



# Chicago Mountaineering Club

The next CMC General Meeting will be on **Monday, October 21, 2002, at 8:00 PM** at the Field Museum of Natural History. The presentation has yet to be determined.

The next CMC Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 21, 2002, 6:30 PM** at the Field Museum.

*Our General Meeting is open to the public, held on the third Monday of each month, September through May. Everyone is welcome. We have a short business meeting, followed by our featured program presentation.*

## 2002 CMC Board Members

**Ron Rolnicki**

President – [president@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:president@cmcwebsite.org)

**Dan Bobrow**

Vice President – [vicepres@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:vicepres@cmcwebsite.org)

**Steve Capps**

Secretary – [secretary@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:secretary@cmcwebsite.org)

**Chris Young**

Treasurer – [treasurer@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:treasurer@cmcwebsite.org)

**Mark Mummer**

Sergeant at Arms – [sergeantatarms@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:sergeantatarms@cmcwebsite.org)

**Jochen Bachmann**

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**Ben Kweton**

Program Chair – [programs@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:programs@cmcwebsite.org)

**Pawel Szymanski**

Publications Chair – [publications@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:publications@cmcwebsite.org)

**Matthew Mead**

Conservation Chair – [conservation@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:conservation@cmcwebsite.org)

Technology Chair – [webmaster@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:webmaster@cmcwebsite.org)

**Alex Andrews**

Grounds Chair – [grounds@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:grounds@cmcwebsite.org)

**William Dietrich**

Safety Chair – [safety@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:safety@cmcwebsite.org)

**Pieter Fockens**

Director – [directors@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:directors@cmcwebsite.org)

**Open**

Expedition Chair – [expedition@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:expedition@cmcwebsite.org)

## Announcements

### MFC Farm/Campground Discussion

The debate continues. Again, please be sure to read the three attached letters regarding the recent opportunity made available to the MFC and more importantly get involved by attending the monthly meetings and sharing your thoughts and feelings. This will affect every past, present, and future CMC member.

### Snowboard Outreach Society

Here is an update/request from Club Member Mike Gehard.

Hello all,

As some of you know, I have started work at a non-for-profit called Snowboard Outreach Society based in Avon, CO. We use snowboarding as the hook to teach children with risk factors in their lives 5 core values: Courage, Discipline, Integrity, Wisdom and Compassion. This year we hope to serve 400 kids in the Eagle and Summit areas of Colorado and an additional 400 kids outside of those areas, with programs in Nevada, California, Oregon and Washington. It is a great organization that has wonderful support up here in the Vail area but minimal support outside of the area.

I am writing you all to ask you to take a look at the site ([www.sosoutreach.org](http://www.sosoutreach.org)) and spread the SOS word outside of Colorado. If you would like more information about SOS, please let me know.

Mike Gehard  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Snowboard Outreach Society  
"Riders Making a Difference"

E-Mail: [mike@sosoutreach.org](mailto:mike@sosoutreach.org)  
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**From:**

**Chicago Mountaineering Club**

C/O Steve Capps

PO Box 4364

Wheaton, IL 60189-4364

**TO:**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**Gear For Sale**

For sale...

(1) worn once, brand new Koflach women's size 7 double insulated mountain boots with 2 pair inner liners

(2) Richard Pontvert men's size 8 heavy leather mountain boots--lots of good wear left

(3) pair men's felt liners size 7 for snow mobile or mountain boots, brand new

Contact: Chuck and Pat Armstrong  
630-983-8404 (Please call before 9 p.m.)  
or e-mail pat4nature@aol.com

**CMC Scheduled Meetings**

**October 21**

– **MFC Farm/Campground Discussion**

**November 18**

– **Board Member Nominations**

**December 16**

– **Board Member Elections**

**CMC Scheduled Activities**

**October 26-27 – Jackson Falls, IL**

(Advanced Climbers Only)

**November 3 – Vertical Endeavors, IL**

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM)

**November 17 – Vertical Endeavors, IL**

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM)

**December 1 – Vertical Endeavors, IL**

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM)

**December 15 – Vertical Endeavors, IL**

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM)

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) 327-3283 or e-mail: [secretary@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:secretary@cmcwebsite.org) (100 words or less please), for possible publication.

September 16, 2002

SOME INITIAL THOUGHTS ON WHY WE MIGHT NOT WANT OT ACCEPT MONEY AND DEVELOP A CAMPGROUND ON THE HIGHWAY 12 LAND:

1. We would not want to buy something just because it is on sale. Likewise, we would not want to do something just because some money might be available. We want to act on those things which suit our purposes only.
2. The present campground does suit our needs. Furthermore, is has several advantages over the Highway 12 site:
  - there is no traffic noise
  - it is sheltered form vandalism and trespass by its location
  - it is convenient to the park
  - it is a good size
  - the surrounding state land gives protection against disturbance (except during deer season)
  - the campground has sentimental value for many members
3. The original purpose of the Highway 12 land was foe a campground if the present one was taken over by the state park. This has not happened. Furthermore, we plan to retain ownership of the present campground in any case. If it is no longer used, the state might justify a forced possession by them.
4. We may want the Highway 12 land free of restrictions someday. It is unlikely that the CMC or MFC would open it up to tract housing or a quartzite mine, but a future CMC and MFC might want an alpine-style lodge, a meeting house, an indoor climbing gym, or comfort stations with running water, flush toilets and showers. (This last possibility might make CMC outings more popular with the ladies, e.g., my wife.)
5. If we take \$100,000 or so of the preservation monies, then that amount is not available to purchase development rights for other landowners who may be much more likely the MFC and CMC to sell to developers.

John Peyton

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October 7, 2002

**TO: MFC Board Members  
Ron Rolnicki**

**FROM: Olle Swartling**

**RE: Campground/Development Rights**

I sure was surprised when I received the long Gorby letter with the last CMC bulletin. It made me mad that this was not sent to MFC Board Members for discussion prior to being sent to CMC members. Jack talked to me but I never thought it would lead to this.

First a few corrections to Jack's letter, and it is HIS letter. To my knowledge, DNR cannot, and has not, condemned any property for recreational purposes. There was never any condemnation threat against CMC or any other landowner. DNR wanted to control the drainage to Devil's Lake. Therefore with federal and state money, it aggressively bought land as it became available. CMC decided to sell the land we didn't use and keep only the 5+ acre campground. The idea to develop a campground on the farm was not met with a lot of enthusiasm and was put on hold. Everybody liked the present campground. Use of the sold land would be almost the same because we would still have access to it as part of the park.

I also believe that CMC is responsible to donate enough money to MFC to pay all the land taxes and support the library. If not enough money is donated, this should be corrected. I think it's misleading to state that MFC pays the taxes.

During the last 5 to 10 years, campground use had declined significantly. During the past few years the outings have been fewer than in the past and poorly attended. One of the larger outings this year was September 21/22, when approximately 40 climbers attended. Labor Day, not an outing, about 15 people used the campground. On the off weekends we have seen 1, 2, on occasion 4 tents, which means 4 to 6, maybe 8, people use the campground on good weather days. Ask Alex or Bill D. if you doubt these numbers.

The farm was the closest and best land available 25 years ago, but it will never make a "dream campground" to quote Jack. Why would anyone want to camp behind a junkyard, on top of a hill, within 2,000 feet of the very busy Hwy 12? Highway 12 was not very busy 25 years ago, but it's likely to come busier. The highway noise will be very annoying, especially since the highway passes the farm first on the west, curves around, and passes it again on the north. The traffic noise would come from two directions. It would compare with camping in the parking lot of Ski Hi apple orchard. In addition, the entrance to Hwy 12 would be very dangerous since the visibility to the north is not good.

The access road would be going diagonally across the side of a hill would definitely need ditches and culverts. It would also need to be wide enough in places to allow cars to meet. I have been told that ANNUAL cost of upkeep for a gravel road like this would probably be 5% to 10% of the original road cost of \$25,000 - \$30,000. Where will CMC or MFC get this money?

As for a well, locals have said the cost of drilling on top of a hill, which is most likely quartzite, would probably be \$20,000 and the water would probably contain manganese giving it a metallic taste. To get the water out of the ground you need power. I cannot imagine a power company putting in a line for one well.

Pit toilets, a long road, shelter buildings, well, etc. - who is going to take care of all this? Right now we are straining to keep the campground grass cut, dig a hole every few years, repair a few tables, and keep the 300-400 foot road in good shape. CMC has a difficult time filling the non-working offices now. Maybe there are some people hiding in the woods, but we haven't heard from them.

By now, you should have gotten my message that I am strongly against making the farm a campground. There are no signs that DNR will, or can, take our campground. Several people have told me they really love the present campground and don't want to move. I've not heard one person, other than Jack and possibly Ron, speaking in favor of it.

Now what to do with the farm. We should NOT sell the Development Rights. The land would become virtually worthless and would be impossible to sell. Selling the farm now would burden us with money and, at this time, the land is probably a better investment. How would IRS look upon a sale? Are Development Rights compatible with our current Managed Forest Land status? I think we should simply keep the farm.

In the future, if CMC grows and if the members need or want another campground or if for some unknown reason we should loose the campground, other land more suitable for a campground should be found. If this puts the campground further from Devil's Lake, so be it.

We have a very nice campground, its wild, its close to a quiet road (maintained by someone else), and it's close to the park. Let's not have those dollar signs make us develop something that currently no one wants, will have higher on-going maintenance costs, and that we might hate in the future. The CMC'ers that use the campground the most say "NO THANK YOU"!

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October 10, 2002

Dear Chicago Mountaineers,

Our Club's discussion and debate about "the farm," the opportunity provided by the Baraboo Range Protection Program (BRPP), and the wisdom of moving the location of our campground has become lively. This is good for our Club in so many ways. It has awakened long dormant passions about the Club, provoked serious discussion about its future and made us realize that the CMC has choices. On the other hand, certain aspects of the debate have been troubling, particularly the idea expressed by both Mike Wilson and Olle Swartling that our Club is slowly dying and, thus, it ought not make any significant moves at this time. I plan to discuss this view shortly. First, however, I wish to correct a few misunderstandings that arose from my September '02 letter to CMC.

I'm informed that several members have speculated about my motivation in bringing the BRPP opportunity to the Club's attention. There is no need to speculate. Here it is, as candidly and simply as I can express it: I want, and believe it to be my duty as MFC president, to make the CMC membership aware of all significant opportunities available to it. Just such an opportunity presents itself when the U.S. Government (through its Route 12 expansion plan) in cooperation with the State of Wisconsin and Sauk County provides us with a possible opportunity to sell, in exchange for \$100,000 to \$130,000, the "development rights" of our farm for the purpose of assuring long term protection of the Baraboo Range environment. For me or any board member of the MFC, because of our own personal preferences or indifference, to reject (or "kill") this opportunity by action or inaction without bringing it to the attention of the CMC membership would be both irresponsible and a breach of the trust the CMC membership has placed in the MFC. And I add an additional motivation: I want the CMC to continue for a long, long time.

As president of the MFC, I wholly support a CMC decision to stay at and/or improve the five acre existing campground as well as a decision to convert "the farm" into a campground. In other words, my purpose is to bring the BRPP opportunity to the CMC's attention, encourage a thoughtful and serious discussion and maintain a sincere neutrality about the ultimate CMC preference. I am not trying to guide the Club to any particular choice. If others have gained a different impression from my September letter, they have misunderstood me. As one of over 200 CMC members, I frankly have not made up my mind about this matter. I want to hear what others, particularly the younger members, have to say and, when the time comes, will cast my vote in the manner to be determined by the CMC.

In my September letter to the CMC I did not characterize the farm as a "dream campground," as Olle has claimed. Rather, I asked each CMC member to imagine a "dream campground," visit the farm if possible, engage in a discussion with other members and decide whether, with possible funds from the sale of development rights, the farm could be converted into a "dream campground." I was suggesting a way of thinking about the matter. This is far different from claiming that the farm has "dream campground" potential.

In my September letter I provided the CMC membership with some rough estimates from Baraboo companies about possible costs for improvement of the farm. None of these companies did an "on the site" inspection. Rather, they made their estimates from their offices on the basis of their experiences in the area and from a study of maps. I included these estimates for a purpose: They provide us with an objective, third party, unbiased starting point for serious discussion and move us beyond gossip, hearsay and speculation. If the CMC membership wants more accurate data to help it make a good decision, these estimates should be based on the more precise level of on site inspections. If more accurate data is necessary at this stage of decision making either you or I can obtain on site inspections. Any discussion about costs should move up to this level. Resort to "some one told me that . . ." or "I've heard . . ." only lowers the level and seriousness of the discussion.

In my September letter, I urged every one to keep an open mind and continue the discussion. I still urge everyone to do this. Let me provide an illustration as why this is important. Several members have claimed that the noise level from Route 12, located about a half a mile from a farm campground, would be too disturbing. That opinion may well be true. I have not formed an opinion about this. But if noise becomes the critical issue, I would hope that several persons, who have not yet formed a judgment, would spend a couple of nights there and offer a fair and balanced report. Such a report, however, ought not end the

discussion about noise. Noise problems at the farm should be compared with noise problems at our existing five acre campground. It's not noiseless. I've frequently heard complaints about noise and car head lights from late arrivals, noise from night revelers (in fact, plans for the CMC's '85 McKinley traverse were made during one such noisy late night party) and noise from snorers. The former problems have resulted in angry arguments; the latter noise problem has caused some campers to move their tents in the middle of the night. With a larger campground, which the farm offers, sections could be set up for late arrivals, for party animals and for snorers. Again, I do not advocate a position. The point here is that a thoughtful discussion about noise, as well as any other issue, requires us to respectfully discuss all aspects of the problem, balance the pros and cons and make a reasoned choice. We ought not allow speculation about one aspect to overwhelm and determine the outcome of a serious matter.

Now I would like to write a few words about the most troublesome aspect of our Club's discussion of this issue. Mike Wilson and Olle Swartling, both former presidents and deeply committed to the Club, have suggested (implied?) that the CMC is slowly dying. Thus, their argument runs, this is not a good time to make any decisions that have serious, long term consequences. As evidence they point out that fewer and fewer members come to non-outing weekends, that outing weekends are smaller than in the past, that it is difficult to find members who are willing to serve as Club officers and undertake the responsibilities associated with running the Club, that Club rope leaders are hard to find and are reluctant to take out beginner groups and that Club mountaineering outings are dependent on several old members and no young members are likely to replace them. All of this suggests a serious problem that goes far beyond the opportunities and choices provided by the BRPP. If indeed the CMC is suffering from a terminal illness, it makes little sense to invest in long term opportunities, however attractive they may be. Instead, the health of the patient becomes the focal point of all effort.

On the other hand, it is very sad and disturbing for the CMC to pass up a good opportunity (if that what the BRPP offers) because of deep pessimism about its own future. If the CMC rejects the BRPP opportunity because of this concern, I hope it is a wake up call and a challenge for future, serious Club effort. To a large extent, the MFC and its library exists to assure a bright future for the CMC and other Midwestern climbers. Outing weekends, meetings at the Field Museum and open banquets are designed to attract non-members to the Club for that same reason. My own view is that the CMC needs to find and cultivate younger members to take over the responsibilities and leadership of the Club. This is the priority. Without their involvement and enthusiasm, the dire predictions outlined above will become reality. I hope very deeply to avoid this.

Now I acknowledge a second reason for presenting this BRPP issue to the CMC membership. The CMC needs a shot in the arm and a dream and enthusiasm, particularly from its younger members, whom I will arbitrarily define as members with more than 15 years of good climbing left in them. This is also the reason why the older members ought not attempt to control the outcome of this BRPP matter. Obviously, the older CMC members are entitled to voice their opinions, participate in the debate and cast their votes. But the future of the Club does not belong to them. For this reason, they should encourage the younger members to "get into the climb" actively and enthusiastically, assume leadership and play the major role in deciding the Club's future. It is the only way to assure the future of a club that has meant so much to so many of us and promises to mean as much to our younger members.

Jack

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