



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group February 2024



New snow outlines the skyline beauty at Colorado National Monument. Photo by Charlie Winger.
[See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

Upcoming WSG Social Gatherings

Starting in 2024, the WSG will be organizing social gatherings on even-numbered months. We'll hold them in brewpubs or other similar venues in Grand Junction, Paonia, Montrose, Ridgway or Durango. We will list the dates and venues as they're determined. If you have a venue or town that you'd like to recommend, let us know at WSGofCMC@gmail.com. Please sign up on the CMC website so that we can let the venues know how many to expect. Stay tuned!



Amelia's Hacienda Restaurante in Montrose, Saturday, February 3, 2-4pm

[Amelia's](#) is a family-owned Mexican eatery, using all hand-picked ingredients and recipes. They're located at 44 S Grand Ave in Montrose. [Please register here](#) so that we can let Amelia's know how many will attend. Join us for a hike at [Buzzard Gulch](#) or [Lower Spring Creek](#) before the social gathering.

Edgewater Brewery in Grand Junction, Sunday, April 14, 2-4pm



Kannah Creek's [Edgewater Brewery](#) is "your neighborhood brewpub, where the best burgers, brats, and craft beer in town are always paired with fun." It's located at 905 Struthers Ave in Grand Junction. [Please register here](#) so that we can let Edgewater know how many will attend. A hike will be scheduled in the Grand Junction area prior to the social gathering. Watch for the details in the March newsletter.

Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair

Wolves and Thinking Like a Mountain



At the end of last year, ten wolves from Oregon were released in Colorado because of a vote by residents in favor of reintroduction. Throughout the process it was apparent that the mythical wolf provokes both political and emotional responses. Aldo Leopold, in his essay *Thinking Like A Mountain*, reflects on a time when he was “full of trigger-itch” believing that the extermination of wolves would result in more deer for hunters and better financial returns for cattle ranchers. His perspective changed when, after a session of “pumping lead” into a pack of wolves, he watched the fire die in the eyes of an old wolf. It was then that he realized “only the mountain has lived long enough to objectively listen to the howl of a wolf.” In other words, it is best to trust nature to keep ecosystems in balance. Historically, the wolf has been a human centered controversy based upon differing individual values. As a society, let’s hope we can grow to understand our place in nature and peacefully coexist with these magnificent animals. [Click here if you wish to read Aldo Leopold’s famous essay.](#) Photo credit: Division of Parks and Wildlife.



Protect the Dolores Movement

Two decades of discussion and collaboration regarding the Dolores River led Dolores, San Miguel and Montezuma counties, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, conservation groups and a local rancher to request that a portion of the Dolores River corridor be protected. Colorado Senator Michael Bennet introduced legislation to designate a National Conservation Area in order to protect 68,000 acres within those counties. Additionally, there is a movement to protect the Dolores River Canyon Country as a national monument. This would result in protecting lands in Mesa and Montrose counties, as well as complementing the existing NCA proposal. The Colorado Wildlands Project/Wilderness Workshop is leading this effort and notes that the Dolores River Canyon Country includes over 500,000 acres of important wildlife habitat and cultural sites. In addition, this hidden gem is the most biologically diverse landscape in Colorado. [Please consider adding your name to a petition in support of the creation of a national monument.](#) Photo credit: John Fielder.

Legendary CMC Climber Janet Johnson’s Death Reexamined after Recent Discovery of her Camera on Aconcagua



Janet Johnson was a CMC member decades ago and one of the first 20 women to summit all of Colorado's fourteeners. Fifty years ago, Janet Johnson was part of an 8-person team attempting to climb Aconcagua. She was last seen alive on the Polish Glacier. Contradictory statements from members of the climbing team regarding her disappearance have led to a range of theories about the cause of death - from natural causes to allegations of foul play. Recently a porter discovered a 50-year-old, 35 mm camera bearing Janet Johnson's name and Denver address while he was climbing Aconcagua. Renewed interest in the case was featured by New York Times' journalists and an interview followed with Colorado Public Radio. [The interview with NYT journalist John Branch can be heard here.](#) [Also see this article in Axios Denver.](#) Photo credit: Getty Images.

Banff Mountain Film Festival Showings in the Western Slope



"The 2023-24 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour brings a curated lineup of the best in mountain and adventure films to theatres around the globe! This year's tour has licensed 37 films from around the world, including films from Canada, USA, Switzerland, France, Sweden and more!"

The Banff Mountain Film Festival will be shown at several venues in the Western Slope this year. Click on the links below and scroll down to purchase tickets.

- [Grand Junction at Colorado Mesa University and the Avalon Theatre.](#) February 14, 15, 16.
 - [Delta at the Delta Egyptian Theatre.](#) February 17.
 - [Crested Butte at the Center for the Arts.](#) March 10, 11.
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Durango Area CMC Members Update

We currently have 2 Durango members getting trained to become leaders! Look for hikes and socials in 2024 including leader Mike Foster's combined Sierra Club & CMC bird watching hikes in Farmington in May & June!

We're looking for Durango area volunteers to help plan activities (for which one does not have to be a leader) and we're also looking for trip leaders. Trip leader school is free and online! We will be updating happenings in this newsletter monthly. Contact us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com for more info or to get involved!

WSG Facebook Group

We have a private Facebook group called "CMC Western Slope Group". This group is available to post photos, announce last minute trips, trip reminders or activities. If you're interested, send a request in Facebook to join the group.

ALL CMC OUTINGS : [The CMC Trips List & Map](#)

Guests must now create an account and sign a waiver before signing up for trips and may attend up to 2 trips. If a trip is full, please sign up on the waitlist as there are participants that may cancel.

TRIPS: All of our activities are in one place at [Western Slope Group Calendar](#)

Tuesday, 1/30. Nordic Skiing - Ward Lake. Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Saturday, 2/3. [Hiking - Lower Spring Creek Trailhead](#). Easy-Moderate. Anne Keil.

Saturday, 2/3. [Hiking - Buzzard Gulch](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

Tuesday, 2/6. [Nordic Skiing - Ironton Park Winter Area](#). Easy. Jill Mattoon.

2/8-12, 2024. [Yellowstone](#). Adventure travel, fee.

Sunday, 2/11. [Basic Snowshoe - Miller Mesa](#). Easy-Moderate. Anne Keil.

Thursday, 2/15. [Nordic Skiing - Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP](#). Easy. Jill Mattoon.

Wednesday, 2/28. [Nordic Skiing - Priest Lake](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

4/25-28, 2024. [Capitol Reef Tent/Car Camping and Hiking](#). Register for waitlist at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

8/19-23, 2024. [In State Outing, YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park](#). State CMC, fee.

**All members and guests must sign a new liability waiver with the new website

COVID policy for trips: [updated Dec 9, 2022](#)

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Saturday, 2/3, 2-4pm. [WSG Social Gathering at Amelia's in Montrose](#).

Sunday, 4/14, 2-4pm. [WSG Social Gathering at Edgewater Brewery in Grand Junction](#).

CMC Schools & Classes Webpage: **For some classes and schools that are offered on the full CMC calendar (typically on the front range or via ZOOM), we can arrange field days on this side of the state but need a minimum number of participants between the various CMC groups. Please let us know if something interests you.

[Trip Leader Training](#): **We are seeking trip leaders!** The free training consists of self paced online modules and one training hike plus Wilderness First Aid. Leader training online is also available to current leaders as a refresher.

[AIARE](#): Available from CMC on the Front Range. Click [here](#) and scroll down to see the schedule.

[Wilderness First Aid](#): Coming in 2024. Schedule for other state locations [here](#).

[WFA Instructors Wanted](#): Are you WFA or higher (WFR, medical professional, etc.) certified and interested in helping recertify/teach WFA to our members and leaders locally in 2024? More information [here](#). Teaching also renews your certification and the training is free.

Seeking Monthly Newsletter Content

We'd like your help! If you have requests for newsletter content or would like to contribute, let us know! The deadline to submit information, articles or photos is the **25th of each month** for the following month's newsletter. Email the WSG newsletter editor, Brenda Leach, at WSGNewsEditor@gmail.com. Here are our [past newsletters](#).

Western Slope Group Council

Chair & Outings Chair: Anne Keil (Montrose)

Vice Chair & Newsletter Editor: Brenda Leach (Ridgway)

Treasurer: John Broadbooks (Montrose)

Secretary: Jill Mattoon (Ouray)

Conservation Chair: Claire McCullough (Grand Junction)

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). Upcoming WSG Council meetings will be held March 18 and May 6. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



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