



February 2018 | No. 242

# Pikes Pique

## The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

### Pikes Peak Group Program – February 20

Roger Kilcoyne Presents: *Liberty Ridge*



Even though a large majority of people climbing Mt Rainier do not know or care about the existence of Liberty Ridge, it is considered by many to be the best climb on the mountain. Splitting the North Face in half, this striking line begs to be climbed. First climbed by Ome Daiber, Arnie Campbell, and Jim Burrow in 1935, this route features an approach over several glaciers including the intimidating Carbon Glacier. The view of Willis Wall on the left and Liberty Wall on the right releasing avalanches (a daily occurrence on warm summer days), unpredictable Pacific Northwest weather, and exposed climbing on steep slopes provides a variety of challenges for those who decide to give this route a shot. These qualities led Steve Roper and Allen Steck to include this climb into their book "Fifty Classic Climbs of North America."



The difficulty of the climb will depend on your chosen variation of the approach, climbing route, season when you climb, luck with the weather and temperature, and thus the route is suitable to experienced climbers. The technical difficulty of this climb is not very high by today's standards, yet it is one of the more sustained and steep popular climbs on the mountain and shouldn't be underestimated. Rescues and deaths on this route happen yearly.

We will discuss the climbing routes, equipment list, and preparation for the climb.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. on February 20<sup>th</sup> for our monthly program at the Mountain Chalet, 226 N Tejon St.

### More Upcoming Events

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Wildlands Alliance **Backcountry Film Festival** will show in Colorado Springs on February 9<sup>th</sup> at The Ute & Yeti, 21 N Nevada Avenue. All proceeds benefit the Colorado Mountain Club.

Calling all college students! Dates for **Earth Corps 2018**, RMFI's signature education program in partnership with UCCS, are set for July 23 through August 13, 2018. Applications for this award-winning, for-credit program are now being accepted. [Learn more and apply.](#)

## Your PPG Council

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

## Welcome New Members!

Michael Albonetti  
Brittany Bigley  
Craig Dold  
Elizabeth Field  
Jody Hanson  
Brittany Hoover  
Molly Jones  
David Jones  
Kiernan McCullough  
Megan McCullough  
Breck Nibarger

Emmele Nicholas  
William Phillips  
Zachary Reeves  
Megan Rieger  
Larry Shaw  
Mary Slattery  
Sean Warner  
Lindsey Watson  
Bobbi Kae Watt  
Lisa Wedman



## Member Contributions

### Red Rock Canyon Open Space – Section 16 and Return



Barbara Gutow, Denise Trent, Carol Schmitz, Kim Zacher, Fran Mattivi, Connie Miller, Tom Jagger, Linda Ernst, and Leader Donna Brockman; photograph by Dean Waits

### Mt Rosa Hike



Great day for a 13 miler with 4K of elevation gain! Left to Right: Dan Magar, Shane Kramer, Michael Brooks, Eric Land, Kim Zacher, Alex Baird, and Andy Lyon



## Wilderness Fundamentals Class

Several Pikes Peak Group students completed a Wilderness Fundamentals class, the third for 2017. There will be four classes offered in 2018 to help new members become involved with the many classes offered by the PPG.



Students attended a one-night class lecture and also a classroom-like hike and discussion on Section 16. L-R in photo: Matt Foster, leader, Pia Schalin, Jennifer Schmidt, leader, Jonathan Huang, John Schakelford, Dan Magar, Julie Kiley, Jason Kosola, Justin Creger, and Jin Chung. Photo by Dean Waits, leader.

Wilderness fundamentals, or “wild fun”, as we like to call it, is more than just the launch pad to many other classes offered by the club. You’ll learn about the 10 Essentials to always keep in your bag, an informative gear overview, leave no trace concepts, and trip planning. Recognizing Colorado’s rapidly changing weather patterns and how to stay safe in all conditions are among other topics covered in this evening class. If you have not been part of “wild fun” and the field day which follows, please look for many opportunities in 2018!

## Grand Canyon Backpack Trip

In late October, with hopefully cooler temperatures and ample water, Bob Hostetler, Larry Kinser, Mark Silas, Tim Tan, and Dean Waits headed west for a six-day backpack into Kanab Canyon, on the North Rim far western part of the park. Had a slight detour to Zion Nation Park to climb Angel’s Landing.



The group had been reviewing weather forecasts for weeks and with no recent rains decided to each carry seven liters of water upon entering. The overall plan was to enter Chamberlain Canyon via a route which looked feasible on Google Earth and exit Flipoff Canyon six days later. There were no trails on either route.

The water turned out to be in abundance for the canyon. First day spotting a spring seep, next day an occasional flowing Kanab Creek, and by the third day the group was wading to reach Scotties Canyon. Scottie’s Castle is a tall spire towering high above the normally flat rimmed canyon walls, and a dominant marker to its canyon. Upon entering Scotties we were greeted by another generous flowing stream with waterfalls making their way to join the Kanab as it makes its way to the Colorado.

Making a base camp for two days at Shower Bath Spring, a magnificent aquatic garden complete with flowing water percolating through a travertine fern-covered overhang. First night there after a long sometimes rock-scrambling or cactus-dodging day and second night after the day hike to Scottie’s.

Upon passing Flipoff Canyon we explored for water as that would be our exit, and were successful finding small pools. Flipoff gets its name from an ominous rock formation that exemplifies that hand gesture. Further up the canyon we came across a magnificent pictograph/petroglyph panel known as the Billboard.



More water being found near the Billboard, we were all set for our dry camp the night before exiting. Upon reaching the canyon rim it was a 1.7-mile trek through the trees to our red dust covered trucks and then a 50-plus mile drive back to Fredonia, AZ for some refreshments and food. What a place; being down in the canyon in such a deserted area. Keep your eyes open for an upcoming presentation on this marvelous adventure.

## Upcoming PPG Classes

### **Pikes Peak Avalanche Level 1**

Starts January 23

This is the Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain course required for both HAMS and BMS students, and is highly recommended for anyone going into the winter wilderness. The classroom sessions will be held in Colorado Springs, and will teach how to develop a plan for travel on avalanche terrain, how to identify terrain that is avalanche safe, how to make safe terrain choices before and during a trip, and how to make an efficient companion rescue through hands on experience. This is the course to make all the other winter activities safer. Classroom dates are scheduled for 23 and 25 Jan from 6:00p to 9:30p. The field session is scheduled for both 27 and 28 Jan all day. All field sessions are scheduled separately as CMC trips. Attendance at both classroom sessions and both field sessions is required to successfully complete the course. The cost for this class is \$175 for the Pikes Peak Group and Leaders and \$200 for all others. A general fitness level is required to spend the day snowshoeing around and digging in the snow. This course will be on snowshoes only. The target audience is anyone new to avalanche skills and anyone wanting to refresh their expired skills.

### **PPG Basic Mountaineering School – Beginner Ice Climbing**

Starts January 30

Time to swing some ice! This is the final module in the 2017-2018 BMS series. Completion of this course allows certification in the BMS Alpine Mountaineering track. Congratulations! This course has a prerequisite of the BMS Rock Climbing module or similar proven skills. Classroom dates are 30 Jan and 1 Feb. The field session is 4 Feb. There will be an optional trip to Ouray on 9-11 Feb. All field sessions are scheduled as CMC trips. The cost for this class is \$70. The optional overnight trip will include additional hotel and travel expenses.

### **Pikes Peak Winter Wilderness Survival Skills**

Starts February 21

So now you have learned from the other classes how to get out and play in the winter wilderness, but what do you do if you get stuck out there for an unplanned night while on a day trip? This classroom session will be held in Colorado Springs and will discuss the gear requirements and concepts of survival in the winter wilderness of Colorado. We will then spend a night in the wilderness to put those concepts to practice. We will build several types of winter shelters and you will have the chance to spend the night in them using just what you carry on a winter day trip, or a bit more if you are concerned. The classroom session is on 21 Feb from 6:00p to 9:30p. The overnight is 24-25 Feb all day both days. All field sessions are scheduled as CMC trips. The cost for this class is \$50 for Pikes Peak Group members and leaders and \$65 for all others. A general fitness level to travel on snowshoes, to be out overnight, and to dig snow shelters for long periods is required. The target audience is anyone who goes on day trips in the winter in any snow environment.

### **Pikes Peak Group Trip Leader Training**

Starts March 15

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 15 and 22 March from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The field session on the morning of 24 March 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.

### **PPG ARCPro Gear and Anchors Class**

Starts March 22

The Pikes Peak Group Gear and Anchors Class is part of the PPG Advanced Rock Climbing Program and is a prerequisite to the Trad Leading class. In Gear and Anchors, students will learn about the various types of rock protection, including: natural protection, passive protection (nuts, hexes) and active protection (cams); and how to place and incorporate pieces of protection into anchors. We will discuss climbing anchors, to include top-rope, belay, and rappel anchors. The student will learn the concepts of building a safe climbing anchor to include placement and evaluation of protection, fall forces, direction of pull, rigging methods, and knots for anchoring. By the end of the final field session, participating students will be expected to be able to build trad anchors that meet an instructor-team evaluation for gear placements and anchor safety. They will rappel off of anchors they have built and rigged.

### **PPG ARCPro Intermediate Self-Rescue Class**

Starts April 7

This is our next-level Self-Rescue class for those who have completed the Introduction to Self-Rescue class. We will review the basic skills from the Intro class, then move into more advanced self-rescue skills, including skills applicable to multipitch climbing, such as lowering from a top belay, hauling methods, and multipitch tandem rappels. Prerequisites: Students should have already taken BMS Rock Climbing and Introduction to Self-Rescue, or have equivalent skills.



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



## February PPG Trips

### Nordic Ski Gold Run Nordic

Saturday, 2/3/2018

Moderate II

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, [EHunterCMC@gmail.com](mailto:EHunterCMC@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 1000, Driving Distance 240. Location: Gold Run Nordic Center, Breckenridge, CO. Details: Did you just complete the Pikes Peak Group Backcountry Ski Class? Are you trying to get back into the winter season and just need some practice before your big hut trip? Come spend the day honing your skate or classic track skiing skills on the groomed trails of this fantastic Nordic Center. Full rentals available at the center. All skill levels welcome. We will avoid avalanche terrain. [Nordic Center Map](#). Register with leader.

### BMS Ice Climbing – Ouray Trip

Saturday, 2/10/2018

Top rope

Leader: Kristen Buckland, 419-260-7807, [buckie06@hotmail.com](mailto:buckie06@hotmail.com)

Trail Mileage .5, Elevation Gain 200, Driving Distance 450. Location: Ouray, CO. Details: This is the field trip for those in the PPG BMS Ice Climbing class. We will climb from 7am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday. Please plan to arrive in Ouray before Saturday morning. Flexibility will be given for those that need to leave early on Sunday. Additional climbing may be available on Friday or Monday. You are responsible for your own lodging, travel, and food. We will coordinate carpools and hotel room sharing between students. Priority will be given to 2018 students, but if space allows, 2017 students that did not go to Ouray last year can join. Contact the leader if you are a 2017 student.

### BC Ski or Snowshoe Hut Trip to Snow Mountain Ranch

Sunday, 2/11/2018

Moderate II

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, [EHunterCMC@gmail.com](mailto:EHunterCMC@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 500, Driving Distance 280. Location: Snow Mountain Ranch, CO. Details: We will stay at a Reunion Cabin in Snow Mountain Ranch and enjoy all the amenities the resort has to offer including skate, classic track, and cross country skiing, as well as snowshoeing. There are also many other activities the resort offers including indoor roller skating, swimming, and rock climbing as well as outdoor tubing hill, ice skating, etc. Downhill ski resorts, Berthoud Pass, and Rocky Mountain NP west entrance are all close by. We will have a pre trip meeting to develop our travel plan and group cooking/cleaning plan. There is a \$50 non-refundable fee to hold your spot. Another \$50 will be due at the trip planning meeting. Avalanche gear and training will be required if going into avalanche terrain. [Nordic Center Map](#) and various other maps. Register with leader.

### Nordic Ski Breckenridge Nordic Center

Saturday, 2/17/2018

Moderate II

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, [EHunterCMC@gmail.com](mailto:EHunterCMC@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 500, Driving Distance 260. Details: Did you just complete the Pikes Peak Group Backcountry Ski Class? Are you trying to get back into the winter season and just need some practice before your big hut trip? Come spend the day honing your skate or classic track skiing skills on the groomed trails of this fantastic Nordic Center. Full rentals available at the center. All skill levels welcome. We will avoid avalanche terrain. [Nordic Center Map](#). Register with leader.

### Winter Wilderness Survival Skills Overnight

Saturday, 2/24/2018

Moderate

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, [EHunterCMC@gmail.com](mailto:EHunterCMC@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 2, Elevation Gain 100, Driving Distance 200. Details: This field session is for those who have completed the required classroom session with the Pikes Peak Group. This trip will focus on building shelters in winter conditions to stay overnight with just day hiking gear, water procurement, and team skills.



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



the PPG  
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## Conservation Corner

### Jones Park & North Cheyenne Canyon Help Needed

Do you know Jones Park or North Cheyenne Canyon well? The County and City are beginning a planning process for these parks, and we would like volunteers to represent CMC members' interests. You would be asked to attend occasional meetings and exchange information with the council via Conservation/Stewardship/Access chair Tom Mowle.

North Cheyenne Canyon Park has recently expanded to the south as part of the land swap involving Strawberry Fields, and it now includes all of Daniels Pass and Mount Muscoco, as well as some of the valley to the south towards Greenwood Park. There may be an opportunity to advocate for better trails leading into this backcountry section of the Park. The city will be hosting community workshops at Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, on Thursday January 25 at 6 pm and Tuesday March 6 at 5 pm.

Most of the Jones Park focus has been on the greenback cutthroat trout and associated trail closures and realignment. With that mostly done, later this year, El Paso County Parks will be starting a planning process for the future recreational use of the remainder of the area that it received from Colorado Springs Utilities. Meetings will probably be at Bear Creek Park.

Please contact [Tom Mowle](#) if you can help by attending meetings and representing the Club's interest in human-powered recreation.

Finally, state CMC has taken a position opposing House Resolution 1349, which would change the Wilderness Act to open wilderness areas to mountain biking. To quote them: "H.R. 1349, the 'Bikes in Wilderness' bill, carves a gaping loophole in the 1964 Wilderness Act and undermines one of our bedrock conservation laws meant to protect natural resources and primitive backcountry recreation experiences. While CMC supports a diverse array of uses on public lands, including mountain biking on designated trails, we do not think mechanized use is appropriate in Wilderness areas. This bill has passed through the Committee on Natural Resources and may go to a full House vote soon."

You are encouraged to contact your Congressman, for most of you Doug Lamborn, while this is under consideration. He doesn't have a direct email but has a [complex set of contact hoops](#). Assuming the bill passes the House, this may be an issue where Senator Gardner may be receptive to your input at his [contact maze](#). It would also be worth contacting [Senator Bennet](#).

## 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  
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Summit Terragraphics  
The Custom Foot  
The Mountaineers Books  
The Trailhead  
TrailRunner Magazine  
Vagabond Ranch Huts  
Wilderness Exchange Unlimited

## Pikes Pique

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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.

### PIKES PEAK GROUP CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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.