



# Rocky Mountain Over the Hill Gang

A Section of the Colorado Mountain Club

March 2025 Newsletter



## A Message from Your Section Chair:

Here comes Spring! (I hope), daylight savings time returns on March 9<sup>th</sup>! I'm very much looking forward to an extra hour of daylight!

It's been a fun and active winter with lots of snowshoe/spike trips (thank you leaders), the trek around Denver with the Orbital hikes (thanks Suzanne), the happy hour (thanks Lori and Linda), and the outing to the State Capitol was wonderful

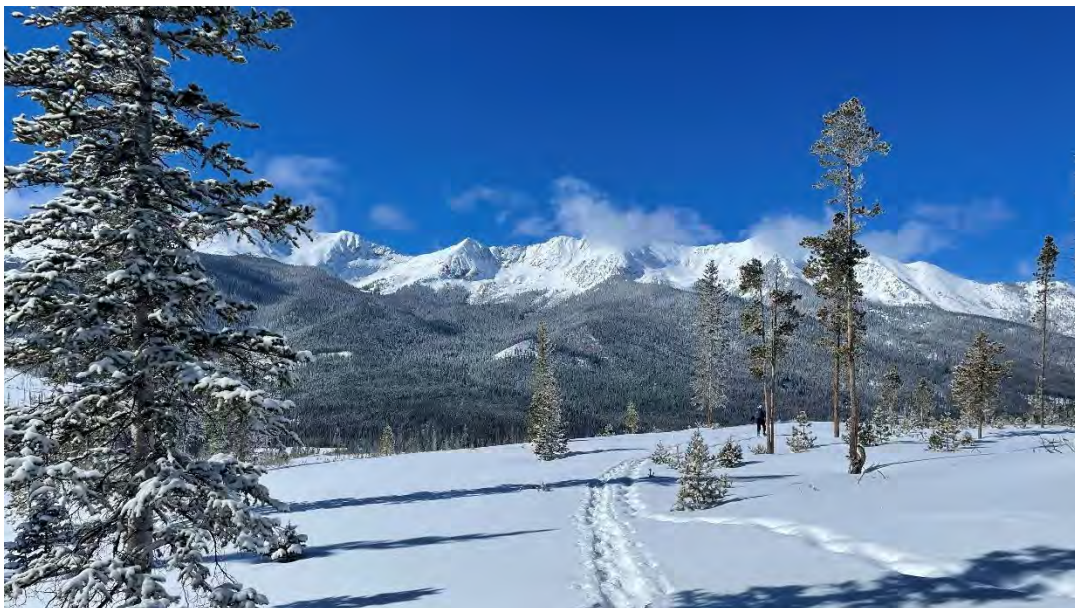
(thanks Ginny).

We have more exciting events planned in the months ahead. Save the date for our annual picnic being held at Bear Creek State Park on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 12-3, and look for information about our next happy hour on March 10 at the Yardhouse in Lakewood.

As always, if you have an idea for an outing and would like to organize or lead the activity, please let me know and I can help you get it on the calendar and help organize things.

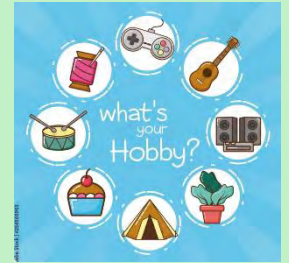
Looking forward to seeing you on the trail,

Kathy





## Your Favorite Hobby Happy Hour



Our next happy hour will focus on our hobbies. If you've spent time with our group, you know that they are a fascinating bunch of folks. We count among our members artists, musicians, woodworkers, potters, avid readers, geologists (professional and amateur), world travelers, yogis, journalists – the list could go on and on. That's what makes this group so interesting.

When: Monday March 10, 3 to 6pm.

Where: The Yard House at 14500 W. Colfax Ave.

Click [this link to register.](#)

Questions: Contact Lori Main 303-594-1188



## Turquoise Lake Outing Registration now open

If you are interested in being considered for the Turquoise Lake Lottery, please complete this survey. [Turquoise Lake Lottery Registration](#). Many times, we have more interest in the camping trip than we do campsites, which is why we conduct the lottery. Here are a couple of things to note about the camping trip.

1. The trip is August 4-7, 2025.
2. We enjoy camping, hiking, boating on the lake and potluck dinners.
3. All participants must be members of RMOTHG as of April 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Participants may camp/RV at Baby Doe campground or secure a hotel room in Leadville. All campsites have been previously reserved by the Turquoise Lake Planning Committee.
5. Lottery Registration ends April 10, 2025.

If you have any questions, please reach out to any member of the Turquoise Lake Planning Committee: Janice Johnson ([jajohnson1952@gmail.com](mailto:jajohnson1952@gmail.com)), Barbara Dey ([dey@gmx.com](mailto:dey@gmx.com)), Kathy Crawford ([kathy@cefpeeps.us](mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us))

# Snowshoe Fun

Can't believe it's already March!!! Some of my best snowshoeing has been in March and even into April. The wind seems to be calmer than in January or February and that alone makes for pleasant conditions!!!

Don't forget: Snowshoeing is a total body workout using upper body, core and leg muscles. It's a great cardiovascular workout as it's more demanding than hiking. It's easier on our joints since the snow provides cushioning for a lower-impact workout. It improves our balance as it challenges us to stay upright as we trudge through deep and/or uneven snow. And, last but not least, it just improves our mood and stress levels to get out into nature. I know I'm a nicer person when I get out there regularly!!!

Also, I see there is at least one space in the beginner snowshoe classes ... I say better late than never. [Click here](#) for information. Have snow-much fun out there - Jeanne Eiss



## Call for Volunteers

## RMOTHG Needs Help!

**The Rocky Mountain Over the Hill Gang Needs YOU!** We have a number of volunteer jobs that need a champion and that could be you...

1. **Editor for our newsletter**- Linda Dermyer, who has been our editor for the past 2 years is retiring in June. We need someone who has computer skills and an interest in continuing our long standing newsletter presence. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Linda Dermyer at [dermyerl@gmail.com](mailto:dermyerl@gmail.com)
2. **RMOTHG Board Members** - we are in need of three new board members in August. If you have a desire to be in a leadership position for -our section, please contact Kathy Crawford at [kathy@cefpeeps.us](mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us)
3. **Turquoise Lake Planning Committee**- we need a new planning committee to continue the Turquoise Lake camping tradition. This will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the Turquoise Lake camping trip and the current committee is retiring. For this tradition to continue, we need new volunteers to help plan the event. Contact Janice Johnson ([jajohnson1952@gmail.com](mailto:jajohnson1952@gmail.com)) or Kathy Crawford ([kathy@cefpeeps.us](mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us)) for more information.

# RMOTHG Toured the Colorado State Capitol.....

On February 20, Ginny Gelbach, RMOTHG member AND current Board Member, led RMOTHG members on a tour of the Colorado State Capitol. They visited the House of Representatives and the Senate and learned interesting facts about this beautiful building. Did you know that the Yule Marble on the floors comes from Marble, Co. and is also found in the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknowns? And the capitol walls are adorned with Rose Onyx found only in this building...nowhere else in the world? The group then climbed the 99 steps to the dome of the building with beautiful views.

Then the group made a quick walk to the ART Hotel on Broadway to socialize and welcome the new members in the group.



*Ginny pointing out the interesting architectural features of the building*



*Watching the Colorado State Legislature in action.*



*An "arty" photo of the group socializing at the Art Hotel*

# Waitlist Opens for Francie's Cabin Trip



April 9-11

Who wouldn't want to spend two nights in this beautiful, serene cabin? If you are interested in joining RMOTHG on our three-day snowshoe trip to Francie's Cabin near Breckenridge this coming April 9-11, join the waitlist for a chance to be added to the trip.

Based on previous years' experience, we often find that--due to unexpected life events--a few trip participants will need to drop out at the last minute. If your plans are flexible and you can be ready to travel on a couple of weeks' or even days' notice, there is an excellent chance that you'll make the trip by joining our waitlist. Click [here](#) for more information about the trip and email **Dan at [dschweissing@gmail.com](mailto:dschweissing@gmail.com) to join the waitlist.** Registration for this trip is limited to current dues-paying RMOTHG members only.

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## Buy, Sell, Trade



Bike rack for sale. [XSport slipstream dual receiver](#)

Please contact Pete Spandau at [pete80007@gmail.com](mailto:pete80007@gmail.com) or 303-808-3277.

Free or best offer to Pete's after ride beer fund.

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## Reminder: Wilderness Trekking School

Starts April 8!

For more information, including a complete schedule of lectures and field trips and enrollment instructions, please visit our web site at [Wilderness Trekking School](#), or search "wts denver" on [CMC.org](#). For those who need more flexibility due to work, family, or other commitments, check out [Day Hiker School](#), which offers the same content as WTS, but to be completed on your own schedule. Information is also available by calling the CMC office at 303-279-3080.

**PLACES WE'VE BEEN**

**RMOTHG Members are  
Having Fun Orbiting  
Denver!**



*DOT leaders Robbie Monsma & Suzanne Dysard*



If you are interested in how the Denver Orbital Trail came to be, you might be interested in this interview with Michael Tormey, the creator of the DOT. It's from a while ago but it's all still relevant: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADA47Bu\\_NHU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADA47Bu_NHU)

## And more photos of fun:



*North Tenmile Creek Snowshoe led by Kevin Schaal*



*Burning Bear Trail snowshoe led by Kevin Schaal*



*Another North Tenmile Creek Photo.  
Ahhh, the beauty of our mountains in winter!!*

Photos right and below: Abyss Lake Trail hike led by Tim Lane


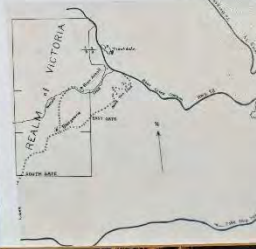


**Escape to the Realm of Victoria**  
 Escape a Realm of Victoria

**A Peaceful Retreat**  
 Un retiro pacífico

Like many residents of Colorado's Eastern Plains, Victoria Blair, wife of Sterling rancher Frank Blair, escaped the heat during the 1920s and headed to the mountains during the summer. Eventually, she made Blair Ranch, also called the Realm of Victoria, her mostly full-time home.

This rustic cabin, built ca. 1915, was Victoria's hideaway in the Blair Atholl section of the ranch, a peaceful retreat compared to the bustling Blairgowrie settlement located less than half a mile to the southwest. At Blairgowrie, a main residence, bunkhouse, and several outbuildings were used, in part, to run Victoria's Winding Trails Nursery where a steam-heated greenhouse grew greenery for her business.

Photos above and left: Three Sisters "Big Loop" trail hike led by Tim Lane. Hikers explored the old settlement of Blairgowrie and the nearby Blair cabin called Victoria's Hideaway, built in 1915.



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## RMOTHG SECTION BOARD 2024 - 2025:

Chairperson	Kathy Crawford	<a href="mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us">kathy@cefpeeps.us</a>
Vice Chairperson	Open position	
Secretary & Emergency Contact	Andrew McGregor	<a href="mailto:Andrew.d.macgregor@gmail.com">Andrew.d.macgregor@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	LeAnn Donovan	<a href="mailto:La_donovan@hotmail.com">La_donovan@hotmail.com</a>
Membership	Elaine Shirley	<a href="mailto:erashirley@gmail.com">erashirley@gmail.com</a>
Communications	Colleen Miller	<a href="mailto:colleenemiller23@gmail.com">colleenemiller23@gmail.com</a>
Members at large	Linda Dermyer	<a href="mailto:dermyerl@gmail.com">dermyerl@gmail.com</a>
	Ginny Kier	<a href="mailto:gjkeir@gmail.com">gjkeir@gmail.com</a>
	Ginny Gelbach	<a href="mailto:giddsmom@comcast.net">giddsmom@comcast.net</a>
CMC Denver Council Liaison (non-voting position)	TBD	

## RMOTHG ACTIVITY COORDINATORS:

Snowshoe/Winter Travel	Jeanne Eiss	<a href="mailto:Jeanne.eiss@gmail.com">Jeanne.eiss@gmail.com</a>
	Jeff Flax	<a href="mailto:Jeff.flax@gmail.com">Jeff.flax@gmail.com</a>
Cross Country Skiing	Andrew McGregor	<a href="mailto:Andrew.d.macgregor@gmail.com">Andrew.d.macgregor@gmail.com</a>
Biking	Wayne Tomasello	<a href="mailto:wtomasello@outlook.com">wtomasello@outlook.com</a>
Hiking	Martha Mustard	<a href="mailto:Mustardo3@comcast.net">Mustardo3@comcast.net</a>
	Jeff Flax	<a href="mailto:Jeff.flax@gmail.com">Jeff.flax@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Linda Dermyer	<a href="mailto:dermyerl@gmail.com">dermyerl@gmail.com</a>
Social Events	Kathy Crawford	<a href="mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us">kathy@cefpeeps.us</a>

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