



The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

June, 2019 | No. 257

The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

Last Snowshoe at Leadville – by Dean Waits



L-R: Glenn Barr, Kim Wetzel, Rick Keetch, Tony Sanabria, Eric Hunter (leader), Jim Taylor, Lisa Powell, and Carl Redick. Photo credit Dean Waits.

For April the snow was still a few feet deep near Tennessee Pass as it covered all but the top of one of the several remaining Coke ovens. Yes, it's been a great snow year for the Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges as explained by Eric Hunter, leader of these adventurous Pikes Peak Group trekkers. It was still cool and the snow relatively firm on this beautiful blue bird sky day, later warming into the 50's thus softening the snow for this 8-mile jaunt and creating an anticipation for the cold beer and food later.

The trail we hiked along is loaded with history and lots of current-day activity. In the 1880's the Denver, Rio Grande & Western trains chugged along this roadbed to get over the pass and later through a tunnel. Today it's used as a cross country ski and snowshoeing area, Segment 8 of the Colorado Trail (CT) and Continental Divide Trail (CDT). We were only 6 miles from Camp Hale where the concrete structures used by the 10th Mountain Division to train during WWII are still standing.

It will not be long before the CDT through-hikers will be starting their north-bound 3,100 mile trek from the bottom of New Mexico to Canada and mid-June CT hikers will be coming along on their way to Durango or Denver.

This has indeed been a good snow year, hopefully filling reservoirs and rivers for floaters, wetting our thirsty forest as it certainly satisfied this group's appetite for our last snowshoe of the season.

New Member Orientation



L-R: Ruth and Mike Cranford, Elisabeth, Adam, Everett and William Clements, Kim Wetzel (leader), Steve and Susan Waskow, Carmen Laird, Audrey Burkart (leader), Emmy Soeberg, Sylvi Kuperman; kneeling: Jerry and Sam Laird, Bobbi Leavens and Charlie the Pooch. Photo credit Dean Waits.

PPG 100th Anniversary Hike to Barr Camp



L-R: Anna Revolinsky, Bobbi Leavens, Linda & Tom Jagger, Larry Post (leader), and Dean Waits.

Your PPG Council

Chair – Kristen Buckland
419-260-7807, buckie06@hotmail.com

Past Chair – Vacant

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Matt Foster, 719-352-8164,
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719-266-9647, EHunterCMC@gmail.com

Equipment Manager – Derek Sardinta
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Treasurer – Glenn Barr
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At Large:

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Katrina (Kat) Klang
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Richard Keetch
719-634-1165, rakeetch@msn.com

Greg Long (HAMS)
719-659-0345, at_90@yahoo.com

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

Welcome New Members!

Ganzug Jugder
David Edgington
Robert Wajszczuk
Paul Privitera
Susan Alexander
Carmen Laird

Sam Laird
Ruthann Cranford
Michael Cranford
Rodrigues Bailey
Susan Gartung
Sid Landers



Conservation Corner

2019 Trail Stewardship Schedule

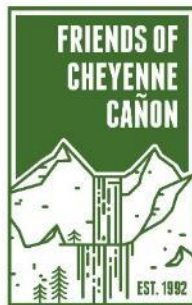
Later this summer we will have another rare chance to build new trail! The Devil's Playground trail from the Craggs Campground to Pikes Peak is being completely rerouted onto a sustainable alignment. RMFI has contracted most of the work to the Mile High Youth Corps, but we are partnering with them on the MHYC's days off. The first opportunity will be a standard one-day project on [7/20](#). Later, we are also participating in a collaborative weekend with Friends of the Peak on [8/17-18](#)—for that one, RMFI will provide meals, and I can promise you they do an amazing job of appreciating volunteers.

Finally, if you think the best part of trail work is carrying tools, you have a great chance to help another RMFI project, rebuilding a trail up Kit Carson and Challenger Ridge from Willow Lake Basin near Crestone. They need volunteers to pack tools and supplies for this summer-long project on any or all of [6/15-17](#). They will provide all meals and even loaner packs for the volunteers.

If none of these projects fit with your schedule, check the volunteer calendars for [Friends of the Peak](#) and [RMFI](#) to see what else they have to offer in the area.

Waldo Canyon Planning

Planning for Waldo Canyon is also underway. Learn more about the planning [here](#), and attend the next public meeting, April 17 from 6:00-8:30 PM at the Westside Community Center gym, 1628 W Bijou St, Colorado Springs.



Hummingbird Festival



May 11th

10am – 3pm

**Starsmore Visitor
& Nature Center**

Cheyennecanon.org

Lightning Safety Tips for Hiking in Colorado



Nearly one hundred people are killed each year from lightning strikes. So, how do you stay safe during a storm that produces ground to cloud electricity? The following lightning safety tips provide guidance on how to minimize risk during a severe, lightning-filled storm:

- Recognize that electricity is in the air. Even if clouds have yet to produce lightning, electricity may still be in the air. The best method of detecting danger is to closely observe your or your hiking partner's hair. If you

see that hair is beginning to raise into the air, you know it is time you high-tail it out of the area you're in and seek shelter.

- Always follow the "30/30 Rule". Upon first sight of lightning, count the seconds that pass until you hear thunder. If the number of seconds is 30 or less, seek shelter immediately. Stay put for 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or rumble of thunder. The National Weather Service estimates that 50% of all lightning deaths are sustained after the storm has passed.
- Avoid dangerous locations. Stay near shelter during a storm; avoid terrain above timberline and bodies of water. If lightning moves in, try to avoid being within 100 yards of any body of water. Thunderstorms in Colorado have a propensity to build up steam between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Realistically, if thunderstorms are in the forecast, you should never be above timberline after 1:00 p.m. If you are above tree line when a storm rolls in, rapidly descend to shelter. Avoid caves – they actually channel electricity fairly well and are extremely dangerous to be in during a storm.
- Avoid isolated trees and high points. It is always better to seek shelter in a thick forest versus an isolated stand of trees. Lightning favors small groupings of trees over dense stands.
- Choose your camp wisely. Do not pitch your tent next to the tallest trees in the area. Lightning-filled storms can develop during the middle of the evening. Once again, it is best to locate camp in a thick stand of trees instead of next to an isolated grouping.
- Discard metal objects. Drop all metal objects during a storm. Such objects might include an internal or external frame backpack, trekking poles, etc. Furthermore, you should get off a bicycle if you are mountain biking or road biking and a storm is closing in.
- Avoid open fields. However, if you are stuck in an open field and cannot find shelter, find the lowest possible area. Crouch with your head low and keep your feet together. Never sit or lie down on the ground. Both of these positions facilitate greater ground-body contact, which gives lightning a wider space to travel through.
- Spread out. If lightning is imminent and you are in a group, try to spread out. This will minimize the chance everyone in the group will be struck. It is important to ensure at least one person will be able to respond to an emergency situation.
- Remain calm if someone is struck. If somebody is hit by lightning, provide the proper first aid. If the victim is not breathing, provide mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. However, if the person no longer has a pulse, the responder should attempt to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Someone from the group should stay with the victim until help arrives.

These lightning safety tips can save your life or the life of a loved one. Be sure to check out all of [Nomad Colorado's hiking tips](#).

Upcoming PPG Classes

PPG GPS Basics Class

Starts May 23

GPS Basics offers students who already own handheld GPS receivers the opportunity to learn more about how GPS works, how to plan an adventure online, how to move that information to a GPS receiver, and how to use the GPS to help with route finding, trip progress, reporting locations in an emergency, and capturing key data for a trip report to share with others. Key terms we will explore: Global Positioning System, satellites, waypoints, routes, tracks, importing, exporting, .gpx files, WAAS, Caltopo, BaseCamp, trip computer, GLONASS, Geocaching, coordinates, UTM, position, velocity, circle of error, satellite geometry, and others. This class is intended for those who already have a GPS and want to learn to use it more effectively. Class has one lecture/presentation, homework (field day GPS prep), and one field day in Colorado Springs. Prerequisites: 1. CMC Land Navigation graduate: participants must have completed a CMC Land Navigation class and be comfortable using a compass and topographic map to make route and navigation decisions; 2. Handheld GPS: participants must already have a handheld GPS receiver that allows for datum selection, input of waypoint data, upload/download of .gpx files from a computer, and can hold map data (a visual map display). Cost: Free.

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 class, Sport Leading Class, and PPG ARCPro Gear and Anchors class, or equivalent skills and approval from ARC Program directors. Cost: \$65 for Leaders, \$95 for all others.

PPG ARCPro Intro to Climbing Anchors

July 20

This class is for those who have taken an introductory rock climbing class and want to learn how to set up their own top-rope and sport anchors. We will teach climbing anchor fundamentals that can also be applied to traditional rock, snow and ice anchors. Prerequisites: Registrants should have already taken BMS Rock Climbing, or have the equivalent basic rock climbing skills. Leading skills are not necessary. Cost: \$25 for Leaders, \$45 for PPG members, \$55 for all others.

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 in this class 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 in this class. However, this class will be beneficial to anyone looking to climb multipitch routes—to include leaders and followers. Exact class content and student practice sessions will be tailored to the individual student's skill level and goals. Cost: \$65 for Leaders and \$95 for all others.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School - Wilderness Fundamentals

Starts August 12

The Wilderness Fundamentals class is an introduction to important skills and backcountry 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. Cost: \$45 for PPG members, \$55 for all others.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School - Colorado Wilderness Backpacking

Starts August 19

Backpacking is another way to experience the outdoors—whether as a means to get to a distant location from the trailhead to enjoy an activity (summit attempt, alpine lake fishing, etc.) or as the main goal itself (hiking a long trail like the Colorado Trail). Carrying all the gear you need to travel, eat, sleep, stay dry, treat injuries, stay found, cook food, treat water, and enjoy yourself may be intimidating—but taken one step at a time—is very manageable. This class focuses on the basics in a lecture/discussion format and concludes with an overnight backpacking trip to put our new knowledge into action. Safety and fun are key elements of this class. Prerequisites: CMC Wilderness Fundamentals and Land Navigation Course completion. Cost: \$45 for PPG members and \$55 for all others.



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



PPG ARCPro Sport Lead Climbing Class

Starts August 24

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: \$55 for Leaders and \$80 for all others.

April PPG Trips

Shooting Star Couloir Climb & Ski

Saturday, 6/1/2019

Difficult

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

Trail Mileage 7.5, Elevation Gain 3300. Location: James Peak. Details: The hike starts at the Saint Mary's TH in Alice, CO. We will hike in to the basin of James Peak and climb either Shooting Star or Super Star couloir depending on conditions. The couloirs may have a technical 5.4 rock section that we will rope up for. Crampons, ice axe, helmet, harness are required. AT/Tele Skis or Splitboard with skins. Snowshoers also welcome but you may have to walk by yourself on the descent. We will most likely ski down the standard route and not the couloir, unless you can huck cornices and rock steps. Completion of BMS Rock and BMS Snow is required. Email the leader with your experience to sign up.

Sentinel Point, 12,527

Saturday, 6/1/2019

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 7, Elevation Gain 2,800. Location: West slope of Pikes Peak; Pike National Forest. 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.

Thursday Evening Rock Climbing Garden of the Gods

Thursday, 6/6/2019

Rock Climbing

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

Location: We will meet at the main parking lot in the Garden of the Gods at 4:00 but for those arriving later just come on down. Go [here](#) to get your permit for the year. After you complete and submit the form you will receive an email. Just take a screen shot with your phone, or for the technologically challenged print it out. We will climb till dark. No white chalk. You can purchase colored chalk from Mtn Chalet. We will climb from 5.7 to .11 routes. Climbing proficiency is expected as this is not a class. Standard climbing gear required.

Mohawk Lakes

Saturday, 6/8/2019

Difficult B

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

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 2000, Driving Distance 220. Location: Breckenridge, CO. Details: This is a strenuous hike from the Spruce Creek Trailhead along the base of Mount Helen past waterfalls and Lower Mohawk Lake to Upper Mohawk Lake and possibly beyond. There are incredible views of Pacific, Crystal, and Father Dyer Peaks above treeline. This trip is primarily intended for Pikes Peak and Pueblo Group members. All others will be waitlisted. Nat Geo Map 109. Register with leader.

Skywalker Couloir Climb & Ski

Sunday, 6/9/2019

Difficult

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

Trail Mileage 7, Elevation Gain 3300. Location: Fourth of July TH, Eldora. Details: From the Fourth of July TH we'll hike for 2 miles along the Arapahoe Pass Trail, another mile puts us at the base of the 1,500' couloir. The top section of the couloir is a steep 55+ degree slope with potential for ice or rock steps. If conditions are good we'll ski down the couloir; another option is to ski/walk down the standard trail. You must be an expert double black skier with backcountry skiing experience if you plan to descend the couloir. Snowshoers are welcome to join but know you will have to descend without the group. Contact the leader with your experience to sign up.

Denali West Buttress

Monday, 6/10/2019

Difficult

Leader: Scott Kime, 719-235-0939, scott.kime@live.com

Trail Mileage 35, Elevation Gain 24000. Details: Team Colorado One-Step will be attempting to summit North America's tallest peak via the classic West Buttress route. Team members have been selected by the leaders. Team members will be posting updates and can be tracked online if you're interested.

Thursday Evening Rock Climbing Red Rock Canyon Open Space

Thursday, 6/13/2019

Rock Climbing

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

Location: We will meet at the main climbers parking at 4:00 and head to The Whale, but for those arriving later just come on down. Go [here](#) to get your permit for the year. After you complete and submit the form you will receive an email. Just take a screen shot with your phone, or for the technologically challenged print it out. We will climb till dark. No white chalk. You can purchase colored chalk from Mtn Chalet. We will climb from 5.6 to 5.10 routes. Climbing proficiency is expected as this is not a class. Standard climbing gear required.

Crystal Lakes

Saturday, 6/15/2019

Difficult C

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

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 2000, Driving Distance 220. Location: Breckenridge, CO. Details: This is a strenuous hike from the Spruce Creek Trailhead up the old mining road past Francie's Cabin to Lower and Upper Crystal Lakes. This trail skirts along the southern slopes of Peak 10, which forms the southern edge of Breckenridge Ski Resort. This trip is primarily intended for Pikes Peak and Pueblo Group members. All others will be waitlisted. Nat Geo Map 109. Register with leader.

Willow Lake Basin Basecamp Pack-In Day 1

Saturday, 6/15/2019

Difficult

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

Trail Mileage 9.5, Elevation Gain 2800. Location: Willow Creek Trail, Crestone, CO. Details: Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) is seeking help on June 15, 16, and 17 to pack their summer trail crew basecamp into the Willow Lake Basin of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. For three months, the RMFI backcountry basecamp will house staff, youth corps crew members, and volunteers who will continue to work throughout the summer on the realignment of the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Ridge, two of Colorado's 14,000' peaks. Needless to say, that's a lot of equipment! Please help share the weight by carrying a load on 1, 2, or all 3 days of the pack-in weekend! This will be great training for backpacking season, and you will be doing it for a worthy cause. Additionally, the trail and lake up top are gorgeous, a must-do trail in Colorado! The Willow Creek Trail is a steep and strenuous 4.75 mile hike up to the basin. Each day of the pack-in we will meet at 8:45am at the Willow Creek Trailhead outside of the town of Crestone, CO and together make one round trip to the basin and back down. Going up, we will carry trail work tools and other project equipment as well as basecamp gear including tents, group camp kitchen equipment, food, water filtration systems, bear hang rigging, and more. The return trip back down will be virtually weightless and easy! Some volunteers may need their own backpacking backpacks, but RMFI will provide loaner carrying equipment and packs for most items. For those participants willing to pack a roundtrip load on multiple days, camping is available at the trailhead and RMFI staff will provide and cook all of your meals during your stay on the project! They will be hearty and delicious meals that will help fuel all of our team's hard hiking! Register on the [RMFI website](#), and indicate that you are a CMC volunteer so we get credit! Find more information on the Kit Carson-Challenger Ridge Trail Realignment Project here. The goal of this multi-year project is to construct a safe and sustainable trail system to the summits of Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point. Volunteers helping with the pack in will be an important part of this effort and make a lasting impact on this fragile environment that is experiencing increased visitation due to the growing popularity and allure of climbing 14,000 foot peaks.

Willow Lake Basin Basecamp Pack-In Day 2

Sunday, 6/16/2019

Difficult

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

Trail Mileage 9.5, Elevation Gain 2800. Location: Willow Creek Trail, Crestone, CO. Details: Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) is seeking help on June 15, 16, and 17 to pack their summer trail crew basecamp into the Willow Lake Basin of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. For three months, the RMFI backcountry basecamp will house staff, youth corps crew members, and volunteers who will continue to work throughout the summer on the realignment of the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Ridge, two of Colorado's 14,000' peaks. Needless to say, that's a lot of equipment! Please help share the weight by carrying a load on 1, 2, or all 3 days of the pack-in weekend! This will be great training for backpacking season, and you will be doing it for a worthy cause. Additionally, the trail and lake up top are gorgeous, a must-do trail in Colorado! The Willow Creek Trail is a steep and strenuous 4.75 mile hike up to the basin. Each day of the pack-in we will meet at 8:45am at the Willow Creek Trailhead outside of the town of Crestone, CO and together make one round trip to the basin and back down. Going up, we will carry trail work tools and other project equipment as well as basecamp gear including tents, group camp kitchen equipment, food, water filtration systems, bear hang rigging, and more. The return trip back down will be virtually weightless and easy! Some volunteers may need their own backpacking backpacks, but RMFI will provide loaner carrying equipment and packs for most items. For those participants willing to pack a roundtrip load on multiple days, camping is available at the trailhead and RMFI staff will provide and cook all of your meals during your stay on the project! They will be hearty and delicious meals that will help fuel all of our team's hard hiking! Register on the [RMFI website](#), and indicate that you are a CMC volunteer so we get credit! Find more information on the Kit Carson-Challenger Ridge Trail Realignment Project here. The goal of this multi-year project is to construct a safe and sustainable trail system to the summits of Kit Carson Peak

and Challenger Point. Volunteers helping with the pack in will be an important part of this effort and make a lasting impact on this fragile environment that is experiencing increased visitation due to the growing popularity and allure of climbing 14,000 foot peaks.

Willow Lake Basin Basecamp Pack-In Day 3

Monday, 6/17/2019

Difficult

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

Trail Mileage 9.5, Elevation Gain 2800. Location: Willow Creek Trail, Crestone, CO. Details: Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) is seeking help on June 15, 16, and 17 to pack their summer trail crew basecamp into the Willow Lake Basin of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. For three months, the RMFI backcountry basecamp will house staff, youth corps crew members, and volunteers who will continue to work throughout the summer on the realignment of the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Ridge, two of Colorado's 14,000' peaks. Needless to say, that's a lot of equipment! Please help share the weight by carrying a load on 1, 2, or all 3 days of the pack-in weekend! This will be great training for backpacking season, and you will be doing it for a worthy cause. Additionally, the trail and lake up top are gorgeous, a must-do trail in Colorado! The Willow Creek Trail is a steep and strenuous 4.75 mile hike up to the basin. Each day of the pack-in we will meet at 8:45am at the Willow Creek Trailhead outside of the town of Crestone, CO and together make one round trip to the basin and back down. Going up, we will carry trail work tools and other project equipment as well as basecamp gear including tents, group camp kitchen equipment, food, water filtration systems, bear hang rigging, and more. The return trip back down will be virtually weightless and easy! Some volunteers may need their own backpacking backpacks, but RMFI will provide loaner carrying equipment and packs for most items. For those participants willing to pack a roundtrip load on multiple days, camping is available at the trailhead and RMFI staff will provide and cook all of your meals during your stay on the project! They will be hearty and delicious meals that will help fuel all of our team's hard hiking! Register on the [RMFI website](#), and indicate that you are a CMC volunteer so we get credit! Find more information on the Kit Carson-Challenger Ridge Trail Realignment Project here. The goal of this multi-year project is to construct a safe and sustainable trail system to the summits of Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point. Volunteers helping with the pack in will be an important part of this effort and make a lasting impact on this fragile environment that is experiencing increased visitation due to the growing popularity and allure of climbing 14,000 foot peaks.

Thursday Evening Rock Climbing Garden of the Gods

Thursday, 6/20/2019

Rock Climbing

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

Location: We will meet at the south parking lot in the Garden of the Gods at 4:00, but for those arriving later just come on down. Go [here](#) to get your permit for the year. After you complete and submit the form you will receive an email. Just take a screen shot with your phone, or for the technologically challenged print it out. We will climb till dark. No white chalk. You can purchase colored chalk from Mtn Chalet. We will climb from 5.7 to .11 routes. Climbing proficiency is expected as this is not a class. Standard climbing gear required.

Summer Solstice Venable Lakes-Comanche Lakes Loop

Saturday, 6/22/2019

Difficult C

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

Trail Mileage 14, Elevation Gain 4000, Driving Distance 180. Location: Sangre de Cristo Mountains east side. Details: This is a strenuous loop hike from the Alvarado Campground Trailhead. These popular east slope trails in the Sangre de Cristo's are connected by the natural rock ledge called The Phantom Terrace. Several incredible waterfalls and incredible views to the valley are seen along this trail. This trip is intended for Pikes Peak Group and Pueblo Group members. All others will be wait listed. Nat Geo Map 138. Register with leader.

Thursday Evening Rock Climbing Old Stage Road

Thursday, 6/27/2019

Rock Climbing

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

Location: We will meet at my office, Foothills Dental, at 4pm, carpool to Old Stage Road to St. Peters Overlook and the Inner Sanctum. We will be climbing alpine-ish trad climbs.

Eric's Lunch Rock 10,250 Loop

Saturday, 6/29/2019

Difficult C

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

Trail Mileage 14, Elevation Gain 2500. Location: Cheyenne Cañon, Colorado Springs, CO. Details: This is a strenuous hike and a full day. We will hike up the Seven Bridges Trail to the Forester Trail and up to Frosty Park. There is an excellent lunch spot (Eric's Lunch Rock) with a view atop the rocks when we reach the Forester Trail. We will then take the Forester Trail to the Pipeline Trail and back to Seven Bridges to complete our loop. This hike will pass many sites of historic homesteads and interesting features. This trip is primarily intended for Pikes Peak and Pueblo Group members. All others will be waitlisted. Nat Geo Map 137. Register with leader.



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



Trip Leader Trail Status

PPG Trip Leaders,

Congratulations on a great first quarter of trips! Trip leaders led 26 trips taking 213 participants into beautiful Colorado. As expected, over half of them participated in winter outdoor activities such as backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and ice climbing. Dean Waits led the trip leaders with 69 participants, Eric Hunter was a close second with 65 and Derek Sardinta was third with 15. Thanks to everyone who has been listing trips that get our members into all of this mountain snow. Also, a special thank you to those who volunteered to lead PPG's 100-year anniversary trips! It was great celebrating our anniversary with modern-day adventurers. Our superb snowfall this year is making conditions pretty tough to safely get deep into our mountains. For this month, I'd like to relay my own lessons learned from my recent trip to NE Couloir on Citadel Peak, on Saturday, May 4th. I took this trip over from a very experienced Greg Long. It was limited to members who had completed BMS Alpine Snow and Avalanche Level I. Early in the week, Loveland Ski resort reported 20 inches of snow in a couple of days. The avalanche forecast level increased from moderate to considerable during the middle of the week. Then there was a significant warming trend at the end of the week with the avy level decreasing to moderate on Friday and Saturday. The regional avy forecast suggested the most significant threat was wind slab and wet slide avalanches, especially as the temperatures climbed. I received some solid advice from other trip leaders and we tried to get an early start at the Herman Gulch Trailhead. Our target time to be off the couloir was 9:00 am. We started strong but underestimated how long the 3.5 mile approach would take. Additionally, I had a snowshoe binding failure and had to drop my shoes about a mile from the couloir base. That really slowed our progress. The snow got soft and fluffy as we approached the basin, showing evidence of the recent snowfall and further slowing our progress. We were still a quarter mile from the base of the couloir at 8:30 am when we decided to turn around. It was tough watching AT skiers quickly passing us on the climb and heading for the couloir. But we had set a turnaround time and we were well behind. We turned back and relished the very warm sun as we traveled back to the trailhead. While we didn't obtain our objective, this was still a very useful trip for five individuals who had limited Colorado couloir experience. We all learned the importance of asking advice of other members, of carefully reading the Colorado Avalanche Information Center forecast, of setting a turnaround time based upon that forecast and weather, and then sticking to the plan. Best of all, we enjoyed each other's company in a beautiful high Colorado mountain valley. I hope you have similar positive experiences this spring!

See you in the mountains... 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.

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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.

