



September 2017 | No. 238

Pikes Pique

The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

Pikes Peak Group Program – September 19

Eric Hunter and Friends Present: *Bears Ears National Monument*

Long before it was known as Cedar Mesa / Grand Gulch or even now; Bears Ears National Monument, ancestral Puebloans inhabited the canyons and mesa tops of this area between 700 and 2,500 years ago. Many of their dwellings, farming areas, and rock art sites remain in excellent condition. Stone and bone tools, pottery pieces, and other artifacts give hints of the lifestyle of these people. But they certainly were not the first ones roaming the area. These canyons and mesas of the area are still important to the modern day Hopi, Ute, Navajo, and various Pueblo tribes.



This was the area a few CMC-PPG members, Leader Eric Hunter, Rebecca MacNamee, Carl Redick, Sandra Barrett, Rich Cox, and Dean Waits wandered through earlier in May. After getting their permits for a four-day trip, they started at Bullet trailhead, then ventured down Bullet Canyon. It wasn't long before spotting a rock shelter which may have been a signal-post near the canyon entrance. The trail wound down the slick rock canyon floor occasionally marked by cairns.

After a few miles we came upon Jail and Perfect Kiva Ruins. Perfect Kiva has been reinforced for folks to go inside by climbing down its wooden ladder. Petroglyphs are pecked into the rock, and pictographs painted on rock with pigments are located at each ruin sight, some very similar and some with variations, but all in amazing condition. There are numerous other named ruins: Turkey Pen, Yellow Mask, and

Wall to name a few, with others tucked away on ledges impossible to reach today.



Bears Ears, however, is not for the casual traveler wanting well designated trails. After entering 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 a single deluge. So go prepared and well versed in navigational skills. Water can also be a huge problem.

Come listen to the adventure these travelers experienced through this amazing wonderland now called Bears Ears at 6:30 p.m. on September 19 at Mountain Chalet, 226 N Tejon Street.



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

High Altitude Mountaineering School

The Pikes Peak Group High Altitude Mountaineering School (HAMS) will start in October. This is a course designed for those climbers who want to go beyond the 14ers to take on high altitude (15,000'-plus) and glaciated mountains. Classroom sessions will take place on Thursdays 10/26, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7 and include such topics as equipment, medical concerns, nutrition and menu planning, fitness and training, organizing an expedition, and group dynamics. Field sessions will be on 1/7, 1/21, 2/10-11, and 3/3-3/4; they will cover such topics as roped travel, crevasse rescue, climbing alpine ice, and winter camping. A graduation climb of Mt. Rainier will take place at the end of the course. Completion of Basic Mountaineering School (all modules) or equivalent, plus experience putting those skills into practice in the field are prerequisites for the course. Cost for the class is \$160. For information contact Greg Long at (719) 659-0345 or at_90@yahoo.com. Register online at cmc.org.

Stewardship



Trail repair at Lovell Gulch. L-R: David Orner, John Valainis (non-members), David Harris, Jackie Crouch, Tom Mowle (leader), and Mark Silas. (Not pictured: Ruth Gulliver and Gary Censoplano. Photo courtesy Dean Waits.)

Our first 2017 trail stewardship day at Lovell Gulch was a blast! We did some finishing work on the new trail near the stream crossing—widened it to better accommodate the heavy use on that section—and also installed some grade reversals to make it more sustainable. We also installed some signs to help people distinguish the main trail from the many interesting side trails... If you've taken land navigation, you know that this is an easy place to get lost.

We have one more trail stewardship day scheduled on **September 9**. We will remediate some erosion issues on the eastern end of the southern loop on Lovell Gulch. Please sign up at cmc.org.

Also, this season we may yet 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 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.

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.



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



Upcoming PPG Classes (continued)

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.

September PPG Trips

Humboldt Peak Backpack 14,294

Friday, 9/1/2017

Difficult C

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

Trail Mileage 11, Elevation Gain 4200, Driving Distance 180. Location: Sangre de Cristos east side. Details: Come enjoy an overnight and peak climb on the old road to South Colony Lakes. We will backpack up the old road on Friday and set up camp near the old trailhead. We will climb the peak on Saturday and camp a second night at the same site. Sunday we will backpack out and drive home. Nat Geo Map 138. 180 mi. 11/4,200'. Register with leader.

Lovell Gulch Trail Project #8

Saturday, 9/9/2017

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 3, Elevation Gain 300. Location: North of Woodland Park. Details: Trail work. Open to the public. Ages 16+; under 18 must be accompanied by parent/guardian. 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 second workday this year, the Forest has asked us to work on some drainage/erosion issues in the southeastern part of the loop. 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 waitlist if the trip is full.

Mountain Bike Women's Park, Divide

Saturday, 9/9/2017

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 16, Elevation Gain 700, Driving Distance 40. Details: This is the first of three field trips for those completing the two Pikes Peak Group classroom sessions only. We will bike the trails of the Women's Park and practice skills and drills. The trail is a single track along an old road bed, but with some very minor technical sections. Excellent views of the Front Range and many historic artifacts await you on this trail. Further details will be provided in the class.



To register for classes or trips,
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September PPG Trips (continued)

13er in Breckenridge Area

Saturday, 9/9/2017

Moderate C

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

Details: Contact leader at least two days prior to the trip to confirm meeting place and time.

Clean Up & Camp at A-Frame

Saturday, 9/9/2017

Difficult

Leader: Dean Waits, 281-352-2236, dwaits24@gmail.com

Trail Mileage 18, Elevation Gain 6000, Driving Distance 20. Details: Come help clean the A-Frame area. Built in 1964 and maintained by PPG since 1999; it's served as an emergency shelter and a baseline for hikers at 11,900' near timberline. Meet at the Manitou Shuttle, Memorial Park, 502 Manitou Ave at 7am, ready to go. We'll take the shuttle to Barr TH, hike to Barr Camp, 6 miles, take a short break, then on to the A-Frame, 3 miles. Set up camp and spend the night. Be equipped to camp outside. If there's space some may sleep inside. We will clean the area, pack out trash and hike back down Barr Trail on Sunday. This is a 9-mile and 6,000' trek with pack; a difficult hike. Although this may sound like work; it will be a fun gathering and adventure.

Planning meeting for 9/24 Storm Peak (13er near Estes Park)

Sunday, 9/10/2017

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

Details: 11:30 a.m. at Mountain Chalet map station.

Rappel RRCOS

Thursday, 9/14/2017

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 2, Elevation Gain 150. Location: Colorado Springs, CO. Details: This is the local field trip for those completing the Pikes Peak Group Intro to Technical Canyoneering classroom session only. We will hike to a wall in Red Rock Canyon Open Space and setup a rappel station. We will then work as a team on rappelling from that station. We will use the latest canyon descending tools and block off, pass knots, self rescue, etc. Our focus is on evaluation of everyone's terrain/route selection, scrambling and stemming skills, and endurance. Further details will be provided in the class.

Mountain Bike Arkansas River/Bighorn Sheep Canyon

Saturday, 9/16/2017

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 22, Elevation Gain 300, Driving Distance 250. Details: This is the second of three field trips for those completing the two Pikes Peak Group classroom sessions only. This is a great moderate ride along the historic trail from Wellsville to Coaldale on the north shore of the Arkansas River. There are interpretive signs along the ride to further immerse yourself in this historic route. The route starts on a graded road, which turns into a jeep road, which turns into a 4WD road, then finally back to a graded/paved road. The focus will be on using gears, selecting the path of least resistance, knowing when to hike-a-bike, and negotiating hills and varied terrain. Further details will be provided in the class.

Rappel RRCOS

Thursday, 9/21/2017

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 2, Elevation Gain 150. Location: Colorado Springs, CO. Details: This is the local field trip for those completing the Pikes Peak Group Intro to Technical Canyoneering classroom session only. We will hike to a wall in Red Rock Canyon Open Space and setup a rappel station. We will then work as a team on rappelling from that station. We will use the latest canyon descending tools and block off, pass knots, self rescue, etc. Our focus is on evaluation of everyone's terrain/route selection, scrambling and stemming skills, and endurance. Further details will be provided in the class.

Mountain Bike Fox Run Regional Park

Saturday, 9/23/2017

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 6, Elevation Gain 350, Driving Distance 60. Details: This is the third of three field trips for those completing the two Pikes Peak Group classroom sessions only. We will bike from the NE entrance. We will begin with field repair tips and techniques. Then we will have a casual ride on the trails of Fox Run. Further details will be provided in the class.

Hike Ute Park and RRCOS

Sunday, 9/24/2017

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 8, Elevation Gain 750. Location: Colorado Springs, CO. Details: This is the local field trip for those completing the Pikes Peak Group Intro to Desert Trekking and Canyoneering classroom session only. We will hike a wet canyon in Ute Park and two dry to wet canyons in RRCOS. We will spend time looking at things like terrain/route selection, scrambling and stemming skills, endurance, and emergency situation choices (camping, exiting mid canyon, water procurement, etc.). Further details will be provided in the class.

September PPG Trips (continued)

Storm Peak (13er near Estes Park)

Sunday, 9/24/2017

Moderate C

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

Details: Leave Colorado Springs at 3:30 a.m., trailhead at 6:30 a.m.

Desert Hiking and Canyoneering Trip - San Rafael Swell, UT

Wednesday, 9/27/2017

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 30, Elevation Gain 1500, Driving Distance 1000. Location: San Rafael Swell, UT. Details: This is the five-day field trip for those completing the Pikes Peak Group Intro to Desert Trekking and Canyoneering classroom session only. We will drive to Goblin Valley SP, UT and set up a car camp base camp. We will then hike in Goblin Valley and visit the Goblin's Lair and practice working as a team to get through some obstacles in Goblin Valley. If there is time we may also hike Curtis Bench. On Thursday we will hike Wildhorse Canyon down and back and up to the Grotto Class 2, B, III, and 12 miles. On Friday we will hike Crack Canyon down and back Class 2, B, III, and 9 miles. On Saturday we will hike up Bell Canyon and down Little Wild Horse for a change in pace, Class 2, B, III, and 10 miles. Substitutions may be made to accommodate weather, road closures, etc. Further details will be provided in the class.



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City Rock
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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.

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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.