



Chicago Mountaineering Club

The next CMC General Meeting will be Monday, December 10th, 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 7:45pm. 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



Granite Peak. Photo by J. Norris.

December 10th, 8:00pm: 3 for 1. Outings Chair Jamie Norris will give a short presentation on his climb of Granite Peak, the high point of the state of Montana. Conservation Chair Keith Bielat will present some photos of sport climbs at Red Rocks, Nevada, from this past summer. And reportedly Steve Capps will also give a short presentation.

January 14th, 8:00pm: Rocky Mountain National Park Classics. Aaron Smith, Devin Strickland, and Rob White will give a presentation on their exciting

June 2007 climb of the South Face of the Petit Grepon. Dave Kenealy and Rob will also give a short presentation on their 2007 80th anniversary climb of Longs Peak via Stettner's Ledges (first climbed by the Stettner brothers in 1927) on the lower east face.

If you would like to give a presentation this winter or next spring, please contact the new Programs Chair Devin Strickland at cmcprograms@cmcwebsite.org.

A Letter from the Joint Farm Committee of the Mountaineering Foundation of Chicago and the Chicago Mountaineering Club to the Membership of the CMC

Dear CMC Members,

Most of you are likely aware of the ongoing discussion over what to do with our 122 acre "farm" near Devil's Lake State Park (DLSP). The farm, located east of Route 12, north of Ski High Road, and west of South Shore Road, is outside of the current boundaries of DLSP and is entirely separate from the CMC campground. On November 19, 2007 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) accelerated the pace of this discussion by formally offering to purchase the farm for \$585,300. Because this offer is contingent on federal funds and will expire at the end of this year, we must respond to it unusually quickly.

While we had been in contact with the DNR concerning their interest in the farm, we were surprised by the timing of the offer and short window for acceptance. Nevertheless, it is a very attractive offer and is worthy of serious consideration. The decision to accept or decline it is of great importance to our club, and your views about this matter are important to the respective boards of the CMC and the Mountaineering Foundation of Chicago (MFC). The MFC intends to make a final decision about the matter shortly after the CMC board meeting on Monday, December 10, 2007. Accordingly, whatever thoughts you wish to share about this matter must be conveyed to the Joint Farm Committee or the MFC or CMC boards before or at this meeting.

The MFC, being the legal owner of the CMC campground and farm, has full rights and obligations regarding these properties. During the past several years, as a Joint Farm Committee of the CMC and MFC,

we have explored a number of options with respect to this farm. This committee is comprised of Devin Strickland, Karen Gisburne and Mike Burian representing the CMC, and Jack Gorby, Pieter Fockens and Ron Rolnicki representing the MFC. By forming this committee, openly sharing all data, and actively soliciting the opinions of the CMC membership, the MFC has demonstrated its commitment to furthering the goals and preferences of the CMC.

The farm was purchased in the 1970s with funds obtained from the sale of the forested land surrounding the campground to State of Wisconsin. The purchase was considered to be a good investment and a possible alternative campground in the event that the state decided to condemn the current one. (For the purposes of this discussion, to "condemn" a property only means to acquire it by power of eminent domain.) To minimize the tax burden associated with this land, 74 acres were enrolled in the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Program. Pursuant to this program, by about 2020 the MFC will be required to begin harvesting timber on these acres. Because logging activities would be an unwelcome administrative burden to the club and its officers, we have examined alternatives to this arrangement. These alternatives include, but are not limited to, selling the property to the highest bidder, selling the development rights to a conservation organization while retaining the property, and selling the rights and the property separately.

To inform these discussions, we retained Greenwood/Taapken Appraisers to determine the value of the farm and Clark Forestry to report on the state and value of the timber on the farm. In brief, the appraisal values the farm to be worth \$576,000 of which \$252,000 is for development rights and \$324,000 for the farm without development rights. The timber, though immature, is valued at \$32,000. In general, this amount was included in the farm appraisal. Recall that the DNR offer, at \$585,300, is nearly \$10,000 higher than the total appraisal.

The farm was purchased, in part, as a hedge against the possibility that the State of Wisconsin will choose to take the campground by condemnation. Naturally, we remain concerned about this possibility. However, neither the farm nor the campground can be protected from the state exercising this power. By making us an offer on the farm, the DNR has clearly shown an interest in it. Indeed, Pam Phelan, the DNR representative who communicated the offer, intimated plans to expand DLSP westward towards Route 12. Apparently the farm is of greater interest to the state than the campground. This realization impacts upon our examination of the merits of accepting or declining the DNR offer.

Factors favoring the sale of the farm to the DNR:

- The sale would generate \$585,300, \$10,000 greater than the appraised value.

- Sale to the DNR would be compatible with the environmental values of the CMC and MFC, and would preclude a future sale to a private developer.

- The sale would relieve the obligation to harvest timber on the property.

- The sale would eliminate the \$1,500 per year tax burden on the farm.

- The sale would help improve our relations with DLSP and the DNR.

- The sale may allow for expansion of the existing campground by way of a land trade or agreement.

- A campground on the farm would likely cost upwards of \$30,000. This cost would be prohibitive and lessens the value as an alternative to the current site.

Factors favoring retention of the farm:

- The farm would be available as an alternative campground. But, as discussed above, this availability is far from certain.

- Land increases in value and is generally a good investment.

- Beginning around 2020, an estimated \$1,500 to \$2,500 annual net income may be earned from logging.

The farm, therefore, represents a current financial burden on the club as well as a future administrative burden. While these burdens will be somewhat offset by future revenue, logging the property will be an obligation, and the CMC and MFC would not willingly choose this activity as a source of income. Should the state take the campground by condemnation, the farm might be available as an alternative. Again, this is not a safe assumption given what we know about the plans of the DNR. By making an offer on the farm, the DNR has clearly shown an interest in it. Selling the farm now would be an expression of goodwill towards the DNR and its goals. Of course, it would also generate a lot of money for the club. Placing the money into a conservatively managed trust could be expected to generate \$30,000 per year in interest, or 2-3 times the current annual budget of the CMC. Undoubtedly this money could be creatively used to expand the program of the CMC and to further Midwestern climbing interests, as the MFC charter provides. To further improve our relationship with the DNR and DLSP, part of the revenue could be donated to DLSP on a one-time or annual basis.

For these reasons, the MFC board and the Joint Farm Committee are leaning toward accepting the DNR offer. However, we are eager to hear the thoughts of the CMC membership before taking any action. In this spirit, you are encouraged to give this opportunity thought, discuss it with fellow members and express your views about the farm. To provide you with

greater detail and information, the member's section of the CMC website <www.cmcwebsite.org> includes 1) a longer statement by the Joint Committee that discusses history, options and pros and cons of these options; 2) the Greenwood/Taapken land appraisal; and 3) Clark Forestry's timber report. Please look into these details and express your views to Joint Farm Committee members, or to any of your friends on the CMC or MFC boards. These views should be communicated before or at the next CMC board meeting on December 10, 2007, at which time the CMC board will discuss the matter and make a recommendation to the MFC. The MFC will make its decision immediately afterward. If you have questions, please contact a Joint Committee member. Again, if you feel that you need more information before reaching an opinion, please ask a Joint Committee member or visit the members section of the CMC website.

Berg Heil,
Jack and Devin

for the CMC/MFC Joint Farm Committee:
Jack Gorby
Pieter Fockens
Ron Rolnicki
Mike Burian
Devin Strickland
Karen Gisburne

Proposed 2008 CMC Board of Directors

Following is the proposed slate for the CMC Board of Directors for 2008, as developed by the nominating committee of Jamie Norris (Chair), Karen Gisburne, and Rob White.

PROPOSED SLATE:

President	Mike Burian
Vice President	Dave Kenealy
Secretary	Karen Gisburne
Treasurer	Steve Broadie
Sgt At Arms	Jim Considine
Outings	Jamie Norris
Programs	Devin Strickland
Publications	George Naxera
Director (2010)	Bill Dietrich

RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS:

Grounds	Todd Cornilsen
Safety	Rob White
Conservation	Keith Beilat
Expedition	TBD

ALSO:

Technology	Matt Mead
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CONTINUING TERMS:

Director (2009)	Matt Mead
Director (2008)	Pieter Fockens

Thanks to Keith Beilat for this trip report:
"First off....The weather was GORGEOUS!!!! Sunny for the whole weekend. Not too terribly cold overnight either. It didn't get much below 35 on only one of the nights.

For Friday and Saturday, we climbed right at Jackson Falls. The main group spent most of its time split between Spleef Rock and the routes towards Dog Walk Gully. There were a few people who did their first sport leads and rope transfers those two days. We pretty much had the place to ourselves on Friday, and we didn't miss many climbs on Saturday either. We lead, set, or TR'ed just about all of the moderate sport routes south of the main falls area.

On Sunday we went to Drapers and I am happy to say that as of 3:15 when we left....there were no confrontations with anyone whatsoever!!! (Those from last year will know what I mean!!) Again some people did their first sport leads... and I believe all got their fill of So IL sandstone.

Jamie and Todd cooked up quite a feast on Friday night. Chili and Cornbread... YUM!!!! Some of us also brought Cheese and Crackers and other cold salads..... it was a regular Smorgasbord!!! There was more than enough to go around and everyone who showed up that night was well feed indeed!!! Thanks to Jamie and Todd and anyone else who brought a dish!!

Many stories were flying about at the campfires. I think all of us will think twice before we get on a wave-runner again. Thanks Todd!!! ;-) Oh...and next time your on belay and someone yells "Hey...look at the beaver!!" they really do mean the small furry mammal with the pointed teeth and flat tail!!! Thanks Jen!!!! ;-) I don't know if I'm more sore from climbing, or laughing!!!

No Police blotter stories to tell about Karen's B-Day (Again, those from last year will know what I am talking about!!).... but the cake and strawberries where GREAT!!!

But as they say.... what's said at the campfire, stays at the campfire!!! You'll just have to get one of us liquored up one night at the campground and we might let slip a few stories!!!!"

News and Notices

Congratulations to George Naxera for having his first photograph published in a national magazine. His shot of Gannett Peak from Ink Wells Trail was the published in the American Surveyor magazine (a national geology publication). This is George's first published photo, but it is no surprise to those of us who have enjoyed his slide shows in recent years. Have a look: http://www.amerisurv.com/PDF/TheAmericanSurveyor_Penry-HenryGannett_November2007.pdf

From:
Chicago Mountaineering Club
c/o Robert White
1845 N. Orleans, Apt. 2R
Chicago, IL 60614

TO:

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. 2, Chicago, IL 60614 or e-mail: cmsecretary@cmwebsite.org. Also, please contact me if your newsletter was damaged in the mail and you would like a fresh copy sent.

Winter Indoor Outing Schedule

Yet once again folks, don't let sloth be your friend this winter. Give up those monkey hangs from the doorframe and come out to VE to climb. Indoor outings are held about twice a month during the winter, approximate start time is 10am. The outing destination is:

Vertical Endeavors
28141 Diehl Rd
Warrenville, Illinois
Admission is \$10 for CMCers, \$15 for non-members.
Remember to bring your membership card.

2007:

December 9
December 30

2008:

January 13
January 27
February 10
February 24
March 9
March 23
April 6

Thanks Jamie. If you have any questions on these outings you can contact the Outings Chair, Jamie Norris, at cmcoutings@cmwebsite.org

Teton Summit Registers

Teton climbing veterans Rod Harris and George Pokorny tipped us off on this great new resource for past Teton climbers. If you've reached the summit of any major Teton peaks through the years (prior to the mid 80s), you'll want to look into this.

From the AAC release... American Alpine Club member Paul Horton spearheaded a project to digitize summit registers from Grand Teton National Park and make them available online. Internet users can view pages of summit registers from the late 1920s into the 1980s, from all the major Teton summits. Search for your friends and famous climbers alike!

Check out the collection at www.tetonclimbinghistory.com.

Adventures in Travel Expo

Adventures in Travel Expo invites the Chicago Mountaineering Club to visit the largest active and adventure travel marketplace showcasing hundreds of travel destinations and tour operators from around the world. The Chicago show is January 26-27th at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center (formerly Rosemont Convention Center.) To receive FREE ADMISSION to the show, register at www.adventureexpo.com/consumer and enter PROMO CODE: CMC