



Spring Newsletter 2008

Pondering the Peak

Steve Jennings

For the first time in a long time Mary Burger isn't the author of Pondering the Peak. Let me assure you that nothing has happened to Mary. She is still active in FOTP and you will see her at many of the projects this summer, especially the work on the Seven Bridges Trail. When you see Mary let her know what a great job she has done as the President of FOTP these many years. It has just come time to have someone else be President of the organization and that someone turns out to be me. I have been part of FOTP for about a decade now and am dedicated to the goals of FOTP. The Board of FOTP has been working hard to come up with a set of activities which also support the goals of FOTP. We of course will have a set of workdays which are outlined later in the newsletter. Be sure to sign up at our web site, fotp.com, or send in the registration form contained in this newsletter. You may notice that we have scheduled less work days this summer than we have in the past. We have decided to devote part of the efforts of FOTP on an exciting new initiative to establish a web-based site where trail users can find out about Barr Trail, and more importantly you can send us information about conditions on Barr Trail so that we can get out and repair the trail. We are planning on doing data collection on Barr Trail this summer so that

we can build the web site the following winter. This of course leads to subject of the folks who maintain Barr Trail, the Trail Dogs. There are several sections of the trail that have not been adopted by a Trail Dog and are therefore not getting regularly maintained. We ask that you seriously consider becoming a Trail Dog. Some of you are asking what is a Trail Dog? A Trail Dog is a person who has taken responsibility for a section of Barr Trail and maintains that section. A list of Barr Trail sections is listed on the FOTP web site. Some of you are also asking what is involved in being a Trail Dog? You would need to visit your section of the trail on a regular basis, maybe once or twice a month primarily dependant on the weather conditions. We can supply you with tools, materials, and advice. Of course the hard part is accessing portions of the trail. We can also supply you with passes for the Pikes Peak Highway if you are working on a section of the upper portion of the trail, but in any case you need to like to hike and enjoy time spent on Pikes Peak. What is probably the best part of working on any trail is the satisfaction of a job well done and the "ownership" that comes with a little sweat equity. Please consider becoming a Trail Dog. You can contact me at sjennin@uccs.edu if you have any questions or want to volunteer. If you are not ready to be a Trail Dog you can still help on one of the two work days on Barr Trail we will be having this summer.

Save the Date:

Saturday, November 1, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Friends of the Peak
Annual meeting and
Awards Party

Save the Date for Octoolberfest!

We have a great season of projects this year. And, one thing will be certain, the tools will be used. Once all the work is done, it will be time to put the tools up for winter. We usually get together to do this, and then have a party. The date will be September 20th. The work will be for a couple hours. More details later. But, save the date.

Spring Hike Available on Ring the Peak

On May 30 [join](#) Friends of the Peak, [Pikes Peak Sierra Club](#), [CCWC](#), and [Wild Connections](#) for a moderate 6-mile hike with elevation gain of 600 feet on the Ring the Peak Trail at the edge of the proposed Pikes Peak West Wilderness, one of the Wild Ten areas in Colorado. [Learn about the Ring the Peak Trail, which will eventually circle Pikes Peak, and some of the conflicts and compromises which are involved in routing a long-distance trail across public and private land. For more information or to sign up, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or \[jlock@datawest.net\]\(mailto:jlock@datawest.net\)](#), or go to FOTP.com and register.

Watershed Access Advisory Group Update

Mary Burger

As promised at the annual meeting, The Watershed Access Advisory Group, WAAG, continues meet. We are learning a lot about water and the delivery system. We have a schedule to learn about other agencies use policies, and potential costs and pitfalls. Currently meetings are every two weeks. That is a lot of meetings!

There are diverse opinions in the group, but it appears we will be able to act collaboratively to advise the Colorado Springs Utilities on how best to manage the recreational aspects of the land the City of Colorado Springs owns on Pikes Peak. This is the largest holding of land outside the forest on the peak, and has tremendous impact on the eco-systems. We are learning as much as we can, as fast as we can in order to recommend a least impact approach for CSU. We won't be done by fall, but we will be further along in the process, and I will keep you posted.

Closing the RTP Gap

Eric Swab

As you know the Ring the Peak (RTP) trail does not exist between Pancake Rocks and the Forest Service Road 376 near the south slope watershed gate. There is a good reason for this, the same reason that there is no RTP trail building in the 2008 work plan. There is a complex web of obstacles slowing the completion of this piece of the trail, including rough terrain, a patchwork of public private ownership, numerous bureaucratic hoops to jump through and a lack of existing trails that go where we want to put the trail.

These obstacles are not insurmountable and we are making progress. We have identified land ownership in the area and we have explored several possible routes on the ground. One of the major breakthroughs we

have had is the willingness of the Colorado Springs Utilities to discuss the possibility of a trail corridor through the south slope watershed. Mary Burger and Eric Swab have been appointed to the Watershed Access Advisory Group (WAAG). This group of people from various backgrounds will advise the Utilities on an access policy for lands owned by the Colorado Springs on Pikes Peak. The interim policy acknowledges the need for a trail corridor across the south slope to complete the RTP trail.

Working through these challenges means that it will be several years before we see trail construction on this segment of the RTP trail.

Running on Pikes Peak Helps FOTP

Many of you are aware that Barr Trail is the site of an exciting set of foot races each summer. The Barr Trail Mountain Race is held every July. This year it will be on July 13. In August the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon will be held on the 16th and 17th. What you may not be aware of is that these races are a large source of monetary contributions to FOTP. These organizations help us continue working on the trails on Pikes Peak. We would like to encourage you to help with race support for these events. You can help with aid stations or work at the finish line. Please take some time to support these events through your volunteer hours and thereby help FOTP. You can find out about volunteer opportunities at www.runpikespeak.com for the Barr Trail Mountain Race and www.pikespeakmarathon.com for the Ascent/Marathon.

Help Wanted

FOTP still needs more board members. The board meets the second Tuesday of each month to discuss how to further the goals and objectives of FOTP. We added one new face this year, but we could use two or three more people who are interested enough to assist in ensuring sound stewardship of Pikes Peak. Duties are not overwhelming, but the joy of working on something this worthwhile is!

Mail – In Registration form 2008

Return this form to either P.O. Box 2494
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2494
Or Fax: (719) 471-3145

Name:

—

Address:

—

—

Phone Number:

How many people are being registered with
this form? _____

Are you a member? _____ (You do not
need be a member to participate.)

Please select your project(s)

Barr Trail Workdays

This year, FOTP will sponsor two workdays to address areas along the trail where work is needed. The location where the work will be done is yet to be determined. Both of these work days will be geared towards making the trail as safe as possible for the Barr Trail Mountain race and the Pikes Peak Ascent/Marathon.

Sat, June 28 — Barr Trail Workday 1
Sat, Aug 2 — Barr Trail Workday 2

Elk Park Knoll Trail

FOTP will host two Saturday projects to repair the damage to the Elk Park Knoll Trail. This trail has been badly damaged by excessive water flow from the Pikes Peak Highway, and is in need of re-established tread and out flow to ensure water does not accumulate on the trail.

Sat, July 12 — Elk Park Knoll Trail - 1
Sat, August 9 — Elk Park Knoll Trail – 2

North Cheyenne Creek Trail (USFS#622, Seven Bridges Trail)

We will continue our maintenance on this historic route to Jones Park. We will repair the trail surface to allow appropriate drainage and prevent further rutting. The US Forest Service will allow volunteers to access the trail head on the currently closed portion of Gold Camp Road to accomplish this work.

Thur, May 29 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 1
Thur, June 12 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 2
Thur, June 26 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 3
Thur, July 10 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 4
Thur, July 24 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 5
Thur, August 7 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 6
Thur, August 21 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 7
Thur, September 4 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 8
Thur, September 18 — North Cheyenne Creek Trail 9

Octoolberfest

After a season of trail work there comes a time to clean, sharpen, and oil the tools and put them up for the winter. This project will be conducted in town at the FOTP tool storage facility.

Sep 20 — Octoolberfest

Thank you, 2007 contributors!

Summit Level Supporters:

\$500 and Up

Barr Trail Mountain Race
William and Tracy Thomas

Pikes Peak Range Riders
Triple Crown of Running

Life Zone Contributors:

\$150 to \$499

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*Friends of the Peak
Preserving, Restoring, and
Appreciating Pikes Peak*