



October 2016 | No. 228

# Pikes Pique

The Newsletter of the CMC Pikes Peak Group

## Pikes Peak Group Program – October 18

Greg Long Presents: *Climbing the Lesser Known Peaks of the Swiss Alps*



Henri looked at me with a sort of bemused inquisitiveness, “Why are you here?”

Given that it was day three of a six-day hut trip in the Swiss Alps, and it had been raining and snowing for all of them, I had begun to ask this question myself. I didn’t think the caretaker was referring to the weather, however. “We want to climb all of the peaks in the area. They look like they’ll be fun if the weather ever clears.”

“No. Why did you come here, to Panossiere. Americans go to Chamonix or Zermatt. How did you come here?”

The answer to that was at the core of our trip. I had stumbled into Panossiere Hut while trekking in the area three years earlier, frustrated and exhausted after spending much of the day lost. Two things struck me on that earlier trip. First, the caretakers fed us a full multi-course dinner at 9:00 pm; service like that doesn’t happen most places. Second—after we decided to take a rest day the next day—I spent the morning looking at the amazing glaciated peaks in the area only saw two rope teams out climbing them. Was it possible to go to the Alps and avoid crowds? It appeared so. All I needed to do was convince a group of Americans that it was possible to go to the Alps without climbing Mont Blanc or The Matterhorn.

I managed to convince eight other CMC members, and we set out for our climbing trip in July 2016. Rather than Chamonix or Zermatt, our launching point was Fionnay. It had no ski area or gondola, only a few hundred people, a stunning seasonal water fall, and one closed restaurant whose owner felt bad for us and whipped us up some fresh croissants to send us on our way.

Three days later, thoroughly convinced that being weathered in at hut was exponentially superior to being weathered in in a tent, the storm finally broke, and we had two perfect, bluebird climbing days. We completed climbs of Tournalon Blanc and Combin de Corbassiere and were the only rope team on either mountain.

To hear more about these climbs, as well as techniques for surviving weather delays and staying friends, join us at Mountain Chalet, 226 N Tejon Street, at 6:30 on October 18 for our program on climbing lesser known peaks in the Swiss Alps.

## Your PPG Council

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

## Welcome New PPG Members!

Brian Crisp  
Hannah Cromwell  
Charles Cromwell  
Cynthia Cromwell  
Casey Cromwell  
Sabine Durand  
Jeanne Gau  
Amanda Grieshaber

Daniel Grieshaber  
Ryan Halabi  
Brittney Jergovich  
Martha Munezhi  
Milton Peterson  
Lisa Sims  
Jim Young  
Monica Young



Putney Gulch hike, 9/9/16. L-R: Sharon Irwin, Mark Conti, Linda Cherry.  
Photo courtesy Nancy Altmansberger

## Your PPG Council Needs You!

We sincerely appreciate all of our Pikes Peak Group members who selflessly volunteer their time and effort leading trips, instructing classes, promoting the Club, and serving on the Council. Have you been a member for a while? Have you benefited from our classes? Have you had fun on trips? Why not consider giving a little back? We currently have (or will have shortly) a few vacant positions on the Council (see sidebar at left) that need to be filled. Come join us for a meeting and see what the Council is about. Sign on as an At Large member and participate in decision making and voting. Think about filling one of those vacant positions. We would love your help! Feel free to contact the Chair, or really, anyone on the Council.

the PPG  
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## Upcoming PPG Classes

### PPG ARCPro Crack Climbing Class

Starts October 8

This class will focus on crack-climbing techniques for climbing finger to fist-sized cracks, along with touching on chimney and off-width techniques. The class is led by Jes Meiris, our PPG ARC Program Technical Director, assisted by the program directors. We will not be teaching any gear placement or lead climbing in this class; we will focus on climbing techniques while on a top-rope belay. Prerequisites: Students should have basic rock climbing skills, such as taught in our BMS Rock Climbing or the equivalent, to include belaying and climbing communication. Leading skills are not necessary. The cost for this class is \$75. For more details, please contact [Collin Powers](#) or [Scott Kime](#).

### PPG ARCPro Self Rescue Class

Starts October 18

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 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. The class is led by ARC Pro Technical Director, Jes Meiris, who climbs, guides and teaches for a living. The cost for this class is \$95. For more details, please contact [Collin Powers](#) or [Scott Kime](#).

### Pikes Peak WFA (Wilderness First Aid)

Starts October 22

This two-day, sixteen-hour ECSI accredited course consists of instruction devoted to medical evaluation and treatment in the wilderness setting where definitive medical care is not readily available. Day one consists of classroom presentations and practicals on the variety of situations you might encounter in the backcountry and wilderness areas. Day two continues with a short classroom presentation followed by almost a full day of practical, hands-on training in the field. This course satisfies a requirement for trip leaders. The sessions are on Saturday 22 Oct and Sunday 23 Oct from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. A comprehensive textbook and a field guide are included and you will receive your WFA card.

**Note:** This course does not teach CPR, which is taught in a separate two-hour class (with separate sign up required) at the same location right after the completion of the WFA course. The cost for this course is \$70. For more details, please contact [Paul Schoell](#).

### Pikes Peak CPR Training

October 23

Knowing CPR can be life-saving! Did you know the number four cause of death in the backcountry is heart attack? If you never had CPR training or it's been a while, this two-hour American Heart Association accredited training is for you. It includes the latest classroom instruction and hands-on training in CPR/AED for the Adult/Child/Infant (choking conscious and unconscious). This class satisfies a requirement for trip leaders. A CPR card good for two years will be issued upon completion. The cost for this class is \$25. For more details, please contact [Paul Schoell](#).



In August 2016, CMC members enjoyed a beautiful, scenic, yet challenging 94-mile backpack through the best of the best that Glacier National Park in Montana has to offer. Left to right: Clint Schneider, Sandra Barrett, Donna Gail Schneider (Leader), and Rich Cox.



Easy travel planning for self-guided, active adventures.



## Spring Break in the Alps!



Photo credit Bruno Kohl DAV Pforzheim

9-day [Snowshoe Hut Tour in Austria](#) - € 989\*

8-day [Glacier Backcountry Ski in Switzerland and Austria](#) - € 889\*

8-day [Ski/Snowshoe Multi-day Hut Stay in the Dolomites](#) - € 749\*

\*all prices include tax and CMC members receive a 7% discount

Book your [Winter Hut Tour](#) online!

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Owned and operated by former PPG member and Trip Leader Brittany (Nielson) Haas

## Hawaii Kayaking Trip - Early Deadline

### Kayaking the Na Pali Coast, Kauai, HI

This is a kayaking/hiking trip set to sail June 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the rough seas of the Na Pali Coast, Kauai, HI. This trip is not for the faint of heart or those susceptible to sea-sickness as there is no refund from the outfitter for bailing out during the trip due to barfing or sheer exhaustion from paddling. Daily tablets "just in case" is a good idea. Kayaking experience is recommended, but not necessary. We will practice kayaking skills in Frisco in June prior to the trip. Upper body strength is required. The trip will be capped at eight participants.

This is a partially guided trip due to rough seas and difficult landings along the water's edge. We will be tent camping along the coast. Participants will supply their own meals and camping equipment. Upon arrival in Kauai, we will be transported to Ha'ena County Beach Park and camp one night near the launch area. After launching, three nights on Kalalau Beach (accessible only by boat or hiking) and one night on Mololi'i, one of the most remote, longest white sand beaches in Hawaii that can only be reached by sea. We will launch from Mololi'i unguided and paddle the last five miles to Polihale where the outfitter will pick us up and transfer us to the airport or to a hotel.

If you are interested, a nonrefundable deposit of \$83.00 per person is required by November 1<sup>st</sup> to acquire camping permits. Two-thirds of all permits are issued one year in advance, so time is already running out to apply for the required permits. This is an *urgent* request. To confirm your spot, I ask that you pay the outfitter \$593.13 as shown in itinerary (which will be emailed to you after you have expressed interest) by November 15th. This does not include gratuity or luggage storage in case you decide to extend your stay after kayaking. I will also need a copy of your photo ID and the size of your tent as required by the Department of Parks and Recreation to reserve campsites.

In January, we will purchase airline tickets to assure we all arrive around the same time for shuttle pick up. Today, flights are running around \$1100 from Denver and \$1200 from Colorado Springs. Total cost of the kayaking portion including the camp fee deposit and guide gratuity, is \$760.13. This does not include airfare or last night hotel stay prior to returning to Colorado. Please email [Donna Gail Schneider](#) if you are interested in this trip.

## October PPG Trips

### Technical Canyoneering Trip - San Rafael Swell, UT

Sunday, 10/2/2016

Class IV

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-273-1018, [ehunter67@yahoo.com](mailto:ehunter67@yahoo.com)

Trail Mileage 20, Elevation Gain 1500, Driving Distance 1000. Location: San Rafael Swell, UT. Details: This is the four-day field trip for those completing the Pikes Peak Group Intro to Technical Canyoneering classroom session only. We will drive to Goblin Valley SP, UT and setup a car camp base camp. We will then hike in Goblin Valley and visit Curits Bench. On Monday we will hike Ding & Dang Canyons as a loop - Class 3, B, III and apx 6 miles. On Tuesday we will hike Baptist Draw and Upper Chute as a loop - Class 3, B, III and apx 9 miles. Substitutions may be made to accomodate weather, road closures, etc. Further details will be provided in the class.

### Crystal Creek Reservoir

Friday, 10/7/2016

Moderate B

Leader: Nancy Altmansberger, 719-471-9549

Trail Mileage 8, Elevation Gain 1600. Details: We have to start early because there are only three parking places at the trail head. From Chipita Park we will hike up steep Mt Esther Trail through the Crowe Gulch meadow and continue on to Crystal Creek Reservoir. We will return the way we came. This is a fun, pretty hike. I drive an SUV. We may need one more SUV. CMC members only. A limited number of well behaved, friendly dogs are welcome. Please register with leader by phone.

### Dry Lakes

Saturday, 10/15/2016

Moderate C

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-273-1018, [ehunter67@yahoo.com](mailto:ehunter67@yahoo.com)

Trail Mileage 10, Elevation Gain 3000, Driving Distance 160. Location: Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, near Westcliffe, CO. Details: This steep trail leads to four picturesque lakes nestled between Horn Peak and Little Horn Peak in the Sangre de Cristos. Beautiful views of the Wet Mountain Valley can be seen along this route, unmatched in its remoteness and beauty.

### Mt Rosa

Friday, 10/21/2016

Moderate B

Leader: Nancy Altmansberger, 719-471-9549

Trail Mileage 8, Elevation Gain 1700, Driving Distance 40. Details: We'll hike to the summit of Mt Rosa from the Rosemont Reservoir Area for beautiful views of the reservoir and surrounding area. There are usually a lot of ladybugs at the top of the mountain. CMC members only. A limited number of well behaved, friendly dogs are welcome. Please register with leader by phone.

### Macey Lakes

Saturday, 10/22/2016

Moderate C

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-273-1018, [ehunter67@yahoo.com](mailto:ehunter67@yahoo.com)

Trail Mileage 14, Elevation Gain 2800, Driving Distance 160. Location: Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, near Westcliffe, CO. Details: Come see the magnificent views of Copperstain Cliff, Macey Falls, and Macey Lakes nestled between Colony Baldy and Little Baldy Mountain in the Sangre de Cristos. This is one of the more picturesque places close to home with little population on the trails. Nothing comes this close to simple beauty in the wilderness.

### Picketwire Canyon Camp and Mountain Bike

Friday, 10/28/2016

Moderate II

Leader: Eric Hunter, 719-273-1018, [ehunter67@yahoo.com](mailto:ehunter67@yahoo.com)

Trail Mileage 18, Elevation Gain 300. Location: Picketwire Canyon, near La Junta, CO. Details: We will drive down Friday night and car camp at the Withers Canyon Trailhead. Saturday morning we will bike from the Withers Canyon Trailhead into Picketwire Canyon. We will pass a Spanish Mission and Cemetery, a very large set of dinosaur tracks, and stop at the historic Rourke Ranch. There are also Paleo Indian rock art sites along the way. The trail begins as a very technical road becoming single track through more goat heads than you can imagine. It quickly becomes a 4WD road with some technical sections. This is an incredible canyon to explore that needs a bike to get to all of it in one day. We will then bike back and car camp Saturday night. We will drive back to Colorado Springs on Sunday. Comanche National Grasslands Map. 250 miles. 18/300'. Register with leader.



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





## Rock Scrambling Class

On July 9-10, 2016 eight students took the PPG's Rock Scrambling Class lead by instructors Hoot Gibson, Darin Baker, and Britt Jones. Saturday morning the students developed their rock scrambling skills with instructor guidance on Class 3 rock at a local crag. Saturday night the class camped out near Breckenridge. On Sunday the class hiked up Mount Helen's eastern slopes, traversed the exposed Class 3 (with optional Class 4) ridge from Mount Helen to Father Dyer Peak, descended Father Dyer's Class 3 East Ridge into Crystal Lakes Basin, and then hiked back to their vehicles on the Wheeler Trail. After a successful traverse of the Mount Helen-Father Dyer ridge, these students are ready for the toughest 14ers! (Photos courtesy Hoot Gibson.)



On the Helen to Father Dyer traverse right to left: Mike Henrick, Parker Malenke, Ian Sayeedi, Nick Sayeedi, Fred Markham, Glenn Barr, Britt Jones



On Mount Helen left to right: Glenn Barr, Britt Jones, Mike Henrick, Graeme Cloutte, Joy Cipoletti, Parker Malenke, Nick Sayeedi, Ian Sayeedi, Darin Baker, Fred Markham

## 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.

### PIKES PEAK GROUP CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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](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.