



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

December, 2021 | No. 285

Pikes Peak Group Annual Dinner



5–8 pm November 21, 2021

Trails End Taproom

3103 W Colorado Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Your meal and a couple of beers will be
paid for by the Pikes Peak Group

Sign up at [CMC.org](https://www.cmc.org)

The Pikes Peak Group in Pictures

Trip Leader School (TLS)

The fall iteration of the PPG's TLS course finished up with a hike and review of the CMC's 15 trip leader competencies. A windy and cloudy day, but lots of fun, sharing, learning. The next TLS is scheduled for March. Thinking about becoming a trip leader? The first step is completing TLS.



L–R: John C., Joe P., Riley B., Sean W., and Sara G.

CO Trail Segment 1 Bear Creek Backpacking

This group enjoyed early fall backpacking conditions—cold nights (32-degrees), few people on the trail, and a campsite all to themselves. Loads of fun!



L–R: Dan & Linnea, Amy, Jasper the Dog, Kristen, Dean, and Glenn

More on page 3!

Your PPG Council

Chair – David Kuenzli
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Greg Long (HAMS)
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Paul Schoell
719-440-7777, 4paul2@gmail.com

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

Welcome New Members!

Claire Fisher
Joel Gibson
Beth Harkins
Paul Harkins
Stephanie Klein
Stephen Klein

Greg Kozloski
Kelly Perry
Andrea Rynne
Igor Safariants
Iftekhar Uddin
Gabrielle Watkins



Message from Your Chair

Hello Pikes Peak Group! This is an exciting month as we gather for our annual meeting and social event at Trails End Taproom in Old Colorado City, on Sunday November 21, from 5–8 pm. Sign up for the event on the [CMC calendar](#). The year of 2020 was a tough year for the CMC and the PPG. However, it's clear that we're bouncing back in 2021 by sticking to what we do best: providing the highest quality outdoor education classes as well as safe and fun outdoor recreation trips. Neither of these happen without our skilled and committed volunteers... thank you!

Additionally, I'm excited about CMC's efforts to replace our aging and inadequate information management system and online calendar. We're expecting the launch of the new platform called "Olympus" in the first quarter of 2022. The CMC has invested quite a bit of money in this software which is based upon The Mountaineer's platform. Since PPG has been very efficient in our budgeting over the years, we were able to provide \$15,000 to the state to help them fund this project. I'm convinced that our members will reap the benefits of an effective online scheduling and information management platform. Our donation will allow the software developers to launch on time and with greater functionality. Olympus has many advantages over the existing platform. Members will be able to customize what communication they desire from CMC. Similarly, instructors and trip leaders will communicate easier with participants. Classes will be easier to create and completion easier to track. Instructors will find it simpler to advertise their classes. Members will earn badges which record their formal skill training as well as their outdoor accomplishments. All of these features will make it easier for you to enjoy our beautiful Colorado mountains.



In Memoriam – Carson Black

Carson Black | November 17, 1940 – September 16, 2021



Elmer "Carson" Black, Jr. was born in St. Joseph, Missouri to Elmer Carson Black and Alice Williams Black. He was raised in Kansas City, Missouri. After high school, Carson attended Kansas University, and University of Missouri – Kansas City dental school. He then served as an Army dentist at Fort Lewis during the Vietnam War. Carson moved to Colorado Springs in 1968 and began the dental practice he ran until he retired. In the fall 1979, he did volunteer dentistry at two sites in Guatemala.

Carson was an avid mountaineer, climbing the mountains of Colorado, all the 14'ers, many of them multiple times, and the top 200 13'ers. He climbed abroad, including the Tour de Mont Blanc, Pisco in Peru, and Russia's Mount Elbrus. He was an avid technical climber, backpacker, and skate skier. He participated in the first Frisco Gold Rush cross country ski race. He was also an accomplished orienteer, teaching the skill and competing in meets in Scotland, Australia, and elsewhere. He also was an accomplished trail runner, completing the Pikes Peak Ascent multiple times, placing in the Pikes Peak Marathon, and participating longer runs including Utah's Wasatch 100, and placing in the Leadville 100. He was also a cyclist, completing multiple century rides as well as many mountain bike trips.

Carson was involved with the Colorado Mountain Club and had served as the president of its Pikes Peak Group. As a trip leader, he was always willing to help others find joy in the mountains that he experienced, and to help when they were in need.

Carson is survived by his partner, Marian Avoy of Cascade, CO, his sister Ann Woods of Houston, his brother Reed Black of Overland Park, Kansas, and his nieces and nephews: Whitley Levy of Bellaire Texas, Ashley Brown of League City Texas, Maggie Black and Carson Black both of Prairie Village Kansas.

The family has chosen to have a private memorial. There will also be a celebration of life for Carson at a future time.

Carson believed in taking care of the less fortunate and supported Doctors Without Borders, Planned Parenthood, and Westside Cares, a Colorado Springs human services provider. He would agree with a donation to any of these organizations, in his honor.

Carson will be missed by so many who loved him and shared his love of the outdoors.

More Pikes Peak Group in Pictures

Roxborough State Park



L-R: Jacqueline Hooper, Jan Allbright, Paul Kozlowski, Deb Sheinman (leader), Dean Waits, Angie Case, and Missy Starks

Colorado Trail and Lost Creek Wilderness Backpacking



L-R: Glenn B., Alan J., and Dean W.
Even more on page 9!

Loud's Cabin and Cap'n Jacks Trail

By Dean Waits



Have you made it to Loud's Cabin or hiked along Cap'n Jacks Trail? These two places are reached from the new parking lot at the intersection of High Drive and Gold Camp Road above Helen Hunt Falls. From this location there's a myriad of trails one can take. I really find it fascinating to hike to the cabin and along the Cap'n Jacks trail. Don't know how many times I have gone up Cheyenne Canon, first along the old Cripple Creek Shortline Railroad bed, to the 7 Bridges Trail, past Undine Falls, through Jones Park, to the cabin and back along Ring the Peak, Cap'n Jacks, Buckhorn and back to the new parking lot. It can be a long 9-mile hike with over 2,000 feet of elevation gain, but anytime of the year, it's a very exhilarating journey. I recently went through the Jones Park area with its Aspens ablaze in all their glorious yellow and orange colors.

This area has always been special to even early settlers in the Colorado Springs area since the late 1800's. Before gold was discovered in the Cripple Creek area, it was thought this side of Pikes Peak must possess some of that precious metal. For a long time camping at Jones Park and staying at the Bear Creek Inn was great fun. Then lots were sold and it became quite a relaxing spot for a home. Walking along the recently built trail takes you by one particular cabin site. Evidently it had a cellar with a huge rock chimney; today someone has placed logs across the top and made a cozy

place below. You eventually come to Professor Frank H. Loud's cabin which in the day was called the Chipmunk Lodge. Professor Loud came to Colorado College in 1877 where he taught physics, mathematics, and astronomy until he retired in 1908. He was the first CC librarian, as Melvil Dewey, creator of the Dewey decimal classification system, was his Amherst College classmate, where Loud had studied. He actually built three cabins in the valley. One had been destroyed by a snowslide and later some of the logs from it were moved to where the present remains of the Chipmunk Lodge, built in 1902, are today. Today the chimney, made of large tile and rocks, is an interesting remaining piece; along with the exterior logs with bullet casings driven into the ends. With Mt Garfield and Mt Arthur looking down upon you, it's a rather relaxing spot for a lunch.

In the early 1890's the City of Colorado Springs gave up its attempt to divert water from North Cheyenne Creek to Bear Creek. The ditch was dug and large ceramic pipe was put in place, but this was never utilized. You can now hike along the Pipe Line Trail and see some of these pipes as some reach the surface.



One thing I've most enjoyed learning is the story of the Cap'n Jack Trail. I had always envisioned some rough, salty sea-hearty ocean captain had somehow come out west and made such a reputation that they named a trail after him. But no; the trail is named after Ms. Ellen Elliott Jack, who with her flamboyant personality took on her husband's namesake as Cap'n Jack. And I quote: "I do not fear man or devil; it is not in my blood, and if they can shoot any straighter or quicker than I, let them try it, for a .44 equalizes frail women and brute men, and all women ought to be able to protect themselves against such ruffians." Captain Jack.

Ellen was born in England in 1842 and left for America at the urging of her sister. Aboard the ship she met the dapper Captain Charles E. Jack and they were soon wed. Their young children unfortunately died within a short time of each other and later Charles also passed away from injuries he received in the Civil War. Ellen eventually ended up in Gunnison, Co, opened an "eating house", Jack's Cabin, which did well. In time she made it to Colorado Springs where she found a much more precious commodity than

gold; she mined tourists. The scenic High Drive was built in the early 1900's by General Palmer, intersecting at Gold Camp Road and North Cheyenne Canon, above Helen Hunt Falls. Hack drivers met the incoming trains at the Denver and Rio Grande Depot, each competing for the business of these Eastern tourists who wanted a Wild West experience, taking them up High Drive. Ellen exploited the tourist's gullibility; outfitted in a cotton blouse, a wool skirt, lace up boots, gun in hand, and other accessories. Quite the eccentric on her own, living with her pet burro, cats, and parrot, she posed for photo postcards she sold at Captain Jack's Place. In 1920, a flash flood washed out the road to High Drive while Ellen was in town and the city did not go to the expense to repair it. Ellen fell ill and she died in 1921. Leakage of the heart was listed as the cause of death, but her friends believed she died of a broken heart, as she could not return to her beloved home.

So, I encourage you to take this scenic tour; remembering some of these events which some can be seen but some are only in story form.

Other Stuff

Scholarships

The Leadership Scholarship is open to all CMC trip leaders, school instructors, directors, or leaders in training. We are willing to fund wilderness medicine classes and avalanche safety trainings. You can apply [here](#). Additionally, the Eckart Roder Education Fund is accepting applications from November 15 – December 31. We are encouraging those who do not get funding through the Leadership Scholarship to apply for a grant. Eckart Roder was passionate about mountain safety, responsibility, and courtesy. Any project that embodies these values will be considered. More information is available on our [website](#). We will also be hosting a potluck dinner on Thursday, October 28th, from 6-8:30pm, where you can learn more. You can sign up on the calendar. It is a \$20 tax-deductible donation to the fund to attend. Please direct questions to [Roberta Farrington](#).

PPG Basic Mountaineering School - Ice Climbing - January 23, 2022

Are you ready to continue developing your mountaineering skills? Learning to ice climb will help you reach your winter alpine objectives. Ice is frequently encountered in the

mountains during winter ascents. Ice climbing is incredibly dynamic combining technique, precision, determination, and excitement. Ice climbing combines the beautiful with the challenge of climbing inclined ice formations. Each day ice can change, grow and shrink which adds a unique element over other climbing styles like rock climbing.

Class covers: gear overview, ice climbing ratings, anatomy of ice tools and crampons, ice climbing movement, proper climbing technique for swinging ice tools and kicking in crampons, and climbing practice. You will also learn about alpine ice travel including traveling on fixed lines on ice.

It is required that you've completed the PPG 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.

Ice climbing is a great way to get outside and enjoy nature. It's fun, is a great workout, and gets you out of your comfort zone. What are you waiting for? Sign up for the [PPG BMS Ice climbing class](#) today.

Upcoming Pikes Peak Group Classes

Pikes Peak Snowshoe Basics Class

Starts January 3

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 03 and 05 Jan from 6:00p to 9:30p and one field session on 08 Jan all day. The course cost is \$25 for PPG members and leaders and \$35 for all others. There are also rental costs from local gear shops if you don't own the gear. A general fitness level to go on a full day snowshoe trip is required for the field session. The first classroom is the same as the BC Ski class. The target audience is someone new to snowshoeing.

Pikes Peak Snowshoe Basics Class

Starts January 3

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 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. The cost is \$75 for PPG members and leaders and \$90 for all others for the classroom sessions and handouts. There are also rental costs from local gear shops if you don't own the gear and a Nordic Center trail pass for one day. BC Ski classroom dates are 03 and 06 Jan from 6:00p to 9:30p in Colorado Springs, and the field dates are 09, 16, and 23 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 learning efficient balance and weight transfer to manage an efficient kick and glide, so the target audience is beginner backcountry skiers.

PPG Basic Mountaineering School - Ice Climbing

Starts January 20

Time to swing some ice! This is the final module in the 2021-2022 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 a week of the class; it is your responsibility to reach out to the instructor and schedule it. Classroom date is 20 January. The field session is 23 January. To receive permission and the passcode to register, please email the leader. Cost: \$95 for PPG members and leaders, \$115 for all others.

Pikes Peak Avalanche Level 1

Starts January 25

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 25 and 27 Jan from 6:00p to 9:30p. The field session is scheduled for both 29 and 30 Jan 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. The cost for this class is \$175 for the PPG members and leaders and \$200 for all others. For class details, please contact the leader. 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 them.



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



December Pikes Peak Group Trips

Barr Camp/Experimental Forest

Wednesday, 12/1/2021

Moderate C

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

Trail Mileage 12.5, Elevation Gain 3700, Driving Distance 7. Location: Barr Trail. Details: If you've seen the signs on Barr Trail to the "Experimental Forest" but don't know what it is, here's your chance to learn. We'll hike Barr Trail and then veer off for a 1/4 jog to the remains of this old government installation. We'll take a break to check out the historic displays and then continue on and up to rejoin the Barr Trail and onto [Barr Camp](#) for lunch. More details to follow as we get closer. The leader is open to shifting the date if extreme weather seems likely or not enough hikers can make mid-week. And yes, Barr Camp is old hat for a lot of people but it's a great way to stay in shape for other things and still a lovely walk in the woods. 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. Daylight will be in short supply as well, so pack the headlamp, too. This trip is primarily for Pikes Peak and Pueblo Group members. All others will be waitlisted. Details on meeting spot/parking to follow in November.

Ice Climbing Lincoln Falls

Saturday, 12/4/2021

Ice Climbing

Leader: Derek Sardinta, 719-761-7051, DASardinta@gmail.com

Trail Mileage 0.25, Elevation Gain 600, Driving Distance 190. Location: This trip will be co-lead by Brandon Briscoe who is working on his trip leader certification. Ice climbing at Lincoln Falls on 4 or 5 December—weather call for the best day 5-7 days out, with a preference for Saturday, from 8am - 4pm (or when the group is done). Top roping and lead, 2-4 lines depending on group size and ability. The onsite meeting place will be the Wheeler Lake Winter Trailhead / Montgomery Reservoir parking, at 8am. It's a 15-30 minute walk up to the ice (depending on if it's packed or new), then we'll set up top rope and lead lines. For those coming from the Colorado Springs area and interested in carpooling, we will meet at the Safeway in Old Colorado City off of HWY 24 (3275 W Colorado Avenue) at 6 am, and then doing a quick stop at the Exxon/Subway in Fairplay enroute. Requirements: Comfortable/experienced/safe ice or rock climbing and belaying, and have or will have boots and crampons (you can borrow ice tools if you need to). Ready to be in the cold and wind all day. Fitness to hike up a short but steep slope in winter gear, and climb all day. Register with leader.

Intermediate Skate Skiing Clinic

Saturday, 12/11/2021

Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, denisexcskier@outlook.com

Location: The Gold Run 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. Register with leader.

Beginner Skate Skiing Clinic

Saturday, 12/11/2021

Leader: Denise Snow, 719-687-9576, denisexcskier@outlook.com

Location: The Gold Run 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. Register with leader.

Spruce Mtn - dog friendly

Wednesday, 12/26/2021

Moderate A

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

Trail Mileage 5.5, Elevation Gain 600. Location: The group will meet and hike from this address at 8:30 am. Spruce Mountain Open Space Trail, 13415 S Spruce Mountain Rd, Larkspur, CO 80118. Details: Come show off your new outdoors toys while also working off all the cookies. Spruce Mountain is a pleasant, easier hike. But don't be fooled; it's winter and icy. Much of the trail is south facing, but some sections are north facing so expect cold, ice, and snow. Please bring traction for shoes (YakTraks, Microspikes, etc.). And it is cold, so layer up! Any people and dog friendly dogs are also welcome to join (hopefully they didn't eat too many cookies). Leashes are required on this trail for the pups. Given this trailhead gets

quite busy, we will have an optional carpool from Colorado Springs, meeting at 7:45 at the Woodmen Park & Ride, 6800 Corporate Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Please let me know if you intend to join the carpool so we do not leave you behind.

Sandstone Ranch Open Space

Saturday, 12/29/2021

Moderate A

Leader: Debbie Sheinman, 719-635-7720, sheindk@yahoo.com

Trail Mileage 7, Elevation Gain 600, Driving Distance 80. Location: Feeling a little sluggish after too much holiday food and cheer? Need some exercise? This may be the hike for you. We'll hike Sandstone Ranch Open Space in Douglas County, hiking both the Sandstone Meadow Trail Loop (3.7 miles) and the Juniper Valley Loop (3.2 miles). If time, will-power, and consensus allow, we can also hike the Ranch Overlook Trail (2.2 miles) when we complete the Sandstone Meadow Trail. Be prepared for cold, windy, muddy, icy, or snowy conditions. Ice walkers and/or snowshoes might be needed. Please bring your ten essentials, dress in layers, bring at least 2 liters of water, and plenty of food (including lunch). [Sandstone Ranch Open Space map](#). Please note: Participants are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID 19. Face masks are also required.



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



Mount Princeton 2022



Mount Princeton Resort and Spa trip returns!

February 25 (Friday) to February 27 (Sunday) 2 nights, 3 days. \$350 (approximately, depending on tax at the time of confirmed reservation)

Arrive 1:00 pm Friday and snowshoe (or ice tracks) trip will leave from the lodge to St. Elmo (leader's choice) and return for check-in time at 4:30.

Trips leaving Saturday 8:30 a.m. after breakfast from lodge: one to Cottonwood Pass, one to Highline, and possibly another... or just soak in the pools! Lunch on your own.

Dinner in restaurant on your own if we have under 25 attendees (menu will be provided in advance so you can adjust your budget accordingly). If 25 or more attendees, we can get a private room. Full lodge and food price is to be paid at the time of reservation. We need to confirm by January 10th by paying Mount Princeton directly (no exceptions; if you want money returned). \$155 per night plus 7.55% tax single/double occupancy. \$15 for each extra person. Checkout is 11:00 on Sunday after breakfast. 3 trips will be posted to sign up for at the lodge.

Please call Christie Lee at 719-243-1821 to register.

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

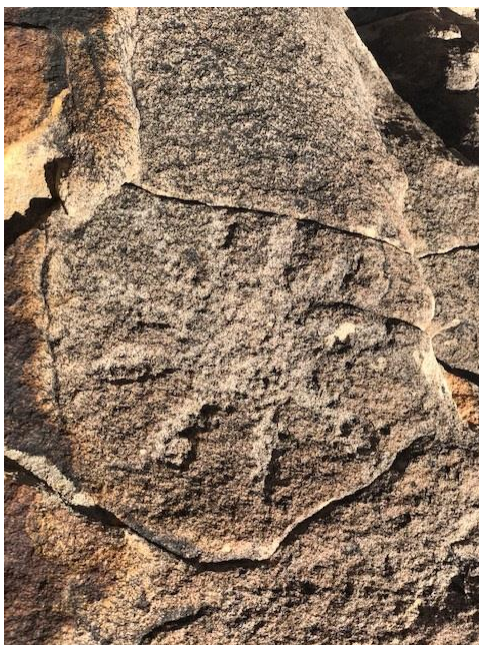
Even More PPG in Pictures



Cucharas Canyon

Clockwise from left: Dave Anderson, Eric Hunter, and Jacqueline Hooper dropped down Wilson's Crossing (an old sheep and cattle herding trail through the canyon) to explore Apishapa Native American artifacts. (We're wearing blaze orange cuz it's hunting season.)

And we found many! Here's a "star burst" petroglyph carved into a rock that may have been a supernova seen in the 17th century.



Pikes Pique

December, 2021 | No. 285

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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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

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

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