



LOVELAND MOUNTAIN CLUB
PO BOX 983, LOVELAND, CO 80539

www.LovelandMountainClub.org

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President's Message

I always get a chuckle when the world news on TV begins each and every evening with "Breaking News". Is there any other kind of news? My "President's Message" this month contains a lot of important news for you.

First, I want to thank all who attended our first Monday night meeting in January to hear an amazing speaker, Bruce Davies talk about the history of the people in Estes Park and show us some wonderful slides. Our new venue at Grace Community Church worked out perfectly. Thank you Rich Kurz for securing this site. Someone left a black vest at the meeting. If it's yours, it will be waiting for you at the Church.

As you all know, there has been a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases due to the highly infectious Omicron variant. Omicron cases in Colorado are surging with staggering infection rates. The good news is that COVID should peak by the end of this month. With this in mind, the Board and Committee Chairs have decided to cancel our February Pot Luck meeting and wait until our March 7 meeting to hold it. We will start the meeting at 6:30 PM and ask that you bring either a salad or entrée and your own table service. Remember, Grace Community Church is located at 240 Barberry Place off of 14th Street SW east of Taft Ave. and west of 287. Masks are required.

This will be an important meeting as we will be electing new officers. Out of the 10 open positions, we have filled all but 4. For those who have stepped up to volunteer, we really thank you. **But we still need your help in filling the four openings.** These jobs are not hard. They all come with training. This is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow Club members and also be of great service to the Club as well. The four positions are:

- **A second person to help John Pape with our Website**
- **Vice-President (fills in for the President when he/she is absent)**
- **Treasurer (is in charge of all the funds of the Club and maintains the Club roster)**

These are the members who have already volunteered for our open positions:

- President – Tom Bruch

- Secretary – Cindy Brusko
- Board of Directors: Karen Goggin, Gabi Miles, Betsy Mosehauer
- Hospitality Coordinators – Donna Pierce and Ellen Edwards
- Facebook Photo Editor – Donna Pierce
- Facebook Administrator – Pam Nelson
- Tuesday Hike Coordinator: Steve Bergstrand
- Thursday Hike Coordinator: Gail Fraser

Please send me an email or call me (970-310-0200) to volunteer or ask questions about our four openings. I'd love to hear from you.

Remember: Club membership fees are now due and can be paid at the March meeting or by sending your check made out to the Loveland Mountain Club (\$30 per family or \$20 single) and mailed to LMC, PO Box 983, Loveland, CO 80539. You have until March 31 to pay.

One last item I need to stress – **we need hike leaders!** It's been extremely hard during these pandemic times to get leaders but hopefully, we'll be seeing a break in the next month or so. Please consider leading a hike. Use your imagination. It can be an EZ, A or B hike; on snowshoes; a fun hike for Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day; a dog hike. Many of us are anxious to get out and enjoy our beautiful Colorado weather and scenery. All you have to do is call one of our hike coordinators listed in the Newsletter and give them the date and information about the hike.

Hope to see you all at our March meeting. As our Club founder, Jim Disney would say "Happy Trails".

Betsy Mosehauer, President

betsy_mosehauer@msn.com



Monthly Meetings

February Meeting has been postponed due to high Covid infection rates.

Monday, March 7: Pot Luck Supper. We will meet at Grace Community Church, 240 Barberry Place, Loveland. The Church is located off 14th Street SW, east of Taft and west of 287. Turn south onto Valency Drive and take the first right onto Barberry Place. It takes a slight left-hand curve and dead ends into the Church parking lot. The entrance is on the East side next to the main entrance. Masks will be required for the health and safety of everyone. Please bring a salad or entrée and your own table service.

Editor's Notes:

Well, this is rather embarrassing! Only one hike offering this month. Even with the high rate of Covid going on right now, it is still safe to be around others in an outdoor setting, especially if you are fully vaccinated. Hike leaders can opt to avoid carpooling by having everyone meet at the trailhead (pick a local hike people can easily drive to). Hike leaders also have the option of requiring hikers to be vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated, you can offer to lead a hike with others who aren't vaccinated. So, if you want to lead a hike, let us know!

Thanks to Ann Brecht for sending the information on the reservation system at Rocky Mountain National Park. It is included in this newsletter.

If you need to contact me about special announcements or questions regarding the newsletter, please feel free to use my personal email melpenning1010@gmail.com. I am happy to send out group emails to the membership regarding any hike additions or changes, meeting announcements, etc. Hike leaders should also contact the appropriate hike coordinator about any additions or changes.

Melanie Pennington, Newsletter Editor

Thanks to our January Hike Leaders:

Ted Hartman and Melanie Pennington volunteered to lead hikes last month. Many thanks to our hike leaders for stepping up to put nice hikes together for us!

Hike Coordinators:

Weekend Hike Coordinator for 2022: Penny Kragie - pakragie@gmail.com or 571-643-6803

Tuesday Hike Coordinators: Jane and Dan Maddigan: maddigan2@gmail.com or 412-680-8919

Thursday Hike Coordinators: Tom Bruch: tombruch1964@gmail.com or 970-405-7794

Important Hike Information

Loveland Mountain Club welcomes non-members to join us for any of the hikes we offer. Membership is encouraged after two hikes. Visit www.lovelandmountainclub.org for more information about club activities and membership.

- Disclaimer: A hiker assumes the risk of any injury to person or property resulting from any of the inherent dangers and risks of hiking, snowshoeing or participating in any of the club's activities, including driving or riding to and from the trailhead, and may not recover from the Loveland Mountain Club for any injury resulting from any of the inherent dangers and risks aforementioned.
- All participants must contact the hike leader to participate in a hike. Contact the hike leader at least three days prior to the activity
- Hike leader should notify participants in case of change of weather, etc. Participants should inform the hike leader if they are unable to make the trip

- Participants should refer to the suggested hiking equipment list
- When hiking, lead and rear hikers should be readily seen. Person in front should wait for the slower hikers
- The last two cars of each trip should leave together so no one gets stranded
- Hike leader needs to be assertive as necessary; if in doubt, the hike leader is in charge and should not be questioned
- There should be a minimum of four participants. If there are not four, it is no longer a club activity
- Participants should pay gas money to the driver and bring a change of footwear and a bag for dirty boots

Covid Related Protocols for Loveland Mountain Club Hikes

- Group size will be at the discretion of the hike leader taking into consideration management of the group, parking availability and difficulty of the hike. As always, participation will be on a first come, first serve basis.
- Hikes are open to whoever wants to lead a hike and those hikers who are comfortable in attending.
- Masks are not mandatory while hiking but may be needed when in a car.
- Full disclosure of vaccination status would be desired so that hiking and driving in groups can be done safely. Participants should disclose their vaccination status to the hike leader and other participants. Participants may then choose either to drive their own vehicle to the trailhead or carpool with others. Carpool drivers may request riders to wear face coverings inside their vehicle.
- If you must step off the trail for a moment to social distance, stop rather than continuing to walk alongside the trail thus preventing trail erosion.
- Include with the *essential items* in your backpack a facemask and hand sanitizer.
- Sign the Loveland Mountain Club Waiver of Liability-2020 if you have not already. Hike leaders should carry a small supply of the waivers with them.
- Please cancel from the hike if you are feeling any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or have had contact with anyone known to have symptoms in the last 14 days.
- Hike leaders must honor all local and county closures and have the necessary reservations for the Rocky Mountain trails. Leaders should plan to avoid popular, over-crowded trailheads and have a Plan B ready in case the trailhead/parking area is already crowded.

Classification ratings

EZ Hikes: Hikes of less than 4 miles and less than 600' of climbing; these hikes will be highlighted in yellow.

- Up to 8 miles maximum round trip with elevation gain up to 1200 feet
- 8-12 miles maximum round trip with elevation gain of 1200 to 2500 feet
- 12-15 miles maximum round trip, and/or elevation gain of over 2500 feet. Steep or rough terrain may be encountered
- More than 15 miles round trip, and/or elevation gain over 3500 feet. Trips in this classification may require additional climbing skills
- Designates peaks of any classification as dangerous. Basic mountaineering skills and/or the approval of the leader will be required

Some hikes will not exactly fit these ratings and may be designated A/B or B/C, etc. to convey the real nature of the hike. In those instances, pay close attention to the stated distance and/or elevation gain and discuss with the hike leaders when you call them to arrange to join the hike.



Hike Offering

Thursday, February 3: Post Groundhog Day prediction hike at Lory State Park

Join us in determining the fate of the weather to come, as we discuss Puxatawny Phil's prediction, and come up with some of our own! This will be an EZ/A hike of about 4 miles. We will be walking a loop that includes the Overland Trail, the Well Gulch Trail, and part of the West Valley Trail at Lory State Park (entrance fee or state park pass required). The hike will start at 9:00 am. Vaccinated hikers only. If folks decide to carpool, masks will be worn in the vehicles. Traction devices will be required, and hiking poles would be helpful. For more information, please contact Melanie at melpenning1010@gmail.com.

Looking ahead to next summer:

Like it or not — and there appears to be a pretty even split on the matter — Rocky Mountain National Park will for the third straight season be implementing a timed-entry permit reservation system. Late last year, the park proposed using the system for a third year in 2022. That plan was approved recently by the National Park Service. The system will run May 27 to Oct. 10 and be similar to the one used in 2021, according to a park news release. There are a few changes in this year's version of the system, so here is what you need to know, as planning will be key to entering the park when you want to.

When you can start booking: Reservations will go on sale through www.recreation.gov starting at 10 a.m. MDT May 2 for May 27 through June 30.

The next releases will occur at:

10 a.m. MDT June 1 for July and any remaining days that have not been booked for June

10 a.m. MDT July 1 for August and any remaining days that have not been booked for July

10 a.m. MDT Aug. 1 for September and any remaining days in August that have not been booked

10 a.m. MDT Sept. 1. for October and any remaining days in September.

2 types of reservations to be offered

Like last year, one permit will be for the Bear Lake Road Corridor, which includes that area as well as access to the rest of the park. This reservation period will be from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The second permit will be for Rocky Mountain National Park excluding the Bear Lake Road corridor. This reservation period will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Permits issued using the reservation system will allow park visitors to enter the park within two-hour windows of availability. The reservation system will apply to all areas of the park.

Once again, reservations are not required if entering the park before 5 a.m. or after 6 p.m. for the Bear Lake Corridor or before 9 a.m. or after 3 p.m. for the rest of the park.

Day-before reservations still an option

Initially, 30% of the timed-entry permits will be held and made available for purchase at 5 p.m. the day before a visit through www.recreation.gov. The day-before permits are expected to sell out fast, so it's better to plan ahead if you can.

Number of visitors allowed in the park will increase

This year's available reservations will be based on about 90% of total parking capacity in the park, compared with about 75% to 85% last year.

Why does the park have such a system in place?

Park officials say visitor crowding and congestion have led to resource damage to the park.

The park was the country's third-busiest national park in 2019, with more than 4.6 million visitors, a 42% increase in visitation over the prior seven years.

The park says that has led to increased negative impacts to visitor and staff safety, resource protection, visitor experience and operational capacity.

Strategies implemented by the park to manage crowding and congestion in the past six years include using shuttle buses and closing entry to popular areas when parking lots were full.

The park will use information gathered from its timed-entry permit system along with public input to create its Long Range Visitor Use plan.

Do other national parks have such a system?

In some sort of fashion, these other national parks have announced reservation requirements this year: Arches National Park, Glacier National Park, Acadia National Park, Muir Woods National Monument, Shenandoah National Park, Haleakala National Park and Zion National Park.

Also, popular Colorado attractions Mount Evans and Brainard Lake on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests have implemented a similar timed-entry permit system the last couple of years.

Reporter Miles Blumhardt looks for stories that impact your life. Be it news, outdoors, sports — you name it, he wants to report it. Have a story idea? Contact him at milesblumhardt@coloradoan.com or on Twitter @MilesBlumhardt.

For answers to frequently asked questions and other information, visit

<https://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/timed-entry-permit-system.htm>

Hike Leaders: Please call the RMNP Backcountry Office at 970-586-1242 and report any changes in trail conditions after your hike. They have requested our help as they cannot cover the hundreds of miles of trails. Also call this number the day before your hike for the latest road, trail and weather conditions at the Park.

Interested in posting your "Club Hike" pictures to the club Facebook page?

Please forward your pictures to LMCphotos98@gmail.com with Hike Destination and Hike Leader in the subject line of email, by the end of the day following the day of the hike. The number of pictures posted to Facebook is limited to 10 so the possibility exists that all your pictures will not be posted. Request you do not annotate your pictures, please? Visit our Facebook page Loveland-Mountain-Club to see photos from recent hikes.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Rocky Mountain National Park – Backcountry Office 970-586-1242

Rocky Mountain National Park – Emergencies 970-586-1204

Colorado Road Conditions 303-639-1111

Larimer County Emergency Number (connects to Sheriff) 970-416-1985 (or just dial 911)

Links to useful information can be found at http://joeandfrede.com/wx/Mountain_Weather.ppt

Loveland Mountain Club Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnification – 2020

Signed waivers can be submitted at the next club meeting, to your hike leader, or mailed to the club address: LOVELAND MOUNTAIN CLUB, PO BOX 983, LOVELAND, CO 80539.

Parties and Definitions. The individual whose name appears at the bottom of this waiver shall be referred to as "Participant." Loveland Mountain Club, Inc., is a Colorado non-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Colorado and registered with the Colorado Secretary of State. Loveland Mountain Club, Inc., including its employees, agents, volunteers, instructors, guides, officers, directors, and members shall be referred to as "Released Parties." Loveland Mountain Club and its employees, agents, volunteers, instructors, guides, officers, directors, and members either partially or wholly sponsor, organize, direct, conduct, or pay for various recreational activities, events, and trips that include, but are not limited to: hiking; snowshoeing; mountain biking; skiing and geocaching (collectively referred to as "LMC Activities").

Specific Activity if Not a Member of LMC: _____

Waiver: Participant desires to participate in LMC Activities. In consideration and exchange for allowing Participant to participate in LMC Activities, Participant, for him/herself, heirs, personal representatives and assigns, agrees **not to sue the Released Parties, and to hold harmless and release any Released Parties from any and all liability and/or claims for any injury, death, accident, illness, property damage, or property loss** arising from Participant's engagement in the LMC Activities, including, but not limited to, those claims based on any **Released Party's alleged or actual negligence or breach of any express or implied warranty.**

Assumption of Risk. Participation in any recreational activity or LMC Activities carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another. Some risks include but are not limited to: 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, and sprains. 2) major injuries such as broken bones, eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back injuries, heart attacks, and concussions. 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death. 4) exposure to unstable, steep, slippery terrain, wild or poisonous animals, insects or plants, altitude sickness, lightening, cold weather, avalanches, various other forces of nature, extreme remoteness from medical facilities, and/or equipment malfunctions and/or 5) contraction of or exposure to airborne illness and infectious diseases. I understand and agree that I am solely responsible for my own safety and well being while participating in LMC Activities.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in participating in LMC Activities. I hereby assert that my participation is voluntary and I knowingly assume all such risks.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless. I also agree to **indemnify and hold** Released Parties **harmless** from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities including attorneys' fees brought as a result of my involvement in any LMC Activities and to reimburse the Released Parties for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: Participant expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of Colorado and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgement of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and **understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue.** I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and **intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability** to the greatest extent allowed by law.

PARTICIPANT

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

If Participant is a minor under the age of 18 please **also** fill out the legal guardian's information below.

PARTICIPANT'S LEGAL GUARDIAN

Print Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____