

THE CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



TRACKER



Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Newsletter Volume 7 Issue 1 April 2007



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What's New With Your Friends

Welcome to our first issue of 2007. Though the park itself has had a bit of "down-time" through the winter, your Friends board has been active.

As you will see from messages to follow, we've taken on a new organizational style in hopes of improving our overall effectiveness,

President's Message:

Wow, what incredible weather. With any luck our "weekend only" Park will be open daily soon. We have seen many of you enjoying the awesome trails and volunteering your valuable time to help the Park get ready for normal daily operations. Thanks for all you do for Cheyenne Mountain State Park and our precious open space.

Recently your Board of Directors has restructured into a committee format. While we have maintained our officer positions – I remain in the President position, Glen Scott was elected Vice-president, Lori O'Hare stayed as the Secretary and Jim Schwerin now serves as the Treasurer – we have added specific committees to better serve the Park and get our membership involved.

Lori is the chairperson for our Membership Committee. Lori's committee plans to ensure that the

especially as the needs of the Park will soon expand in terms of usage and involvement. One of those changes concerns this newsletter. We hope to publish once a month, though each individual issue won't be as extensive as those in the past. This is being done in hopes of keeping you, our Friends, up-to-date and current.

Friends of CMSP continues to attract and retain a large membership base in order to provide a "pipeline" of support and care for the Park.

Jim Schwerin leads the Finance Committee and drives the fundraising for special programs (including the purchase of the "top of the mountain") and accounting efforts for the Friends. Jim's committee is tied closely with the Membership and other committees.

Jack Busher chairs the Communications Committee. The scope of Jack's committee goes from publishing our newsletter, to enhancing our website, to maintaining contact with you (our members), to advocacy with related clubs and organizations.

And Jerry O'Hare is the leader of the Programs Committee. Jerry's group **(Continued on next page)**

President's Message: continued

plans and schedules major and minor events in support of the other committees and CMSP staff.

The great news is that everyone reading our newsletter can get involved with the Park through any or all of these committees. Each committee chairperson is actively seeking people with expertise and/or passion in any of the committee's areas of responsibility. So, if you or someone you know has a love for photography and would like to help Jack in the communications arena, please contact Jack. If you have a knack for raising funds for special causes, contact Jim and the Finance Committee. If you love talking to people about the Park and

Park Manager's Update

Spring is officially upon us, and slowly the Park itself, like the plants and animals, is coming into full bloom. The first major change you'll notice is that as of April 7, we will extend the Park weekend hours. The park will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. For safety reasons, as construction continues, there is NO public access to the park on week days. This includes vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic on the trails. Construction vehicles and paving operations make it unsafe to be on the park in any capacity. Violators will be ticketed.

Again, due to safety concerns, visitors are prohibited from entering, or even going near, construction. This includes buildings and work sites. All trails, except for Acorn Alley, Raccoon Ridge, and Bobcat Way, are completed and open for hiking and biking. To protect the park's diverse wildlife and fragile eco-systems, horses, pets, and smoking are not allowed on the trails or in the back country. Trails are now dry and generally in good condition, though they do get muddy after a good rain or snow fall. Besides the trails, individual picnic sites are now open, though they are not accessible by car. They are located a short hike from the trailhead parking lot.

The Visitor Center is not open yet, since construction is still ongoing. We hope to have the

all that it means to our community, city, and state let Lori know that you want to help attract and keep members. And what if you love to plan and attend events that support great causes? Then you should say hello to Jerry and volunteer to help your Friends organization plan and sponsor the best events ever.

In short everyone is invited to be a part of CMSP and the Friends of CMSP. Contact me, any officer or any committee member with your desires or ideas. Our contact info is later in this newsletter.

Rick Upton

facility open sometime in April. At that time, we expect the park to be open seven days a week for day use (7:00am to 8:00pm). Facility openings depend on construction progress on the buildings, the grounds, and on the roads. Construction on restroom facilities, the camper services building, and maintenance shop is in progress.

The campgrounds are expected to open late this summer after facilities and paving is complete. At that time, we will have 51 full hook-up sites and 10 walk-in sites. Reservations are not being taken at this time and will not be taken until the campground is officially open. As campground opening dates become available, they will be posted on the park's web-site.

The Event Center and cabins, as well as the group picnic area are still in the planning phase. They are a few years away, at least.

Thank you for your patience,
Rich Dudley

**Please check the website for updates at
www.parks.state.co.us**

Remember, Cheyenne Mountain State Park is a work in progress. We thank you for your patience.

Program Committee Report:

The program committee is working with the Park Management team to establish a large annual event that would involve a wide variety of programs (possibly a combination of art, photography, and music) geared toward park visitors of all ages. The committee plans to contact local tourism leaders to inquire about combining our efforts with other groups. Also in the planning stages are competitive events for military, police and fire agencies. While these events could raise money for our Friends group, they will mainly be focused on introducing Cheyenne Mountain State Park to local residents as well as drawing tourists from outside the Pikes Peak Region. By creating “signature” annual events, the Friends group and the Park Management team hope to provide park visitors with something they look forward to participating in for many years to come.

TALES FROM THE RANGER STATION:

From Monique Mullis

As we move into early spring here at the park, the Visitor Center Opening remains the big question and there is no definitive date as of today. There are still a few construction issues to be fixed before we will be allowed to move in. It is hard to say when they will be resolved, but it is getting close.



Other than waiting on construction, we are staffing up with seasonal employees (rangers, maintenance, entrance attendants, and visitor center attendants) to prepare for the season.

There is a Cache-In-Trash-Out event planned for April 14. More information can be found at www.geocaching.com and search for Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

The Volunteer program is still going strong and volunteers are anxious to get back to work at the park after the long winter. They are already active manning the interpretive booth on most weekends, and they have started several maintenance projects designed to spruce up trails and campsites. In fact, a new group of volunteer naturalists will start their training this month.

Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Board

Have questions or want to find out how you can help support Cheyenne Mountain State Park? Contact a Board Member for more information.

Officers:

President	Rick Upton	uptonrus@comcast.net
Vice Pres.	Glen Scott	glenscott@comcastnet
Secretary	Lori O'Hare	lajohare@msn.com
Treasurer	Jim Schwerin	jim@windycreek.net

Programs:	Jerry O'Hare	lajohare@msn.com
Finance:	Jim Schwerin	jim@windycreek.net

Members:	Jane Dillon	TEXASNY@aol.com
	Nan Scranton	NanScranton@elpasoco.com
	Pam Karr	mjkarr@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs:

Communications	Jack Busher	jbusher@qwest.net
Membership	Lori O'Hare	lajohare@msn.com

Non-Voting Members:

Park Manager	Rich Dudley	rich.dudley@state.co.us
Park Ranger	Monique Mullis	monique.mullis@state.co.us

CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK: MAKING THE NEWS... “plains-to-peaks paradise.”

Recently, the Park has been making headlines in local and regional media. On March 28 the *Gazette* featured Sundance Trail, one of the park’s more popular venues, in its **Out There** section, “Happy Trails.” Dena Rodenberry, writing for the *Gazette* said of the trail: “... a fun trail to hike and bike, and an excellent route to try trail running; there are no extreme hills and by the time you start to sweat, you’ll have spots of shade.” Thanks to Dena and the “Happy Trails” staff for their continued support of all-things-outdoors, and particularly for keeping Colorado’s newest state park **Out There** in everyone’s mind.

Obviously the park is crossing the minds of more than the local fans. The April issue of *Sunset Magazine* also featured our favorite park. On page 50, in the **Travel: Tips and Trips** section, here’s some of what they had to say about Cheyenne Mountain State Park: “...heavy thoughts will be far from your mind when you lace up your walking boots or, if the pathways are powdered white, strap on your snowshoes to explore the park’s 1680 acres of plains-to-peaks paradise.”



Ice-encrusted Plum Blossoms waiting to be sprung.

Volunteers Continue Training

Under the guidance of Ranger Brian Kerrigan the park’s volunteers have begun regular monthly meetings to learn new skills and update old ones. Their next all-volunteer meeting is April 26 at 6:30 pm at the DOW conference room. Contact: brian.kerrigan@state.co.us



This newsletter represents the opinions and views of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Except as specifically identified in an article, the views and opinions do not necessarily reflect official policy or endorsement by the State of Colorado or Colorado State Parks.

Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Membership Application

I / We wish to join the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park

New / Renewal (circle one)

- _____ **\$25 Annual Individual Membership**
- _____ **\$35 Annual Family Membership**
- _____ **\$50 Annual Supporting Membership**
- _____ **\$100 Annual Contributing Membership**
- _____ **\$100 Annual Small Business Membership**
- _____ **\$500 Annual Corporate Membership**
- _____ **\$500 LIFETIME MEMBER: Never pay dues again!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Help us save postage! Please check here to receive "The Tracker" newsletter via e-mail _____

Make your check payable and please mail your application to:

Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park
 P.O. Box 51453
 Colorado Springs, CO 80949-1453

Thank you for your support of Cheyenne Mountain State Park!