



Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group November 2020

Aspen tree reflections on Jumbo Reservoir at the Grand Mesa. Photo by Karen Mann.

See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!

Charlie Winger's Grand Adventures (Webinar Dec 1)

Join CMC life member and 2013 Albert R. Ellingwood Award recipient; the man, the myth, the legend that has climbed all over the world...Charlie Winger of Montrose on his adventures in the Grand Canyon. He walks on water (when frozen), leaks water from eyes when scared, says "trust me" when lying to climbing partners, and asks climbing partners if he can have their shoes if they die while they are in the middle of the crux moves. He has been a senior instructor in a multitude of CMC schools and has co-authored CMC Press books with his wife Diane. Register [here](#).



Introducing Ross Mittelman, 2021 WSG Conservation Chair

We're pleased to announce that the WSG Council has voted in Ross Mittelman as the WSG Conservation Chair for next year. Contact Ross with your conservation questions and issues. Here is Ross' bio:

"I am originally from Massachusetts but have lived out West for the last 20 years. I spent time in Montana (attending the University of Montana), California (Tahoe and San Francisco), and South America before landing in Palisade, CO where I have lived for the last nine years. My first Colorado summer was spent working for the 14ers Initiative building and maintaining trail throughout the state. I currently work as the Trails Coordinator for Mesa County and enjoy getting outside in any capacity, preferably with my wife and 4 year old daughter."

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Outings Chair: OPEN

We are looking for an Outings Chair for 2021. The current Outings Chair, Anne Keil, will be your mentor. Some of the tasks of the Outings Chair include contacting trip leaders to post trips, adding trips to the WSG monthly newsletter, encouraging new trips leaders and attending WSG Council meetings every odd-numbered month. Contact Anne at WSGofCMC@gmail.com if you're interested.

OUTINGS

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

[Sunday 11/1, Flume Canyon](#). Mod A. Mary Pltz.

[Saturday 11/7, Little Dominguez Canyon](#). Mod A. Brenda Leach.

[Sunday 11/15, Cool Rock Cyn Gunnison Gorge](#). Difficult A. Anne Keil

[Sunday 11/22, Pollock Bench Flume Canyon](#). Mod B. John Broadbooks

**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.
- 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.

PRESENTATIONS

[Monday 11/16, 7-8pm, Nat Geo-Trails Illustrated Map Navigation](#). State CMC. Webinar.

[Tuesday 11/17, 6-7pm, Sage Grouse Wet Meadow Restoration Project in the Gunnison Basin](#). With Matt Vasquez, GMUG District Wildlife Biologist. Webinar.

[Wednesday 11/18 6-7pm, Intro to Backcountry Ski/Splitboard: Info Session and Gear Talk](#). Maddie Miller. Webinar.

[Tuesday 12/1 6-7pm, Grand Adventures with Charlie Winger](#). See description above. Zoom webinar.

CLASSES

Wilderness First Aid is now a hybrid 16 hour online/in-person 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 and date is TBD, pending COVID restrictions. Here are the dates scheduled for the online portion: [November 7](#). More info [here](#) and dates added regularly.

Trip leader training: We are seeking trip leaders! Zoom online class portion of trip leader training will be scheduled later this year. An online, self-paced course is also available. There is also a leader in training hike requirement. This is also available to leaders as a refresher. Email WSGofCMC@gmail.com for more information.



Trip Report:

Horseshoe Canyon and the San Rafael Swell

A group of CMCers traveled to Utah for a long weekend to camp and hike in the desert. A highlight was the hike in Horseshoe Canyon to view the pictographs and petroglyphs of The Great Gallery. The San Rafael Swell offered hikes through slot canyons. Participants included 5 members of the Western Slope Group and 1 member of the Denver Group. Anne Keil was the trip leader. Photos by John Broadbooks and Babs Schmerler.



Trip classifications

Hikes are normally classified as A through D:

- **Class A:** Up to 8 miles round trip and 1200 ft. elevation gain. (Prior hiking experience is usually not necessary.)
- **Class B:** Up to 12 miles round trip and 2500 ft. elevation gain. (Moderate to strenuous physical activity. Some prior experience is beneficial.)
- **Class C:** Up to 15 miles round trip and 3500 ft. elevation gain. (Strenuous to very strenuous physical activity. Prior experience and training is beneficial.)
- **Class D:** Over 15 miles round trip or 3500 ft. elevation gain. (Very strenuous physical activity often including exposure or requiring use of technical skills. Knowledge based on prior experience and training is highly beneficial.)

If you also see the letter "E" after the classification (such as C-E or D-E), the trip involves exposure (i.e., risk of falling) and may require advanced climbing skills.

Within each of the above letter classifications, hikes are also described subjectively as Easy, Moderate, and Difficult in comparison to other trips of the same classification. Thus, a Difficult B hike is harder than an Easy B hike.

On Trail: The trip is mainly on improved trail in reasonable condition. Any portion of the trip not on trail is easy "like trail" conditions.

Off Trail: Below timberline (about 11,600 feet in Colorado), the trip may involve bushwhacking or travel through forested terrain. Above timberline, the trip may cross open tundra or involve Class 2 hiking under the Yosemite Decimal System: i.e., moving on or around small boulders where the use of hands may be used, but only to maintain balance. No special hiking or climbing skills are required. Exposure is usually minimal or nonexistent.

Scrambling: The trip involves Class 3 climbing: i.e., climbing that is relatively easy with plentiful handholds. Although a rope is rarely required, Class 3 climbing may be intimidating for less experienced mountaineers. Always consider bringing and wearing a helmet.

Seeking Monthly Newsletter Volunteers

We'd like your help! If you have requests for the 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.

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.

Here are past issues of our monthly *Canyon to Crest Call* newsletter:

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

Western Slope Group Council -- 2020 & 2021

Thank you to all who participated in our October online election! The transition from the 2020 Council to the 2021 Council occurs at the November 10 WSG Council meeting.

Chair (2020 & 2021): Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Vice Chair & Outings Chair (2020 & 2021): Anne Keil (Montrose)

Treasurer (2020 & 2021): John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary (2020): Ward Luthi (Grand Junction) **Thank you Ward!**

Secretary (2021): Karen Mann (Montrose)

Conservation Chair (2020): Bill Hamann (Grand Junction) **Thank you Bill!**

Conservation Chair (2021): Ross Mittelman (Palisade)

We've set our Council meetings for the 2nd Tuesday of odd-numbered months, 5:30 - 7pm. The next meeting is November 10. 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. Contact us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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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