



Rocky Mountain Over The Hill Gang

Hill Topics

February 2024



A Message from your Section Chair...



Feel the love from the Rocky Mountain Over the Hill Gang and the Colorado Mountain Club!

There are lots of things to do and love within the RMOTHG and CMC. We have started posting new social events for the Over the Hill Gang! In January we enjoyed a happy hour at Colorado Tap House, thanks to Gina Bischofs for hosting this event and to everyone who attended. It was such a hoot! If you have an idea for a social event and have the desire to sponsor your event, contact Gina Bischofs or Lou Ann Dixon (see more information in the social committee article below) to have your event posted on our website. They can help you with all the details and help make your event a success! In addition to our social events, we've had several hikes or snowshoe trips mainly on Wednesdays this past month. Remember to check the website often and use the waitlist if a trip is full. A great tip is to bookmark the RMOTHG page or calendar for easier navigation. Also, check out other events listed in our monthly newsletter.



The Colorado Mountain Club has some exciting events coming up as well. I'm sure you've seen that the BANFF Film Festival is February 29 to March 2nd. In addition to the film festival, some great classes that might interest you include Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness Trekking School or Day Hiker School, Avalanche Terrain Avoidance, AIARE Level 1, Beginning Snowshoe, Winter Camping and so much more. To find these courses on the CMC website go to the CMC home page, then use the search function on the right-hand side next to the title *Courses Learn Outdoor Skills*.

As always, we'd love for you to get involved and get active in the Over the Hill Gang. If you have a desire to become a trip leader, we always need people to lead trips. The CMC's trip leader training is informative and comprehensive. If you are interested in checking out what it might take to become a trip leader, visit [this page](#) on the CMC website. In addition, if you have other ways that you'd like to be involved, but don't know who to contact, complete our [engagement survey](#) and we will point you in the right direction.

We hope to see you on the trail soon!

Warmly, Kathy Crawford.

Social Committee News

by Gina Bischofs and Lou Ann Dixon

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Tour of the Colorado State Capitol Building:

Tuesday March 12, 2024, at 1pm.

Location: 200 E. Colfax, Denver

[Register here](#)



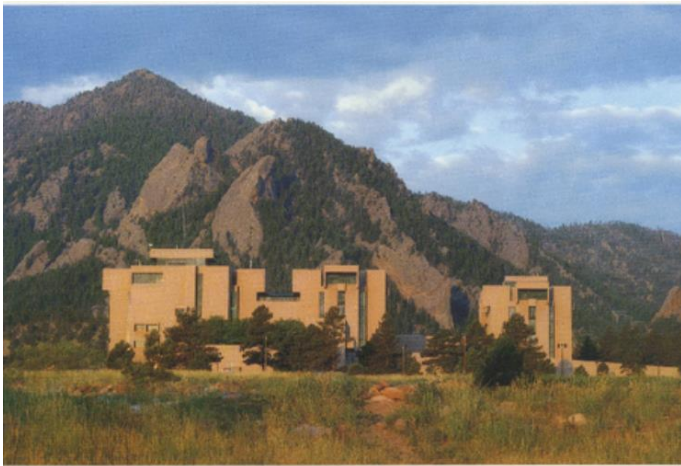
This private tour will be led by our own Mary Bradley (CMC staff member and Capital Volunteer) and should take about 1 to 1.5 hours.

The Colorado State Capitol was constructed in the 1890s with Colorado white granite and

topped with its distinctive gold dome. The dome itself is covered in copper panels that are gilded with gold leaf from a Colorado mine. The gold was first added in 1908 to commemorate the Colorado Gold Rush.

Optional Happy Hour following the tour at the beautiful outdoor bar (weather permitting) at [The Art Hotel Denver](#) Curio Collection by Hilton, 1201 Broadway, Denver. If the weather is poor, we'll be inside.

Tour of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder:



April 25th at 1:00. Registration details will be in the March newsletter.

Nestled below the flat irons in Boulder, The NCAR building is considered an architectural marvel. Affiliated with the University of Colorado, NCAR is known for world class research in earth system science. We will have a private tour to learn more about their invaluable research.

Watch the newsletters for information on the following planned events:

- A tour of the Benson (Loveland) Sculpture Park, in mid-spring
- Meow wolf
- Matinee play by Buntport Theater, a theater troupe of Colorado College alums who have been producing zany, clever performances for about 20 years in Denver
- Dinner at a Chinese restaurant
- Happy Hours, TBD – more information below.

Social Committee News continued...

Happy Hours – Looking for Suggestions on the East side of Denver.

Based on the attendance at the happy hour on January 29, 2024, at the Colorado Tap House, it appears that our members want happy hours. Unfortunately, this happy hour was announced after the January newsletter went out, but we were able to send an email blast letting our membership know about the event. We had 40 people sign up with more on the waitlist.



We'd like to move the happy hours around the metro area to afford more folks the opportunity to meet and socialize with fellow OTHG members. Since both of us live on the west side, we are looking for someone on the east side of the metro area to serve as the facilitator for a happy hour.

All that is required is finding a restaurant/pub/brewery/bar that would host 20-30 people, preferably on a slow night for these establishments like Monday or Tuesday. Let either Lou Ann (looannie@comcast.net) or Gina (Ginagailmail@gmail.com) know the place, date, time and number of participants and we will get it posted on the website. Remember – You don't have to have a drink to socialize. Most places now have delicious non-alcoholic drinks including really good NA beers. And water is always in style.

Save the Dates



- ✓ Annual picnic: the date for the annual picnic has been confirmed for Saturday, July 13, 2024, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Staunton State Park. There will be hikes and bike rides scheduled by trip leaders separately from picnic registration. More information to come.
- ✓ Annual Meeting: September 15, 2024 (tentative at Mt. Vernon Canyon Club).
- ✓ Holiday Party: December 8, 2024 at AMC

Volunteer Opportunities:

We are still looking for recommendations for non-profit organizations that could use help for an afternoon project. Please contact either Gina or Lou Ann if you have any suggestions.



Snowshoeing News by Elaine Kallos

Did any of you shoe on those super cold January days? Weather warming up as of this writing, but boy, was it cold!! Maybe true about the “No such thing as bad weather; only bad gear!” adage but we RMOTHG shoers, who always prepare for any weather changes, don’t usually like to start off in misery! But we’ve offered many snowshoe trips so lots of you have been Out There, in improving snowshoe snow, on spike-hikes, and in reasonable winter weather. In February, let’s hope we’ll find deeper snow since shoeing in the deep fluff stuff is what snowshoes are made to do!

If you’re still interested in Beginner Snowshoe School classes, CMC offers free, one-day sessions, gear included, on February Saturdays, Sundays, and one Friday. The venue varies depending on snow and is announced a few days before class day (Sat, Feb 3; Sun, Feb 4; Sat, Feb 10; Sun, Feb 11; Sat, Feb 24; Fri, March 1; and Sun, March 17). Register on the CMC website. More class days likely will be added in response to strong demand. Get on a wait list if the class you want is full, so you’ll be contacted when more sessions open up. Let’s venture out in the snow and enjoy February, Fellow Rocky Mountain Over The Hill Gang Shoers and Spike Hikers!



Lost Lake Snowshoe hike led by Ken Ruiz and Cheryl Ames

PLACES WE'VE BEEN



Photos above and below of the Lost Lake hike led by Ken Ruiz and Cheryl Ames





Abyss Lake Trail led by Elaine Shirley



Coney Flats hike led by Jeanne Eiss.



Rocky Mountain Over The Hill Gang

A Section of the Colorado Mountain Club Denver Group

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