

RMOTHG Minutes
Meeting April 10, 2023

1. Call to Order at 6:05. Members present include Mike O'Connor, Carol Wier, Kathy Nordine, Ginny Keir, Scott Kramer, Andrew MacGregor, Laurine Rowe, Susanne Spandau, Dennis Baumfalk, Bob Barday and Kathy Crawford. Members absent-none.

2. Motion to approve the minutes from January 31, 2023 meeting with the amendment to the cost of the RMOTHG name badges from \$3... to \$2.00 was made by Mike O'Connor and seconded by Scott Kramer.
Approved unanimously

3. Treasurer Report

-Jeff Flax asked to use \$365 Snowshoe budget (not used) and \$625 Hike Budget for Hike leader meeting due to larger than expected turnout.

Discussion: room expenses are billed by the building which includes multiple entities including AMC, CMC, and the Alpine Center to name a few. We cannot pay until we get billed and that happens many months later due to the number of entities and the number of ½ time people who are a part of those multiple entities.

We discussed using the \$1200 excess from the Holiday party for hike leader day at Staunton. We decided to move this discussion to the social committee section of the agenda.

A motion was made by Susanne Spandau to approve the treasurer report and seconded by Mike O'Connor.
Approved unanimously.

4. Reports of Officers

-Membership Report- As of April 3rd we have about 897 total members.

Discussion: The numbers are approximate due to the transition to the new website and many members being unaffiliated. Over time we will get more accurate numbers as members renew their membership in CMC and RMOTHG. Kathy Crawford will add an article to the newsletter in May for members and family RMOTHG members to call the office if they are listed as unaffiliated in their profile to help correct this.

-Communications Report

The next New and Prospective Members Night is May 3rd. Kathy Crawford will attend to represent RMOTHG. Andrew will take the lead on recruitment for RMOTHG.

5. Reports of Committees

-Social

Summer Picnic, July 15- **Discussion:** what food to supply for the picnic and adding to the current budget for the event.

Summer Leader event, July 14- **Discussion:** Martha and Jeff hosted a wonderful leader event on April 6th and because of that and the idea that leaders may not want to travel 285 on Friday and two days in a row, it makes sense to cancel this day or give this reservation to the Denver Group.

A motion was made by Susanne Spandau to give permission to Scott Kramer (who reserved the location for the summer picnic) to either cancel this reservation for RMOTHG or give the day to the Denver Group.

A motion was made by Mike O’Conner to allow the social committee to use up to \$1200 more for the summer picnic and seconded by Ginny Keir. Approved unanimously.

-Annual Meeting, Honoree Maryann Mayer? **Discussion:** Move to the next meeting.

-Turquoise Lake, Event approved, see attachment A **Discussion:** no motions were made.

-2024 HutTrip, Trip approved, See attachment B **Discussion:** no motions were made.

6. Old Business

-Bylaws, Approve new wording for Article II: Membership Part 1. Deletes “need to be a member of the Group.” See Attachment C

A motion was made by Dennis Baulfalk to approve the wording to the bylaws to state “Any person over the age of fifty (50), or with an Active Member spouse, is eligible to become an Active Member. A person must be a member of the Club to become eligible for membership in the Section. Membership shall not be denied as stated in Article I of the Club bylaws.” and seconded by Bob Barday. Approved unanimously.

7. New Business

-Draft and approve an appropriate cancellation clause that we can use for all paying events. This includes Hut trips, Turquoise Lake, Social Events (Annual meeting included) Attachment D.

-Proposal to allow one Trip leader to not incur a fee for the trip they are arranging. The hut trips take lots of work so maybe it would only apply to that Trip. Their fee would be included on a pro rata basis in the fee paid by each participant. Should we also do this also for social events and Turquoise Lake? Might be easier to get social committee members! Turquoise lake is an inexpensive event (around \$35) so not much reward.

The above text will be replaced by the following:

A motion was made by Mike O’Connor and seconded by Dennis Baumfalk to use the following wording for an activity cancellation made by a trip leader. “RMOTHG will make every effort to carry out this trip. However, if the trip is canceled by the trip leader or RMOTHG, all money collected from participants shall be returned.”

Approved unanimously

A motion was made by Mike O’Connor to use the following wording, “If a qualified person is available to take a vacated slot and pays the money due, all payments made by the canceling party will be refunded less the applicable processing fee.

Approved unanimously

-Next meeting will be held on June 5th at 1:30 at the CMC building.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Baumfalk and seconded by Scott Kramer at 8:43. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Crawford on June 5, 2023.

Kathy Crawford

Attachment A. Turquoise Lake Plans

Turquoise Lake Budget from Janice Johnson 2/10/2023

RMOTHG 2023 Turquoise Lake Camping Trip

Baby Doe Campground

Estimated Cost:

14 camp sites for 3 nights	14 x \$50 = \$700
Miscellaneous supplies	<u>20</u>

Total Estimated Cost \$720

Procedure for arranging Turquoise Lake

Janice Johnson <jajohnson1952@gmail.com>

To:

- K LAURINE ROWE
Fri 2/10/2023 10:38 AM

I have paid for the sites but we have to initially reserve more nights than we need and then go back in and cancel the extra nights. I won't know the final cost until we cancel the extra nights, which we will be able to do the end of next week. The sites were reserved as they came available. We started trying to get sites on January 27 and finished on March 7.

We also won't know how much we will charge until we find out how many sign up. Until last year we always had more sign up than we had room for so we could come up with the amount ahead of time. Last year we didn't have enough people sign up to fill all of the campsites so we had to cancel some campsites completely. The cost last year for all three nights was \$30 per person.

Given all of these variables I won't request reimbursement until after registration closes on April 15.

This trip was approved by Laurine, Dennis and Bob on February 11. Janice has fronted all the money. She won't ask for a refund until after April 15 signup is complete. She started paying for sites around January 27.

Attachment B. 2024 Hut Plans

Email from Daniel Schweissing date 2/2/23

As this past year, we had twenty-five individuals enter the hut lottery, we are interested in RMOTHG offering TWO hut trips for the 2024 season. Our proposal is this:

- Tom and Linda Jagger are interested in reserving the newly-opened Emmelyn Hut (10 people) which is a 3.4 miles, 1143' elevation gain hike from TH to hut. (To answer your other question, Tom, this route appears to be suitable distance and rigor for a typical RMOTHG group. I would double check the precise route and vicinity around the hut, however, to ensure that any danger is not a concern before moving forward with an application).
- Barb and Curt Auden and I would like to submit an application for either Francie's Cabin (20 people), 4.1 miles, 1680' from TH to hut, OR Vance's Cabin (16 people), 3.1 miles, 776' from TH to Hut. (Since my available dates are limited, listing two huts increases our odds of getting a reservation.)

Our proposed timeline for reserving and marketing the trips would be as follows:

- Prior to Feb 15, 2023 -- Submit lottery applications and credit card info.
- Mid-March -- Receive confirmation of reservation dates from 10th Mountain
- March 20 -- Submit trip information to RMOTHG Newsletter, and post trips to CMC calendar.
- April 1-15 -- Hold a lottery for available hut spots. RMOTHG members can enter the lottery for either or both huts but IF entering both lotteries must specify a first and second choice trip. Nobody will be placed on the roster for a second trip UNTIL everyone who entered the lottery has had an opportunity to accept or decline a spot on at least one trip roster.
- April 15-30 -- Setup randomized lottery.
- May 1 - 15 -- Contact lottery winners and walk them through registration and payment process.
- After May 15 -- If any spots remain on either trip, make them available to (1) Gore Range members (whom we've collaborated with in the past), then (2) anyone on the trip rosters who is interested in signing up (and paying for) a second trip, and then (3) other CMC sections, as appropriate.
- Winter 2024 -- Plan and complete both trips.

Dennis Schweissing sent further information on costs:

Emmylou Hut for 2 nights:	\$1,000			
Francies Hut for 2 nights	\$2200	or	Vance Hut	\$1036 for 2 nights

On February 7, 2024, Laurine, Dennis and Bob approved the 2024 hut trip up to a maximum of \$3,260. Linda Jagger later added a second hut to her lottery submission to improve her odds of getting a hut.

On March 18 Bob and Laurine approved \$1,081.58 to be reimbursed to Daniel Schweissing for Vance's Cabin, dates reserved are March 6 and 7, 2024. Dennis approved on March 20.

On March 27 Bob approved \$979.20 to be reimbursed to Linda Jager for Point Breeze Cabin, dates reserved January 29 and 30, 2024. Laurine approves this today, April 8, 2023. Dennis, do you approve?

The RMOTHG policy that was used to approve the 2024 Hut trip is from our document titled RMOTHG Special Trips & Activities Procedures, it reads:

2. Obtain Approval for Event. For any Event that a nonrefundable deposit is required to be paid in advance of the Event the Leader is requested to obtain an approval from the Treasurer, Chair and Vice-Chair of RMOTHG in order to determine the viability of the Event and the possible monetary exposure to CMC and RMOTHG.

The RMOTHG policy that was used to reimburse Daniel Schweissing and Linda Jagger in advance of the trip posting for the 2024 Hut trip is from our document titled RMOTHG Special Trips & Activities Procedures, it reads:

4. Advance Deposit Funds *. While it is recommended to collect funds well in advance from the participants in order to cover all expenses, including any vendor required advances/deposits for the Event, it is recognized that it may not always be possible. In these rare cases where an advance or deposit is required prior to collection of funds from the participants, the Leader may send a completed CMC Check Request form to the RMOTHG approval committee made up of the Treasurer, Chair and Vice-Chair. The request must include the proposed Event's details and describe any mitigating reasons why the request should be approved. These requests will be considered an exception, however, if the request is approved the Leader will be notified and the request sent on to CMC's Financial Officer for check/wire issuance. *This advance will initially come from CMC, however, if insufficient amounts are not collected from participants to cover all trip costs those amounts will be charged against RMOTHG's budget thus reducing budgeted funds allocated for the running of RMOTHG. Therefore the Leader is responsible to collect enough money to cover the advance and all further expenses from the Event participants. The Leader shall minimize unrecoverable expenditures until it is reasonably certain that the trip will occur. Notwithstanding, the Leader is advised to consult with the Treasurer if he/she anticipates problems covering advance money or for any other potential financial issues.

This was a very large potential expenditure, \$3,236, for just 3 board members to approve. We have paid \$2060.78 for the 2024 hut trips YTD. When the budget is prepared for next year Scott, Bob and Laurine now think that the hut trip should be included as a line item so everyone can approve it. We may want to consider at that time if we should set a limit for the maximum expenditure that can be approved using this policy for any event we approve. The stock show social event cost \$520 and the Dim Sum event was \$640. They were not approved using this policy. Those organizers fronted the money or did not need to pay a deposit. Perhaps this should be changed if individuals are obligating CMC to a contract without any approval

Attachment D. Cancellation Policy for RMOTHG Special Trips & Activities requiring payment of a fee.

Current Policy (from RMOTHG Special Trips & Activities Procedures:

5. Refund Policy. These RMOTHG Events will be governed by the current "RMOTHG Refund Policy". Each participating member is to be made aware and agree to the refund policy at registration to the Event. The agreement of the participant can be obtained by the Leader by: 1) Setting a specific "sign-up date" in the appropriate box of the Trip Registration area on CMC.org.; and 2) Reciting on the Trip registration screen the following refund notification statement: " No refunds will be given on or after the sign-up deadline date provided herein. Any requests for refunds received by the CMC Office before the sign-up deadline date will have a \$35 processing fee deducted from the original fee or deposit amount refunded. Refunds are issued by checks. Please expect 2 to 4 weeks for payment. The registering member, by submitting the payment required for this event, confirms that they have read and hereby agree to this Refund Policy."

With the new website and signup procedures, some things have changed. CMC will deduct 5% from all refund requests (i.e. deadline date does not apply). Requests must be made to the Trip, Activity or Event leader. Refunds will only be given as a credit to the card used for the registration. Time to process is ?. (Daniel Schweissing recently got his hut reimbursement in 8 days.)

2023 Hut trip leader used a link in his trip announcement to the CMC cancellation policies:

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

The Colorado Mountain Club adheres to a strict cancellation and refund policy. Please review this page carefully before making purchases or signing up for programming.

Ticketed Events

Before purchasing tickets, carefully review your event and seat selection (if applicable). Tickets bought through www.cmc.org are fully refundable for 3 calendar days (72 hours) after your purchase date, up to one week before the show. There are no refunds or exchanges available one week before the show with no exception. You may do one exchange per person, per event. Tickets purchased at the CMC office must be returned or exchanged at the office; Exceptions to the 3-day refund policy include VIP, premium tickets, tickets purchased through an auction or resale, tickets purchased with additional related items and/or bundled products. In addition, we may occasionally offer tickets at a discount after the original on sale date and will not refund the difference between the original price and the discounted price. Please note that the 3-day refund policy will not apply where we determine, in our sole discretion, that the tickets were purchased for a commercial purpose or in any other way in violation of our Terms of Use. Colorado Mountain Club is not responsible for lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed tickets.

You agree that you will not attempt to evade, avoid, or circumvent any refund prohibitions in any manner with regard to tickets you purchased. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, you will not contact us to seek a refund or exchange from us when we are prohibited from providing one by a third party, and you will not dispute or otherwise seek a "chargeback" from the company

Attachment D. continued

whose credit card you used to purchase tickets from www.cmc.org. Should you do so, your tickets may be canceled, and we may, in our sole discretion, refuse to honor pending and future ticket purchases made from all credit card accounts or online accounts on which such chargebacks have been made, and may prohibit all persons in whose name the credit card accounts exist and any person who accesses any associated online account or credit card or who otherwise breaches this provision from using our Site.

Membership

Colorado Mountain Club membership is not refundable. CMC may consider cancellation requests on a case by case basis. Please call CMC Golden office at (303) 279-3080 or e-mail: office@cmc.org for more detail.

Adventure Travel

All requests for cancellation must be emailed to the Adventure Travel Program Manager, adventure@cmc.org or called into the CMC Golden office at (303) 279-3080.

- Cancellation 91 days or more prior to departure: All money paid in will be refunded, less the non-refundable deposit.
- **Cancellation on Day 90 up to Day 31 prior to departure: If a qualified, wait listed, person is available to take a vacated slot and pays all money due, all payments made by the canceling party will be refunded less the nonrefundable deposit. If no one is available to take a vacated slot, no money will be refunded.**
- **Cancellation on Day 30 or fewer days prior to departure: No refund will be made.**

The Colorado Mountain Club will make every effort to carry out this trip. However, if the trip is canceled by the Colorado Mountain Club, all money collected from participants, including any “non-refundable deposit” shall be returned. The participant will not be reimbursed for any purchase made for the trip or other expenses that the participant may have paid in association with this trip, which includes equipment purchase, airline cancellation penalties or medical inoculations.

Youth Programs Adventure Camps and Courses

- Cancellation requests made prior to 30 days before the beginning of this camp will be processed with a \$20 handling fee.
- Cancellation requests made within 30 days of the camp will be refunded at 50% of the amount paid.
- No refunds will be made 7 days prior to the camp unless it relates to COVID.
- If CMC cancels the camp for any reason, a full refund will be issued.

School Registrations

- 31 days or more before: Full refund less 5% per person processing fee OR full credit can be transferred to a future session of the same school without incurring a processing fee. This can only be done one time and should be within the same calendar year of the original class. If a future session is not available, then a refund will be issued less the aforementioned fee.

- 8 - 30 days before: Full refund less 25% of fee paid up to \$35 OR full credit can be transferred to a future session of the same school without incurring a processing fee. This can only be done one time and should be within the same calendar year of the original class. If a future session is not available, then a refund will be issued less the aforementioned fee.
- 7 days or less: No refund will be granted. No credit will be allowed for future classes. If CMC cancels the class for any reason, a full refund will be issued, or credit given as requested. Please expect 5-10 business days for payment by check or back to credit card. Fees paid for school material or supplies are not refundable. In limited circumstances, other accommodation can be determined on a case-by-case basis. CMC encourages students to communicate his/her extenuating circumstances to the school director.

Laurine has bolded, italicized and underlined parts of this policy that reasonably apply to our Trips, Activities and Events. This is not the policy that should have been used for our 2023 Hut trip.

Chair's Discussion:

- **When Bob, Dennis and I approved the 2024 hut trips we felt it was necessary to have a cancellation policy that would ensure our policy was clear and we would fully recovery all of the funds RMOTHG and CMC expended.**
- **Things have changed with the new website. For huts, those signing up are designated as "offered" if they won a place in the lottery and when they pay the system changes their designation to "participant". The waitlist individuals are designated "standby". If someone cancels, they notify the leader who moves an individual from "standby" to "offered". When the "offered" individual pays for their spot then the leader requests a refund (less 5% processing fee charged by CMC) for the cancelling individual. In past years, leaders just had the replacement pay the person by check for their spot. I got a spot in a social event this way. The new method keeps the roster accurate so we know who the leader took into the wilderness. Definitely, the way hut trips should be conducted, I don't know if this is necessary for social and Turquoise Lake?**
- **Our current policy shown above as Refund Policy and numbered 5. is buried in a document that obviously is not being used. I propose that a part of 5. is deleted from the document titled "RMOTHG Special Trips and Activities Procedures. The part to be deleted is the cancellation policy that is in parenthesis. I think we leave the section requiring leaders to provide our**
Cancellation and Refund policy when they post a trip, event or activity requiring a payment.
- **We would draft a new policy for Cancellations and Refunds that we post on the website with our other RMOTHG documents. This way it is easy for our members to find and for leaders to link to for their trips. I think it is best to be with our foundation documents not under the CMC heading of Cancellation and Refund Policy because all those policies are for CMC sponsored events.**
- **I used as much wording as possible from the CMC Adventure Travel cancellation policy.**
- **Bob does not think participants should get an immediate refund if we just get a credit for a trip. This is what happened in 2020 with covid and was why we had a credit on our budget for**

2 years until a 2023 hut trip was scheduled and the credit applied to it. My understanding is Scott thinks that the money was properly given back to the 2020 hut trippers and CMC carried the credit on their books. I think after 2 years some of those people might be hard to locate so it was proper to refund the participants. Frank B. was the arranger of the 2020 hut trip and he said he wouldn't have felt right keeping people's money for 2 years. This is only my understanding of Bob's and Scott's position on the issue so they can speak for themselves at our meeting.

Chair's Proposal:

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

The RMOTHG adheres to a strict cancellation and refund policy. Please review this page carefully before making purchases or signing up for programming.

Cancellation up to Day 31 prior to departure: If a qualified, waitlisted, person is available to take a vacated slot and pays all money due, all payments made by the canceling party will be refunded by CMC less the processing fee of 5%. Refunds must be requested through the trip leader and will be refunded to the credit card used for the trip reservation. If no one is available to take a vacated slot, no money will be refunded. There are no refunds in the last 30 days before the trip, event or activity even if the trip is cancelled.

If a credit or refund is received by CMC from the organization we have paid for a service, such as the Shrine Mountain Hut System, then paid participants will receive a pro rata share of that refund or credit less the CMC 5% processing fee.

Attachment E. Scheduling of RMOTHG Board Meeting:

From our Bylaws: Part 12. Meetings. The Section Board shall have regular meetings at times and places called for by the Chairperson or a majority of the Section Board members.

Past meetings days of the 35 meetings minutes listed on the website: 17 meetings were on 2nd Monday, 5 meetings on 1st Monday and 1 or 2 meeting on other days including only 2 on 3rd Monday. There have been 13 different meeting days. Since I joined the board (10 meetings) there have been 7 different days, I arranged 4 of the days. If there was institutional knowledge that the meeting day was to be the 3rd Monday only 2 people got that message. Perhaps the 2nd Monday is correct, Carol scheduled one then and I scheduled today for the 2nd Monday. Scott is the last chair with most meetings on the 2nd Monday. Note: not all meeting minutes appear to be posted on the website and the box of records I have do not included any recent documents....mostly documents from before or shortly after we joined CMC...2005!

Chair's discussion:

- **March 28 meeting that was canceled had been scheduled Since January 31 so even with lots of notice, a fixed day may be troublesome. At that time or near that time Susanne and Ginny told us they were not available. Bob got Covid March 25 and about that same time Scott told me he had a family medical commitment that might mean he would not be attending. We would barely make the quorum and I had 2 concerns: Scott helped draft the RMOTHG document with the cancellation policy in it. I thought we needed his perspective. Bob has some definite opinions on the cancellation policy so I wanted him to be there. If 1 other person failed to show up, we did not have a quorum and I wasted people's time and money paying for a room we did not use. A fixed day might not work with a board member's schedule that is still working.**
- **A suggested day is probably fine but should be written down somewhere so the institutional knowledge is passed along**
- **When I joined, I was told we have meetings about every 2 months amounting to six per fiscal year. That seems like a reasonable goal but again, our bylaws are silent about this.**

I'm flexible on this---what should be our policy?