



the Fourteener Files

By Linda Kothe Crockett

Anyone who has climbed Colorado's fourteeners has a singular story to tell. Who better to tell that tale of adventure than the completers themselves? Many sent letters when reporting their completion. These are their stories.

Kiefer Thomas reports having soloed all of the fourteeners, except the Maroon Bells, El Diente and Wilson Peaks. "This is something I'll rectify in the coming few weeks!"

Alexi Lainis, 12, finished the fourteeners with a climb of Snowmass Mountain with his parents, Glenda and Andrew Lainis. His father carried him up nine fourteeners before he was able to climb his first, Castle Peak.

On his first fourteener, Mount Bierstadt, Kurt Mensch hiked with his seven-year-old daughter while carrying his three-year-old daughter. In all, he carried his youngest daughter up five summits. "While I did over two-thirds of the summits solo, the most important were the three summits we did as a family. It has been an incredible experience that took me to remote areas I never would have otherwise considered and provided me new friends and strengthened my family by giving me a project that kept me busy!"

Dan Akerhielm shares a tale that many may find familiar. "A freak snowstorm caught me on the summit of the first one and tried to kill me—I was hooked after that!"

Geoffrey Martindale writes, "When I first came to America from England, I flew into DIA and was bowled over by the incredible sight of the Front Range. I soon started hiking, and during my two years in Colorado, I climbed 18 fourteeners. In 1998 I moved to Dallas because of work, and did the remaining 36

Those who reported completion of Colorado's fourteeners in 2009

NO.	NAME	FIRST PEAK	DATE	FINAL PEAK	DATE
1282	Donna Allenbaugh	Longs Peak	July 1976	Mount Elbert	Oct 1985
1283	Dan Akerhielm	Mt. Princeton	Aug 1985	N. Maroon Peak	July 1994
1284	Sherry Richardson	Grays Peak	July 1988	Pikes Peak	Sept 2000
1285	Richard Hahn	Longs Peak	July 1991	Culebra Peak	Aug 2004
1286	Alan Spriggs	Longs Peak	June 1986	Wetterhorn Peak	July 2005
1287	Jeff Valliere	Quandary Peak	Aug 1995	Capitol Peak	July 2005
1288	Michael Busby	Mount Elbert	Sept 1996	Culebra Peak	June 2006
1289	Robert L. Drage	Longs Peak	Aug 1962	Snowmass Mtn.	Aug 2006
1290	Beth Bershader	Mount Bierstadt	July 1999	Crestone Needle	Aug 2007
1291	Keith Bershader	Mount Bierstadt	July 1999	Crestone Needle	Aug 2007
1292	Lon Carpenter	Mount Sneffels	July 1995	Snowmass Mtn.	Sept 2007
1293	Linda Pryor			Capitol Peak	Sept 2007
1294	John Ward	Mount Huron	Aug 1971	Mount Wilson	Sept 2007
1295	Stan L. VanderWerf	Mount Princeton	July 1991	Mount Sherman	Oct 2007
1296	Brandon Chalk	Longs Peak	1998	San Luis Peak	Aug 2008
1297	Ron Erwin	Longs Peak	Sept 1973	Capitol Peak	Aug 2008
1298	Erik Etheridge	Pyramid Peak	July 2001	Mount Sneffels	Aug 2008
1299	Del Gratz	Pikes Peak	July 1975	Crestone Peak	Aug 2008
1300	Nathan Hale	Mount Democrat	Aug 1995	Snowmass Mtn.	Aug 2008
1301	John Martersteck	Longs Peak	Aug 1993	Mount Sneffels	Aug 2008
1302	Debbie Welle-Powell	Mount Princeton	Aug 1999	Sunlight Peak	Aug 2008
1303	Kathy Deane	Mount Windom	1977	Ellingwood Point	Sept 2008
1304	Andy Jung	Mt. of the Holy Cross	June 2002	Crestone Peak	Sept 2008
1305	Ellen Ritt	Mount Antero	Aug 1991	Mount Tabeguache	Sept 2008
1306	Kiefer Thomas	Longs Peak	July 1991	Snowmass Mtn.	Mar 2009
1307	Ryan Aldrich	Quandary Peak	Sept 2000	Mount Humboldt	July 2009
1308	Ken Beegles	Mount Democrat	June 1968	Mount Sherman	July 2009
1309	Tom Chapel	Longs Peak	Aug 2002	Handies Peak	July 2009
1310	Bo Johnson	Mount Bierstadt	July 2004	Wilson Peak	July 2009
1311	Mark S. Stover	Longs Peak	Aug 1981	Pikes Peak	July 2009
1312	Denton Anderson	Mount Yale	May 1983	Snowmass Mtn.	Aug 2009
1313	Charlie Carter	Longs Peak	1970	Little Bear Peak	Aug 2009
1314	Chris Cash	Mt. of the Holy Cross	July 1986	Maroon Peak	Aug 2009
1315	Barbara Churchley	Mount Shavano	Aug 1982	Capitol Peak	Aug 2009
1316	Dan Dennison	Grays Peak	July 2000	Crestone Peak	Aug 2009
1317	Matt DiPaolo	Grays Peak	July 2006	N. Maroon Peak	Aug 2009
1318	Jeff Eick	Grays Peak	July 1990	Mount Eolus	Aug 2009
1319	Janet Farrar	Grays Peak	Aug 1997	Capitol Peak	Aug 2009
1320	Dean Graves	Mount Elbert	1993	Capitol Peak	Aug 2009
1321	Dominique Hershberger	Longs Peak	Aug 1993	Culebra Peak	Aug 2009
1322	G. Kent Keller	Longs Peak	July 1950	Capitol Peak	July 2009
1323	Ryan Kowalski			Pikes Peak	Aug 2009
1324	Alexi Lainis	Castle Peak	June 2002	Snowmass Mtn.	Aug 2009
1325	Andrew Lainis	Castle Peak	June 1994	Snowmass Mtn.	Aug 2009
1326	Glenda Lainis	Castle Peak	June 1994	Snowmass Mtn.	Aug 2009
1327	Bob Lewis	Quandary Peak	July 1990	Mount Wilson	Aug 2009
1328	Anne Lutz	Longs Peak	Aug 1987	Mount Eolus	Aug 2009
1329	David Patterson	Wetterhorn Peak	July 1991	Pikes Peak	Aug 2009
1330	Megan Patterson	Mount Windom	Aug 1992	Pikes Peak	Aug 2009
1331	Jean Roy	Pikes Peak	June 2009	Crestone Needle	Aug 2009
1332	Barb Ruddy	Grays Peak	Aug 1988	Ellingwood Point	Aug 2009
1333	Jeff Shafer	Mount Democrat	Sept 1996	Little Bear Peak	Aug 2009
1334	Martin Smith	Little Bear Peak	1981	Snowmass Mtn.	Aug 2009
1335	Ron Stauffer	Handies Peak	May 2000	Pyramid Peak	Aug 2009
1336	Robert White	Mt. of the Holy Cross	Aug 1981	Crestone Needle	Aug 2009
1337	Dave Chavez	Grays Peak	Sept 1994	Torreys Peak	Sept 2009
1338	Holly Chavez	Grays Peak	Sept 1994	Torreys Peak	Sept 2009
1339	Philip A. Koneman	Mount Democrat	1976	Pyramid Peak	Sept 2009
1340	Geoffrey Martindale	Mount Bierstadt	June 1996	Pyramid Peak	Sept 2009
1341	Tom McClernon	Mount Shavano	June 2006	Uncompahgre Peak	Sept 2009
1342	Kurt Mensch	Mount Bierstadt	Aug 2001	Mount Elbert	Sept 2009
1343	Debra L. Nelson	Grays Peak	Aug 1989	San Luis Peak	Sept 2009
1344	Cory William Skluzak	Snowmass Mtn.	July 1986	Mount Harvard	Sept 2009
1345	Roger J. Wendell	Mount Sherman	July 1997	El Diente	Sept 2009
1346	Chris Casar	Grays Peak	July 1989	Castle Peak	Oct 2009

List compiled by Linda J. (Kothe) Crockett, 11-15-09