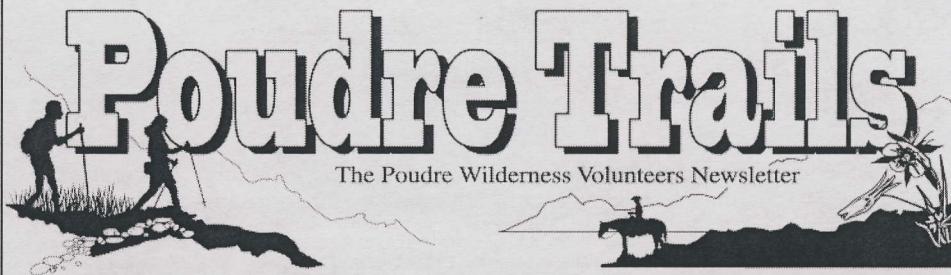


March, 2008
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The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

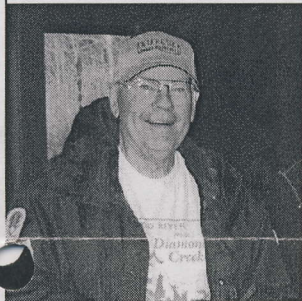
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Thought you might like to know ...

By Carole Wollam

What has four legs, can remain under water for up to one minute, and can sustain a swimming speed of 6 miles an hour? See page 4 to find out!

Thought You Might Like to Meet ... Our Chair, Fred Allen

By Carole Wollam

As a shipmaster for the American Merchant Marines, Fred Allen has reached most corners of the globe. As PWV Board Chair, he hopes to reach more potential PWV candidates. Despite current numbers, according to Allen, on any given weekend, PWV is patrolling less than 80 percent of the trails in the district. Better communication among members, including a focus on the newsletter and getting articles in the local paper, are also on his list of goals.

How he got here

Introduced to PWV six years ago, Fred was not able to commit his energies to PWV until retiring from the American Merchant Marines. That was four years ago. And commit he did. Fred had completed only his first season when elected to the board.

Fred's PWV experiences include heading up the fund-raising committee with Neil Sherrod, and assisting John

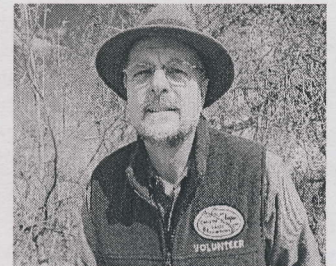
Paul Lump with recruiting. He also has worked on the trail crew and become a Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer .

When asked about his PWV accomplishments, Fred included his fund-raising efforts. "Our mission is one that most corporations can embrace," he explained. "The organization has always done a fine job of not wasting contributed funds. Since PWV is non-political and simply educational in focus, few companies that I have contacted have turned us down."

His wealth of life experiences includes a 33-year career at sea on board a wide range of ships, including ocean-going tugs, supertankers, freighters, and containerships. The seven containerships he commanded were in worldwide service.

His life outside of PWV

As a "service brat" born in Ketchikan, Alaska, Fred grew up all over the United



Fred Allen, PWV

States. He is a graduate of West Virginia University and still an avid "Mountaineer Fan".

Currently in "reirement" mode, Fred works as an independent insurance agent. He is licensed in four states and represents more than 55 companies, evenly split between commercial and personal clients. Taking advantage of his maritime experience, he also acts as a consultant for the Panamanian government on maritime security matters.

Continued on page 3

More Opportunities to Help ...

If you are looking for more opportunities to help, in addition to your six hikes, below are some of our additional programs...

Weed Crew

The PWV Weed Crew assists the US Forest Service in controlling the spread of noxious weeds in our backcountry area

Trail Crew

The PWV Trail Crew works with Forest Service personnel to maintain and repair trails on the district.

Adopt a Highway

PWV has adopted a section of Colorado Highway 14. Four times a year the crew, lead by Kristine Williams, walks the four mile stretch of highway picking up trash thrown from passing vehicles.

Kids in Nature

PWV's newest program is working to develop the next generation of wilderness stewards. If you'd like to hit the trail with some kids this summer, drop a note to:

KIN@poudrewildernessvolunteers.com

New Study Looks at the Effects of Dogs on Wildlife

by Chuck Bell

Dogs who accompany hikers have a serious negative affect on wildlife, according to a new study by Colorado State University researchers. The study's findings provide more evidence for Poudre Wilderness Volunteers to use with the public in our efforts to educate people to keep their dogs on leash.

The study, done by Ben Lenth, Prof. Rick Knight of CSU's Department of Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Stewardship, and Mark Brennan of Boulder County Parks and Open Space, was conducted in two county-managed areas that prohibit all dogs and two areas that permit dogs to run off-leash in the City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks. In the dog-off-leash areas, the researchers found evidence that dogs traveled up to 85 meters from trails.

Using pellet plots, track plates, remote triggered cameras, on-trail scat surveys and the mapping of prairie dog burrows, the researchers found that some species of mammals appear to significantly alter their behavior when dogs are allowed to run off-leash.

Mule deer activity was significantly lower within 100 meters of trails in areas that allowed dogs. In areas banning dogs, mule deer appeared to be comfortable venturing within 50 meters of a trail, though they showed reduced activity any closer than that. The difference in these distances,

when considered along the lengths of the trails studied, represents a significant reduction in habitat suitable for mule deer, because of the regular presence of dogs.

Similar results were found for small mammals including squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks and mice, as well as for prairie dog burrow location. Within five meters of trails, small mammal activity was significantly lower in areas that allowed dogs than in areas that prohibited dogs. Within areas that allowed dogs, small mammals were less active within 5 meters of trails than 50 meters or further from trails.

For carnivores, the picture is somewhat different. The study found evidence of the presence of red foxes, bobcats, grey foxes, black bears, mountain lions, striped skunks, coyotes and raccoons. Of 130 photos taken of native carnivores, 67 were red foxes. On trails that allowed dogs, activity was higher for all native carnivores combined, including native canids and especially foxes. But bobcat activity was lower.

The study found that all carnivores tend to avoid areas near trailheads. It notes that many visitors don't venture very far from trailheads, and dogs tend to leave scat soon after setting off on a trail. So the amount of dog scat within a kilometer of a trailhead is quite high, while scat from native carnivores is quite low. Further up a

trail, however, the situation is reversed, with some native carnivore species showing greater activity along trails than further away. The researchers postulate that where there are fewer dogs than near trailheads, the dog scent-markings along a trail may be relatively novel stimuli to native carnivores. They may respond by showing increased vigilance and investigation as they protect their home ranges.

Unlike foxes and coyotes, bobcats are not attracted to trails where dogs are present, preferring to stay well away from them. The presence of dogs means less suitable habitat for bobcats, as it does for mule deer and small mammals, and may well mean that there are fewer of them in areas where dogs are permitted.

For foxes and coyotes, the presence of dogs may mean they need to alter their behavior and spend more time and more energy "defending" their territories than they would under truly natural conditions.

We Would Love to Hear From You...

Have any questions about Poudre Wilderness activities, committees, news, or events?

Send any questions or comments you might have to:
newsletter@poudrewildernessvolunteers.com

We will try to answer them in the next issue.

Name This Location Contest

Can you tell us where this photo was taken?

Send your entries to:

newsletter@poudrewildernessvolunteers.com

We'll select a winner from all the correct entries and announce the winner in our next issue.

There is a prize!



Meet our Oldest member ... Ras Erdal

By Sharon Ruch

When it was first proposed I should interview Ras, I worried he would be sensitive about his age. Ha! He's proud of it, and well he should be. If all us youngsters (relatively speaking) are as physically fit and mentally active as Ras is at his age, we should consider ourselves very fortunate.

Ras attributes his healthy longevity to his Norwegian ancestry. Born in Waukegan, Illinois, his family moved to Brooklyn, New York in 1935, when he was four years old. New York is where he settled until he came to Colorado to stay, 13 years ago. Despite making his roots in Colorado, he is an avid traveler. (He was leaving for a trip to Italy soon after this interview.)

Ras describes himself as a "gung-ho Boy Scout," who wanted to become a Forest Ranger. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for him to study for that profession. He became a teacher in New York City --and a Boy Scout leader.

The teaching profession allowed Ras to spend his summers traveling, and The West was his preferred destination. With his wife Marian, also a teacher, he has camped in all 50 states and visited almost all the National Parks. His first official camping trip was a learning experience. He'd camped before, but only in a casual way, pulling the car off the road at a likely spot, walking into the woods, building a fire and settling in. On this trip, with a couple of friends and soon-to-be wife Marian, he borrowed a lean-to from the Boy Scouts. At Yellowstone, they discovered it was illegal to camp just anywhere, and the lean-to provided absolutely no privacy in the crowded campgrounds. That was way back when. Nowadays, of course, Ras believes in and expounds the "leave 'no trace" and "the authority of the resource" principles.

Ras was in ROTC while in college, and went to Fort Benning for Infantry training after graduation. The 200 new officers were told they had five choices of where they would be sent for their tours of duty. No one was guaranteed his first choice, but Ras got his -- Alaska -- where he became a ski trooper. (Perhaps it had something to do with his Norwegian blood?) He and Marian both still love the sport and have season passes. They also like to snowshoe in Rocky Mountain National Park. All four of their grandchildren ski.

When Ras and Marian were ready to relocate after retiring, they considered several different areas, but the Front Range appealed to them the most. One daughter was already living in Colorado, and the other is now, also. Hauling a camper, they traveled along looking for a likely spot, and found it in Fort Collins.

They remained in the camper while having their house built. (This turned out to be another instance when Norwegian blood came in handy.) The house was supposed to be ready in April. It wasn't finished until December. One morning, as Marian tried to take some clothes off a shelf in a closet, the clothes were frozen to the wall of the camper.

Despite that inauspicious beginning, the Erdals enjoy the advantages of living in a college town, attending CSU sporting events and performances at the Lincoln Center. They belong to many clubs and organizations, including the Sons of Norway. Ras carried the Olympic torch when it came through town in 2002.

PWV was in its second year when Ras got involved. He has served on the board, taught a map reading class and was a team leader during training weekends at Jack's Gulch. He gets in at least six hikes every season, usually more, with Marian as his hiking partner. Camping rules have changed a lot over the years, very much for the better, he said. He received an important education about the wilderness when he joined PWV, and enjoys the opportunity to pass his knowledge on to others. Once a teacher, always a teacher? PWV is fortunate to have him as an advocate. Talking to him was a pleasure. He must have been, and still is, a very good instructor.

Keep on truckin', Ras.

Fred Allen (continued from page 1)

Meet the Family

Fred and his wife Pamela have raised two daughters, Whitney who resides in Jacksonville Beach, Florida and Heather, a junior at Colorado University.

Memorable experience

Among his memorable experiences are helping folks on the trail. According to Fred, "Providing good direction and sharing a bit of moleskin to ease the pain of a blister" is always fulfilling. Being an animal group leader is also on his memorable experiences

list.

The trails more and less traveled

Every season finds Fred patrolling at least two to three of the heavily used trails each season. When preferring the less traveled trails, he heads up to the Rawah.

Advice? Keep in mind that we are indeed *volunteers*.

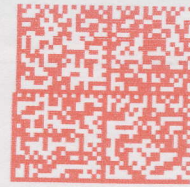
UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/16/08 All scheduling forms & volunteer agreements returned
- 4/17/08 PWV Board Meeting -- 6:30 pm
- 4/25/08 Opening day for returning members to patrol
- 5/7/08 Kick-off Night -- 5 - 9 pm
- 5/16-18 Spring Training

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
PO Box 271921
Fort Collins, CO 80527
www.poudrewildernessvolunteers.com

Phone: 970-295-6730
E-mail: someone@example.com

Jim & Margaret Shaklee
PO Box 360
Laporte, CO 80535



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Thought you might like to know ... (continued from page 1)

By Carole Wollam

If you answered moose, you are correct.

The goal of the moose's underwater endeavors is to search for the aquatic vegetation. These under-water plants provide nourishment and minerals important to both antler growth and milk production. Moose require good nutrition because the cells which make up the antlers of a moose are the fastest growing animal cells in nature.

The Algonquin Native Americans in this continent gave the moose its North American name. Moose (mus or moos) means "twig eater" in the Algonquin language. The largest deer in the world, a mature bull moose can be up to 7 feet tall at the shoulders.

The Family Life of a Moose

Moose families consist of a mother and her young. This family might include a single calf, two calves, and on rare occasions, three. According to Bill Silliker Jr., author of *Moose Watcher's Handbook*, an extremely rare case of a mother moose with four calves has been recorded.

During the rut or mating season in the fall (mid-September to mid-October), the bull moose joins the family. However, he abandons the female not long afterwards and never shows any interest in the offspring.

The calves or baby moose are born in mid to late May and weigh 30 to 40 pounds. A moose grows significantly during its first year. By its first birthday a moose weighs in the 400 pound range and is approaching its adult height. At 5 years of age, moose are generally considered to be in their prime.

Moose calves stay with the mother cow through their first year. When spring comes, the cow breaks up the family by chasing off her last year's calf. This allows her to use all of her energy to raise another youngster. An occasional calf whose mother is not pregnant will be permitted to follow the mother after its first year. However, either the mother or an amorous bull will chase it off as a rival when the next fall mating season arrives.

Moose Feeding Habits

Moose are active all day, but peak activity times are at dusk and at dawn. Many moose also feed at noontime. You can find moose near ponds, lakes, and bogs. Nipped twig

ends at your eye level can also be used as a sign of moose activity. Moose might also graze in natural meadows.

More About Moose Antlers

Moose antlers are hardened bone that starts out as soft tissue. Only bull moose grow antlers, which are used to show they are healthy breeding stock. The outer layer of antlers is a fur-covered skin filled with blood vessels called velvet because of its soft, smooth look. Once the tissue matures and hardens into bone by late August the velvet dries and begins to peel away. Moose shed their antlers each year with the early snows of winter.

Yearling bulls only grow two small bumps, sometimes short spikes by September. Generally, moose are about 3 years old before they grow forked or branched antlers. Moose 5 years or more generally grow the racks. A large rack of moose antlers may weigh as much as 60 pounds.

Silliker shares the following facts regarding the span of a moose's rack:

- A recent record rack from an Alaska moose weighed 77 pounds
- A mature bull's rack might measure 60 inches or more across
- The current world's record is from an Alaskan moose that had an 81 inch spread.

Moose Encounters

Remember to have a healthy respect for these large creatures. Moose stomped two people to death in separate incidents in Alaska in the mid 1990's. Mothers with calves and aggressive bulls deserve a lot of space and a wary eye. Silliker warns that a mother moose may be the most dangerous land mammal in North America, shy of the grizzly bear. The younger the calf, the more likely you are to encounter aggressive behavior from a mother moose.

You can identify when a moose might attack if the long hairs on its hump are raised and its ears are laid back. A moose might also lick its lips. Charges might only be bluffs, warning you to get back. When a moose does charge, it often kicks forward with its

front hooves.

If you spot a moose, here are some helpful hints: 1) If it is during the rut, move quietly and quickly away from it 2) Stop on the trail 3) If you think you are too close, slowly back up 4) If there is a clump of trees nearby, work your way to them, and put the trees between you and the moose 5) Avert your eyes; do not stare into the eyes of the animal - make a broad detour around the moose and continue on your way.

Additional Facts

Here are some other facts you might not know about the moose:

- Moose are color-blind and depend on their keen sense of smell and hearing.
- Moose can trot as fast as 35 miles an hour.
- They may consume 45 pounds of food per day
- A moose's lifespan can be up to 20 years. The average ranges from 10 to 15 years

A Final Note...

If you ever encounter anyone disgruntled with the rules of the wilderness, explain that things could be much stricter:

In Alaska, it is illegal to whisper in someone's ear when they are moose hunting

