Bobcats Newsletter

December 2025



Bobcats Section Chair Musings

As the seasons change and winter finally settles in, many of us are gearing up for snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, and other cold-weather adventures. Before heading out, please take a moment to think about avalanche safety.

The **Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC)** is an excellent resource for understanding current conditions. Their website and app provide daily forecasts, information on avalanche likelihood by elevation and slope aspect, and summaries of recent avalanche activity. Be sure to check their updates whenever you plan to travel in the backcountry.

Keep in mind that avalanche-prone terrain generally falls on slopes between **25 and 45** degrees, with the greatest risk typically on slopes between **30 and 45** degrees. Navigation tools like **Gaia GPS**, **CalTopo**, and **onX Backcountry** offer color-coded slop-angle overlays that make it easy to identify hazardous terrain both during trip planning and while traveling in the field. These tools are incredibly helpful for evaluating terrain, choosing safer routes, and making informed decisions in real time or offline.

In addition, **onX Backcountr**y includes an **Avalanche Runout Simulator** and **Potential Release Area overlays**, which can further help you identify where avalanches may start and where they might travel-valuable information for anyone exploring winter terrain.

The CMC also offers the **Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA) course,** which consists of a half-day classroom session and a half-day field session. The course teaches you how to recognize where avalanche danger may exist, and, most importantly, how to avoid it. You'll learn how to use reliable information sources and route-planning tools to stay out of harms way.

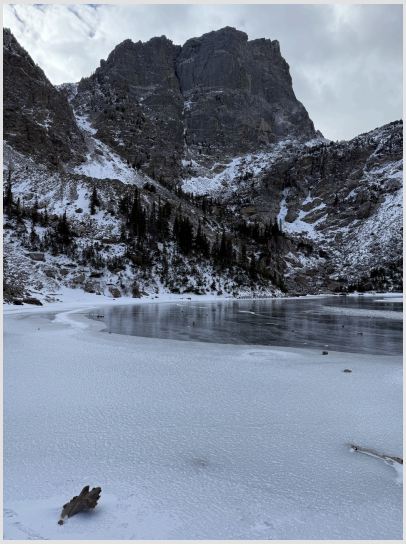
Wishing you all Happy Holidays, a Happy New Year, and a safe and enjoyable winter season. Lets continue to to stay **Safety Aware!**

Jim Guerra

Bobcats Section Chair

Hiking Steep Loose Slopes by Chris Larson

Many of us Bobcats love to challenge ourselves with hikes involving climbing steep, loose slopes. I have learned some good techniques by trial and error in my on and off-trail adventures over the years.



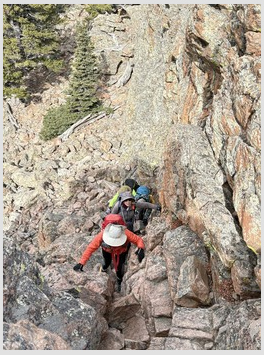
Some of these might be basic knowledge to some of you, but some techniques are counterintuitive.

To read the entire story click **HERE**

Where we have been, Thank you Leaders!



Hike



Scramble



Snowshoe



Three Mile Creek and beyond led and pic by Jean Hart



Three Mile Creek and beyond pic by Jack Melim



Booth Lake pic by Jack Melim



Twin Sisters led and pic by Jlm Guerra



Twin sisters apres hike pic by Jim Guerra



Twin Sisters pic by Jim Guerra



Bobcat Picnic pic by Rich Schiebel



Bobcat Picnic pic by Jlm Guerra



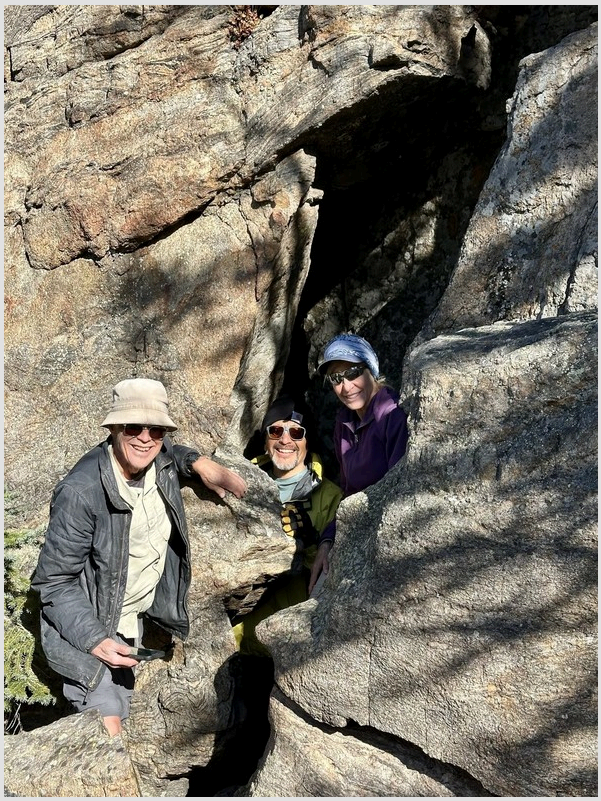
Bobcat picnic pic by Jim Guerra



Gore Range Trail to Uneva Pass led by Rachel Dobrotin
pic by Deb English



Green Lk pic by Jan Brady



Green Lk pic by Jan Brady



RMNP Green Lk led and pic by Wayne Howell



Battle Mt RMNP led by Wayne Howell pic by Alex Bidner



Battle Mt RMNP pic by Sue Ahlberg



Battle Mt RMNP led by Wayne Howell pic by Suzy McClain



Lily Lk to Estes Cone led by Wayne Howell



Lily Lk to Estes Cone pic by Jeff Hogan



Mt Morrison led and pic by Suzy McClain



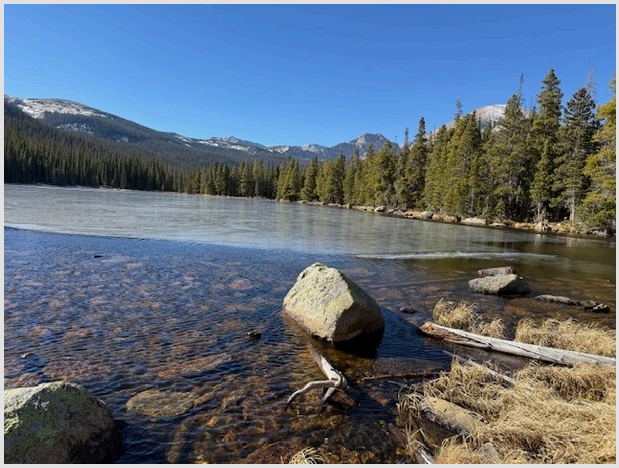
Off Trail to Paine Mt led and pic by Wayne Howell



Paine Mt Lightning Position?



Finch Lk led by Sue Ahlberg pic by Suzy McClain



Finch Lk pic by Sue Ahlberg



Deer Creek Hildebrand led by Cheryl Harmel



Willow Lk led by Ed Cotgageorge pic by Jim Guerra

CMC Winter Course Link

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Who are the Bobcats?
The Bobcats' mission is to ensure a variety of adventurous CMC trips, mostly on weekdays, all year long. Our trips tend to be faster-paced, on more challenging routes, and with fewer stops. We foster a strong community of hikers seeking challenge, discovery and camaraderie.

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