

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Mountaineering - Skills | Experience | Fellowship

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In Case You Hadn't Noticed?

Our new members have new interests

Renewal is a constant in the Universe. There are natural cycles to everything, and as some of our membership ages out of active outings, a new crop of rock enthusiasts is taking up mountaineering and rock climbing in their wake. Building upon the knowledge base and experience, but also branching out and expanding the sport into new areas. The CMC Board has been making a concerted effort to keep the club relevant to young people, because we recognize our very continuance depends on drawing new membership. To that end, we have been partnering with the indoor climbing gyms to introduce the CMC to their thriving communities, we have been serving breakfast to participants at the American Alpine Club's Craggin' Classic at Devils Lake, and we have been encouraging meet-ups for local viewings of mountaineering and climbing films (hopefully our mailings have been more informative than annoying).

It seems our outreach efforts have been experiencing quite a bit of success. Attendance at this year's Old Timers/New Climbers Annual Picnic hit record numbers, and the club outings in general have been swelling with new participants. Membership applications are rolling in!

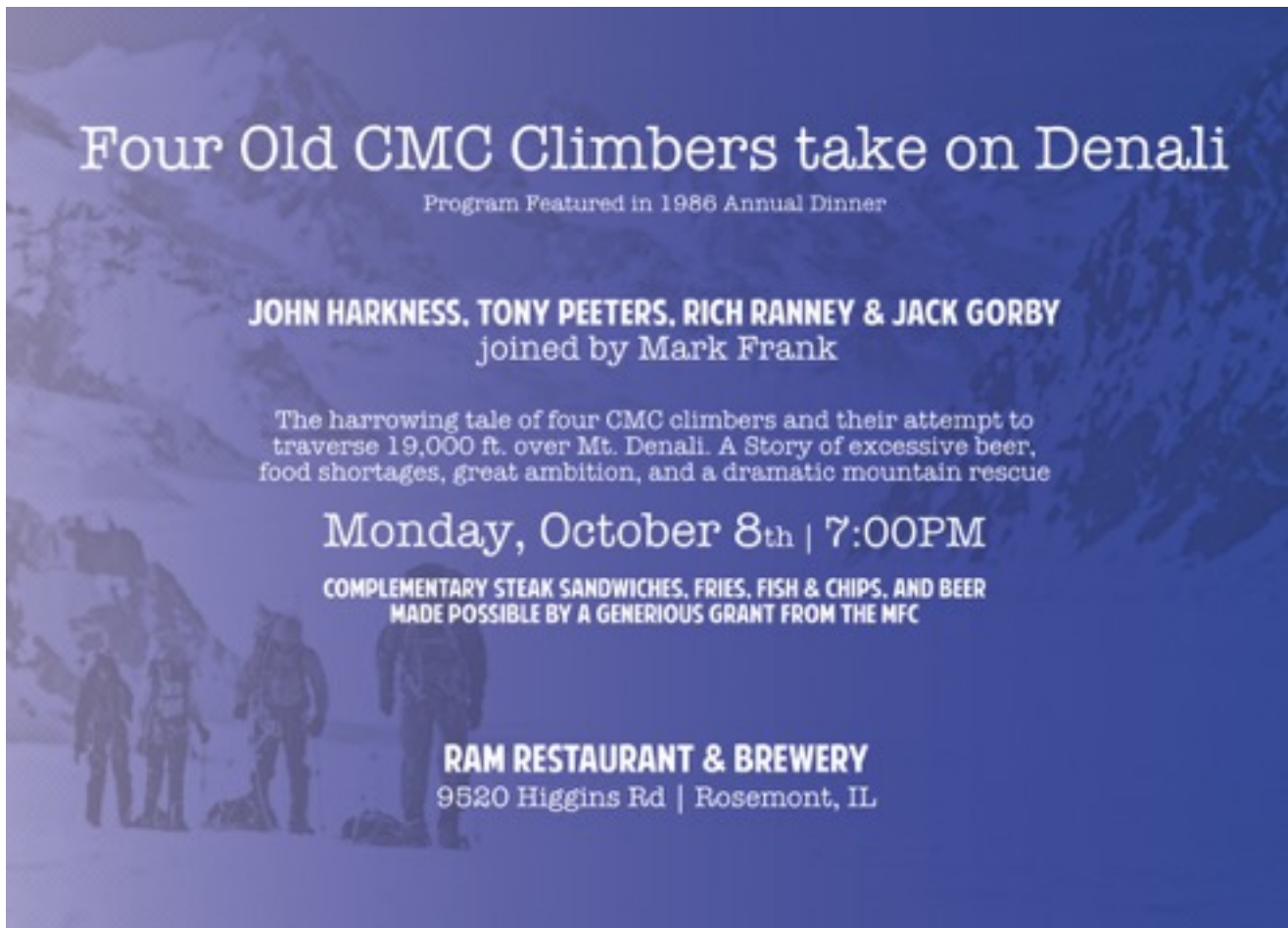
Among new members, many are interested in bouldering - likely because some of the smaller indoor gyms only offer near ground training - and slack-lining. Ready to try something new?



Meritzell hauling Jacek up a 5.10b

Did someone say?
“!! FREE FOOD & BEER !!”

They Set Off on Skis to follow in the foot steps of the Archdeacon of the Yukon starting North of Denali National Park (1,500 feet) and ascending 19,000 feet (greatest vertical gain in the world) to the Summit (20,310 feet) of Denali and skiing down the West Buttress, thereby traversing the Mountain: a tale of excessive beer, whisky and ambition at the CMC campground, unending crevasses, storm after storm, a 5,000+-foot crux, snow caves, dramatic mountain rescue, shortage of food and lots of fun, laughs and excitement.



Four Old CMC Climbers take on Denali
Program Featured in 1986 Annual Dinner

JOHN HARKNESS, TONY PEETERS, RICH RANNEY & JACK GORBY
joined by Mark Frank

The harrowing tale of four CMC climbers and their attempt to traverse 19,000 ft. over Mt. Denali. A Story of excessive beer, food shortages, great ambition, and a dramatic mountain rescue

Monday, October 8th | 7:00PM

COMPLEMENTARY STEAK SANDWICHES, FRIES, FISH & CHIPS, AND BEER
MADE POSSIBLE BY A GENERIOUS GRANT FROM THE MFC

RAM RESTAURANT & BREWERY
9520 Higgins Rd | Rosemont, IL

RSVP Required!!

Look in your email for the Evite sent 9/27/18

Email Seth if you didn't receive an Evite: [CLICK HERE](#)

We will have a brief Board Meeting before the presentation.

NOTE: 7:00 PM start!

Upcoming Programs

October Board Meeting - Oct. 8th PROGRAM STARTS @ 7:00 PM

See announcement above about **FREE FOOD**

November Board Meeting - Nov 12th To be Announced

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

- 6:30 PM** Board Meeting
(All members are welcome to attend)
- 8:00 PM** General Meeting

The following people have submitted **New Membership Applications** for the CMC:

- Becca Schlossberg
- Richard Deibel
- Jim Clinton
- Adam Phan
- Michael Heifets
- Brian Delaney

The Board has reviewed their applications, and they were given a “First Reading” during the December General Meeting.

“Second Reading”s were given for the following applicants:

- Daniel Legittino
- Paul Sack
- Jean Klasovsky
- Donald Zellar

They are now officially members of the Chicago Mountaineering Club. Please welcome them!!

TIME SENSITIVE!!

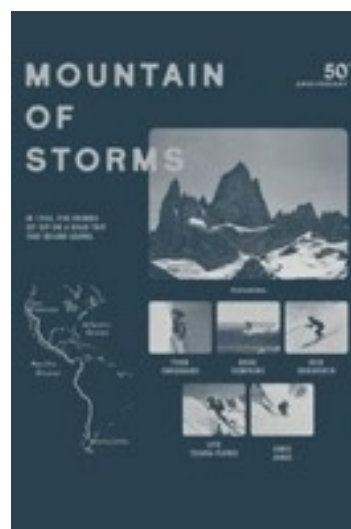
Wednesday!! 10/3/18 – The Logan Theater – Chicago, IL – 6 PM
With special guest: **Timmy O’Neill**

Patagonia Re-releases Underground Film “Mountain of Storms”

In 1968, Yvon Chouinard, Doug Tompkins, Dick Dorworth, and Chris Jones left Northern California en route to climb Cerro Fitz Roy in Patagonia. It was an 8,000-mile trip full of surfing, skiing, hijinx, and snow cave refuge-seeking, punctuated at the end by what was at the time the third climb of Fitz Roy.

The crew filmed their exploits on a 16mm Bolex camera and showed it off to small crowds when they returned. They called their movie “Mountain of Storms.” It became something of a legendary underground film.

The trailer looks awesome. Like one part Jacques Cousteau project, one part *Endless Summer*, one part Wes Anderson. For the 50th anniversary of the trip and the film, Patagonia is screening the film in a wide release at Patagonia stores and theaters around the country.



For TICKETS:
[CLICK HERE](#)

See the TRAILER:
[CLICK HERE](#)

Olle Swartling's Memorial Unveiled at the OTNC Picnic



Conservation News

Doug Hemken

Relationships

I just finished my second term on the Friends of Devils Lake board. I am term-limited out. Nick Wilkes (Devils Lake Climbing Guides) is now on the board, so climbers still have a voice there. I expect to continue coordinating volunteer activities with FoDL.

The FoDL and the WDNR are launching a project to build a new Visitor's Center at Devils Lake. "Visioning" will take place this winter. If we are interested in having something in the VC about our grand history at Devils Lake, the CMC should figure out how to get involved. Let me know who in the club I should be communicating with.

The WDNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (the State Natural Areas) has its own volunteer coordinator, who has begun calling on the Wisconsin Climbers Assoc (WCA). So we have a new relationship there. More on this in a minute.

Access

The WDNR still has taken no action on a Master Plan for Abelman's Gorge. The head of the SNA program decided he had no good way of deciding which SNAs can handle climbing and which cannot. So he called the WCA and we met to discuss a plan: this season they will survey 10 SNAs where someone might want to climb. Over winter they will try to develop some guidelines. Most likely they will go to a second field season, and try to finalize some guidelines for land managers by winter 2019-2020. Among the properties they will look at are Abelman's, Gibraltar, and the South Bluff of Devils Lake.

Stewardship

The Access Fund cancelled our August work weekend – one of the Conservation Team hurt her back. This highlights our need to have some local expertise in trail building/rock work. While we will not be building trails per se in the non-designated use areas we use in Wisconsin, it is all the same skills and techniques that we will use for erosion control.

Instead, the WCA did a service day at Gibraltar Rock – scrubbed graffiti, picked up trash, dismantled a fire ring that the local kids built under Scott's Roof. A dozen climbers showed up, and we got lots of in-person thank-yous from hikers.

Coming up

Our next stewardship day will be at the AAC Craggin' Classic, Oct 12-14 (also a CMC outing weekend). This will likely be trail work on the West Bluff trail, led by Park Staff. You don't have to take part in the Classic to take part in the Stewardship project. I also have a little graffiti removal to do (Elephant Cave, near Devils Doorway), and the trail to the Old Sandstone needs some maintenance (fallen tree limbs, mostly).

The WDNR Bureau of NHC would like help on 27 October (a CMC outing weekend, I think), clearing buckthorn in the East Bluff SNA at Devils Lake. They have especially reached out to the climbing community. I can handle communication with the WDNR, but I need someone to shepherd a group of CMC volunteers to the work site that morning. Let me know if someone can help out with this.

A TRIBUTE TO PIETER FOCKENS & HIS LIBRARY

-- Jack Gorby --

The CMC, MFC and I have lost a dear and valuable friend. We shouldn't have been too surprised. After all, Pieter was 92. And he lived a long and productive life. One cannot ask for more. The problem is, Pieter has always been with us, always reliable, and in good health. We expect to see him at every banquet, meeting, outing and "Old Timers" affair.

Pieter had been a member of the CMC since 1964. That's 56 years, and he had been active the entire time, serving as a CMC board member from as long as I can remember, as its president, and as its librarian. It mattered little to Pieter that the MFC actually owns The John Speck Memorial Library. Petty legalities mean little, particularly when one serves on both boards, as Pieter did. In his heart, the library's rich treasury of mountaineering literature and tradition belongs to his fellow CMC members. And, of course, he was right. It provides our membership with the opportunity to escape the limitations of geography and time and delve into the great history and adventures of mountaineering as well as into the remarkable boldness, courage and personal traits of great mountaineers and climbers. Whether or not we have taken full advantage of this opportunity, of course, has always been our choice. From Pieter's perspective, he wanted this literature to be available for us. And it was. In so many ways, Pieter was by nature a librarian. He also became the music librarian for the Glenview Community Church Chancel Choir. But his life wasn't just about books and musical scores.

Pieter loved nature first and foremost, as did most mountaineers of his generation. He enjoyed rock climbing but – I sensed -- preferred hiking in natural and mountainous areas. Rock gymnastics were not his forte. His love affair with nature and the mountains started as a youth in the Netherlands and soon extended to the Alps. He never ceased to enjoy hikes along the Lake in Chicago, in Palos Hills, Moraine Hills State Park and at Devils Lake. Pieter, my two dogs (Iddo and later XO) and I took hundreds of hikes, during which we observed nature and discussed philosophy, theology and religion, politics, society, mountaineering, personal issues and – displaying the patience of a saint – my various lawsuits. Though a quiet man, he had many thoughts to share. Our discussions were nearly always thoughtful, insightful, stimulating and helpful. Afterwards, we'd continue over a brunch, often with Swedish pancakes at the Svea in Andersonville, but also on Fridays during Lent with former CMCer Warren Weisberg where we feasted on catfish soup, cactus salad and intense debates at the Casa de Pueblo in Pilson. There was always a curiosity and depth to Pieter and his contributions to these debates. I wish all of you could have shared this quality of his as I fortunately did.

Pieter was always the engineer. He thought like an engineer. He summoned evidence to support his positions, and he was a patient listener, open-minded, logical and cautious in reaching his conclusions. He brought his organized approach to nearly every thing he did, including his mountaineering and his management of the John Speck Memorial Library. After Pieter's death, I visited the library to get a better sense of its state and what challenges the MFC has before it. I was amazed about how well it was

organized and the shape it is in. The books were “in place”, his computer records perfect. We have about 2,500 books and 1,000 other climbing publications, all accounted for and ready to be checked out. He also had a list of books he had hoped to add to our collection this year. Ours is one of the three or four best mountaineering libraries in the country.

Pieter was also frugal, in keeping with his ancestral tradition. He felt a particular moral responsibility to protect the assets of the MFC for the long-term benefits of the CMC and always worked within his library budget. He was modest. I never heard him boast. Rumors have it that at one time Pieter won an Emmy for his work at Zenith Corporation. If true, it was likely in the Emmy’s “Science and Technology” category. He never mentioned this. On our hikes, he always carried a beat-up old floppy rucksack. One day, he noticed my wife Laurie’s “Bergans of Norway” backpack. It brought back memories of his youth. Amundsen and Scott used such packs, according to Pieter, and all post WWII Dutch boys coveted a “Bergans,” but none could afford one. I told Pieter he needed one, and that I was going to get him a Bergans as a gift. He refused my offer, suggesting that he was happy with his old rucksack and wouldn’t use a Bergans even if I got him one. I now regret that I caved into his protestations.

As “life” CMC member George Pokorny, our librarian before Pieter, remarked, “No one can replace Pieter.” I’m certain we all agree with his insight. Together George and Pieter contributed greatly to our club.

In the spirit of transparency, I acknowledge a personal bias - Pieter’s wife, Nina, married Laurie and me long ago. And we’ve lived happily ever after. We’re indebted to their blessings.

[In a separate essay, I plan to address a topic Pieter and I often discussed: The MFC and the history and future of The John Speck Memorial Library.](#)

Remaining 2018 Outdoor Outings Schedule

Oct 13/14 Devils Lake, WI (Also the fall "work weekend" + AAC Craggin' Classic)

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

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

* no rope leaders provided - experienced climbers only

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

Contact Chris at:

outings@chicagomountaineeringclub.org

Hi climbers,

As many of us know, next weekend, there is the Craggin Classic, a climbing event held at Devil's Lake, WI. The CMC will help the organizers of the event to facilitate climbing experiences for participants who didn't sign up for classes. This is a way to promote the Club among climbing communities. That's why the Club is looking for rope leaders to take groups of not necessarily CMC members out climbing. If you are a rope leader in good standing, and are available on October 13, and/or 14, we need your help. If you have questions, please contact me or George Nexera.

Thank you,

Jacek Witkos, the Safety Chair [CLICK HERE](#)

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 - **position open!**
Safety Chair - Jacek Witkos
Grounds Chair - Bill Dietrich
Conservation - Doug Hemken
Technology - Marcus Daubaras
Expeditions Chair - Al Graber

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