



September 2018 | No. 249

# Pikes Pique

The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

## Pikes Peak Group Program – September 18

### Dean Waits Presents: *Grand Canyon's Kanab Canyon*

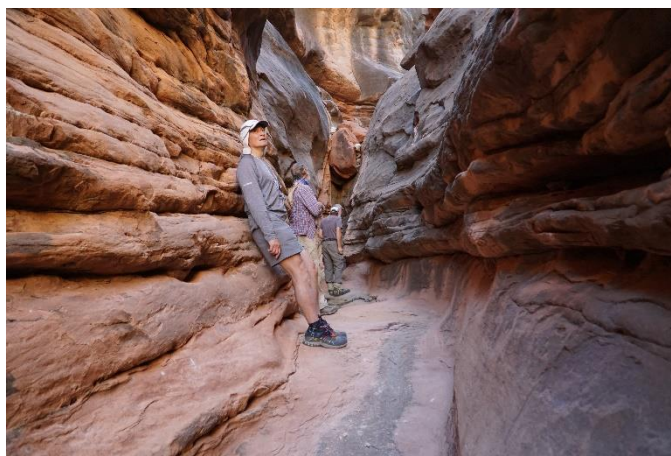
It's not difficult to get excited about going to the Grand Canyon, especially to an area you'll probably have to yourself and the places you'll travel have not been seen by many people through the years. Yes, that was the anticipation shared by Bob Hostetler, Mark Silas, Tim Tan, Larry Kinser, and Dean Waits in October of 2017 as the trip was being planned to backpack into Kanab Canyon for six days. It's located on the North Rim on the far western edge of the park. A small sign, "Entering the Grand Canyon National Park" signaled we were there. Kanab Canyon has a large drainage of over 45 miles before it enters into the Colorado River.



Our entrance route down Chamberlain Canyon was chosen by looking at Google Earth to avoid a massive pour-off and to bypass rockslides. The exit from Flipoff Canyon was via a route with no trail.

After carrying in seven liters of water, as we were anticipating none until late in the second day, for a short while early in the second day we were looking at an above ground stream and later that day, farther down the canyon, we were wading in it. What a camp site at the end of the second day! Truly a

mesmerizing place to be, near the sound of constant dripping water flowing thru a Monkey Grass Fern-covered travertine rock formation known as Shower Bath Spring.



It's always difficult to imagine what's around the next bend while transfixed on your foot placement, whether it's on cobble, climbing over huge boulders, water, or cacti, within the deep confines of sheer rock walls, sometimes barely 50 feet wide, but always brilliant blue skies above. We were constantly scanning the walls for ancient Native American pictographs and petroglyphs and looking for some early days cowboy junk.

On the third day we were again wading in Kanab Creek going to Scotties Canyon as it abounds with beautiful waterfalls and water sculptured rock formations, followed by another night camping at Shower Bath. On the fifth day we prepared for our exit, again loading up with water for a dry camp high in Flipoff Canyon, as early the next morning we would be climbing out, back to our trucks, food, and libations.

Please join us at the Mountain Chalet, 226 N Tejon St, on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to hear Dean Waits tell about this marvelous canyon adventure.

## Your PPG Council

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

## Welcome New Members!

Susan Anthony  
Tom Anthony  
Anthony Boyle  
Alexander Contarino  
Domenic Cunico  
Brennen Garland  
Greg Kozloski  
Richard Legault

Felicita McGinty  
Angela Paterna  
Jennifer Petros  
Anna Revolinsky  
Rich Scholes  
Marissa Starks  
Jessica Walker



## We Want Your Photos

Did you summit any peaks this summer? Have an awesome backpacking trip? Please consider sharing your stories or photos by sending them to [Dave Anderson](#), editor.

## Volunteer Opportunity

XTERRA Marathon Of Trail Races celebrates 10 years on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> in Cheyenne Mountain State Park. There will be a marathon, half marathon, and 5k. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the race please contact [Victoria](#). Volunteers will receive a T-shirt and complimentary entry into the next April XTERRA CMSP 24k/12k/5k event.

## Member Discounts

Adventure Medical Kits  
Ajax Bike and Sport  
American Mountaineering Museum  
Atrevida Beer Co (was Great Storm)  
Bentgate  
Breckenridge Nordic Center  
City Rock  
Friction Labs  
Frisco Nordic Center  
Gold Camp Brewing  
Golden Bike Shop  
Ken's Anglers  
Lumiere Telluride  
Moosejaw

Mountain Chalet  
Mountain Equipment Recyclers  
Mountainsmith  
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

the PPG  
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## The PPG in Photos

PPG Scrambling Class



Annual BBQ



Putney Gulch Workday



Wilderness First Aid



Members of CMC's Pikes Peak Group and [Friends of the Peak](#) joined forces on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> to work on the Ring the Peak Trail. The project focused on maintenance and repair of drainage and erosion issues on the trail in Putney Gulch, which lies between the Craggs and Horsethief Park off Highway 67 between Divide and Cripple Creek and connects Forest Service road 383 to Forest Service trail #704. Fifteen volunteers used pick-mattocks, shovels, McCleods, and coal bags to clean, fix, and develop some drainage mitigation measures. FOTP built this trail with volunteer labor, starting in 2004 and finishing in 2006. The project goal was to help reduce and prevent erosion issues in the trail while making the trail more sustainable by using drains and swales to move water off the trail early and often. The group worked in four teams under the supervision of CMC's Tom Mowle (Conservation Chair), FOTP's Brian VanValkenburg (Projects Coordinator), and crew leader trainees Glenn Barr and Vance Hewuse to improve 17 different trail areas to make the trail better now and in the future. The work proceeded so well that a second workday planned for August 4<sup>th</sup> was no longer needed.



## Upcoming PPG Classes

### **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.

### **Pikes Peak Intro to Technical Canyoneering**

Starts September 12

Have you completed Intro to Desert Hiking & Canyoneering and BMS Rock Climbing courses? Take those skills to the next level. Learn the proper gear, safety, and technique for technical canyoneering. There are many nuances to this environment that warrant a safe approach such as provided by this class. The classroom session is on 12 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 13 and 20 Sep, then we go on a four-day trip to the desert scheduled for 30 Sep through 03 Oct. This year's desert trip is planned for the San Rafael Swell in Utah. A strong fitness level to go on 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 are required to attend the Utah trip. Prerequisite: Completion of both BMS Rock Climbing *and* Intro to Desert Hiking & Canyoneering. A [city parks rock climbing permit](#) is also required. Cost: \$175 for Pikes Peak Group members and leaders, \$200 for all others.

### **Pikes Peak Intro to Desert Hiking and Canyoneering**

Starts September 19

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 warrant a safe approach such as provided by this class. The classroom session is on 19 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 23 Sep, then we go on a five day trip to the desert scheduled for 26 through 30 Sep. This year's desert trip is planned for the San Rafael Swell in Utah. A strong fitness level to go on full day hikes with scrambling on moderate exposure in hot terrain, squeezing through narrows, hiking in loose sand, and wading through 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 session is required to attend the Utah trip. Cost: \$100 for Pikes Peak Group members and leaders, \$125 for all others.

## Upcoming PPG Classes (continued)

### Pikes Peak Group Trip Leader Training

Starts October 3

This classroom course provides Part 1 of the necessary training and satisfies some of the requirements of becoming a CMC trip leader (for the Pikes Peak Group). Currency in Wilderness First Aid and CPR/AED plus Part 2, which is practice trip leading, are the other requirements for becoming a trip leader. The classroom sessions are on 3 and 11 October from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Please keep the morning of 13 October open for your first practice at leading a 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 for PPG trip leader candidates). Cost: \$25 for Pikes Peak Group members, free for leaders, \$30 for all others.

### Wilderness First Aid (WFA) with CPR/AED in Colorado Springs

Starts October 20

This two-day, eighteen-hour ECSI accredited course presents dynamic instruction devoted to teaching you 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, including CPR. Day two continues with classroom presentations 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 20 October from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and on 21 October from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. A link to your comprehensive e-textbook will be emailed prior to class and a field guide will be distributed during the first session. You will receive your WFA with adult CPR/AED certification card emailed to you upon satisfactory course completion. Cost: \$90 for Pikes Peak Group members, \$80 for leaders, \$95 for all others.

### PPG ARCPro Introduction to Self-Rescue

Starts October 27

Ever wondered how you might react if your climbing partner were injured? What about if you were injured – would you be able to get down safely as a team? In the PPG ARCPro Intro to Self-Rescue Class, you will learn tips and techniques to deal with unexpected situations in the mountains. Whether you are an alpine climber seeking endless ridgelines, looking to break into multipitch ice this year, or a seasoned rock climber with regular days at our local crags, this course is for you! The Self-Rescue Class offered by Pikes Peak Group is a key element of our Advanced Rock Climbing Program. Students learn the skills to deal with many of the situations that can occur in a climbing scenario. This class does not deal with any of the medical components and implications of an injury-based rescue; that is far beyond the scope of the program. This class teaches participants the safety components and transitions that can assist a climbing team to extricate themselves from a number of situations. Prerequisites: Your climbing experience does not need to be extensive. In fact, we recommend that even rookie climbers begin their career with this knowledge. Participants should have basic rock climbing knowledge and skills, such as those gained by taking our BMS Rock Climbing class. We encourage all levels of climbers to register – to learn new skills and to brush up on rusty ones. Cost: \$95.

## September PPG Trips

### Fall Hike in Teller County

Saturday, 9/8/2018

Easy A

Leader: Y Mason, [youdew@aol.com](mailto:youdew@aol.com)

Trail Mileage 7, Elevation Gain 725, Driving Distance 40. Location: This hike is within a beautiful area with exceptional views and fall foliage. Details: Specific meet up details will be emailed to registered hikers a few days prior to the hike. Option to dine afterwards.

### Dome Rock Trail Loop – Teller County

Sunday, 9/9/2018

Moderate B

Leader: Y Mason, [youdew@aol.com](mailto:youdew@aol.com)

Trail Mileage 9.5, Elevation Gain 1700, Driving Distance 40. Location: This area is adjacent to Mueller State Park. Details: This hike will meander throughout the forest, has fabulous views along the way and will have at least nine creek crossings. Specific details will be emailed to registered hikers a few days prior to the hike. Option to have lunch somewhere in Woodland Park or Rudy's BBQ in The Springs.



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



## September PPG Trips (continued)

### Rappel RRCOS

Thursday, 9/13/2018

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

### Devil's Playground Stewardship

Saturday, 9/15/2018

Moderate

Leader: Thomas Mowle, 719-216-3932, [tommowle@yahoo.com](mailto:tommowle@yahoo.com)

Location: Pikes Peak. Details: [Sign up here](#). Spend a weekend camping and doing trail work on Pikes Peak with RMFI, Friends of the Peak, and the Colorado Mountain Club! As part of the National Forest Foundation's new "Find Your Fourteener" campaign, we will spend Saturday and Sunday, September 15–16 performing much-needed improvements to the Devil's Playground Trail and camping out on the peak Saturday night. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to join us camping on Friday night as well. All meals provided.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The Devil's Playground Trail (also known as the Craggs Trail) traverses approximately 7 miles and 4,300 feet starting from a trailhead located near the Craggs Campground (Woodland Park, CO) and terminating at the summit of Pikes Peak, elevation 14,115 feet. The trail is located entirely on the USFS Pike National Forest. The Devil's Playground Trail is one of two primary hiking trails to the summit of Pikes Peak, accepted to be one of the most visited mountains in the world. The Devil's Playground Trail offers a shorter, less crowded route as compared to Barr Trail, and provides hikers with stunning views of mountain ranges to the west. Unfortunately, the Devil's Playground Trail is in poor condition. Objectives of the 2017-2018 Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project will focus on mitigating erosional impacts from the existing trail. We will be addressing maintenance "hotspots"; areas of the existing alignment that are destabilized and over-widened. The trail corridor will be narrowed by installing "gargoyle" rocks (to channel users onto the hardened trail) and transplanting vegetation into impacted areas. In order to keep users on one designated trail tread, we will make improvements to short sections of the trail that are braided and incised. In some cases, stabilization structures such as rock or log riser steps, check dams, and retaining walls may be necessary to retain soil and provide a clear route for hikers. Restoration materials such as an alpine seed mix, organic fertilizer, and erosion control blankets may be useful to expedite the restoration process.

BASECAMP AND EQUIPMENT: We will camp at a campground off of the Pikes Peak Highway. Carpooling from the RMFI office will be scheduled and available. Volunteers must supply their own personal outdoor gear. (Loaner tents, sleeping bags, and pads are available upon request, on a first-come first-served basis.) Volunteers may be asked to buddy-up in tents to make best use of available space. There is a vault toilet at the campsite. Further information to come as the event gets closer.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: This is a strenuous program. No prior experience is necessary, however, participants must be in good physical condition and comfortable living and doing manual labor at high altitude.

### North Crestone Lake

Saturday, 9/15/2018

Moderate C

Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, [denisedansnow@q.com](mailto:denisedansnow@q.com)

Trail Mileage 12, Elevation Gain 3300. Location: We will start at the North Crestone Trailhead. Details: This is a popular trail to a very scenic lake in the Sangre de Cristo mountains. The trail winds through aspen groves and ascends above treeline through alpine meadows with fantastic views of the valley above and below to the San Luis Valley. Hopefully the high mountains snows will hold off this late in the season. The trip leader will probably stay at a hotel the night before in Poncha Springs and organize a dinner at a great Italian restaurant nearby that evening.

### Rampart Reservoir

Sunday, 9/16/2018

Easy C

Leader: Paul Kozlowski, 719-684-9408, [paul.kozlowski@hotmail.com](mailto:paul.kozlowski@hotmail.com)

Trail Mileage 14, Driving Distance 40, Details: We'll hike trail around Rampart Reservoir during late-summer weather. At a moderate pace we can enjoy water and views of Pikes Peak. Lots of photo ops. Register with leader.

### Rappel RRCOS

Thursday, 9/20/2018

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

## September Trips (continued)

**Lake Ann and the Continental Divide** Saturday, 9/22/2018 Moderate B  
Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, [denisedansnow@q.com](mailto:denisedansnow@q.com)

Trail Mileage 12, Elevation Gain 2364. Location: We will start at the ghost town of Winfield. Details: This scenic hike ascends through meadows and trees up the South Fork Clear Creek Valley to beautiful Lake Ann, an aquamarine gem cradled in a small cirque of 13,000-ft. peaks along the Continental Divide. As you ascend the trail enjoy fine views of the Three Apostles rising to the southwest and Huron Peak towering above the east side of the valley. Extend the hike by climbing the trail to a saddle on the Continental Divide with terrific views of the Taylor Valley to the south, the Elk Mountains to the west and Huron Peak (14,003-ft) and the 13,000-ft summits lining the north side of the Clear Creek valley to the north.

**Hike Ute Park and RRCOS** Sunday, 9/23/2018 Moderate C  
Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, [EHunterCMC@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Desert Hiking and Canyoneering Trip** Wednesday, 9/26/2018 Moderate C  
Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, [EHunterCMC@gmail.com](mailto: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 Hiking and Canyoneering classroom session only. We will drive to Goblin Valley SP, UT and setup a car-camp base camp. We will then hike in Goblin Valley, visit the Goblin's Lair, and practice working as a team to get through some obstacles in Goblin Valley. On Thursday we will hike Wildhorse Canyon down and back and up to the Grotto Class 2, B, III and approximately 8 miles. On Friday we will hike Crack Canyon down and back Class 2, B, III and approximately 7 miles. On Saturday we will hike up Little Wild Horse Canyon and down Bell, Class 2, B, III and approximately 10 miles. Substitutions may be made to accommodate weather, road closures, etc. Further details will be provided in the class.

**Technical Canyoneering Trip** Sunday, 9/30/2018  
Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-266-9647, [EHunterCMC@gmail.com](mailto:EHunterCMC@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 20, Elevation Gain 1500, Driving Distance 1000. Location: San Rafael Swell, UT. Details: This is the four day field trip for those completing the Pikes Peak Group Intro to Technical Canyoneering classroom session only. We will drive to Goblin Valley SP, UT and setup a car camp base camp. We will then practice ground school once more. On Monday we will hike to the top of Goblin's Lair and rappel from into the cavern, then hike out via Carmel Canyon - Class 2, A, III plus Long rappels. On Tuesday we will hike Ding & Dang Canyons as a loop - Class 3, B, IV and approximately 6 miles. Substitutions may be made to accommodate weather, road closures, etc. Further details will be provided in the class.



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

## 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](http://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](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.