



The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

December, 2019 | No. 263

## Pikes Peak Group Program – January 23

Roger Kilcoyne presents: *Climbing Mexico's Volcanoes*



It surprises most people who haven't traveled outside of Cabo and Cancun that Mexico hosts three of the top ten highest peaks in North America. These peaks aren't technical, but still present a challenge in a beautiful setting. The CMC has done multiple adventure travel trips down to these mountains that piqued my interest. The trips took a casual 10-14 days to climb these peaks, with generally larger groups than I prefer to climb mountains. Thus, the CMC timeline and approach just didn't work for me.

I called down to the same guide, David Gomez, at Nomada Climbing that the CMC has used for years, and we discussed what we wanted. First, we wanted to fly in on a Thursday night and leave Sunday morning. Second, there would be

only two of us and we wanted to travel fast and light. As the date approached, the weather on Orizaba deteriorated to the point that we decided to make other plans. It has never appealed to me to purposely climb under poor weather conditions when you have a choice and limited time. Thus, we climbed Iztacchihuatl (or Itzta, 17,159 ft), and Nevada de Toluca (15,387 ft), and would be back another day for Orizaba.

We returned to Mexico about seven months later to climb our original goal of Orizaba. We discussed with the guides our itinerary, which seemed reasonable, but I wanted to push the envelope a bit. We sent him a revised template which outlined what we wanted:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • 3:00pm         | Fly out of Denver                                      |
| • 11:00pm        | Land in Mexico City                                    |
| • 11:00pm–3:00am | Drive to Climbers Hostel, sort gear, and eat breakfast |
| • 3:00–4:30am    | 4X4 road to Hut  |
| • 4:30am         | Start hiking from the Hut (~14k ft)                    |
| • 8:30am         | Summit (18,491 ft)                                     |

So, 17.5 hours after leaving Denver, the plan was to be standing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest peak in North America.

Come join Roger Kilcoyne at the Ivywild School Center, 1604 S Cascade Ave, as he talks about the preparations, climb, and adventures along the way. Happy hour at 6:00, program starts at 6:30 in the Barrel Room. Hope to see you there!



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



## Your PPG Council

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

**Past Chair** – Vacant

**ARCPro Director** – Scott Kime  
719-235-0939, scott.kime@live.com

**BMS Co-Directors** – Tom Mulcahy  
719-482-8821, thomleonmul@hotmail.com,  
Matt Foster, 719-352-8164,  
matthewmfoster@gmail.com

**Conservation** – Tom Mowle  
719-216-3932, tommowle@yahoo.com

**Education & Training** – Eric Hunter  
719-266-9647, EHunterCMC@gmail.com

**Equipment Manager** – Derek Sardinta  
719-761-7051, DASardinta@gmail.com

**Membership** – Dean Waits  
281-352-2236, dwaits24@gmail.com

**Newsletter** – Dave Anderson  
719-484-9069, danderso@uccs.edu

**Outings** – David Kuenzli  
813-465-4716, navsareneverlost@gmail.com

**Programs** – Bill Allen  
719-660-1339, aspenperio@aol.com

**Public Relations** – Mike Cromwell  
858-395-5986, cromwellc@comcast.net

**Safety & Leadership** – Paul Schoell  
719-440-7777, 4paul2@gmail.com

**Secretary** – Sarah Hettenbach  
785-226-3176, hettenbach.s@gmail.com

**SESI** – Christie Lee  
719-635-2336, christie80905@gmail.com

**Treasurer & State Council Representative** –  
Glenn Barr, 719-244-3502,  
gjb2000@gmail.com

### At Large:

Darren Funk-Neubauer  
719-597-2397,  
darren.funkneubauer@csupueblo.edu

Britt Jones  
719-661-4777, britt@globalreality.biz

Richard Keetch  
719-634-1165, rakeetch@msn.com

Jason Kosola  
307-277-9445, jasonkosola@gmail.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!

Brandon Briscoe	Vishal Rana
Jared Doke	Frederic Thrash
Kaleigh Doke	Jennifer Thrash
Emily Ernst	Sophia Thrash
Erin Falce	Joseph Unruh
Paul Green	Ruben Valdez
William Henry	Sean Williams
Ross Jacobsen	Dustin Wilson
Jordi Nonell	Adrianna Young
Molly Quigley	Christopher Young



## PPG Council Position Opening

Interested in joining the PPG Council? The Programs position is being vacated and needs a replacement. For more information, please contact [Bill Allen](#) or [Kristen Buckland](#).

## Member Discounts

Adventure Medical Kits	Mountain Chalet
Ajax Bike and Sport	Mountain Equipment Recyclers
American Mountaineering Museum	Mountainsmith
Atrevida Beer Co (was Great Storm)	ProMotive.com
Bentgate	R&W Rope
Breckenridge Nordic Center	ROCK'n & JAM'n
City Rock	Rocky Bob's Fly Fishing Rods
Friction Labs	Summit Terragraphics
Frisco Nordic Center	The Custom Foot
Gearonimo	The Mountaineers Books
Gold Camp Brewing	The Trailhead
Golden Bike Shop	TrailRunner Magazine
Ken's Anglers	Vagabond Ranch Huts
Lumiere Telluride	Wilderness Exchange Unlimited
Moosejaw	

## PPG Annual Dinner Awardees

**Spencer Swanger Trip Leader Award:** Britt Jones

### Outstanding Service Awards:

Roger Kilcoyne	Mark Silas
Glenn Barr	Getty Nuhn
Y Mason	Tad McClure
Kim Wetzell	





# The Pikes Peak Group in Pictures

St Mary's Falls



L-R: Ute, Susan, Jim, and Emmele (Photo credit Y)

**Cheyenne Mtn Club's Cabin Site in S Cheyenne Canon**



L-R: Jane Scanlon, Julie Kiley, Carrie DeValk, Lisette Shaw, Ron DeValk, Kent Obee, and Missy Starks; leader Dean Waits

3rd Annual State of The Outdoors



Donna Gail Schneider and Collin Powers representing the PPG

**Mt Herman**



L-R: Greg Long, Jonathan Huang, and new trip leader John Bissell

# Upcoming PPG Classes

## **Pikes Peak Snowshoe Basics**

Starts January 7

Learn the gear, maintenance, safety and entry level techniques for this entry into the winter wonderland for many people and a common activity in the winter schedule. This is also a wonderful way of beating the ever rising resort lift ticket fees and crowds. There will be two classroom sessions in Colorado Springs on 07 and 08 Jan from 6:00p to 9:30p and one field session on 11 Jan all day. A general fitness level to go on a full day snowshoe trip is required for the field session. The first classroom is the combined with the BC Ski class. The target audience is someone new to snowshoeing. Cost: \$25 for PPG members and leaders, \$35 for all others. There are also rental costs from local gear shops if you don't own the gear.

## **Pikes Peak Intro to Backcountry Skiing**

Starts January 7

Learn the gear, maintenance, safety, and entry level techniques for backcountry skiing. BC Skiing is a great way to enjoy the wilderness with a little more skill and finesse, yet it is still a wonderful way of beating the ever rising resort lift ticket fees and crowds. There will be two classroom and three field sessions for the BC Ski class. BC Ski classroom dates are 07 and 09 Jan from 6:00p to 9:30p in Colorado Springs, and the field dates are 12, 19, and 26 Jan all day. A general fitness level to go on a full day ski trip with a lot of practice time is required for the field sessions. The first classroom is the same as the snowshoe class. The focus of this course is on learning efficient balance and weight transfer to manage an efficient kick and glide, so the target audience is beginner backcountry skiers. Cost: \$75 for PPG members and leaders, \$90 for all others. There are also rental costs from local gear shops if you don't own the gear and a trail pass for one day at a Nordic Center.

## **Pikes Peak Avalanche Level 1**

Starts January 28

This is the Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain course required for both HAMS and BMS students, and is highly recommended for anyone going into the winter wilderness. The classroom sessions will be held in Colorado Springs, and will teach how to develop a plan for travel on avalanche terrain, how to identify terrain that is avalanche safe, how to make safe terrain choices before and during a trip, and how to make an efficient companion rescue through hands on experience. This is the course to make all the other winter activities safer through your decision making. Classroom dates are scheduled for 28 and 30 Jan from 6:00p to 9:30p. The field session is scheduled for both 01 and 02 Feb all day. All field sessions are scheduled separately as CMC trips. Attendance at both classroom sessions and both field sessions is required to successfully complete the course. A general fitness level is required to spend the day snowshoeing around and digging in the snow. This course will be on snowshoes only. The target audience is anyone new to avalanche skills and anyone wanting to refresh their expired skills. Each student will be required to bring their own 10 Essentials, appropriate clothing for winter travel, and snowshoes. The course will provide beacons, probes, and shovels for use in the field sessions, however please bring your own to learn from if you have it. Cost: \$175 for PPG members and leaders, \$200 for all others.

## **PPG Basic Mountain School - Ice Climbing**

Starts February 3

Time to swing some ice! This is the final module in the 2019-2020 BMS series. Completion of this course allows certification in the BMS Alpine Mountaineering track. Congratulations! We will spend the day learning how to swing ice tools and crampons, with multiple opportunities for you to ice climb. We will also learn about alpine ice travel including travelling on fixed lines on ice. It is required that you've completed our BMS Wilderness Fundamentals class prior to taking this class. BMS Rock Climbing class or equivalent belay, knot tying, and rappel skills are also required. If you have not taken BMS Rock Climbing you must meet with the instructor before class to pass a belay/knot/rappel test, then you can register. The belay test cannot be taken within two weeks of the class; it is your responsibility to reach out to the instructor and schedule it. Classroom session is 3 Feb field session is 9 Feb. Cost: \$70.

## **PPG - Technical Ice Climbing School**

Starts February 10

Have you mastered the art of climbing rock, and now that the weather is turning you don't know what you will do with your time? Consider advancing all those skills you learned in BMS rock and ice by taking TICS. The goal of the class will depend on the group's aspirations and existing skill level, but will be to teach basic leading on WI3 ice and advanced skills needed for climbing WI4 and WI5 ice. If time permits, there will also be the opportunity to add some basic mixed climbing instruction as well. The evening class will be the week of Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, with the remainder of the class being held in Ouray, CO on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be carpooling down on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, climbing all day Thursday and Friday. Requirements: Completion of BMS Rock and Ice, and a lead climbing class preferred. Exceptions can be made for individuals who can show the ability to lead 5.8 or harder safely, and who have ice experience. Cost: \$185. You will be responsible for securing your hotel and meals while on the trip. Hotel rate should be around \$75 - \$90 each total for the weekend (2 climbers per room).

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# December PPG Trips

## **Barr Camp/Experimental Forest**

Sunday, 12/1/2019

Moderate C

Leader: Andy Lyon, 719-650-3043, [andyslyon@msn.com](mailto:andyslyon@msn.com)

Trail Mileage 12.5, Elevation Gain 3700, Driving Distance 7. Location: Barr Trail. Details: Celebrate December and work off some of that Thanksgiving pie! Barr Camp is an historic log cabin in the woods with a wood-burning stove and friendly caretakers. There's



coffee, hot chocolate, snacks, and Barr Camp merch for sale. Note the elevation gain of 3700 feet - it gets the blood pumping, especially the first three miles. The trail is often snow-packed and icy in its shaded spots, so bring spikes/tracks and poles. We'll break for lunch at Barr Camp and then return through the historic remains of the experimental forest facilities. Depending on pace (moderate) and shuttle timing, we should be back at the cars around 4:30 p.m. We'll meet at the free shuttle stop in Manitou at [10 Old Man Trail](#) no later than 7:45 a.m. We'll catch the 8:00 bus and hit the trail by 8:30. Old Man Trail is a right hand turn just past the Chase Bank on the right. This trip is primarily for Pikes Peak and Pueblo Group members. All others will be waitlisted.

**B'fast on a Mountain**

Saturday, 12/7/2019

B

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

Trail Mileage 7, Elevation Gain 1800. Location: Cheyenne Canon. Details: Wake up early, grab your prepacked backpack, trek up to a mountain, and get ready to cook breakfast while, weather permitting, enjoying some mighty nice views. Specific hike details will be emailed to registered hikers several days before the hike. **No tickets left.\***

**Beginner Skate Skiing Clinic**

Saturday, 12/7/2019

Ski

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

Location: The Breckenridge Nordic Center in Breckenridge. Details: Learn the basics of this wonderful Nordic Center sport seen in the Winter Olympics. It is incredibly aerobic and can take years to master. However, one session can show you the basics. It is recommended that you have prior experience roller/ice skating, downhill skiing, or Nordic skiing. You must use specialized skate ski equipment that you can rent at the Nordic Center. Plan to meet in the Nordic Center at 9:00. The instruction will take place in the morning, then you will have the afternoon to practice what you learned. **No tickets left.\***

**Intermediate Skate Skiing Clinic**

Saturday, 12/7/2019

Ski

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

Location: The Breckenridge Nordic Center in Breckenridge. Details: This is an intermediate skate ski class. You must have previous experience skate skiing to take this class and be aware that this is an aerobic sport. Instruction will be in the afternoon and equipment can be rented at the Nordic center. Plan on meeting at the Nordic Center at 1:00. **No tickets left.\***

**Christmas Bird Count – Colorado Springs**

Saturday, 12/14/2019

Easy

Leader: Dean Waits, 281-352-2236, [dwaits24@gmail.com](mailto:dwaits24@gmail.com)

Trail Mileage 4, Elevation Gain 200, Driving Distance 15. Details: This is the Colorado Springs Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. We will be birding in an area just south of Pulpit Rock, encompassing the UCCS campus and surrounding area. Some of the area requires walking and some can be driven. You will need binoculars, birding book, and a general knowledge of identifying different bird species.

**Seven Bridges to Bear Creek to Loud's Cabin**

Sunday, 12/15/2019

Moderate B

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

Trail Mileage 9, Elevation Gain 2300. Location: Cheyenne Canyon, Colorado Springs, CO. Details: This is an out and back trip starting at the Hub Parking Lot above Helen Hunt Falls in Colorado Springs. We will hike up Seven Bridges to the new connector trail to Jones Park. We will follow that trail through the historic site up to the area of Loud's Cabin and Chipmunk Lodge. We will explore the ruins in the area and return via the same route. If the weather requires it, we will change this to a snowshoe trip. This trip is primarily for Pikes Peak and Pueblo Group members. All others will be wait listed. Nat Geo Map 137. Register with leader.

**Capitol Peak-14,130' in calendar winter**

Sunday, 12/22/2019

Difficult

Leader: Britt Jones, 719-661-4777, [britt@globalreality.biz](mailto:britt@globalreality.biz)

Trail Mileage 16.5, Elevation Gain 6000, Driving Distance 500. Location: [Capitol Peak](#) in the Elk Mountains. *Note:* 14ers.com does not show the winter route. Details: Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>: We will meet at Britt's house at 43 Misty Creek Dr. Monument, CO 80132 at 7:30am and drive to the Snowmass Creek TH from there. I-25 north, I-70 west to Glenwood Springs, Hwy 82 east. Then see directions from 14ers.com. We should get to the TH around 1:00pm. We will then snowshoe up Snowmass Creek 1.5 miles. Here drop down, cross the creek, and head up West Snowmass Creek. We will hike up 3.5 miles up to 11,400' and camp for the night. This is .5 mile shy of Moon Lake and makes for a 5 mile approach with 3,000 vertical gain. Monday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Leave camp at 5:00am. Hike past Moon Lake and get to K-2, 13,664', which is 2 miles and 2,300'. vertical gain. From K-2, Capitol is only a half mile and 500 vertical feet away; however, this is where the technical climbing begins. Getting from K-2 to the summit of Capitol will likely take 3-5 hours depending on how much we feel we need to protect the route. We will backtrack our ascent path back to camp. It will likely be 6:00pm before we get there. Some and possibly all of us will tear down camp and hike out as some need to get back home for work. Notes: This is a difficult and serious climb. Required gear will be full winter overnight gear, snowshoes or AT skis. Helmet, crampons, ice axe. Rope, harness, ATC, anchor material such as webbing, slings, etc. This climb will have to be re-evaluated up to the last minute and even during the climb. We won't be able to get an accurate weather forecast until 3 days prior and we'll have to get an assessment of the avalanche danger right before leaving and then as we are heading up into potential avalanche terrain. You can look at this [trip report](#) which mentions some of the avy terrain. **No tickets left.\***

\*You may want to get on the waitlist in case participants cancel.

# Mount Princeton 2020



**February 14–16, 2020**

Two cocktail parties, five meals, two nights and three days of trips, unlimited pool and hot springs time. Six trips available including, but not limited to, snowshoe and XC ski trips. Massages and other spa treatments available if you call and book with the lodge personally. Registration: \$320 per person or roommate situation available to share expenses. Register at [cmc.org](http://cmc.org) or call or text Christie Lee, 719-243-1821.

## Trip Leader Trail Status

Mother Nature has brought winter to Colorado a little early, but that means this is a great time to dust off your snowshoes or skis and get outside. I want to give you an update on our trip participation, as well as those Trip Leaders who have qualified for awards in the Trip Leader incentive program. My last trip report covered January through September 2019. I know many of you have led trips since then. First, our trip participation has increased 66% since the same time last year! This is incredible growth and shows the quality of our leaders and their trips. Hiking remains the most popular activity, with rock climbing second and snow sports such as backcountry skiing or snowshoeing third. Second, as of the end of September, nine trip leaders have earned awards. They are Eric Hunter, Roger Kilcoyne, Dean Waits, Britt Jones, Denise Snow, Y Mason, Tom Mowle, Mark Silas, and myself. Of those nine, Eric Hunter, Roger Kilcoyne, Dean Waits, Britt Jones, and Denise Snow have also earned at least the bronze level for career trip participation. I have ordered some really nice outdoor clothing from Adidas and Rab, and those garments are at the embroiderers right now. I'm looking forward to handing out these awards very soon. Thank you all for leading such great trips!

However, several of you have written to me with concerns over trip participants canceling last minute. I agree that this behavior is disrespectful of your time and effort, and I am sorry this is happening. I would ask that if other PPG Trip Leaders have specific examples, please forward them to me.

Don't forget to forward pictures of your trips to our Pikes Pique editor, Dave Anderson at [danderso@uccs.edu](mailto:danderso@uccs.edu), so he can include them in the monthly newsletter.

You still have time to earn incentive awards for 2019! Get some trips on the calendar and help our members enjoy beautiful Colorado in the winter.

Cheers, David Kuenzli, PPG Outings Chair

## Pikes Pique

December, 2019 | No. 263

*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:

CMC Pikes Peak Group  
P.O. Box 2435  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901  
[cmcppgrp@gmail.com](mailto:cmcppgrp@gmail.com)  
[CMC PPG web page](#)

### 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.