



Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group

July 2020

Colorado Columbines. Photo by Brenda Leach.
See below on how to submit your favorite photo for this spot!

We've Relunched the Western Slope Group!

We are pleased to announce that we've relunched the WSG! On a June 17 Zoom call, the following WSG members were elected to these Council positions for 2020:

Chair: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Vice Chair & Outings Chair: Anne Keil (Montrose)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: Ward Luthi (Grand Junction)

Conservation Chair: Bill Hamann (Grand Junction)

We've set our Council meetings for the 2nd Tuesday of odd-numbered months, 5:30 - 7pm. So that's July 14, September 8 and November 10. The location is TBD. It will probably be in Delta if we meet in-person. We also hope to have a member meeting starting at 7pm. Both the Council and member meetings could be via Zoom while we're dealing with COVID-19. We will send an email announcement later.

We have a draft set of Bylaws for the group that we hope to approve this summer. More on that in the August newsletter.

Speaking of COVID-19, we realize this will restrict our plans for restarting the WSG. However, we are still able to do certain activities. We just need to be safe and creative while following the CMC's and governmental COVID-19 guidelines.

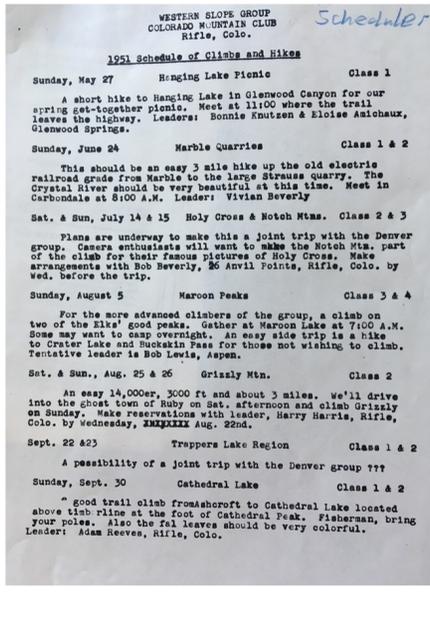
You'll notice there's a slight change to the newsletter's name. We added the word "Crest" to encompass both the canyons and the peaks in the Western Slope.



Upper left, clockwise: Brenda, Anne, John, Ward & Bill. And a friendly Gray Jay.

The History of the Western Slope Group

While reading through past WSG newsletters and paperwork preserved by longtime WSG member, Bill Hamann, we discovered that the group was officially created by the CMC Board of Directors on August 10, 1951. Bob Beverly, one of the group's founding members and the first Chair of the WSG, wrote an article in September 1962, that described how the group evolved. According to Beverly, "the idea was conceived amidst an early fall snowstorm on Castle Peak on September 10, 1949." Then, "on the night of May 26, 1950, a gathering of approximately 20 persons met at the old Rifle, Colorado, city hall, in a room above the fire station, with the purpose of forming a group of the Colorado Mountain Club." This means that next year, 2021, will be the 70-year anniversary of the Western Slope Group! Let's plan on celebrating next year!



OUTINGS UPDATE

CLASSES

Wilderness First Aid as a hybrid online/in-person class is almost ready to roll out and will be scheduled later this year.

Trip leader training: Ward Luthi completed the first trial Zoom online class portion of trip leader training at the end of June. More will be scheduled this year.

SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATIONS

We are seeking former and current member presenters! Do you have photos or stories of interesting places or trips? Would you like to share your experiences with members via either a Zoom webinar or (state COVID restrictions dependent) in-person PowerPoint presentations? Contact [Anne](#).

TRIPS

**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.
- Increasing the group size to 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.

Please welcome our very experienced new leaders: Bud Tasch (Montrose), former Denver Group leader Mary Pitz (Fruita), and leader in training Ward Luthi (Grand Junction)!

Monday, July 6. Mears trail, Ironton townsite and Colorado Boy mine. Anne Keil. Easy A, 6 miles RT, 150'

Sunday, July 12. Gray Copper. Brenda Leach. Moderate B, 5 mile RT, 1500' gain.

Saturday, July 18. Ward Luthi leader in training hike. More info later.

Monday, July 20. Little Giant (13,416). John Broadbooks. Moderate B, 4 miles RT, 2300' gain.

Wednesday, July 22 Fishing and Hunting license for outdoor recreation. State CMC Zoom presentation. Starting July 1, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is requiring visitors to Colorado's State Wildlife Areas to carry a valid hunting or fishing license—even if they're not hunters or anglers.



New trip leader Bud Tasch led a hike to the "best view in Colorado". Bud has been a CMC member since the '80s and is an experienced hike leader, having led for many years with an Arizona hiking group.

Calling on Member Photos for Upcoming Newsletters!

Do you have a good photo or two of the Western Slope that you'd like to share with other WSG members? We hope to highlight a member's photo at the top of this newsletter each month. It could be of a landscape, flowers, animals or reptiles. Email your photo along with a short description to WSGofCMC@gmail.com. You will be given credit for your photo. Thanks!

Any Interest in a Summer Picnic?

We are considering holding a picnic this summer as a way to have WSG members get reacquainted with each other. Of course, we would need to follow CMC and government COVID-19 guidelines and we're working on that now. This would likely be held in Delta as that is a midway point for many of our members. Please let us know of your interest and other thoughts by clicking on the button below to take a short survey.



Looking for Monthly Newsletter Volunteers

We're restarting the WSG's monthly newsletter and we'd like your help! Also, if you have requests for newsletter content, let us know. We expect the WSG's Canyon to Crest Call newsletter will evolve and improve over time.

Newsletter Editor: We are using the newsletter editor and emailing program, myEmma, provided by the state CMC office. We have found it to be fun to use for our first WSG newsletter with its many editing features. As the Editor, you will collect information from Council and WSG members, create the newsletter, send it to Council members for review and then send it to WSG members and a few other CMC members. If you're interested, please email us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

Newsletter Contributors: Do you have any of these to share? Trip report with pictures; conservation or access news; event notices; other? If so, email us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

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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