



# Rocky Mountain Over The Hill Gang

Hill Topics

MAR 2023



**HELP  
WANTED!**



**NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR**

**THE JUNE ISSUE WILL BE MY LAST ONE. RMOTHG needs YOU to step up!**

- This is not a difficult position. There is no writing involved. I am strictly a layout editor, putting together photos and articles other people send me.
- The newsletter can be put together any way that suits you - it does not have to look like the ones I have done.
- You do not need special software. Any word processing program will work - I use Pages.
- There is also a newsletter template on myEmma, which the CMC uses, and RMOTHG could also use.
- I will be happy to work with you on your first couple of issues, as you learn your way around.

Please contact me at [tophillnews@gmail.com](mailto:tophillnews@gmail.com), text or call 303-670-8504 (be sure to leave a message, as my phone does not ring if you are not in my contacts)

**Please think about it. This is really a fun creative outlet!**

Thanks! *Maryann*

hello  
spring!



## SECTION CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The calendar says spring and RMOTHG is gearing up for our warm weather activities but oh my....skiing is soooo good this year!

The RMOTHG is a section under the Denver Group of CMC, but we also have members from many other groups like Pikes Peak, Boulder, Northern Colorado, Gore Range, Longs Peak, Western Slope, Friends of Colorado, Roaring Fork, El Pueblo, CMC State, and Friends of Routt Backcountry. Who knew we are covering so much of the the state. All members are welcome to join our many varied activities. A couple of special upcoming events you can learn more about in this newsletter are the 2024 spring snowshoe trips to 10th Mountain Association huts. The Turquoise Lake multi day campout is a activity that many members enjoy every year. Feel free to contact any RMOTHG board member with your questions about our section activities and how to become involved.

Both biking and hiking leaders are in the process of meeting to plan their seasons. Now is a great time to investigate becoming a leader. One leader recently said that getting to pick where you go is one reason he enjoys being a leader. The group camaraderie in RMOTHG trips and events is so much fun. Hope you all feel welcome to join in.

What does the board do? Good question...

-A big responsibility is trying to make wise decisions where to spend your \$15 annual dues. Two free annual events include a summer picnic with biking and hiking and the holiday party. Funds also support leaders so they can plan and conduct safe outdoor activities. I think there are very few \$15 investments that have a better return .  
- This year we are spending time to make sure the new website has accurate information and is easy for our members to use. We are also trying to improve how we welcome and help new members get involved in our activities.

Each year 3 board members complete their terms in September and 3 new board members are elected. We meet 6 times per year and occasionally it may be necessary to have a special meeting. If you are interested in being on the board or just want to find out more about what we do, come join a meeting.

Here's to spring...in your steps, in your life and in all you value...

*Laurine Rowe*

## ORDER YOUR NAME BADGE SET TODAY!

We've all been there. At an RMOTHG hike or social event you are introduced to a group of people that you may see only a few times a year. Embarrassingly, just minutes later, you have forgotten most of the names.

We are now pleased to offer **free** RMOTHG Name Badge sets graced with your name & the updated CMC logo. The set includes a double-sided badge, a waterproof holder, a lanyard, and a mini carabiner.

To order yours, follow this link: [Order RMOTHG Name Badge Set](#)



## FUN SOCIAL EVENTS



### LINE DANCING !

There is still time to get your dancing boots ready to kick and glide around the dance floor. Sign up for an evening of fun and learn some new dance steps. Join us on Wednesday, April 12 at the Grizzly Rose in Denver.

**Questions? Contact Carol Wier 303-667-7740**

### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS! Sign up below

**April 12, Wednesday, 7pm, LINE DANCING at the Grizzly Rose**

**[Click here to register](#)**

**May 13, Saturday, 10am, Altius URBAN FARM tour, tasting, and optional lunch in RINO to follow**

**[Click here to register](#)**

### SAVE THE DATES

**June 3, Saturday, 9am, Denver RAILROAD MUSEUM, 2 hour tour followed by optional lunch**

**July 15, Saturday, ANNUAL PICNIC at Staunton State Park, hikes, bike ride, lunch and more**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

## TURQUOISE LAKE CAMPOUT

**AUGUST 7, 8 and 9**

**Lottery Registration Deadline: April 15**

[REGISTER HERE USING SURVEY MONKEY](#)

**Lottery Drawing for Campsites: April 30**

**Lottery Winners Notified: May 1**

**Final Registration and Payment Due: May 15**



### CAMPOUT DETAILS

- The annual RMOTHG Campout will once again be at beautiful Turquoise Lake near Leadville. Click here [Baby Doe Campground at Turquoise Lake](#) for information about the campground.
  - Arrive Monday, August 7
  - Depart Thursday, August 10.
- The estimated campsite cost for all 3 nights is \$30-\$35 per person. The final campsite cost will be determined once registration closes on April 15.
- Campground amenities include vault toilets and drinkable water. Showers are available in nearby Leadville.
- Activities include biking, hiking, fishing, boating (bring your own,) golf, happy hours/dinners, games and group campfires. The lake is easily accessible from the campsites.
- Potluck dinners will be held each evening and campers will be asked to bring 2 dishes to share over the course of the campout.

### LOTTERY DETAILS

- We will hold a lottery after April 15 to determine the campers for this year.
- A Survey Monkey registration for one, or two sharing a shelter, counts as one lottery pick.
- If you or your party of two do not make the list, you will be placed on a wait list - but hold fast, as several people move up to the campout every year.

### FINAL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DETAILS

- We will hold a lottery after April 15 to determine the campers for this year.
- You will be notified by May 1 if you have a campsite. At that time, you will be given a link to sign up and pay on the CMC website as you do for other events
- **YOU MUST REGISTER AND PAY THE FEE ON THE CMC WEBSITE BY MAY 15 OR YOU WILL FORFEIT YOUR SPOT**

Please email Kathy Crawford with any questions, comments, or concerns at [kathy@cefpeeps.us](mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us)

## RMOTHG OFFERS 2 WINTER HUT TRIPS for 2024

We are pleased to announce that RMOTHG has secured reservations for TWO hut trips next winter.

**REGISTRATION LOTTERY: MAY 1-12, 2023 – MORE DETAILS in the MAY NEWSLETTER.**

### Trip #1 – Point Breeze Cabin

**Trip Dates:** January 29-31, 2024

**Trip Leaders:** Linda and Tom Jagger

**Spots Available:** 6 (not including trip leaders)

**Cost:** \$122.40/person

You can read more about Point Breeze Cabin [here](#).



### Trip #2 – Vance's Cabin

**Trip Dates:** March 6-8, 2024

**Trip Leaders:** Barb and Curt Audin and Daniel Schweissing

**Spots Available:** 11 (not including trip leaders)

**Cost:** \$77.26/person

You can read more about Vance's Cabin [here](#).





# SNOWSHOEING

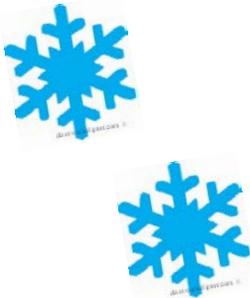
April means our last snowshoe article for this year's season! Will we snowshoe in the fluff-stuff if April gives us a Big Snow? Don't know, but you can also get good exercise *spike-hiking* on our Colorado Winter Trails!

Thanks, again, to our leaders who have been offering snowshoe and winter hiking trips this season. We'll still provide more trips through April as long as leaders offer them, so keep checking on **Fridays at 5 pm for Jeff's weekly emails** when he announces trips for the following Wednesday (To get on that list, email Jeff at [snowshoe.list@RMOTHG.org](mailto:snowshoe.list@RMOTHG.org)). But **also watch for other-day trips leaders offer**. We continue to plan good-weather Wednesday trips, but there are trips on other days too, as leaders' schedules permit.

**Please join us as new leader!** YOU get to choose the day you want to lead, where you want to go, the pace you want to follow, and how many folks you want with you! YOU share the trails you love with lively others! CMC does a good job training you with Leader School. Plus *Wilderness First Aid* is good for ANY time in your life when first aid skills may be necessary. If any of you think you might like to lead fellow RMOTHG hikers/shoers, email Martha Mustard [mustardo3@comcast.net](mailto:mustardo3@comcast.net) or Jeff Flax [Jeff.Flax@gmail.com](mailto:Jeff.Flax@gmail.com). (Martha and Jeff are our summer hike coordinators.) We can use your help, plus you'll feel active, lively, and *young*, saying you're a CMC trip leader for RMOTHG!

Those who joined them had a good time!

~Elaine Kallos



BUTLER GULCH

## INVITATION TO CMC SEMINAR ON HIKING SAFETY

A recent study demonstrated that Colorado has the highest number of Search and Rescue calls of any state. And the vast majority of those were to assist hikers and backpackers. Spring is here and it is time to tune up our hiking safety skills so we don't add to the statistics as we all hit the trails.

Join CMC Safety instructors for a fun one evening seminar where we will review the latest in safety techniques. Topics will include dealing with mountain weather, lightning, wildfires, avoiding getting lost (and what to do if you do), encountering wild animals (we have added rattlesnakes and wolf safety to our curriculum).

Our first seminar will be **April 18th** and it will repeat on **May 23**. We meet at the American Mountaineering Center from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Price is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. To register for the seminar go to [cmc.org](http://cmc.org). Search for Hiking Safety, or click the links below.

**Contact School Director and RMOTHG member Art Hogling (303-674-8058) if you have questions.**

[to register for April, click here](#)

[to register for May, click here](#)

## 2023 BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

Although rare within the CMC, backcountry incidents when they do happen are stressful, confusing, and the wrong activities can potentially compound to make a bad situation even worse. For those who have always wanted a means to review, practice, and improve the skills needed to successfully manage the initial aspects of an unforeseen incident, the CMC now offers the Backcountry Incident Management School.

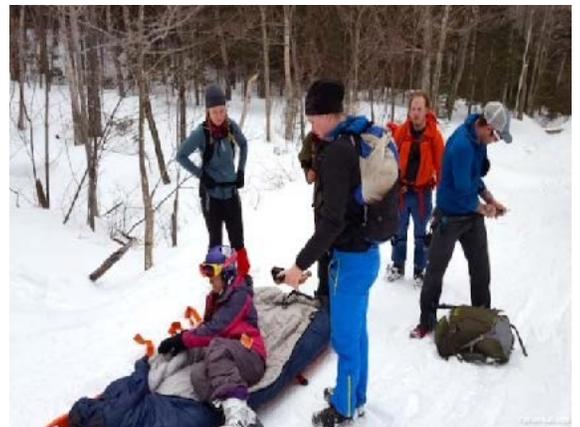
Classes for this all-day event will occur several times this summer:

- May 20: Student Session 1
- June 17: Student Session 2
- Aug 19: Student Session 3
- Sept 23: Student Session 4

Prerequisites:

- Priority given to CMC trip leaders and school instructors
- Successful completion of a recent Wilderness First Aid course

Course tuition: \$30



Enrollment will open April 3 (a Monday) for all 2023 summer dates. Students will select a date based on preference, however, since enrollment is limited (based on instructor availability for each date) having alternative dates in mind will increase your chances of getting in. For additional information, email: [Rich.McAdams@hotmail.com](mailto:Rich.McAdams@hotmail.com)

# ASCENDING HIKES

The Ascending Hikes Section is gearing up for the 2023 season! The new CMC website has prompted some changes to how the series operates. [Check out the new AHS webpage here.](#)



AHS is free and open to **all CMC members** and focuses on improving their personal hiking speed, strength, and stamina. Most AHS-labeled trips are offered on Fridays, Saturdays, and/or Sundays but trip leaders may choose any day of the week. Members are encouraged to start with hikes based on their own self-assessment and build from there. No commitment required. If you are consistent, you will be ready to tackle major new challenges by the end of season. [See the AHS Member Guide here.](#)



AHS invites **CMC Trip Leaders** to put single hikes on the calendar or create a series of trips that gradually increase in difficulty. The new website doesn't allow the administrators to create trips for others, but we have loaded all the previous Ascending Hikes' information into a [spreadsheet that makes setting up trips very easy](#). These trips are suggestions only -- Calendar any hikes you want, whenever you want, whatever day of the week you want, starting now! [See the AHS Leader Guide here.](#)

To join the AHS email list and/or to become an AHS trip leader, please [contact the CMC office](#). Facebook page coming soon.

As we transition to full section status this year, **Section Committee members** wanted to help us grow. For Committee interest or questions contact Robbie Monsma / [cmcascendinghikes@gmail.com](mailto:cmcascendinghikes@gmail.com)



FLOYD HILL

## NEW MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES



The CMC Denver Group's carpool mileage reimbursement guidelines have just been updated, and the webpage with this was just updated, too.

The new carpool mileage reimbursement rate is now tied to the price of gasoline. The updated webpage has a table where you select the carpool mileage reimbursement rate based on the price of gasoline. It used to be 30 cents per mile.

[Mileage Reimbursement  
cmcdenver.org](http://cmcdenver.org)

Gasoline Price	Mileage Reimbursement
\$/gallon	cents/mile
\$2.00 - \$2.50/gal	30
\$2.50 - \$3.00/gal	32
\$3.00 - \$3.50/gal	34
\$3.50 - \$4.00/gal	36
\$4.00 - \$4.50/gal	38
\$4.50 - \$5.00/gal	40
\$5.00 - \$5.50/gal	42
\$5.50 - \$6.00/gal	44

**PLACES WE'VE BEEN**



ABYSS LAKE



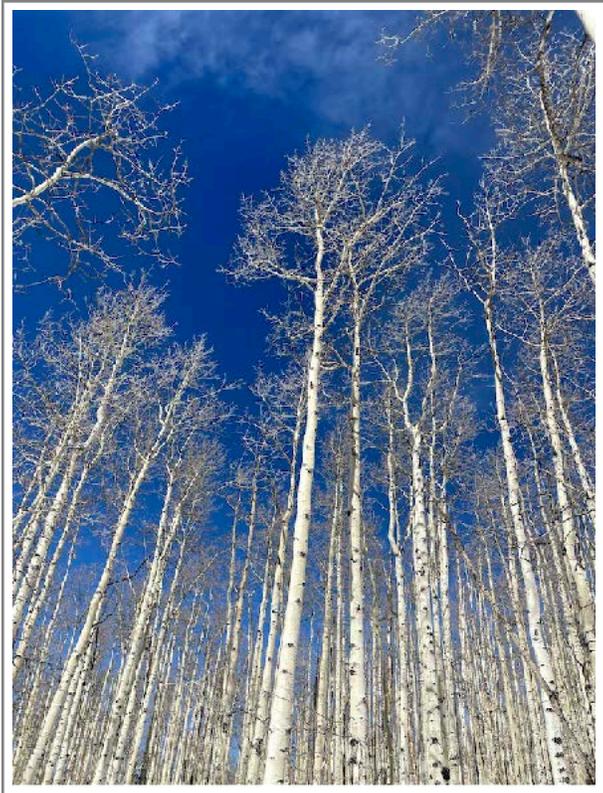
PETE AND SUSANNE SPANDAU IN TUCSON...  
HIKING WITH RMOYHG FRIENDS JOANIE BRODER  
AND COLLEEN LANDY.



**FLOYD HILL**



**EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN**



**KENOSHA PASS EAST**



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN OVER THE HILL GANG**

A Section of the Colorado Mountain Club Denver Group

**RMOTHG SECTION BOARD**

Chairperson	<b>Laurine Rowe</b> <a href="mailto:laurinerowe@msn.com">laurinerowe@msn.com</a>
Vice Chairperson	<b>Dennis Baumfalk</b> <a href="mailto:dkbaumfalk@msn.com">dkbaumfalk@msn.com</a>
Secretary & Emergency Contact	<b>Kathy Crawford</b> <a href="mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us">kathy@cefpeeps.us</a>
Treasurer	<b>Bob Barday</b> <a href="mailto:rjbarday@msn.com">rjbarday@msn.com</a>
Communications Officer	<b>Kathy Crawford</b> <a href="mailto:kathy@cefpeeps.us">kathy@cefpeeps.us</a>
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CMC Denver Council Liaison	<b>Kathy Nordine</b> <a href="mailto:kathyscomputer@comcast.net">kathyscomputer@comcast.net</a>

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Social Events	<b>Carol Wier</b> <a href="mailto:carolwier365@gmail.com">carolwier365@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	<b>Maryann Mayer</b> <a href="mailto:tophillnews@gmail.com">tophillnews@gmail.com</a>

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[CMC.org/RMOTHG](http://CMC.org/RMOTHG).

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[CMCDenver.org/board\\_minutes](http://CMCDenver.org/board_minutes)

**READ BYLAWS**

[CMCDenver.org/bylaws](http://CMCDenver.org/bylaws)

**IF A FELLOW RMOTHG MEMBER  
HAS A SERIOUS ILLNESS,  
INJURY, OR HAS PASSED AWAY,**

please contact our RMOTHG  
secretary to send a friendly note  
to that member/member's family