



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

December, 2025 | No. 331

The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

Spruce Mountain Hike



L-R: Nancy Ruiz, Andy Lyon, Emil Wisekal, Michael Gray, Kerry Gray, Jim Guerra, Sean Starkey, Mona Rane, Fabrizio Follis, Audrey Burkart, Victor Ketellapper, Debbie Klein. Photographer and leader Dean Waits.

Mule Creek Hike



L-R: Christie (leader), Debbie, Michelle.

Bison peak Hike



L-R: Michele, Debbie, Christie, and Dan (leader in training).

Leadership Scenario Session



L-R: Christie, Sean, and Dan (our newest trip leader!).

More photos on page 4.

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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Equipment Manager – Kristen Buckland

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HAMS/Adventure Travel – Greg Long

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Membership – Dean Waits

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Newsletter – Dave Anderson

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Outings – Vacant

Programs – Vacant

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Safety & Leadership – Mike Cromwell

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Secretary – Sarah Hettenbach

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Social Events – Vacant

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Treasurer – Julie Jacobsen

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55 Plus Group – Christie Lee

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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!

Casey Greer

Jody Long

Marisa Morrison

Kyle Sanchez



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



Upcoming Pikes Peak Group Classes

PPG AIARE 1

Mon, Jan 5, 2026 - Sun, Jan 11, 2026

A 3-day course 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. Cost: \$445.

PPG - Avalanche Terrain Avoidance

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 - Sat, Jan 17, 2026

The Avalanche Terrain Avoidance course provides information to trip and course leaders to help them recognize and avoid avalanche prone terrain. Cost: Members \$35, Guests \$45.

Intro to Snowshoeing

Wed, Jan 21, 2026 - Sat, Jan 24, 2026

Learn the gear, maintenance, safety and beginner level techniques for this entry into the winter wonderland for many people and a common activity on the winter schedule. This is also a wonderful way of beating the ever rising resort lift ticket fees and crowds. Cost: Members \$45, Guests \$75.

Basic Ice Climbing

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 - Sun, Feb 8, 2026

Learning to ice climb will help you reach your winter alpine objectives. Ice is frequently encountered in the mountains during winter ascents. Ice climbing is incredibly dynamic combining technique, precision, determination, and excitement. Ice climbing combines the beautiful with the challenge of climbing inclined ice formations. Each day ice can change, grow and shrink which adds a unique element over other climbing styles like rock climbing. 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. Cost: Members \$125, Guests \$175.

PPG WTS - Wilderness Fundamentals

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 - Sat, Feb 28, 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. 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 AIARE Avalanche Rescue Course

Sun, Mar 8, 2026

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. Each participant will have the opportunity to receive professional coaching on their rescue skills, and will receive a rescue card acknowledging the completion date. AIARE Avalanche Rescue is a prerequisite for AIARE 2. 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. CMC requires it at least every 5 years to refresh and update skills CMC leaders and instructors use in the field. Cost: Members \$125, Guests \$175.

Winter Wilderness Survival

Mon, Mar 9, 2026 - Sun, Mar 15, 2026

So, now you have learned, from other classes, how to get out and play in the winter backcountry. But what do you do if things don't go as planned? A day trip can turn into an unexpected overnight - or longer. Cost: Members \$75, Guests \$100.



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



More Pikes Peak Group in Photos

Red Rock Canyon Open Space Hike



L-R: Sean, Greg, Victor, Debbie, Eileen, Emil, and Helen.

Heizer Trail Hike



L-R: Andy Lyon, Clay Johnson, Michele Graves, Debbie Klein, and the one, the only, Dean Waits.

Schubarth Exploratory Hike



L-R: Lisa, Keith, Will, Sean, Michelle, Helen', Eileen, and Debbie. Christie Lee photographer and leader.

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:

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.