

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Mountaineering - Skills | Experience | Fellowship

Admit One **Annual Dinner Tickets** Admit One
online w/ Eventbrite
CLICK HERE

Admit One **Annual Dinner Tickets** Admit One
print order form to mail
CLICK HERE



2018 Photo Contest

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Winners will earn valuable prizes, and their images and will be published with honor for posterity.

Votes will be cast by attendees to the 2018 Annual Dinner.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO

You can submit your digital images here:
secretary@chicagomountaineeringclub.org

Content is restricted this year. **Recent 2017 photos ONLY!** Images with some relation to the CMC and its activities are preferred. All photos will be printed in 8 x 10 format and mounted without identifying marks. No guaranty regarding color fidelity. Please submit only original images to which you personally own full copyrights.

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Upcoming Programs

February Board Meeting - Feb. 12th

Program will feature renowned mountaineer and CMC club vice President Gregg Kane. Gregg will be presenting a live report and showing video of his recent mountaineering trip on **volcanoes in Iceland** - Sjúmst þar

BOARD MEETINGS are held the **2nd Monday** of the month.

6:30 PM Board Meeting
(All members are welcome attend)

8:00 PM General Meeting

Skrine Chops - Forest Park

[CLICK HERE](#)

The following people have submitted New Membership Applications

- **Ilya Ziotnilv (Sp?)**

The Board has reviewed their applications, and they were given a "First Reading" during the January General Meeting.

"Second Reading"s were given for the following applicants:

- **Steven Witt**

He is now officially a member of the Chicago Mountaineering Club. Please welcome him!!

To apply for membership:

[CLICK HERE](#)

2018 Annual Dinner

Seth has done it AGAIN!!

This year's **Annual Dinner Speaker** will be



National Geographic Explorer

Mike Libecki

& his daughter Lilliana

at the **Brookfield Zoo**

For the price of one admission ticket, you get:

- Full access to the entire Brookfield Zoo - All day! Bring the kids!
- **FREE PARKING!**
- **FREE** Raffle ticket for awesome gear!
- Cash Bar with hors d'oeuvres!
- Silent Auction!
- Delicious catered meal and dessert!

To see a short video to find out more about Mike:

[CLICK HERE](#)



Mike and Lilliana Libeck



National Geographic Explorer Mike Libeck has a true obsession with exploring the most remote and harshest corners of the planet, from -67 degrees to 120 mph winds to polar bears attacking, he never knows what is next. He has completed more than 70 major expeditions all over the world with a goal of 100 expeditions, from Afghanistan to Antarctica, from Greenland to Guyana, from Siberia to Socotra Island and everywhere in between... **Why ration passion? The time is now!**

Mike:

My daughter turns 14 in a couple weeks. Soon we will be off to Peru for more humanitarian work and an attempt at her goal of climbing a 6,000-meter peak in South America. Lilliana is my favorite partner on adventures, and we have been thankful to travel far and wide, from near our home in the Wasatch Mountains to Yosemite, from Antarctica to Nepal and Africa. I never imagined that she would teach me so much.

I am reminded of another inspiring family member. In 1936, my grandfather Harold was also 14 years old, growing up on a farm in North Dakota. On a cool spring day at school in a small country classroom, he saw a picture of Yosemite National Park in a magazine and was instantly enchanted. He hitchhiked, rode trains, and walked many miles until he found himself among the majesty of Yosemite Valley! If it were not for my grandfather and his wanderlust, my family would not have grown up in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, just 30 miles from Yosemite National Park.

On my first climbing trip to Yosemite at 17 years old, I also became enchanted. I went to my grandmother (Harold's wife) to discuss my dilemma of wanting to leave college and climb every day. She said, "Michael, the time is now, and you must live right now; you have a passion and you must listen to it." I drove to Yosemite and never looked back. I lived in Yosemite and in my truck for the next five years. My climbing lifestyle became training for big first ascents all over the world.

I hope that I somehow inspire my daughter to love the mountains, and to find some of her greatest joys while high on summits, making sweet turns in powder snow, or during any joyous frolicking among steep nature. We have spent many days in the grandeur of Yosemite, where she learned to love steep walls and waterfalls. I am so grateful to my grandfather. Were it not for him, we may never have begun this family tradition of adventure, seeking out nature and new experiences with Mother Earth.

Lilliana:

Being in the mountains with my father is a chance for new opportunities. Breathing in the fresh air and listening to the organic, beautiful sounds of nature clears my mind, and I only think positive thoughts, such as how lucky we are to live this life. My dad is not only my dad, but also a reliable and fun adventure partner. He is constantly motivated, and there is never a boring moment when we are together.

With optimism comes patience and positive energy. When my dad and I were on our expedition in Antarctica, we were getting ready to ski down to penguins in hideous, howling winds, and my dad thought that he had lost one of his skins. He paced around looking for it, checked his pack a million times, and even said, "Well, I think we lost a skin, this should be interesting." I knew that it was in his pack, told him to look again, and there it was! Teamwork and optimism are everything.

My dad has taught me that when I go into the wilderness, prepared for adventure and mystery, I instantly become a happier, more productive person. Any chance you get to go outside—take it. It will be an eye opener. Whether you are an artist, a climber, a skier, a journalist, or anyone really, there is always something new to inhale in nature.

Gear Corner



Brand **NEW** Columbia Omni-heat
Youth Size "Bugaboot"
Size 4 -25 deg. F \$45
Contact: [Click Here](#)

Indoor Outings

Remember that in 2018 we will have indoor outings at **BOTH**:

- ◆ Vertical Endeavors in Glendale Hts
- ◆ First Ascent, Avondale.
- January 28
- February 11 & 25
- March 11 & 25
- April 8 & 22
- May 6 & 20

NOTE: *Chris Gregory* is the [Outings Chair](#). He can answer any questions you might have about CMC outings. Contact Chris at: outings@chicagomountaineeringclub.org

!! Time to Renew !!

2018 Membership Renewal Forms
are now available:
CLICK HERE

Note that convenient multi-year renewals are now possible!

Ice Climbing



Batchawana Bay, Ontario, Canada
February 15-19, 2018

"Annual February Follies" is traditionally President's Day weekend (most climbers drive up Thurs., climb Fri., Sat. and Sun. then drive home Monday). We are planning to stay at McCauleys Motel and Restaurant again in Havilland, ON. The phone number is 705-649-5813 to make a room reservation.

For more info:
CLICK HERE

Sandstone Ice Festival

Sue Gregory.

The 13th Annual Sandstone Ice Festival (<http://sandstoneicefest.com/>) was held January 5-6-7, 2018 (Friday thru Sunday) in Sandstone, Minnesota (population approximately 2800). The Festival takes place at the Robinson Quarry, where water is pumped onto the quarry walls so as to drip down to form ice climbing walls.

Thursday morning we (Jamie Norris, Brian Delaney: guest, Chris and Sue Gregory) left on our 7 hour drive to Hinckley, Minnesota where we stayed at the America's Best Hotel. That evening we met fellow Chicago Mountaineering Club (CMC) Members Jacek Witkos, Ian Burman, Kevin Roemer and Jeff Brath at the Squirrel Cage Bar and Grill in Willow River, Minnesota for an evening meal. The Squirrel Cage boasts a terrific prime rib sandwich and great local beers.

Friday morning we awoke to a balmy -13 degrees Fahrenheit, sunny conditions and an anticipated high of zero. We had breakfast at Cassidy's Restaurant, a brief walk across the parking lot from the hotel. Cassidy's serves huge portions, which is a good thing on a chilly morning.

We were the first to arrive at Robinson Quarry Friday morning. After strapping on crampons, we hiked up to the ridge of the quarry to hang our ropes. There are many bolted anchors which makes set-up incredible convenient. The climbing began shortly after 10 am and as other ice climbers arrived and hung ropes, more routes opened up. The ice was hard and brittle yet lots of fun. Later in the afternoon additional CMC Members, Anh Le and Joyce Chang, joined in the fun. As the sun began to set, we stopped in the town of Sandstone at the Gas Light Tavern to grab a beer and warm up a bit. The beer was good but the warm up was a bit challenging. The furnace had gone out, due to a frozen metal flue, and the furnace repairs were in the competition phase when we arrived. Since it was a Friday, we decide to travel to Crazy Mary's Café in Finlayson, MN for a Fish Fry. The fish, sweet potato tater tots, and chocolate cake were very good but unfortunately alcohol was not on the menu.

Saturday morning we awoke to a morning temperature of -22 degrees Fahrenheit with anticipated high of 10 degrees with cloudy conditions. We grabbed breakfast at Cassidy's and headed back to Robinson Quarry. There were many people there when we arrived; some had spent the night in tents and even a hammock! We strapped on our crampons and hiked up the ridge to hang our ropes. A quick head count through the day puts a *guestimation* of climbing participants and spectators around 250-300 with more than 30 ropes hanging—an amusements park of rides for sure. Teenagers and beloved senior citizens alike took turns climbing the ice sculptures. The festival also hosted vendors from The Minnesota Climbers Association, Black Diamond, American Alpine Club and Arcteryx. Participants enjoyed warming up beside a small campfire drinking hot chocolate and hot apple cider. As the ice was so brittle, a number of participants displayed blood covered noses due to lacerations from the ice, a reward for a well climbed adventure. Another ice climber chipped two front teeth when his ice tool was difficult to pull out of the ice. Later in the day another CMC member, Bob Swartz, said hello and climbed the crystal water.

As the sun began to set that Saturday afternoon, we returned to the hotel to change clothes, grab a quick dinner at Cassidy's and then drive to the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN, for a gathering of ice climbers and lots of free beer. There was also a gear swap, sale, and raffle. The presenter was Angela VanWiemeersch who spoke of her ice climbing experiences in Zion Nation Park, Utah.

We traveled back home on Sunday. The temperature was to be in the 20's on Sunday and the festival was organizing a chili cook off. This venue is a terrific place to start for new ice climbers. The nearby towns offer many overnight accommodations and restaurants. If the weather turns absolutely terrible, the Grand Casino in the town of Hinckley would gladly take your money.



Safety Square - by Tiffany Parrott
Close the System & Rappelling Safety

There is no doubt that rappelling is one of the more dangerous activities of mountaineering and climbing. One of the most frequent mistakes in rappelling is to not close the system with a knot at the end of the rope. Only 2.5% of rappelling and climbing accidents are due to an anchor not set properly, while 80% of rappelling accidents can be prevented by simply tying a knot at each end of the rope.



A simple 3 loop fisher's knot, with 6"-12" of tail is ideal. Even if the rope seems long enough for your descent, one end can sometimes shorten through the rope and go through the belay device. A stopper knot will prevent this fatal situation. Whenever setting top rope, ALWAYS tie off each end before throwing the rope down. This will not only help prevent accidents rappelling, but will close the system for the belayer as well.

In Memorium - William Widule

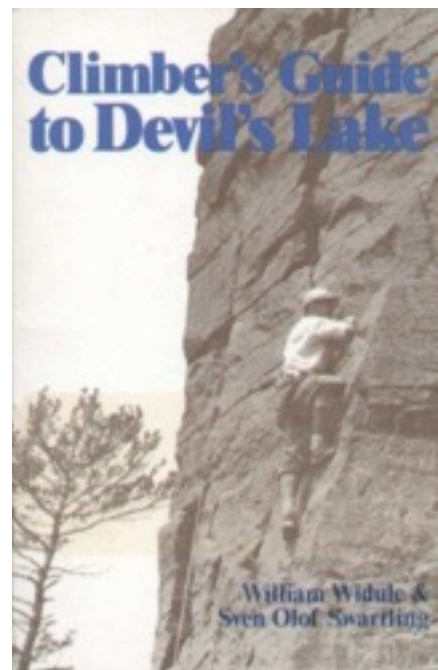
From Susan Widule we learned the following sad news:

My father, William Widule, a gifted climber and long-time member of the CMC, passed away yesterday, January 14. He had just passed his 89th birthday.

Along with Ole Swartling he wrote the first climber's guide to Devil's Lake and helped map many of the routes there.

I grew up spending almost every summer weekend at Devil's Lake, where my father led thousand's of climbing parties. He especially enjoyed leading groups of beginners, and loved to watch them gain confidence on the rocks.

I know he had been out of touch with the club in recent years. After my mother passed in 1992 he found some activities to be particularly difficult to continue, and Devil's Lake was one of them. However, he did remain very active, both mentally and physically, almost until his recent death.



Michael Burian wrote to say:

I only climbed with Bill a few times. I remember a time, not that long ago - all things considered, when he rode his bike from his home on the south side, to Devils Lake. There were severe storm and tornado warnings for all of Wisconsin and northern Illinois that Sunday. With the help of other people we were able to convince him to let me give him a ride back to Chicago. I wanted to take him home but he insisted on riding the rest of the way from Skokie. I think he was in his mid 70's then.

He was an amazing person. He did not handle his wife's passing very well and avoided any activities that reminded him of her.

2018 Outdoor Outing Schedule

Feb 15-19 Ice Climbing - Batchawana Bay, Ontario, Canada*

March 3 Annual Dinner

Winter Outing ** Date to be determined**

Apr 20-22 Red River Gorge, Kentucky (sport/trad)*

May 5/6 Mississippi Palisades, IL and Devils Lake, WI

May 19/20 Devils Lake, WI

May 24-28 Shawangunk, New York (trad)*
(Memorial Day is May 28)

Jun 2/3 Devils Lake, WI

2018 RMNP Cabin Outing

Jun 16/17 Devils Lake, WI

Jun 30/July 1 Devils Lake, WI

Jul 21/22 Devils Lake, WI

Aug 4/5 Devils Lake, WI

Aug 18/19 Old Timers/New Climbers Picnic; Devils Lake, WI

Sep 1/2 Devils Lake, WI

Sep 15/16 Devils Lake, WI

Sep 29/30 Devils Lake, WI

Oct 13/14 Devils Lake, WI

Oct 26/28 Jackson Falls, IL (sport)* and Devils Lake, WI

Nov 9/11 Horseshoe Canyon Ranch, Arkansas (Sport)*

NOTE: *Chris Gregory* is the [Outings Chair](#). He can answer any questions you might have about CMC outings.

Contact Chris at:

outings@chicagomountaineeringclub.org

2018 RMNP Cabin Outing

James Considine

Date of Outing:

- Saturday, June 2 – Sunday June 10, 2018
- Or June 16-24. Note: June 17th is Father's Day

Location:

- Base camp out of the CMC Colorado Cabin which is in the Wild Basin of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP)

General Description:

Climbing, hiking and mountaineering in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) using the CMC cabin as a base. As this will be a first outing with the renovated cabin, the focus will be on getting to know the Wild Basin. Thirteeners that can be reached from the Wild Basin: Mt. Alice, Pagoda Mountain, Chef's Head Peak, Isolation Peak, Ogallala Peak, and Mount Copeland. These mountains do not have maintained trails, so bushwhacking and mountaineering skills will be needed. Depending upon the winter and spring, some snow may remain on the mountains, which will add to challenge.

A half day will be spent on cabin and grounds improvement. A detailed work plan will be prepared. After the half day work detail, attendees can perform work on their own volition.

Others may wish to explore outside of the Wild Basin and not attend the group activities. There still may be some snow at higher elevations. Crampons and ice axe will likely be needed. An alpine ascent of Long's Peak may be possible as an option.

Tentative Schedule:

Saturday: Travel to RMNP

Sunday: Climb Mt. Copeland (13,176) via Pear Lake and East Ridge and return to CMC Cabin

Monday: AM – Climb Horsetooth Peak (10,344) via Southwest Ridge (Grade I, Class2) and Lookout Mountain (10,715) via northwest Slope (Grade I, Class 3) or another nearby mountain. PM - Cabin/grounds work.

Tuesday: Rock Climbing

Wednesday: Backpack to Sandbeach Lake to camp

Thursday: climb Mount Meeker (13,911) via South Ridge (Grade II, Class2) Chiefs Head Peak (13,579) or Pagoda Mountain (13,497) or both and return to CMC Cabin

Friday: Rock Climbing or backpack to Patrol Cabin (10,514) to camp

Saturday: Rock Climbing or climb Mt. Alice (13,310) via Hourglass Ridge (Grade II, Class 2+), and return to CMC Cabin

Sunday: Return home

2018 Board Members

- President** – Matt Haraburda
- Vice President** – Gregg Kane
- Secretary** - Kevin Field
- Treasurer** – Marie Nelson
- Sergeant at Arms** – Dave Kenealy
- Outings Chair** – Chris Gregory
- Publications Chair** – Sue Gregory
- Programs Chair** – Seth Horowitz
- Director** – George Naxera
- Director** – Jamie Norris
- Director** – Bill Dietrich

Appointed positions:

- Librarian** - Pieter Fockens
- Safety Chair** - Jacek Witkos
- Grounds Chair** - Bill Dietrich
- Conservation** - Doug Hemken
- Technology** - Marcus Daubaras
- Expeditions Chairs:**
 - Al Graber
 - Kevin Roemer

Calling 4 Submissions

The **Chicago Mountaineer** is your ticket to fame and ...

PLEASE submit your climbing and mountaineering exploits for publication. Don't think of it as bragging. They don't have to be long or elaborate, or about superhuman feats executed in exotic places. You don't have to be a super great writer. Often it's just the effort that counts. Think campfire stories - folks like to hear what others have been up to. It sparks inspiration! Pictures are always great. All accepted articles are then incorporated into the American Alpine Journal for that year, according to our Librarian, Pieter Fockens.

Please send material to **Sue Gregory**, the **Publications Chair**, through the Contact page on our website:
chicagomountaineeringclub.org

