



June 2018 | No. 246

Pikes Pique

The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

Pikes Peak Group Annual BBQ – July 22

Fifth Annual Pikes Peak Group BBQ: July 22, 3:00–7:00 pm

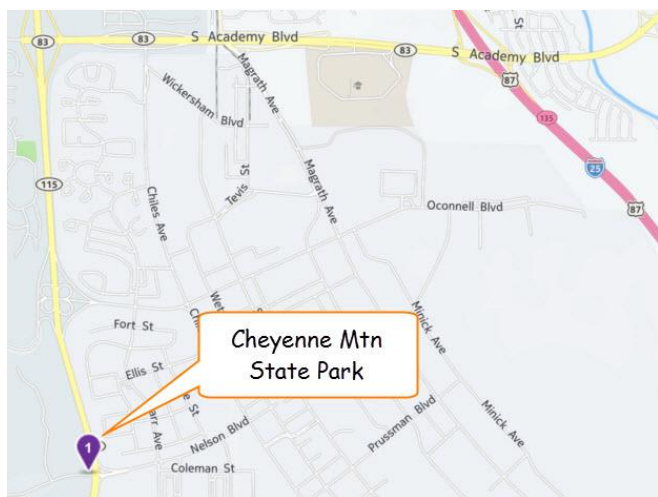
Please join us again this year for a cookout at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in southern Colorado Springs.

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. Please do not bring hard liquor (e.g., vodka, tequila, etc.) as this is prohibited by the park. We will have a few games including having horseshoe pits available to us. We encourage you to bring any additional lawn games that might be enjoyed as well!

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.



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.



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

Welcome New Members!

Daniel Brunski	Heather Drissel
James Carr	Matthew Frazier
Leah Connolly	Kristen Frazier
Lisa De Vries	Samantha Smith
Tim De Vries	Jon Steele



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](#).

More Volunteer Opportunities

Here's your chance to get out and enjoy the Colorado Trail in a non-hiking way. Join a work crew for a weekend, a week via backpack, 4wd, or drive-in type trip. Here's your chance to give back to this wonderful Colorado treasure. Check out your opportunities at [The Colorado Trail Foundation](#). Come out and have some fun and meet and work with some really interesting folks.



Upcoming PPG Classes

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.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School - Colorado Wilderness Backpacking

Starts August 21

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. There is a CMC Rating Trip (overnight) that is designed to reinforce principals and techniques discussed in class. We will do a gear check prior to the overnight to make sure you are properly equipped. Pre-requisites: Wilderness Fundamentals and Land Navigation. The "Wild Fun" class covers concepts that will be expected knowledge for this course and will reference the text provided from this class! Cost: \$45.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School - Wilderness Fundamentals

Starts August 23

The Wilderness Fundamentals class is an introduction of 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. This class is a pre-requisite 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. Wilderness Fundamentals is part of the Pikes Peak Group's Basic Mountaineering School located in Colorado Springs. The program may be a pre-requisite for trips or other schools. If you have any questions, please contact the instructor for this course. Each course stands alone, and is scheduled on the CMC.org calendar with a brief description, prerequisites, and applicable fees. Cost: \$45 for PPG members, \$55 for others.

Upcoming PPG Classes (continued)

PPG ARCPro Sport Lead Climbing Class

Starts August 25

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 One, 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. Cost: \$80.

May PPG Trips

Mountain Bike Divide

Saturday, 6/2/2018

Moderate

Leader: Robert Mouner, 719-575-0966, rmouner@q.com

Trail Mileage 9, Elevation Gain 200, Driving Distance 40. Location: Divide, CO. Details: Come and enjoy this moderate mountain bike trip in Woman's Park in Divide. We will be riding through open valleys and through the woods on both old roads and trails. Helmets required. Snacks and water for two hours suggested.

Lake Park Peak (11,403 ft)

Wednesday, 6/13/2018

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 12, Elevation Gain 3043. Location: We will start at the Spruce Grove TH. Details: This is a peak in the Lost Creek Wilderness. 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 take the Lake Park trail to the ridge top above Lake Park. After descending a little ways we will leave the trail heading northeast near the saddle between two summits. Then we will do an easy scramble to the highest point of Lake Park. It's been a while since the leader has done this peak, so expect a little adventure after leaving the trail. **No tickets left.***

Peaks X,Y, and Z, Lost Creek Wilderness

Sunday, 6/17/2018

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 7.5, Elevation Gain 3000. Location: We will start at the Long Gulch TH. Details: This trip is a Class 2 traverse of Peaks X, Y, and Z in the Retirement Range of the Lost Creek Wilderness. Starting at the Long Gulch TH in the Lost Creek Wilderness, we will hike to the top of Peak Z (12,244 ft). We will then follow the ridge from Peak Z west to Peak Y (12,274 ft) and on to Peak X (12,429 ft). This hike will start and finish on trail but for the most part will be off trail. The leader has not done this hike before so expect a little adventure and a little help with route finding. **No tickets left.***

Pyramid Peak 14,018'

Friday, 6/29/2018

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 8.25, Elevation Gain 4,500. Location: Maroon Lake Trailhead. Details: Start at 4:00 a.m. from Maroon Lake trailhead. Pyramid is generally considered to be one of Colorado's most challenging fourteeners, with steep, loose, exposed class 4 rock. Previous recent experience on this type of route required. We will climb the standard Northeast Ridge route. Climbing helmet is required. Ice axe possibly required. **No tickets left.***

Mount Silverheels (13,822 ft)

Friday, 6/29/2018

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 3500. Location: We will start at the Tarryall Creek TH at the intersection with the Gold Dust Trail and CO Road 50. Details: This is a climb of Mount Silverheels, a centennial peak, from a little used approach from the east side near Como. The climb itself is only Class 2 but requires mountain skills and endurance. Although the trip leader has climbed this peak from two different approaches in winter, this route is unknown to her, so expect a little adventure! **No tickets left.***

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



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

Mountain Chalet's 50th

MOUNTAIN CHALET'S 50TH BIRTHDAY BASH



Our 50th Birthday Bash will be celebrated on June 9 from 11 -3 in Acacia Park. We're inviting our brands, our customers, and our community partners to join us for a few hours to listen to music, have a little food, and interact with all those brands and partners. We've got about 25 brands coming.

Our brands will bring their stuff, add something interactive (like a contest or game—how fast can you coil a rope?—how fast can you screw in an ice screw?—or whatever they want to do). Some will just feature some special new thing they're bringing to the marketplace. Other examples: City Rock is going to bring some games. RMFI will show off a variety of things. Downtown Partnership is showing off the new bike sharing program.

BMS Land Navigation



the PPG
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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.