



Poudre Trails

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

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

Volume 3, Issue 1

Jan 1999

WINTER TRAINING PROGRAM

By Dave Cantrell

Grab your calendar, here are the dates and topics for this winter's training programs! This year's programs have been designed to offer advanced skill building to experienced volunteers. The Spring Training Weekend, as in the past, will combine basic skill building for new volunteers with a range of optional programs for all volunteers.

All three Winter Programs will be held at the USFS's Craddock building at the junction of Colorado 14 and I-25. There is a Conoco station on the south side of Colorado 14, just west of the interstate. The Craddock Building is just south of the station.

Map and Compass

Presenter: **Dave Hake**

Dates: Thursday, February 11, from 7:00 - 9:30 PM and Saturday, February 13, from noon - 4:00 PM.

This two part program assumes that participants have basic map and compass skills. The focus will be on advanced skills like cross-country orienteering, locating yourself off trails, specifying your location to rescue crews, and, in general, skilled use of map and compass in demanding settings. Dave has designed some fun activities to test and polish your skills. The Saturday session will be fieldwork. The meeting place for Saturday will be announced at the Thursday session.

First Aid

Presenter: **Mark Rosoff**

Date: March 6, from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Lunch, which will be up to the individual members.

(See "Training" on page 3)

WANTED PWV'S FOR 1999

By Wayne Tobey

It's that time again. We need to know if you will join us again in 1999 and "HIKE OR RIDE WITH A PURPOSE." An application is attached for your use. A completed PWV application is required each year. One of the best sources of new members is our existing members, so please make copies of the attached application for your friends and encourage them to submit an application as well. **Complete your copy and submit it so that it will arrive at the PWV address no later than January 31, 1999.** You may also use the PWV web site to complete your application at www.fortnet.org/pwv. We ask for your prompt action in this important planing need for the 1999 season. Thanks!

JOHN FIELDER TO SPEAK AT TRAINING WEEKEND

John Fielder has agreed to speak at the training weekend and present a slide show as part of our weekend's entertainment.

For those of you unfamiliar with John Fielder's work, you are in for a treat. For those of us already familiar with his work through numerous calendars and books, this will be a "must see."

RANGER REPORT UPDATE

By Martha Moran

Thanks everyone for all the great ranger reports I have received this year!!! You have all heard me express the importance of the ranger reports being filled out after a hiking or riding patrols and sent to me via e-mail, snail mail, hand delivered, or other creative methods. I received over 300+ ranger reports this year! You are my eyes and ears out there in the backcountry and I would like to share some of the highlights of your reports. This year we

(See "Ranger Report" on page 3)

SPRING TRAINING DATES

May 21-23, 1999

Please set aside Friday afternoon **May 21th through Sunday May 23th** to attend the PWV Spring Training Event. The training committee as already had its first planning meeting. If you are interested in becoming involved and helping with this training, please give Bill Dold a call at 970 663 7622 or send him an e-mail at WRDLD@aol.com.

SCHEDULING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Tony Parent

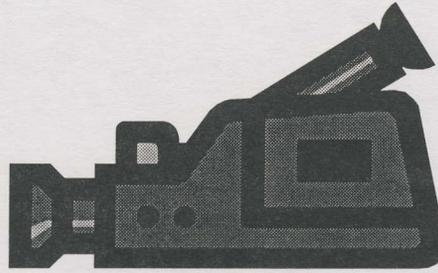
The current process for scheduling PWV members leaves many members without hiking partners throughout the summer hiking season. Even though members are informed that it is their responsibility to find replacements, the process for finding replacements is cumbersome at best and results in many members simply giving up or, not even attempting to find a replacement.

(See "Scheduling" on page 4)

PERSISTENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS WITH GROUP PUBLISHING

By Cheri Van Ackern

After the second year of applying for a prestigious Community Service Award grant from Group Publishing, Inc., Poudre Wilderness Volunteers came away the winner in the Environment and Ecology Services category. "At Group, we believe in serving others. And we like to help non-profit organizations throughout Northern Colorado who are dedicated to doing the same," said Thom Schultz, President and CEO of Group Publishing. Poudre Wilderness Volunteers received \$1,500. Group Publishing, based in Loveland, CO, publishes educational resources for churches of all denominations and operates the world's largest teenage summer workcamp service program, repairing homes of elderly and low-income persons. Congratulations PWV! And thank you to Group Publishing!



VIDEO AVAILABLE

By Art Bunn

With special thanks to PWV member **Scott French**, the COMSAT Corporation, and all of you who participated in the filming, our PWV video is now available. This 10-minute film colorfully and clearly tells the story of PWV - who we are, what we do, and why. The majority of our new members now come to us through your recruiting -your "word of mouth advertising" - and the video is an excellent "tool" to share with your family, friends, church, and community organizations. Besides that, many of your smiling faces are shown ... and it's always fun to see ourselves in the movies! To order your copy(s) (\$5.00 for members) just mail your order and check to PWV, P.O. Box 271921, Fort Collins, CO, 80527. Allow 10 days for processing and then you may pick up your copy(s) at the USFS office visitor's center Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is a non-profit organization with a registered set of Bylaws on file within the State of Colorado. A Board of Directors carries out the function and administration of the organization related to its mission. The Board typically meets every second week of the month. Any member of PWV may attend board meetings. Contact any board member listed below for the date, time, and location. If you have an item that you wish to discuss or present to the Board please contact Bill Dold to arrange for the item to be placed on the agenda.

Board Members:

Bill Dold (Co-Chair), 970 532-2909
Paige Miller (Secretary), 970 613 0382
Glenn French, 970 667-6523
Martha Moran (USFS rep), 970 498-2719
Wayne Tobey, 970 593-0561
Garin VanDeMark, 970 226-2051
Vita Young, 970 221-7174

Tony Parent (Co-Chair), 970 669-3450
Bill Bolinger (Treasurer), 970 204-1906
Kirsten Maddux, 970 224-9392
Jacques Rieux, 970 490-2021
Cheri Van Ackern, 970 223-9116
Amy Williams, 970 881-2147

Poudre Trails is 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 P.O. Box 271921, Fort Collins, CO 80527. Phone: (970) 498-2776

Co-Chair Bill Dold

Co-Chair Tony Parent

Secretary Paige Miller

Newsletter committee:

Editorial Coordinator Glenn French

Art Director Tony Parent

Reporters

Art Bunn	Tony Parent
Cheri Van Ackern	Glenn French
Frank Lilley	Amy Williams
Jacques Rieux	Dave Cantrell
Wayne Tobey	Martha Moran

UPDATE ON RADIOS

By Art Bunn

During the past few seasons radio usage by PWV members has, at times, been difficult and uncertain. To improve this situation, your Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of new and additional radio equipment prior to the '99 hiking/riding season. We have also enlisted additional technical training support from the USFS. Knowledgeable USFS personnel will teach effective use of the new equipment, and in-depth training in radio protocol during the winter training sessions in April. Look for the training date on the PWV webpage and a future newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW?

As Poudre Wilderness Volunteers each of needs to be aware of the following USFS firearm policy: Only law enforcement personnel may be authorized to carry firearms and non-lethal defensive equipment for law enforcement purposes (FSM 5304 and 5380). This is clear and unequivocal. By "law enforcement personnel", this means only those people who have "Level 4" training, which in the Canyon Lakes District are John Benshoof and Lenora Arevelos only. It would be inappropriate for PWV to have its own firearm policy in addition to the USFS policy.



FROM THE SADDLE

Amy Williams

The horses are burin hay and the wind is stirring up ground blizzards. But, even so, it's already time to start thinking about spring and riding the trails for Poudre Wilderness! No, you don't need to dig your trailer out yet, but do mark this date on your calendar....

When: Wednesday, March 24th,
6:00 - 8:00 PM

What: Poudre Wilderness Horse
Patrol Meeting

Where: Location to be announced

Why: A gathering of veteran horse patrol volunteers and new recruits to socialize and discuss the upcoming training sessions and riding season.

Refreshments and snacks will be served.

(Training: continued from page 1)

Mark Rosoff's First Aid training is always popular and useful. This training will build readiness skills for wilderness settings through scenario-based practice that will teach participants the kind of information and procedures they need when they encounter both medical emergencies and trauma victims. Training will include how to evaluate whether someone needs to be evacuated.

Radio Usage

Presenters: **Art Bunn, Mark Nelson and Eric Jensen**

Date: TBD (Updates will be posted on the PWV webpage.)

To conclude the winter training program, Art Bunn, along with Mark Nelson and Eric Jensen from the USFS will present a hands-on training session to address the proper use and best transmission/reception for radios in the back country.

We look forward to seeing all of you at all three sessions!

WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS CONFERENCE

By Jacques Rieux

The White River National Forest, in conjunction with the Friends of Eagle Nest, hosted the first annual Wilderness Workshop at the Keystone Science School on September 19 and 20, 1998. The meeting focused on how the Forest Service and volunteer groups can work more effectively together to teach wilderness users to protect the wilderness. PWV was invited to participate and gave the first presentation on the program. **Chuck Bell, Art Bunn, and Bill Dold** outlined the purpose and function of PWV and discussed organizational issues in volunteer groups. **Jacques Rieux** address factors and situations related to PWV's experience with our horse contingent. Along with key Forest Service personnel, some 50 or so volunteers representing hikers and riders from the region attended the conference. In addition to volunteer organizations throughout Colorado, there were also some representatives from the East and West coasts. The presentations and discussions provided valuable information. The general feeling was that the conference was time well spent. There was a good deal of useful "nuts and bolts" information exchanged as well as some interesting speculation about the future of wilderness education and management. The extensive participation of volunteers involved in wilderness work nationally pleasantly surprised many of us.

The star phrase of the conference was PWV's theme of "**Hike or Ride with a Purpose.**" Numerous people asked if their organization could borrow it. Permission was graciously granted. The PWV Field Guide was also recognized as a very useful tool for volunteers. We picked up the idea of a "mail-back post card" application that can be used in recruiting potential members into PWV. A must read article on Deep Ecology - "Wilderness is Where My Genome Lies" by Paul Shepard, a Professor of Human Ecology at the Claremont Graduate School, was handed out. If you are interested in the subject, phone Jacques Rieux at 490-2022 or FAX at 498-9893

for a copy. It was decided that there would be a second annual conference/workshop in 1999. It was later arranged that the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest in conjunction with the PWV organization would host the second conference. A third conference in 2000 will be hosted by the Routt National Forest.

(Ranger Report: continued from page 1)

contacted 4,380 fellow hikers, riders, and other various forest users. Fifty-five percent of them were day hikers and 31% were backpackers. You saw over 6,300 people in the forest and 6% of this group were on horseback and 5% were anglers. We saw 71 people out of 6,300 using llamas (1%). The highest encounters on a trail this year was West Branch trail with 87 people seen on the trail in a day. Some other trails with high averages included:

- 32 average a day @ West Branch
- 27 average a day @ Blue Lake
- 24 average a day @ Browns Lake
- 22 average a day @ Camp Lake
- 27 average a day @ Emmaline
- 22 average a day @ Greyrock
- 21 average a day @ Lion Gulch
- 27 average a day @ North Fork

I noted from your reports that Big South was a significant problem for dogs off leash because we saw 89% of dogs off leash. I found it interesting that Lion Gulch (a trail where dogs don't have to be on leash) only 19% of the dogs were seen off leash. Your information from these ranger reports will help us determine where we need to set priorities for 1999.

During the end of the year event numerous awards and recognition were presented to members and many of these are determined by the ranger reports submitted. I would like to recognize **Richard Noris** as our 1998 PWV Patroller of the year! Richard put in over 104 hours as a ranger this summer with **Jacques Rieux** was a close second with 96 hours. **Bill and Jackie Bolinger** were our "Rookies of the Year". Thank you all for the 4,856 hours spent as PWV rangers out in the field this past summer. Keep up the great work! It really is making a big difference out there in the woods! Happy trails in 1999.

(Scheduling: Continued from page 1)

This places a burden on the USFS representative (Martha Moran) to try to fill the gaps as members adjust their schedule during the summer.

The PWV scheduling committee is working on a new process with the following goals:

- Schedule all members in pairs.
- Maximize choice by the members regarding trails, dates, and partners.
- Minimize work required by the USFS representative to maintain the schedule during the summer season.
- Maximize flexibility and ease of rescheduling by the members during the summer hiking season.

We hope to make things easier for everyone involved, so members can spend less time figuring out their schedule, and more time "Hiking or Riding With A Purpose."

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ALPINE WINTERS

By Frank Lilley

Anyone who has hiked in sub-alpine and alpine regions is aware of the familiar "eek" directed at us by our furry friend the "American Pika" (*Ochotona princeps*), often referred to as the chief hare, cony, or rock rabbit. What happens to this cute, stumpy tailed little rabbit during the long and severe alpine winters? Pika's lives are spent in and around talus slopes and rock slides, adjacent to alpine grasses, forbs, and sedges, which serve as their food supply. Like many ranchers, pikas begin haying around mid-July, with a seeming single mindedness of purpose. They grab mouthfuls of vegetation from the meadow adjacent to the talus, and deposit them in compact areas among the rocks, preferably under an overhang. These storage areas are perhaps the volume of a bathtub, and are referred to as hay piles. Thirty species of plants may be easily found in a pika's hay pile. Pikas will continue foraging during the winter months by burrowing holes from their talus homes through the winter snowpack. Although they will nibble on the hay piles during the winter months, hay piles are usually reserved for emergency food during longer and more severe winters. Pikas are not adverse to stealing hay from each others' hay pile. Escalating of aggression leads to "boxing" in which two pikas stand up on their hind legs and "box" at each other. This is the most aggressive of their behavior and is seen only rarely.

A rodent commonly associated with the pika is the yellow-bellied marmot (*marmot flaviventris*), sometimes referred to as a whistle pig. Although found in close proximity, these two mammals have very different lifestyles. Marmots are substantially larger than pikas. They form family units, venture larger distances to forage, spend eighty percent of their time in their burrows, and hibernate to avoid the energetic stresses of winter. Pikas, on the other hand, maintain individual territories and do not hibernate during the winter.



Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
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