



May 2015 | No. 212

# Pikes Pique

## The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

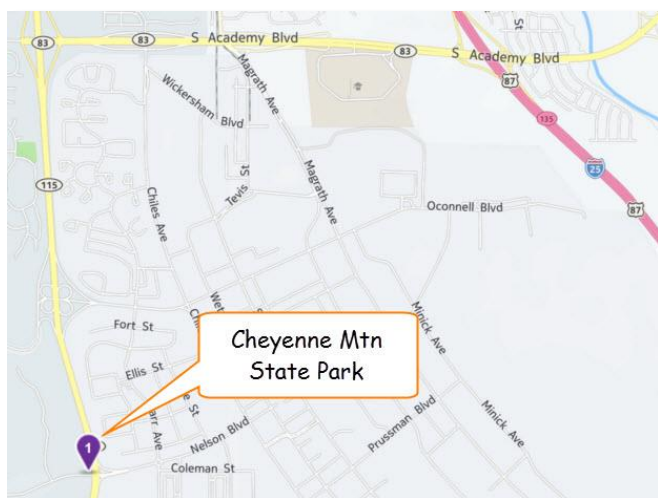
### Pikes Peak Group Cookout – May 9<sup>th</sup>

#### Second Annual Pikes Peak Group Cookout: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm – 7:00 pm

Please join us again this year for a cookout at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in southern Colorado Springs.

There is no cost for the food and beverages. We will be grilling hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hotdogs. We will also have sides and beverages to include sodas, water, and beer from Bristol Brewery. Do not bring hard liquor (e.g., vodka, tequila, etc.) as this is prohibited by the park. Feel free, though, to bring a dessert to share with your fellow climbers!

The entrance to the park is across from the main gate of Fort Carson. From the junction of S Academy Boulevard and Hwy 115, proceed south and take a right on State Park Road. *Note that the park has a \$7 dollar per vehicle admission fee.* We advise carpooling from the Safeway parking lot at S Academy and Hwy 115, or finding a member with a state parks pass.



Once past the ranger station (after paying the fee), stay on the main road and turn right at the well-marked sign for the Prairie Skipper Point group picnic area:



The pavilion has ample parking. Kids are welcome, and there is a playground next to the pavilion. There are new and clean bathrooms for men, women, and families next to the pavilion.



The pavillion has picnic tables with benches. Feel free to bring your own chairs if you want something more comfy.

Please sign up for the cookout at [cmc.org](http://cmc.org) so we may better prepare for the number of members that will be attending. If you are not able to sign up, or procrastinate until the last minute, please come anyway as we will have plenty of food.

## Your PPG Council

**Chair** – Collin Powers  
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**BMS Director** – Mike Erickson  
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Yolanda Mason  
719-232-3041, youdew@aol.com

Mary Mourar  
719-633-2614, marym525@yahoo.com

Interested in serving on the Pikes Peak Group Council? Please contact the Chair.

## Welcome New PPG Members!

Nancy Bigari  
Victoria Mallon  
Joshua Powers  
Denise Trent  
Greg Trent  
Nathan Trent  
Dylan Trent

Tom Moldenhauer  
Maria Schopen  
Carol George  
Larry Warren  
Mark Nagamatsu  
Emily Powell



The Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) class on Colorado Wilderness Fundamentals was completed with a field day at the Red Rock Canyon Open Space on March 21.

## Conservation Corner

### RESTORATION WORKDAY IN RAMPART RANGE – JUNE 13

What little snow we've had is melting away, which means... It's time for conservation projects! Join the Denver Group on Saturday, June 13, working with the Forest Service to close an illegal motorcycle route into the northern portion of the Rampart Wildlands area. The work site will be off Bergen/Dakan Road, about 3 miles south of Devil's Head. Work may continue for a second day on Sunday. The trip is not yet on the CMC schedule, but please contact Tom Mowle at [tommowle@yahoo.com](mailto:tommowle@yahoo.com) or Steve Bonowski at [climbersteveb@gmail.com](mailto:climbersteveb@gmail.com) to indicate interest.

The Bureau of Land Management's Royal Gorge Field Office is about to open a comment period on its next management plan. This creates an opportunity to advocate for conservation of wild areas in the Arkansas River watershed, mostly in Fremont County. Watch for hikes that will be scheduled this summer so you can visit new places and support their protection! If you'd like to lead a hike in one of these areas, get ideas on where to go by contacting Juli Slivka, The Wilderness Society, [juli\\_slivka@twos.org](mailto:juli_slivka@twos.org), (303) 650-1179; or Scott Braden, Conservation Colorado, [scott@conservationco.org](mailto:scott@conservationco.org).

Both the BLM's planning period and the fast-approaching Pike National Forest planning period also create opportunities for the CMC to advocate for having new trails officially designated. This could mean the adoption of an existing informal trail into the federal system, or even the construction of a new trail. Assignment of a trail number means that the route can be sustainably maintained. Please contact Tom Mowle at [tommowle@yahoo.com](mailto:tommowle@yahoo.com) if you'd like to be part of this planning process.

## State CMC News

### **New CMC Member Orientation Webinar** May 14, 2015, 6:30–7:00 pm

Learn about the many ways to get involved with the Colorado Mountain Club. We will discuss recreation, education, and conservation opportunities, give an overview of trips, volunteer opportunities, and programs of the CMC, including our award-winning Youth Education Program and CMC Press. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and get contact information for your local group. [Sign up today!](#)

### **New! Adventure Camp for Adults: Wilderness First Aid & Navigation** June 28–July 2, 2015

Join us at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Southern Colorado for summer camp. The focus will be on mountain hiking skills, Safety, map & compass/navigation, Leave No Trace®, and hiking equipment tips and tricks. Get certified in Wilderness First Aid (16-hour course) or spend those two days hiking the Sangres on CMC trips. Includes meals, basic camp sites, and all instruction. Cabins are available at the Alpine Lodge for an additional fee.

CMC Members: \$400 | Nonmember Guests: \$450 | Active CMC Trip Leaders: \$400 [Sign up today!](#)

### **FEATURED ADVENTURE TRAVEL TRIPS: THREE TRIPS TO EXPLORE ITALY!**

#### August 29–September 11 [Hiking the Hill Towns of Tuscany](#)

Visit the beautiful Renaissance city of Florence, Italy with a guided tour and independent explorations. Hike in the surrounding hills. Travel to lovely Siena and take a self-guided walking tour walk from one scenic Tuscan village to the next. Experience breathtaking scenery, eat and drink some of the finest food and wine there is. Stay in 3- and 4-star hotels, including restored villas, palaces, and even an active monastery. Four of the locations we'll visit are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

#### September 12–27, 2015 [Tuscany Cycle Tour](#)

The Tuscan countryside is in many respects a cyclist's dream – a heady mix of vineyards, olive groves, poplars and cypresses, rolling hills and charming medieval hill towns steeped in atmosphere and tradition. This bike tour explores the lesser known, but no less beautiful areas of Tuscany to the west of the renowned Siena region. The tour includes seven days of cycling with the opportunity to cycle three more days. In the seven cycling days we will cycle 254 miles, averaging 36 miles a day with a maximum day of 50 miles. We will have three optional days that can be used for rest, sightseeing, or cycling.

#### September 13–25, 2015 [Best Hikes of Italy](#)

Explore three distinctly different parts of Italy on this 13-day adventure: the UNESCO World Heritage Dolomite Region in the Alps of northwestern Italy, the Lake District (Lake Garda), and the UNESCO World Heritage Cinque Terre on the Italian Riviera. Along with hiking, we'll learn about Italian history and culture during museums, Italian cooking class and a visit to Leonardo di Vinci's Last Supper.

### **Or check out Turkey!**

#### September 26–October 11, 2015 [Turkey Hike and Culture](#)

This trip includes four days of hiking in the unique desert region of Cappadocia and the Ihlara valley. Cappadocia is described as both a lunar landscape and a fairyland of bizarre geologic formations which have been carved by people for centuries as homes and safe havens. Then spend four days hiking on the spectacular coastal Lycian way. Visits to cultural and historic sites complete the trip, including Istanbul, Konya, and Ephesus.

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

#### **Help Save Postage and Renew Your CMC Membership On-line**

Remember you can renew your membership anytime during the year—at your own convenience on your member dashboard at [cmc.org](#). Note: CMC is moving all members' expiration dates to the end of the month in which they initially joined, in order to streamline renewal communications. Questions? Contact [office@cmc.org](mailto:office@cmc.org).

#### **Life Membership in the CMC**

What a great deal! You pay one time and your membership lasts for the rest of your life! You don't have to remember to renew every year. Plus, your membership keeps on working to provide meaningful, local connections between people who love the mountains. Call or email the CMC office to find out more!

#### **Go Green in the CMC!**

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, CMC now offers a variety of "paperless" options that you can choose, including the Trail & Timberline magazine. Go to your member profile to choose the on-line T&T to reduce mail and printing footprint.

#### **Volunteers Needed in the CMC Office or Remotely**

CMC has a variety of volunteer jobs—and those who volunteer often say how much they enjoy working with our staff! We have a number of projects that can be completed from your home computer, so distance isn't a barrier. Contact [brendaporter@cmc.org](mailto:brendaporter@cmc.org) for more information.



## PPG Classes

### **Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) – Colorado Alpine Snow Mountaineering** April 28, 30, May 2, 3, 2015

Discussions in our classroom sessions include evaluating weather and snow conditions, terrain and avalanche risk assessment, gear, trip planning, using crampons and proper climbing techniques, snow travel including proper use of ice axe, self-arrest, glissading, determining slope angles, and route finding. We will demonstrate and practice snow anchors and rope techniques if time allows. There is a CMC Rating Trip which we typically do at Pikes Peak Glen Cove which is designed to reinforce principles and techniques discussed in class. You will attend both days. There will be an optional CMC Wilderness Trip to hone your snow travel skills. The cost of this course is \$58. For details, please contact Michael Erickson at [Michael.Erickson@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.Erickson@yahoo.com).

### **Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) – Colorado Rock Climbing** May 21, 27, 30, 31, 2015

This course has one class lecture and one indoor climbing session. There are also 2 field sessions, which we typically do at Red Rock Canyon Open Space and Castlewood Canyon. Our discussions include belaying, climbing knots, communications, rappelling and rappel backup, climbing gear, the different types of rock climbing, rope management including coiling, care and inspection, and climbing techniques. There will be an optional CMC Wilderness Trip to hone your rock climbing skills posted at a later date. The cost of this course is \$58. For details, please contact Michael Erickson at [Michael.Erickson@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.Erickson@yahoo.com).

### **Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) – Colorado Wilderness Backpacking** June 10, 17, 20-21, 2015

Classroom discussions include finding the right backpack, reviews of sleep, cooking, and clothing systems, ultra-light techniques, tents, trip planning, team composition, group dynamics, and Leave No Trace site selections. We'll do a gear check prior to the overnight to make sure you are properly equipped. There is a CMC Rating Trip (overnight) that is designed to reinforce principals and techniques discussed in class. The cost of this course is \$38. For details, please contact Tony Eichstadt at [teichstadt@comcast.net](mailto:teichstadt@comcast.net).

## May PPG Trips

### **Cheyenne Canyon – Loud's Cabin**

Saturday, 5/2/2015

Moderate B

Leader: Dean Waits, 719-445-0263, [dwaits24@gmail.com](mailto:dwaits24@gmail.com) No tickets left

Trail Mileage 9, Elevation Gain 2,500, Driving Distance 10. Location: We will meet at Red Rocks Safeway, 3275 W. Colorado Ave in Colorado Springs at 7:30am to carpool above Helen Hunt Falls at the High Drive / Gold Camp Rd Parking Lot. Will leave the High Drive P/L at 8am. Details: We will start at the High Dr / Gold Camp Rd Parking Lot and hike up the scenic Seven Bridges Trail along Cheyenne Creek, passing Undine Falls to Loud's Cabin. This cabin, once called the Chipmunk Lodge, is from the 1880 era and with the standing rock chimney and remaining logs one can grasp a feel for the grandeur it once had. The return will be on Ring the Peak Trail along Bear Creek, Capt Jack's and Buckhorn Trail's to the P/L. Seven Bridges Trail to Loud's is a continuous uphill grade. Bring water, snacks, lunch, and a sunny attitude.

### **Hindman Gulch**

Sunday, 5/3/2015

Easy C

Leader: Thomas Mourar, 719-633-2614, [mtmourar@yahoo.com](mailto:mtmourar@yahoo.com)

Trail Mileage 8, Elevation Gain 2800, Driving Distance 140. Location: West of Canon City along the Arkansas river at Texas Creek. Details: Lets explore a little visited area relatively close to Colorado Springs. Near Texas Creek, we will start hiking along the north side of the Arkansas river for about a mile on trail, then up a canyon with glistening mica deposits. After exiting the canyon we will make our way through a scenic meadow and then scramble up a prominent rock dome for lunch and views of places like Devil's Hole and Table Mountain. Our return will take a different route along some old mining prospects. Notes: Exploratory and mostly off trail.

### **Crystal Creek Reservoir**

Tuesday, 5/5/2015

Moderate B

Leader: Nancy Altmansberger, 719-471-9549

Trail Mileage 8, Elevation Gain 1600. Details: We have to start early because there are only three parking places at the trailhead. From Chipita Park we will hike up steep Mt. Esther Trail through the Crowe Gulch meadow and continue on to Crystal Creek Reservoir. We will return the way we came. This is a fun, pretty hike. I drive an SUV. We may need one more SUV. CMC members only. A limited number of well behaved, friendly dogs are welcome. Please contact leader by phone. Notes: (1) Registrations for this hike are not automatic or presumed. (2) Do you wear brace(s) with hinges to stabilize your knee(s) when you hike? If so, you are not eligible to go on our hikes. I have found that people who wear the knee brace(s) with hinges hold us up, are unable to complete the hike(s) and/or risk serious injury.

## May PPG Trips (continued)

### Rampart Wildlands—Exploratory

Saturday, 5/9/2015

Difficult

Leader: Thomas Mowle, 719-216-3932, [tommowle@yahoo.com](mailto:tommowle@yahoo.com)

Trail Mileage 6, Elevation Gain 2000+. Location: Rampart Range. Details: This will be a very strenuous, off-trail, exploratory hike! Deep in the Rampart Range, Gove Creek drops 600' in about 1/6 mile. With spring run-off, just maybe there are some wondrous waterfalls along that route. Let's find out! As a bonus, we may also seek the remains of a nearby 1944 B-17 crash. All of this could be great... but be prepared for the falls to be a bust (low water, just steady short drops, screened by boulders) and/or for the plane wreck to be too difficult to reach from this non-standard approach. No dogs.

### PPG New Member Orientation Hike

Saturday, 5/9/2015

Easy A

Leader: Dean Waits, 719-445-0263, [dwaits24@gmail.com](mailto:dwaits24@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 3, Elevation Gain 500. Details: We will go for a short hike in the Red Rock Canyon Open Space and then meet at the Gazebo to review the New Member Orientation materials and answer questions. Guests are welcome. We will be done by noon.

### Pawnee Grasslands Backpack

Friday, 5/15/2015

Moderate

Leader: Alexander Paul, 719-686-8513, [alexkathypaul@gmail.com](mailto:alexkathypaul@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 15, Elevation Gain 300, Driving Distance 350. Location: Pawnee Grasslands. Meet at Crow Valley Recreation Area, approximately 1/4 mile north of Briggsdale, CO. Briggsdale is 40 miles NE of Greeley, CO on CO-14. We will gather in the campground on Friday evening as soon as participants can arrive. Participants can arrive as late as 7:00 a.m. on Saturday when we will leave for the trailhead that is approximately 3 miles from the campground. People staying overnight on Friday should break camp and vacate their site on Saturday morning at the start of our backpack. Details: The Trapper's Trail in the 1830's to 1850's connected Taos in the Rio Grande valley with Ft. Laramie on the North Platte. The segment from the South Platte to Ft. Laramie followed Crow Creek crossing today's Pawnee Grasslands. Our goal is to experience prairie camping and gain an appreciation for the conditions that the Colorado pioneers faced. Scenario: Being offered less than we believed our furs were worth by Marcellin St. Vrain at Fr. St. Vrain and Louis Vasquez at Ft. Vasquez, we decide to deliver them to Ft. Laramie. While camped on Crow Creek our horses are stolen by Pawnees forcing us to cache our furs along the creek and head north on foot. We will follow a map and compass course to avoid the Pawnee (private land parcels) as we head for a waterhole (potable water cache) some 10 miles to the north. At the waterhole we discover the tracks of our stolen horses heading west (5 miles) to a Location: our guide believes we can recover them and circle back to our fur cache (TH). Equipment: Personal clothing and backpack gear for early Spring weather conditions; last year we had an 8-inch snow storm on Mother's Day weekend in this area. Bring food and backpack cooking gear; we will not have open fires. Bring your compass; I will supply a couple sets of maps to work on.

### GoG Loop

Saturday, 5/16/2015

Easy A

Leader: Y Mason, [youdew@aol.com](mailto:youdew@aol.com)

Trail Mileage 6, Elevation Gain 200. Location: Let us hike within The Garden of the Gods; a National Natural Landmark. Meet at the northern most portion of the Garden of the Gods Visitors Center Parking Lot on 30th Street at 8:00 AM. Details: We will depart the GoG Visitors Center parking lot at 8:05 AM and hike a 5-6 mile loop. Weather depending, we will stop at one of my favorite spots within The Garden to enjoy the views while snacking or lunching. Please "be prepared" for Colorado Springtime weather by bringing raingear. This is a nice hike for members who are new to the area.

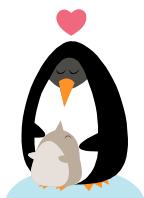
### Bike The Guffey Loop

Saturday, 5/16/2015

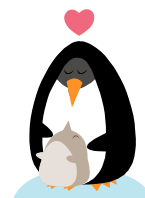
Difficult

Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, [denisedansnow@q.com](mailto:denisedansnow@q.com)

Trail Mileage 56, Elevation Gain 4500, Driving Distance 90. Location: In public park across from Evergreen Station, outside of Florissant. Details: This is a road bike trip on very quiet paved back roads. The terrain involves a lot of climbing and steep hills but has fantastic views of the Sangre de Cristos and Pikes Peak. We will bike to the tiny mountain town of Guffey and have lunch at a local spot. From there we will make a 700 foot climb of Gold Hill in 2 miles but we will reap the rewards of an 18 mile, mostly downhill, descent to the cars. For road biking enthusiasts this is a must cycle route in Colorado. Notes: Participants must be in good biking shape for this ride. Approximate ride time in the saddle is 5-1/2 hours.



To register for classes or trips,  
go to [www.cmc.org](http://www.cmc.org)



## May PPG Trips (continued)

### Thomas and Catamount Trails

Tuesday, 5/19/2015

Moderate B

Leader: Nancy Altmansberger, 719-471-9549

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 1600, Driving Distance 20. Details: From Green Mountain Falls, we will hike Thomas Trail to Catamount Trail. We will hike through the Garden of Eden to South Catamount Reservoir for a snack or lunch by the beach. The hike will include a 30' long rock crossing to get across the water at the bottom of Catamount Falls. There is one place with a bit of a scramble on Catamount Trail. This is a fun hike! CMC members only. It is customary for Colorado Mountain Club hikers to pay drivers 30 cents per mile per car to reimburse the driver for gas and wear and tear on their car. Road mileage is 20 miles. The transportation expense per car is \$6 which will be divided by the number of people in the car. Please bring \$ so that you can pay your share of transportation. A limited number of well behaved, friendly dogs may come on a first come, first served basis. Please register with leader by phone.

### Mt Rosa Loop 11,499'

Saturday, 5/23/2015

Difficult D

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-273-1018, [ehunter67@yahoo.com](mailto:ehunter67@yahoo.com)

Trail Mileage 16, Elevation Gain 4700. Location: Hub parking lot in Cheyenne Canyon. Details: This is a strenuous loop hike from the hub parking lot in Cheyenne Canyon. We will hike up Seven Bridges Trail, across the Pipeline Trail to Frosty Park and up the Mt Rosa Trail to the summit at 11,500', then down Buffalo Creek past St Mary's Falls to Gold Camp Road to complete the loop. There are many wonderful views of Cheyenne Canyon, historical sites, and The Springs throughout this trip.

### Pancake Rocks and Beyond

Saturday, 5/30/2015

Moderate B

Leader: Christie Lee, 719-635-2336, [Christie80905@gmail.com](mailto:Christie80905@gmail.com)

The plan is to go to Pancake Rocks and then one mile beyond (depending on group strength). Carpool from Red Rocks Safeway at 8:30 a.m. Call Christie for signup and details.



Brian, Andy, Dan, Jeff, Karl, David, Mark, Carol, Linda, Cosette, and Peter on Chautauqua Mountain—Ice Cave Creek Hike

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## Pikes Pique

May 2015 | No. 212

Pikes Pique is the monthly newsletter of the Pikes Peak Group of the Colorado Mountain Club. It is a forum for enhancing skills for backcountry travel in the Colorado mountains and communicating information, news, and upcoming events to members and interested parties.

The purpose of the CMC is to unite the energy, interest, and knowledge of the students and lovers of the mountains of Colorado; to collect and disseminate information regarding the Rocky Mountains on behalf of science, literature, art, recreation; to stimulate public interest in our mountain areas; to encourage the preservation of flora, fauna, and natural scenery; and to render readily accessible the alpine attractions of this region.

### PIKES PEAK GROUP CONTACT INFORMATION:

CMC Pikes Peak Group  
P.O. Box 2435  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901  
[cmcpvg@yahoo.com](mailto:cmcpvg@yahoo.com)  
[cmc.org/About/CMCGroups](http://cmc.org/About/CMCGroups)

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

#### Members:

- Text: \$2 per line, \$10 minimum
- Ads: ¼-page - \$25, ½-page - \$50

#### Non-members:

- Text: \$3 per line, \$15 minimum
- Ads: ¼-page - \$30, ½-page - \$60

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have a fun story or trip you want to share? Please submit your articles, along with pictures, to be considered for publication in the next Pikes Pique newsletter.

Please send to:

David Anderson, editor  
[danderso@uccs.edu](mailto:danderso@uccs.edu)

The deadline for submissions is the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Use the above contact information for corrections and comments as well.