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BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

April 2022

CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

BPX Season 3 is off to a roaring start. See the chart below. Super stoked to see we are starting out of the gate strong, including our new car camping program. John Walters and Linda Lawson, who created the program, have volunteered to manage it. Thank you!

I'm doing the happy dance for weather that cooperates all season long, no trip cancelations due to fires, and our roster churn is tame. Feel free to join me. If you haven't snagged a trip, there are still plenty of 'seats' available. Keep your eye out for newly listed trips that didn't make the initial *BPX Member Trip Catalogs*. I expect more BPX Trip Leaders to post more trips throughout the summer. Your next great backpacking adventure awaits you. Don't be late in signing up for one!

# of BPX Trips	Roster Slots Available
31	SOLD OUT
10	1
5	2
4	3
6	4
4	5
2	6
Total BPX Trips Posted- 62	Total Roster Slots Available - 88

GEAR SHAKEDOWN TRIPS

Intended for those checking-out gear before season and/or new to backpacking.

- April 28-29: Pike National Forest
- May 14-15: Colorado Trail – Intended for those wanting to do a long trail this summer with focus on lightweight backpacking and navigation using FarOut & COTREX
- May 27-28: Nederland Front Range Trail
- June 17-18: Mayflower and Mohawk Lakes, White River NF

UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

Trip registration is initially restricted to 3 BPX Backpacking and/or Car Camping trips, whether you are on 3 separate trip rosters, 3 standby lists, or a combination thereof. However, BPX members can now sign up for any of the trips listed below, regardless of how many BPX trips they have already registered for on the CMC Calendar.

E=Easy M=Moderate D=Difficult

April-May Trips With Openings*

Apr 28-29 Thu-Fri E [GEAR SHAKEDOWN, Leaders Choice](#)

May 27-28 Fri-Sat E [GEAR SHAKEDOWN, Near Nederland, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest](#)

May Trips With 0-1 on Standby List*

May 1-3 Sun-Tue M [CAMPING Trip to Great Sand Dunes National Park Pinon Flats Campground](#)

May 14-15 Sat-Sun M [GEAR SHAKEDOWN, CT Segment 3 - Morrison Creek, Buffalo Creek Wilderness](#)

May 16-19 Mon-Thu M [CAMPING Trip to Dinosaur National Monument](#)

*As Of Apr 20

Continue to check CMC trip signup for additional trips. For just BPX trips, select Backpacking from the Section dropdown and then click the Search button.

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

SCHOOLS/EVENTS

DENVER

[BACKPACKING SCHOOL \(BKPS\)](#) Starts [Jun 7](#)

[DAY HIKER SCHOOL](#) Virtual Alternative to Wilderness Trekking School. More info [here](#)

[CPR/AED](#) [Apr 27](#)

[WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SCHOOL \(WSS\)](#) Starts [May 18](#)

[BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SCHOOL](#) [Jun 18](#) [Jul 16](#) [Aug 20](#)

NORTHERN COLORADO (NoCo)

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING Starts [Apr 28](#)

PIKES PEAK (PPG)

WILDERNESS FIRST AID with CPR/AED Starts [Apr 21](#) [Oct 13](#)

GPS BASICS CLASS [May 9](#) [Oct 24](#)

BMS - WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS Starts [Jun 6](#) [Sept 12](#)

BMS - INTRO TO BACKPACKING Starts [Jul 6](#) [Aug 15](#)

BMS - LAND NAVIGATION B Starts [Oct 5](#)

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL More info [here](#)

STATE

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

HYBRID WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER Starts [May 10](#)

2-DAY WILDERNESS FIRST AID [Den: Apr 23](#) [Jun 11](#) [Jul 9](#) [Aug 27](#)

TCS NAVIGATION Virtual Courses: [Nav1/Nav2 Info \(every month\)](#), [Nav1](#), [Nav2](#)

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The CMC Education Team is hosting the May 20-22 Leadership Summit event for all leaders in training, current trip leaders, instructors, and directors.



Highlights:

[Friday May 20, Reel Rock 16 Screening](#) - Open to **all** (leaders are FREE)

- All who register get 1 drink and snack ticket!

[Saturday May 21, Leadership Summit](#) - Open to all **volunteer leadership** and leaders in training (FREE)

- Pancake/mimosa breakfast!
- First 50 registrants receive free leader t-shirt!

THE COMPASS - Pat McKinley

Little Scraggy Peak

The Colorado Trail, CT, is one of the premier long-distance backpacking trails in the United States. The CT provides a plethora of scenery, challenges, and opportunities. One of these is Little Scraggy Peak. My original reason for climbing Little Scraggy was to find an off-trail challenge for a CMC Map and Compass class I was teaching. My purpose wasn't a long, difficult trek but rather a short, interesting, and slightly devious off-trail compass course that would challenge the students and emphasize route, finding and observation techniques.

The CT Little Scraggy Peak trailhead, Segment #3, is located just north of the Peak. If you are hiking Segment #3 or just car camping, good access and camping sites are available along FS Road 550 and at the Kelsey FS campsite located on County Road 126 a few miles south of the trailhead. An additional “attraction” is a single-track mountain bike trail that was developed by the MTB project and circles the base of the mountain.

Off trail map and compass enthusiasts will enjoy the complexity of the terrain and the route-finding challenge. If you are backpacking the CT or camping for a couple days in the area, add Little Scraggy to your list of activities for an interesting, non-technical rock climb or just a good day hike.

Little Scraggy has twin peaks. The USGS Green Mountain Quadrangle notes the 9192 ft. southern peak to be a few feet higher than the northern peak. Depending on where you start your hike, you will gain about 1000 ft. over 4 to 6 miles round trip. Of course, if you get lost these statistics could be quite different.

Q&A With Backpackers (and Car Campers) Bob & Bobbi

Dear Backpackers Bob & Bobbi,

I am really excited to see Car Camping trips this year on the BPX calendar—carrying my house on my back is not my idea of a good time. I do have some questions, though, since Car Camping is new this year.

Sincerely,
Happy Car Camper

Dear Happy Camper,

Fire away with your questions:

How is the fee handled for campground reservations? *Trip Leaders reserve campsites and pay the fees up front. Members reimburse them at signup. That’s why you have to register with the Trip Leader instead signing up directly on the CMC Calendar.*

What happens with the fee if I have to cancel? *Campsite reservation fees are nonrefundable. This avoids leaders having to eat someone else’s cancellation, and also reduces roster churn--a huge problem for CMC. Campers should truly intend to go, then make it happen.*

What about food; do I just bring dehydrated meals like I would for a backpacking trip; do we bring food to share; how do I keep my food safe from critters while I’m out hiking? *Leaders may plan a group meal or 2, but generally each member brings their own meals. Most campgrounds have food storage lockers, others require storing food in cars, and a few require bear canisters. Leaders will clarify meals and food storage requirements ahead of time. Bobbi finds this a great way to learn new ways to fix food and eat in the outdoors!*

Can I bring my 10-man tent and electric generator; what about my RV, my dog, and my boombox? *BPX leaders reserve campsites assuming 2 people share a site with either 2 single or 1 double tent per site, with costs shared by the 2. If you want to use a larger tent that needs the entire tent pad, leaders will try to accommodate you, although an additional campsite may not still be available. No generators and no RVs. RV camping is another genre. Most car camping reservations are made at sites for group tents or tents-only. No dogs unless the trip is posted as a doggie hike. No boomboxes or any sounds that can disturb neighbors. The general rule for outdoor camping is, no sounds should be made in camp that can be heard by other campers.*

Can I just hang out at camp instead of hiking or do something else instead? *You will need to check with your*

Trip Leader. They may offer a variety of activities in addition to hiking. That's one of the benefits of car camping. Alternate activities will be listed in the CMC.org trip posting or planned and approved before the trip by the Trip Leader. However, BPX for liability reasons as well as common courtesy, does not want members to arrive late, leave early, or take off on their own during a trip. Camping is a group activity, designed to develop a community of like-minded friends.

Will there be flush toilets and running water or just an outhouse? *Most campgrounds have vault toilets, a few have flush toilets. A very few have hot water and showers. (At least you don't have to dig a cat hole).*

Can I bring alcoholic beverages? *Most but not all campgrounds allow alcohol. Check with your Leader ahead of time.*

Can we have campfires? *Some places yes, some no. Depends on the campground and the local fire hazards. Leaders will clarify on each trip. We never bring firewood from outside the area but instead buy it from the camp host or visitors center. Campfires may be the best reason to car camp since they are discouraged on backpacking trips into the wilderness.*

*See ya' on the trails (or in the campground),
Bob & Bobbi Backpacker*

BPX MEMBER INFO

BPX FACEBOOK: [BPX FB](#) Send Photos and Trips Reports to feature on the 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, [here](#) for CMC Member Benefits, and [here](#) for discounted Colorado State Parks Pass.

COVID PROTOCOLS: Check [here](#) for latest CMC update on Feb 23.

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

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

COLORADO AVALANCHE INFO: 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

WELCOME NEW BPX TRIP LEADERS

Sean Williams, Pikes Peak Group
Sue Ahlberg, Denver
Cheryl Harmel, Denver

NEW BPX TRIP LEADER BENEFIT

Trip Leaders who claimed trips before the BPX Member Trip Roll Out are receiving an E-book version of the NOLS Wilderness First Aid book.

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. There are a variety of paths to becoming a BPX Trip Leader, and the BPX Team will help you get there. Let's talk! More info on the paths to becoming a Leader can be found [here](#).

BPX COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The *BPX Committee Secretary* and the *BPX Events Coordinator* positions are waiting to be filled by you, the extraordinary CMC volunteer. We have monthly committee meetings every second Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 via Zoom, and sometimes in person. Expect 4-8 hours per month of volunteer work; sometimes more. Business/committee/non-profit organization volunteer experience is desirable, but not required. Reach out to find out more at cmcbpx@gmail.com.

Want to contribute to "The Pack"? Send your backpacking photos and articles to cmcbpxnewsletter@gmail.com so we can feature it in our Backcountry Cache Newsletter. Please include your name, location, and date.

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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