



BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

October 2022

CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

Our 3rd season, 2022, was a year of growth and success, thanks to a dedicated committee, great BPX Trip Leaders, supportive BPX Members, and a super CMC staff. While we are still collecting and analyzing data, I'm confident we bested last year's performance with more completed trips, less cancelled trips, more BPX Trip Leaders leading with more BPX members on trips, and less overall roster churn. The camping program put together by Linda Lawson and John Walters was a big success. Expect more camping opportunities next season. We amped up our recognition & rewards for our BPX Trip Leaders. What's not to like?

BPX Trip Leader Awards - From time to time, a trip leader is looking for a replacement to keep the trip alive for the folks signed up. Congratulations to Garrett Pettingell, this year's recipient of "The Closer Award" for his outstanding saves of three BPX trips. Honorable mention goes to Brad Cotten for saving two trips. Garrett and Brad stepping up is a great example of Community, one of BPX's core values. "The Most Trips" and "The Boots Awards" will be announced in November's newsletter.

Backpacking Section Committee Announcements - Steve Wolf completed his term as Vice-Chair and will remain as Trips Coordinator. Louise Campbell-Blair is the new Vice-Chair. She will remain as Treasurer. Maggie Burns is the new Events Coordinator and will remain as Social Media Coordinator while we search for her replacement. Lisa Shroyer is joining the committee as Trip Leader Coordinator. On behalf of the BPX Trip Leaders and Members, a huge thank you to each of you for volunteering for these challenging positions. These changes ensure we continue building and delivering a quality program to our leaders and members.

UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

There currently are no more 2022 BPX trips with openings, but watch the CMC calendar in case any winter outings come up. And stay tuned for the 2023 BPX Trip Rollout event next March!

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

BPX TRIP REPORTS

Missouri Lakes and Fancy Lakes Loop Trail: 3 day, 11 mile trip

Trip Leaders Brad Cotten and Cheryl Harmel - Denver Group

Amazing trail with lots of elevation gain and incredible views! Our group took the CCW direction from the trailhead. We camped at Fancy Lake the first night and ascended Fancy Pass the next morning with challenging altitude and snow fields. Brad blazed the trail in the snow fields with his large footprints that he sunk extra deep. The view from the summit of Fancy Pass was breathtaking with stunning panoramic views of the Sawatch Range and the Treasure Vault. We camped at the Missouri Lake area the second night. I've been fortunate to do four backpacking trip this season and by far this one was the most challenging with the 3,600 ft. elevation gain and snow fields ... and worth every step with a really great group of fellow backpackers! -- Peggy Schafer



Ptarmigan Lake

Trip Leader Sandy Heise - Denver Group

Our BPX group of 5 backpacked to lovely Ptarmigan Lake at 12,132 ft, near Cottonwood Pass, in mid-September. That area has mountain views in all directions, several small lakes, and the vegetation was starting to show off its autumn colors so we were excited to be there. Due to the increasing wind and quick drop in temperature, we set up camp in the forest below Ptarmigan then hiked up to the lakes to explore the area and make a plan for the following day. We were well-prepared for the cold temps but the constant wind became a bit wearing. The gusts continued the next morning so we decided not to climb thirteener Jones Mountain. After hiking up to the pass, we also decided we'd like to get out of the wind, so we packed out and went to a nearby Forest Service campground for the second night. That was exactly the right decision! We had a stress-free dinner and shared libations under the stars while swapping tales and getting to know one another better. We'll have to go back under better conditions next year. This is definitely a pleasant destination. -- Sandy Heise



3rd Annual BPX Bash

A good day, a fun day. A perfect fall day. Great way to begin October. Wonderful to see folks and catch up. Great to meet new folks. Our Executive Director, Keegan Young, stopped by to chat with us, as did Madeline Bachner Lane, our Chief Education Officer, and Mary Bradley, CMC Member Services. Mary has worked with us from the beginning. New for this year was our Corn Hole Tournament. 8 teams battled down to last team standing. A hearty congratulations to Annie Legrand and Brian Burd of "Team Pikas". They crushed it. For their hard work, they each bring home a sweet Rec/Tailgate Corn Hole game. Hard to believe we're celebrating the end of our third season. Seems like the proverbial just yesterday when I was chatting with John Walters in November or December of 2019 in a WFA class about his and Linda Lawson's concept of a CMC Backpacking Section and would I be interested in helping out. Fast forward to the end of a 3rd successful season of growth and increased offerings to our members, led by our ever expanding BPX Trip Leader team, I'd say their vision was on target. I'm very much looking forward to our 2023 season. But first: Snow, Ice, Ski Climb. To all of our BPX members and trip leaders, to the BPX Committee, thank you for another great season! -- Uwe Sartori



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.

DENVER

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

CPR/AED FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS [Oct 25](#)

AIARE LEVEL 1 Starts [Jan 17](#) [Jan 20](#) [Jan 31](#) [Feb 3](#)

AIARE COMPANION RESCUE [Jan 23](#) [Jan 30](#)

PIKES PEAK (PPG)

GPS BASIC NAVIGATION Starts [Oct 25](#)

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL [Zoom Class Nov 14](#), [Field Day Nov 19](#)

WINTER WILDERNESS SURVIVAL [Classroom Mar 8](#), [Field Session Mar 11-12](#)

STATE

WILDERNESS FIRST AID Multiple Offerings - Check CMC Calendar [here](#)

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER Starts [Nov 11](#)

NAVIGATION Virtual Courses: [Nav1](#) [Nav2](#)

Continue to check the CMC website for courses as instructors are still entering their classes in the new system.

BPX GEAR TIP OF THE MONTH

Getting Your Summer Gear Ready for Hibernation

We talked about gear storage a couple of years ago but thought this is a good time of year to remind BPX'rs about how important it is for extending the life of your gear.

Tent

First make sure it is swept out and clean (including all the wrappers from the candy you were supposed to leave in your bear bag instead of your tent). You can use a mild, non-detergent soap or a product like [Nikwax Tent and Gear Solarwash](#). If your tent has been exposed to lots of dirt and sand, like camping in Utah, you can clean/lubricate its zippers with [Gear Aid Zipper Cleaner and Lubricant](#). Make sure your tent is completely dry, but don't leave it in the sun too long since UV rays can damage its fabric. Don't put it in an airtight bin or in its compression sack but instead store it unfolded, loosely rolled, or stuffed in an old pillowcase. This will allow the tent fabrics to relax and breathe as well as prevent hard creases that can cause weak areas in your tent's material and waterproofing.

Sleeping Bag

Make sure it is totally dried out and store it in the jumbo cotton storage bag it came with or in a large pillowcase. If left in a compression sack too long, its fill will not be able to loft up as well, making for colder tootsies next season. Don't wash it if you don't have to since this can cause your bag to wear out faster as well as its insulation to clump. But if it is dirty and/or smells funky, wash it according to the manufacture's instructions since body oils and dirt can degrade your bag's loft. (On the trail, consider using a sleeping bag liner to not only add additional warmth, but provide a protective layer from dirt, sweat, sunscreen bug spray, etc.).

Pad

Wipe your pad down with a gentle cleanser like [Gear Aid ReviveX Odor Eliminator](#) so its material doesn't degrade, especially if you use a quilt and sleep directly on it. If it is an air pad you inflate by mouth, moisture

can accumulate inside it, resulting in mold. You can dry out the inside by inflating and then deflating it a few times using a source other than your lungs like a pump or a hair dryer on low and held directly against or over your pad's valve. Then hang it up draped over a hanger or loosely folded to avoid creases and leave the valve open. If it is a self-inflating pad, leave it partially inflated tucked away under your bed (and away from the cat).

If you have a gear tip you would like to share or a suggestion for gear you would like to learn more about, please email cmcbpxnewsletter@gmail.com.

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.

COVID PROTOCOLS: Check [here](#) for latest CMC update on Feb 23. In the new system there is an optional COVID-19 badge you can request added to you profile indicating you are fully vaccinated.

COTREX WEBINARS: [Module 1](#) [Module 2](#)

FIRE INFO: [National Interagency Fire Center News](#) [Colorado Fire Restrictions](#)

I-70 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: Click [here](#)

For foothill outings, remember to check the website for your trip to make sure there are no closures due to mud, hunting, wildlife calving, etc.

LEAD THE PACK

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 cmcbpxtlc@gmail.com. More info on becoming a Leader can be found [here](#).

BPX COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The *BPX Committee Secretary* position is waiting to be filled by you, the extraordinary CMC volunteer. We have monthly committee meetings every second Tuesday via Zoom, and sometimes in person. Expect 4-8 hours per month of volunteer work; sometimes more. Business/committee/non-profit organization experience desirable, but not required. Reach out to find out more at cmcbpx@gmail.com.

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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