Thumbing through the pages of the Colorado College Alpine Journal (CCAJ), it is hard not to be captured by the motivating stories coupled with beautiful photography and artwork. Established in 2006 by Joe Forrester ('06) and Michael Wejchert ('08), the CCAJ embodies the passion and abilities of the CC climbing community. Given the reputation and accomplishments of current CC students and alumni alike, it is only fitting to have a journal serve as a medium to connect generations of climbers, alpinists, and adventurers.

Born in a humid apartment in central Virginia, the CCAJ has grown from an online-only publication in 2006 to its latest version in 2010: an 83-page print available for free to anyone in need of motivation. The CCAJ finds success not only in its documentation of CC’s recent climbs, but also in its dedication to promoting the friendships created and lessons learned while on the rock. The tacit bond shared by the CC climbing community is perhaps best summed up by Joe Forrester in the 2010 edition as he writes, “The Colorado College Alpine Journal is a vehicle to unify a special and unique group of individuals and friends. We all celebrate life by chasing our dreams on walls and mountains the world over. Friendships are cemented with chalky handshakes, great bivys, and beautiful sunsets. As the years pass, these memories become even more important: to remember, to reminisce about, to record and to draw inspiration for new adventures.”

Throughout the years the CCAJ has chronicled a remarkable number of climbs spanning continents, generations and outcomes. From Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to Cats Ear Spire in Pakistan to Huandoy Norte in Peru. From a shattered vertebra due to a fall in Connecticut to Madeleine Sorkin and Kate Rutherford’s first all-female free ascent of the Northwest Face of Half Dome in Yosemite, the CCAJ declares the scope of CC’s climbing community. The climbers may be spread around the globe, but by submitting their stories, they connect to that unifying thread tying them back to their CC roots.

The soul of the CCAJ is found in the submitted stories and photographs, but the publication would not be possible without the hours put in by current students as well as alumni. This year, a group of dedicated student staff will take on the responsibilities of editing, designing, budgeting, and marketing. The experience provides those involved with a valuable experience in journalism and print media. This year’s publication aims to be over 100 pages covering 30 original stories complete with full-color photographs and artwork. 300 copies will be available at the beginning of 5th block and can be found throughout campus.

So, pick up a copy of this year’s CCAJ, flip through the photos, take in the stories and marvel at the performances of your peers. Climber or not, the CCAJ resonates with all those actively pursuing their own summit.

-Colin Jenks with help from Erik Rieger ‘12, David Hoven ’10, Libby Bushell ’07 and James Hancock ’04

Cover photo of the 2010 edition. Photo by Erik Rieger ‘12.

Happenings

MEETINGS:

Outdoor Recreation Club: Tuesday at 12:15 pm in the WES Room
Climbing Association of CC: Thursday at 12:15 pm in upstairs Worner Kayak Club: Roll Sessions and club meeting every Monday 8 pm-9:30 pm at the pool—All skill levels welcome!

GEAR HOUSE HOURS:

Monday-Thurs: 4 pm-8 pm Friday: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

RITT KELLOGG CLIMBING GYM HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 4 pm-10 pm Sunday: 6 pm-10 pm

TRIPS:

- Day Trips
  BreakOut Saturday: Garden of the Gods: 11/19
  ORC: Ecopsychology hike to Red Rocks: 11/9
  OMIS/ORC hike to Garden of the Gods: 11/13
  Mountain Main hike: 11/20
  Break Break Three
  ORC: Thanksgiving Backcountry Hotsprings and Turkey Trip.

SPECIAL EVENTS: ORC & Outdoor Education:

Teton Gravity Research movie: 11/17; FUCC: Rail Jam: 12/9

Break Out: Now Dinner: 12/6
Gear House: Gear Sale Bonanza: 11/10
CACC: Climbing Competition: 11/4
FOOT: Slideshow: 11/15

Snow Report

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Current as of Nov. 21, 2011 from coloradoski.com
Thoughts from Saturday: Service Trip in Garden of the Gods

Last weekend I had the opportunity to lead a trip with Reggie Anderson to Garden of the Gods. Every time I go there I seem to forget how beautiful it really is, which is why we enjoyed our service trip so much. Our group was motivated, enthusiastic, and had a positive attitude the entire time, while picking up trash none-the-less! BreakOut Saturday trips allow students the opportunity to get out there and help improve something they believe in, which is why our trip was so successful, because our students truly do care for the environment and improving the well-being of the community around them.

-Andrew Baird ‘12

A Reason to Celebrate!

- ORC leader training began this block!
- BreakOut Steering Committee has been chosen and is working hard to make BreakOut even better!
- Gear House Bonanza was great fun and we saw lots of new faces!
- Outdoor Ed is now offering CPR/First-Aid classes!
- Outdoor Ed Director candidates will be on campus fourth block!
- Lauren Paley ‘11 made a successful move to Denver – we will miss her!

Paddle With The Kayak Club

Although the origins of the Kayak Club at Colorado College remain elusive, and their presence on campus is nothing if not slippery, there are a few times when you can always count on the Kayak Club to teach you the requisite skills to safe whitewater travel.

Every Monday at 8:00 pm, co-chairs Ben Varick and David Spiegel are in the Schlessman Pool for roll sessions.

At roll sessions, students with literally NO river experience can come learn how to exit a kayak that has flipped over (wet exit), flip a kayak back over while still in it (roll) and perfect their kayak strokes and maneuvers. All you need to bring is a bathing suit.

Everyone in the CC community is welcome at these roll sessions and once you have been to one (and have demonstrated a wet exit) you are invited on River Trips! The Paddle With The Kayak Club Saturday of Service trip to Garden of the Gods, November 2011 Photo by Jun Guo ’14

What happened second block?

- Successful second block breaks were had by our student groups:
  - Kayak Club paddled Westwater Canyon
  - ORC sent a mountain biking trip to Fruita, CO and a Search for Wild Horses trip to Southern CO
  - BreakOut sent two community service trips—one to Tapetes de Lana in Mora, NM and another to a fire mitigation project in Crestone, CO
  - Both ORC day hiking trips and BreakOut Saturday trips ventured out into the Colorado Springs community

Have a question about Outdoor Education or any of the groups we advise (BreakOut, ORC, FUCC, Kayak Club, Cycling Club, Ahlberg Gear House, Ritt Kellogg Climbing Gym)? Email us! OutdoorEd @ColoradoCollege.edu

Need gear?
The Ahlberg Gear House (1024 Weber St.) has a variety of outdoor gear available to rent!

- Libby Bushell ’07 with help from Ben Varick ’12