



July 2017 | No. 236

Pikes Pique

The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

Bears Ears – Grand Gulch Backpack Trip, May 25–30

By Dean Waits

When folks see a backpack trip like this, it was not hard to recruit Carl Redick, Rebecca MacNamee, Sandra Barrett, Rich Cox, and Dean Waits to accompany leader Eric Hunter on this venture. Since its designation as Bears Ears National Monument late last year, it's been in the news a lot. Previously known as Cedar Mesa / Grand Gulch (and that's still the title shown on maps), it's located in the southeastern corner of Utah just south of Natural Bridges National Monument. It's guardian to countless Native American ruins and artifacts dating back to the Anasazi culture and is currently under review by the government for possible changes.



Leaving town very early and arriving at the Natural Bridges late in the afternoon, the group took a quick four-mile hike to view Sipapu Bridge from its canyon floor. They later camped on BLM property for an early start the next morning to pick up permits and view a required film before starting on the four-day journey.

Entering at the Bullet trailhead and going down into Bullet Canyon, it wasn't long before spotting a tower used to alert these early day occupants. Later, Jailhouse and Perfect Kiva



ruins were explored. Throughout the trip ruins were spotted; some high upon now unreachable ledges and others neatly tucked in a canyon alcove, each with its own unique set of pictographs, petroglyphs, and potsherds.

Bears Ears, however, is not for the casual traveler wanting well designated trails. There are no signs; trails can be overgrown with weeds, grass or brush, wandering in and out of sandy gullies. Cairns and trails can be removed with one deluge. So go prepared and well versed in navigational skills. Water can also be a huge problem. During our visit some pools had remained standing in muddy creeks for days and were not very appealing. There was a flowing spring at one location, though, which was absolutely delicious.

Plans are being made to turn our adventure into one of the Pikes Peak Group's monthly programs, so stay tuned. Come listen, learn, and see parts of this spectacular area for you to start planning your adventure to this enchanting spot.



Your PPG Council

Chair – Collin Powers
719-963-0653, powerscollin@yahoo.com

Past Chair – Rick Keetch
719-634-1165, rakeetch@msn.com

ARCPro Co-Directors – Collin Powers
719-685-2470, powerscollin@yahoo.com;
Scott Kime, 719-235-0939,
scott.kime@live.com

BMS Co-Directors – Tom Mulcahy
719-482-8821, thomleonmul@hotmail.com,
Matt Foster, 719-352-8164,
matthewmfoster@gmail.com

Conservation – Tom Mowle
719-216-3932, tommowle@yahoo.com

Education & Training – Eric Hunter
719-266-9647, EHunterCMC@gmail.com

Equipment Manager – Darren Funk-Neubauer
719-597-2397,
darren.funkneubauer@csupueblo.edu

Membership – Dean Waits
281-352-2236, dwaits24@gmail.com

Newsletter – Dave Anderson
719-484-9069, danderso@uccs.edu

Outings – Britt Jones
719-661-4777, britt@globalreality.biz

Programs – Bill Allen
719-660-1339, aspenperio@aol.com

Public Relations – Kristen Buckland
419-260-7807, buckie06@hotmail.com

Safety & Leadership – Paul Schoell
719-440-7777, 4paul2@gmail.com

Secretary – Glenn Barr
719-244-3502, gjb2000@gmail.com

SESI – Christie Lee
719-635-2336, christie80905@gmail.com

Treasurer – Jackie Crouch
719-231-3513, jcrouchn@mac.com

At Large:

Mike Cromwell
858-395-5986, cromwellc@comcast.net

Greg Long
719-659-0345, at_90@yahoo.com

Malcom Quentin
719-237-4256, mcquentin@gmail.com

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

Welcome New PPG Members!

Susan Gerdes Mark Schaefer
Daniel Nicolls Stacy Sprewer
Tara Puckett Jessica Walls



New Member Orientation



New Member Orientation on May 20 at Red Rocks Open Space. L-R: Jake (guest), Phil McAtee, Chere McAtee, Melissa Treece (guest), Joanne Larraga (leader), Justin Creger, Glenn Barr (leader), Cathy Poral, Gloria Mascote, Jennifer Williams, Sandy Hammond, Jason Kosola, Dean Waits, (photographer/leader)

Summer 2017 Stewardship Schedule

This summer the CMC has four stewardship projects scheduled in coordination with the Pike National Forest. Please sign up using the links below, and watch for more information in the Pikes Pique.

On **July 8**, we will be doing some touch-up work on Lovell Gulch trail in the areas we worked last year. The rangers would like a couple hundred feet of trail to be wider so it will be easier for people to pass without trampling the critical edge and undoing our work. We will also block some braided trails and put up some signs.

On **August 5**, we will remediate some erosion issues on the eastern end of the southern loop on Lovell Gulch.

HQ-CMC in Golden has scheduled a work project on Pikes Peak on August 19-20. I don't know anything about it, but there may be more information in next month's newsletter and soon on the CMC's [stewardship page](#).

Finally, sometime in late summer we hope to help the Pikes Peak Ranger District close some user-created motorized routes around FRs 314 and 315—across Rampart Range Road from Lovell.

Upcoming PPG Classes

PPG ARCPro Traditional Lead Climbing Class

Starts June 20

The Traditional Lead Climbing Class is part of the PPG Advanced Rock Climbing Program. In this class, students will be introduced to the principles and techniques of placing gear on a “traditional” rock climb. This class builds upon many of the concepts and skills taught in the PPG ARCPro Gear and Anchors Class. By the end of the final Field Session, students will perform mock trad leads, backed up by a top-rope belay. Students will be evaluated for their gear placements and their understanding of key principles of how to ensure safety while leading a traditional climb. Prerequisites: Successful completion of BMS Rock Climbing, the Sport Leading Class and the PPG ARCPro Gear and Anchors class, or approval from ARC Program directors.

PPG ARCPro Multipitch Concepts Class

Starts August 10

Students will learn techniques applicable to climbing multipitch routes, including: preparation, anchors, belaying, cleaning gear, belay transitions, descending, and climbing with a 3-person team. Prerequisites: Students should have basic rock climbing skills, such as taught in our BMS Rock Climbing or the equivalent, to include belaying, rappelling, and climbing communication. Leading skills are not absolutely necessary, but it is recommended that participants in this class take the ARCPro Gear and Anchors Class and Traditional Lead Climbing Class prior to this class, as students may practice placing trad gear and building trad anchors in this class. However, this class will be beneficial to anyone looking to climb multipitch routes, to include leaders and followers. Exact class content and student practice sessions will be tailored to the individual student's skill level and goals. Contact the leaders if you have questions regarding your suitability for this class.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School - Colorado Wilderness Backpacking

Starts August 23

There are two class lectures. Our discussions include finding the right backpack, systems review – including sleeping systems, cooking systems, clothing systems, ultra-light techniques, tents, trip planning, team composition, group dynamics, and site selection. We will 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. Prerequisites: Wilderness Fundamentals.

PPG ARCPro Sport Lead Climbing Class

Starts August 26

This two-day class will teach participants the skills needed to safely lead sport climbs; to include setting up a top-rope anchor, cleaning the anchor and rappelling or lowering down, along with some more advanced sport climbing skills. On Day 1, we will focus on the safety components and transitions of leading sport climbs and cleaning/rappelling sport climbs, then on Day 2 students will practice leading, will learn movement techniques, how to fall safely (with some practice taking real falls), and advanced leader belaying. It is designed for the climber who has climbed top-rope style, but who would like to advance into being a fully "independent climber" able to put up ropes at the start of a climb, and safely take down ropes at the end of a climb. Prerequisites: Participants are expected to either be graduates of BMS Rock or have experience with good climbing belay skills, rappelling, good climbing communications, and a good working knowledge of knots and the climber's safety system. Your experience does not need to be extensive, but this is not an introduction to climbing class.

Pikes Peak Intro to Mountain Biking Basics

Starts September 6

Learn the gear, maintenance, safety, and entry level techniques for basic mountain biking. Mountain biking is a great way to enjoy the wilderness with a little more skill and finesse, of getting out for a short outing after work, and for building cardio before a big climb. There will be two classroom sessions in Colorado Springs and three field sessions for the mountain biking class. The cost is \$60. There are also rental costs if you don't own the gear. The mountain biking classroom dates are 06 and 07 Sep from 6:00p to 9:30p, and the field dates are 09, 16, and 23 Sep all day. A strong fitness level to go on a full day technical bike ride is required for the field sessions as this will not be casual riding. The field sessions will be progressive in nature to build on skills.

Pikes Peak Intro to Technical Canyoneering

Starts September 13

If you have completed the Intro to Desert Hiking and Canyoneering *and* Basic Mountaineering School Rock Climbing courses, here is a chance to take those skills to the next level. Come learn the proper gear, safety, and techniques for technical canyoneering. There are many nuances to this environment that warrant a safe approach such as provided by this class. The course cost is \$150. The classroom session will be in Colorado Springs on 13 Sep from 6:00p to 9:30p. There are two evening field session in Colorado Springs to cover some basics and evaluate fitness levels on 14 and 21 Sep. Then we go on a four-day trip to the desert scheduled for 01 Oct through 04 Oct. This year's desert trip is planned for the San Rafael Swell in Utah. A strong fitness level to go on daily full day hikes with scrambling and rappelling on high exposure in hot terrain, squeezing through narrows, and hiking all day in loose sand and deep water is required for the field sessions. The field sessions will be progressive in nature to build on skills. Attendance at the classroom session and local field sessions will be required to attend the Utah trip. Prerequisite: Completion of both BMS Rock Climbing *and* Intro to Desert Hiking & Canyoneering is required! A city parks permit to rock climb is also required and must be obtained prior to the course.

Upcoming PPG Classes (continued)

Pikes Peak Intro to Desert Hiking and Canyoneering

Starts September 20

If you have only been hiking in the high altitude for your spring, summer, and fall there is another world out there. When you have climbed enough peaks to wonder what other environments might be out there, the next step for you may be desert terrain. Come learn the proper gear, safety, and entry level techniques for basic desert hiking and basic canyoneering. There are many nuances to this environment that should warrant a safe approach such as provided by this class. The course cost is \$95. The classroom session will be in Colorado Springs and is on 20 Sep from 6:00p to 9:30p. There is a one day field session in Colorado Springs to cover some basics and evaluate fitness levels scheduled for 24 Sep. Then we go on a five day trip to the desert scheduled for 27 Sep through 01 Oct. This year's desert trip is planned for the San Rafael Swell in Utah. A strong fitness level to go on daily full day hikes with scrambling on moderate exposure in hot terrain, squeezing through narrows, and hiking in loose sand is required for the field sessions. The field sessions will be progressive in nature to build on skills. Attendance at the classroom session and local field session will be required to attend the Utah trip.

Pikes Peak Trip Leader Training

Starts October 5

This course provides the necessary training and satisfies part of the requirement of becoming a CMC trip leader for the Pikes Peak Group. (Completion of a Wilderness First Aid course, a CPR course, and practice trip leading are the other requirements for becoming a trip leader.) The classroom sessions are on 5 and 9 October from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The field session on the morning of 14 October will be scheduled as a CMC trip. *Prerequisite:* Must have taken BMS Wilderness Fundamentals and BMS Land Navigation or possess equivalent demonstrable knowledge/experience and be a PPG member for at least one year.

Pikes Peak WFA (Wilderness First Aid)

Starts October 21

This two-day, sixteen-hour ECSI accredited course presents dynamic instruction devoted to teaching the student how to respond to medical emergencies in remote settings where definitive medical care is not readily available. Day one consists of classroom presentations and hands-on training in a variety of medical situations that may be encountered in the backcountry and wilderness areas. Day two continues with a shorter classroom presentation followed by realistic scenarios in the field that simulate the type of medical situations people face in wilderness settings, when calling 911 is not an option. This course satisfies a requirement for trip leaders. The sessions are on 21 and 22 October from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. A comprehensive textbook and field guide are included and you will receive your WFA certification. *Note:* This course does not teach CPR, which is taught in a separate two-and-a-half-hour class (with separate sign up required) at the same location after the completion of the WFA course.

Pikes Peak CPR Training

October 22

Knowing CPR can be life-saving! Did you know the number four cause of death in the backcountry is heart attack? If you never had CPR training or it's been a while, this two and a half hour American Heart Association accredited training is for you. It includes the latest classroom instruction and hands-on training in CPR/AED for the Adult/Child/Infant (choking, conscious and unconscious). This class is taught at 3:30 pm on October 22 and satisfies a requirement for trip leaders. You will receive a CPR certification good for two years.

July PPG Trips

Horn Peak NE Ridge 13,450

Saturday, 7/8/2017

Difficult C

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, EHunterCMC@gmail.com

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 4500, Driving Distance 180. Location: Sangre de Cristo Mtns east side. Details: This is a strenuous summit quest to the top of Horn Peak. We will hike from the Horn Creek Trailhead, to the Rainbow Trail past Dry Creek to the Horn Peak Trail. From there we will hike the ridge to the summit of Horn Peak at 13,450 ft and back. Secondary trail and off trail travel. There are many wonderful views to the Wet Mountain Valley and the Sangre de Cristos along this trail. Nat Geo Map 138. 180 mi. Class 2, 10/4,500'. Register with leader.

Lovell Gulch Trail Project #6

Saturday, 7/8/2017

Moderate

Leader: Thomas Mowle, 719-216-3932, tommowle@yahoo.com

Trail Mileage 1.5, Elevation Gain 200. Details: Trail work, open to the public. Ages 16+; under 18 must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Day hike. Bring your lunch. The Pikes Peak Group is continuing to help the National Forest with maintenance on Lovell Gulch Trail #706 near Woodland Park. For our first workday this year, the Forest has asked us to widen a section of trail that we built last year. Once the project is full, we will not be able to accommodate any additional volunteers unless additional leaders/tools are recruited. This is for safety's sake—to retain a safe crew leader to volunteer ratio—and due to the number of

tools available. Please cancel if needed to make room for others, and join the wait list if the trip is full. Notes: Additional workdays on 8/27 and 9/17.

West Tennessee Lakes

Saturday, 7/8/2017

Moderate B

Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, denisedansnow@q.com

Trail Mileage 9.4, Elevation Gain 1685. Location: We will meet at the parking area on the west side of Tennessee Pass (there are bathrooms here). Details: The two West Tennessee Lakes are located deep in a little used but lovely mountain basin, west of Leadville. The flowing waters of West Tennessee Creek, the lakes, and the unspoiled valley make this a most rewarding hike. **No tickets left.**

Colorado Trail Segment 24

Friday, 7/14/2017

Difficult C

Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, denisedansnow@q.com

Trail Mileage 20.2, Elevation Gain 3475. Details: This is a backpack trip of Segment 24 of the Colorado Trail. We will meet and overnight in Silverton on Friday the 14th. On Saturday we will take a pre-arranged shuttle at 7:30 from Molas Pass to Stoney Pass. We will start our backpack here. The first day we will hike 11.6 miles, largely downhill, and camp by a pond with great views of Vestal and Arrow peaks. The next day we will hike 8.6 miles to our car(s) at Molas Pass. From here we will return home (we may want to spend the night in Silverton before driving home the next day). Notes: Price of the shuttle is \$65 per person assuming three participants. The leader has prepaid this cost, so in order to register you must pay in advance. **No tickets left.**

Jake & Elwood's Long Loop

Saturday, 7/15/2017

Moderate D

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, EHunterCMC@gmail.com

Trail Mileage 22, Elevation Gain 2700, Driving Distance 200. Location: St Elmo, CO. Details: This is a long loop trail that encircles Wildcat Gulch near St Elmo. Do not be fooled as this is a very long hike and a huge undertaking. Do not expect this day to be easy. We will hike from the parking lot just outside St Elmo up Hancock Road past the town sites of Romley and Hancock and several mining history sites. We will then hike the historic Alpine Tunnel Trail past Jake and Elwood's Spring and turn north on Tunnel Lake Trail to Tincup Pass Road. We will then hike down the Tincup Pass Road back to St Elmo. There will be minor time for photos and exploring. Nat Geo Map 130. 200 mi. 22/2700'. Register with leader.

Climbing Grays and Torreys

Saturday, 7/15/2017

Moderate C

Leader: Chris Mattingly, 719-268-6774, jamescmattingly@comcast.net

Trail Mileage 8.5, Elevation Gain 3600, Driving Distance 240. Location: Grays and Torreys trailhead at exit 221 on I-70. Details: This climb is in conjunction with the PPG class held on 11 and 13 July and is intended for students who take the class. They have the priority over anyone else. Should you want to climb and have already taken a previous climbing class with me, send me an email and you can have a slot if any are available. We will discuss travel arrangement and prep plans on the last night of class. You can either meet the group at the trailhead or a meeting place convenient for the participants. Trip pace is listed as casual, but not to be taken lightly. Moderate is probably too restrictive, so expect to keep your heart rate up. We will take short rest stops, of course. This trip/route can be found on 14ers.com.

Mystery 13er in Breckenridge Area

Saturday, 7/22/2017

Moderate C

Leader: Christie Lee, 719-243-1821, Christie80905@gmail.com

Details: Mystery 13er in the Breckenridge area. Contact leader at least two days prior to the trip

Crags to Devil's Playground

Saturday, 7/22/2017

Moderate C

Leader: Debbie Sheinman, 719-635-7720, sheindk@yahoo.com

Trail Mileage 5.5, Elevation Gain 2500, Driving Distance 60. Location: This is meant to be a training hike for those CMC members who wish to train for fourteeners. Please note: This is a strenuous and very steep hike that starts at 10,200 feet and may end at 12,700 or 13,000 feet within 2.5-3 miles depending on the weather and time. This hike will be a slow-moderate pace. Let's meet at the Red Rocks Safeway (3275 W. Colorado) parking lot at 6:30 a.m. We'll drive west on Hwy 24 to Divide and then turn south on Hwy. 67. From there we'll travel 3½ miles south on Hwy 67 and turn left onto the dirt road that leads to the Crags Campground. We'll drive 3½ more miles to the parking lot. We'll hike up Trail 664a (the old Banana Rock or Devil's Playground Trail). If time and weather allow, we'll hike up to Devil's Playground and play around on the rocks. We'll return via the same route. Please bring your 10 essentials along with a minimum of two quarts of water, food, warm clothing, and rain gear (jacket and pants). Should you have any questions, please contact me. If you wish to meet us at the trailhead, please contact me by Friday, July 21st. Should you need to cancel, again please contact me ahead of time.



*To register for classes or trips,
go to www.cmc.org*



July PPG Trips (continued)

Booth Lake Hike

Saturday, 7/22/2017 Moderate B

Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, denisedansnow@q.com

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 3080. Location: We will start at the Booth Falls TH near exit 180 off of I-70 in Vail. Details: This is a beautiful hike into Eagles Nest Wilderness. Just east of Vail, this hike offers amazing views of a valley, a waterfall, and an alpine lake. For most of the first half of the hike, the trail goes uphill with moderate steepness with a few flat spots. At about two miles, you can see Booth Falls and you can come right next to it if you dare. After the waterfall, the trail continues to climb uphill for awhile, then descends to a wide stream where you could fly fish if you desire. Then, the trail heads back uphill and finally the view opens up to the valley and a single track trail veers through open meadows. Booth Lake is about another three miles from the waterfall. Don't forget to look behind you, as you will be rewarded with great views of Vail ski resort and Mt of the Holy Cross, a 14er.

Mt Ouray W Ridge 13,971

Sunday, 7/23/2017 Difficult C

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, EHunterCMC@gmail.com

Trail Mileage 6, Elevation Gain 3275, Driving Distance 200. Location: Marshall Pass, CO. Details: This is a long ridge walk to the top of a Centennial 13'er. We will hike from the Marshall Pass Trailhead, to the West Ridge. From there we will hike the ridge to the summit of Mount Ouray at 13,971 ft and back. Secondary trail and off trail travel. There are many wonderful views to the Sawatch Range and Sangre de Cristos along this trail. Nat Geo Map 139. 200 mi. Class 2, 6/3,275'. Register with leader.

Devil's Playground to Pikes Peak Summit

Wednesday, 7/26/2017 Difficult B

Leader: Paul Kozlowski, 719-684-9408, paul.kozlowski@hotmail.com

Trail Mileage 6, Elevation Gain 1200, Driving Distance 30. Details: A moderate, mid-week, high-altitude special. We'll drive Pikes Peak Highway to Devil's Playground, hike to Pikes Peak summit, have a mid-morning coffee break with World-Famous donuts, and return by same route. Please be aware that this is a high-altitude hike with rock scramble toward summit. Highway fee is \$12. Register with leader.

Member Discounts

Adventure Medical Kits
Ajax Bike and Sport
American Mountaineering Museum
Bentgate
Breckenridge Nordic Center
City Rock
Friction Labs
Frisco Nordic Center
Gold Camp Brewing
Golden Bike Shop
Great Storm Brewery
Ken's Anglers
Lumiere Telluride
Moosejaw
Mountain Chalet

Mountain Equipment Recyclers
Mountainsmith
Neptune Mountaineering
ProMotive.com
R&W Rope
ROCK'n & JAM'n
Rocky Bob's Fly Fishing Rods
Summit Terragraphics
The Custom Foot
The Mountaineers Books
The Trailhead
TrailRunner Magazine
Vagabond Ranch Huts
Wilderness Exchange Unlimited

the PPG
FOLLOW US ON

facebook.

Pikes Pique

July 2017 | No. 236

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
cmcppgrp@gmail.com
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

The deadline for submissions is the 14th of each month.

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