



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

January, 2025 | No. 319

The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

Lovell Gulch



Jim, Bryan, Don, Sean, Christie (leader), Sangit, and Claudine hiked the loop 5.3 miles off and on ice and some mud coming back so Yaktrax were helpful, but good traction boots worked as well. The views were amazing... could see Mt Yale in the distance!

Aiken Canyon



L-R: Bryan Scott, Helen Pscholka, and Kitty Turner. (Andy Lyon leader and photographer.)

Mt Muscoco



Annamarie, Andrea, Debbie, Kitty, Judy, and Christie Lee (leader).

Raspberry Mountain



6.5 miles with gate closed. Wore spikes but snowshoes would have worked. Broke trail in some parts. Beautiful day! No wind.

Your PPG Council

Chair – Glenn Barr

719-244-3502, gjb2000@gmail.com

Past Chair – Vacant

ARCPro Director – Scott Kime

719-235-0939, scott.kime@live.com

Conservation – Jim Koeppen

575-636-5668, jrkoeppe@gmail.com

Education & Training – Joe Preiss

719-337-9331, zmqjwp@gmail.com

Equipment Manager – Kristen Buckland

419-260-7807, buckie06@hotmail.com

HAMS/Adventure Travel – Greg Long

719-659-0345, at_90@yahoo.com

Membership – Dean Waits

719-445-0263, dwaits24@gmail.com

Newsletter – Dave Anderson

719-484-9069, danderso@uccs.edu

Outings – Dania Spohn

571-991-2519, dania.c.ruiz@gmail.com

Programs – Vacant

Public Relations – Emma Moore

310-913-8931, emma@pvt.group

Safety & Leadership – Mike Cromwell

858-395-5986, cromwellc@comcast.net

Secretary – Sarah Hettenbach

785-226-3176, hettenbach.s@gmail.com

Social Events – Vacant

State Council Representative – Julie Jacobsen

719-351-1323, jewelsjoy3@msn.com

Treasurer – Julie Jacobsen

719-351-1323, jewelsjoy3@msn.com

Wilderness Trekking School & Basic

Mountaineering School Director – Joe Preiss

719-337-9331, zmqjwp@gmail.com

55 Plus Group – Christie Lee

719-243-1821, christie80905@gmail.com

At Large:

Ed Anderson

703-309-9290, edandersoniv@gmail.com

Britt Jones

719-661-4777, britt@globalreality.biz

Rick Keetch

719-634-1165, rakeetch@msn.com

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

Welcome New Members!

Bryce MacKinnon
Maya McPherson
Randall McPherson
Jean Menassa

Mason Meredith
Shane Meredith
Marc Simonton



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 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

AIARE Level 1 Class



More spots are available for our AIARE Avalanche Level 1 course in January. This class includes two evenings of classroom sessions, online materials, and two field days on Monarch Pass and Hoosier Pass. Students are required to use snowshoes, touring skis, or splitboards. Avalanche education is a must for anyone who

engages in winter activities in the backcountry, including backcountry skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, climbing, and backpacking. [Register here.](#)



Upcoming PPG Classes

PPG - Avalanche Terrain Avoidance

Thu, Jan 9, 2025 - Sat, Jan 11, 2025

The Avalanche Terrain Avoidance course provides information to trip and course leaders to help them distinguish and avoid avalanche prone terrain. Members: \$35; Guests: \$135.

PPG AIARE 1

Tue, Jan 14, 2025 - Sun, Jan 19, 2025

AIARE Level 1 is a 24-hour course focusing on avalanche hazard management by using the AIARE Decision Making Framework designed to give you a proven approach in planning, executing, and reviewing your backcountry ski, snowshoe, mountaineering, and other snow adventures involving travel in avalanche terrain. Topics include building trip catalogs, tracking the season, observing and understanding the changes in the snowpack, recognizing avalanche terrain and travel options, improving your situational awareness while in the field, and evaluating the day's decisions when finished. Members: \$445. CMC members only.

Basic Ice Climbing

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 - Sun, Feb 2, 2025

Are you ready to continue developing your mountaineering skills? This course is the third course in the Pikes Peak Group's Basic Mountaineering School (BMS) curriculum. Students will learn basic ice climbing skills in a top-rope environment. 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. Members: \$125; Guests: \$215.

PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals

Mon, Feb 3, 2025 - Sat, Feb 8, 2025

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. 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. Members: \$45; Guests: \$90.

PPG AIARE Avalanche Rescue Course

Sun, Mar 2, 2025

AIARE Avalanche Rescue is a one-day stand alone course that teaches best practices in avalanche rescue techniques and gear. New participants will learn the basics of companion rescue, while returning participants will expand their skill set with advanced topics and realistic scenario practice to help improve their skills. Members: \$125; Guests: \$175.

Winter Wilderness Survival

Wed, Mar 5, 2025 - Sun, Mar 9, 2025

So now you have learned from the other classes how to get out and play in the winter wilderness, but what do you do if you get stuck out there for an unplanned night while on a day trip? This course will be held in Colorado Springs and will discuss the gear requirements and concepts of survival in the winter wilderness of Colorado. We will then spend two days (one night) in the wilderness to put those concepts to practice. Members: \$75; Guests: \$175.

ARC Pro Traditional Gear & Anchors

Sat, Mar 22, 2025 - Sun, Mar 23, 2025

Students will be introduced to traditional gear placement and will learn how to use natural and traditional protection to build safe climbing anchors. Students will learn about the various types of rock protection to include natural protection, passive protection (nuts, hexes) and active protection (cams); and how to place and incorporate pieces of protection into anchors. We will discuss climbing anchors, to include top-rope, belay and rappel anchors. The student will learn the concepts of building an anchor according to the EARNEST principles; to include placement and evaluation of protection, fall forces, direction of pull, rigging methods and knots for anchoring. Members: \$95; Guests: \$125.



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



Conservation Corner

Fishers Canyon Open Space Planning and Community Engagement

The City of Colorado Springs is engaging the community in shaping the future of Fishers Canyon Open Space, located in southwest Colorado Springs. This initiative seeks to balance the needs for outdoor recreation, safety, and accessibility with the protection of wildlife habitats, watersheds, and trail connections. Here's an overview of the current plans and how residents can get involved:

Trail Alternatives

Two trail system designs have been proposed, reflecting community input and sustainable trail-building principles:

- **Trail Alternative 1**
 - Focuses on the eastern section of the space, preserving 200 acres (58%).
 - Includes 5-6 miles of multi-use trails, a paved accessible loop, and 6 trail connections.
 - Proposes potential parking access near Cheyenne Mountain Highway for future expansion.
- **Trail Alternative 2**
 - Preserves 160 acres (46%) and offers 10-11 miles of trails with 15 trail connections.
 - Adds a soft-surface loop and seasonal rock-climbing areas.
 - Introduces the Fishers Canyon Trail, a hiking-only path providing scenic access (no dogs allowed).

Parking Alternatives

The City has also developed two parking options to accommodate visitors while minimizing neighborhood impacts:

- **Parking Alternative 1:** Begins with 33 spaces, expandable to 77, using adaptive parking design to address demand.
- **Parking Alternative 2:** Starts with 69 spaces, expandable to 110, providing greater initial capacity. Both plans include restrooms, picnic areas, waste bins, and informational kiosks.

Community Engagement

Community members have several opportunities to weigh in on the plans:

- **Survey #3:** Open through **Sunday, Dec. 15th**, the survey allows residents to view detailed proposals, watch a video presentation, and share their feedback. [Survey](#)
- **Open House Event:**
 - **Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 22
 - **Time:** 5:30–7:30 PM
 - **Location:** Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School

The City encourages residents to participate in this process to ensure the plan aligns with the community's vision for recreation and conservation in Fishers Canyon Open Space. The project website is found [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:

CMC Pikes Peak Group
P.O. Box 2435
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
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:

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.