



Chicago Mountaineering Club

The next CMC General Meeting will be on **Monday, December 8, 2003, at 8:00 PM.** Eric Schmitter, Chicago area Product Representative for Marmot, will be flaunting some of the latest Marmot gear.

The next CMC Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 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 is now held on the SECOND Monday (Please note the day & location change) of each month, September through May. Everyone is welcome. The General Meeting is preceded by the Board meeting, which convenes at 6:30 p.m., and is also open to the public.

2004 CMC Board Elections

Following is the slate of officers for 2004 submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Elected Offices

- President** - Danny Bobrow
- Vice President** - Matt Mead
- Secretary** - Steve Broadie
- Treasurer** - Ron Rolnicki
- Sergeant-at-Arms** - Open
- Program Chair** - Randy West
- Publications Chair** - Open
- Outings Chair** - Jamie Norris
- Director (thru 2005)** - Pieter Fockens
- Director (thru 2006)** - Bill Dietrich
- Director (thru 2007)** - Chris Young

The election will be held at December's General Meeting

Membership

Please welcome the following CMC Members:

Sara Selergren, Chicago, IL
Robert White, Chicago, IL

First readings for: Virginia Norton of Chicago, IL; Ronn Fieldhouse of Rockford, IL; Scott Lawley of Marengo, IL; and Jeff Dull of Elkhart, IN took place at the November meeting with second readings scheduled for December.

Membership Renewal Forms

For your convenience, a personalized renewal form has been included with this month's newsletter. Please take a moment to review the information, and return any corrections, along with your dues for 2004, to the Vice President. Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated!

Do you have any pictures you would like to see on the CMC web site? Please include them with your renewal.

Tri Cams

Thank you Mike Wilson, James Pasterczyk, and Carol Garfinkel for bringing the following topics to our attention.

Tri Cam Defect Notice

CAMP USA has entered into a voluntary recall for 1.5 Tri Cams with visual cracks occurring from the pin housing area to the edge. CAMP USA is asking all consumers who have purchased Tri Cams to inspect the Brown size 1.5 with a lot allocation of "2G." The size can be identified through the description of each product, which has been permanently sewn to the webbing of each Tri Cam. The lot number can be identified through an etching on the side of each product.

The defect is a hairline crack, which has occurred around the pin housing located near the webbing that is fixed to the Tri Cam.

CAMP inspects all Tri Cams prior to shipping and suggests all consumers inspect merchandise prior to purchase.

CAMP USA has entered into a voluntary recall for the size 1.5 Tri Cam. Please inspect all 1.5 Tri Cams and contact CAMP to replace all cracked size 1.5 Tri Cams free of charge. Please call CAMP USA for a return authorization number as well as shipping instructions at 877-421-2267.

To see a picture, visit
<http://www.camp-usa.com/tricamnotice.aspx>

The Pink Tri Cam Fan Page

To experience Ode to a Pink Tricam, visit
<http://fuse.pha.jhu.edu/~danforth/climb/sinkthepink.html>

Profiles in Climbing

Interview by Danny Bobrow

Earl Clark is one of 35 founding Members of the Chicago Mountaineering Club. We spoke via telephone on November 19th.

Q: Who and what influenced you to get involved climbing?

A: I graduated from Roosevelt High School in Chicago in 1936. Upon graduation, I lived at the Lawson "Y" on Chicago Avenue. I washed dishes there, for which they gave me a room. In June of that year, I became involved with the Boy Scouts of America, Logan Square Troop. There were 3 Junior Leaders, who tutored and mentored me to become an eagle scout. It was a tremendously positive experience for me, and one which got me interested in the outdoors

Q: How did you make your way out West?

A: I wanted to see the West, so I hitchhiked to CO. My first stop was Rocky Mountain Natl. Park. I climbed Longs Peak, Twin Sisters, and two or three other peaks. Actually, they were just hikes. But this whetted my appetite, so I Hitchhiked to Jenny Lake, and spent the summer in the Tetons.

Q: What was hitchhiking like back then?

A: It was easy, because I wore my Boy Scout Uniform. It only took me four rides to get from Chicago to Denver.

Q: Where did you stay while in the Tetons?

A: I met Paul Petzholdt, who put me up in the Teepee by the Lake, just behind the ranger station. My first climbs were, again, really only hikes: Storm Point and Symmetry Spire, then Mt. Teewinot, my first true "mountain." Next I did the Grand via the Owens Spalding Route twice, was 17 at the time. Three years later, in 1939, I returned to work for Harrison Crandall, who received a commission from Duke University, to photograph mountain wildflowers. I actually got paid for doing what I loved!

Q: How did you become involved with the CMC?

A: I broadened my experience throughout the summer of 1939. I climbed the Mid-Teton, Mt. Owen, The Grand several more times, including the Southwest Ridge. I met some of the people who would later become part of the CMC, including Joe and Peggy Hawkes, and Harold "Hal" Johnson. I climbed a lot with Hal, as well as with Margaret Smith, one of the first female Teton Climbers. Of course, at this time, the CMC was yet to be formed.

I returned to Chicago in the fall. Sometime mid-winter of '40, I got a call from Hal Johnson. He

had learned that some guys were trying to put together a club in Chicago, and an organizational meeting was to be held.

Q: Where was that?

A: On April 24, 1940 at the Union League Club. Jack Gorby's book on the Stettners goes into some detail on this. Thirty-five people attended this first meeting. The climbers introduced themselves and shared experiences which, in general, were modest. These were the Charter Members of the Club among whom were the Fralicks and the Plumleys

Q: Why a mountaineering club in the Midwest?

A: The first thing that came out of the meeting was to recognize that "We're in Chicago! Where can we go to climb, or at least practice climbing, and have Companionship? So we began going to Mississippi Palisades and Devil's Lake.

Q: How did you learn of these places?

A: No idea. One of these people must have known of it. Our main interest was in developing and honing skills relating to rope work, such as rappelling and belaying, to keep us fresh.

Q: Earlier you mentioned the Stettners. When did they first make an appearance?

A: It was maybe a year before we finally made contact with Paul and Joe Stettner. I believe our first meeting was at the Palisades. Their reputations preceded them, as they were some of the most outstanding climbers of the time, having done a first ascent (Stettner Ledges) on Longs Peak, not to mention their climbing in Europe. Like the rest of us, they enjoyed sitting and singing around the campfire at night following a good day of climbing. I also skied a good bit with them, to such places as Rib Mountain in Wausau, WI.

Q: What were some of the early trips done by the CMC?

A: in '41 I decided to return to the Tetons and set up a high mountain ski camp at Alaska Basin. We skied all over the back side of the Tetons. Then, on June 25, Paul Petzholdt, Harold Plumley, Joe Hawkes and myself made the first ascent of Mt. Moran via what is now known as The CMC Route.

Q: I'm curious to know what your family thought about all this climbing you were doing.

A: In the early days, my mother was very concerned. I weighed only 118 lbs, and was 5.6. But I was a "rubber band," quite muscular for a small man so climbing came easily for me.

Q: How has climbing changed since the 40s, for instance, the clothing and gear?

A: My last climb was the Matterhorn in '63, but I've kept up with developments. The gear and clothing are now far beyond anything we knew or could have imagined. Our "gear" was a hemp rope. Nylon did not make its appearance until after World War II. Ropes were 120 feet long. We had two sorts of pitons; vertical and horizontal, one type of carabiner: heavy! We carried European ice axes. The U.S. manufacturers attempted to copy them, but they were terrible, often snapping off at the top of the handle, so we stayed with the European versions. The U.S. stuff only became decent after the Tenth Mountain Division was formed, and the first ones we got were still inferior. By the way, the first nylon rope ever used for climbing was also developed for the Tenth.

Q: Tell me more about the Tenth Mountain Division.

A: In the summer of '41, the decision was made to create a 1000 man "experiment." The 87th Mountain Infantry Battalion, based at Ft. Lewis, WA. It was created at the urging of General George Marshall. The Army was persuaded of the need for such a force, as Germany had a cadre of fine mountaineers with high morale, as did Italy. Now, Marshall had no idea where they'd come from, so he made three organizations responsible for recruiting: the National Ski Patrol, American Alpine Club and National Ski Association. This was the first time civilian agencies were authorized to recruit for the military.

Q: What were criteria to be considered for this Battalion?

A: Applicants had to send three letters of recommendation attesting to your abilities at climbing and skiing. If they thought you had the right stuff, papers were sent to the War Department, and orders were cut. Then you began your basic training. I was 22 years old. I knew I likely had a military life ahead of me, and this was the unit I want to be in. On November 11, 1941, twenty-two days prior to Pearl Harbor, I received my notice to report. I took my basic training as a private in the infantry. Because of my Scouting background, etc. military life was easy for me. I was soon accepted to the Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA. By October, I was back with the 87th as a Second Lieutenant. In August, 1943, I was part of the attack on Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. While in the Aleutians, the Tenth was created at Mt. Hale, CO. In December, 1943, I went to Italy.

Q: Is this when the Tenth distinguished itself at Reva Ridge?

A: Yes. The Nazis' key mountain defensive position was on Mt. Belvedere in Italy. Adjacent to it was

a five-peak ridge we called Reva Ridge. In the Battle of Reva Ridge, the Tenth sent 1200 men at night up ropes in winter to attack the Germans from the rear. My group was involved with the attack on Mt. Belvedere. It should be noted that it was the climbing skills of the men of the Tenth, not skiing, that was responsible for most of their achievements.

Q: What did you do after the war?

A: After the war I spent 6 months in Chicago, but could not stay away from the mountains. While still single, I came to Denver and continued to climb all over Colorado. I wound up getting married to Betty. Now, "roughing it" for us is slow room service. My last ascent with Betty was on the Exum Ridge in 1962. We were almost killed on the Ridge, what with the lightning and no place to hide. As you know, a couple of people were killed on that route earlier this year. That was Betty's first, and last, technical climb.

About a year ago, while attending the American Alpine Club meeting, I was advised that Glen Exum had moved just one block from me in Denver. We met up, but Glen died shortly thereafter. I still keep in touch with his widow.

Q: Could you share with us what lessons the mountains have taught you?

A: The entire sport of mountaineering brings one closer to the greatest challenges one can have. Man against mountain. For instance, it's often said of Mt. Everest that she is never conquered, she simply allows you to live. So climbing can give one a healthy perspective on his place in the universe. But the achievements are everlasting. What you've done stays with you for a lifetime. The companionship and camaraderie are wonderful.

Incidentally, It was love of the mountains that held the people of the Tenth Mountain Division together after the war, not the war itself, not the memories of battle. I know this is true because, at one time, we were the largest association of a deactivated unit in history.

Q: But the Tenth is now back.

A: That's right. In 1985, it was brought back on line. In fact, as we speak 7,000 of them are on the Afghan border, working in rough terrain at 9,000 to 13,000 feet elevation against the Taliban; a talented, vicious adversary.

On a personal note: in 1999, I traveled to Ft. Drum, NY and was made honorary Colonel of the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment, one of the regiments of the new Tenth Mountain Division.

On behalf of the CMC, I want to thank you for sharing your memories with us.

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

TO:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

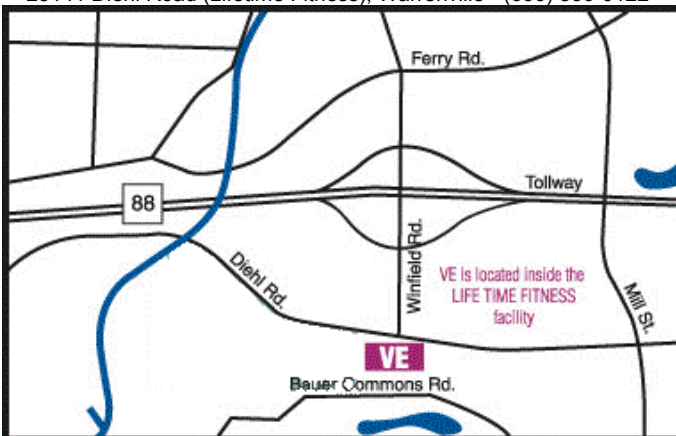
FIRST CLASS MAIL

CMC Scheduled Activities

December 14 – Vertical Endeavors, IL

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

28141 Diehl Road (Lifetime Fitness), Warrenville - (630) 836-0122



Please be prepared to present your CMC Membership Card at the entrance of Lifetime Fitness for Vertical Endeavors events. During CMC scheduled dates, family and friends can climb for the \$10 price when accompanied by a card-carrying CMC Member.

January 11 – Vertical Endeavors, IL

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

January 25 – Vertical Endeavors, IL

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

February 8 – Vertical Endeavors, IL

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

February 22 – Vertical Endeavors, IL

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

March 27 – CMC Annual Dinner

March 28 – Vertical Endeavors, IL

(10:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Cost \$10 w/ CMC Membership Card)

79 for \$379

Vertical Endeavors is proud to announce a new Punch Card program. 79 for \$379!!! What does this mean? You can get 79 visits at Vertical Endeavors for only \$379 + tax. Do the math. That's only \$4.80 a visit! Set yourself up for the next year of rock climbing, or give this gift to a friend for the holidays. For more information, or to take advantage of this great deal, call Vertical Endeavors-Warrenville, IL at 630.836.0122 or stop in today!

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 (100 words or less please), for possible publication.