

# Pikes Pique



The Newsletter of the CMC's Pikes Peak Group

June, 2024 | No. 313

## The Pikes Peak Group in Photos

### Great Mystery Hike



Great Mystery hike was successful. Hiking in the snow was so much more fun than in the rain!

### Red Rock Canyon Open Space



L-R: Jan Brady, Steve Fleet, Reza Sheykhi, Lisa Hoeller, Peggy Rath, Megan Kliesner, and Bryan Scott.

### Heizer Trail Hike



Dean Waits, Richard Trillet, Brian Caldwell, and Andy Lyon.

---

## 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** – Vacant**Education & Training** – Eric Hunter

719-266-9647, EHunterCMC@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

Sara Gordon

719-749-8444, sara.flashgordon@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!

Frederick Bayley

Judy Bayley

Mark Gabriel

Kara Hudzinski

Jen Jardeleza

Tim Jardeleza

Taline Meredith

Brett Model

Kelsey Moses

Joselyn Rosario

Sanchez

Steve Schiff



---

## 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&amp;W Rope

ROCK'n &amp; 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



# Potpourri

## PPG Summer Celebration Potluck



Join your fellow PPGers in celebrating the summer adventuring season! We are meeting at the Prairie Skipper Pavilion at Cheyenne Mountain State Park for a potluck event of food, games, and fun! [Register online](#) to attend and let us know what side you are bringing.

## Race Volunteer Opportunities

Here are some opportunities to enter area races or volunteer to help. Barr Trail Mountain Race - 7/21, Pikes Peak Ascent & Marathon - 9/21 & 22. [Sign up](#) today.

## Pikes Peak Challenge



There are over 500,000 individuals living in Colorado with an injury to the brain. Each year the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado offers a fun-filled, inclusive event called the Pikes Peak Challenge to inspire every participant, and challenge every ability while raising money to support those living with an injury to the brain in Colorado. The Pikes Peak Challenge relies heavily on community volunteers to help provide a safe and enjoyable event.

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024

Location: Along Barr Trail

Details: The Pikes Peak Challenge staffs Barr Trail at seven different check points to assist hikers on their ascent to the summit. Interested volunteers need to be comfortable working at altitude for approximately 12 hours during the event. Hiking experience; Wilderness Medical, EMT, Paramedic, First Responder, or First Aid experience a plus.

If you have questions about this event, contact [Lisa Heckel](#), Trail Staff Coordinator. If you are ready to commit your time to volunteer, [register here](#).

## Trip Leader Website Training Available



Trip Leaders – does the new website provide an insurmountable challenge to scheduling and managing a trip? Do you want to know how to post your trip, have it show up on the PPG calendar, include a cool picture, and make folks want to join you? If this [online guide](#) does not answer your questions, please contact [Glenn Barr](#) to schedule a one-on-one Zoom session to review the steps and answer your specific questions. Plan on 30-minutes.

## PPG Leader Mentors Needed



Future trip leaders must successfully complete a Leader in Training (LIT) hike to apply for a trip leader certification. The PPG is building a list of current trip leaders who would like to help future trip leaders complete their LIT trip by serving as a Trip Leader Mentor. These trip leaders will have their picture and a brief description of the types of trips they like to lead posted on the PPG website to help connect with like-minded folks planning out their LIT trip.

Mentors serve as a guide, support, resource, and champion of the LIT's trip efforts. Showing why trip leadings is valued and how CMC expects trip leaders to plan, prepare, and guide their trip participants on fun and inclusive adventures. Focusing on safety, stewardship, shared interests, and comradery.

If you are a current PPG Trip Leader and interested in being part of the PPG LIT Mentor program- please contact [Glenn Barr](#).

# Hiking During Wildfires

By Andy Lyon



You're walking in the woods (of course) and you smell smoke. You'd heard there was a fire nearby but it's somewhere "miles over that ridge." Besides, you've wanted to do this hike forever, the weather is good, and you've had it on your calendar for weeks. You keep hiking. You'll probably be fine but what if that fire suddenly appears on that ridge, thick smoke starts to fill the air and hot embers start falling around you? As it is almost impossible to outrun a wind-driven wildfire, it's a good idea to spend some time on wildfire awareness before hikes during wildfire season. "Know before you go."

I have been working on wildfires across the West since 2012 as a Public Information Officer. What I keep hearing from people who have been working in the field for decades longer than I have is "I've never seen anything like this before." That statement encompasses phenomena like: fires continuing to burn at night, fires consuming 30-thousand acres in a day, and fires making downhill runs. So, we should take the threat of fire seriously and not be lulled by the fact that it's out of sight beyond the next ridge or that it's "miles away."

What can we, as trip leaders or individual hikers do? Add a wildfire check to your pre-hike weather and trail conditions check, and add a wildfire monitoring app to your phone.

Wildfire apps have proliferated in recent years and I can't tell you that one is "the best". I've been using "Watch Duty", which comes recommended by many of my colleagues. Fire Weather and Avalanche Center is another. The EPA offers "Smoke Sense" to give you a read on air quality but also has a tab to track nearby fires.

It's not an app but perhaps the best site for real-time data is [NASA FIRMS](#). Satellite data is not always precise, but if you have a good enough signal, pull it up in a browser on your phone to see where NASA is seeing active burning.

Find an download a couple of these apps and bookmark a couple of the websites. Try them out and decide which are best for you, just as you might a navigation app. And remember, information on emerging incidents should always be considered a bit iffy. There are plenty examples of false evacuation notices and fires "jumping" a road or a river when they have not. However, notifications from an app or your news feed are a warning for you to pay attention: something is happening and it may be coming our way.

You may be thinking "this can't happen to me." Go to YouTube and search "hikers trapped by wildfire." It is happening more and more often and can happen any of us.

The CMC website (under Leader Resources) has a good two-pager on "Wildfire Risk Management Tips For CMC Leaders" It has some great suggestions but also contains, IMO, some dangerously vague language. It advises us to "Identify safe spots along the trail" where you can shelter from a fire. Sounds simple enough but what is a safe area? The authors recommend meadows or talus slopes. How big should the (flammable) meadow be? Also, firefighters, with fire shelters, have died in scree fields (look up "Thirty Mile Fire").

Professional firefighters have, in recent years, had to reconsider the size of "safety zones". Why? Because, in short, they were thinking too small. The big factor is flame length. Consider a that a 100-foot Ponderosa Pine, if fully engulfed, can put off 50-foot high flames. Imagine those flames pushed flat by wind and coming at you by near-hurricane-force winds. Now imagine dozens of trees engulfed and all those flames (and smoke) coming at you like a massive blowtorch. Firefighters use bulldozers to clear very large areas down to mineral soil before they designate it a "safety zone." You won't have that option. You could huddle in a lake or deep pool of a stream but then you may go hypothermic before the fire passes. Above timberline? That's an option because the fire, if it gets there, will run out fuel although you may still be impacted by heat and smoke. If you are already close to the active fire another option (though not without serious risk) may be to get into a completely burned area. It's what firefighters call "the hard black." You'd have to watch for hot embers, ash pits, and fire-weakened trees but you'd be away from direct flames.

Many years ago I was a student at the Silverton Avalanche School. A parting missive from one of the instructors: "If, after using the tools we have taught you here, the avalanche risk seems high, my best advice is: go home. The mountains will still be there next time." That is also good advice for hiking near wildfires or at times when fire danger is severe.

See you down the trail.

# Upcoming Pikes Peak Group Classes

## ARC Pro Traditional Lead Climbing

Sat, Jun 1, 2024 - Sun, Jun 2, 2024

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. Cost: \$95 for PPG members, \$125 for all others.

## PPG WTS - Intro to Backpacking

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 - Mon, Jun 17, 2024

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. Cost: \$35 for PPG members, \$70 for all others.

## ARC Pro Basic Anchors

Sat, Jun 22, 2024

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. Prerequisite: BMS Rock or equivalent, to include basic belaying and rappelling skills. Cost: \$45 for PPG members, \$65 for all others.

## ARC Pro Multipitch Concepts

Sat, Jul 20, 2024 - Sun, Jul 21, 2024

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 at a minimum. Leading skills are not necessary, but it is recommended that participants take the ARC Pro Trad Gear and Anchors and Traditional Lead Climbing classes prior to this class, as students may practice placing trad gear and building trad anchors in this class. However, this class will be beneficial to anyone looking to climb multipitch routes—to include leaders and followers. Cost: \$95 for PPG members, \$125 for all others.

## PPG WTS - Intro to Backpacking

Mon, Jul 29, 2024 - Mon, Aug 5, 2024

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. Cost: \$35 for PPG members, \$70 for all others.

## ARC Pro Sport Lead Climbing

Sat, Aug 24, 2024 - Sun, Aug 25, 2024

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, \$125 for all others.

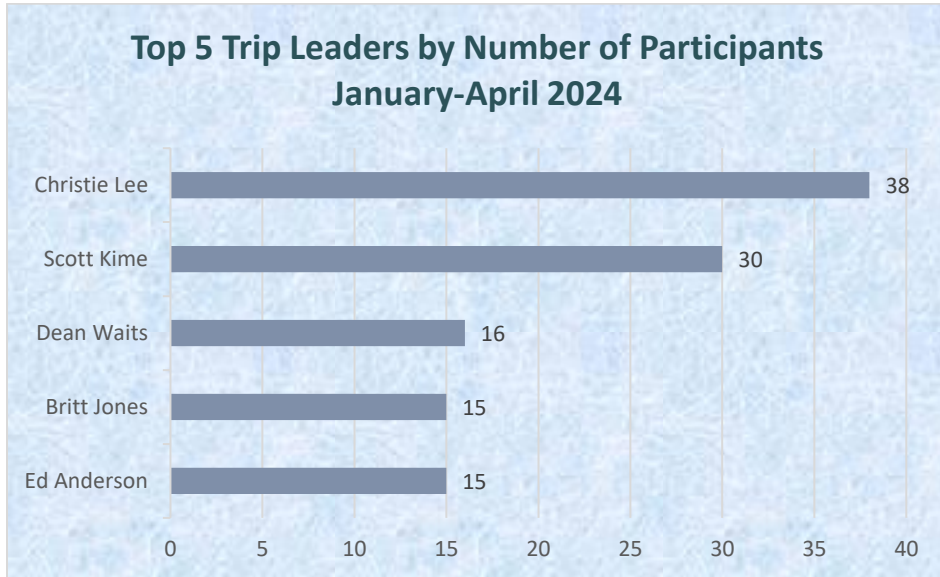


To register for classes or trips,  
go to [www.cmc.org](http://www.cmc.org)



# Trip Leader Stats

PPG Trip Leaders, thank you for helping our members get outside. CMC could not do without you!



## PPG Trip Leaderboard January-April 2024

Trip Leader	Number of Trips	Number of Participants
<b>Christie Lee</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>
Scott Kime	4	30
Dean Waits	2	16
Britt Jones	4	15
Ed Anderson	2	15
Andy Lyon	2	14
John Gray	2	13
Greg Long	2	11
Joseph Petsche	3	9
Joel Gibson	1	8
Debbie Sheinman	2	8
Adrienne Ross	2	7
Sara Gordon	1	6
Eric Hunter	2	6
Glenn Barr	1	4
Dania Spohn	1	3
Brandon Briscoe	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>205</b>

## Pikes Pique

June, 2024 | No. 313

*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](mailto: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](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.