



July 2018 | No. 247

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

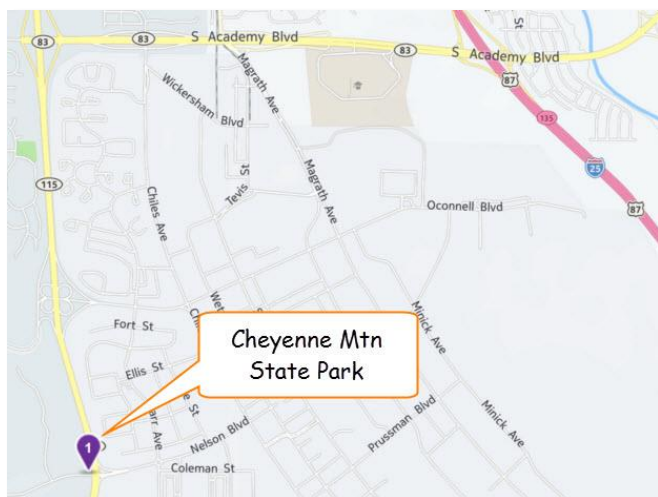
Please join us again this year for a cookout at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in southern Colorado Springs.

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Jordan Bright
Ty Thompson
Abraham Clinger
Dora Clinger



Wilderness Fundamentals

Wilderness Fundamentals students enjoyed a leisurely Spruce Mountain Open Space hike in May and discussed trip planning, wilderness travel, favorite hikes, gear, Leave No Trace, and What to do When Things go Wrong as a review of the Wilderness Fundamentals class. The next Wilderness Fundamentals class is August 23. Sign up online at www.cmc.org.



L to R: Josh Walker, Kiernan McCullough, Daniel Brunski, Sarah Letendre, and front, Keith Marcantel (photo by Glenn Barr)

Conservation Corner

Trail stewardship season is finally here! This is your chance to "give back" by helping maintain some of the trails we enjoy using. It's work, upper body work, so it probably helps your climbing muscles: and you get to tell passing children that you're a zombie hunter! No, it's work but it's also a lot of fun.

This year we're working a higher altitude than usual, on the Putney Gulch section of the Ring the Peak Trail. We therefore delayed our first work day until [Saturday July 14](#) to let the snow melt (ha ha). The work will be a bit similar to what we've been doing on Lovell Gulch Trail the last year: improve the drainage of water from the trail so it does not erode ruts or collect into mud. If you can't make it on 7/14, we have a second workday scheduled for [Saturday August 4](#). Please sign up online.

For September, State CMC has also set up a collaboration with RMFI and Friends of the Peak to make improvements on the Devils 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 for that trip directly on the RMFI site.

Return to Bears Ears

Return to Bears Ears National Monument

Nearly one year ago I backpacked through Bullet, Grand Gulch and Kane Canyons and witnessed the astonishing well-preserved ruins and rock art. Recently in April I went with a group of ten CMC folks on a return to these canyons and in addition to Fish and Owl Canyons in the same area of Cedar Mesa. Each and every person was awestruck in their own way with their experience in this very special place.



Inside Perfect Kiva, front l-r: Robin Mino, Linda Lawson, Alicia Miller and back row l-r, Chris Nation, Hannah Drinkard, Audrey Burkart and Rick Seney.

On my first visit in May of 2017, Bears Ears was an area covering some 1.3 million acres, but now is about 211,000 acres divided into two separate units; Indian Creek and Shash Jaa. Indian Creek is east of Canyonland's National Park and Shash Jaa is to the north of the area we were in. Although the areas where we backpacked were in neither of these units, it's under the jurisdiction of the BLM as a Wilderness Study Area as other large areas within the park are controlled by either the BLM or Forest Service. Overall there are lots of trails and other ruins within those areas. Although not protected within the monument, and maybe not with the same restrictions, it seems to be protected in these other ways.



I would highly recommend a trip to Bears Ears, as there's so much to explore. Attendance is limited, to help preserve and keep the area pristine. One comment I heard repeatedly was how clean from any trash and litter it was. Compared to other parks, online reservations are relatively easy to get. I'll certainly be back.



Outside Fish Canyon, l-r: Bob Hostetler, Dean Waits, Rick Seney, Robin Mino, Audrey Burkart, Bob Mouner and Stuart Klein.

the PPG
FOLLOW US ON 

Upcoming PPG Classes

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.

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.

July PPG Trips

North Maroon Peak - 14,014'

Sunday, 7/1/2018

Difficult D

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

Trail Mileage 9.25, Elevation Gain 4500. Location: Meet at Maroon Lake trailhead at 4:00 am. Details: Leader can provide suggestions on where to stay the night before the trip. We will start from the Maroon Lake trailhead at 4:00 am. Bring a good headlamp and a helmet. See route description for Northeast Ridge on 14ers.com. Moderate pace means able to climb at least 1,000 vertical feet per hour, which means the ascent shouldn't take more than about 5 hours. The group needs to stay ahead of the typical afternoon storms. This is one of Colorado's harder 14ers. Should have some prior experience doing 4th class climbing. Notes: Register with leader. (Leader may take a few days to respond to emails.)

Pikes Peak via the Craggs

Sunday, 7/1/2018

Moderate D

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

Trail Mileage 14, Elevation Gain 3900, Driving Distance 60. Location: Meet at the Craggs Campground parking lot at 6:00 a.m. We'll start hiking up the Devil's Playground Trail then continue past Banana Rock up the ridge to the saddle at 12,730 feet. We'll then hike the old wagon road past Devil's Playground and cross the Pikes Peak Highway. From there we'll continue on the trail east-southeast past Little Pikes Peak through the path in the boulder field. We'll summit and have lunch outside. We'll return via the same route. Participants should bring at least 2-3 liters of water, plenty of food, rain gear, a small medical kit, and warm layers (your 10 essentials). We will probably not be able to replenish water or food supplies on top of Pikes Peak. I will be at the Craggs parking lot at 6:00 a.m. after camping in the area the night before. If you wish to carpool with me the night before the hike, please let me know. You'll need to bring adequate supplies/materials/gear for camping. If you need to cancel, please let me know ahead of time. I will be out of cell phone range Saturday night, June 30th and Sunday morning, July 1st.

Ute Park Friday Night Dog Walk

Friday, 7/6/2018

Easy A

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

Trail Mileage 5, Elevation Gain 500. Location: Ute Park, Colorado Springs. Details: This is an easy hike for pets and casual hikers. This is also a great way to separate the workweek and the weekend. We will hike from the trailhead off Rockrimmon Blvd between HP and The Marriott. This is an unbelievable park within city limits including riparian areas hosting a variety of wildlife and incredible views to the Front Range and Pikes Peak. Well-behaved dogs on leash welcome. We may even do a pub stop after. Register with leader.

Salmon and Willow Lakes

Saturday, 7/7/2018

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 12.6, Elevation Gain 3000. Details: Salmon and Willow Lakes are a beautiful hiking destination in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. The route uses part of the Gore Range trail and the Salmon/Willow Trail. The trail is moderately trafficked and is an out and back. We will first hike to Salmon Lake and then continue on past two other of the Willow Lakes to the upper Willow Lake. No tickets left.

Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Loop

Monday, 7/9/2018

Moderate B

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

Trail Mileage 12, Elevation Gain 1900. Location: We will start at the Rich Creek and the Rough and Tumbling Creek TH. Details: The Buffalo Meadows Loop, in the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness, is a somewhat long but very pleasant day hike that will take you through an interesting variety of mountain ecosystems. The route starts at the South Fork of the South Platte River and follows Rich Creek, a smaller tributary, to its headwaters. It then crosses a gentle alpine pass and drops down into the wide grassy valley known as Buffalo Meadows. From there the trail follows the Rough and Tumbling Creek down into a gorgeous riparian area that includes numerous beaver dams and lodges. Finally, the trail climbs up over the ridge that separates Rough and Tumbling Creek from the South Fork South Platte and returns to the trailhead. No tickets left.

Putney Gulch Stewardship 1

Saturday, 7/14/2018

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 3, Elevation Gain 300. Location: Near the Craggs trailhead, off Hwy 67 between Divide and Cripple Creek. Details: Putney Gulch Stewardship. 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 collaborating with Friends of the Peak to work on the Ring the Peak Trail. This project will focus on maintenance and repair of drainage/erosion issues on the trail in Putney Gulch, which lies between the Craggs and Horsethief Park. 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.

July PPG Trips (continued)

Mt Sherman

Sunday, 7/15/2018

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 8, Elevation Gain 2800, Driving Distance 200. Location: I will camp at Fourmile Creek Campground the night before. I am more than happy to have participants camp with me, but you'll need to be responsible for your camping gear, food, and water. Another option may be to stay at the hotel in Fairplay. Let's meet outside of Fourmile Creek Campground (at mile 8.0) on Park County Road 18 at 6:30 am, so that we can carpool. We'll start at the gate at Fourmile Creek Trailhead at about 11,240 feet at 7:00 am. We'll hike up the old mining road(s) in a northwesterly direction passing by the ruins of several old mines. We'll leave the road(s) behind and then hike up a rocky trail to the saddle between Mt. Sherman and Mt. Sheridan at 13,748 feet. From there, we'll hike towards the northeast up the rocky ridge to the summit. If weather and time allow, we may be able to also hike either Mt. Sheridan or the Gemini Peaks. Please remember to bring your 10 essentials, including 2-3 liters of water, rain gear, warm layers of clothing including hat and gloves, and food. If you need to cancel your reservation on this hike, please contact me no later than Saturday morning, July 14th. I will be out of cell phone range by the afternoon of July 14th.

Poplar Gulch to Unnamed Pt 13,078

Saturday, 7/21/2018

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 3100, Driving Distance 200. Location: St. Elmo, CO. Details: We will hike from St Elmo up Poplar Gulch to the saddle at 12,000 ft and turn east to summit the unnamed 13'er. There are many incredible views to Chalk Creek and Cottonwood Creek along this trail. Keep a close eye out for the miner cabins along this route as they are well hidden. This trip is primarily for Pikes Peak Group and Pueblo Group members. All others will be waitlisted. Possible stop at Mt Princeton Hot Springs on return. Register with leader.

Pre-Cookout Rock Climbing

Sunday, 7/22/2018

Rock Climbing

Leader: Roger Kilcoyne, 719-323-3740, rdk9689@hotmail.com

Location: We will climb in the morning around the Pikes Peak Area before heading over to the free Pikes Peak Bar-b-que at Cheyenne Mountain State Park which starts at 3 pm. Climbing Area TBD based on the group size.

Cheyenne Mtn State Park - Picnic Hike

Sunday, 7/22/2018

A

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

Trail Mileage 7, Elevation Gain 500, Driving Distance 15. Location: Cheyenne Mtn State Park—meeting location furnished later. Details: We will hike a few of the different named trails. This will be a casual hike before the afternoon, 3 pm club picnic. Hike should complete around 11 am. This is a beautiful park with an interesting variety of trails. Your \$7 permit will be good all day. Guest are welcome so bring a friend on the hike and to the picnic. Be sure and sign up for the Picnic BBQ under "Events".

Pre-Cookout Mountain Bike - Cheyenne Mtn State Park

Sunday, 7/22/2018

Moderate

Leader: Kristen Buckland, 419-260-7807, buckie06@hotmail.com

Trail Mileage 15. Location: Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Details: We will explore the bike trails and be back by 3 pm for the PPG Annual Cookout. Please sign up for the cookout separately so we know how much food to purchase. Guest lead by David Weldon, more details of mileage and elevation will be posted as we get closer.

Ptarmigan Lake to Unnamed Pt 13,218

Saturday, 7/28/2018

Difficult C

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

Trail Mileage 12, Elevation Gain 2600, Driving Distance 200. Location: Buena Vista, CO. Details: We will hike from the Ptarmigan Lake Trailhead along Cottonwood Creek to the saddle above Ptarmigan Lake and turn west to summit the unnamed 13'er high point of Jones Mountain. Watch for trout in the lake and mountain goats on the ridges. Many incredible views exist along Ptarmigan Creek. This trip is primarily for Pikes Peak Group and Pueblo Group members. All others will be waitlisted. Possible stop at Cottonwood Hot Springs on return. Register with leader.



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



Volunteer Opportunity

Hello,

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Lisa Heckel and I am the Trail Staff Coordinator for the 2018 Pikes Peak Challenge to raise money for the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado (BIAC). I have been involved with this special event since 2006 and I'm excited to be taking on a larger role for 2018.

I would like to reach out to local CMC members to solicit volunteers for this year's event which is on Saturday, September 8, 2018. The Pikes Peak Challenge staffs Barr Trail at seven different check points to assist hikers on their ascent to the summit. Interested volunteers need to be comfortable working at altitude for approximately 12 hours during the event. Hiking experience, Wilderness Medical, EMT, Paramedic, First Responder or First Aid experience a plus.

To commit time to this event, there is a [volunteer registration form](#). Be sure to select Trail Staff and provide any specific requests or information in the message area.

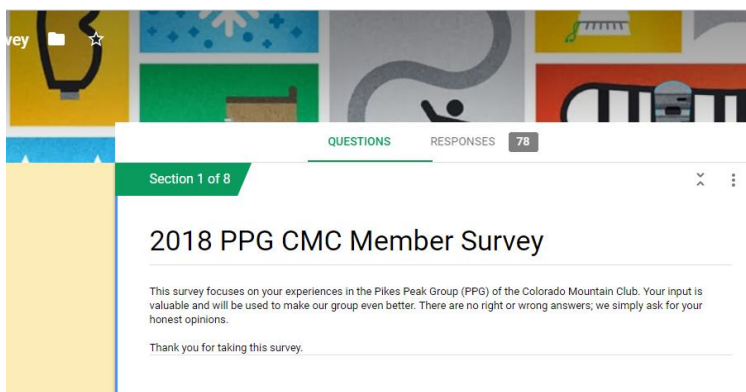
There will be a Trail Staff training held on August 25th at 10 am. As we get closer to that date I will communicate more specific information to registered volunteers. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions currently.

Thank you for helping me get the word out on this volunteer opportunity for a worthy cause.

Lisa Heckel

2018 PPG Membership Survey

Thanks to everyone who took the time to take our recent PPG membership satisfaction survey and provide your thoughts on how well our programming provides education, recreation, and conservation opportunities. Over 14% of our 540+ members responded to questions about membership, monthly presentations, trips, classes, conservation, and social events. The Council is reviewing the feedback and looking at how to improve things to make our group even better. And for those who entered the raffle for the CMC Trucker's Hat—we have four winners: Mike Cromwell, Michael R. Van Winkle, Dan Magar, and David Kuenzli.



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.