



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

March, 2025 | No. 322

## The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

### Culturally Modified Trees in Fox Run Park



L-R: Andy Lyon, Dan Downs, Thomas Jagger, Denise Downs, Dean Waits (leader), Jim Thieme, Linda Jagger (co-lead), Sean Starkey, Cheryl Mathis, Dianne and Wolfgang Stiller, Freda Staton, Jan Barnes, and Dave Callais. Not pictured: Georgia Briscoe. Photographer Jim Guerra.

### Pancake Rocks Trip



L-R: Christie (leader), Zachary, Roslyn, Kim, Keith, Richard, and Annamarie.

### Cheyenne Canon Hike



Only three hearty ladies braved the 0 degree starting temps to hike the full columbine trail! (L-R: Sue Sikora, Sarah Hettenbach (leader), and Kristen Kennedy.

### Elder Phen



Joe, Christie (leader), Bryon, Richard, Helen, Tati, Danielle, Kate, Kittie, and Don.

*More photos on pages 2 & 4.*

## Your PPG Council

**Chair** – Joe Preiss

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

## Welcome New Members!

David Chelgren

Vince Franzen

Steven Hannum

Susan Jarvis

Robert Joslyn

Bob Mathis

Liam Milton

Zachary Palmer



## 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

## Wilderness Fundamentals Class Field Trip



L–R: Ken and Sammi Peachey, Sadie Fice, Joe Preiss (instructor), Cheryl Mathis, Geoff Moore, Susan Walker, Vicki Ehrmann, Julie Moore, and Emi McElhinny. Photographer Dean Waits.



# Tasmania!

By Gisele Miyamoto

In November 2024, I hiked the Overland Track in Tasmania. At 49 miles, I took my time over six days. Starting at Cradle Mountain National Park and ending at Lake St. Clair National Park, the scenery and animals were so different from our part of the world. Raised walkways protected the grasslands, while mud, rocks, and tree roots in forested areas provided a challenge.



Permits are limited to 50 people per day and sell out quickly. There are huts for sleeping, yet everyone is required to carry a tent, food, and cooking gear. Some people prefer to sleep outside on the wood tent platforms, but the main reason for taking a tent is for shelter in case the weather turns

bad on the trail. It was also highly encouraged to have (or rent) a Personal Locator Beacon. During the 30-minute pre-permit Ranger lecture, he stressed how instantly the weather can change into a snowstorm, even in summer, and how people have died from hypothermia in summer.

Soon after starting, I spotted two adorable wombats munching on grass. These marsupials with their short legs, brown fur, and adorable faces look like little bears. Some interesting facts are how they dig burrows and have



their butts exposed as a defense weapon. The rump is made of a tough cartilage plate and can block the entry to the burrow. And since they burrow, their pouches face backward, so the dirt doesn't go into the pouch. But the most remarkable thing about wombats is that they poop in square cubes!

Next on the cuteness list was a wallaby with her joey. She hung out near one of our huts, totally unconcerned about everyone taking her photo.



On my last day, walking to the jetty for the boat to take me across Lake St. Clair, I spotted an echidna moving in the brush. Sometimes known as spiny anteaters, they are quill-covered monotremes. Echidnas and platypus are the only

egg-laying mammals. I stopped and watched as he/she, pulled herself up on the metal walkway to cross over it. I saw many more echidnas over the next week touring around Tasmania, but usually they had their head in the ground or digging for bugs.

Weather on my trek was great. A little chilly at times, but no rain or snow. The only thing I hated were the snakes.

Tasmania has three types of snakes; all venomous: Copper-head, Tiger, and White-Lipped snakes. I was constantly scanning the trail to watch for those



critters. I came across one white-lipped, and two tiger snakes. The white lipped snake is tiny and didn't scare me. But the tiger snakes were big! Fortunately, they did what good snakes do, and scooted off the path when they felt me approach. In fact, so fast that I couldn't get a photo (after I stopped screaming).

After getting to Hobart and meeting up with my partner, we rented a car and toured some of the other wonderful parks. Port Arthur, Bruny Island, Maria Island, and Freycinet were all fabulous for different reasons. But Maria Island is most important because it is where they have a population of about 45 healthy Tasmanian Devils, on which they are hoping to save the devils. Tasmanian Devils are now endangered due to a facial cancer that is spread upon contact during fighting. And they fight a lot! Sadly, I didn't see or hear any devils in the wild. Without these marsupial scavengers, you now see a lot of roadkill on Tassie.

If you haven't been to Tasmania, I hope you put it on your bucket list. Especially if you like good wine and oysters!

## More PPG in Photos

### 7 Bridges - Captain Jacks



L-R: Andy (leader), Sean, Bryan, and Danielle.

### Barr Trail to Experimental Forest



L-R: Nather, Heather, Debbie, and Andy Lyon (leader).

## AIARE Avalanche Rescue



AIARE Avalanche Rescue is a one-day stand alone course that is intended to be retaken on a regular basis in order to keep abreast of best practices in 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.

AIARE recommends that all backcountry travelers keep their skills current by taking an Avalanche Rescue course and receiving a rescue card at least every other year.

[Register here.](#)

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## Upcoming PPG Classes

### 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.

# Trip Leader Appreciation

## Celebrating Our 2024 Trip Leaders: A Night of Recognition and Inspiration

On Friday, February 7, 2025, we gathered for a special evening to celebrate the dedicated volunteers who make our adventures possible—the trip leaders of Pikes Peak Group (PPG). Their hard work, passion, and commitment to providing safe, enjoyable, and educational outings are the backbone of our community.



This year, we proudly recognized our **Top 3 Leaders of 2024**:

🏆 **Christie Lee** – Our most active leader, Christie has gone above and beyond to organize incredible outings and share her love for the outdoors.

🏆 **Kristen Buckland** – Kristen's leadership and enthusiasm have inspired many, creating memorable experiences for all who join her trips.

🏆 **Dean Waits** – With a steady commitment to guiding and mentoring others, Dean has made a lasting impact on our group.

Beyond their leadership in the field, **Christie, Kristen, and Dean are also Council members**, actively contributing to the growth and development of our programs. They engage in various **educational activities** and initiatives, helping others build skills, confidence, and a deeper appreciation for the outdoors.

We also honored **Touqueer Ahmad**, a new leader whose volunteer spirit has already started making a difference in our community. It's exciting to see fresh energy and dedication shaping the future of our outings!

In addition to recognizing our top leaders, we welcomed several **prospective trip leaders** who joined the event to learn more about leading with PPG. These individuals represent the next generation of guides who will continue our tradition of exploration, camaraderie, and stewardship.

### Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our next gathering on **May 16, 2025**! We'll be hosting a **potluck and gear swap**, offering another great opportunity to connect with fellow adventurers, share stories, and find some new (or gently used) outdoor gear. More details to come—stay tuned!

A heartfelt thank-you to **all of our trip leaders**—your contributions ensure that our members have safe, fun, and rewarding outdoor experiences. If you're interested in becoming a trip leader, now is a great time to start! We'd love to have you join our team and help others explore the beauty of Colorado.

Here's to another great year of adventure!

## Pikes Pique

March, 2025 | No. 322

*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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### 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](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.