



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

**Canyon to Crest Call
Western Slope Group
August 2024**



CMC members on Anne Keil's doggie hike to Castle Rock via the Elbert Creek Trail north of Durango. Photo credit: Judy Mayne. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

Sign Up for the CMC WSG Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 2!



Love long treks but hate carrying a heavy pack? You're not alone.

Join longtime CMC member, Diane Winger, as she reflects back on a variety of multi-day outings which were "supported" hikes. Whether the loads were carried by porters and guides, by mules, or by luggage transport services; or when the loads could be lightened because of the provisions provided at each night's destination, she and her travel companions found ways to travel light.

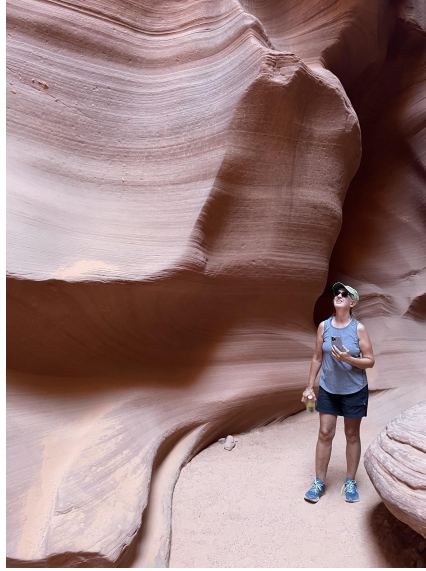
From the Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails in California, to the Milford Track in New Zealand, to a trek in Patagonia, to the South West Coast Path of the United Kingdom, to a trek in the Everest region of Nepal, join Diane and friends for a range of beautiful experiences that didn't require carrying a heavy load.

The event will be held at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose on Saturday, November 2, 4:30-7:30pm. Guests are welcome. **CMC members, please login first to register.** [Click here to register for the Annual Dinner.](#)

Photo: Diane and friends hiking the John Muir Trail in 2010.

Interested in Joining the Western Slope Group Council?

We're looking to fill two WSG Council positions -- Outings Chair and Vice Chair -- with two additional WSG members. Four WSG members restarted the WSG in June 2020. Three of us are still on the Council -- Anne Keil, Brenda Leach and John Broadbooks. We later added Jill Mattoon and Claire McCullough. We meet every other month, usually in person at a Council member's house. We all work together well and we enjoy each other's company. We've been consistently plugging away since 2020 at enhancing the Western Slope Group by adding more trips, activities and members. We now want to expand the WSG Council with two new members. Contact us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com if you're interested. Here are job descriptions for the [Vice Chair](#) and the [Outings Chair](#).



Welcome New Trip Leader Judy Mayne!

Judy says: "I moved to Denver from Texas in 1981 to attend DU. After a day or so, I decided that I would stick around to enjoy the rest of my life here in this beautiful state. I joined the CMC Denver Group in the mid 90's. I completed the Wilderness Trekking School and the Backcountry Ski Touring School. I moved to Grand Junction in 2023 for a change in pace and to be near family in Moab. I work full time at St Mary's Regional Hospital as a social worker. I enjoy hiking, camping, downhill and cross country skiing, and biking." Judy will also be planning social activities for the WSG.

Upcoming WSG Social Gatherings

The WSG will be organizing several social gatherings throughout the year. We'll hold them in brewpubs or other similar venues in various Western Slope towns. We'll 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.



Hazel Miller & the Collective, Saturday, August 3, 7pm

WSG member, Judy Mayne, is organizing a social gathering to see Hazel Miller & the Collective at Grande River Vineyards. They're located at 787 Grande River Dr in Palisade. Doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 7pm. This concert is to benefit [Mesa County Partners](#). General admission tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. This concert sells out every year so buy your tickets in advance. Contact Judy at WSGSocialGatherings@gmail.com with questions, if you'd like to carpool to the event and/or sit with the WSG group. [Click here to purchase your tickets.](#)

Ouray Brewery on Sunday, August 4, 2-4:30pm

Let's meet at the [Ouray Brewery](#) for some socializing and enjoying the scenery around Ouray. [Please sign up here so that we can let them know how many to expect.](#) We hope to get a table in the outside rooftop dining area. Join us for one of these 2 hikes on the Bear Creek Trail to the south of Ouray before the social gathering -- [Group 1](#) or [Group 2](#).



Conservation Corner

by Claire McCullough, WSG Conservation Chair



Proposed Dolores National Monument Update

Following the listening sessions held on the Western Slope this spring, on July 3, 2024, Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper released a statement regarding the proposed Dolores Canyon National Monument. They stated “it is clear that Coloradoans care deeply about this landscape and many want it permanently protected. We also recognize there are legitimate questions and the need for further discussion.” The senators plan to continue working with public land users, Mesa and Montrose counties, local leaders and tribes to determine the “best tool” to use to protect the northern Dolores River canyon country. In response to concerns raised at the listening sessions, the senators outlined the following priorities. 1) The BLM and USFS will continue to manage the area. 2) There will be no entrance fees. 3) Grazing will continue. 4) Rimrocker Trail

will remain open to motorized use. 5) New trail development will continue for mountain biking. 6) All existing mining rights will be protected. 7) Existing water rights will remain protected. While the senators neither endorse nor reject a plan to move forward with a national monument, they have taken steps highlighting the need for conservation of this special area. Photo credit: Tom Hesse, Colorado Public Radio.



What to Watch: Mountain Queen – The Summits of Lhakpa Sherpa



Mountain Queen is a critically acclaimed documentary that follows Lhakpa Sherpa’s journey and extraordinary life. The film made its debut at the Toronto Film Festival and was recently featured at the Telluride Mountain Film Festival. On July 31, 2024, the film will be released on Netflix. Lhakpa Sherpa was raised in a small village in the Himalayas where her parents were yak farmers. The 48-year-old Nepalese woman grew up at time when girls were not educated. She still cannot read or write. Lhakpa Sherpa, a single mother of two girls, has worked as a housecleaner and at a Whole Foods in Connecticut. She is also a world class mountain climber, having summited Mount Everest ten times, as well as making one successful ascent of K-2. Though her physical achievements are extraordinary, the film also covers her challenging personal life in detail. To pursue additional mountaineering goals, Lhakpa Sherpa has unsuccessfully sought sponsorships from several well-known, large outdoor retail companies, and even her employer, Whole Foods. All have turned her down. She continues to clean houses in Connecticut. Photo credit: Lhakpa Sherpa.



Durango Area CMC Update

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!

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 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 cancel.

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

Saturday, 7/27. [Hiking – Blackface \(12,147'\) via Wilson Meadows Trail](#). Moderate. Bud Tasch.

Thursday, 8/1. [Hiking - Crag Crest East Trailhead](#). Moderate. Jennifer Rhamy.

Sunday, 8/4. [Hiking - Bear Creek National Recreation Trail \(Ouray\) - Group #1](#). Moderate. Jill Mattoon.

Sunday, 8/4. [Hiking - Bear Creek National Recreation Trail \(Ouray\) Group #2](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

8/9-12. [Bike - Grand Mesa](#). Challenging. Denver Group.

Saturday, 8/10. [Hiking – Columbine Lake Trail \(Silverton area\) - Locals Favorite!!](#) Moderate. Dan King.

8/14-18. [Camp - Grand Mesa](#). Moderate. Denver Group.

8/17-20. [Backpack – Chicago Basin](#). Challenging. Boulder Group.

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

Tuesday, 8/20. [Hiking – Blue Lakes Trail \(Ridgway\) LIT Hike](#). Challenging. Brenda Leach.

Saturday, 8/24. [Hiking – West Lime Creek Doggie Hike \(Molas Pass Area\)](#). Easy. Bud Tasch.

Monday, 8/26. [Mountaineering - Potosi Peak 13,793 Feet, Class 3 Scramble](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Saturday, 8/31. [Seminar - Fall Birds Along the Animas River \(Farmington NM\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

Saturday, 8/31. [Hiking - Lake of the Woods \(Grand Mesa\)](#). Moderate. Judy Mayne

Saturday, 9/7. [Seminar – Migrating Birds Along the Florida River \(Durango Area\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

9/3-7. [Backpack - BPX 5-Day: Washakie Pass, Lizard Head and Cirque of the Towers Loop](#). Challenging. John Broadbooks.

9/3-6. [Backpack – BPX 4-Day: Five Pass Loop Tour of the Horns from Matterhorn Creek TH](#). Challenging. Backpacking Section.

9/9-11. [Camp - BPX 3-Day: Crystal River Bogan Flats Campground](#). Moderate. Backpacking Section.

9/16-19. [Backpack – BPX 4-Day: Four Pass Loop from West Maroon Trailhead](#). Difficult. Denver Group.

Friday, 9/27. [Hiking - Crystal Mill Fall Colors Hike](#). Moderate. Anne Keil. Waitlist.

9/30-10/3. [Backpack - Conundrum Hot Springs](#). Challenging. CMC State.

Tuesday, 10/1. [Hiking - Palisade Plunge Hiker Shuttle](#). Fee. Difficult. Anne Keil. Date flexible between mid-September and October.

10/10-13. [Camp – WSG 5th Annual Green River Camping / San Rafael Swell Hiking Trip](#). Fee. Waitlist.

Saturday, 10/19. [Seminar – Late Migrating Birds at Pastorius Reservoir SWA \(Durango Area\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

Saturday, 10/26. [Seminar - More Fall Birds along the Animas River \(Farmington NM\)](#). Easy. Mike Foster via Sierra Club.

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

PRESENTATIONS / COURSES / EVENTS

Saturday, 7/27. Richard Bangs: The Art of Living Dangerously. 4-5:30pm Patagonia store, Telluride (non-CMC event by Telluride Mountain Club).

Saturday, 8/3. Hazel Miller Concert, GJ. BYO ticket. See above for more info.

Sunday, 8/4. [WSG Social Gathering at Ouray Brewery](#). See above for more info.

Saturday, 11/2. [2024 WSG Annual Dinner in Montrose](#). See above for more info.

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.

Wilderness First Aid: Schedule for 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? 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, Annual Dinner Organizer: 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 9/18 & 11/4. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



Colorado Mountain Club
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