



# Chicago Mountaineering Club

The next CMC General Meeting will be on Monday, September 8, 2003, at 8:00 PM at the Goose Island Brewery. The theme for the evening is Manufacturer's Night. Mountaineering/climbing industry companies will be on hand to talk about and display their latest wares.

The next CMC Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2003, 6:30 PM at the Goose Island Brewery, 1800 N Clybourn Ave., Chicago, IL (312) 915-0071.

*Our General Meeting is open to the public, and now held on the SECOND Monday (Please note the day & location change) of each month, September through May. Everyone is welcome. There will be a short business meeting, followed by our featured program presentation.*

## Announcements

### Devil's Lake, WI June 28 - 29

Despite the rain on Saturday morning, the last outing to the lake was a success. Some took the opportunity to catch up on some overdue shopping while others joined Alex Andrews on an unofficial climb in the afternoon once the rain let up. On Sunday the weather was neither too hot nor humid, and two separate groups headed out to climb at the East Bluff, West of the Quarry Rocks. One group went to the rock formation "Farewell To Arms" where the flagship route lived up to its name once again. Other routes like "Anne's 8" and the Jam Crack proved that an easy looking line is often harder than it appears. The second group went to Red Nose Wall to experience some of the infamous routes like "The Revolt Of The Nerds", "Elimination" and "Bloodshed" just to name a few. A photographer was on hand to catch unsuspecting climbers in action. Can anyone identify the climber and/or route in the photo on the opposite page? Find out and get closer to the action by attending the Old Timers/New Climbers Outing & Pot Luck Dinner.

### Old Timers/New Climbers Outing & Pot Luck Dinner Devil's Lake, WI August 16-17

Be sure not to miss the next outing, Old Timers/New Climbers Outing & Pot Luck Dinner. How is this different than other outings you ask? This outing has the addition of a pot luck dinner. On the evening of Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> we plan to grill and eat together. Everyone should bring a side dish (such as salad, chips, cookies, fruit, cake etc.) large enough to share with 2-3 other people. The club will supply the main course of Hamburgers and Brats.

### New Members

Please welcome the newest members of our CMC climbing family:

Andrew Michaelis, Hoffman Estates, IL  
Gabriel Z. Temesvari, Chicago, IL  
Debi A. Olenoski, Chicago, IL

## CMC Scheduled Meetings

### September 8, 2003

– CMC General Meeting  
Manufacturer's Night  
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

### October 13, 2003

– CMC General Meeting  
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

### November 10, 2003

– CMC General Meeting  
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

### December 8, 2003

– CMC General Meeting  
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

**From:**  
**Chicago Mountaineering Club**  
C/O Steve Capps  
PO Box 4364  
Wheaton, IL 60189-4364

**TO:**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



**Photo**

East Bluff, West of the Quarry, Devil's Lake, WI  
Sunday June 28, 2003

**Don't miss out!!! Attend the next CMC Activity.**

**CMC Scheduled Activities**

**August 16-17 – Old Timers/New Climbers Outing  
& Pot Luck Dinner, Devil's Lake, WI**

**August 30 - Sept 1 – Devil's Lake, WI**

**September 20 - 21 – Devil's Lake, WI**

**October 11 - 12 – Devil's Lake, WI**

**October 25 - 26 – Devil's Lake, WI**

**November 8 - 9 – Jackson Falls/Drapers Bluff, IL  
(Weather Permitting)**

Visit [www.cmcwebsite.org](http://www.cmcwebsite.org) for the latest information regarding these and other CMC Scheduled Activities.

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**NEWSLETTER:** Please submit your announcements, comments or questions to Steve Capps at PO Box 4364, Wheaton, IL 60189-4364 or phone (630) 816-5677 or e-mail: [secretary@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:secretary@cmcwebsite.org) (100 words or less please), for possible publication.

## *Note from The President*

Dear Fellow Club Member;

I am pleased to present this inaugural *Note from The President*. My plan for this section of the newsletter and website is to use it as a means to keep Members, and those considering membership, apprised of the state of the Club. My hope is that the *Note* becomes a new and welcome Club tradition.

These are exciting times at your Club.

Earlier this summer, we sent a Survey to our Members to learn what we as a club are doing right, and what we could do better. Before we began our analysis, we already had a most telling statistic. The response rate, itself an indicator of the interest level of the membership, was nearly 50%! The Board and I greatly appreciate the time and effort so many of you took in sharing your thoughts and opinions with us. We are busy entering and evaluating your responses, and will have detailed results for you as soon as possible.

As all Board and Committee Members are volunteers, it is only right that we do all we can to make these positions as simple, and even fun, as possible. This is actually a matter of enlightened self-interest as doing so will encourage Members to take a more active role in the Club, thereby ensuring its continuity and prosperity.

To this end, we now hold our Board and General Meetings at Goose Island, 1800 N. Clybourn, where people can park easily and dine while attending the meetings. It is also why we've committed to establishing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for each Board and Committee position. Having SOPs in place also helps ensure the continuity of the knowledge base by preventing "brain drain" from occurring when it's time to elect a new Board. SOPs are currently under development, but still available upon request.

By the way, if you've considered becoming a Club Board Member, a great way to get a feel for the experience is to join us at one of our Board meetings, held September through May at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month (just before the General Meeting).

Our Vice President Matt Mead has been hard at work adding features to the Club website, while making it more "user-friendly." For example, you will soon be able to view photos and read recaps of recent Club Outings, so both current and prospective Members can get a feel for the experience of climbing in different areas.

Our Outings Chairman, Jochen Bachmann, is putting together an exciting outings season, which, in addition to outings to Devil's Lake, will include: indoor rock climbing, a trip to Southern Illinois, ice climbing in Canada, and some surprises, so stay tuned!

Plans are now under consideration to improve the campground, including the addition of an enclosed pavilion. If you are interested in assisting with campground improvements, contact our Ground Chairman Alex Andrews [grounds@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:grounds@cmcwebsite.org).

Our Program Chairman, Randy West, is working with the Program Committee to line up presenters for this season's General Meetings, with an emphasis on topics relevant and interesting to climbers of every experience level. Also, Randy has already secured a commitment from Mike and Tommy Caldwell to be our presenters at the Club's 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004. A complete calendar of events for the 2003-2004 will appear in our next newsletter.

Jack Gorby's book *The Stettner Way* continues to be a popular seller. If you've not yet picked up a copy, Chris Young still has a few left (ask nicely, and you might even get an autographed copy from the author). Chris may be reached at [treasurer@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:treasurer@cmcwebsite.org).

We're also exploring the establishment of a "permanent presence" for CMCers in the Colorado Rockies, which will serve to make this climber's paradise even more accessible for Club Members.

If you are enthusiastic about what we've got in store for your Club, or even if you'd like to share some constructive criticism, demonstrate your commitment and get involved by: attending the meetings and outings, volunteering for a committee, running for a Board position, or in any other way you feel will help us remain the best climbing value in the Midwest.

Climb On!

Danny Bobrow, your president

*This Note is dedicated to Alex Andrews' mother Ruth, who left us July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003*

# MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION of CHICAGO

## John Speck Memorial Library

Here follows a report to bring you up-to-date on the library but first a **request**.

The library is in need of a **person who plans to drive to Colorado** and has space to take 18 boxes of surplus magazines to Chessler Books in Evergreen. The cost of commercial transport far exceeds the value of the magazines. Still, if delivered to Chessler, the magazines have significant value and allow us to obtain desired new books in trade. The MFC will pay for gas. Contact Pieter at 847-729-6804.

### Library report as of July, 2003

The Library is a feature of the Mountaineering Foundation of Chicago (MFC) and was originally under the auspices of the Chicago Mountaineering Club (CMC). The Library has slowly grown into an impressive collection of books, magazines, videos and other materials relating to mountains and mountaineering. Many dedicated members have made contributions for more than 50 years. The library has served the members in many ways and is prepared to continue to do so.

### What does the library have to offer?

The library materials can be grouped into a number of categories. The most basic items are the Guide Books. Guide books include Climbing Guides (we can tell that climbing guides are most popular because in this category are the most items missing. They were loaned out to and not returned by members.) Outdoor Guides are another kind of guide books. They comprise Hiking Guides, Trail Guides, Adventure Guides, Park descriptions, and Wilderness Guides. Equally basic are the materials on Technique and Safety. Then there are the books that give general descriptions of mountain areas and histories; the library has those from all over the world. Biographies of mountaineers describe persons but it is interesting to note that biographies also include a great deal of descriptions of the mountains and the areas where the person traveled.

A second category consists of reference materials. These include studies of mountains, mountain people, mountaineering literature, and natural histories. The library has all the current mountain magazines, many of them going back to their first issues.

A third category could be called Armchair Mountaineering. There is a section on mountaineering fiction, there are many magnificent "coffee table" mountaineering books, and books that specialize in mountain photography.

As a last category, Video Tapes should be mentioned. These include a wide range of subjects. There are instructional tapes, historic climbs, and main feature movies on a mountaineering subject. Tapes are popular because in this category, too, many are missing.

### Who are the persons that have collected all this material?

It started with John Speck. He was an early club member who had begun collecting mountaineering books. He died on a climb in the Alps in 1949. His collection was donated to the club and formed the nucleus of what grew into the current library. In those early years, one of the club's founders, Jack Fralick, selected books for purchase. Others successively involved in the library were Ed Porter, Barbara Palser, Guy Everett, Barbara Heiberg and Jean Devaud. The library was sheltered by Barbara Heiberg, the Lumby's, Bill and Mary Sue Coates, Frances Mullen and then for 25 years by George Pokorny. George also was the librarian; he concentrated on adding climbing guides to the collection. Another field to which he paid much attention is reference materials. He completed many magazines to their earliest issues and collected their indexes. He obtained listings of ascents of well-known mountains, bibliographies of mountain literature, and handbooks.

George moved to Minnesota in 1995 and our member Zero Shim made space available in one of the office suites over his hardware store at 3429 Diversey in Chicago. Zero has been extremely generous in donating the space rent-free. Pieter Fockens took over from George as librarian.

Since the library there would be basically unattended, we started with an inventory. George had listed the books and videos in an early library software database. When I took over the care of the library the software was defective and obsolete. It took me several years to transfer the data to Microsoft Access before I could take an inventory. That is now completed and we have a catalog of 165 pages, but in only two copies, so far.

The library has received many book and magazine donations over the years. Among the donors are Ed Porter, Jack Fralick, Pat Armstrong, Hal Knott, George Pokorny, and John Mauff. Sally Hagan has donated almost 100 books of her late brother Jim's extensive collection; these were recently added to the data base but are not yet in the catalog.

There was a period in which many book reviews by CMC members were published in the magazine "Summit". As a result, many copies of newly published books were donated to the library for review.

#### How actively have the members used the library?

I have no exact numbers but estimate that approximately 10 members have visited the library during the previous year 2002. Maybe a few more in earlier years. Members do take out books and most are kept too long. I have set a limit of six months but most items are kept over a year, sometimes up to three years. Books are not returned even after several reminders by post card. Members apologize that they cannot find some or any of the borrowed materials, so they are lost. Members move away without a new address, let their membership lapse, and do not return borrowed materials; another way in which these are lost. Conversely, several non-members have used the library and have been dependable, returning borrowed items on time.

#### Why so little use?

Generally, people use libraries when they are geographically close. Our library is far away from most members. Our membership has been decreasing, lowering the number of potential borrowers. People write less, witness the lack of copy for the Mountaineer. Perhaps people also read less.

In previous years, our monthly meetings were well attended and George often would bring books, either on the subject of the program or newly acquired ones. I brought books related to the program a few times but with negligible interest.

So many new book stores have opened around town and suburbs over the years, that, perhaps, members find it now easier to buy the books they are interested in, rather than visiting a far-away library.

George was always willing to mail books to members. I have not received requests for this. It may be due to the lack of a generally available catalog for a long time. Mass distribution to all members of a 165 page catalog is too expensive for our small club, but is not necessary since the catalog is now available on the CMC website: [www.cmcwebsite.org](http://www.cmcwebsite.org).

#### Why is so much material lost?

People have to pay fines when they return public library items late. They know that what they have borrowed is not theirs, that keeping it constitutes embezzlement.

Our library does not impose fines.

The remoteness of our library for many members and/or, perhaps, plain laziness may be reasons for not returning items during the first few months. Then, after having postponed it long enough, people forget they have something that is not theirs.

Also, some members, I'm afraid, have no sense that they commit embezzlement when they don't return items from what they perceive of as **their** library. (Even though it is not **only** theirs.)

#### What are my plans for the library?

Many books donated to the library have been added to the collection during my tenure as librarian but I have obtained few new books so far. I live over 16 miles distance from the library. The necessary cataloguing and inventories have taken all of the time until now I have available for work on the library.

My plan is to concentrate on first ordering climbing guides. Especially the ones lost and new and updated editions of the current ones. Alex has given me a list of new guide books he recommends. George has contributed two lists of books recommended for purchase. In my estimation, these purchases will deplete the funds contributed by the CMC for several years.

Pieter Fockens

7-21-03