually and the crew was glad that the warm weather had melted most of the snow that had been there only a week before.



Joe Mills Mtn./Lake Helene (cont.)

Ok, some of them did joke that the leader's recommendation to carry traction devices may have been questionable, but I noted that it was good practice for the months to come and they needed the extra weight in their packs to get ready for winter.

There were a couple of stops along the way to adjust clothing and to take pictures of Notchtop Mountain as it came into view (still another view that refreshes the soul every time I see it), but the group quickly made it's way to the intersection with the trail to the Sourdough backcountry campsite. From here we followed the spur trail north to reach a talus rock field. We continued up this to a rock face.



Climbing talus; Steve, Jack & Pete

Photo by
Scott Farquhar



Photo by
John Wullschleger

At the rock face the group had a choice to make their way up a steep timbered drainage on the left OR to traverse across the talus field beneath the rock face to get around it. Since no one in the group had ever attempted the steep ascent to the left I followed sound advice once given to me by another leader on a trip that did not go exactly as planned. He said "I'll never again lead a group on steep terrain that I have not scouted out first"; we traversed across the talus field taking the route I had done in the past. I assured the group we might get "miss-placed", but we would never get lost.

Joe Mills Mtn./Lake Helene

Helene (cont.)

After making our way around the rock face we climbed a bit further to reach the ridge northeast of the summit. Although the trail was not clear, we did see cairns every now and then. From the ridge we battled through krummholz to the peak, WHAT A VIEW! At the summit the views of Notchtop, Little Matterhorn, The Gable, Two Rivers Lake, Lake Helene, Odessa Lake and the rest of Fern Creek Canyon were spectacular. The day was sunny, warm and calm. So after high fives were shared all around the group basked in the sun on the summit. I pointed out to the group what we were seeing and noted that they WOULD all be tested later.

We descended from the summit in much the same way we had come up, once back "on trail" the group agreed that the short jaunt to Lake Helene would be nice. At Lake Helene John W wandered off track for a bit and led the group to a great rock outcropping with more great views of the canyon and a good view of Joe Mills (all who wander are not lost). After soaking in as much of the view as we could hold, we started the 2.5 to 3 mile on trail hike back to the trailhead. As we met up with the afternoon hordes making their way up the trail we took one last look at Joe Mills.

We were up there! We live here! Live is good.



Photos by John Wullschleger
Left: Lunch on the summit, Above:
Pointing out Peaks



Photo by Scott Farquhar
Joe Mills viewed from
Lake Helene

Annual Halloween Hike

By Bruce Hollenbaugh

On Halloween ten costumed CMC characters hiked six miles at Devils Backbone Open Space in Loveland. This was the fifth annual Halloween fun hike for our club. We enjoyed a delicious picnic along the trail and brought smiles to many hikers and cyclists. Thanks to Linda Brisbane and Laurie Folladori for planning and leading this hike.



Photos by Bruce Hollenbaugh



Annual Dinner

By Scott Farquhar

The annual dinner was a great success this year. The food and drink were enjoyed by all, 2015 Council Members were elected (see below), volunteers were recognized and the *Northern Heights* program by Gerry Roach was fantastic (and a bit intimidating for many of us). Thanks go to Program Director Bob Dietz and his team Linda Brisbane, Laurie Folladori and Ann Hunt.



Don runs the show one last time

2015 Group Council

Chairman	Ward Whicker
Secretary	Carolyn Hammond
Treasurer	Kate Polk
Activities	JoAnn Herkenhoff
Leadership & Safety	Tom Chapel
Membership & PR	Chris Haugen
Communications	Scott Farquhar
Program Director	Bob Dietz
Immediate Past Chair	Don Carpenter

Gerry Roach shares his daring exploits in the peaks of the far north.

Photos by Scott Farquhar



Meeting the Council Members

The Fort Collins Group welcomes a mix of new and existing Council Members for this coming year. This month's newsletter covers two of the new council members. In months to come the newsletter will talk to the rest of the Council.



Ward Whicker,
Council Chairman

Ward Whicker, Council Chairman

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

I have been a CMC member for 7 years. Becoming mostly retired, and with the loss of several long-term, adventure-minded friends to aging or moving away, my wife April talked me into going to a CMC informational meeting chaired by Paul Weber. I became hooked on the club and its activities very quickly.

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

To me personally, the most rewarding aspects of CMC membership are the trips, the courses, and the wonderful friendships that seem to come so naturally from the shared adventures. I greatly enjoy leading and participating in the wide variety of trips offered year-around by the Fort Collins Group; I've learned many mountaineering skills and much more about our mountains from course instructors; and I have developed through these activities, many new friendships, most of which will likely last through my remaining years. I also enjoy the Group meetings for the informational content, as well as the social aspects.

Meeting the Council Members

Ward Whicker, Council Chairman, (cont.)

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

I have to admit to having the “genetic illness” of fly fishing, which surfaced when my father taught me at the age of about 10 or so. I first fell in love with our mountains when I became old enough to drive because they offered lakes and streams to explore. Then, when I first had the responsibility of feeding a young family on a very limited budget, I added hunting as another means of supplementing our protein supply. My interest in bicycling accelerated when one of my sons became a very competitive racer, and I still find that to be a great way to cross-train as well as to recover from long hikes. I started downhill skiing as a teenager, and still find exhilaration in skiing, mostly in the form of powder skiing in the backcountry, but also in the more peaceful activity of cross-country ski touring.

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

Well, I suppose serving in the U.S. Navy provided the needed motivation to get a college education, which ultimately led to a PhD degree and the opportunity to become a faculty member at Colorado State University. I had a wonderful career at CSU for over 40 years, but some 8 years ago, I decided to retire in order to spend more time with family and to explore my outdoor passions more fully. I still occasionally consult or give a few lectures at CSU on natural and anthropogenic environmental radioactivity, but those activities are becoming less and less frequent.

Meeting the Council Members

Ward Whicker, Council Chairman, (cont.)

5. What do you see as the most important responsibility as the new Group Council Chairman?

Don Carpenter, the outgoing Chair, served the Fort Collins Group very admirably. I hope I can serve our membership as well, and I expect to be asking for Don's advice and council frequently. I think the primary role of the Chair is to work with the Council of club officers to serve the needs and expectations of the membership as well as we can. While it often seems that growth is what many people want, I am likely to be just as concerned about the quality of our trips, schools, and programs as the numbers of members, participants, and so on. I feel that people are attracted to things of quality (for a local example, a good football team will fill a stadium!).

6. One of the good things about changing up officers is that new people bring new perspectives, what do you think you would like to do differently as the new Group Council Chairman?

While I have come to know many Fort Collins Group members, I don't really have a good feel for the degree to which we are meeting the needs and expectations of the membership at large. For example, I mostly know those members who tend to go on the various trips we offer and who attend some of our courses and schools. I suspect that there are many in our Group who are relatively inactive in terms of participation in trips and events. If that is the case, one has to wonder why such members are not more active. To understand this better, I plan to ask our Council to develop and conduct a survey of the membership to see if we are missing the opportunity to better-serve the membership at large.

Meeting the Council Members

Ward Whicker, Council Chairman, (cont.)

Another initiative that I have been pondering is that of developing better coordination/organization among or within our offerings of courses and schools. Clearly, we have had in recent years some excellent offerings with wonderful results. And, we have a reasonably large number of individuals with great qualifications and abilities to teach subjects in a wide variety of areas related to travel & recreation in our mountains. Yet, some courses for which there appears current demand, have not been offered recently. Numerous other potential course offerings are not offered by our Group at all. Part of the problem is that the work and commitment involved in most courses is substantial, not only for the voluntary instructors, but also for potential students with very busy lives. There may be ways to mitigate these problems, such as creating a modular approach for some of the more lengthy and involved courses, as is being done by other CMC Groups. I hope to form an education committee to examine such questions, with the goal of having a more complete yet practical & sustainable suite of schools and courses.

7. Do you have any closing comments?

I feel honored to have been nominated as the new Chair for our Group. I know each of the Council members well, and look forward to working with this great group of people over the next year, at least. I hope to keep leading trips as in the past because that is something I really find joy in doing, and the exercise is something I dare not neglect at my age!

Meeting the Council Members

Scott Farquhar, Communications Director



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

I have been a member since December of 2008. I have always been interested in hiking and backpacking so I found out about CMC when I looked up hiking clubs on the internet before moving to Fort Collins.

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

What I like most is participating on "off trail" hikes with experienced leaders. Before moving to this area I mainly hiked on trail, since moving here I have found it is a lot of fun adventuring off trail. I would never have had the confidence to without the help of folks like Steve, Paul, Ward, David, Bob, Laura(excuse me if I have left someone out).

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

I do a lot of mountain biking, golfing and downhill skiing with friends and as a spectator I follow the CSU Volleyball and Women's Basketball Teams. I also have been a homebrewer since 1981.

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

Well, I have joined the "dark side". I worked as a Chemical Engineer for 36 years then retired in 2011.

Meeting the Council Members

Scott Farquhar, Communications Director (cont.)

5. What do you see as the most important responsibility as the new Group Communications Director?

The most important responsibility is to get information out in a timely fashion so that members can take full advantage of all that the club has to offer.

6. One of the good things about changing up officers is that new people bring new perspectives, what do you think you would like to do differently as the new Group Communications Director?

I would like to develop some way for members to communicate back to the Council. As past Membership Chair I know that the problem is not obtaining new members, it is keeping existing members. I need to come up with some way for members to communicate changes they would like to see to make it worth being a club member. This newsletter contains a few opportunities to provide feedback, I am working to come up with additional channels.

7. Do you have any closing comments?

I'm the new editor ... I'll have plenty of opportunities for additional comments. ☺

Member Feedback!

1. What trip would you like to see on the Trip Schedule this Winter??

Share what trip you would like to see on the schedule this winter. I cannot guarantee the trip will get on the schedule, but I will share feedback with trip leaders and we'll see what we can do. I'll also post the feedback results in January's Newsletter.

2. How would you like to see communications changed/improved??

Any ideas on changes/improvements to communications? Let me know. Once again I will see what I can do and share the ideas in the next newsletter

Send responses to
fccmcguy@gmail.com

Happy Hiking!