



CHICAGO MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The next CMC General Meeting will be **Monday, October 9th, at 8:00 PM at the Goose Island Brewery**, 1800 N Clybourn Ave., Chicago IL (312) 915-0071.

General Meetings are open to the public and held on the second Monday of each month, September through May. Everyone is welcome. The CMC Board meets before the General Meeting from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The Board meeting is open to CMC members.

CMC Board Meeting Minutes are available to members on the club website. Everyone is encouraged to stay informed and get involved.

General Meeting Schedule



Aconcagua's Southwest Ridge from the summit, with the infamous Canaleta on the right. (This is a scree slope at 22000 ft which must be crossed.) G. Naxera Photo.

October 9th, 8:00pm: George Naxera will give a presentation of his ascent of Aconcagua in December, 2005. Aconcagua is in the Andes Range in Argentina. Standing at 22,840 ft, it is the highest mountain in the world outside of Asia.

November 13th, 8:00pm: T.B.D.

December 11th, 8:00pm: T.B.D.

Seneca Rocks, WV, Trip Report

Seven CMCers made the trip to Seneca Rocks, West Virginia over Memorial Day weekend this summer: Jeff Dull, Janet Lund, Mitch Van Dyke, John Peirce, Wendy Kline, Neil Horn, & Jamie Norris.

Report from Jamie Norris...

Neil and I drove to Elkhart, IN on Friday afternoon to meet with Jeff, Janet, and Mitch. John and Wendy had already left from Michigan. We got out of Elkhart around 4PM and drove on thru Ohio, PA, and WV. Sometime late, as we were driving down a winding mountain road in the pouring rain, Jeff slide off the road, somehow maintained control, managed to get back on the road, then radioed to us "well, I'm awake NOW".

We finally arrived safely at Seneca Rocks around 3:30AM and since everything was closed, decided to catch a few Zs in our cars, not particularly comfortable. We groggily awoke around 6:30 and found our friends, John and Wendy, sleeping in their van. We drove to the National Forest campground and got a nice campsite with warm showers and a great view of Seneca Rocks. We set up camp, a few people wanted more of a nap, and the rest of us headed into town to the neat little climbing shop, "The Gendarme" and to the general store for supplies. Back at camp, we woke up the nappers, went for a quick breakfast, then heading to the rocks for some practice climbing.

The hike in is reminiscent of the CCC trail, only steeper with fewer level spots and 700' tall. We all did some easy lead climbing, except Jeff, who wanted to tackle something a bit tougher. In the late afternoon we headed back to camp for a great steak and potatoes dinner, a few beers, and some guitar and harmonica playing around the campfire.

We were up fairly early Sunday morning for a hearty breakfast burrito meal, another trip to the store for ice, as the temps were in the 90s, then again, off to the rocks. The "stair-stepper from hell" climb was no easier and we were all hot, sweaty, and tired by the time we got to Luncheon Ledges. Neil and I had decided to do the "Old Ladies Route" from here and John and Wendy would lead up after us. Jeff, Janet, and Mitch had an even worse hike in to their climb,

"Gunsight Notch East", as much of it was up through six inches of old slippery leaves.

While this "Old Ladies Route" is only rated 5.2, it had plenty of real exposure and a pretty high "pucker factor." Neil lead up the first pitch, set up a belay anchor, and brought me up. I lead the 2nd pitch, which started with a scary down climbing traverse, and then the third pitch. At the top of the third pitch, where the "Traffic Jam" rappel rings are located, we unroped, took a break and talked to other climbers who were coming down from the summit. From here it was a class 4+ scramble to the top, part of this scramble was a traverse along a knife edge, no wider than your fist, while looking down 300' to the rocks below and 1000' to the valley floor. At the top we found the summit registry, took some pictures and roasted in the sun while thrilling over the view.

When we returned to our packs, John and Wendy were just coming up over the third pitch, and since John had been to the top before, and it was getting late, we decided to all do the long rappel. We had been told by the groups ahead of us that two 60 meter ropes would allow you to get off the rocks in just one rap... well, just barely. I went first, had to stop three times to untangle the ropes, and ran out of rope as my feet touched down.

We all made it down safely: hot, tired, and with sore toes. At this point we had still not seen or heard from Jeff and his team all day and were a little concerned. We had heard and seen a medvac helicopter come in, but found out later it was for a fallen motorcyclist.



The intrepid Jamie Norris at Seneca Rocks. N. Horn photo.

Within ½ hour of arriving back at camp, Jeff, Janet, and Mitch pulled in, sunburned, hot, happy and proud of their climb. They had not reached the summit, as Jeff thinks he got off route, but had a great climb none-the-less. After a good shower, over dinner and a few beers, we all told our stories about the exiting climbing day. Everyone felt good about their climbs, and Wendy in particular should be congratulated. This was her first time belaying a lead climb and in

seconding a lead. She did a great job. It wasn't too late that evening when we all crawled into our tents.



Neil Horn, chillin' with a can of Old Style. Seneca Rocks in the background.

John and Wendy were up early, packed up, and headed for home by 9:00AM. Neil and I were gone by 10, heading to our next adventure, and Jeff, Janet, and Mitch were leisurely packing up to leave.

Neil and I made the short drive over to Spruce Knob, the high point of West Virginia. It was a long, slow, rough drive, then an easy walk to the lookout tower on top. We then headed NE to Maryland's high point, Backbone Mt. This was a little more strenuous with a 1-1/2 mile hike in and 700' elevation gain. After taking pictures and hiking back, we found a beautiful State Park (New Germany) to stay in. Western Maryland is impressive, with its rolling hills, picturesque farms, and Amish farmers riding in their buggies. Neil said, "This could be Scotland". The next day we drove to PA to do its high point, Mt. Davis, which was another easy hike. After more pictures, we headed west and made it to another nice State Park (Dillon Lake) not far out of Zanesville. We went for a nice swim in the warm large Dillon Lake. The next day was an easy drive home.

Thanks Jamie. Looks like the Memorial Day weekend to Seneca Rocks may turn into an annual trip for those of you interested next year.

2007 Board Nominations

Any CMC member interested in being more involved with the Club and serving on the Board is encouraged to contact one of the current Board members and attend the upcoming Board and General Meetings. At the October meeting, President Matt Mead will create a committee to find nominees for the various 2007 Board positions. These nominees will be announced at the November General Meeting. Also, additional nominations can be made from the floor at the November meeting by any current CMC member.

Uncontested office nominees will be declared elected by acclamation by the President. If there are two or more candidates for any given office at the November meeting, the President will appoint an election committee to conduct an election by mailed ballot.

For information on the various Board positions and their duties, please see the 2006 Yearbook or contact the current board members.

Remaining Autumn Outings

There are still several Devil's Lake Outings left, folks. Don't miss out. These weekends often provide the best climbing of the year with dry air, cool quartzite, and a view of the park in its colorful autumn glory.

The September 23-24 Outing was fairly sparsely attended due to the weather forecast. Jamie Norris reports there were 13 climbers in a single group who climbed at Elephant Rocks on Saturday. Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day, and 15 climbers went to the Balanced Rock wall. Jamie reports they stayed late and enjoyed the day.

CMC Open Outings

These outings are open to all. Everyone is welcome.

Oct 21-22: Devil's Lake

CMC Member Outings

These outings are for CMC members and their invited guests.

Oct 7-8: Devil's Lake

Nov 4-5: Shawnee National Forest

Adventures with Alex

Hideo Watanabe and Dan Czolek were the latest beneficiaries of Alex Andrew's move to Colorado....



Climber whac-a-mole? Dan and Alex, Garden of the Gods, CO. H. Watanabe photo.



A happy Hideo Watanabe on Rebuffet's Arete, 5th pitch of Rewritten in Eldorado Canyon, CO. Photo by A. Andrews.

"In mid-September, Dan Czolek and I traveled to Colorado to climb. We stayed with Alex Andrews for about a week. The three of us climbed a different area every day, including South Platte, Eldorado Canyon, Boulder Canyon, and Garden of the Gods, Red Rock Canyon. Many of the climbs were quite different from Devil's Lake's climbs. The rock formations and rock texture are different. The rocks stick to your shoes, and I was not used to that. I had to trust my feet more.

We climbed such classic climbs as the Bastille Crack at Eldorado and Montezuma Tower at the Garden of the Gods, where the rock formations are very unique. They looked like a Disneyland for rock climbers.

The most unforgettable climb for me was The Whistle Stop 5.9- (Eldo) one-pitch climb. The top half is a flat face climb like a combination of Stinger, Wiessner Face, and Pillow's Edge at Devil's Lake, but longer. Dark clouds and rain made the climb feel more exciting. I enjoyed the trip very much, and am grateful for Alex's hospitality and climbing help."

-Hideo Watanabe

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NEWSLETTER: Please submit your comments, announcements, outings or personal climbing reports, items of interest, ephemera, or questions to the Editor: Robert White at 1845 N. Orleans Street, Apt. 2R, Chicago, IL 60614 or e-mail: cmcsecretary@cmcwebsite.org. Also, please contact me if your newsletter was damaged in the mail and you would like a fresh copy sent.

Devil's Lake 'Climbing' Fatality

Editor's Note: These were inexperienced scramblers with no protective gear, ropes, etc., and not in any way associated with the CMC.

BARABOO (AP) - The victim of a fatal fall at Devil's Lake State Park was identified Tuesday as a Waukesha man.

Kevin Gaynor, 24, was rock climbing with another person around 4:30 p.m. Saturday when he fell on the park's East Bluff, according to the Baraboo District Ambulance Service.

Capt. Kristine Snow, the district's public information officer, said the two were inexperienced climbers and had no climbing gear.

Members of the Rope Rescue Division - composed of fire departments from Baraboo, Merrimac and Prairie du Sac - responded to the call and found Gaynor unconscious, not breathing and without a pulse. They were not able to revive him.

Steve Schmelzer, assistant park superintendent, said the death is the first fatality at the park this year.

Published: September 20, 2006

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