



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

September, 2026 | No. 340

The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

North Star



L-R: Meesha, Sandra, Christie (leader), and Andy.

Red Rock Canyon Open Space



Greeting the sun with sparkling water in Red Rock Canyon! L-R: Bryan, Dorrie, Jody, Sean, Cory, Eric, and Dean. Photo by leader Andy.

PPG Trip Leader Appreciation Dinner



L-R: Sean Starkey, Joe Petsche, Dean Waits, Christie Lee, Andy Lyon, Britt Jones, Audrey Burkart with Faye, Sara Gordon (organizer), Anna Gallogly, Meggan Barcan, Greg Long, Mark Yeadon, and Victor Ketellapper.

PPG's Lifetime Trip Leader Gold-Tier Recipients



L-R: Christie Lee, Joe Petsche, Sara Gordon, and Greg Long.

More photos on page 3.

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

Your PPG Council

Chair – Joe Preiss

719-337-9331, zmjwp@gmail.com

Past Chair – Glenn Barr

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ARCPro Director – Scott Kime

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Conservation – Victor Ketellapper

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Education & Training – Joe Preiss

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Equipment Manager – Kristen Buckland

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Leaders Leading Leaders – Christie Lee

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Public Relations – Vacant

Safety & Leadership – Mike Cromwell

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Secretary – Sarah Hettenbach

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Social Events – Vacant

State Council Rep – Julie Jacobsen

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At Large:

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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!

Ed DiBuono

Julie Harrell

Thomas Little

Nickolas Silva

Thomas Silva

Jon Tabares

Eric Wightman

Lisa Wightman

Derek Yingling



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

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers Needed for the Last Pikes Peak Challenge - Sept 12th



Do you like to spend time on Pikes Peak and support activities that help others? Then being on trail staff for the Pikes Peak Challenge (PPC) may just fit the bill. The Brain Injury Association of Colorado offers a fun-filled, inclusive event to inspire every participant, and challenge every ability while raising money to support those living with an injury to the brain in Colorado. *After careful consideration, BIAC's leadership and the Board of Directors made the difficult decision that this year's Pikes Peak Challenge will be the final event.* The PPC relies heavily on community volunteers to help provide a safe and enjoyable event and Barr Trail check points assist hikers on their ascent to the summit. **Help is especially needed at the A-Frame, 2-mile, and 1-mile stations on September 12th.** Interested volunteers need to be comfortable working at altitude for approximately 12 hours during the event. Sound interesting? [Learn more here](#) or contact [Glenn Barr](#).



More Pikes Peak Group Photos

"After Work" Rock Climb at RRCOS



Vince Franzen clips another draw while leading Finnacle, 5.8; Chris Duval warms up on Whale Rider, 5.7. Photo: Sara Gordon (leader); shown: Greg Long, Anna Gallogly, and Natalie Varnado.

Pitkin Lake



Front, L-R: Nicole Rymarz, Kim White, Andy Stuart, Wendy Phillips, and Brian Scott; back: Sandee Miller, Greg Long, and Tom Mourar.

Summit 2026 – Pikes Peak



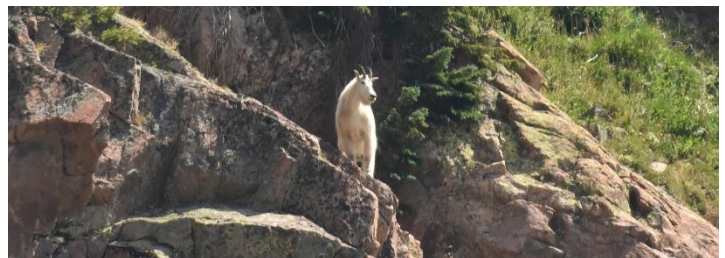
The Achilles Team summiting Pikes Peak. L-R: Jack Wittwer, Brandon Stapanowich (Achilles Pikes Peak Chapter Founder), Kyle Coon, Raymond "Superman" Bailey, Sam Calello, Maeve McKisic, Magnus McKisic, and Heidi McKisic.

Summit 2026 – Culebra Peak



Back row, L-R: Jim Guerra, Alan Savage, Bec Metras, Greg Long, and Steve Letch; Front: Gail Wells and Carol Maurer.

Mountain Goat – Pitkin Lake



New Member Orientation



L–R: Eric and Lisa Wightman, Joe Priess (co leader), Julie Harrell, Ed DiBuono, Derek Yingling, Jim Lamb, John Andrews, Austin Vos, and Sean Harrell; not pictured: Dorrie Stewart. Photographer and leader Dean Waits.

Attention Active CMC Leaders!

As an active ‘on the books’ CMC leader, you are so appreciated for your dedication and care to volunteer your time and efforts to promote and lead amazing activities to our members and their guests. Have you ever wondered when something different happened on one of your activities if there was another way to deal with the situation? Or perhaps, you have something you do on your trips that has really worked well and you had no way to get the word out to other leaders that may benefit your experience and wisdom? Sometimes, you may want to just hang out with leaders doing unique trips? Whatever your thoughts are about leadership and leading CMC activities, a new project to provide a space to talk and brainstorm ideas that would inspire each other for future trail enjoyment with our participants. Please consider coming to our kick off session on September 27th at 4 p.m.

Please call for details of place and what to bring. If you are not able to attend but are still interested in coming in the future, please email CMC Christie Lee or Sean Starkey (Christie80905@gmail.com or Sean@SeanStarkey.com) for information.

Hope to see you soon!

In Memoriam – Art Porter

The Pikes Peak Group and many other organizations lost a true friend and contributor. Arthur W. Porter passed away on July 3rd. Art was born in Denver but spent most of his childhood in Victor, CO. He graduated from Cripple Creek-Victor High School in 1962. An accomplished mountaineer, he climbed all of Colorado’s fourteeners at least once and mountains on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. For many years he volunteered in trail building and maintenance at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. He shared his love of the outdoors as a hiking and cross-country skiing mentor. Art led trips and held many offices in the Pikes Peak Group. He was a 40 Year member. Memorial donations may be made to the Colorado College Music Department Discretionary Fund, or to the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

Upcoming PPG Classes

PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals Mon, Sep 14, 2026 - Sat, Sep 19, 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. Wilderness Fundamentals is part of the Pikes Peak Group's Wilderness Trekking School (WTS). 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 a good foundation of the basics before expanding your outdoor skillset. Cost: Members \$45, Guests \$90.

PPG BMS Basic Rock Climbing Equivalency Waiver Thu, Sep 17, 2026

This is a skills test for experienced climbers to waiver out of PPG BMS Basic Rock Climbing to gain access to trips and advanced classes. This is *not* a skills refresher. We expect you to show up and demonstrate proficiency in all of the skills we teach in our PPG BMS Basic Rock Climbing Class. Cost: Free.

ARC Pro Advanced Self-Rescue Sat, Sep 26, 2026 - Sun, Sep 27, 2026

This class expands on the self-rescue skills taught in the Intermediate Self-Rescue class by teaching skills applicable on multi-pitch terrain. Students will learn how to rescue a follower by descending using tandem rappels; lower a climber from a top belay with a knot pass; and rescue a lead climber to include self-belayed climbing. Cost: Members \$45, Guests \$90.

Land Navigation Mon, Sep 28, 2026 - Sat, Oct 3, 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. Students must have earned the "Wilderness Fundamentals course" badge or a CMC equivalent to be able to register for this course. Cost: Members \$35, Guests \$70.



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



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.