

# Pikes Pique



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

June, 2023 | No. 301

## The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

### Gold Run Nordic Center



Julie Haverluk front; Julie Jacobsen, Eric Hunter (Leader), Lisa Powell, and Jim Taylor back; Garry Zieske, Kim Wetzel, Kristen Buckland, and Eric Rasmussen not pictured.

### Pancake Rocks



Jennifer Schmidt's first Leader in Training hike.  
Photo courtesy Dean Waits.

### Cucharas Canyon



L-R: Julie Haverluk, Zan Ray, Eric Hunter (Leader), and Jacqueline Hooper.

### Mt Cutler Overlook



L-R: Angela Tekamp, Anna Gallogly, Marissa Starks, Richard Legault w/Sadie; not shown is leader Sara Gordon & Meeko.

*(More PPG in Photos on page 2!)*

## Your PPG Council

**Chair & State Council Representative** – Glenn Barr, 719-244-3502, gjb2000@gmail.com

**Past Chair** – David Kuenzli  
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**Safety & Leadership** – Mike Cromwell  
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**50+** – Christie Lee  
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Britt Jones  
719-661-4777, britt@globalreality.biz

Greg Long (HAMS)  
719-659-0345, at\_90@yahoo.com

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

## Welcome New Members!

Rosemary Clyde  
Kelsey Dutta  
Adam Gellert  
Noah Graham  
Annette Markert

Elisa Mcghee  
Adam Price  
Myka Price  
Terry Rajendran



## Member Discounts

Adventure Medical Kits

Ajax Bike and Sport

American Mountaineering Museum

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 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



the PPG  
FOLLOW US ON 

# The Pikes Peak Group and the Colorado Trail

By Dean Waits

It has long been known that the Pikes Peak Group (PPG) has been seriously involved in volunteering to help maintain trails and other outdoor areas in need. The Pikes Forest Service gave the club responsibility for cleaning and maintaining the A-Frame along the Barr Trail on Pikes Peak in 1991. Dick Eustice, a renown PPG conservation leader, took on the Section 16 Trail, near Red Rocks Open Space, with the club during a short ceremony April 12, 1991. In the May 1988 *Pike Speak* (the previous name of our current *Pikes Pique* newsletter) was an article asking for help on Barr Trail, two work days in June–July and one in August. The club has also worked on the Florissant Fossil Bed trails and the renovation of the A-Frame in 2022, as well as our recent work in Lovell Gulch near Woodland Park, the Pancake Rocks Trail reroute, and plans for this year near Limbaugh Canyon Trails 756 and 715. This summer the PPG will be helping the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) construct a new trail on Grayback Peak. Check online to sign up.

In the July–August 1986 *Pike Speak* the call went out for volunteers to help construct a bridge on the Colorado Trail (CT) near Tennessee Pass. The April 1990 edition was again filled with opportunities for weekend and weeklong efforts along the CT.

Now speaking of the CT, it is composed of 28 Sections, stretching 586 miles from Waterton Canyon just outside Denver to within 3.5 miles of Durango. Each Section varies in distance and can easily be hiked in a day, parking a car at each end, which lots of people do. It shares 235 miles with the Continental Divide Trail (CDT). Trail Adopters all along its distance help remove downed trees and help with minor trail maintenance. Each summer some work crews drive to and stay at a fixed camp, while others backpack to remote areas to build retaining walls, repair water drains, cut new tread, or reroute off backwoods roads to newly built trails.

Just south of Twin Lakes, in the middle of Section 11, you can go on what's called the Collegiate East section and pass Mt Yale, stop at Princeton Hot Springs, and then go by the

Angel of Shavano trailhead (TH). Or at that same area, you can turn right on the Collegiate West section which takes a much higher route along the Continental Divide. You can do a loop around both for a trip of about 160 miles.

Starting in the summer of 2012 I've also enjoyed meeting and working with people from across the US and around the world and continue to do so. I have hiked with various partners on different parts of the trail and now I lack only about 90 miles from Silverton to Durango. I plan to complete it someday. Both hiking and working on the trail are experiences. If you have not tried either, I definitely encourage you to do it.

But as beautiful and as well laid out as the trail is today, this was not always the case. Beginning in 1974, volunteers started working on the trail and completed it end to end in 1987. There was one person, Gudrun "Gudy" Gaskill, with her enthusiasm for building the trail, that is said to be the trails matriarch. It was Gudy's continual working with volunteers, the various District Forest Service Managers, land owners, and local officials that kept this dream alive. The CT passes through eight mountain ranges, six National Forests, and six Wilderness Areas. Gudy was an active member of the CMC starting in 1952 and later the first woman president of the club. She has been honored by two U.S. Presidents and in 2002 inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

I was very fortunate to meet Gudy and husband Dave at various CT functions and even in her later years she continued as an inspiration to the organization. She passed away in 2016 after 89 years.

This is just a small part of the CT story. I invite you to learn more about this fabulous trail we have winding through various parts of our beautiful state [here](#). Much of the information in this article came from the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Colorado Trail*. Some dates and distances may vary, but it's the story and the people that matter; sometimes stats just get in the way.

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## Upcoming Pikes Peak Group Classes

### ARC Pro Traditional Lead Climbing

Sat, Jun 3, 2023 - Sun, Jun 4, 2023

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. Prerequisites: Trad Gear and Anchors and Sport Leading classes or equivalent experience/training. This is not an introduction to trad gear placement. Cost: \$95 for PPG members, \$115 for all others.

**PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals**

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 - Sat, Jun 10, 2023

The Wilderness Fundamentals class is an introduction to important skills and backcountry 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. This class is a prerequisite 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. Wilderness Fundamentals Students will earn the "Wilderness Trekking School Student" badge, and after completing all 3 WTS courses, the "Wilderness Trekking School" badge. Cost: \$35 for PPG members, \$45 for all others.

**ARC Pro Basic Anchors**

Sat, Jun 24, 2023

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: WTS 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: \$45 for PPG members, \$50 for all others.

**PPG WTS - Intro to Backpacking**

Mon, Jul 10, 2023 - Mon, Jul 17, 2023

Backpacking is another way to experience the outdoors by carrying all the gear you need to travel, eat and sleep in pursuit of your adventure. It can take you to a distant location from the trailhead, help you enjoy an activity (summit attempt, alpine lake fishing, etc.), or serve as the main goal itself, such as hiking a long trail like the Colorado Trail. Carrying all the gear you need to travel, eat, sleep, stay dry, treat injuries, stay found, cook food, treat water, and enjoy yourself may be intimidating—but taken one step at a time—is very manageable. This class focuses on the basics in a lecture/discussion format and concludes with an overnight backpacking trip to put our new knowledge into action. Safety and fun are key elements of this class. Prerequisite: PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals completion or equivalent. Cost: \$25 for PPG members, \$50 for all others.

**ARC Pro Multipitch Concepts**

Sat, Jul 22, 2023 - Sun, Jul 23, 2023

Students will learn techniques applicable to climbing multipitch routes, including preparation, anchors, belaying, cleaning gear, belay transitions, descending, and climbing with a 3-person team. This class will consist of two field days with the first day spent on low angle terrain learning and practicing multipitch belaying, transitions, rappelling and lowering; followed by a day of multipitch practice on a moderate trad climb. Prerequisite: BMS Rock Climbing or the equivalent. Cost: \$95 for PPG members, \$125 for all others.

**PPG WTS - Intro to Backpacking**

Mon, Aug 14, 2023 - Mon, Aug 21, 2023

Backpacking is another way to experience the outdoors by carrying all the gear you need to travel, eat and sleep in pursuit of your adventure. It can take you to a distant location from the trailhead, help you enjoy an activity (summit attempt, alpine lake fishing, etc.), or serve as the main goal itself, such as hiking a long trail like the Colorado Trail. Carrying all the gear you need to travel, eat, sleep, stay dry, treat injuries, stay found, cook food, treat water, and enjoy yourself may be intimidating—but taken one step at a time—is very manageable. This class focuses on the basics in a lecture/discussion format and concludes with an overnight backpacking trip to put our new knowledge into action. Safety and fun are key elements of this class. Prerequisite: PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals completion or equivalent. Cost: \$25 for PPG members, \$50 for all others.

**ARC Pro Sport Lead Climbing**

Sat, Aug 26, 2023 - Sun, Aug 27, 2023

This class will teach participants the skills needed to safely lead sport climbs on their own, including basic leading technique, setting up a top-rope anchor, cleaning the anchor and rapping or lowering down, advanced lead belaying, bailing off a route, climbing movement, and falling practice. It is taught over 2 full field days at a climbing crag. Cost: \$95 for PPG members, \$115 for all others.

### Intro to Technical Canyoneering

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 - Thu, Oct 5, 2023

Have you completed Intro to Desert Trekking & Canyoneering *and* BMS Rock? Take those skills to the next level. Learn proper gear, safety, and technique for technical canyoneering. The target audience is anyone new to technical slot canyons. Prior climbing and scrambling skills are required. Basic climbing gear is also required. Attendance at the classroom session and both local field sessions will be required to attend the Utah trip. Completion of all sessions is required to earn the badge. Cost: \$250 for PPG members, \$350 for all others.

### Intro to Desert Trekking & Canyoneering

Wed, Sep 20, 2023 - Sun, Oct 1, 2023

If you have only been hiking in the high altitude of CO, there is another world out there. When you have climbed enough peaks to wonder what other environments, the next step for you may be desert terrain. Come learn the proper gear, safety, and entry level techniques for basic desert hiking and basic canyoneering. There are many nuances to this environment that should warrant a safe approach such as provided by this class. This year's desert trip is planned for the San Rafael Reef in Utah. A strong fitness level to go on daily full day hikes with scrambling on moderate exposure in hot terrain, squeezing through narrows, hiking in loose sand, and wading through water is required for the field sessions. The field sessions will be progressive in nature to build on skills. Attendance at the classroom session and local field session will be required to attend the Utah trip. Attendance at all sessions will be required to earn the badges. Cost: \$150 for PPG members, \$250 for all others.

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## Upcoming Pikes Peak Group Trips

*Editor's note: While I no longer list upcoming trips in the newsletter, but rather in the weekly reminders I send out, upon request I am happy to highlight trips here.*

### Hike After Work Wednesdays: Palmer Park – All Trails Challenge

Each Wednesday of June, join us for a social hike, an easy leg stretcher halfway through the week! Come meet new people and catch up with old friends as we stroll through Palmer Park.

Joe Petsche was inspired by a similar All Trails Challenge in the beautiful park of Forest Park, Portland, OR. Similarly, our Colorado Springs park is beautiful and contains many nooks and overlooks. Joe will attempt to hike on every trail in the park and encourages you to join him and do the same.

All are welcome; the more the merrier. Each hike will be less than 2 hours long and cover between 2 and 4 miles. He will send out an update on Monday preceding the hike to determine at which trailhead to meet. 5:30pm is the standard meeting time. We will introduce ourselves and be hiking no later than 5:40pm. Please only sign up if you are certain you will join us. Last minute signups are OK!

Are you eager to join? Come out May 24<sup>th</sup> for the first “preview” hike. [Hiking – Palmer Park – May 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm](#)



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



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## Tidbits

### Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in volunteering with the Barr Trail Mountain Race, Pikes Peak Ascent or Marathon? Here's your chance to help. You'll have the best seat. [Check out all the possibilities](#) to be involved with these wonderful events.

### New Delays at Rocky Mountain National Park this Summer

A summer visit to [Rocky Mountain National Park](#) always requires some planning in advance. That will be especially true this summer.

# Conservation Corner



## Trail 715 Stewardship!

On June 24, we will be working on the Monument/Limbaugh Trail 715 where it crosses Mt Herman Road. We will be working to reduce the erosion issues north of the road by building some diversion berms and checkdams, realigning the trail so it reaches the road on a gentler slope to the west, and rehabilitating the old route. We may also be fencing off an area where USFS wants to avoid off-trail shortcutting. Please sign up [here](#). You will never, ever, ever have a shorter hike to a trail work site! The more people we get, the shorter the workday (we really want to finish this in one day).

We will also be putting in two workdays on the Grayback Peak Trail off Old Stage Road. We will be doing a combination of new tread and rehabilitation of old tread. Please sign up for July 15 [here](#) and for August 19 [here](#). We will knock off work on these days at about 2PM so people can have a chance to hike on out to the summit (3.8 mile RT from the trailhead, less from the work areas).

## Other Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to the CMC's stewardship opportunities, please consider supporting other local groups. Probably the best single resource is [here](#) (the events calendar shows by default; scroll down to open the volunteer calendar). I do want to highlight a couple of these:

- Here's a great chance to practice carrying a pack: RMFI needs people on Wednesday, June 14 to help bring supplies to their Devils Playground trail reroute. You'd be carrying about 45-60 pounds of tools and supplies about 3 miles to their basecamp. Sign up [here](#). Other community volunteer workdays are posted [here](#).
- Also, Friends of the Peak has a full schedule of trail work for this summer, many of them on Barr Trail and North Cheyenne Canyon. Sign up [here](#).

## 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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[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](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.