



November 2011

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Friends of the Peak

Preserving
Restoring
Appreciating

Pikes Peak

Thank You! We don't say it enough and I know I am particularly guilty of not recognizing those around me who do something special or help me each and every day. So thank you.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who come out year after year to help improve the trails they walk every week or are walking for the first time. Thank you to everyone who coerced a friend to come out to a Friends of The Peak work day. Thank you to everyone who got rained on, sunburned and sore from working on the South Slope, Section 16 and Barr Trail. Thank you to every parent who brought their kids out to help on trails so we have the next generation trained and ready to go.

Thank you to the US Forest Service, El Paso County and the Colorado Springs Utilities for being such great partners. Thank you to VOC for bringing out Steve Austin so I could see him move a rock the size of my couch. Thank you to Sarah Bryarly, Scott Abbott and everyone at Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services for handling the South Slope, Section 16 and the Incline without losing sight of any of them. Thank you to TOSC for all of their support. Thank you to the US Army and the many corporations in Colorado Springs who allowed their employees to come out and work on trails instead of a computer.

Thank you to Steve Bremner and the Incline Friends for all of their hard work taking on a challenge like no other. Thank you to the AdAmAn club for having so much fun hiking and working above 11,000 feet (minus the snow). Thank you to Mary Burger for her guidance, teaching and encouragement. Thank you to Carol Beckman, Eric Swab, Jim Strub, Barry Dolan and Brian VanValkenburg who make up the FOTP Board and make this all possible.

I have left a ton of people off of this list, but thank you to all of our members and partners who make up Friends of The Peak. Your hard work every year makes the Colorado Springs area more enjoyable and touches more people than you can imagine.

Mike Cotter, President, FOTP

2011 VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Eric Adams
Al Anderson
Christian Aragundi
Burke Ashton
Larry Augenstein
Rick Ayers
Richard Battersby
Carol Beckman
John Beckman
Gary Belew
Steve Bremner
Bradley Briggs
Ned Brush
Justin Burdick
Mary Burger
Jack Busher
Jeff Cahill
Phyllis Cahill
Kenneth Carmenatty
Lisa Cashel
Brooke Chestnut
Snook Cipolletti
Ed Clark
Justin Cooper
Michael Cotter
Andrew Davis
Lance Doan
Dennis Dosch
Andrew Dunn

Tony Eichstadt
Clark Eirleberry
John Etzel
Judy Fair-Spaulding
Anthony Fedel
Christopher Felder
Mary Feldmann
Michael Fender
Wes Fielder
Tim Figge
Bill Gardner
Janine Garnham
Richard Gass
Jacob Gray
Gabriel Grommett
Chris Grove
Bob Hawley
William Hilton
Nate Hook
Kenneth Houck
Dave Hunting
Bradley Ihrcke
Reynolds James
Chad Javor
Dakota Jensen
Ryan Jensen
Erik Jeske
Cy Johnson
David Jones

Eira Keko
Dale Kemmerer
Neil Kempcke
Ian Knoop
Bill Koerner
Anton Krupicka
Blake Lair
Kristopher Larsen
Tom Lear
Tom Lehrecke
Mason Lewis
Jeanette Longoria
Will Mackenzie
Anthony Martinez
José Martinez
Dominick Mascolo
Charles Massey
Marc McClure
Brent McGuire
Jamie McMillin
Mike McTigue
Brennen Meyer
Jason Meyer
Gary Michels
Nicholas Miller
Kevin Miner
Jason Moore
Keith Moore
Gary Moyer

William Moyer
Robert Mustain
Leonard Myers
Pat Naughton
Steven O'Brien
Sean O'Donnell
Jake O'Neil
Mike Oroszi
Anthony Pappalardo
Anthony Pappalardo III
Steve Pelelo
Zeppel Peters
Cheryl Pettingell
Joe Pinter
Bonnie Post
Max Post
Bobby Prater
Trent Pritchett
Valdra Pufpaff
Benjamin Purvis
Brandon Reams
Mike Reeder
James Reynolds
Michael Ricci
Steffan Ritch
Daniel Rogerson
Julie Rowe
John Rowley
Donald Sanborn

Jason Sandry
Henry Schorsch
Jared Scott
Rebekah Scrivener
Mike Shafai
Beth Shiplett
Matt Sidor
Josh Sluder
Michael Starnes
Bob Stellick
Daniel Stone
Karl Streyle
Jim Strub
Eric Swab
Jason Swaim
Mark Szabo
Carl Taylor
Daniel Thomas
John Tulbodeaux
Brian VanValkenburg
Lauren Vernola
Janet Voss
Matthew Walker
Darin Weffenstette
Andrew Wertz
Tyler Woltman
Travis Woodard
Adam Woodson
Bernie Zipp

From Adams to Zipp —
that's 145 volunteers
who gave of themselves
so that others might enjoy.

We are very grateful for each
one of you. THANK YOU!

We are also grateful to the
organizations from which many
of you came out:

Army (Hq and Hq Company,
2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry
Reg, 4th Brig, 4th Inf Div)
AdAmAn Club
Agilent

Colo Spgs Parks, Rec, CS
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
T. Rowe Price Associates



2012

For those of you looking ahead to the 2012 project season, we can say at this point that there will be plenty of work to keep us all busy — but no definite dates yet. We should be able to post the dates on the website sometime in January, and will also publish them in the February newsletter.

In 2012 our main focus will be on building new trails on the South Slope. There's a little more to do to finish the McReynolds Trail. Then the emphasis will be on the trail running along the west side of Mason Reservoir, all the way to Boehmer Reservoir. Mary Burger is the Project Manager for all of this work. City Parks and Rec is looking at four work sessions, two of which may be overnight. Timeframe: late June, July (probable overnight), August (VOC overnight), and September.

We are planning four or five work days on the Barr Trail, at least one of them with the AdAmAn Club, and maybe some with the Incline Friends in the first three miles. If you know of any particular sections that need attention, please let us know. Mike Cotter is the Project Leader.

Contract work on the Manitou end of the Ute Pass Trail may begin in 2012, and, if so, we may be asked to assist. This is the segment from Ruxton Avenue to Longs Ranch Road.

We may propose some maintenance work on FS Trail 703 along French Creek, near the head of Hurricane Canyon.

We may propose some maintenance/rebuilding work on FS Trail 652, the trail from Elk Park Knoll to Barr Camp — in the steep, eroded section just north of Ghost Town Hollow.

The uppermost sections of the Devil's Playground Trail (in and near the final boulder field) need some minor adjustments, and there are cairns to be replaced.

As for Section 16, we do not plan to be doing any work there this season. There is new planning and coordinating work now in progress that needs to be complete before any more actual work on the ground. For those of you who prefer working on Thursdays, we may schedule some maintenance work on Seven Bridges Trail and Saint Mary's Falls Trail.

As for Ring the Peak, we are actively exploring possible routes between Pancake Rocks and the Watergate on Forest Road 376. The southwest area of the Pikes Peak massif is a special place for the bighorn sheep, so we are paying attention to such matters as posting trail closure during the lambing season — 1 April to 15 July.

There will be some "maintenance hikes," Crew Leader training, and Octoolberfest.

TOSC may again conduct guided tours of the South Slope. Please contact Susan Davies if you are interested — and especially if you can volunteer to be a guide. susan@trailsandopenspaces.org



ADAMAN PROJECT

On September 24 the AdAmAn Club descended on Pikes Peak, both figuratively and literally, to do trail maintenance on Barr Trail in the vicinity of the A-Frame (ref: www.adaman.org). There were six AdAmAn members and five AdAmAn guests. With them were Mike Cotter of FOTP and his cousin Gabriel. There was strong consensus among the group that Mike provided some much needed supervision and direction. All were thankful for his efforts!

We got an early start through the Pikes Peak Highway tollgate and drove to the summit of the Peak. For a group used to only going up the mountain, we proved amazingly adept at finding our way down to the A-Frame! There was a short stop at the large cairn just above timberline where we reminded ourselves that the club created that cairn in memory of Fred Barr, one of our five founding members. It has grown quite large as a result of climbers dropping rocks on it as they hike past, especially the AdAmAn on New Year's Eve.

After standard tool use instruction by Mike, we split into three groups and began work slightly below the A-Frame. We widened the corner where the Marathon aid station is generally located and cut back the willows to make it easier for downhill runners to see the aid station before literally tripping over it (which has apparently been common practice). We built steps on the uphill portion of the corner and did general cleanup on the next switchback. We also reworked a higher elbow to better delineate it and keep users from cutting the corner. This included some recontouring to make water drain off the end of the elbow rather than turn the corner and run down the trail. We also blocked off a trail stub there to help hikers avoid missing the turn.

Our main target was the elbow adjacent to the A-Frame sign. A lot of trail users were cutting the corner and/or hiking off the end of the corner, so we built a number of stairs and placed logs and rocks to better emphasize the trail. Hopefully this work will keep them on the trail!

Having completed a fair day's work, we hiked back to the summit. Pat Naughton (the enforcer), with pick ax handle in hand, kept everyone moving at a pretty good clip, even though the tools weighed significantly more on the trip up than they did on the way down. On the summit we rewarded ourselves with a few of those famous doughnuts, then called it a day and drove off the mountain (in low gear of course). All agreed it was a great day and look forward to another work day next year.

Submitted by Don Sanborn, President, AdAmAn Club



There were some boulders



Job well done

THE ORIGINAL SUMMIT FIREWORKS

You have probably seen the old stone wall beside the Cog tracks on the summit of Pikes Peak. This is all that remains of the United States Signal Service Station that was established there in October of 1873. The site was chosen for its elevation and unobstructed views in all directions. It was believed that meteorological observations from a high elevation gave the weather forecaster an advantage. The men who observed the weather from this station were incredibly hardy and brave -- or was it just a lack of understanding? The following is an observer's entry in the Station's daily diary for June 7th 1882. The "wire" referred to was the telegraph wire strung between summit and town.

"June 7. - At 3:45 P.M. the summit was densely enveloped and a heavy sleet-storm set in, accompanied at long intervals by distant thunder in the south and west. Sleet fell in heavy showers at short intervals till 8 P.M. At this hour the wind previously calm, veered suddenly to the south with a velocity of 20 miles per hour, and the sleet changed to heavy, dense snow, obscuring all view beyond a few feet of the person. The change was introduced by a flash of lighting from the north, and muttering thunder. At 8:30 P.M. a very vivid flash of lightning pierced the gloom from the west, followed immediately by a hoarse peal of thunder. During the fall of sleet the peculiar "singing" or "sizzling" noise on the wire, reported in previous journals, was distinctly heard. At 8:45 P.M., on opening the door, a most curious and beautiful phenomenon was seen by observer. The line on the summit was distinctly outlined in brilliant light, which was thrown out from the wire in beautiful scintillations. On near approach to the wire these little jets of flame could be plainly observed. Then presented the appearance of little electrified brushes or inverted cones of light, or, more properly, little funnels of light with their points to the line, from which they issued in little streams about the size of a pencil lead, and of the brightest violet color, while the cone of rays was of a brilliant rose-white color. These little cones of light pointed from the line in all directions, and were constantly jumping from point to point. There was no heat to the light, though it was impossible to touch one of these little flames, for as soon as they were approached by the finger they would instantly vanish, or jump to another point on the line. Passing along the line with finger extended, these little jets of flame were successively puffed out, to be instantly re-lighted in the rear. It was a curious and wonderful sight. No sensation was experienced on applying the tongue to the line. Not only was the wire outlined in this manner, but every exposed metallic point or surface was similarly tipped or covered. The cups of the anemometer, which were revolving rapidly, appeared as on solid ring of fire, from which issued a loud rushing and hissing noise. The anemoscope represented a flaming arrow, and a small round wooden stake stuck up in the snow to show the position of the gauge was similarly tipped, as well as an angle of our stone chimney. Observer, on placing his hands close over the revolving cups of the anemometer, where the electrical excitement was abundant, did not discover the slightest sensation of heat, but his hands instantly became aflame. On raising them and spreading his fingers, each of them became tipped with one or more cones of light nearly three inches in length. The flames issued from the fingers with a rushing noise, similar to that produced by blowing briskly against the end of the finger when placed lightly against the lips, and accompanied by a crackling sound. There was a feeling of a current of vapor escaping, with a slight tingling sensation. The wristband of his woolen shirt, as soon as it became dampened, formed a fiery ring around his arm, while his mustache was electrified so as to make a veritable lantern of his face. The phenomenon was preceded by lightning and thunder, and was accompanied by a dense driving snow, and disappeared suddenly at 8:55 P.M., with the cessation of snow."

This 24 by 30 foot single story stone building was manned by members of the United States Army until 1888. The wagon road to the summit, which followed roughly the same route as the current Pikes Peak Highway was not completed until that year. The Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway (the Cog) was not completed until October of 1890. During the time of its operation, access to this remote out-post was gained by way of a road up Bear Creek canyon or a trail up Englemann Canyon. Tourists made the trip to the summit to watch the sunrise, sometimes spending the night at the signal station. The building was later incorporated in the first summit house.



Notice the ladder at the near end of the building leading to the anemometer on the roof.
The boxes attached to the building were instrument shelters.

Submitted by Eric Swab

FOTP MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

You can join us by emailing your name, address, phone, and preferred email address to webmaster@fotp.com

You can contribute to FOTP by clicking on [paypal](#)

or by mailing your check to P.O.Box 2494,
Colorado Springs CO 80901

TOOL DU JOUR

Have you ever had the pleasure of dancing With a McLeod?



SECTION 16 COMPLETES A MAJOR MILESTONE

I want to inform all users of the Section 16 trail, that it has been repaired, without reroute, from bottom to top. And, I want to thank all the people who came out to work on this popular project. We had strong cross community support with over 100 volunteers from such groups as CMC, several "friends" groups, several corporate groups and a contingent of GIs from Ft. Carson. This is a steep and highly erosive trail, and I think we stopped the erosion in its tracks for at least several years to come. Congratulations to all involved.

The completion of the repair of Section 16 trail also completes a major milestone for Friends of the Peak. In 1999, we began a series of initiatives to repair all the system trail accesses to Pikes Peak. This year, we have completed the list. While maintenance requirements are always ongoing, with the help of over a thousand volunteers in 10 years, we have erased the backlog of deferred maintenance. Only minor or regular work should be needed going forward. That is assuming you the trail using public continue to support this work. The list of trails we have maintained is:

- Barr Trail
- Devil's Playground Trail
- Mt Ester Trail
- Crowe Gulch Trail
- Bear Creek Trail (USFS #666)
- Horsethief Park Trail
- Seven Bridges Trail
- St. Mary's Trail
- Section 16 to Palmer Loop Trail.

I know many people use trails and a few work on them. But honestly, if you are healthy enough to use the trails, you are healthy enough to help. If you would like to become, or remain, involved in ongoing maintenance of any of these trails, contact Friends of the Peak at info@fotp.com.

See you on the mountain,

Mary Burger, Project Coordinator, Friends of the Peak.

Friends of The Peak (FOTP) was organized in 1995 to ensure sound stewardship of Pikes Peak. We are dedicated to protecting, restoring and appreciating Pikes Peak. We work with the US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, Colorado Springs Parks and Rec, the Pikes Peak Highway, and El Paso County Parks.

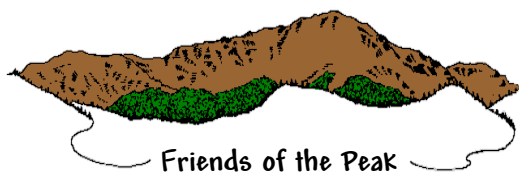
We have built sediment-trapping devices, restored native alpine tundra, built new trail, and regularly restore existing trail on the Pikes Peak massive, including all the trails listed above. We sponsor seminars and field trips on items of interest on and around Pikes Peak.

One of our highest priorities is the Ring the Peak trail, which is intended to completely circle the mountain. About 90% of the Ring system now exists, including the connecting segments built and maintained by FOTP. Only a few more connecting pieces are needed, notably the southwest segment. We are working toward closing all the gaps.

With the opening of the South Slope Watershed, FOTP is now constructing new trail along the McReynolds and Mason Reservoirs. This is a joyful project, long hoped for by many. There is enough new trail building up there to keep us busy for quite a while.

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE PEAK



Friends of the Peak
P.O. Box 2494, Colorado Springs CO 80901

Most of our readers are now receiving the newsletter by email, thus helping us “go green” and conserve resources. If you are still receiving the newsletter by USPS, please note that this is the last issue you will receive by USPS unless you specifically advise us that you want to receive a paper copy. To do this, contact Mike Cotter at 359-0890 and he will arrange to send you a printed newsletter. If you have internet access, just send your preferred email address to info@fotp.com.

NOTICE TO ALL OF OUR READERS

Everybody — please be sure we have your most recent street address so you can receive an occasional mailing from us, such as the invitation to the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Dinner. You can contact us at info@fotp.com.

We publish the newsletter four times per year — February, May, August, and November.