



Rocky Mountain Over The Hill Gang

Hill Topics

March 2013



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WINE TASTING

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

6:30 PM



Join the RMOTHG for a wine tasting event at a family owned and operated premiere boutique winery. The winery's focus is on sourcing the finest grapes, then crafting premium wines at affordable prices

The SPERO WINERY is owned by Clyde and June Spero. Clyde Spero began making wine in 1999 and learned the art from his father, Gaetano Spero, who came to America from Italy. After planting a vineyard in 1996 in the Denver area, he has expanded with the use of grapes from the Western Slope and a limited type of grape from California. An assortment of white, red and dessert wines will be available for tasting. A generous spread of food including a variety of antipasti, salami and cheese, pasta with sauces and light

desserts will be served as we gather for tasting, feasting and camaraderie.

The cost is \$25.00/person for wine and food. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 15. The winery is located at 3316 West 64th Ave, approximately 3 blocks west of Federal Blvd. This event is available to RMOTHG members and their guests. You can find more information about the winery at www.sperowinery.biz

The event has been arranged by Bev Lilly and Jane VanderKolk. Please contact Jane at 303-421-3378 or jane.vanderkolk@comcast.com if you have any questions.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

You can download the current and previous years' newsletters at the club website page

[www.rmothg.org/
UploadedUserFiles/
nlarchive.aspx](http://www.rmothg.org/UploadedUserFiles/nlarchive.aspx)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MAR 23 ~ WINE TASTING AT SPERO WINERY

APRIL 2 ~ WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL BEGINS

APRIL 5 ~ PARTY FOR PARKS

APRIL 28 ~ MASTERS OF THE AMERICAS W/ DENVER SYMPHONY



“MASTERS OF THE AMERICAS”

WITH THE DENVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 ~ 2:30 PM

On Sunday, April 28th, RMOTHG members will have the opportunity to enjoy a special presentation by the Denver Symphony titled “Masters of the Americas.” As described by the Colorado Symphony, “the concert features Scott O’Neil, resident conductor and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, one of the most popular and best-loved violinists of Colorado Symphony audiences, who joins the Symphony in a program that celebrates composers of the Americas including Piazzola’s *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* – the Tango master’s greatest creation for solo violin. Copland’s third and final symphony is widely recognized as the essential American symphony. Based on his famous “Fanfare for the Common Man,” Copland’s Symphony No. 3 celebrates the optimism and heroism of his generation.”

The concert begins at 2:30 p.m. You will also have the opportunity to attend the free Preludes session that begins at 1:30 and lasts 30 minutes. The session is a great way to learn more about the repertoire, musicians and other topics relevant to the concert.

Those interested may join us after the concert for food and drink at the Rock Bottom restaurant which is within easy walking distance from Boettcher Concert Hall.

The discounted ticket price for this concert is \$31.50 per person. The deadline to sign up and submit payment is **April 5, 2013**. The event is limited to 20 participants. Please indicate if you will be joining us for lunch after the concert. To sign up, go to www.CMC.org, login as Member, click Programs then click Social Activities. If you do not see a confirmation after signup or have other difficulty signing up, please call CMC Membership at 303-279-3080 ext. 2.



RMOTHG Social Calendar 2013

Thanks to the folks who have volunteered to plan and organize a social event for our club this year. We’re excited to see so many folks step up to the plate and help out. We have a variety of events planned that we hope will be of interest to many of our members. The events will be posted to the CMC site approximately one month prior to the actual date. Stay tuned for more details on exact date and times.

MARCH – WINE TASTING, JANE VANDERKOLK, BEV LILLY

APRIL 28TH – COLORADO SYMPHONY, “MASTER OF THE AMERICAS,” CELIA DUNLAP

MAY 18TH – MUSEUM OF MINIATURES AND DOLLS, BEA SLINGSBY

JUNE – SUMMIT COUNTY PICNIC, JANE & JILL

JULY 13TH – TENTATIVE, RAMBLER RANCH AND BBQ, SUE PAWLIK

AUGUST – GARDEN PARTY, KATHY MALONE

SEPTEMBER 22ND – ANNUAL MEETING, JANE & JILL

OCTOBER – MORRISON GRAVEYARD TOUR, DIANA BLISS

NOVEMBER – TENTATIVE, WILDLIFE EXHIBIT IN HEALDSBURG, CO, NANCY MARTINEZ

DECEMBER – HOLIDAY PARTY, JANE & JILL



SECTION CHAIR'S MESSAGE



*March on, and
fear not the
thorns, or the
sharp stones on
life's path."*

*~Khalil
Gibran*

Congratulations to Frank Burzynski and Sue Henley for passing a **challenging** 3 day, Level 1, AIARE Avalanche training class. We are appreciative that these 2 RMOTHG leaders stepped up to increase their skills and knowledge to make sure that our members stay safe, educated and aware of their surroundings. We will be offering two ½ scholarships for AIARE for other interested RMOTHG winter leaders, in 2014. If you are a leader and would be interested in taking this course, and would like the RMOTHG Board to pay for ½ of your tuition, please let a Board Member know. (Your cost: successful completion of the class, 2 winter trips led for our RMOTHG members within a year, and ½ of the tuition. Priceless.)

Bev Lilly and Jane VanderKolk have arranged a wine tasting with lots of appetizers at Spero's Winery, on Saturday, March 23. Cost is \$25.00 per person. The deadline to register is March 15, 2013. Don't delay; we will be sampling a remarkable selection of food and wine with good company!

We have recently had some unfortunate accidents on some of our trip events. Please be aware of surroundings, use poles, keep some space between yourselves, and watch out for rocks, roots and ice!!! Also, think about avalanche

conditions, because we have had such a warm, cold, warm winter season. Avalanches are and will be very numerous this year. As often-quoted from the long-ago series, Hill Street Blues, "*Hey, let's be careful out there.*"

As I write this article, there are still 86 tickets available for The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour on Thursday, February 28, at the Paramount Theater. Get your tickets and be taken away to the most captivating places on earth. All proceeds benefit OUR Colorado Mountain Club. For more information contact Kristin D'Epagnier. kristindepagnier@cmc.org 303-279-3080 ext. 2.

Lastly, CMC is offering the FREE annual open house (Mountain Fest) on March 15th at 6pm. This event also includes happy hour from O'Dell Brewing Co. and live music from WMD Bluegrass from 8-9 pm. Come meet other members as well as other new / interested people and share the love of the outdoors.

Stay safe and enjoy the bounty of Colorado,

Kathy Malone

Party for Parks
Celebrating a Century of Protected Places to Play

Save the Date
Friday, April 5, 2013
6 - 9 p.m.
Red Rocks Visitor Center, Morrison

Join us for a triple birthday party with food, drinks and lively auctions.





Proceeds benefit programs connecting youth and families to nature through the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation.

Tickets: \$50, on sale starting Feb. 15
jeffcooutdoors.org or (303) 271-5934

OTHER DAY TRIPS

Beware the Franken-marmot!



The Yellow-bellied Marmot is a cute rodent that lives in the mountains and inhabits meadows and talus fields above 6,500'. Each has a territory of about 5 acres with a number of burrows in rock piles.

When a marmot sees a predator, it whistles to warn all other

marmots, giving it the nickname "whistle pig." They are active in the day, and they are an omnivore, eating grass, leaves, flowers, fruit, grasshoppers, and bird eggs. They also eat wires and hoses of automobiles! Last summer, a RMOTHG member had \$1,400 damage to his automobile caused by a marmot eating engine hoses when he parked at a trail head near Mt Lincoln. This brobdingnagian rodent also traveled back to Denver in the engine compartment and damaged his garage wall making a den. In one trail head in Sequoia National Park, marmots disable 20-40 autos each year. We know these denizens of the rock piles like to gnaw packs and tents for

food and salt but experts are not sure why they damage autos. It may be they are after salt deposits, sweet-

MARCH OTHER DAY SNOWSHOES:

CMC#	Location	Type	Date
20410	Long Lake IPW	Mod. Snowshoe	03/05
20411	Crater Lakes	Diff. Snowshoe	03/08
20412	Lake Haiyaha RMNP	Diff. Snowshoe	03/12
20413	Blue Lake IPW	Diff. Snowshoe	03/15
20414	Forest Lakes	Diff. Snowshoe	03/19
20415	Arapaho Lakes	Diff. Snowshoe	03/22
20416	Black Lake RMNP	Diff. Snowshoe	03/26
20417	Clayton Lakes	Diff. Snowshoe	03/29

tasting antifreeze, or wires and hoses made with soy bean by-products (They are not made with rubber much anymore.). DIA reports that rabbits do the same thing to autos parked at the airport.

Some suggestions for avoiding damage by these marauding marmots are: avoid parking near rock piles, leave your hood up (makes it too bright), hang moth balls on the engine, or wrap auto with chicken wire or a tarp. Nothing is fool proof so be sure to check your engine compartment before you leave the trail head.

~ Joe Leahy



JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY SNOWSHOE/WINTER HIKE TRIPS!



TOP OF DEER CREEK, END OF SCENIC VIEW TRAIL. WE'RE SMILING DESPITE NOT MUCH SNOW! SIX MILES RT, 1300 ELEV GAIN, A GOOD WORKOUT!

When we make the roster for our trips, several of you don't have an emergency contact! PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU LIST AN EMERGENCY CONTACT ON YOUR CMC PROFILE. You can do this online. This emergency info appears on our roster when you register for a hike; we need it.

We're now offering two trips each Wednesday. This keeps our big numbers down, & makes our trips even more fun! Wednesday trips focus on camaraderie & good exercise in beautiful spots, **but we**

go a casual pace. If you'd like a more challenging hike or snowshoe, Joe Leahy leads great Other Day Hikes and Snowshoes.

We'll also offer spontaneous snowshoes when we get big snows in the foothills. **If you're not on the snowshoe/winter hike email list for trip notification, but want to be, email Jeff@jflax.com.**

We're still not getting the deep, fluffy snow that makes snowshoeing such a pleasant sport, but our poles, microspikes, yak traks help us enjoy our winter hikes (Note them below on our feet at Deer Creek!) We'll hope for big March snows, but please join us anyway as we happily trek through more of our Colorado winter scenery.

Winter gives us unique challenges. We ask you to use microspikes or yak traks with poles on our winter hikes where we cannot use snowshoes. This is a safety matter for all of us. You also need more warm winter gear, extra food added to your usual ten essentials. Besides fickle and drastic winter weather changes, accidents can find us standing around helping, so we need to be prepared. We leaders enjoy hiking with OTHG any time because you bring what you need, you cooperate, you're patient and flexible when we need to change the trip in some way, we know we can count on your good sense and help, and you're FUN! Thanks LOTS!

Please also check your first aid kits and pack contents since we start with *your* gear, *your* water/food, *your* essentials if you're injured.

See you on the trails!

Your snowshoe leaders

MARCH SNOWSHOE/WINTER HIKE SCHEDULE:

- WED, MARCH 6:** -LOCH LOMAND
-BRAINARD LAKE
- WED, MARCH 13:** -PERU CREEK
-SILVER DOLLAR
- WED, MARCH 20:** -NORTH ROCK CREEK
-SALLY BARBER/TRUE ROMANCE MINE
- WED, MARCH 27:** -SOURDOUGH TRAIL SHUTTLE
-LEADERS' CHOICE



ANNOUNCING

WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL

*Lecture Dates: Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 23, 30, and May 14
@ 6:30 pm, Foss Auditorium, American Mountaineering
Center, Golden*

*Field Dates: Your choice of Thursdays April 11, 18, 25,
May 2 & 16; or Saturdays April 13, 20, 27, May 4 & 18; or
Sundays April 14, 21, 28, May 5 & 19.*

*Enrollment fee: \$90 Denver Group Members; \$100 non-
DG members, until March 26.*

*Contact: <http://www.hikingdenver.net/schools/wts> or
303/279-3080 Ext 2*

Hiking in Colorado's mountains is fabulous recreation! Wilderness Trekking School (WTS) is for all – whether you want to bag a few 14ers – OR – just want to enjoy the scenery. WTS is a great introduction to the Colorado Mountain Club and a place to meet new friends. WTS is Colorado Mountain Club's largest school, a comprehensive course on mountain hiking. Students are all ages, from 18 to 80. If you're new to hiking, WTS gives you the opportunity to learn how to travel safely – and with confidence – in the backcountry. If you're an experienced hiker, WTS gives you a chance to review, to

enhance your skills, and possibly to fill in some gaps. WTS also fulfills one of the requirements to obtain a Denver Group C hiker classification and to attend Basic Mountaineering School.

Topics covered include:

- Essential gear, helping you decide what you need to buy and carry
- Off-trail travel techniques, from boulders and talus to tundra
- Map & compass skills, figuring out where you are, navigation and route-finding
- Weather - how to anticipate and handle wind, rain, lightning, and snow
- Nutrition - helping you choose what food to carry
- Handling an unexpected night in the backcountry and a backcountry emergency
- Snow travel and avalanche awareness, handling unexpected snow on the trail
- Leave No Trace practices

The course consists of five Tuesday night lectures, four field days, a group hike, and some homework (yes, really!). Students are assigned to groups of 10-12 people, based on hiking pace, conditioning, and prior experience. Instructor teams consist of a senior instructor and two assistant instructors. Students have the opportunity to learn techniques of safe backcountry travel and to practice in a non-competitive, non-confrontational setting. Students plan and complete a hike with their field group. WTS is a great place to learn and practice new skills, make new friends, and become a safe backcountry traveler.

"I thought I knew a lot about hiking. Was I wrong! WTS taught me so much more than I imagined." – WTS Student

ATTENTION, LEADERS!



WATERTON CANYON NOW REQUIRES PERMITS FOR GROUPS OF 25 OR LARGER

For an event application, or for more information, you can contact
Terri Doolittle ~ Terri.Doolittle@denverwater.org ~ 303-947-0734 (office)
or Lindie Brewer ~ Lindie.Brewer@denverwater.org ~ 303-628-6212 (office).

FUN PHOTOS



**FINALLY!
WE USE SNOWSHOES AT MESA CORTINA!**



OTH GANG MEMBERS VISIT YELLOWSTONE!

**FUN PHOTOS
WANTED!**
Email *YOUR* photos to
Maryann -

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OVER THE HILL GANG

A Section of the Colorado Mountain Club Denver Group

RMOTHG SECTION BOARD

Section Chair	Kathy Malone	303-322-8517
Section Vice Chair	Marion Dries	303 670-5141
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Treasurer	Barbara Schwarz	303-816-9172
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	Marc Hasfjord	303-238-2409
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CMC Denver Council		

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