



Canyon to Crest Call

Western Slope Group

March 2021

WSG x-country ski trip on the new Miller Mesa Recreation Trail close to Ridgway. Photo by Brenda Leach.

[See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

Update on the Western Slope Group's

70th Anniversary Annual Dinner in October

We're starting to plan our WSG Annual Dinner and 70th anniversary bash! We're looking to hold it at the Ute Museum in Montrose in early October. The specific date will be announced in the April newsletter. This event will be subject to COVID protocols.

Our Speaker: We're very excited to announce that our Annual Dinner speaker will be world-class mountaineer **Gerry Roach!** In 1985, Gerry became the 2nd person to climb the highest peaks on each of the seven continents. In 2003, Gerry became the 1st person to climb every major peak over 16,000 feet in North America. He is also an accomplished rock climber and author. This will be a great presentation!

Seeking Volunteers: Do you enjoy planning/scheduling shindigs? Email WSG@gmail.com if interested. We'd like your input and help!

SAVE THE DATES!

WSG 70th Anniversary

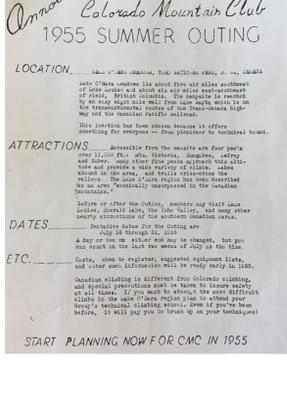
Camping & Hiking Summer

Outing

Let's get together and celebrate! Join us for all or part of the fun (more details as the time approaches and assuming COVID is controlled):

- Thursday 8/12 to Sunday 8/15: 3 nights camping near Marble. Reserve your site at Bogan Flats Campground with us or other camping area of your choice. Or motel in Carbondale. Or meet us for a day hike!
- Thursday 8/12 Backpack 1 night, Mt Sopris ascent 8/13. John Broadbooks.
- Thursday 8/12 TBD
- [Friday 8/13 Thomas Lakes Hike](#). Mod B. Anne Keil.
- Saturday 8/14 TBD
- Sunday 8/15 TBD

Contact WSGofCMC@gmail.com for more details or for suggestions or to help lead trips.



Winter Hiking Close to Durango

by Natalie Kirkpatrick, CMC WSG Member

It may seem counter-intuitive, but winter is one of my favorite times of the year to go hiking. Thick layers of snow quiet the surrounding landscapes and often you won't hear a sound besides the crunching beneath your own feet. Somehow, the high mountains, dense forests, and red and whitestriped cliffs seem even more stunning under a blanket of powdery snow.

Luckily for us, there are plenty of great hikes in and around Durango to enjoy all winter long. It helps to have microspikes, crampons, or snowshoes on these hikes, although some can be completed without them. Here is a list of my top five favorite winter hikes. [>> READ MORE \(including pics\).](#)



Conservation Corner

"Planning for Trails with Wildlife in Mind"

by Ross Mittelman, WSG Conservation Chair

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is currently wrapping up a nearly yearlong process aimed at addressing some of the concerns related to balancing trail usage with broader conservation issues. The result of this process will be encapsulated in a comprehensive document titled 'Planning for Trails with Wildlife in Mind'. An original version of the plan first appeared in 1998, but with hundreds of more trail miles and 3 million additional residents since then, [...>> READ MORE](#)

Please take a moment to click on the button below to take our Conservation Survey. Thanks!

[Take the CMC WSG Conservation Survey](#)

ALL OUTINGS LINK: <https://cmc.org/Calendar.aspx>

TRIPS (click on titles for more info and to sign up):**

[Wednesday 3/3. Arches National Park hiking](#). Easy A. John Broadbooks.

[Saturday 3/13. Curecanti Creek](#). Mod B. Brenda Leach.

[Monday 3/29. Hermit's Rest, Curecanti NRA](#). Mod B. Anne Keil.

**All members and guests must sign a new [liability waiver \(effective March 2020\)](#).

Starting July 1 revised COVID policy:

- Group size max of 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.

[Protocols for CMC Trips](#)

[Checklist for Participants, Trip Leaders, and School Directors](#)

PRESENTATIONS

[Navigation 1](#). State CMC. Webinar, start any time, self paced. Fee.

[Thursday 3/4. COTREX mapping app, Module 1](#), intro and saved trips. Webinar 7-8:15pm

[Tuesday 3/9. Nature Photography](#). State CMC. Webinar 7-8pm.

[Thursday 3/11. COTREX mapping app, Module 2](#), Custom routes and tracking. Webinar 7-8:15pm.

[Tuesday 4/20. John Fielder & Jeri Norgren Neff's Book Colorado's Highest - The History of Naming the 14,000 ft Peaks](#). Pikes Peak Group. Webinar 7-8pm.

CLASSES AND SCHOOLS: <https://cmc.org/ClassesandCourses/CMCClassesSchools.aspx>

**For some classes and schools that are offered on the full CMC calendar (typically on the front range or via ZOOM), we can arrange field days on this side of the state but need a minimum number of participants between the various CMC groups. Please let us know if something interests you:

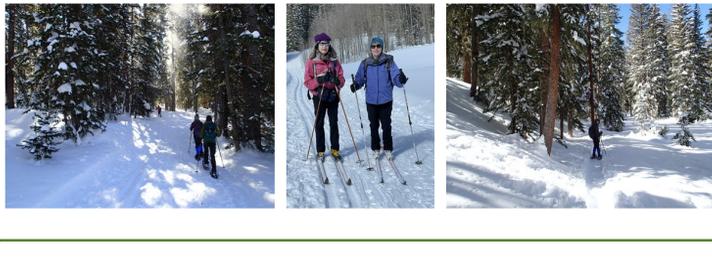
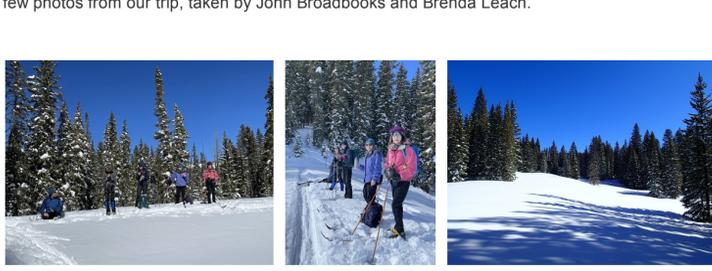
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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| -Intro to hiking safety | -Wilderness Trekking school | |
| -Ascending hikes | -Intro to backcountry ski/snowboard | |
| -Day hiker school | -Avalanche safety | -Fly fishing |
| -Backpacking school | -Ski mountaineering | -Telemark ski school |
| -Alpine scrambling | -Winter camping | -Backcountry ski touring |
| -Wilderness survival | -CPR | -Technical Climbing |

Wilderness First Aid is now a hybrid 16-hour online plus a 1-day in-person field class. This serves as both an initial certification and recertification. \$200 members, \$245 nonmembers, and 5 spots each class are free for leaders with online application and 6 trip commitment in 2 years. Western Slope field day location TBD due to COVID distancing precautions. More info [here](#) and dates will be added regularly when distancing restrictions are lowered.

Trip Leader Training: We are seeking new trip leaders! The free training consists of online modules and training hike plus wilderness first aid. Self paced online class portion of trip leader training is now available. This is also available to current leaders as a refresher. If you are interested, please contact WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

Trip Report: Ward Lake Ski & Snowshoe Trip

In mid-February, group of 6 WSG members checked out the snow at Ward Lake, a groomed area on the Grand Mesa. Brenda Leach led the x-country skiers and Anne Keil led the snowshoers. The weather was much better than we expected based on the forecast. Here's a few photos from our trip, taken by John Broadbooks and Brenda Leach.



Seeking Monthly Newsletter Volunteers

We'd like your help! If you have requests for newsletter content or would like to contribute, let us know! Deadline to submit information, articles or photos is the **25th of each month** for the following month's newsletter. Email us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

The Roaring Fork Group (formerly the Aspen Group) of the CMC also has a newsletter. If you want to receive their newsletter, send a request to roaringforkcmc@gmail.com.

We are also looking for a volunteer to be the **Newsletter Editor**. We use myEmma, a tool which has many features that facilitate creating our monthly newsletter.

Click on these links to see past issues of our monthly *Canyon to Crest Call* newsletter.

2021: [January](#), [February](#).

2020: [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), [October](#), [November](#), [December](#).

2021 Western Slope Group Council

Chair: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Vice Chair & Outings Chair: Anne Keil (Montrose)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: Karen Mann (Montrose)

Conservation Chair: Ross Mittelman (Palisade)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#).

We've set our council meetings for the **second Tuesday** of odd-numbered months, 5:30 – 7pm.

The meeting schedule for 2021 is March 9, May 11, July 13, September 14 and November 9. The location will be determined closer to the meeting date. It could be via Zoom while we're dealing with COVID-19. WSG members are welcome to attend.

CMC connects Coloradans with more than 3,000 trips, hikes and activities annually. Members also receive huge deals on outdoor gear, lodging, and events and more.

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