



# POUDRE TRAILS

## THE POUDRE WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 1996

## HURRAH!

Our infant organization, in its first year of life, has rushed out of the crawling stage to walk and ride to astonishing success.

Our hikers and horse packers logged 283 tours of high-country trails as of Labor Day, and made personal contact with 5,657 users of our mountains, forests, and streams, educating and encouraging them to preserve our natural resources by leaving no trace of their visits.

No wonder Chuck Bell, our chairman, writes in his column: "We have done more than anyone dreamed could be done."

The **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** is Chuck's dream personified.

In the summer of 1995, while working as a volunteer with the U.S. Forest Service, Chuck recognized that this budget-strapped agency could no longer patrol the vast wilderness of the Cache La Poudre river basin.

With thousands of newcomers to Colorado's front range flocking to these areas, there was no one to guide them in preserving the areas from damage due to overuse.

Formally organized



Volunteers Dick Reagan (left), and Jerry Rosshead out for a 4-day patrol in the Rawah.

December 13, 1995, at a meeting with the supervisor for the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests, we have since grown to 110 volunteers. "I'm really impressed," said supervisor Skip Underwood. "My hat is off to you."

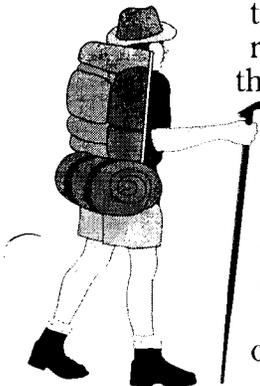
The success in recruiting volunteers allowed the organization to go beyond the original intent of patrolling the Comanche Peak, Rawah, Cache La Poudre and Neota wildernesses and include such busy non-wilderness trails as Grey Rock and Lion Gulch.

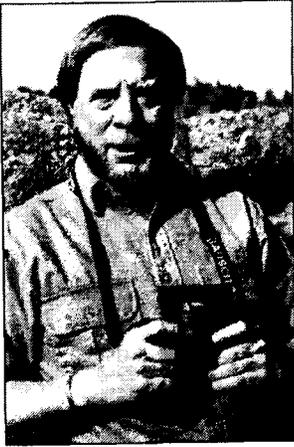
Figures compiled by Todd Graus of our board of Directors show the Comanche Peak wilderness was our busiest area, with 118 tours by volunteers and contact with 2,730 people. The largest

numbers of backpackers (904), anglers (227) and horseriders (191) were found there. But the largest number of day hikers (1,400) populated the non-wilderness trails most accessible to Fort Collins, Loveland, and Greeley.

Of course, dogs not on a leash constituted the most numerous rules violations we encountered. In 282 of our 607 meetings with dogs, Fido was running free. Next in number of violations was improper campsites, especially in the Rawah Wilderness, where 37 of the 79 were noted. 32 wheeled vehicles intruded forbidden areas.

Perhaps our most exotic encounters were three mountain goats met in the Comanche Peak Wilderness. ■





## FROM THE CHAIR

When Ray Sons asked me to write this first column from the Chair, I was thrilled. There was so much to write about our successes and the tremendous contribution of our volunteers, then he added, "keep it to 150 words."

There's just no way I can express in so few words the elation I feel about our first season. Just a year ago, **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** was little more than a vague idea. What a long way we have come — 110 citizen volunteers out there on the trail making a very big difference.

We have talked to literally thousands of backcountry users in less than three months about how to keep our wilderness pristine. With the growth in usage that we have documented, I hate to think about what some areas would now be like if we hadn't been there.

We have made a difference, and I congratulate each and every one of you.

As we made our impact, we also learned better ways to accomplish our mission. We need to tighten up in several areas — a more disciplined approach to check-out and check-in, more commitment on everyone's part to keeping

our scheduled assignments, and the development of more training opportunities. With your help, we will make some changes next year for the better.

But for our first year, we have done more than anyone dreamed could be done. We have already changed how many of our fellow citizens view and use the forest. And it's all due to our enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment as we "hike and ride with a purpose." Thank you for an incredible first year!



This is the first issue of a bi-monthly publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other back-country areas. mail should be sent to 3248 Silverwood Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

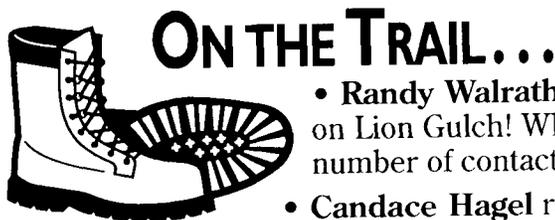
**Chairman** Chuck Bell  
**Co-chairman** Art Bunn  
**Secretary** Martha Moran

**Newsletter committee:**

**Editorial Coordinator** Ray Sons

**Art Director** Candace Hagel

**Reporters** Glenn French  
Randi Keim.  
Jill Reynolds  
Stacey Yerian



## ON THE TRAIL...

- **Randy Walrath** recorded 98 dayhikers on Lion Gulch! Whew...that's a record number of contacts on a day hike.
- **Candace Hagel** reported face-to-face "cow encounters" on Young's Gulch this summer.
- **Pat Arneson** counted 76 stream crossings on the same trail.
- Trail maintenance kudos to **Mike Houdek, Gary Moore, Richard Norris, and Jeremy Jiron** for their "beyond-the-call-of-duty" efforts in the Rawahs removing trees this summer.
- Quotable quotes recorded by **David Hake** from a hiker on Brown's Trail, "Aw...I always drink right from the stream...it doesn't bother me."



## A HUNTING WE WILL GO

The division of wildlife wants us to know that several hunting seasons are opening up in September. Archery season runs from August 31-

September 29 and Muzzleloading Rifle season (by drawing only) opens on September 14 and goes to September 22. There is also a limited black bear season (by drawing only) from September 2-30. If you have questions, contact the DOW at 297-1192 for further information or call their recorded information line, 24 hours a day, at 291-7529. Be careful out there and make sure you are very visible on the trail!

# THANK YOU!

**Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** would like to extend their sincere appreciation and thanks to the following:

- **Hewlett Packard** (Fort Collins) and **The Raphael Levy Memorial Foundation** for providing grants
- All of the anonymous contributions from our own **PWV members**.
- **Moore, Smith and Williams, P.C.** (Fort Collins) for our incorporated status.
- **The United States Forest Service** for underwriting those nifty trail shirts.
- **World Stitch Connection** (Laporte, CO) for an excellent job on the patches
- **Excelsior Marking Products** (Stow, Ohio) for providing name tags
- **Maust Graphics** (Fort Collins) for our Logo Design
- **Pressworks Printing** (Fort Collins) for printing our newsletter and providing stationery and envelopes
- **Kinkos** (Fort Collins) for providing discounted services
- **The USFS** for help with copy and mailing
- **Leave No Trace** (Boulder, CO) for the educational handouts
- **Trails Illustrated** (Evergreen, CO) for the maps
- **Adventure Outfitters** (Fort Collins) for their generous discount
- **Eastern Mountain Sports** (Fort Collins) who will provide rental equipment for PWV members at no cost
- **Colorado State University** for providing meeting space and all of their academic support
- **Wilderness Education Association** (Fort Collins) for providing a weekend of wonderful training
- **Poudre Valley Hospital** (Fort Collins) for first aid equipment used in training
- A special thanks for exceptional news coverage provided by **The Coloradoan, The Fort Collins Insider, North Forty News, The Greeley Tribune, and The Loveland Reporter Herald.**
- **Plaza Inn** (Fort Collins) for hot coffee and cookies served at the July 31st meeting
- **Odell's and Budweiser American Eagle** (both of Fort Collins) for the kegs yet to be consumed at our upcoming party.
- A **HUGE** thanks to **ALL THE POUDDRE WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS** for their valuable time, commitment and enthusiasm!

We are still looking for contributions to help us with equipment purchases and general operating expenses. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers**, 3248 Silverwood Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

## TID BITS ←

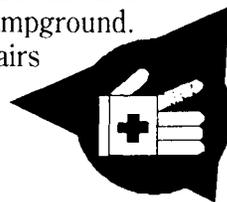
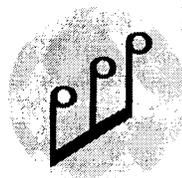
**Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** will follow their busy hiking season with a fall and winter of social and educational activities.

First and foremost is our season-ending celebration Saturday, September 28, at 11 a.m. in the Mountain Park campground.

Todd Graus chairs a committee working up training sessions on subjects such as first aid, map and compass use and various ways we can protect the wilderness.

Art Bunn, our co-chairman, takes the lead in planning the benefit concert April 4 and 5 by the celebrated group, **After the**

**Fire**, which specializes in raising money for worthy organizations such as ours. Keep abreast of our off-season schedule by dialing up our home page Graus has inaugurated. The address is [tgraus@holly.acns.colostate.edu/~tgraus/](mailto:tgraus@holly.acns.colostate.edu/~tgraus/)



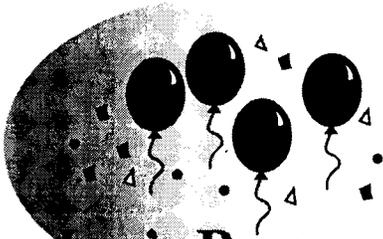
## John Hillman

We lost one of our fellow **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** on August 14. John Hillman died when the tractor-trailer he was driving was involved in an accident. The rig somehow failed to negotiate a dangerous curve on the Missouri/Illinois border. It was his eighth day on the new job as a long-haul trucker.

He was buried in the uniform shirt of the **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers**. His widow, Susan, said that he would have wanted it that way. The organization and its purpose had meant a lot to him.

"He loved the wilderness and wanted to save it for future generations," Susan said.

Chairman Chuck Bell led a four-person delegation from the **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** to the funeral. Z Steinhart, leader of the horse packers with whom John had served, sent flowers and a plaque from the organization. Our condolences go out to John's family and friends.



## Let's Party

### **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers**

will celebrate the amazing success of their first season with a party Saturday, September 28 at the Mountain Park campground.

The campground is in Poudre Canyon at mile marker 99 on Colorado 14, 22 miles from Ted's Place. If you've hiked Mount McConnell, you've been there.

Registration starts at 11 a.m. From 12:30 to 2, we'll dine on food we've brought. There will be an awards ceremony at 2:30 to honor our members for notable accomplishments.

Chairman Becky Valentinelli says there will be plenty of opportunity

for our active volunteers to indulge in volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, and other games, as well as our favorite, hiking. Bring photos from your summer of hiking for our "Wilderness Wall of Fame."

Your shining faces stick in our memories, but not always your names. So please wear your name tags. Bring your uniform shirt if you intend to turn it in and claim the deposit you placed on it in June.

As for food, bring something to pass around and something for the grill. Also your own place setting which you can cart home afterward (leave no trace!). The Forest Service is providing coffee, soft drinks, chips, dip, and charcoal.

Virginia Massey mailed a flyer with instructions on what sort of dish you should bring. Again, here's the rundown: Last names beginning with A through E bring salads; F-O, casseroles or beans (crockpots can be used); P-R, rolls; S-Z desserts.

## **YOUR IDEAS NEEDED!**

While there are signs that indicate prohibited camping areas in the Rawah Wilderness, we need to explore ways to educate and direct people to where they can camp. If you have some suggestions on how to do this, please call Martha Moran at the Forest Service office at 498-2719.

## **FREE ICE CREAM!**

In the mood for a little Rocky Road? How about a double scoop of Butter Pecan to put in a little zing in your day!? Now you can win a free Walrus ice cream come if you happen to be the lucky winner of our "Name the Newsletter" contest! Call Jill Reynolds at 482-6667 to leave your suggestion as well as your name and phone number by October 1st. We'll notify the winner after our next newsletter committee meeting so enter early and enter often!



### **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers**

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