



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

May, 2026 | No. 336

The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

Mueller State Park



South Gully of Grey Rock, Garden of the Gods



Cheyenne Mountain State Park



L-R: Emil Wisekal, Richard Trillet, Sean Starkey, and Victor Ketellapper (leader).

More photos on page 2 and 4.

More Pikes Peak Group in Photos

Valley of the Chickens, Garden of the Gods

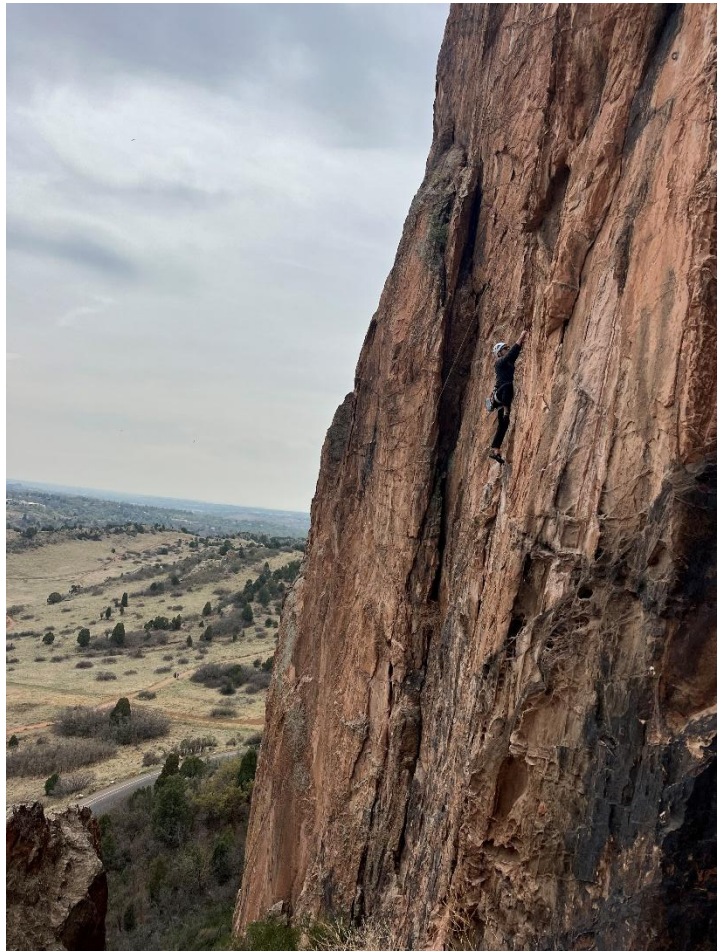


Mount Rosa



L-R: Dan, Lisa, Linda, Natasha, Jan, Julie, Jodie, Nathan, Richard, and Sean. (Not pictured: Nancy.)

Garden of the Gods



Mount Herman



L-R: Carl Sundberg, Julie Krow, Deirdre Robinson, and Greg Long.

*Got photos from a class or trip?
Send them to Dave at danderso@uccs.edu.*

Your PPG Council

Chair – Joe Preiss

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Past Chair – Glenn Barr

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ARCPro Director – Scott Kime

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Treasurer – Julie Jacobsen

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Emil Wisekal

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Mark Yeadon

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

Welcome New Members!

Grady Colgan

Sean Colgan

Ivette Gallegos

Ryan Jeansonne

Katie Kimmel

William (Bill) Koerner

Troy Kozak

Eric Mulvin

Sam Quinones

Emma Troller



Member Discounts

Adventure Medical Kits

Ajax Bike and Sport

Atrevida Beer Co (was Great Storm)

Battle Mountain Brewing Company

Bentgate

Breckenridge Nordic Center

City Rock

Friction Labs

Frisco Nordic Center

Gearonimo

Golden Bike Shop

Ken's Anglers

Lumiere Telluride

Moosejaw

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

RMFI Volunteer Opportunities



RMFI is starting their trail working season:

- Garden of the Gods trail work in May
- Devils Playground pack-in in June
- Barr Trail pack-in in June

Hope to see you out there!

[RMFI Calendar](#)



Even More Pikes Peak Group in Photos

Red Rock Canyon Open Space



L-R: Daisy, Sean Starkey (co-lead), Christie Lee (leader), Tim O'Fallon, Brian Massey, Terez Smith, Emil Wisekal, Victor Ketellapper, and Dean Waits (photographer).

Bear Creek Canyon



L-R: Emil, Sean (leader), Marcella, Dean (assistant leader), and Jody.

Upcoming Pikes Peak Group Classes

Basic Alpine Climbing

Wed, Apr 29, 2026 - Fri, May 1, 2026

This course is the first course in the Pikes Peak Group's Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) curriculum. Basic Alpine Climbing consists of a set of skills that fill a gap between on or off-trail hiking and technical climbing. Skills include assessing hazards and decision making, traditional scrambling techniques, assessing and choosing off-trail routes in alpine/scrambling terrain. PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals Course is the prerequisite for this course. Cost: Members \$45, Guests \$90.

ARC Pro Traditional Lead Climbing

Sat, May 2, 2026 - Sun, May 3, 2026

This class will equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to start leading single-pitch traditional rock routes on their own. Over the course of two full days at an outdoor crag we will review traditional gear and anchors then will focus in detail on the protection system and leading strategies. Students will mock-lead single-pitch trad climbs (on a separate belay) with instructor evaluation of the entire process. We will cover lead belaying and follower belaying skills. Students will do some improvised aid climbing on gear they have placed in order to gain confidence in their own gear placements. Cost: Members \$105, Guests \$125.

Rock Climbing

Tue, May 5, 2026 - Sat, May 16, 2026

This course is the second course in the Pikes Peak Group's Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) curriculum. The PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals Course is the prerequisite for this course. Cost: Members \$75, Guests \$95.

PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals

Mon, May 11, 2026 - Sat, May 16, 2026

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. Cost: Members \$45, Guests \$90.

ARC Pro Basic Anchors

Sat, May 30, 2026

Students will learn climbing anchor fundamentals that can be applied to rock, snow and ice anchors, but focusing on setting up anchors for top rope rock climbing. We will spend a full field day outside reviewing anchor gear, general anchoring principles, and methods of rigging climbing anchors. At the end of the class students should be able to safely rig a top rope climbing anchor using various materials. Prerequisites: Basic and Intermediate Rock or equivalent, to include

basic belaying and rappelling skills. Note: This class does not cover trad gear placement, which is covered in our ARC Pro Trad Gear and Anchors class. Cost: Members \$50, Guests \$60.

Land Navigation

Mon, Jun 1, 2026 - Sat, Jun 6, 2026

This course is the second course in the Pikes Peak Group's Wilderness Trekking School (WTS) curriculum. The PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals Course is the prerequisite for this course. Cost: Members \$35, Guests \$70.

ARC Pro Basic Self-Rescue

Sat, Jun 13, 2026

This course serves as an introduction to self-rescue skills that can be applied in various climbing situations and built upon with further training. Rescue skills taught include taking over a top-rope belay, basic rope ascending methods, passing a knot on rappel, alternate rappel methods, and using a rope coil to carry an injured person. This class consists of one full field day at a rock-climbing crag, with outdoor discussion, demonstrations and practice with instructor feedback/supervision. This class is applicable to climbers of all levels and is the prerequisite for the Intermediate Self-Rescue class, which expands on these basic rescue techniques. Registrants should have basic rock-climbing skills to include climbing knots, safety checks, top rope belaying and rappelling. Cost: Members \$75, Guests \$95.



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



The Beginning of the Pikes Peak Group – May 6, 1919

It was a difficult time, which we've all recently experienced. It was during the Spanish Influenza Pandemic. We can all remember being told to get outside—we did—we wore mask and social distanced. That was what Dr. Lloyd Shaw, Superintendent at Cheyenne Mountain High School decided to do with his students. They changed indoor parties to outdoor gatherings and hikes.

At first just hiking to the top of high peaks and the far back trails. As they started to enjoy themselves more, they went on long hard trips, finally deciding to form a real mountain club. They chose the name "Cheyenne Mountain Club".

Their first official trip was to the summit of Cheyenne Mountain where they wanted to place their first Mountain Club register. They could not afford to have anything special built. So, they took a 9" length of 2" pipe and screwed caps to each end, welded a chain to the pipe, then buried the chain in a pile of rocks on the peak. This continued on many other peaks.

A major accomplishment, they arranged to purchase a cabin a few miles above Seven Falls for \$1,000, borrowing the money from themselves by giving the students and teachers interest-bearing notes. The students advanced the funds mostly from what they'd saved for college. They had plays and special events to raise money. The notes were

completely paid back including interest by the time they were to enter college. All notes were completely repaid.

It was a large cabin, with a front porch clear across the width, hanging high above the steep slope on which it stood over looking South Cheyenne Canon and its creek below. It had a huge fireplace under the porch which they later enclosed, where wonderful meals were prepared. It was over a mile hike from the street car line to Seven Falls and hiking up hundreds of steps, then the trail about four miles to the cabin. There was no road, so everything, lumber, mattresses, food, etc. had to be carried up the trail by the students. They formed trail committees to work on the trail, eventually widening and straightening it. They'd have weekend gatherings there with teachers as chaperones. Eventually a road was built and Dr. Shaw could drive his Ford closer to the cabin. Use of the cabin continued even after joining with the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC).

In the meantime, the CMC had heard of the Cheyenne Mountain Club and they began joint hikes. The rest is history as the CMC Directors came down and met several times with Dr. Shaw and others; the "Pikes Peak Branch" became the second club within CMC, which was formed in 1912. This year we are celebrating our 107th birthday. Come out and help us celebrate on May 3rd and meet other members. [More information and sign-up.](#)

C-47 Crash on Blodgett Peak – 2/24/1943

A C-47 Army transport plane crashed on the Northwest ridge of Blodgett Peak in a dense fog on Tuesday, February 24, 1943. The flight departed from Pueblo shortly before noon enroute to Lowry Field, Denver, with three persons on board. A search for the missing plane was conducted by the Civil Air Patrol Aviators for five days. A tip from a local school student who heard a loud explosion at the time of the crash led investigators to Blodgett Peak where the wreckage was discovered on Sunday, March 1, 1943.

Pilot Baxter L. Ireland, 33, from Denver, co-pilot Francis Clark, 35, from Oklahoma, and an un-named Army officer all perished in the crash.

The crash site is in steep terrain on the Eastern slope of the Northwest ridge of Blodgett Peak at an elevation of 8,550 feet. The fuselage and wings are about 100 feet below the apex of the ridge on a steep scree slope. Both engines, the landing gear and numerous small pieces of wreckage are in the bottom of the drainage on the East side of the ridge between 7,800- and 8,050-feet of elevation. It is a challenging hike to access all the pieces. It is located on National Forest Service property and can be accessed from the Blodgett Open Space parking lot. There are trails available for part of the route but hiking off-trail is required to locate most of the wreckage.

This topographic map shows waypoints for the locations of the major pieces of wreckage. The summit of Blodgett Peak can be seen on the lower edge of the map.

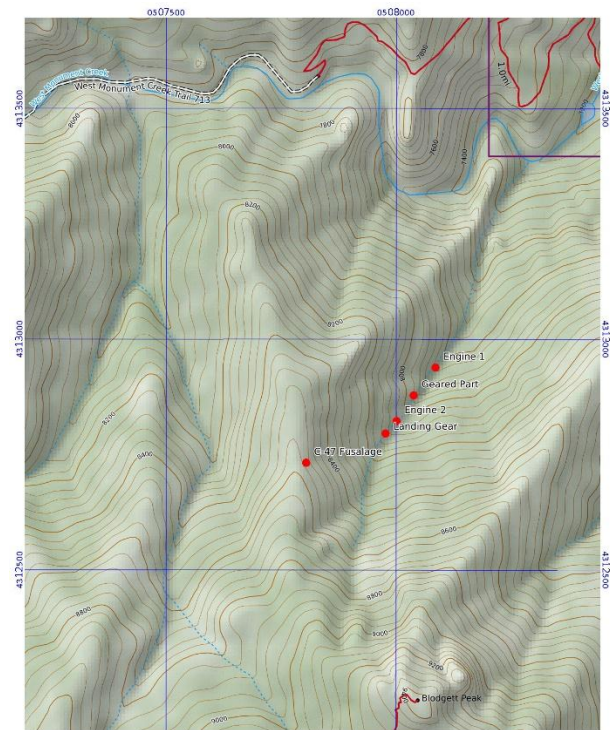
If one has access to the US Air Force Academy, one approach to the crash site is to hike West up the West Monument Creek from the USAFA and go South up the drainage containing the engines and landing gear parts. Some scrambling is required in this drainage. From the parts in the drainage, make the steep climb up the slope to the West to access the fuselage and wings higher on the ridge at 8550 feet elevation. The easiest hike out is down the Northwest ridge to the West Monument Creek and then hike back to the USAFA on Trail 713.

A second approach option is to start at the Blodgett Peak Open Space parking lot. Follow the trail along the Eastern base of Blodgett (between Blodgett and the USAFA property). This trail eventually turns East and enters the USAFA property. At that point continue bushwhacking thru the National Forest property on a minor social trail that crosses the Northeast ridge of Blodgett and drops into the drainage with the aircraft parts. This approach requires navigational skills as there is no obvious trail. From the parts in the drainage, hike West up the steep scree slope to the fuselage and wings. From the crash site hike up the ridge to the summit of Blodgett Peak and down the standard route to the parking lot. This loop hike is slightly over 6 miles and over 3000 vertical feet of climbing.

A third approach option is to hike the standard trail up to the summit of Blodgett Peak from the Blodgett Peak Open Space parking lot and hike down the Northwest Ridge to the crash site. From the site of the fuselage and wings, hike East down to the bottom of the drainage on a steep scree slope and go down the drainage to an elevation of 7800 feet to view the numerous parts. Then reverse the hike and go back to the apex of the Northwest Ridge and back up and over Blodgett Peak. This route involves over 4000 vertical feet of hiking.

As noted in these 3 route descriptions, there is no easy or casual hiking route to access all the wreckage remaining on the mountain.

With deepest respect and sincere thanks to those who lost their lives in service to our Country.





The first engine at an elevation of 7800 feet



Landing gear located at an elevation of 8030 feet



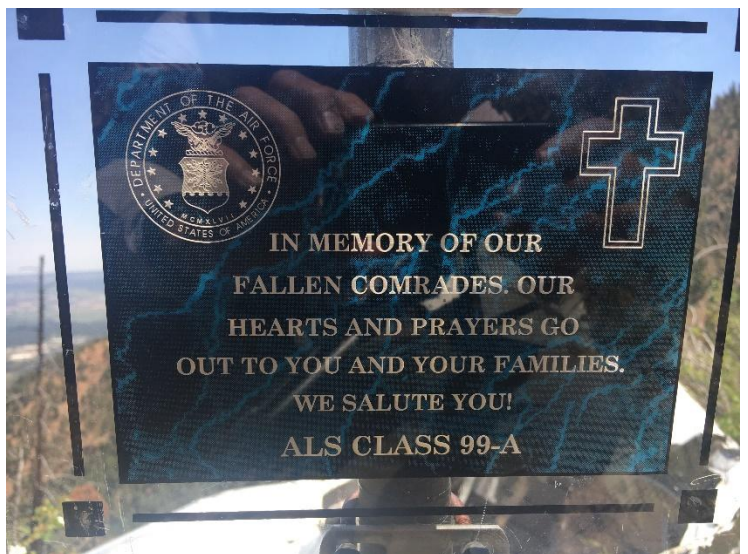
An unknown geared part located at an elevation of 7890 feet



The aircraft wreckage located at an elevation of 8550 feet



The second engine located at an elevation of 7980 feet



Plaque located near the crash site on the ridge

Outings Chair Report

By Sara Gordon, PPG Outings Chair

Here are our recipients for 2025 Leader Achievements:

Gold Level - Career Leader (Led 250 or more people on trips):

- Sara Gordon - 250
- Christie Lee - 382
- Greg Long - 257
- Joe Petsche - 254

Silver Level - Career Leader (Led 100 or more people on trips):

- Julie Jacobson - 101
- Debbie Sheinman - 112

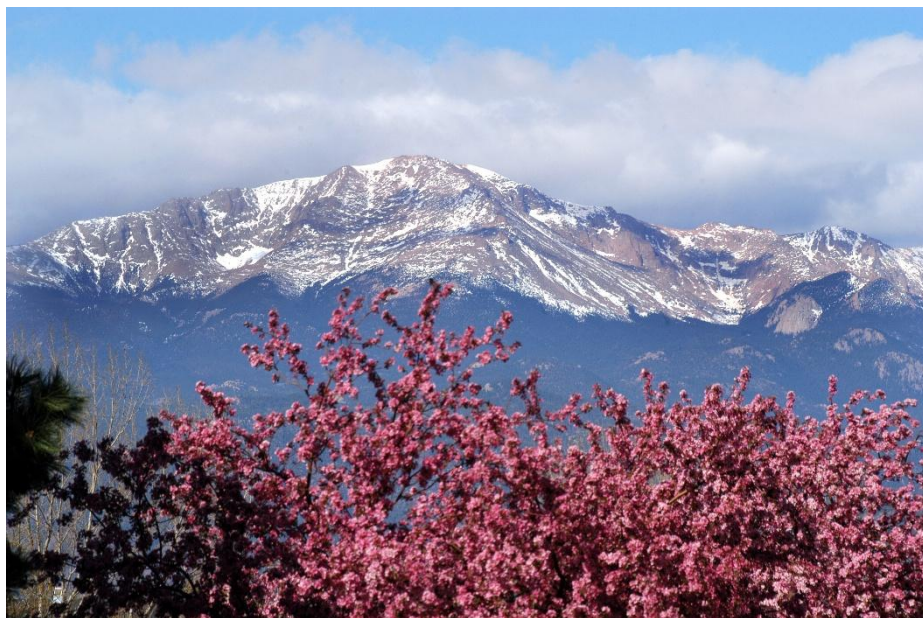
Bronze Level - Career Leader (Led 50 or more people on trips):

- N/A for 2025

Annual Leader Rebate Recipients (Led trips for 25 or more people):

- Sara Gordon - 114
- Julie Jacobsen - 35
- Britt Jones - 86
- Victor Ketellapper - 32
- Scott Kime - 29
- Christie Lee - 197
- Andy Lyon - 32
- Joe Preiss - 31
- Debbie Sheinman - 25
- Dean Waits - 56

Congratulations to the above 2025 recipients, and a huge Thank You to **ALL** of our Trip Leaders who volunteered their time to the Colorado Mountain Club's Pikes Peak Group.



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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Colorado Springs, CO 80901
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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:

Dave 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.