



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

WESTERN SLOPE GROUP

Canyon to Crest Call Western Slope Group September 2023



Brenda Leach's hike up Spirit Gulch to the south of Ouray with the iconic Red Mountains in the background. [See below on how to submit your favorite photo for the newsletter!](#)

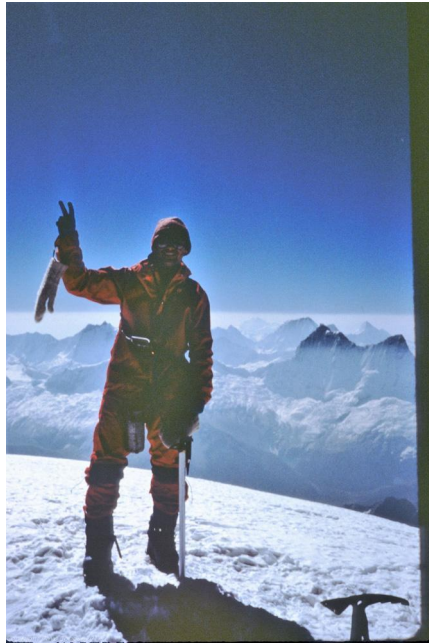
Pakistan Trekking & Ascend Film / Afghanistan Girls Climbing



Longtime WSG member, Babs Schmerler, will give a presentation of her recent trekking trip to Pakistan and then show a 20 minute film about Ascend, a climbing program for Afghan girls. Join us **Thursday, September 14, 5:30-6:30pm**, in the meeting room at **Montrose Flex Rec**.

This event is free and open to the interested public and our CMC members. Meet other CMC members and find out more about what the WSG is doing!

[Register here for the slide show.](#)



CMC Western Slope Group 2023 Annual Dinner, Saturday, October 14

Join us at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose for the WSG's annual dinner, **4:30-7:30pm**. It includes a potluck, business meeting and an entertaining slide show given by Charlie Winger, our 40+ year Lifetime member, senior CMC schools instructor, author and the 2013 Albert R. Ellingwood award recipient. Follow Charlie from the summit of the highest mountain in the Americas, Aconcagua at 22,837', to the lowest point in North America, Badwater Basin at 282' below sea level and many adventures in between. Charlie has put together a presentation which is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. If you'd like to help, send an email to WSGofCMC@gmail.com. [Click here to register for the annual dinner](#) and to see the schedule of events and what to bring for the potluck. Please login if you're a member.

We need help the day of the annual dinner with these tasks: table set-up, kitchen set-up, check-in, table tear-down and clean-up. If you're able to help with any of these tasks, please let us know at WSGofCMC@gmail.com. Thanks!

Photo is of Charlie at the summit of Chopicalqui in Peru, 20,816'.

Welcome Trip Leader Jamie Simpson!

Jamie Simpson, a recent transplant to the Western Slope, has been a CMC member for more than a decade and is a trip leader/technical trip leader. He has served as a school co-director and senior instructor with the Alpine Climbing School. Jamie has hiked and climbed all around Colorado, including all the 14ers, and has also climbed on glaciated peaks such as Rainier, Adams, Shasta, Orizaba, Cotopaxi and Denali. During the winter, he also serves as a ski patroller at Loveland Ski Area, where he ran the alpine rescue toboggan training program.



Trip Report: Blue Lake and CDT from Conejos River TH Backpack

John Broadbooks, the WSG Treasurer, recently led a successful backpacking trip in the Rio Grande National Forest to the east of Pagosa Springs. The group enjoyed beautiful scenery, waterfalls and even some snow!





Durango Area CMC Members Update

Anne Keil, the WSG Chair, recently met with Durango WSG member, Dan King, about starting CMC activities in the Durango area. Dan is also interested in becoming the WSG Conservation Chair. More info to follow!

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!

Upcoming WSG Slide Shows

The WSG is hosting a series of slide shows featuring our members who like to travel and have been to interesting countries and adventurous places. We also have some members who have a special expertise and

knowledge due to their work experience. If you're interested in sharing with others, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com and we'll get a presentation set up for you!

Thursday, September 14, 5:30-6:30pm. [Pakistan Trekking & Ascend Film/Afghanistan Girls Climbing](#). See above.



New Website Tutorials

[10.4.22 CMC website tutorial- 11 minutes](#). The first 6 minutes is for all members and shows how to navigate to our group's happenings. The remainder of the video is a navigation tutorial for our trip leaders.

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](#)

9/1-7. [BPX & High Peaks Joint Venture: Summer in the San Juans](#). BPX.

Tuesday, 9/5. [Red Mountain 3](#). Moderate. Brenda Leach.

9/5-10. [Mountaineering - Weminuche Wilderness](#). Pikes Peak Group.

9/5-8. [Dinosaur NM Car Camping & Hiking](#). BPX.

9/5-9. [Cirque of the Towers Backpack](#). John Broadbooks/BPX.

Friday, 9/15. [Hiking - Mount Garfield](#). Moderate. Jamie Simpson.

9/21-25. [Backpacking - Virgin Springs from Fuller Bottom, UT](#). Gore Range Group.

9/25-28. [Morefield Campground at Mesa Verde National Park](#). BPX.

Thursday, 9/28. [Hiking - Colorado National Monument - Ute Trail](#). Moderate. Anne Keil.

10/5-8. [3rd Annual WSG Camping/Hiking San Rafael Swell](#). Green River UT. Register with leader only via email to WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

Wednesday, 10/11. [Hiking - No Thoroughfare Canyon Car Shuttle](#). Moderate/Difficult. Lynda Law & Victor Ketellapper.

11/3-16. [Sacred Hidden Himalaya Valley - Nepal](#). Adventure travel, fee.

12/3-16. [Patagonia](#). Adventure travel, fee.

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

2/16-25, 2024. [Guatemala](#). Adventure travel, fee.

4/25-28, 2024. WSG Capitol Reef camping and hiking- SAVE THE DATE!

**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

Thursday 9/14. [Pakistan Trekking Presentation Plus Ascend: Afghanistan Girl's Climbing Film](#). See above.

Saturday 10/14. [WSG Annual Dinner at the Ute Museum](#). See above.

Friday 11/10 2-4pm. Leader appreciation at San Juan Brews- SAVE THE DATE!

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 is also available to current leaders as a refresher.

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: Open. See the [Conservation Chair volunteer description](#) for more info. If you're interested, please contact us at WSGofCMC@gmail.com.

We're on the CMC website at [Western Slope Group, CMC Groups - Colorado Mountain Club](#). The next WSG Council meeting will be held 9/25. Zoom availability, time and location will be determined closer to the meeting dates. WSG members are welcome to attend.



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