



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

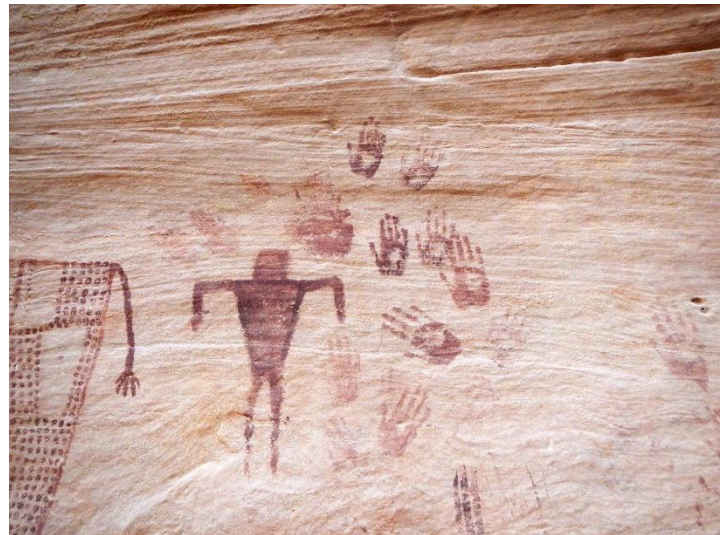
March, 2021 | No. 276

PPG Monthly Program – 7:00 pm, March 16

Dean Waits Presents: A Zoom Tour of Western Canyons & Ruins

Dean Waits says he is starting to enjoy the Zoom way to meet. In this presentation come Zoom with him to many very special places in Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and western Colorado. He's backpacked twice in Bears Ears National Monument, located in the SE corner of Utah. It's the guardian to countless Native American ruins, artifacts, pictographs and petroglyphs dating back to the Ancestral Puebloan era and beyond.

Navajo guides show him around and witnessed how a flash flood can quickly appear. Let's take a peek into Navajo National Monument.



He'll start at the Bullet Canyon TH, then enter Grand Gulch and finish out of Kane Gulch, visiting many named ruins along the way: Jailhouse, Perfect Kiva, Turkey Pen, and others. Then back into Fish and Owl Canyons. There are so many other canyon's he's not explored. Take a look at nearby Natural Bridges National Monument with its massive stone bridges.

He'll also take a pictorial tour of Aztec Ruins National Monument and Chaco, both in New Mexico. Aztec Ruins offers a restored Kiva for the real feel as you enter, complete with the sound of drums, and Chaco is so different from many of the others with its massive multi-roomed structures. There's Canyon de Chelly in AZ where he had two

From the Bears Ears plateau we'll drive down the Moki Dugway, a twisting switchback dirt road that falls 1,200 feet in 3 miles to the valley floor and the start of giant monolithic rock mesa's and spires, eventually to Monument Valley National Monument. There you can re-imagine the early John Ford movies starring John Wayne with the sound of pounding hooves, gunfire and flying arrows. We can do a bit of canyoneering in the San Rafael Swell.

There's Hovenweep ruins in SW Colorado which contains a different array of rock structures located in separate enclaves. Throughout this trip will be your chance to examine the building methods used in these different topographical locations at different times. Some in canyon alcoves, others in wide open grasslands. Hope you can join in on this tour, while you enjoy your favorite beverage, relaxing in your favorite chair. Sign up on the [CMC web site](#) and a Zoom link will be sent to you before showtime.

Your PPG Council

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

Welcome New Members!

Melissa Baldwin
Will Baldwin
Aaron Henson
Amanda Lampton
Valerie Miller

Scott Prieve
Ariana Ryan
Connor Ryan
Jason Ryan
Katherine Ryan



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

Gearonimo

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

Trip Leaders Needed

The Pikes Peak Group (PPG) Trip Leader School (TLS) provides a self-paced online curriculum (Google Classroom), a 3-hour online meeting (Zoom), and a 5-hour Leader-In-Training field trip to review important trip leader topics such as trip planning, group dynamics, situational awareness, communication skills, leadership, CMC policies, and leader liability considerations. The TLS is the first step to certification as a CMC Trip Leader. Key Dates: Online Coursework, April 5-19 / Online Meeting April 19th / Field Day April 24th. The CMC strives to provide many diverse trip opportunities for all levels of expertise to its members, and that is driven by having a trained and certified volunteer trip leader corps. If you have any questions or concerns about becoming a CMC Trip Leader, please email Glenn Barr. A great way to always have a ready supply of adventure partners is to become a trip leader. If you plan it... they will come! Sign up at cmc.org.

the PPG
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Upcoming Pikes Peak Group Classes

PPG BMS - Wilderness Fundamentals

Starts March 1

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 via Zoom 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. The mandatory field session explores the lecture concepts during an actual outing and gives students a chance to further address any questions or concerns while meeting new hiking friends and sharing ideas about gear, snacks, and hiking spots. 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: \$35 for PPG members, \$45 for all others.

PPG ARCPro Trad Gear and Anchors Class

Starts March 20

In Trad Gear and Anchors, students will learn about the various types of rock protection, including: natural protection, passive protection (nuts, hexes) and active protection (cams); and how to place and incorporate pieces of protection into anchors. We will discuss climbing anchors, to include top-rope, belay and rappel anchors. The student will learn the concepts of building a safe climbing anchor to include placement and evaluation of protection, fall forces, direction of pull, rigging methods and knots for anchoring. By the end of the final field session, participating students will be expected to be able to build trad anchors that meet an instructor-team evaluation for gear placements and anchor safety. They will rappel off of anchors they have built and rigged. Prerequisite: Registrants should have already taken BMS Rock Climbing, or have the equivalent basic rock climbing skills. Cost: \$65 for Leaders, \$95 for all others.

PPG BMS - Land Navigation

Starts April 7

Pre-requisite: Wilderness Fundamentals. There are two class lectures. Our discussions include maps, compass, orienteering, estimating distance, interpreting map symbols, properly reading topo contour lines, learning about declination, sighting, taking a bearing, and route finding using all of these concepts. You'll also participate in class exercises using a map and compass. Students must participate in a PPG trip where they are afforded the opportunity to practice and demonstrate their land navigation skills. Cost: \$35.

PPG ARCPro Intermediate Self-Rescue Class

Starts April 17

This is our next-level Self-Rescue class for those who have completed the Introduction to Self-Rescue class. We will review the basic skills from the Intro class, then move into more advanced self-rescue skills, including skills applicable to multipitch climbing, such as lowering from a top belay, hauling methods, and multipitch tandem rappels. Prerequisite: Students should have already taken BMS Rock climbing and Introduction to Self-Rescue, or have equivalent skills. Cost: \$65 for Leaders, \$95 for all others.

PPG Trip Leader School

Starts April 19

The Pikes Peak Group Trip Leader School (TLS) provides a self-paced online curriculum (Google Classroom), a 3-hour online meeting (Zoom), and a 5-hour Leader-In-Training field trip to review important trip leader topics such as trip planning, group dynamics, situational awareness, communication skills, leadership, CMC policies, and leader liability considerations. The TLS is the first step to certification as a CMC Trip Leader. Cost: \$25.

March Pikes Peak Group Trips

BC Ski Hut Trip - San Juans

Friday, 3/5/2021

Moderate

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

Trail Mileage 6, Elevation Gain 2000. Details: The San Juans have some of the best terrain and snow in the state, let's go for a fun weekend of backcountry skiing. We will stay at a private cabin near Telluride on Friday and Saturday night. We will carpool from Colorado Springs at 7am on Friday morning and plan to return Sunday evening. The cost is \$270 per person, breakfast and dinner are provided. The terrain is generally steeper; no beginner skiers, or beginner BC skiers please. Required gear: AT or tele skis with skins, or splitboard. Beacon, probe, shovel. Winter clothing, lunch and snack

food. Recent (within the past 4 years) completion of AIARE Level 1 avalanche training. Contact the leader with your experience to sign up.

Buckhorn/High Drive Loop

Sunday, 3/7/2021

Moderate BI

Leader: Andy Lyon, 719-650-3043, andyslyon@msn.com

Trail Mileage 6, Elevation Gain 1600, Driving Distance 16. Location: Meet at "the hub" parking lot in Cheyenne Canyon above Helen Hunt Falls. It's eight miles from downtown CS but is a steep, winding road so it takes about 20 minutes. Expect icy conditions in the shade and planned construction may result in rough roads and other changes. Details: New to the Colorado Springs hiking scene and/or winter/spring hiking? Then let this moderate six-mile loop be an introduction. The route follows (the closed) Gold Camp Road west then climbs back steeply east on the Mount Buckhorn Trail to meet Trail 667 (Captain Jack's). A tad more climbing and we'll descend to meet the (also closed) High Drive for a gentle final mile back to the cars. Even at a moderate pace and with time for views/breaks, this can be completed in under three hours, leaving plenty of time for other Sunday activities. Traction devices (micro-spikes or Yak-Traks, etc.) will be a must since we can expect some or all of this trail to be snow-packed/icy. Following the hike, and if weather allows, anyone inclined can caravan down Gold Camp Road to experience the historic railroad tunnels. We'll find a pull-out to enjoy some outdoor socializing and hot beverages/lunch/snacks.

Women's Month - Mount Cutler and Muscoco (dog friendly)

Saturday, 3/13/2021

Hike

Leader: Audrey Burkart, 719-510-0481, arburkart10@ole.augie.edu

Trail Mileage 7.5, Elevation Gain 1300. Location: Meet at the Starsmore center at 7 am, 2120 S Cheyenne Cañon Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. There are multiple parking lots in the area, so park and meet out front of the center. Details: It's Woman's Crusher Month; let's go hike! Women and woman supportive men are welcome to join. We are going to park down below at the Starsmore center and then hike up the Lower Columbine trail, part of the Middle Columbine trail, and along the new Creekside trail to get to the traditional Mount Cutler trailhead. Once here, we will hike up the Mount Cutler trail and then branch off to Mount Muscoco. On return if everyone is feeling well we will go ahead and head up to Cutler as well. This hike gets quite crowded, so please do your best to be on time so we can hike without too many crowds! People- and dog-friendly dogs are welcome to come, but must stay leashed the whole time.

Women's Month - Hike the Incline

Wednesday, 3/17/2021

Difficult

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

Trail Mileage 1.5, Elevation Gain 2000. Details: Time to celebrate Woman's Crusher Month with some nightly hikes up the incline. Women and woman supportive men are welcome to join. The Manitou Springs Incline is a very steep "trail" up the old cog railroad bed. You'll climb 2,500 steps to gain 2,100' in less than a mile. This hike is not for the faint of heart. We will descend down the Incline, if you feel more comfortable hiking the 3 miles down Barr Trail instead, you can split from the group. We'll meet at the bus stop on Manitou Ave & Old Man's Trail in Memorial Park to catch the 5:00pm bus #33. We will hike at our own pace on the incline, embracing the suffering! Then a quick break to enjoy the views with everyone on the summit before heading back down. The last bus leaves the bottom of the incline at 7:50pm. If you cannot complete the hike before then you'll have to walk the extra few miles to the cars. **Note:** the incline is on reservation only, go [here](#) to book the 5-5:30 timeslot for free. If it is raining, snowing, or very icy we will not hike. Email the leader with your experience to sign up.

Pineries Open Space Ramble

Saturday, 3/27/2021

Easy B

Leader: Julie Kiley, 719-641-3722, juliekiley_adelphia1@comcast.net

Trail Mileage 8.6, Elevation Gain 600. Location: Pineries Open Space El Paso County. Details: Come explore a new open space! Celebrate Women's month with a hike. The Pineries is a new open space in Northern El Paso County. It is a balloon loop trail with varied terrain: open field, forest, burn scar from the Black Forest fire. This is a relatively long, flat loop with no bailout. Colorado Springs and Douglas county members, I'd love to meet you and hike in our backyard.



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



Conservation Corner

Limits Proposed to Target Shooting

The National Forest has released a plan for management of recreational target shooting in the Pikes Peak, South Platte, and South Park Ranger Districts—all of the Forest near Colorado Springs. While there are many detailed criteria for prohibiting recreational shooting, it would ban it near any roads, trails, private property, or perennial or seasonal streams. This would cover a significant proportion of the National Forest. The plan would set up shooting ranges, at least one per ranger district to concentrate target shooting. It includes an adaptive management strategy to close areas that would remain open if they become unsafe or damage results.

The Pikes Peak Group has submitted comments favoring this plan with a few additions:

1. We would prefer that the ranges be located in areas that already receive a lot of motorized recreation and are easily accessible, and that the ranges not be located near trails, trailheads, or areas popular for dispersed camping. This would exclude, for example, areas along Rampart Range Road.
2. The plan proposes a one-quarter mile buffer around “highly visible” system trails and only 150 yards for other system trails. Popular system trails like Mt Herman, Monument/Limbaugh Canyon, and St Mary's Falls are not considered highly visible. We are asking that the quarter mile buffer be applied to all system trails.
3. The plan considers it to be a risk to public safety if a firearm is discharged across a road but not if a firearm is discharged across a trail. We would like firing across trails to be among the indicator conditions that would prompt closure of a open shooting area.

We urge you to comment directly on the plan, either echoing the group's comments or adding your own. The plan may be reviewed [here](#). A comments link is on that page. Comments are due to the Forest Service by February 22.

If you have any questions, email [Tom Mowle](#), PPG conservation/stewardship/access chair. Thank you to those of you who forwarded comments in time for the council's discussion earlier this month!

RMFI Opportunities

Seasonal Jobs

If you love getting your hands dirty, using problem-solving skills to find solutions, spending time in nature, playing a hands-on role in the stewardship of Colorado's public lands, and working with the local community, then you should apply for our seasonal positions! Applications are still being accepted on a rolling basis until all positions have been filled. Interviews of well-qualified applicants are happening now and will continue throughout February 2021. To learn more and apply, click [here](#)!

Gear Volunteer

RMFI is seeking a dedicated individual to fill a Gear Volunteer position for the 2021 field season! This volunteer is asked to commit 3 to 5 hours a month from February through mid-December to help with equipment maintenance!

Some examples of duties include:

- Properly sharpen tools
- Clean tools and gear of mud, dirt, and rust
- Apply oil to steel tools
- Sand and re-oil wooden handles
- Repair tents and other camping equipment

Contact [Alex Hladkyj](#), RMFI Program Manager, to schedule an interview.

Pikes Pique

March, 2021 | No. 276

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.