



Rocky Mountain Over The Hill Gang

Hill Topics

April 2014



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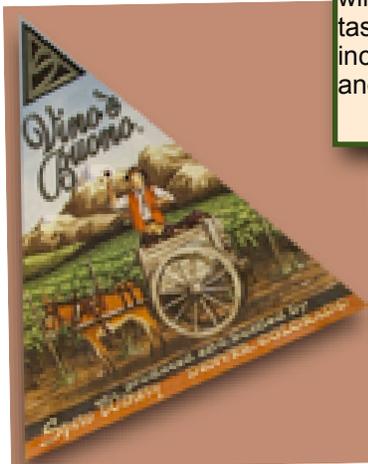
WINE TASTING

**SATURDAY, April 11
6:30 PM**



at a family owned and operated boutique winery! SPERO 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, April 4. The winery is located at 3316 West 64th Ave, approximately 3 blocks west of Federal Blvd. This event is available to RMOETHG members and their guests. You can find more information about the winery at www.sperowinery.biz The event is now posted on the CMC calendar so you can register for it immediately. The cost is \$25. per person. This event has been arranged by Carol Shansby. If you have questions, please contact Carol at cshansby@gmail.com or call her at 720-283-3785.



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

BOARD MINUTES NOW AVAILABLE!

The RMOETHG Board minutes are now available for download

<http://www.rmothg.org/BoardMinutes.aspx>

SECTION CHAIR'S MESSAGE



March is nearly gone, but spring is still tentative about making its appearance in the foothills. A walk on North Table Mountain this morning revealed that the hikers-only Lichen Trail up to the mesa's highest point is open at last, but the misty view from there was still one of a largely grey and brown landscape. Bring on the green!

See below for an announcement of your board of directors' decision to offer tuition help to folks who complete the courses needed to certify new and continuing leaders. Leaders are the drivers of our outdoor adventures, and their willingness to take responsibility for our trips provides incalculable benefits to us all. The BOD feels making this limited amount of funds available is a way to underscore our appreciation and encourage new folks to come forward.

At last count, we have 694 regular members in the RMOTHG; adding in a couple of other member categories, such as life members, the grand total is even more! We are growing!

Cynthia

LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR LEADER EDUCATION

In order to better support and encourage our current and future RMOTHG leaders, the RMOTHG Board announces that limited funds are now available to pay for CMC classes. The classes include: Leadership

Training School, Wilderness Trekking School, Wilderness First Aid, CPR, Avalanche Terrain Avoidance, and AIARE (American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education) - a comprehensive avalanche school. Information on these classes and the process for becoming and remaining a leader can be found at www.hikingdenver.net/trip-leaders. To apply for reimbursement prior to taking a class, please contact one of the coordinators listed at the end of the newsletter. You will be reimbursed after successful completion of the class.



SAVE THE DATES: The Annual RMOTHG **Camping Trip at Turquoise Lake** will begin on Monday August 11 and checking out on Thurs. Aug 14 this year. Registration procedures will be announced in the May RMOTHG Newsletter.

JUNE OUTING...

FUN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

~ SIGN UP NOW!



Please join your RMOTHG friends on the Chautauqua trails for Theatre-Hikes Colorado's madcap adaptation of the Lewis Carroll classic, Alice in Wonderland. Alice chases a White Rabbit down a hole and into a world in which she encounters strange creatures and even stranger poetry. Classic characters such as the Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts are joined by ones not usually dramatized, including the Pigeon and the Nanny in Duchess' kitchen. "Alice in Wonderland" is an adapted play by Randy Wyatt. Audience and actors take an easy (approx. 1½ miles) hike amidst the scenic backdrop of Boulder Open Space while scenes from "Alice in Wonderland" are performed along the way. Audience members are encouraged to bring camping chairs and/or blankets and mats to sit on while watching the scenes. In case of inclement weather, the performance will be held under the Picnic Shelter.

WE REALIZE WE ARE ASKING FOR AN EARLY COMMITMENT BUT TICKETS JUST WENT ON SALE FEBRUARY 20 AND ONLY 28 TICKETS REMAIN ON FEBRUARY 21!

This event would be a perfect GRANDPARENT/ GRANDCHILD outing! Please consider inviting the little people in your lives to join us. Our social chairman is out of town so we cannot set up ordering information on the CMC website. Please order tickets on your own and let

me know that you are attending. It is a very easy procedure and we even have a CMC discount. Go to www.chautauqua.com and use the discount code/promotion **CMCTH**. Adult tickets (using CMC discount) are \$20. Children \$17. These prices include a \$2 service charge. The performance is on **JUNE 14, 2014 at 11am**. You might want to go early for a longer, active hike and then join the theatre-hike for your "cool down." Please bring a lunch you can carry in your day/fanny pack and we'll eat together after the hike in the picnic shelter. We'll supply chilled drinks.

Pete and I attended this event last year with our daughter when Snow White was performed. Guests of all ages thoroughly enjoyed the professional acting in the awesome setting of the Boulder foothills.

Susanne Spandau 303-432-2447
sespandau@gmail.com



FINAL APRIL FLING FOR SNOWSHOE SEASON!

We've enjoyed snowshoeing with you this season, especially in March when we actually used snowshoes in spring snow! April snowshoe and winter hike treks will continue on Wednesdays but this month will be Leaders' Choices to allow for varying snow conditions. No schedule below but watch for emails. These April snowshoes/winter hikes are the last for this snowshoe season. Leaders will soon meet to plan summer hikes!

If you still want to join us on a snowshoe in April, and haven't been on the email list, please email Jeff.Flux@gmail.com to receive the weekly details and locations of our Wednesday snowshoe and/or winter hikes. We still welcome newbies and snowshoe a casual pace for two hours, eat lunch in a scenic spot, and return with optional snack stops on the way home.

To all of you who have joined us this season, thanks for coming prepared, for your delightful camaraderie, and for showing your appreciation for us leaders. We're grateful and have enjoyed snowshoeing with you. See you in April, or eight months from now when a new snowshoe season starts!

~Your Snowshoe Leaders



NORTH ROCK CREEK



SPRUCE CREEK





CYCLING

Let's see, the weather is warming up. I've seen hard-core cyclists out on the roads, the calendar says May is a month away, and I went looking for my bike. The Rocky Mountain Over The Hill Gang (RMOTHG) biking season must be getting close.

Our regular cycling season is from the first Friday in May through the end of September. The morning rides are about 20 to 30 miles at a speed of 10 to 12 mph and finish with an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant. When available, we'll have a leader for a slower group of riders. Watch for notification of this slower rider group (Terrapins) in the weekly emails. Most of our trips are on paved, level bike paths. Occasionally we encounter some hills and gravel trails.

The essential items for participating are plenty of water, necessary tools to repair a flat tire (replacement tube), appropriate clothing for changes in the weather and carrying an ID and medical card. Wearing a helmet is mandatory.

Email notices are sent out several days prior to the excursions to describe the weekly ride and the meeting location. Most meeting times are 8:30 AM with departure at 9:00 AM.

Guests are allowed with signing of a waiver form. Guests may participate in two of our activities before joining RMOTHG section and the Denver Group of CMC.

If you are interested in riding please contact Pete Spandau by email at bicycling.list@rmothg.org requesting to have your name added to the cycling list. Only RMOTHG members will be added to the list and you'll receive weekly email reminders to sign up at www.cmc.org.

Pete Spandau



RMOTHG TRAIL CREWS 2014

Let's give back to the trails we love! Some of the parks we use regularly had damage during the flooding. So we have planned a few days to help out this summer and need your help.

Join Dave Riter, Curt Edlund, & Sue Henley on one or more of the following days:

1. **Saturday, May 17 at Apex Park** (already on the CMC calendar as *Spring into Service – Apex Park Stewardship*) with CMC and Jeffco Open Space volunteers (this is the park that has the most severe damage in the Jeffco system). This full day typically involves trail work, lunch and some training collaboratively with Jeffco Park volunteers.
2. **Monday, June 9 or 16 (TBD) at Golden Gate State Park**, OTHG members have helped on their new route for the past 3 years – another 2 years or so should do it.
3. **Saturday, July 12 on Ice Cave Creek Trail near Palmer Lake in the Rampart Range wild area**, helping on a new trail in a roadless area **with CMC Conservation**. Of note: This is the last wild area on the front range between Denver and Colorado Springs.
4. If you enjoy helping on trail crews – every Saturday CMC offers trail crew opportunities through the summer (just sign up on CMC's website) and you can also take Trail Crew trainings through Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (www.voc.org).

This is not as hard as it sounds since we work together to accomplish the task. **Questions? Contact: Sue Henley 303-570-0129**

WILDLANDS RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help Wildlands Restoration Volunteers restore some of our favorite hiking locations. Contact Joe Leahy at joeleahy3410@yahoo.com for more information and to register.

O'Fallon Park Bear Creek Restoration - Saturday, Apr 26, 2014

Come celebrate Earth Week and restore stream-side habitat and trails at beautiful O'Fallon Park, near Evergreen. The O'Fallon, Corwina, and Pence Parks are among the most popular and heavily used of the Denver Mountain Parks system, established in the early 1900s. We will restore and protect stream-side habitat along Bear Creek. There will be a fun variety of tasks, including: harvest and planting of willows, installing protective buck'n'rail fencing, repairing trail erosion, and planting native seeds.

Echo Lake Restoration and Trail - Saturday, Jun 21 and/or 22, 2014

Nestled in the shadow of majestic Mt. Evans and often as clear as a sheet of glass is the second oldest lake in Colorado: Echo Lake. The beauty of this lake combined with its easy access from the Denver metropolitan area has led to a huge impact and future threat to the ecology of the area. Sections of the shoreline have seen so much use they are barren and washing away. We need your help to stabilize and protect these areas through planting, seeding and erosion control with rock. While some volunteers are focusing on the shoreline others will venture more "inland" to help concentrate visitor use to designated areas. After a hard days work everyone will head back to camp for a fun night and some delicious food. Volunteers may car-camp Friday and Saturday night at a base camp (11,600ft) then carpool to the work-site early each morning to ensure we are not working when afternoon storms roll in.

Joe Leahy



BRAZEN CAMP ROBBER (GRAY JAY)!



THIS GOAT IS FOLLOWING ITS FRIEND, A HORSE, AND IT'S RIDER UP GREEN MOUNTAIN!

PLEASE CONTINUE to Email YOUR photos to Maryann - tophillnews@gmail.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OVER THE HILL GANG

A Section of the Colorado Mountain Club Denver Group

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