



P O U D R E T R A I L S

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

FALL 2011

New for 2011 Radios or SPOT Required for Hazardous Trails

Because of so many standing dead trees due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic all PWVs patrolling designated "hazardous" trails must carry either a USFS radio or a SPOT satellite communicator. The SPOT communicator can communicate your GPS location and send one of four pre-programmed messages. Patrollers must also check in with Fort Collins Dispatch at least once each patrol. To reserve a USFS radio or SPOT, call the CLRD (Canyon Lakes Ranger District) volunteers' message phone at 970-295-6730 at least 3 days prior to your patrol. Give your name, phone, and the items you want to reserve. These items are reserved on a first-call, first-served basis. The equipment is picked up at the visitor Information Center at 2150 Centre Ave. Building E during 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturdays. Radios and SPOT equipment can also be reserved to be picked up at the Red Feather or Arrowhead USFS Information Stations. Get trained in how to use this equipment and be safe as you patrol.

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PWV Adopts North Fork Trail



Trail Crew

The North Fork trail leads into the back country of Rocky Mountain National Park and is one of the heaviest used trails in the forest, used by hikers, backpackers and stockriders. This heavy use has caused a great deal of wear and tear on the trail which requires a large amount of maintenance to get it back to being a safe and enjoyable trail.

PWV adopted the North Fork Trail in 2009 and has been working to improve the trail for the last three years. Garin VanDeMark has acted as the committee chair and led the work since PWV's adoption of the trail.

The Adopt-A-Trail team completed four major projects in the 2011 season. First, during the June work session they repaired the first bridge by replacing the top deck running boards, curb rail, and adding railing posts. During the work weekend session in July they put up signs at five of the bridges instructing users with stock to use the fords rather than taking the risk of using the foot bridges. Also during this work session work was done to repair major trail damage taking place

at the large rock in the trail just beyond the Cheley camp.

During the August and September work sessions they replaced the hazardous board walk with a turnpike. This entailed not only constructing the log structure and hauling lots of rocks; it also meant moving 45 cubic feet of dirt and 15 cubic feet of gravel.

Fortunately Kathy James was able to assist by bringing llamas to help with moving the dirt and gravel. With the llamas and human volunteers it still took 5 full days to complete the job. Frank Lilley provided the guidance and technical know-how which enabled us to build the turnpike. The fourth project was to build a large rock retaining wall to protect the approach to the third bridge on the trail. The spring runoff was causing erosion which was threatening to wash away the bridge approach. A team of four PWV'ers,

continued on page 8



Bridge over creek

2011 Highlights



Karl Riters
Chair 2012



Jim Shaklee
Past Chair 2011



Kevin Cannon
USFS-PWV Liaison

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2011 was another banner year for Poudre Wilderness Volunteers and its members. Congratulations and thanks to all members who contributed their time, skills, and energy!

During the past year, PWV contributed 23,733 volunteer hours worth \$506,930 to the USFS-CLRD. Trail Patrols - By the Numbers: 908 trail patrols done 13,386 trail users encountered and 8,387 contacted (62.7%) 580 violations reported 229 fire rings removed 60 fire rings rehabilitated 449 trees cleared off trails 702 pounds of garbage carried out A total of 167 members contributed 6 or more patrol days (57.6% of the 290 members filing Volunteer Agreements). This included 38 new members who contributed 6 or more patrol days (64.4% of the 2011 year class).

Major Organizational Accomplishments in the Past Year Included:

- Creation of a 2010 PWV Annual Report (PWV's first ever annual report)
- Development of a PWV Organization, Policies, and Procedures Handbook
- Identification of trail patrolling priorities and recommendations to help PWV achieve its mission of helping the Canyon Lakes Ranger District manage and protect wilderness and backcountry areas via public education, data collection, and stewardship actions and to increase PWV members' effectiveness
- Identification and Description of a series of draft PWV Goals and Objectives to guide future activities and facilitate program evaluations

Long-Time PWV Member Recognized by Community:

One of PWV's founding members, Garin VanDeMark, was recognized for his contributions over the past 16 years as a PWV volunteer by the Larimer County United Way with its Senior Volunteer Excellence Award for 2011. Congratulations, Garin!

Four of PWV's Most Successful Committees and Field Programs in 2011:

The Adopt-a-Trail program had 17 workdays during which 29 PWVs + 2 guests contributed a total of 882 volunteer hours. They replaced a deteriorating wooden puncheon with a new rock/gravel turnpike; re-decked or maintained several bridges; and installed many signs.

The Kids in Nature program served 28 kids from three sources (La Familia added in 2011) on a total of 5 hikes; 17 PWVs participated.

Supplemental Training: Developed and implemented the most ambitious and robust training program since at least 2006. Training sessions included: First Aid & CPR re-certification (13 PWVs participated); First Aid & CPR certification (11 PWVs) Backpacking (5 separate topic sessions); Map & Compass, classroom session (31 PWVs) Map & Compass, SPOT, & Radio field training; GPS classroom session (31 PWVs); GPS Field Training; Introduction to Wilderness Survival; Lightning Awareness; and First Aid Essentials.

Weed Crew: 24 different PWVs contributed a total of 1,271 hours on 43 weed pulls to control 10 different weed species on approximately 300 acres in 2011. This committee also provided 5 weed species ID and treatment training for 59 new recruits and 22 weed species training for 22 PWVs and 7 agency staff.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you to try out one or more of PWV's specialized field programs or other committees in the coming year. Each represents a different way you can protect the backcountry, give back to the community, and/or support and enhance PWV.

Thanks for all you have done for the resource and for PWV in 2011. I hope to see you back on the trails again as a PWV in 2012.

Jim Shaklee
(Most Recent Past PWV Chair)

The mission of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is to assist the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and backcountry areas within its jurisdiction. To achieve this mission, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers recruits, trains, equips and fields citizen volunteers to serve as wilderness rangers and hosts for the purpose of educating the public, and provides other appropriate support to these wild areas.

Mounted Patrol Workshop

Will your horse cross a bridge? How do you handle a situation in which a hiker wearing a huge backpack asks for help reading a map? Does the arrival of mountain bike riders on the trail create an issue? How do llamas and horses react during an encounter?

Recruits to PWV Mounted Patrol go through the usual application and interview process for becoming a PWV member. The next step is for the horse and rider to be evaluated on their ability to handle expected trail conditions and situations. This is followed up with Spring Training which all PWV recruits attend.

This past spring, five Mounted Patrol recruits joined veterans at the CSU Equine Center on May 7. This was the second year veteran riders used this venue to prepare for the patrol season and the first time this location was used for new recruit evaluations.

In addition to the trail course, Kathy Burgess, long-time PWV member, offered educational workshops. Workshops included a presentation by members of Larimer County Search and Rescue and a packing clinic led by CSU course instructor Chuck Peterson. Ellen Nelson spoke on how pasture



Interaction with llamas on trail. Photo by Karl Ritters.

management affects forests, Nancy Flippini introduced attendees to Leave No Trace (LNT) for stock, and horse trainer Barry McAleenan from Loveland presented techniques horse owners can use to help their horses become successful trail mounts.

The riding course was set up in the area south of the barns and arena. Among the challenges riders encountered were opening and closing a gate, crossing a wooden bridge, navigating a large log, encountering a family on the trail, meeting a lost hiker wearing a large backpack waving a map and meeting mountain bikers. Overland Bike Club members contributed their time and bicycles for a mutually beneficial experience. Beyond the bikers were encounters with a hiker with a miniature burro, a group of llamas, a somewhat rowdy camper at a tent and the often-encountered dogs on the trail. Course riders carried out trash, practiced making radio contact and practiced interacting with the public via the scenarios.

The PWV Stock Patrol consists of horse riders and llama-, alpaca-, burro- and goat-trekkers with 73 members participating in patrols this season. Kathy Michaels represented the stock division on the PWV Board



Bicycle riders and horse riders have an enjoyable encounter on patrol trail during the 2011 Spring Challenge at the CSU Equine Center. Photo by Karl Ritters.

of Directors and co-chaired the Stock Patrol Committee with Kathy Wester. This sub-group of PWV coordinates all the stock events for PWV and represents the stock interests within the structure of PWV's governance. In addition to the Spring Evaluation, stock committee members participate in Spring Training, several social rides throughout the riding season and host a year-end event which has taken various forms over the years.



Interaction with backpacker seeking directions on map. Photo by Karl Ritters.

Year End Event / Meeting

As we walked into the event, each person received a PWV Mission Possible paper. On this paper were three “important tasks to complete” before the official start of the shindig: meet and talk with three PWVers (listed at the bottom of our paper), visit some or all of the committee fair tables, and get food and drink. Well, I never found all three people, but it was fun anyway and I did meet new people. Setting on each tables had a wonderful centerpiece that held a dozen or so photos from the year’s activities, and each centerpiece held different photos.

Margaret Shaklee presented a financial snapshot, \$51,244 in the bank, with over \$12,000 brought in this year. Our major donors are: REI, The Clinton Family, Wal-Mart, Larimer County Open Lands, Micro Motion, Jax Mercantile, O’Dell Brewing Company, and Ranchway Feeds. Of course, the event was in October, so the numbers given are not the final year-end totals.

Kevin Cannon presented interesting statistics: 59 new members, and



2011 Board of Directors

167 people who completed their 6 (or more) patrols, totaling 23,733 volunteer hours. Total value to the forest service -\$506,930, so for every \$ in the PWV budget, we provided over \$20 of value to the USFS. Not to shabby for a bunch of nature lovers. That’s something for which to be proud. Other data: 652

trees logged out, 373 hours for trail crew, 8,200 hours on trails, more than 13,000 people seen and 8,499 contacted. It was a very good year, and the best part, ZERO accidents.

This year there were presentations about different programs within PWV: Jerry Hanley talked about the Endowment Fund, David Lobree encouraged 2-year veterans to become mentors, Scott Ackerman brought everyone up-to-date on www.poudrewildernessvolunteers.org, Karl Ritters and Archy Archuleta discussed supplemental training, and Bob Manuel gave accolades for the trail crew and encouraged everyone’s involvement next year.

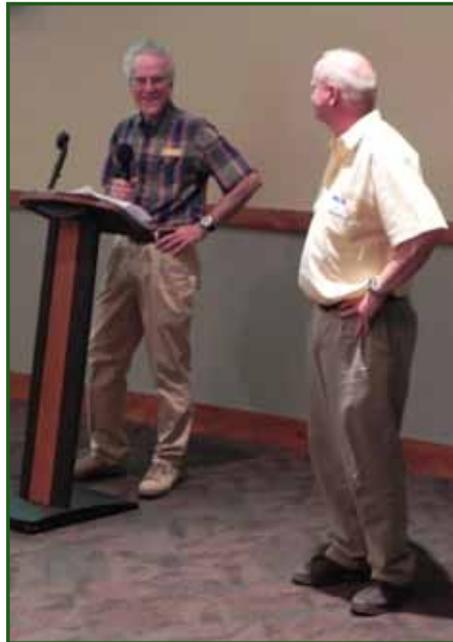
Jim Shaklee, the outgoing chair, welcomed the new chair, Karl Ritters. Karl received Roberts Rules of Orders (condensed), a safety helmet with mesh mask (presumably to weather arduous meetings), and “the torch” cleverly disguised as a beautiful walking stick. Karl recognized outgoing board members: Bob Hansen, Jan Creager, Laura Van Arsdale, and Margaret Shaklee. He also welcomed the new blood: Archy Archuleta, Mike Corbin, Sandy Erskine, Bob Manuel, Martha Shepard, Cathy Trout, and Gene Packer.



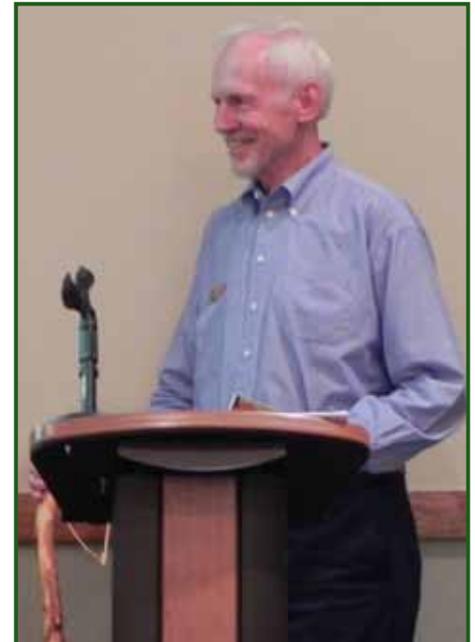
Mixing at Year End Event

Kathy James and Jan Creager did a nice skit in the same vein as the one they did at spring training. In addition, sixteen members received recognition for 10 or more years of service to PWV. Furthermore, five received awards for the most in their category: hikes (Al Ross and Joan Couth), stock rides (Nancy James and Cathy James), and backpacking nights (Chuck Bell). Four people received the "Above and Beyond Award" for sending the most SPOT checks, and four received Committee Chair Awards.

It was a very nice event, and I'm glad that I was able to attend. Hats off to the people who orchestrated everything, they did a marvelous job.



Jim Shaklee and Kevin Cannon



Karl Ritters



Pam Allen Margaret Shaklee and ?



Fellow volunteers sharing their ideas.



Display

A REVIEW OF LNT "LEAVE NO TRACE" OUTDOOR ETHICS

With a new hiking and riding season ahead of us, a quick review of our LNT - Outdoor Ethics code seems worthy of space here....

- PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE
- TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES
- DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY
- LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND
- MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS
- RESPECT WILDLIFE
- BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

For more information and materials, WWW.LNT.ORG

Be sure that you have a supply of the LNT plastic cards with you to handout to trail users who would like more information.

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers At A Glance

- In 1995, a volunteer ranger for the USFS, Charles Bell, who patrolled the trails of what is now the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, became extremely worried about the cuts to the ranger district's budget over the previous three years - from 3 full-time persons and 30 seasonal employees down to just 1 full-time person and 2 part-timers to look after its extensive backcountry and wilderness areas. With USFS support, he decided to form a volunteer organization that was named Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV) after the major river that flows through the district.

- PWV put its first volunteers on the trail in the summer of 1996 and now has more than 250 volunteers, making it the pre-eminent organization of its kind in the country. No other organization providing volunteer rangers for the Forest Service is this big, provides as many hours on the trail, and does so without any paid staff. It is run by a volunteer board, which changes regularly providing a constant flow of new ideas and new energies to make PWV such a strong organization.

- PWV is not an environmental advocacy group.

- Its primary purpose is to protect the region's pristine wilderness and backcountry areas through public education. Many wilderness and backcountry users have no idea what a wilderness is or how it must be left "untrammelled". Many of them know little about low impact camping. In keeping with its motto "Conserve & Educate", PWV's primary task on the trails is to contact forest visitors, help them understand how to use the forest in a "leave-no-trace" manner, and assure that visitors are properly prepared to have a safe, satisfying forest experience. PWV patrols 55 trails - many of them outside of official wilderness areas.

- Poudre Wilderness Volunteers recruits citizens who fully represent the community and those who use the region's outdoor resources. They commit a minimum of six days each summer to hiking or riding "with a purpose."

- PWV has the most rigorous and comprehensive training of any volunteer group of its kind, and it carefully trains volunteers how to work in a positive way with the public.

- Poudre Wilderness Volunteers have no law enforcement authority but use persuasion and diplomacy to secure compliance with wilderness regulations and "leave no trace" practices.

- Poudre Wilderness Volunteers wear uniform shirts with identifying patches and name badges that make them a highly visible non-official U.S. Forest Service presence on the trail. They carry two-way radios, and they are trained to handle various emergency situations that might be encountered in the wilderness.

- No one is paid for any services rendered to this volunteer organization.

- PWV also serves as "the eyes and ears" of the U.S. Forest Service, reporting on the number of visitors on the trails and about problems encountered in protecting the forest from misuse by the public.

- Several times each summer PWV's volunteers are also involved in helping out backcountry users in trouble, and the PWV trail crew clears the trails each spring of trees that have fallen over the winter.

- While the Canyon Lakes Ranger District budget has improved over the past 10 years, it remains short staffed and with insufficient funds to fully manage the vast lands within its jurisdiction. At the same time, forest usage has continued to grow exponentially. The Arapahoe & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland ranks right near the top in the nation year after year in terms of public usage. And with more than 3 million people living within an easy drive of this forest it is no wonder.

- Just how effective is PWV? Here are the numbers: After 14 seasons it has contacted more than 111,000 people



Early Autumn Moose Photo by Amy Williams

on the trail. In the summer of 2009, it did 959 patrols, 40% of which were in wilderness, and contacted 12,669 people. It took out 586 trees that had fallen across the trails, tore up 175 fire rings, hauled out more than 300 pounds of trash, and worked with folks in 57 improper camps to persuade them to follow LNT principles. PWV volunteers also reported seeing 2294 dogs, 323 of them illegally off-leash in wilderness, and explained to their owners why dogs need to be on leash in sensitive areas. And its weed crew has taken out hundreds of pounds of noxious, invasive weeds. So far this year, PWV volunteers have put in more than 20,000 hours, to which the USFS assigns a dollar value of \$446,756.

- Thanks to PWV, the most heavily used wilderness and backcountry areas in northern Colorado are much cleaner, and the numbers of fire rings dismantled, dogs off leash, and illegal campsites found have dropped markedly. One veteran outdoorsman said recently that the Rawah Wilderness, which PWV patrols, is the cleanest wilderness area in all of Colorado. While there is always room for improvement, PWV is making a very important contribution in helping the USFS manage human impact in the region.

Spring Training Recap 2011

May 20th through the 22nd was the weekend for Spring Training 2011. This year saw us using a new location due to the temporary Forest Service closure of Jack's Gulch campground. We were given permission to use the Cub Scout Camp at Ben Delatour Scout Ranch free of charge! Everyone we spoke to was extremely pleased with the facilities at the camp and expressed their desire to come back next year. The dining hall was a real luxury as we experienced some unsettled cool, blustery spring weather.

There were activities for new recruits and returning members as well, including opportunities for volunteers in traffic control,

training, food preparation, and clean up. On Friday evening we had a Forest Service Welcome and were entertained by a humorous and informative introductory skit, an evening pot-luck dinner, and animal group meetings for new members.

After breakfast on Saturday morning new recruits met for photos and the beginning of a day of training in which they were presented with a series of simulated situations likely to be encountered by PWV patrols. Returning members could choose between sessions on wilderness survival; map and compass, SPOT, and Radio Field Training; animal tracks and scats; and GPS field training. Quite a few returning members were

themselves involved in the new recruit training. New recruits also played PWV Jeopardy to test their knowledge of information in the PWV manual.

Mid-afternoon saw all participants receiving more useful instruction on trail safety and lightning awareness followed by a social time with appetizers and beverages. After our second hearty evening meal, we were treated to musical entertainment.

On Sunday morning early risers were treated to a bird walk led by Chuck and Nancy Bell. After breakfast more useful training in noxious weeds, trail maintenance, and first aid took place. The weekend was capped off by the 11:30 graduation of our new recruits.

The beauty and charm of the wilderness are his for the asking, for the edges of the wilderness lie close beside the beaten roads of the present travel.
-- Theodore Roosevelt

Public Lands Day

September 24 found a crew of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers helping at the Mt. Margaret / Dowdy Lake area with educational programs, revegetation, and trail construction. The big news for PWV hikers and riders are two new South Lone Pine

Creek crossings on the rerouted Mt. Margaret Trail. PWVers Jim Shaklee, Bob Manuel, Mark Snyder, Larry and Margie Caswell worked with USFS Recreation Forester Kevin Cannon on the hardened creek crossing made of cement blocks and sand

that will serve mountain bikers and horse riders. Another crew worked on the structural timbers for the new 36' hiker bridge supported and decked. A bridge railing will soon be constructed, so the new Mt. Margaret trail can be opened.



North Fork...Continued from Page 1

with Garin leading the way, was able to construct a wall approximately 12 feet long and up to 4 feet high in one day. This required moving some very large rocks (Garin loves large rocks) and getting quite wet in the river. Everyone had a great time with these projects and a great deal was accomplished. Next year Mark Snyder will be leading the Adopt-A-Trail team with Garin acting as our technical expert. (Someone has to know what to do!)

We plan to move on up the trail and continue to improve the trail so that hiking and riding are a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

We hope many of our other PWV members will join us in the effort to improve the trail and come on out and have some fun moving really big rocks and digging in the dirt.



Photo by Alfred Ross

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