



May 2018 | No. 245

Pikes Pique

The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

Pikes Peak Group Program – May 15

Greg Long Presents: *Hiking the Colorado Trail*

People who have thru-hiked a long distance trail often cite it as one of the highpoints of their life. So what does a person do when he realizes his long distance hike happened twenty years ago? Why, hike another one, of course.



In 2010, Greg Long celebrated the 20th anniversary of his Appalachian Trail thru-hike by hiking the 487-mile Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango. His body was older but his pack was lighter, and the experience of being out on the trail for a month among like-minded people, away from civilization, worries, and technology was as mentally uplifting as it had been all those years before.

On May 15, Greg will present pictures and experiences from the trail as well as discussing strategies for thru-hiking, including such things as gear and logistics. Besides all that, he will answer some of the important philosophical questions of thru-hiking like, “Why?” “Why alone?” “How much does an ounce weigh?” “After 20 years of technological improvements in lightweight gear, what’s the one piece of gear that got heavier?” “What do you mean you didn’t bag any peaks?” and “What’s the most common bystander comment (that keeps him putting one foot in front of the other for 500 miles)?”



Please join us at 6:30 p.m. on May 15th for our monthly program at the Mountain Chalet, 226 N Tejon St, as Greg Long shares with us his Colorado Trail adventures.

Your PPG Council

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

Welcome New Members!

Timothy Allen	Brian Hannon
Mel Baldwin	Stacy Harmon
Marisa Bar-av	Phil LaSarre
David Benson	Carin Poland
Lindsey Carnick	Diane Sickles
Danielle Collette	Mark Sickles
Rachel Finch	Kristin Skoog



Conservation Corner

This year's primary Pikes Peak Group stewardship project will be on the Putney Gulch section of the Ring the Peak Trail. The project will be in collaboration with Friends of the Peak. The work will be similar to last year's work on Lovell Gulch, improving drainage on the trail so there is less erosion. We have two volunteer days scheduled: [Saturday, July 14](#) and [Saturday, August 4](#). Please sign up online.

If you want to work at higher elevation, State CMC has also set up a collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute and Friends of the Peak to make improvements on the Devil's Playground Trail. We will be working both days on the weekend of September 15–16, with camping overnight. RMFI will provide food. Please sign up on the [RMFI site](#).

And if that is not yet high or difficult enough, RMFI is seeking backpacker assistance for a multi-day volunteer camping event (meals provided), June 18–21, on the Willow Creek Trail in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. RMFI needs strong volunteers accustomed to backpacking to help pack their summer basecamp into the beautiful Willow Lake Basin. The basin, situated below some of Colorado's majestic 14ers, is where they will work from mid-June to mid-September on a multi-year initiative to realign the summit trails to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point. This is a very strenuous but rewarding project. Please sign up on the [RMFI site](#).

Volunteer Opportunity

PIKES PEAK MARATHON RACES

Please consider being a volunteer for one of the Pikes Peak races. Your dedication and participation make these races possible. Indeed, anyone who has taken part in any race knows that volunteers are critical to the success of the event.

The Pikes Peak races include:

- Garden of the Gods Race – 10M/10K – June 10, 2018
- Summer Roundup Trail Run – Cheyenne Mountain State Park – 10K/Half Marathon – July 8, 2018
- Barr Trail Mountain Race – July 15, 2018
- Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon – August 18 and 19, 2018

For more information visit PPMarathon.givepulse.com.

Potpourri

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE MOUNTAIN CHALET

A letter to the Mountain Chalet on its 50th anniversary:

Dear Manager and Employees,

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary! You are an enduring business.

Fifty years ago (1968), I came to Colorado Springs from Arizona not even knowing what a "14er" was. Later, after climbing my first 14er (Mt Bross) in desert gear, and getting very cold, I knocked on Mountain Chalet's door and manager Kent Kane came to my rescue.

\$300 dollars later, I came out with Raichle leather boots, a Gerry pack (with a leather bottom), a Gerry down vest, down jacket, and windbreaker. I added wool knickers, long wool socks, a Woolrich wool shirt, and a long Stubai wooden ice axe. Last but not least I had copies of Ormes' *Guide to the Colorado Mountains*, and the "bible"... *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*.

Oh, and then I discovered snow and back to the Chalet I went for my long wooden Splitken-Bass X-C skis with lignastone edges and 3-pin bindings, leather 3-pin boots, bamboo poles with huge baskets, and a red avalanche cord.

I subsequently joined the Colorado Mountain Club and have spent fifty delightful years enjoying my gear and the Colorado mountains with good and safe friends.

Thanks for letting me share a little Mountain Chalet history with you and may you continue another fifty years of good service and gear.

With fond regards,

Judy Childers



Mountain Chalet

The Mountain Chalet 50th Anniversary Contest is our way of celebrating our 50th birthday. It's our way to give back to our loyal customer base and draw attention to the amazing outdoor opportunities here in Colorado! There are six separate contests in each of the six sports we spotlight in the shop. The six winners will enjoy a full outdoor kit that includes gear, footwear and apparel! If you'd like to learn more or sign-up for the contest, come on in the shop and we will get you set up!

GET OUTDOORS DAY

GET OUTDOORS DAY
Colorado Springs
presented by the Mike Johnson Youth Hunting Project

SATURDAY
June 2, 2018
9 AM - 3 PM Memorial Park
Colorado Springs

This is an interactive event
where the entire family
can fish, aim, bike, climb, cycle,
eat, explore, garden, learn, loose,
jump, paddle,
and play for **Free**

The first 1,000 kids receive a fishing pole!
QUESTIONS? INFO@PPORA.ORG

OUTDOOR COLORADO SPRINGS Mike Johnson Youth Hunting Project

Quenching Colorado Springs' thirst for fun, outdoor experiences...

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!



Are there trips we're not offering that you would like to do?
Are there trips that we're not offering frequently enough?
Please let us know! Email [Britt Jones](#) with your suggestions.

Upcoming PPG Classes

PPG ARCPro Crack Climbing Class

Starts May 5

This class will focus on crack-climbing techniques for climbing finger to fist-sized cracks, along with touching on chimney and off-width techniques. We will not be teaching any gear placement or lead climbing in this class—we will focus on climbing techniques while on a top-rope belay. Cost: \$80. Prerequisites: Students should have basic rock climbing skills, such as taught in our BMS Rock Climbing or the equivalent, to include belaying and climbing communication. Leading skills are not necessary.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School – Colorado Rock Climbing

Starts May 9

There is one class lecture and active skills practice session. Our discussions include climbing gear, rating a climb, the different types of rock climbing, reviewing climbing knots, rope management, including coiling, care and inspection, anchors, communications, climbing techniques, belaying, rappelling, and building an auto-block. There are two CMC Rating Trips which we typically do at 11 Mile Canyon and Castlewood Canyon. Dates: 9 and 10 May, 6:30pm-9:00pm, 19 and 20 May, 7:30am-3:30pm. Cost: \$62. Prerequisite: BMS Wilderness Fundamentals.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School – Wilderness Fundamentals

Starts May 21

The Wilderness Fundamentals class is an introduction to important skills and back country knowledge to enable participants to independently plan and safely implement a day's outing in the great outdoors—away from civilization and all it provides. Class lecture covers the fundamentals of choosing back country gear (the Ten Essentials), trip planning, nutrition, conditioning, Leave No Trace (LNT) conservation practices, mountain weather, safety, emergency planning protocol (what to do when things go wrong), and a case study of a recent Colorado wilderness accident. Classroom session is on 21 May from 5:45-8:45pm and optional field session on 26 May. Cost: \$45 for PPG members, \$55 for others. This class is a prerequisite for many of our other PPG courses and will provide participants with a copy of *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills* that will be referenced in other courses. Make sure you have this one under your belt!

PPG ARCPro Traditional Lead Climbing Class

Starts June 19

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, Sport Leading Class, and PPG ARCPro Gear and Anchors Class, or equivalent skills and approval from ARC Program directors. Cost: \$95.

PPG Rock Scrambling Class

Starts July 14

The objectives of the Rock Scrambling class are to: Improve students' ability to move safely and efficiently on Class 3/4 routes, provide students the opportunity to gain confidence when climbing with exposure, and... Have fun! Schedule: Saturday 14 July 7:00 am – noon, instructional session at Ute Valley Park; Sunday 15 July 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, field outing on a route that will allow students to practice what they learned on Saturday. Prerequisites: Students must have basic mountaineering knowledge and skills and experience such as that taught in the CMC BMS Wilderness Fundamentals class. Students should have experience hiking Class 2 alpine routes and know how to equip themselves with the essentials for a day in the mountains. The class is open to CMC members with instructor approval. Cost: \$45.

PPG ARCPro Multipitch Concepts Class

Starts July 31

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 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. Cost: \$95.



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



May PPG Trips

Cristo Couloir Snow Climb

Saturday, 5/5/2018

Difficult III

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

Trail Mileage 3, Elevation Gain 2600, Driving Distance 100. Location: Meet in Colorado Springs. Details: This is a couloir climb intended for those who have recently completed the Pikes Peak Group BMS Snow Climbing course. All others will be placed on the wait list. Cristo Couloir is on Quandary Peak just north of Hoosier Pass. All 10 Essentials, crampons, alpine axe, helmet, avalanche beacon/probe/shovel are required. Avalanche Level 1 completion required. Class III. Nat Geo Map 109. Register with leader. **No tickets left.***

Rampart Reservoir Loop

Saturday, 5/12/2018

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 15, Elevation Gain 800, Driving Distance 40. Location: Rampart Reservoir, near Woodland Park, CO. Details: This is a moderate loop hike around Rampart Reservoir near Woodland Park. We will start from the inlet trail following Rainbow Gulch and hike counter-clockwise around the lake to get through the burn scar and across the dam early in the day, then back out the inlet trail. There are many incredible views to Pikes Peak and town along the way. Nat Geo Map 137. Register with leader. **No tickets left.***

Fish and Owl Canyons Backpack

Thursday, 5/24/2018

Difficult D

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

Trail Mileage 35, Elevation Gain 1500, Driving Distance 950. Location: Cedar Mesa, Grand Gulch, UT. Details: Come enjoy an extended backpack trip through this ancestral Puebloan cliff ruins and rock art canyon of the Cedar Mesa area of Utah. We will see some of the best-preserved ruins and rock art as well as enjoy an incredible canyon adventure. We will backpack into Fish Canyon to near the junction on day 1. We will day hike down Fish Canyon and back to near the junction on day 2. We will day hike up McLoyd Canyon and back to near the junction on day 3. We will backpack up Owl Canyon and out on day 4. We will car camp on BLM land before and after the backpack. There may be some extra credit canyons before and after Fish and Owl Canyons. There is a non-refundable, required \$25 fee to reserve your spot due by 18 May. Priority will be given to those who have completed the Pikes Peak Group Canyoneering Course. Nat Geo Map 706. Register with leader.

Sentinel Point – 12,527'

Saturday, 5/26/2018

Moderate C

Leader: Mark Silas, 719-748-5223, mtnshrink@centurylink.net

Trail Mileage 7, Elevation Gain 2800. Location: West slope of Pikes Peak. Details: This will be a loop hike starting at the trailhead on CO Hwy 67. We will go up the trail for about 1 mile and then north onto the Ring-the-Peak Trail. We will follow this up to the north slope of Sentinel Point. We will then go off trail and hike south on steep slopes up to the summit. There are a few big boulders to negotiate near the summit, but that section is optional. From the highpoint we will continue south following the south ridge until we get close to treeline. We will then turn west and drop steeply off trail to Horsethief Falls. From there we will pick up a trail and follow it back to the trailhead. Notes: Leader lives in Teller County and will meet the group in Divide or at the trailhead.

Map and Compass Scavenger Hunt Race

Sunday, 5/27/2018

Moderate B

Leader: Derek Sardinta, 719-761-7051, DASardinta@gmail.com

Trail Mileage 5. Location: Pikes Peak National Forest. Exact location will be provided as we get closer to the race. Details: Find a team, put on your hiking shoes, pull out that compass in the bottom of your pack, and let's hope you remember how to use it! Each team of two or three people will be provided a map and a starting point; the rest is up to you and your team to navigate the terrain and the clues provided to finish the race with the best time. The course should take three to five hours to complete. This is a great opportunity to practice your skills before all your summer trips and outings. The rules and guidelines will be announced before the start of the race. The race will take place in mountain terrain so be prepared for uphill/downhill hiking, loose rock and gravel, as well as downed trees. A prize will be awarded to the winners. Notes: A map will be provided. Bring a whistle in case you get lost. Social hour after the race, so bring any beverage you like, as well as a lawn chair. Electronic GPS may be used to mark the starting location in case anyone gets lost, but will not be permitted during the race.

South Tarryall Peak (11,206 ft)

Monday, 5/28/2018

Moderate B

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

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 2766. Location: We will start at the Spruce Grove TH. Details: Starting at the Spruce Grove TH in the Lost Creek Wilderness, we will hike to the top of South Tarryall Peak. We will follow a good trail to the top of Hankins Pass and then do a modest bushwhack for a mile to the summit. There are tremendous views from here. **No tickets left.***

*You may want to get on the wait list in case participants cancel.

Member Feature



Joe Leach onsighting Cornerstone 5.11a/b at Shelf Road.
It was his most difficult lead to date and quite an achievement.

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

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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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.