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BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

September 2023

CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

Last Sunday, 07:00, I was on Guanella Pass. The lower parking lot was overflowing. Cars spilled all over the road. A surprise. I expected the crowds to thin after Labor Day. Reason I was there was to scout out trailheads for my BPX 3-Day Shuttle trip. Easy-Peasy. If the weather holds, it will be a great trip to Helms & Abyss Lakes.

I have four trips to do. The result of picking up two for a leader and two I had to reschedule. I'm telling you this why? Because this is the typical life of your BPX Leader. Plan, execute, postpone, reschedule, and step in. Do everything to keep the trip alive. Cancelling is always the absolute last option.

At the pass I could see, feel, and sense that the season is shifting. Gold, red, rust mingles in with the shades of fading green. The air, a bit crisper, makes it an easy choice to don a light puffy. A reminder that the summer season of backpacking is almost over. It's been a good season. Thank you to the BPX Committee, Trip Leaders, and to you, our dedicated BPX members! I hope you make it to our BPX Bash on October 7th to celebrate.

BEWARE: Hunters are out. Think orange.

CHECK YOUR CMC WAIVER

Please make sure you have signed your CMC Waiver. It must be renewed each year, and a current one is required before you can participate in any CMC activities (including BPX trips). It is also a condition for being on the BPX Roster for future BPX communications. You can find it by logging into the CMC website, clicking on your name in the upper right corner, and selecting the My Waiver option.

BPX BASH 2023

Clement Park in Littleton, Shelter M - October 7, 10:30 - 1:30

Don't miss our 4th Annual BPX Bash, celebrating the 2023 Backpacking season! Featured this year are a Corn Hole Tournament, burritos from Qdoba, drinks, giveaways, awards and recognition for our BPX Trip Leaders, and lots of laughter and fun reminiscing with old friends and meeting new ones. Come celebrate with us, the BPX Committee! It's free and an exclusive benefit for our BPX Members. Plus all BPX members attending the Bash will receive a Nylofume Pack Liner. These liners are significantly more durable than trash bags, 100% waterproof, exceptionally light, and great for packs of any and all sizes (just cut it down to fit smaller packs).

Please register soon so we can get an accurate headcount for lunch.

Hope to see you there!

Register



UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

Trip registration is initially restricted to 3 BPX Backpacking and/or Camping trips, whether you are on 3 separate trip rosters, 3 waitlists, or a combination thereof. However, BPX members can now sign up for any October trips, regardless of how many BPX trips they have already registered for. Remember that you must be a member of the BPX Section to join a BPX Trip. See BPX Renewal info below.

E=Easy M=Moderate D=Difficult

Sep-Oct Trips With Openings*

Sep 22-27 Fri-Wed D [Tour of Mount Zirkel Wilderness Lakes from Katherine TH](#)
Sep 30-Oct 2 Sat-Mon M [RMNP - Fern Lake TH](#)

Sep-Oct Trips With 0-1 on Waitlist*

Sep 23-25 Sat-Mon M [Wheeler Geologic Area From East Bellows TH](#)
Sep 29-30 Fri-Sat M [American Lakes from American Lakes TH](#)
Sep 30-Oct 2 Sat-Mon D [Colorado Trail - Segment 6 from Kenosha Pass West TH](#)
Oct 3-6 Tue-Fri M [Saddlehorn Campground at Colorado National Monument](#)
Oct 8-9 Sun-Mon M [Lake Constantine From Halfmoon TH](#)

*As Of Sept 19. Continue to check the CMC Website since Leaders add trips throughout the season.

You can check your trip status by hovering over your name at the top of the main CMC Home Page and selecting the *My Activities* option from the dropdown. This brings up a page with the activities you have registered for along with your status--Registered (on the trip) or Waitlist and your position on the waitlist. If you are on the waitlist, keep checking since there are often cancellations.

Whether you are on a waitlist or a roster, if you decide to NOT go on a trip, please CANCEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. It may not seem necessary if you are on a waitlist, but many trips have a relatively high turnover shortly before the trip, so please cancel from waitlists as well to open up a spot for the next person.

[Mountain Side Gear Rental](#) in Golden rents backpacking gear with a 25% discount for CMC Members.

SCHOOLS/EVENTS

DENVER

DAY HIKER SCHOOL Virtual Alternative to WTS. More info [here](#)

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL More info [here](#)

CPR/AED [Oct 2](#)

BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SCHOOL (BIMS) [Sep 23](#)

PIKES PEAK (PPG)

WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS [Classroom Sep 25](#), [Field Sep 30](#)

STATE

WILDERNESS FIRST AID/FIRST RESPONDER Multiple Offerings - Check CMC Website [here](#)

Continue to check the CMC website for additional courses.

DENVER GROUP ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING

AMC in Golden - October 28, 5 - 9PM

Enjoy a catered dinner, beverages, volunteer recognition, and speaker Julian Carr, award-winning professional skier and athlete for Rab. His talk is titled "Other Side of Fear" and will explore the topic of fear, his journey and relationship with fear, and how it applies to outdoor adventure and everyday life.

Register

BPX WINTER TRIPS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Not ready to store your camping gear for the winter just yet? Then don't!

BPX is pleased to offer **THREE winter camping trips** this year on January 12-13, February 9-10, and March 16-17. Location for each of the trips is TBD dependent on snow conditions. Regardless of location, you can expect a ~2-3 mile snowshoe to the campsite, some sort of optional day hike from camp (typically 3-6 miles), and then ~2-3 miles back to the trailhead. More details and equipment requirements forthcoming. Destinations under consideration for this season include Burning Bear Trail, Abyss Lake Trail, North Rock Creek Trail, Kenosha Pass or, a bit less likely but still possible, Indian Peaks Wilderness or Rocky Mountain National Park.



Interested but wondering if your gear is up to speed for a winter trip? We will be offering our **2nd Annual Winter Camping Gear Check** on December 1-2. Tentatively, this will be held at the Burning Bear Campground, just north of Grant, Colorado.

Registration for each of these trips opens on Monday, October 23rd.

Winter Camping School or equivalent and leader permission is required. Email dschweissing@gmail.com if you are interested in joining one of the trips.

BPX TRIP REPORTS

Ranger Lakes Campground, State Forest State Park

Trip Leader Linda Lawson - Denver Group

Five of us enjoyed this fun escape. While we didn't see any "almost guaranteed to see moose", we did spot a weasel, and Gary had a successful fishing outing. There was definitely more to this trip than just relaxing around a campfire with a cold beer telling bear stories before we retired to our flimsy tents for a "peaceful" slumber... We also hiked about 9 miles to Thunder Pass where we stepped into RMNP with no reservation! Linda's shelter system made for a dry, cozy refuge from the rain and morning chills.



Please share your BPX Adventures, Trip Reports, and Photos with the rest of us, your backpacking community. You can add them directly to FB and Instagram or send them to maggie.burns1@gmail.com, and she will post them for you on FB. Send them to cmcbpxnewsletter@gmail.com to publish in the BPX Newsletter.

BPX TIP OF THE MONTH

Never Too Late to Start Again

TWO BACKPACK TRIPS – 50 YEARS APART WHAT CHANGED? WHAT DIDN'T CHANGE?

Now in his late 80's Tom Dutton is still a ski instructor at Winter Park where he met Louise Campbell-Blair, BPX Trip Leader and VP of the BPX Committee. Louise invited Tom to join the one-night backpack trip she was leading to Crater Lake.

Tom hadn't used any of his backpacking equipment in 50 years but decided he'd go with what he had. His only concessions were to purchase a Jetboil and an air mattress and wear sneakers. His external frame backpack was "good enough". And, oh by the way, Tom hikes in jeans – hiked 50 years ago in them and hikes in them today.



So, with 50 years between backpacks, what changed? Tom relates that in the 1970's there was no need for permits to enter a mountain range or a national park. No trailhead registration was necessary, and when you returned to the trailhead, no one had stolen your bike or your gear! There were few folks on the trails and women hiking alone were a rare sight. Trekking poles were not common equipment, and taking photos with your phone was not even a concept. Tom carried a heavy Nikon camera with multiple lenses. The trails and parking lots were not crowded, but signage was extremely limited. Travel navigation was only by paper maps or verbal directions from area trekkers, native peoples, and guides. Flashlights weighing 2-3 pounds were the only source of light. Leave No Trace principles were concepts everyone practiced without thinking about them. No need for a LifeStraw given all streams and rivers were believed to be pristine. Lighter weight backpacks, tents, sleeping bags are all available now. Plus, dehydrated foods are a lot tastier!

What didn't change in 50 years? The wonder of Mother Nature, the beauty of dawn and dusk, the excitement of viewing wildlife in their natural habitat, the ferocity of rivers and streams, having a good, dependable travel buddy, the "aha moment" when you feel that tug on the line and know you'll eat tonight.

Although Tom racked 50 years between backpacking trips, his children all took to the outdoor life and became wanderlust travelers. Because Louise was a "Known Quantity," Tom joined CMC and became a BPX member. WELCOME, Tom!

(Interview with Tom courtesy of Linda Lawson. The entire interview can be found [here](#)).

BPX MEMBER INFO

BPX FACEBOOK: [BPX FB](#) Send Photos and Trips Reports to post on BPX Facebook Page to: maggie.burns1@gmail.com

BPX INSTAGRAM: [@co_backpacking_bpx](#)

BPX LINKS: Click [here](#) for BPX web page, [here](#) for BPX Member Benefits, and [here](#) for CMC Member Benefits.

BPX MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: When renewing your CMC Membership, remember to choose the Backpacking Section for an additional \$20 on the SELECT YOUR SECTIONS page. You can also join/renew your BPX membership any time by clicking [here](#) or calling the CMC Office at (303) 279-3080.

DENVER GROUP MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES: [here](#)

FIRE INFO: [National Interagency Fire Center News](#) [Colorado Fire Restrictions](#) [Wildfire Risk Management Checklist](#)

Reminder that COTREX shows current closures due to incidents like wildfires whereas Gaia and other apps do not.

LEAD THE PACK

WELCOME NEW BPX TRIP LEADERS

Gwyneth and Eric Gerber - Denver

BPX is always looking for awesome CMC Trip Leaders from ALL CMC groups interested in expanding their trip repertoire by leading backpacking trips. Email your interest and experience to cmcbpx@gmail.com. More info on becoming a Leader can be found [here](#).

CMC Backpacking Section Supports Leave No Trace

CMC connects Coloradans with more than 3,000 trips, hikes and activities annually. Members also receive huge deals on outdoor gear, lodging, events and more.

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