



Chicago Mountaineering Club

2004 CMC Annual Dinner

On Saturday, April 3 2004, the CMC will hold its Annual Dinner at the Chicago Yacht Club at Monroe Harbor in Chicago (Monroe Street and Lake Shore Drive). This year's Special Guests will be world-class climbers Tommy Caldwell and Beth Rodden from Estes Park, CO. The "**First Couple of Rock**," will present a slide show detailing their approach to rock climbing and mountaineering. The festivities will begin with cocktails at 6:00 PM followed by dinner, then presentation, raffle and a silent auction of climbing and outdoor gear. Space is limited, so visit www.cmcwebsite.org or call Randy West at 312-617-2860 to register. Don't miss it!

Outside Travel Expo 2004

If you are registered to receive this via email, there's still time to experience the Outside Travel Expo! Formerly known as IATOS – The International Adventure Travel & Outdoor Sports Show, the show takes place at the Navy Pier Convention Center in Chicago on February 20 – 22, 2004. This event is the world's largest exhibition of its kind, showcasing destinations, guided trips and products from all areas of the travel market including adventure, eco and active travel. The CMC will also be staffing a booth showcasing the Club. For more information on the Outside Travel Expo, visit <http://www.iatos.com/index.htm> or call toll free 877-604-2867 (877.60.IATOS).

Membership

At February's meeting, **Dmitri Litvak** and **Kathy Koch** became new CMC Members. There were no First readings. Congratulations and welcome Dmitri and Kathy!

Professional Alpine Mountaineering Skills Training

CMC'er **Stephanie Hoffman** is spearheading the organizing of a group skills training to take place on Mt. Baker, WA in July. The course will be led by the American Alpine Institute (AAI). For more information, please contact Stephanie directly at shoffman58@earthlink.net, and she'll be happy to forward details. You may also call AAI direct at 360-671-1505.

Meeting Schedule

*General Meetings are open to the public, and held on the SECOND Monday (Please note the day & location change) of each month, September through May, and **begin at 8:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome. There will be a short business meeting, followed by our featured program presentation.*

March 8th, 2004 Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave
There is no general meeting on March 8th

April 12th, 2004 - CMC General Meeting

Olle Swartling – Long time CMC Member
"Western Outings of the '60s"
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

April 3rd, 2004 - CMC Annual Dinner

Tommy Caldwell and Beth Rodden
"First Couple of Rock"
Chicago Yacht Club – Monroe Harbor
(Monroe Ave. & Lake Shore Drive)

May 10th, 2004 - CMC General Meeting

Elizabeth Halloran - Athletic Therapist
"First Aid for the Climber"
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

Outings & Activities Schedule**February 27-March 1, "February Follies"****Ice climbing outing to Montreal River, Ontario, Canada. BOOK NOW at www.cmcwebsite.org!****March 14th & 28th, 2004 Vertical Endeavors, Warrenville,**

(11:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card) CMCers Meet at 11:00 a.m. in the climbing gym lobby, climb until 2:00 p.m., then head out for a snack.

April 17 - 18 – Mississippi Palisades, IL**May 22 - 23 – Devil's Lake, WI****June 26 - 27 – Devil's Lake, WI****September 4 - 6 – Devil's Lake, WI****October 9 - 10 – Devil's Lake, WI****November 6 - 7 – Jackson Falls/Drapers Bluff, IL****May 1 - 2 – Devil's Lake, WI****June 12 - 13 – Devil's Lake, WI****August 14-15 – Old Timers/New Climbers Outing & Potluck Dinner, Devil's Lake, WI****September 18 - 19 – Devil's Lake, WI****October 23 - 24 – Devil's Lake, WI****Red Rocks Climbing Trip**

From CMCer **John Wanner** -- I will be making a rock climbing trip to Red Rocks Recreation Area (near Las Vegas, NV), arriving late on the night of Thursday, April 8 and leaving early Saturday morning, April 17. Spring is the perfect time to climb there; generally air fares are low, the weather is usually perfect and the days are long enough that it's possible to do long climbs and still be off by nightfall. I plan on 8 days of climbing there, doing long, moderate technical rock routes of which there are many in the Area. I'm quite familiar with the area, and would be happy to help anyone select routes and find route starts for climbs I've done, too. Routes I'm interested in vary from 5.4 to 5.9 in difficulty and from 2 to 20 pitches. Some descents involve rapping the route, from hanging belays and all involve lead climbing, but some have walk offs and good belay ledges.

Anyone interested should contact me at biggmfrog@aol.com, or can contact me on my cell phone, 414-403-7940.

We lose a Member

Long-Time Member **John Mauff**, of Chicago, passed away on Sunday, February 15 after a long illness. John was an active mountaineer and CMCer. His exploits were chronicled in the Summer '74 and Spring '77 Comings and Goings Section of the CMC Bulletin (now called The Mountaineer). He also wrote articles in The Summer '93 and Winter '91 Issues, the first entitled "An account of an unplanned first ascent of Split Mountain (August 11, 1956) in the company of J. Gordon Edwards." Edwards is author of the Glacier National Park guidebook. We will miss him.

Profiles In Climbing -- Stephanie Hoffman

Danny: How long have you been a CMC Member?

Stephanie: I officially joined in '82 or '83. I've climbed with the CMC on an informal basis since 1980.

Danny: What got you interested in climbing?

Stephanie: I'd climbed once in Iowa prior to climbing with The CMC, and thought it was kind of fun. I then ran into a CMC Member and, when I eventually moved back to Wisconsin, I thought the Club would be a good deal.

Danny: Where in Iowa did you climb?

Stephanie: Northeast Iowa, Limestone Bluffs.

Danny: Is that a nice area?

Stephanie: It's very dependent on the particular area. It is all the same stuff, Galena Limestone with an underlying shale layer, which prevents water from permeating. Because of this, you find lots of caves there. It's kind of a crap shoot, as the formations erode rather quickly.

Danny: Caving? Stephanie: Yep.

Danny: That's a sport I've never tried, but know a number of CMCers who do, and I'm personally quite intrigued by it.

Stephanie: Access is often an issue. Many are on private property and, while you need not be a member of a spelunkers group to gain access, it's usually the Clubs that know where these areas are, and how receptive (or not) the landowners are to cavers.

Danny: Do you think the Club should look into it?

Stephanie: It might be fun, I've gotten away from it for the past 20 years or so. People in the clubs are nice and seem to know what they're doing.

Danny: On what kind of climbing do you presently focus?

NEWSLETTER: Please submit your photos, announcements, comments or *questions* to Danny Bobrow at 1512 N. Fremont, Suite 102, Chicago, IL 60622, phone (312) 455-9498 or e-mail: secretary@cmcwebsite.org (100 words or less please).

- Stephanie: I guess you would call it alpine mountaineering. I first started climbing in The '83-84 season, on an Olle & Sue (Swartling) outing. It was Glacier Creek in the Selkirks of British Columbia I was scared to death. Mike Wilson was with us. He was great. I couldn't look up because I was claustrophobic, and he couldn't look up because he got vertigo.
- Danny: Well, at least you were able to see eye to eye!
- Stephanie: I really enjoy the mountains of B.C.. It seemed for a while that, every time there was something offered, I went, and just loved it. Of course, I could not help but improve. Then, I started climbing in the Wind River Range (The Winds) w/Dave Harrison, Mike Wilson & John Wanner. First was Gannett Peak. I have no interest in climbing with crowds. I really like remote stuff.
- Danny: Where else have you climbed?
- Stephanie: I've taken trips to the Brooks Range in Northern Alaska. That was where I recognized my need to get professional instruction on snow and ice. I had a really close call.
- Danny: What happened?
- Stephanie: This was a trip set up by my long-time friend and climbing buddy, Richard Jurin. We wanted to get up to the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), before it was destroyed by all the drilling. This was in 1988. The Brooks is the only range in Northern Alaska, which runs east-west. We planned to start on the south side in a town called Arctic Village, from which our bush plane would depart. We were a party of six, and the plane would only hold 3 passengers and some gear. I was on the first drop. After that, the plane did not return! So we began to sort through the gear, which had been arbitrarily thrown into the plane, only to learn we did not have much, only one tent, a little food, and no fuel. It was a terrible feeling. We watched and waited 12 hours through a storm, then realized the plane might not show up at all. What would we eat? Where would we sleep? The rest of our team wound up taking 30 hours to arrive. We later learned that the foul weather had forced them to make an unscheduled landing.
- Danny: So that was your first scare?
- Stephanie: Yes. The trip was to last 21 days, and we had to carry everything. At the time, I weighed 125 lbs: my pack weighed 80 lbs. Mid-way through the trip, we were trying to cross into another valley and were socked in. By that time, we were exhausted, and had already lost a lot of weight. We headed up what we thought was the saddle, but could not see clearly. It turned out to be a peak, too dangerous to come down, so we decided to work our way up to the ridge, then traverse it. With the benefit of hindsight, I believe it was a combination of exhaustion, no food, and poor visibility, that had us heading up that ridge, unroped, without crampons, and our ice axes still on our packs. I remember turning to Rich Piercy and asking "Would you mind watching me here?" I don't know if it was self-fulfilling or what. Moments later, I slipped. I just remember clawing with my hands and, exactly like "they" say happens, my entire life flashing before me! I even had time to think I should have taken out life insurance to be sure my mortgage got paid when Rich grabbed me, his foot landing on a piece of rock no bigger than my thumb, but it held us both.
- Danny: That leads rather nicely into my next question, which is: What experiences can you share with our Members that you think every climber should know?
- Stephanie: The incident taught me that the only one truly responsible for my safety is me. This led me soon thereafter to sign up for AAI's course (Stephanie is helping the Club organize a similar course for Members to take place this July).
- Danny: What would you consider to be one of the highpoints of your climbing Experience?
- Stephanie: I loved climbing in Alaska. I've been in the Alaska Range 3 times. The Moose's Tooth was probably the most challenging, certainly with respect to route finding.
- Danny: How did that go?
- Stephanie: I was thrilled that nobody got hurt. I stopped short of the top because I got very sick. I did not know it at the time, but that was the first sign of the onset of multiple sclerosis, and I was just not up to continuing.
- Danny: That's understandable! Where else have you enjoyed climbing?
- Stephanie: I love Looking Glass Mountain in North Carolina.
- Danny: What are you up to nowadays?
- Stephanie: I just got back to leading. I've recovered enough from my first attack that I feel competent leading again. I started last year in CO and really enjoyed it. I plan to lead ice again too.
- Danny: Any other climbing plans?
- Stephanie: I would like to again organize trips into remote areas for myself and small parties.
- Danny: Could you sum up your reason for, or philosophy about climbing?
- Stephanie: For me, climbing is a spiritual experience that challenges the mind, body and soul. I feel so spiritual in the mountains, which is why getting to the top is not what it is about for me.

Stephanie Hoffman lives in Madison, WI.

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From:

Chicago Mountaineering Club

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TO:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL