

Denver Group Council Minutes
Mar 11, 2015

In Attendance: Dave Hutchison, Grover Cleveland, Brian LeBlanc, Sandy McRae, Alex Petre, Maddie Philley, Kevin Schaal, Roger Wendell; **Absent:** Valerie Walker

Guests: Scott Robson, Marilyn Choske, Jeff Flax

1. **Call to Order:** Dave called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Approval of February Minutes:** Prior to the meeting, Council recommended some changes be made to the initial write-up of the meeting minutes. Once these revisions were made, Council unanimously approved the February meeting minutes.
3. **Financial Report:** Alex's budget notes were:
 - January was a good month as we finished in the black. Actual YTD total net income was \$2332.
 - For Schools: Revenues were better than budgeted due to more schools commencing in January; and expenses were better than budget due to the large up-front gear purchases that were recognized earlier in the fiscal year.
 - For G&A: Membership dues were better than budget by approximately \$3200 YTD. The complete budget report is attached.
4. **Skier Classifications:** Marilyn Choske reported on an issue of concern regarding cross country and back country ski trips. She wanted Council to know of her objection should Council consider dropping skier classifications as a requirement for signing up for a ski trip, similar to what was done when Council eliminated hiker classifications as a requirement for signing up for a hike. Based on her extensive experience in leading ski tours, her opinion is that this would be extremely ill advised and voiced her objection should this ever come up for discussion.
 - Her presentation began by reviewing some history of how the current skier classification system was put in place. In 1994, it was acknowledged that skiing is more skill-oriented than hiking and that at that time, many trips were being held up by people signed up beyond their ability level.
 - An Ad Hoc committee recommended and adopted the following classification system:
 - a) Persons with no ski tour classification rating are designated "unrated".
 - b) Unrated skiers must obtain two Easy III ski tour signoffs from two different trip leaders and receive an Easy ski tour classification before participating at the Moderate ski tour level.
 - c) Skiers classified with an Easy skier designation must obtain three Moderate ski tour signoffs from at least two different trip leaders, one of which is a Moderate II and two of which are Moderate III's and receive a Moderate ski tour classification before participating at the Advanced ski tour level.
 - d) Advanced ski tour classifications require two signoffs from two different trip leaders, one of which is an Advanced II.
 - The above system has worked to the satisfaction of cross-country ski trip leaders since it was implemented and is the system still in place today.
 - Council assured Marilyn that there were no plans to change to the skier classification system. Marilyn's 2-page report is attached.

In other matters related to Ski Tour Classifications, there is still no resolution to the problem of why some members are assigned skier classifications which they haven't earned. Council has referred to this as phantom skier classifications where the web-based system has assigned some members a classification status that has not been earned.

Next, Marilyn reported hearing that some leaders will chose to not lead trips next year because of requiring AIARE Level I for ski trip leaders and the associated expense of \$240.

- Council was reminded that according to the policy book, traditional winter trip leaders are still grandfathered into the existing set of requirements. Leaders may continue to lead winter trips, including winter backcountry trips, until October 1, 2016 without further avalanche training.
- Council was reminded that this rule applied only to the Denver Group and was not a statewide rule, and is the result of Denver Safety and Leadership's oversight on backcountry safety matters. Related to consistency across the state between groups and evolving CMC into "one club with one set of rules", perhaps Denver Group needs to reconsider its current policy regarding the AIARE requirement.
- Per currently written policy, there is no succinct definition of backcountry. Council will recommend that DS&L more thoroughly define backcountry and how best to police whether the practice is being adhered to.

5. **Website Migration:** In a previous meeting, Council approved spending up to \$5000 to migrate '*HikingDenver.net*' and '*CMCschools.org*' to '*CMC.org/DenverGroup*'. Other State groups would follow suit and have a sub-domain within the CMC.org website structure.

- Scott voiced his appreciation of DG's support for this action. He reiterated that a major advantage resulting from having a more streamlined website would be that we could finally have an all-inclusive calendar where all events across the state would be easily accessible.
- Scott reported there has been good buy-in from all sections, but questions regarding specific details and functionality remain. One issue of concern that has been frequently voiced revolves around how assignment of rights and privileges for editing the content for specific group web pages would be handled.
- More complete planning and roll-out documentation is still needed.
- It is critical that when the website migration occurs, it works flawlessly at the outset.
- One problem mentioned is that there is insufficient time and talent available at the staff level to do this work. Scott will report back within 2 months on how this will be resolved.
- For now, Denver Group Council should not spend any of the \$5000 designated for this effort.

6. **DGC Trail Work Initiative:** The list of people contacted by Brian to sponsor a trail work day and their responses is attached. The list included sections, schools and the Denver Group Council. The attachment also includes the dates and locations of the 8 work day projects. One additional date, Sept 26th, remains undefined. As of the date of the March meeting, only one section declined to participate. Council recommends that Grove and Brian proceed by having each of the points of contact pick one or two potential dates for which their group would sponsor a work day and continue finalizing plans to complete this project. Denver Group Council is considering sponsoring one of the Trail Work Days but no dates were discussed for our involvement.

7. **Hike Surge:** Council discussed adding 8-10 hikes to the Activity Calendar for the Hike Surge which is scheduled for May 2nd to May 10th. If 4-6 new members were on each of these hikes, we would be

encouraging somewhere between 32 and 60 new members to participate in a hike where otherwise they may not hike even once during their first year of membership.

- The difficulty of the hikes for the Surge range from Easy A to Difficult C hikes.
- New members will be contacted in mid-April for sign-ups.
- Kevin has the primary responsibility for getting volunteer hike leaders.
- Maddie has primary responsibility for publicity.
- The responsibility for getting a volunteer staff organized for the phone calling effort falls to Patricia Leslie with assistance from Brenda Porter. They will decide how many members can feasibly be called, arrange the times and develop a script for callers to follow. Scott Robson agreed to be one of the volunteers calling new members.
- Council needs to document on both the front end and the back end the lessons learned and publish the success stories.

8. **Reorganization of the Technical Schools:** A one-page handout showing the reorganization is attached.

- Tech Schools are still a big draw for new members.
- BMS can be taken be either following the new modular method or the traditional way.
- For the BMS sessions currently being offered, each of the two tracks is full with 24 students each and each track has a wait list. This is approximately double the enrollment when BMS was offered in the traditional way. The required number of Instructors have volunteered to teach, making this a great success story.

9. **Topics Not Covered:** Due to insufficient time, Council did not have time to discuss the Leader Deactivation item that was on the agenda.

10. **April Meeting:** The April meeting of DGC is scheduled for April 8 at 6:30 PM. Roger will bring snacks.

11. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Schaal 4/5/15

Attachments: January 2014 Budget Report, History and Review of Ski Touring Classification System, Trail Work Day Initiative information, Reorganization Sheet for Technical Schools,
List of Hikes for Hike Surge

CMC Denver Group Financial Review
January 2015

	Actual January 2014/2015	Budget January 2014/2015	B/(W) January 2014/2015	Actual YTD 2014/2015	Budget YTD 2014/2015	B/(W) YTD 2014/2015
TOTALS SCHOOLS						
Total School Revenue	16,885	12,825	4,060	28,771	38,265	(9,494)
Total Expense	(5,367)	(8,441)	3,074	(16,619)	(17,412)	793
Total Room Charge	(1,700)	(800)	(900)	(6,800)	(7,575)	775
Total School Net Income	9,818	3,584	6,234	5,352	13,278	(7,926)
TOTAL SECTIONS						
Total Revenue	1,475	895	580	4,190	4,015	175
Total Expense	(109)	(551)	442	(689)	(1,599)	910
Total Room charges	(700)	(250)	(450)	(1,225)	(1,500)	275
Total Section Net Income	666	94	572	2,276	917	1,360
TOTAL G&A						
REVENUE	7,265	6,781	484	32,803	32,005	798
EXPENSES	(6,750)	(7,163)	413	(37,584)	(40,116)	2,532
ROOM CHARGES	(75)	(325)	250	(525)	(750)	225
G&A Net Income	440	(707)	1,147	(5,306)	(8,861)	3,555
GRAND TOTAL REVENUE	25,625	20,501	5,124	65,764	74,285	(8,521)
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSE	(12,226)	(16,155)	3,929	(54,892)	(59,127)	4,235
GRAND TOTAL ROOM CHARGE	(2,475)	(1,375)	(1,100)	(8,550)	(9,825)	1,275
GRAND TOTAL NET INCOME	10,924	2,971	7,953	2,322	5,334	(3,012)

- 1) Schools - Revenues were better than budgeted due to more schools commencing in January.
- 2) Schools - Expenses were better than budget due to the large upfront gear purchases that were recognized earlier in the fiscal year.
- 3) G&A - Membership dues are better than budget by ~\$3200 YTD

THE EVOLUTION OF CMC SKI TOUR CLASSIFICATION 1991-1994 through current

Presented to Denver Group Council - 3/11/2015
M. Choske

Classification of Cross Country Skiers

The Denver Group Council now requires classification of ski tour participants in the interest of safety and recognition of possible critical winter conditions.

A person may apply for a classification level at any time one feels qualified to handle it. Forms are available at the office or from the trip leader and are to be completed by the leader of the trip after the participant has returned to the trailhead.

Beginner:

Easy I trip, no qualifying necessary.

Easy:

Easy II and III trips, no qualifying necessary, but please refer to trip description to determine the suitability of the trip to your ability.

Moderate:

Moderate I, II, and III trips. To meet requirements, one of two trips should be a III with favorable comments from the trip leader on ability, stamina, and preparedness.

Advanced:

Advanced I and II trips. For an advanced rating, two trips are necessary--one an Advanced II with favorable comments from the leader on ability, stamina, and preparedness. An additional requirement is successfully completing an avalanche course; the minimum acceptable is the National Ski Patrol's Basic Avalanche Course, offered by the CMC.

WINTER 91-92 p. 18

WINTER 93-94 Classification of Ski Tours

See Trip Classifications on Page 5 for the definitions of Easy I, II, and III; Moderate I, II, and II; and Advanced I and II Ski Tours.

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Easy II and III trips, no qualifying necessary, but please refer to trip description to determine the suitability of the trip to your ability.

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Ski Touring

Easy I: For the beginner only: 1 to 3 miles on generally flat terrain.

Easy II: 3 to 6 miles and up to 600' elevation gain.

Easy III: 6 to 8 miles or 600' to 800' elevation gain.

Moderate I: 800' to 1,100' elevation gain.

Moderate II: 1,100' to 1,500' elevation gain.

Moderate III: 1,500' to 1,800' elevation gain.

Advanced trips are generally over 10 miles on very difficult terrain. **Fast pace.** Participants must be able to break trail for three miles and must have **excellent Nordic downhill ability.** Ten essentials are required plus down jacket with hood, wind pants, shovel, map, extra food. **Blue jeans are not allowed. Avalanche beacons are strongly recommended.**

Advanced I: 1,800' to 2,500' elevation gain or 15-20 miles.

Advanced II: Over 2,500' elevation gain.

These classifications were revised in 1992 by a cross-country ski committee.

WINTER 94-95 p. 5

WINTER 94-95

Denver - Page 23

Classification of Ski Tours

See Trip Classifications on Page 5 for the definitions of Easy I, II, and III; Moderate I, II, and II; and Advanced I and II Ski Tours.

Classification of Cross-Country Skiers

The Denver Group Council requires classification of ski tour participants in the interest of safety and recognition of possible critical winter conditions.

You may apply for a classification level when you feel you meet the qualifications for that level. Classification Change Request Forms are available at the CMC Office or from the trip leader and are to be completed by the leader of the trip upon return to the trailhead.

Unrated:

Not classified as an Easy, Moderate, or Advanced skier.

Easy:

Easy I and II trips, no qualifying necessary.

To obtain an Easy classification, you must successfully complete two (2) Easy III ski tours.

Moderate:

To obtain a Moderate classification, you must have an Easy ski classification and then successfully complete one (1) Moderate II and two (2) Moderate III ski tours (total of three Moderate ski tours), with favorable comments from the trip leader on ability, stamina, and preparedness.

Advanced:

To obtain an Advanced classification, you must have a Moderate ski classification and then successfully complete two (2) Advanced ski tours, one of which is Advanced II, with favorable comments from the leader on ability, stamina, and preparedness. An additional requirement is successfully completing an avalanche course; the minimum acceptable is the National Ski Patrol's Basic Avalanche Course, offered by the CMC.

June 8, 1994

Dear CMC Trip Leader:

In response to the article on page back that appeared in the November '93 Denver Group Leaders' Newsletter, an ad hoc committee met on April 18, 1994 to address the issues. Specifically, the following points comprised the basis for our proposal (below) to the Denver Group Council:

- * More & more people are joining the CMC (i.e., more & more "unrated" ski tourers)
- * Many trips are held up by people signed up beyond their ability levels
- * Skiing is more skill-oriented than hiking
- * Any "unrated" ski tourer is 2 trips away from Advanced tours (this thought is frightening and has happened many times, often with disastrous results)
- * By tightening up the Moderate level with 3 signoffs, the likelihood is less that all 3 leaders will signoff if the person doesn't demonstrate sufficient skill and proficiency

On May 11, 1994 the Denver Group Council approved this proposal:

Restructure the ski tour classification requirements according to the following criteria:

- Persons with no ski tour classification rating will be designated "unrated"
- "Unrated" skiers must follow this ski tour classification system:
 - == obtain two (2) Easy III ski tour signoffs and receive an Easy ski tour classification before participating at the Moderate ski tour level.
 - == obtain three (3) Moderate ski tour signoffs, one (1) of which is a Moderate II and two (2) of which are Moderate IIIs, and receive a Moderate ski tour classification before participating at the Advanced ski tour level.
- Advanced ski tour classification will still require two (2) signoffs, one (1) of which is Advanced II. (no change)

Classification Request Forms will be changed to reflect space for the third Moderate signoff. These changes will be effective immediately and, thus, in time for announcement in the '94-'95 Winter Schedule.

Because of the increased requirements described above, future Winter Schedules will need to contain more Easy and Moderate ski tours. When planning your winter trips this summer, please consider leading an extra Easy and/or Moderate tour.

As trip leaders we sometimes must confront a person's skiing ability (or lack of) when asked to signoff for classification. If you feel a person has not demonstrated the skill and proficiency needed for your level ski tour, please do NOT sign that person's request form.

Prion facted
+ Hesse

SECTIONS

Contact	Email	Section	Work	Dates	Notes
ErlinThompson	nerdyjsheep@cloud.com	Trailblazers, 21-40	strenuous	any	
JohninePietroski	johnine.pietroski@gmail.com	SummitSeekers			declined to participate
MarthaDelporte	sabona51@comcast.net	RMOTHG			
BillHanagan	cmcpoodle@gmail.com	Technical			
JohnMarterstek	jmarterstek@yahoo.com	HAMS		Aug/Sep	
DanOrcutt	orcuttspcm@gmail.com	Photography		not 5/30, 6/6	
SteverDohnal	sdohnal@hotmail.com	FlyFishing	light	5/30, 7/11, 9/12	
DaveHutchison	dwhutchison@comcast.net	DGC			


2015 TRAIL WORK PROJECTS

Project - from Jerry Holmke

Date	Agency	Project
May30	StateParks/Audubon	Charfield (Audubon/SP?)
Jun06	USFS (ClearCK)	CubCreek (normal_maint)
Jun20	USFS (SPLatte)	RollingCreek (pruning+maint)
Jul11	USFS (SPLatte)	AbyssLKBridge (3ml/2day_backpack)
Jul25	USFS (SPLatte)	AbyssLKBridge (3.8ml/3day_backpack)
Aug08	JeffCo?	BeaverBrookBridge (WTS_is_doing_this - details_unknown)
Aug22	USFS (ClearCK)	unspecified(wait_for_snow_melt)
Sep12	USFS (ClearCK)	unspecified(wait_for_snow_melt, possible_EchoLake_deadfall)
Sep26	USFS (ClearCK)	

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Denver Group Technical Schools

- Basic Mountaineering School (BMS)
 - Basic Rock Climbing School (BRCS)
 - Rock Seconding School (RSS)
 - Anchors Seminar
 - Traditional Lead Climbing School (TLCS)
 - Sport Climbing Seminar
 - Intermediate Self-Rescue Course
 - Advanced Self-Rescue Course
 - High Altitude Mountaineering Seminar
 - High Altitude Mountaineering School (HAMS)
 - Basic Ice Climbing School (BICS)
 - Technical Ice Climbing School (TICS)
- 
- Technical Climbing School (TCS)
 - Navigation Level 1
 - Navigation Level 2
 - Introduction to Climbing
 - Basic Rock Climbing
 - Rock Seconding
 - Anchors
 - Sport Climbing
 - Traditional Lead Climbing
 - Basic Mountaineering
 - Intermediate Mountaineering
 - Basic Snow Travel
 - Technical Snow Travel
 - Basic Ice Climbing
 - Technical Ice Climbing
 - Rescue Level 1
 - Rescue Level 2
 - Rescue Level 3
 - High Altitude Mountaineering Seminar
 - High Altitude Mountaineering School (HAMS)

Hike Surge Hikes

# Hikes Added	Hike Surge	Leader	Destination	Distance	Elevation	
1	2-May	Kevin Schaal	Mt. Galbraith	4.3 miles	1000 ft	Moderate A Hike
2	2-May	Dave Hutchison	Berrian Mountain	4.2 miles	900 ft	Easy A Hike
3	3-May	Marilyn Choske	Full Moon Hike -- Red Rocks/Hogback Loop	6 miles	900 ft	Moderate A Hike
4	3-May	Cheryl Ames	Walker Ranch Loop	7.6 miles	1500 ft	Easy B Hike
5	5-May	John Walters	Deer Creek Canyon	9 miles	1500 ft	Moderate B Hike
6	5-May	Bob Collins	Chimney Gulch	5 miles	1500 ft	Easy B Hike
7	6-May	Dave Hutchison	South Valley Open Space	4 miles	500 ft	Easy A Hike
8	7-May	Vern Bass	Mt. Galbraith (after work hike)			
	8-May					
9	9-May	Dave Hutchison	Mount Goliath-Rogers Peak	10 miles	3300 ft	Difficult C Hike
10	10-May	Janet Martel	Golden Gate Canyon	8 miles	1000 ft	Doggie Hike
11	10-May	Kevin Schaal	Maxwell Falls	4.6 miles	1000 ft	Moderate A Hike