



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

November, 2020 | No. 273

Pikes Peak Group (Virtual) Annual Dinner – Nov 14

Britt Jones Presents: "State Highpointing"

Join us virtually for the Pikes Peak Group Annual Dinner at 7:00 PM on November 14. A Zoom meeting link will be sent out prior to the dinner. Please register at cmc.org.



Finisher photo on Britton Hill in Florida - 345'

Why climb to all 50 of the US state highpoints? It's "a list", which is another way of setting "a goal."

It all began with climbing the 14ers in Colorado back in 2008. I climbed Humboldt Peak here in Colorado with a 74-year old man. Seeing this older man reach the summit, I thought (I was only 48), "climbing mountains is something I could do for a long time."

It was at that time when I learned of "the list" on 14ers.com. As soon as I saw that list of Colorado's ranked 14,000-foot mountains, I knew I wanted to make that list my goal. So, I set out to climb the 58 ranked peaks on that list.

I was able to accomplish my new goal pretty quickly even though climbing these high peaks isn't easy. It took me about 2½ years to do it. What I learned about this peak bagging experience was it had become a motivation to stay healthy and active. If I was going to climb a 14er on the weekend, I needed to get out of the office and workout during the week. So hiking, biking, jogging, and climbing low peaks mid-week became my lifestyle.

During my peak bagging adventures of "the 14ers" that are ranked, I learned that there are 17 more peaks that are over 14,000 feet as well. Those are listed in Gerry Roaches' 14er book in the back. I decided that I wanted to be able to say, "I've climbed ALL of the 14ers" without any caveats. So, I decided to go after these peaks as well. I completed the unranked 14ers within a couple more years in 2012.



Climbing to the summit of Denali in Alaska
(Photo credit Thomas Beuerman)

Continued...

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

After accomplishing this second goal I found that I didn't want to stop climbing the high peaks. This peak bagging had become sort of a healthy addiction! So, during my 14er quests I learned about "the Centennials". These peaks are the highest 100 ranked mountains in Colorado. This became my third goal which is equally, if not more so, as difficult to accomplish as the original 58-ranked 14ers. So, after a couple more years, in 2014, I had all of the Centennials climbed!

As I was wrapping up the Centennials, everyone was asking me "what's next?" What is going to be your next goal? I had heard from other mountaineers about "the State Highpoints". I am sure most of you know that climbing the state highpoints are climbing (or driving to) the highest point in each of our 50 US states.

For me to reach the goal to "summit" all of 50 states, I knew I needed to learn new skills since some of the states would require travel on glaciers with huge crevasses. I had a friend who introduced me to rock climbing and I started learning about using ropes and gear. Plus, I joined the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) where I took their High Altitude Mountain School (HAMS) and I learned the skills to do glacier/roped travel. This is where I became confident enough to climb Rainier in Washington State and then eventually Denali in Alaska.

The best part of all of this state highpointing was giving me and my wife an excuse to go on the road together. We took a trip to the upper mid-west region of the US together, we did a New England trip in the fall when the trees were changing colors, and we just now completed a 3,400 mile drive back east which ended up with three days together on the beach in Florida. For my wife, the beach was her "summit!" Priceless!

Setting goals has become a lifestyle which has continually given me something to aim for, to live for. My first state highpoint was here in my home state of Colorado. And my finisher was "Britton Hill" in Florida, spelled exactly like my name, J. Britton Jones. So, I decided to make my namesake "summit" my finisher which was climbed September 22, 2020.

As the saying goes, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." How do you climb a mountain? One step at a time. How do you achieve your mountaineering goals? One summit at a time!

Welcome New Members!

Hannah Bowlby

Riley Burkart

Michelle Garcia

Chad Holderbaum

Elise Moeller

Ben Schultz

Jonathan Schultz



the PPG
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Upcoming PPG Classes

PPG ARCPro Introduction to Self-Rescue Class

Starts October 24

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 unpleasant 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 are given the skills, along with practice, 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. Cost: \$95 for PPG members, \$65 for Leaders.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School – Wilderness Fundamentals

Starts November 16

Class lecture is November 16 (virtually via Zoom) and field day is November 21st. 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 backcountry 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. The field day includes a more hands-on experience and the opportunity to ask questions, discuss concerns, and share your favorite hike experience and trail snack. 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.



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



The PPG in Photos



Christine Sigman in the American Basin, summited Windom Peak.



L-R: Logan and Shane Kramer, Mariya and Dathan Cassin, Jade Kramer, Dean Waits, Elise Moeller, Lydia McDonnell, and Garrett Tanner. Picked up over 400 lbs of trash along Cottonwood Creek Trail. Photo credit Audrey Burkart, Leader.

PPG Member Highlights



CMC member and instructor Nathan Sato (14 years old) successfully climbed the route Primeval in Clear Creek Canyon (5.14a), his first of the grade, after projecting it for several months. Nathan has been climbing for seven years and is also a competitive indoor climber with Team Springs Climbing Center (SCC) in Colorado Springs, and has placed in the top ten at USA Climbing Youth National Championships. This past year, however, with competition climbing on hold, Nathan started training for outdoor objectives. He trained 16 hours per week outside of school, decided to switch to a plant-based diet, and built a strong climbing base of 5.13s

over the summer. As he prepared for Primeval, he began by testing out different beta, working the moves section by section until each part was dialed in. Multiple redpoint attempts later, he finally clipped the anchors! Throughout this process, he sought personal training and help from his coaches at SCC and Denver Mountain Guiding. "It's crazy to think about how far I've come since I started climbing, and now I've completed one of my biggest goals, sending a 5.14! It's great seeing all the hard work pay off." Nathan is an instructor for the CMC ARC Pro Self Rescue and Sport Climbing classes. You can follow his adventures on Instagram @nathan_climbs.



Winter is coming. Local Mountain Biking is another great cross training option to prepare for the many CMC PPG winter activities. CMC PPG completed a challenging 3 1/2 hour mountain bike ride through areas of Stratton Open Space; Gold Camp Road and Cheyenne Canon. Our riding group included two CMC Boulder members; one CMC Denver and one CMC Pikes Peak; our total mileage was 17.5 miles with an elevation gain of 2556 feet. The riders enjoyed the challenges of completing both intermediate Blue trails and a couple of intermediate/Black routes. Interested riders can find more details about the two most significant downhill trails completed at Mountain Bike Project: [Captain Jacks Trail](#) and the [Chutes](#). We are lucky to have so many well maintained trails and options for riding in the local area. I plan to lead more intermediate level Mountain Biking trips in the future and it would be great to have a few more local

PPG CMC members ride along and enjoy another unique way to explore our area! Mike Cromwell



Another photo from Mike Cromwell:



Trip Leader Trail Status

Hello Trip Leaders! I hope this finds you well and you've had the opportunity to safely enjoy the outdoors. Our reporting period has come to a close for this fiscal year and I want to thank all of you who led trips in 2020. As you can imagine, this year was a tough time to lead trips. I'm very happy to see many of you continue to lead trips under the CMC's COVID-19 protocols. I've led a couple trips under the protocol and found the policies not as arduous as I first believed. Also, it was great to see fellow members enjoying themselves on mountain adventures. If you haven't led a trip in some time, I encourage you to plan one, get it on the calendar, and responsibly share the great outdoors with our members.

Next, don't forget that you need to maintain your 2-year certification of Wilderness First Aid (WFA) to remain a trip leader. The CMC is now offering a hybrid WFA class and there's still plenty of room to register. You'll have to complete some of the training remotely and at your own pace. Then, there will be a hands-on portion to complete later. You can get further information [here](#). Don't forget that PPG will pay for trip leaders' WFA! Just finish the class, take a picture of your certification card, and email it to our treasurer, Glenn Barr.

Finally, I'd like to announce that several trip leaders earned award levels in fiscal year 2020. Eric Hunter, Britt Jones, Kristen Buckland, and Dean Waits all earned the Annual Award by leading trip(s) totalling 25 participants or more. They all received a \$75 rebate towards their membership or a PPG class. Furthermore, Kristen Buckland, Mark Silas, and I earned the Bronze Level Career Award. We'll receive a performance T-shirt with a distinctive CMC Trip Leader logo. Once again, thank you to everyone who led a PPG trip in 2020!

David Kuenzli
PPG Outings

Pikes Pique

November, 2020 | No. 273

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 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

The deadline for submissions is the 14th of each month.

Use the above contact information for corrections and comments as well.