



# POUDRE TRAILS

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

<http://www.fortnet.org/pwv>

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## A NEW SEASON BEGINS

— Ray Sons

As we Poudre Wilderness Volunteers embark on our second season of "Hiking with a Purpose," we can puff our chests in pride over the changes testifying to our solid growth in just one year.

We have more members, patrol more trails, are better equipped and our modest bank account stays solidly in the black, thanks to growing public acceptance of our role and the resulting benefits of our fundraising.

Our success has earned applause from high echelons in the U.S. Forest Service, as witness to the rave notices from executives of the Rocky Mountain regional office who journeyed from Denver to speak at our training weekend at Jack's Gulch.

Membership has grown to 122 hikers and horse packers. With more members, we are covering 31 trails this season, an increase of six trails over 1996. Computerized scheduling, thanks largely to the efforts of **Jack and Robyn Potter**, should permit more thorough trail coverage, especially with the new requirement that volunteers who find they cannot carry out their assignments must themselves recruit replacements from our membership list.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Mid-season meeting, July 30, 7:30pm

This is our annual get-together to talk over how things are going out on the trails and within our organization. Please join your fellow PWVs at the Craddock Building, 3825 E Mulberry, just west of I-25 by American Furniture Warehouse.

Also, Members are always welcome to attend our Board of Directors Meetings, Next meeting: July 14, 7pm, LaPorte Room, 2nd floor Lory Student Center, CSU.

Our fundraising concert and the and the outstanding efforts of committees chaired by **Art Bunn** and **Frank Lilley** have produced enough money to supply us with 15 uniform raincoats and some first-aid kits. The supply of emergency radios from the Forest Service has grown to 15. While we need more equipment, but this is a major improvement over our first season.

And speaking of equipment, pick-up and return of equipment should be easier this year. Two locations, Arrowhead Lodge and the Forest Service visitor center, are now available, and radios may also be returned at Vern's Place in LaPorte — a handy stop on the way home from Poudre Canyon.

Volunteers, under the supervision of **Jill Reynolds**, will help **Martha Moran** enter information from our trail reports into a database. These reports are of considerable importance as a major source of information for the Forest Service. We are, after

all, their eyes and ears. This is the major reason for our organizations existence in a time when budget cuts continue to leave the USFS short of personnel to watch over the forests and mountains of our vast public domain. *Happy Trails!*



## Schedules Now Available

Hike on down to the Forest Service Visitor Center at College and Pitkin to pick-up your copy of the revised membership roster and hike schedule. You'll need this information to find a replacement if necessity forces you to miss an assignment. Remember, this is your responsibility.

Thanks!





## FROM THE CHAIR

Chuck Bell

Training has been a subject of discussion since Poudre Wilderness Volunteers was little more than a germ of an idea. How much training do we need, how often, how detailed, how rigorous, etc.? Should we be a small corps of highly trained rangers, or is our mere presence on the trails even with very little training enough to influence backcountry users to do the right things? Or should we settle for standards that fall between these two extremes? From our first formal meeting two and half years ago, board members have exchanged differing views on this subject, and more recently many volunteers have joined in the debate.

With two pre-season training weekends and a winter training program behind us, the answer to these questions is becoming more clear. We are beginning to carve out a middle ground that calls for solid training but also recognizes that we are an organization of volunteers who have many other responsibilities and interests in our lives. We will not endeavor to be professional rangers, but we will be prepared for the kind of situations we are most likely to encounter on the trails, and above all we will become effective in teaching "leave no trace" skills on the trail and in convincing backcountry users to adopt them.

At our June meeting, the Poudre

Wilderness Volunteer board reviewed the many volunteer evaluations of our recent weekend training program and once again discussed what kind of training we need. Noteworthy were the comments of second year volunteers emphasizing how much more they learned at this year's training than last, because they had a better context in which to put the things being taught. From our review and discussion, we reached a consensus that our training is very much on the right track. Of course it still needs fine tuning, and we have some very good suggestions from volunteers, but we agreed we should stick with the basic format of a pre-season training weekend, and a series of winter training programs.

Thus, next year, we will once again have a Friday through Sunday training program in late May. All first year volunteers must attend, with no exceptions. Second year volunteers will be strongly urged to attend, and should have good reasons if they must miss some of the sessions. Third year volunteers will be encouraged to attend. Both second and third year volunteers will be urged to take a more active role in the training, sharing their experiences and knowledge with the newcomers.

In addition, we will have at least one training program per month throughout the winter. A committee will soon be formed and will start work this summer with a target of October for our

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**Chair** Chuck Bell  
**Co-Chair** Art Bunn  
**Secretary** Martha Moran

**Newsletter committee:**

**Editorial Coordinator** Ray Sons  
**Art Director** Becky Valentinelli  
**Reporters** Glenn French  
Jill Reynolds

first winter session. If you are interested in joining this committee, please let a board member know.

With the kind of training we have had to date, we are becoming quite effective. The role playing sessions at Jack's Gulch two weeks ago were clear demonstrations of how good we can be. We were confronted with some difficult situations, and by and large we dealt with them like professionals. Yet we are far from perfect. We all have much to learn.

Through well conceived training sessions, following our present design, and with good attendance at these sessions, we can become even more effective on the trail and assure that our wilderness and backcountry areas remain pristine even with increasing public use.

*Asked to evaluate his weekend of training, new member Ras Erdal poked fun at the lifestyle "No delivery of Sunday newspapers," he grumbled. "No cable TV, no fast-food restaurants — not even a sports bar!"*



# TiD BiTs

— Jill Reynolds

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER: "RIDING WITH A PURPOSE"**

**Vita Young** is our newest member on the Board of Directors. After three moves back and forth between Colorado and Illinois, Vita and her husband built a new house on 10 acres north of Ft. Collins and settled-in with their horses.

While still learning about horseback riding in wilderness areas, Vita greatly enjoyed her excursions last summer in the Rawahs. Vita feels that it's important to "do something constructive at the same time" and this led to her involvement throughout PWV's inaugural year.

An outgoing and active member, Vita assisted **Todd Graus** with the winter classes. She hopes to be an advocate for horseback riders and encourage more of them to get involved in the organization. Her will also concentrate on increasing hiker's knowledge and understanding of horseback riding.

When Vita's not on the trail, she's a medical assistant at the Fort Collins Women's Clinic. She enjoys being outside; whether it be working in the garden or fighting the continual "battle of weeds" on their property. Welcome aboard Vita!

## **PWV's "PARTNER-UP" FOR TRAILS DAY!**

Seventeen enthusiastic Poudre Wilderness Volunteers arrived bright and early at Grey Rock on National Trails Day (June 7). Together with representatives from the Forest Service, Eastern

## **TRAINING AT JACK'S GULCH** — Glenn French

The 1997 PWV training was more than a formal training event, it was an opportunity to renew friendships and kindle new ones with others who care about preserving our wilderness. We received recognition and support from the regional office of the USFS with **Steve Deitemeyer**, director of recreation and public service team, and **Dennis Haddow**, wilderness & air quality program manager, providing their perspective of the PWV.

**George Wallace, Chuck Peterson, and Rattlesnake (Larry Helburg)** gave a rendition of the way things were. It was a time of beavers, gold seekers, packers, barb-wire fences, railroads, and water diversion projects that are all part of our wilderness history. On Saturday night, **Darla DeRuiter & Darrel Jury** provided a Colorado wilderness slide show that left us all mindful of the wilderness resources we have. It was a farewell performance for Darla, who also a Board member. She's just finishing-up her Ph.D. and heading to Gunnison where she's accepted an assistant professor position at Western State College. Best wishes Darla!

The numbers have been tabulated and reveal that the training weekend was a great success. On a scale of 1 (needs major improvement) to 5 (very good), 55% of the volunteers rated the overall weekend a 5 with 28% giving it a 4. Among the individual training categories, the role-playing sessions facilitated by **Frank Lilley, Wayne Tobey and Ray Sons** flew-off the charts at 5.5! **Martha Moran's** session on USFS rules drew a rating of 4.5. The site selection (Jack's Gulch) came in with a 4.5 with the lowest rating of 3.0 going to wilderness first aid.

Mountain Sports and the Colorado Mountain Club, teams of five tackled jobs including building rock cairns, constructing bridge railings, posting regulations, removing graffiti, blocking trail braids, clearing brush off the trail and rebuilding water bars. "P.I." (poison ivy) expert **Chuck Bell** hacked horrific heaps of harmful herbage on the lower part of the trail and **Rasmus Erdal** put his shop teacher skills to work throughout the day!

EMS donated \$1,000 to Poudre Wilderness Volunteers for our participation.

## **Quotes from the Wilderness**

Actual comments left by wilderness users. Excerpted from an article by Tom Steinstra, published in the San Francisco Chronicle. Feb '97

*"A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."*

*"A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead."*

*"The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."*





**CYBER TREKKING WITH TONY:  
PWV ON-LINE**

— Jill Reynolds

One thing that makes the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers so special is that we bring together people with diverse and varied backgrounds.

Take **Tony Parent**. As an electrical engineer for Symbios Logic, Tony spends a lot of time writing software, and hopes to turn his skills into a free-lance business developing websites for others. Tony, along with **Todd Graus** and **Dave Hake**, developed our homepage, and this year, he's flying solo (with Dave consulting).

Tony has some terrific ideas about how we can use the Internet to help communicate with each other and with potential members. He sees the website as a tool to reduce administrative tasks. Member applications, newsletters and class

enrollment forms could be available. A bulletin board will keep volunteers updated about future events, problem areas etc.

Eventually, the home page might be used to sign-up for trails, check trails to see what needs coverage, pull-up a backpacker's checklist or zoom in on a map to view elevation profiles and trail descriptions.

Tony's vision for the homepage may be ambitious, but don't look for him glued to the keyboard. He's been active hiking, camping, snowshoeing and biking since he came to Colorado in 1988. He decided to "give a little back" and how fortunate we are to have him working with us!

<http://www.fortnet.org/pwv>

This the "official address" of the PWVs. Once there, you can access information about training classes, social events, fundraisers and basic information about PWV and the wilderness areas we cover. You can even download a copy of our report forms. The main page averages 30 "hits" (visits) a week.

**Sign-on Today!**



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