



# Chicago Mountaineering Club

**The next CMC Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2003, 6:30 PM at the Goose Island Brewery, 1800 N Clybourn Ave., Chicago, IL (312) 915-0071.**

**The next CMC General Meeting will be on Monday, November 10, 2003, at 8:00 PM** at the Goose Island Brewery. Alpinist Scott Backes will be presenting a twenty-five year odyssey on climbing.

*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.*

## Travels With Twilight And The Like

What has made a formerly marginal activity like climbing become such a touchstone today? Why do we see its images seemingly everywhere? How does climbing contribute to our culture today? When and why did all of this change? You'll be intrigued and your thoughts will be provoked with Scott Backes' approach to these questions.

Scott Backes is a flatlander; he has lived all his life in Minnesota. His list of first ascents, speed ascents and partners are well known to all those who aspire to alpinism. How is it possible for a man who lives in the Midwest to become one of the finest alpinists in the country? The mentors he encountered on his travels were to him, what made the transformation from Taylor's Falls top-roper to member of The North Face's climbing team possible. This show is dedicated to those mentors and their teachings.

Five seminal expeditions will be covered, each of which changed his life and his view of what was possible. Each of these trips helped him to understand the spiritual as well as the technical growth necessary for him to continue his travels down his path. The last section of the show is the trip that he believes was the culmination of all of his study. In the first summer of our new millennium Scott Backes traveled to Alaska to put his ideals and beliefs into action. On Mt McKinley, together with Steve House and Mark Twilight, he climbed the hardest route on the mountain. The trio climbed the 9,000-foot "Czech Direct" route with no tent or sleeping bags in a 60-hour continuous push. Overhanging rock

and ice, difficult mixed terrain and no sleep made this ascent mythic. Join with Scott as he takes you on a twenty-five year odyssey of success, failure and, most importantly discovery.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

With this newsletter, we introduce Conservation Corner. In this column the CMC's Conservation Chair will report on news concerning access to climbing areas and the quality of our environment.

### MOUNT RAINIER COMMERCIAL GUIDING PLAN

The National Park Service has issued a draft plan governing commercial services that guide climbers on Mount Rainier. Comments on the Mount Rainier Commercial Services Plan 2003 will be received through November 25, 2003. The draft plan can be viewed at <http://www.nps.gov/mora/current/CSP.pdf>, and comments should be sent to:

CSP Comments  
Mount Rainier National Park  
Tahoma Woods Star Route  
Ashford, WA 98304-9751

The plan presents four alternatives. The alternative preferred by the NPS would exclude commercial guides from the Liberty Ridge, Sunset Ridge (including Puyallup Glacier), Sunset Amphitheater, Tahoma Glacier and South Mowich Glacier routes during the summer climbing season. Only independent climbers would be allowed on the Emmons and Kautz routes on Friday and Saturday nights. It would also allow three commercial guiding services to operate on the mountain, and would provide 18 single-trip guiding permits per year for independent AMGA/UIAGM certified guides. All four alternatives call for a 50% reduction in guided spots.

The CMC does not intend to submit formal comments, and endorses no particular alternative.

### ACCESS FUND ENDANGERED CLIMBING AREAS LIST

The Access Fund maintains a list of endangered climbing areas at <http://www.accessfund.org/endangered/index.html>. Go take a look!

Steve Broadie  
Conservation Chair

## *Note from The President*

*Dear Fellow CMCer;*

Our thanks go out to Dmitry Eremin for his impromptu presentation during our October General Meeting, when our scheduled presenter was forced to cancel at the last minute (Eric Schmitter, the Chicago Marmot Rep, has rescheduled, and will instead be presenting on Marmot's top of the line alpine tents and sleeping bags at our December General Meeting). Dmitry stepped up to the plate and shared his photos and experiences of his recent trip to Bolivia. Thanks for coming through for us Dmitry!

Just because there's a chill in the air is no reason to hibernate! There's still lots of climbing and climbing-related activities in and around town. For instance, Vertical Endeavors in Warrenville has a standing invitation to all CMC Members to climb at their spectacular facility for only \$10! And don't forget our monthly General Meetings, the next of which will be on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Renowned alpinist Scott Backes will be presenting. For more on what Scott plans to present, see "Travels With Twilight And The Like" in this month's Newsletter. Then, there's our upcoming outing (November 8-9) to Jackson Falls and Draper's Bluffs in southern Illinois. These are two of the best climbing areas in the mid-west, and the weather there is typically great for climbing at this time of the year. The areas offer both sport and traditional routes, and can be quite challenging. Since it's a 6-hour drive, you will probably want to share the ride (and check the weather forecasts). To share a ride, log on to the Club website, then go to Discussion Groups, Climber's Café, and the topic SHARE A RIDE TO JACKSON FALLS.

### *Pray For Ice!*

We're hoping for a good (that means cold) winter so we'll be able to get in some ice climbing this season. The Club is planning at least one outing to the Ice Pit, near Appleton, where beginning and seasoned climbers can get their feet wet (and cold) climbing in this top-rope-only converted gravel quarry. Another surprisingly good place for ice climbing is Starved Rock State Park, near Ottawa, a mere 2 hour's drive from Chicago. For more ice climbing destinations in the mid-west, stay tuned to [www.climbingcentral.com](http://www.climbingcentral.com) and [www.cmcwebsite.org](http://www.cmcwebsite.org) for more details.

Climb On!

Danny Bobrow

## Past Outings

### August 30 - September 1 – Devil's Lake, WI

An Account by Bill Dietrich

We had lovely early fall weather all three days for the people who came up for the Labor Day Outing. The road in was rutted considerably as 3" of rain had been dumped Thursday night. A reasonably sized group appeared up north, and I counted 30 people on Sunday. I split the parties up into 3 Saturday, but the leaders all went to one place-- Reclining Tower. As a result of this, and the size of the area, there were too many people and too few ropes up. Also the descent to the base of Reclining Tower is VERY dangerous-- but there were no problems. Sunday, there were 4 leader parties, and two areas were visited-- Weissner's Wall (for the stronger parties), and Hollywood and Vine (which really does not have much below 5.7 either). Monday, the few remaining climbers were guided to the Blade for another nice day. Everyone climbed late.

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

An Account by Jochen Bachmann

We were gifted with short sleeve weather on Saturday. Climbing took place at February and September walls. After all the easier routes at February wall had been climbed, the group began to concentrate on the harder routes close to the access path of the wall. Here it showed that this day was meant to be a very successful climbing day for the women. All the newer outing members like Delia, Meenakshi, Leena, Lisa and Virginia could successfully climb at least two of these harder routes in this section. Due to the close proximity between the two walls later in the day some people moved over to September wall and vice versa to work out their forearms even more. After a chilly night we did split up in two groups, one group climbing at the Minor / Major Mass rocks and the other group headed to the Horse Rampart. Unfortunately the Horse Rampart was already taken, which let us move one massif down the slope to Birthday Rocks. Here we hung ropes on the legendary Birthday Crack and Caesarian Tower, which proved to be difficult to master once again.

### October 11 - 12– Devil's Lake, WI

An Account by Jochen Bachmann

With the trees in autumn colors, Ron and Jamie's group of 12 participants planned to make another attempt, the second this season, to climb at Misery Rocks. On the approach, the group stopped at Stettner Rocks since it was not in use by another party. Under perfect autumn conditions the group had plenty to work on with the Mantle Shelf and the Beastly Bulge. The second group, lead by Olle and Jochen and consisted of a dozen plus climbers, decided to climb at The Pantry where the usual suspects, Special K, Pantry Shelf, and Bread Board, kept everyone busy. After a rainy Saturday evening we woke up to a clear sky on Sunday. Again the two dozen participants were split up into two groups. The first group got unintentionally divided. One part of that group

climbed at the intended Hole in the Wall area. The other part of the group was said to have climbed at an undisclosed location/new climbing area. The second group chose an easy approach to the Guillotine Wall to visit some of the classic routes such as Annie's Overhang, Slippery Start, Levitation, and the rewarding balance climb of Beginner's Face.

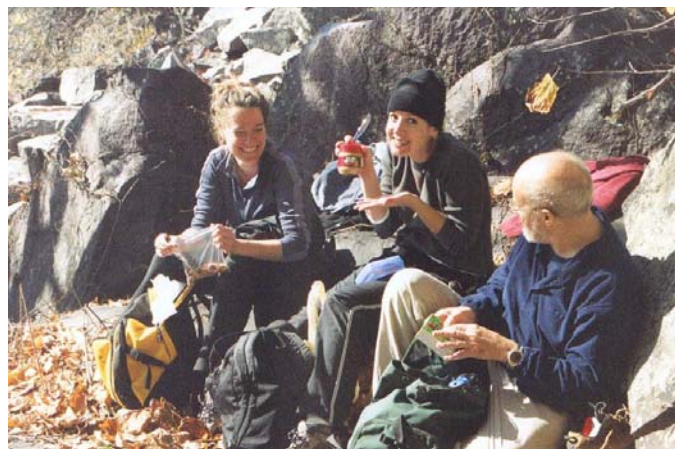
### October 25 - 26– Devil's Lake, WI

An Account by Jamie Norris



Rod, Julia and Aimee enjoying the view.  
Photo by George Naxera

The rain ended around 9:00 PM Friday. We woke up Saturday to a beautiful sunny frosty morning. At 8:30 we had 12 climbers, but by 9:30 there were 25. We split up into 2 groups: 10 climbers with 6 ropes started for Aladdin's Castle and 15 climbers carrying 10 ropes headed to Vulture Lookout. It turned out to be a perfect day, and with the south facing climbs, many were climbing in T-shirts. The trees were in full color and the valley below was stunning. At Vulture Lookout, "shoeless" Mike Nelson provided the entertainment and more than a few laughs. Sunday morning was again quite cool with no sunshine to warm things up. Several people left early while others went for a long hike, and 5 determined climbers went to the Balanced Rock area for a few climbs followed a hike. The rock was a bit cold on the hands on Sunday. This was the last scheduled outing for Devil's Lake this year.



Julia reveals her secret for maximizing friction... peanut butter!!  
Photo by George Naxera

**From:**

**Chicago Mountaineering Club**

C/O Steve Capps

PO Box 4364

Wheaton, IL 60189-4364

**TO:**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**2004 CMC Board Nominations**

The Nomination Committee, composed of Tom Kaus, Nick Browne, and Jim Considine, has submitted the following slate of candidates for the 2004 term. Approval of the 2004 CMC Board members will take place at the December meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, or be nominated for an elected office, please contact a member of the Nomination Committee. Additional nominations for all elected offices may be made from the floor of the nominating meeting (part of the November 10, 2003 general meeting), and no other names shall be added to the ballot thereafter.

***Elected Offices***

**President** - Dan Bobrow  
**Vice President** - Matt Mead  
**Secretary** - Open  
**Treasurer** - Ron Rolnicki  
**Sergeant-at-Arms** - Open  
**Program Chair** - Randy West  
**Publications Chair** - Open  
**Outings Chair** - Jamie Norris  
**Director (thru 2005)** - Pieter Fockens

**CMC Scheduled Activities**

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

**November 16 – Vertical Endeavors, IL**  
(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

**November 30 – Vertical Endeavors, IL**  
(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

**December 14 – Vertical Endeavors, IL**  
(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

**CMC Scheduled Meetings**

**November 10, 2003 - CMC General Meeting**  
• Board Member Nominations  
• Scott Backes - Alpinist  
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

**December 8, 2003 - CMC General Meeting**  
• Board Member Elections  
• Eric Schmitter - Chicago Marmot Rep  
Goose Island Brewery - 1800 N Clybourn Ave

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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.