Denver Leader News
The newsletter for Denver Leaders of the Colorado Mountain Club

www.hikingdenver.net
www.cmc.org

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COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB SINCE 1912

Top Guns. Denver Group owes a real big THANKS to our top trip leaders for FY 2010:

Leader	Trips
Dave Goldwater	68
Dan Kinzie	42
Steve Bonowski	36
Hassan Elghandour	36
Peter Spandau	32
Peter Laux	28
Linda Lawson	25
John Raich	25
Dave Callais	24
Jeff Flax	24
Dave Thomas	24

These eleven leaders represent the top 5% of Denver's 215 active trip leaders and led 25% of our trips. Thank you all for sharing your time, knowledge, skills and love of the mountains.

Avalanche Awareness School. One last avalanche training by CAIC is scheduled for Tuesday 3/15 and Thursday 3/17, in the AMC at 6:30 to 9:00 pm, with a field day on Sunday 3/20. As this went to press, seats were still available. Sign up online.

Lightning Class is scheduled for April 7th at 6:30 pm in the AMC auditorium. All CMC members and the general public are invited. Admission is free, signup is not necessary. John Snook, meteorologist with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center and paramedics from Flight for Life will speak. Free-will donations will be accepted at the door to help defray training costs.

Centennial Celebration Climbs.

CMC will celebrate its 100-year anniversary in 2012. Among the many events being planned is the Centennial Celebration Climbs program. Centennials are the 100 top ranked peaks in Colorado. Trips may begin now and continue through December 31, 2012. You may e-mail beth.dwyer@comcast.net and indicate the trip(s) you wish to lead. Once signed up, you will be responsible to schedule the trip(s) in the CMC online schedule within a reasonable period of time and complete the trip by the end of 2012. Leaders will be provided instructions, formats and assistance that will hopefully streamline their participation.

Warning About Parking.
Clear Creek County has an ordinance against parking along a county road. Some CMC members have been ticketed. But according to the Clear Creek County Sheriff's office, tickets are only being issued to enforce state law, which prohibits parking on pavement. Two wheels on and two wheels off is "on pavement." So, beware of limited trailhead parking.

Max Group Size in Wilderness Areas. Some wilderness areas have max group sizes of 12, others 15. Make sure you are in compliance. Areas with size 12 include: Indian Peaks, James Peak, Byers Peak, Vasquez Peak, Comanche Peak, Cache La Poudre, Neota and Rawah. Most others allow 15. Regardless of legal limits, large, noisy gaggles disturb wildlife, are more difficult to manage and often foster irritation, amusement or derision among other hikers, adversely affecting CMC's image.

Trip Leader Liability – Even though all CMC hikers and guests sign waivers of liability, if someone gets hurt on a CMC trip, the trip leader can still get sued. One of the benefits of leading CMC trips is our liability coverage. If you are ever sued as leader of a wildcat or meetup trip on which someone gets hurt, you may need to hire your own attorney. Liability may be worth considering before wildcatting with friends or meetup groups. Even with no clearly designated leader, if you appear to know what you are doing, others may assume you are the leader.

Seasonal tip.
Spring thaws are coming, meaning muddy trails and swollen creeks. Leave no trace requires us to walk down the middle of a muddy trail to avoid widening the trail. And that is why they make waterproof hiking boots. Swollen creeks can be a hazard on the way back to the trailhead as the day warms up. If you have not attended WTS, learn how to get your group safely cross a swollen creek whose log bridges have washed out. Better yet, avoid trails with multiple log bridges during thaw season.

Nature tip. Bears are coming out of hibernation about now. Sows with cubs can sometimes be a problem. Know how to instruct your group should you see a bear. You might read: http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Mammals/HikeCampBearCountry.htm. Even if you already know what to do, this is a good refresher.