



Mile High Mountaineer

December 2024



Photo © Keith Stinebaugh

Special Event - An Evening with SAR/911

Thursday, December 19th, 6-8pm

Have you ever wondered what happens on the search and rescue side when there is a backcountry incident? How do they know where to go? What should they bring? What can you do to make them more effective? How can you better support SAR to ensure they are there when you need them?

Have you ever wondered what happens when 911 gets a call from you? How do they handle a garbled, incomplete, or dropped call? What is their process to engage SAR? What is the intermediary role of the local county sheriff?

ATTENTION: ALL Denver Group Trip Leaders, Senior School Instructors & School Directors -

Denver Group Leadership Scholarship 2025 CHANGES

The Denver Group Leadership Scholarship is a program established in appreciation of our leadership volunteers who share their time, expertise, and passion with our members. The program provides financial benefit to support qualifying leader's efforts in furthering their education and skill development.

This program's initial year (2024) was very successful and has put us in the position to make improvements that expand this benefit and make it available to even more of our active leaders.

A few of the changes include:

- 1) The Maximum Scholarship amount has been increased from one hundred dollars (\$100) to two hundred dollars (\$200). Therefore, each approved Scholarship amount will be equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Applicant's requested Denver Group School's tuition cost, but no greater than two hundred dollars (\$200) per course [i.e. The lesser of 100% of the tuition amount or \$200]; and
- 2) The minimum number of required trips needed to qualify for a scholarship has been reduced from six (6) trips to three (3) trips led in the prior twelve (12) month period. To qualify the applicant must have been the "primary" trip leader of the trip.

We hope you will take advantage of this scholarship benefit and register for some of our great **courses taught by the Denver Group**.

For full information and the on-line application, go to Denver Group Leadership Scholarship page on CMC.org by clicking this [link](#).

Please remember that Wilderness First Aid, AIARE, and ATA are CMC State run schools and are NOT funded under the Denver Group Leadership Scholarship program.

ATTENTION: Winter Trip Leaders

The Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA) course is a basic seminar and 1/2 field-day to help you recognize when and where avalanche danger may exist and how to avoid it. Sources of information and methods for planning avalanche-safe routes will be presented. Find out more [HERE](#).

ATA is recommended for all CMC trip leaders (regardless of sport or season) and **required** for leaders who travel in snow-covered areas but do not travel in avalanche-prone terrain.

AIARE Level 1 (or equivalent) is required for trip leaders who travel in avalanche prone terrain.

2025 Telemark Ski School

The Telemark Ski School - Denver Group has over 40 years of providing quality instruction to hundreds of students from all over Colorado and beyond! We help beginner, intermediate, and advanced-level telemark skiers learn and/or improve their telemark skiing skills.

The 2025 Telemark Ski School (TSS) offers **3 individual Sunday sessions: January 26, February 9, and February 23**; all sessions take place at Loveland Ski Area. For each session, you'll be grouped with others of like ability and assigned your instructor for the day. The second and third TSS sessions in February may find you in a higher-level class, dependent on your practice and improvement from previous session(s).

The best way to use the School is to take at least two of the sessions and practice in-between. But taking all three is even better! This is YOUR year for telemark skiing--come join the fun!

Registration is now open. For more information or questions answered, contact Marilyn Choske, Co-Director, at 303-905-8510 before 9pm or mjchoske@gmail.com.

2025 Beginner Snowshoe School

Learn about snowshoe selection and fit, appropriate dress, and keeping warm, prepping for a trip, trail techniques, breaking trail, and fall recovery. You'll be able to select a snowshoe trip off the CMC calendar with confidence. Location and carpool details TBD the week before class day depending on where the snow is. **Registration opens December 14th.** For more information go [here](#).

Congratulations to the Denver Group's newest CMC Trip Leaders!

Suzanne McClung and David Swenson were approved in November 2024.

The Denver Group Council is looking for a few good members!

Give back to the club and volunteer to help manage and influence policies, events/activities, and new directions for our group. If interested, email the Co-chairs at cmcdgcc@gmail.com.



Upcoming Trips, Courses, and Events

Check out the [CMC Calendar](#) to find your next outdoor fun!

[Schools and Course offerings](#)

[New & Prospective Member Hike](#)

[Become a Trip Leader!](#)

Stay active, explore more places, and make new friends.

PSAR Corner

At the CMC Leadership Summit on 11 May 2024, Art Hogling gave a breakout session presentation on the concept of Preventative Search and Rescue or PSAR (click [HERE](#) to see Art's notes). Although the term PSAR has been around for years, the concept does not appear to be widely known within the CMC under this name, even though we do contribute to PSAR through our training and education programs (such as the upcoming SAR event listed above on 19 Dec). As a way to promote a wider understanding of PSAR concepts, this new feature will be added to the Mile High Mountaineer newsletter on a regular basis.

So what is PSAR? In response to what is been termed a growing crisis for the Search and Rescue teams in CO, Colorado Parks and Wildlife published a Backcountry Search and Rescue Study on January 17, 2022 (click [HERE](#) to see the full study) that contained this definition: "preventative search and rescue is a concerted effort to educate and train the public about safe recreation behaviors in order to prevent the need for search and rescue assistance." The study specifically mentioned the CMC as an education organization and called for more cooperation with organizations like the CMC to expand PSAR education.

If you have ideas for future PSAR articles or want to submit an article on this topic, please send them to cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com. Deadlines and policies for submissions are below.

A Note from the New Editor

As Sandy mentioned last month, I will be the new editor of the Mile High Mountaineer newsletter. I want to thank Sandy for reviving the newsletter and making it a great source of information for the Denver Group. I'd also like to thank her for her service on the Denver Group Council.

As a quick introduction, I've been a member of the CMC for six years. I'm also a former member of The Mountaineers and the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Within the CMC I'm a trip leader and instructor in several schools/courses (Avalanche Terrain Avoidance, Backcountry Incident Management, Beginner Showshoe). I'm an avid climber (rock/ice/mountaineering), hiker, skier and snowshoer. I look forward to working with you all to continue making the MHM an informative and educational resource for the Denver Group.

Keith Stinebaugh



Image courtesy of Mariana French / Sun River, Maine

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Denver Group Contacts

COUNCIL

[Denver Group Council](#)

Meets Monthly, 2nd Tuesday (usually)

COMMITTEES

[Leadership Committee](#)

[Schools Committee](#)

[Conservation & Trails Committee](#)

[Member Initiatives Committee](#)

SECTIONS

[Ascending Hikes](#)

[Backpacking](#)

[Bobcats](#)

[Fly Fishing](#)

[Over the Hill Gang \(RMOTHG\)](#)

[Photography](#)

Call for Submissions

Have an item you'd like included in a future Mile High Mountaineer newsletter?

The next deadline is the first Sunday of the month. Guidelines:

- Articles should be 200 words or less, **OR** submitted as a PDF
- MHM editor reserves the right to determine what's included in the newsletter and edit submissions for clarity and length
- Photo submissions are welcome, but please include a photo credit and caption
- Submissions must be relevant to the Denver Group of the CMC and/or its members; paid advertisements are not accepted.

Please send submissions to: cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com.

Questions, comments, or submissions? E-mail cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com.

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