



PLAY LEARN EXPLORE PROTECT YOUTH RENEW



BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

October 2021

CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

What a gorgeous day for the 2nd Backpacking Section (BPX) Birthday Bash held this past Saturday, October 16th at Staunton State Park! We increased our 'party' participation by almost 60% over last year. It was great to see friends and make new ones. We tossed some horseshoes and bocci balls around, too. To Keegan Young, our CMC Executive Director, thank you very much for breaking out of a busy climbing day and sharing time with us. Thank you Danielle, (our BPX Events Coordinator), and to her team for putting together a program enjoyed by all of us who attended. Smiles all around.



Congratulations to Linda Lawson and John Walters on their BPX Explorer Awards for completing the most trips this season, 7 and 5 respectively. (Linda and John were the main 'movers and shakers' who built the BPX Backpacking Section; they are still leading the *Pack!*). The BPX Boots Awards for the combined most

days spent and miles traveled went to Linda Lawson--72 miles and 21 days, and Kevin Galliers--66 miles and 9 days. Congratulations! We had gifts for all the leaders who led trips. Some cool door prizes were given away, too. Thanks to all who attended. For those who missed it, come next year!

With the close of our season, time to reflect on the good:

- 26 BPX Trip Leaders from the Denver, Pikes Peak, El Pueblo, Western Slope and Gore Range groups completed 51 backpacking trips for a total of 148 CMC backpacking days. That represents about a 100% increase in trips completed over the 2021 season.
- Of the 26 trip leaders, 12 led their first BPX Trip.
- We now have 57 Backpack Trip Leaders--a year-over-year increase of 52%.
- Over 200 CMC BPX members experienced some of the best wilderness areas Colorado has to offer. Almost a 200% increase in member participation over the prior season.
- Sponsored 2 gear check events at Chatfield Reservoir and Muller State Park.
- Our Social Media Team, Maggie Burns and Dinorah Osorio Lebron, grew our Facebook Group page from 0 members to over 600 and counting.
- Published 11 excellent monthly newsletters for our members.
- Sponsored a couple of Zoom clinics learning about the Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX), the map app we use in building our annual CMC BPX Section Backpacking Trips Catalog.
- Participated in a joint venture trip with the CMC High Peaks Section.
- Sponsored a new members backpack trip.

We have challenges ahead of us:

- Increasing the number of BPX leaders leading trips, which in turn will increase the total number of trips offered. The demand is there. We have more capacity available, but can't deliver when only 50% of our BPX leaders lead a trip.
- Reducing our trip cancellations. We had 28 trips cancel in 2021.
- Addressing roster churn. Roster churn is not unique to the CMC Backpacking Section. It is a club-wide issue. A real bummer for the trip leaders who bust their tails to deliver great trips, only to have them cancel because everybody drops off. That must stop!

A huge thank you to the CMC state office and the Denver Group Council for their support, especially Sandy Heise, who is our Liaison from the Denver Group Council. A massively huge and humble thank you to the 26 trip leaders who led in 2021. Without you, all would be lost. To the BPX members we serve, thank you for being a part of a great CMC section. Your support and participation are what drives us in our attempt to deliver the best backpacking trips and programs available; exclusively to you.

I'd like to end with a personal thank you and shout-out to the excellent team serving on the BPX Committee: Steve Wolf, Vice-Chair and in charge of Trip Development; Louise Campbell-Blair, Treasurer; Mercedes Aponte, Secretary; Mike Holden, Membership Research & IT; Randy Blosser, Special Projects; Leila Murphy, Communications & Newsletter Editor; Maggie Burns and Dinorah Osorio Lebron, Social Media; and Danielle Piscatelli, Events. Working together, they delivered an awesome 2021 backpacking program.

We are working on building an even bigger and better 2022 CMC Backpacking Season. Our 2022 theme is MORE! More members, more leaders, and more trips. Stay tuned!

BPX 2021 TRIP LEADERS

2021 BPX Leaders Who Completed Trip(s) (#) (CMC Group)	2021 BPX Leaders Who Completed Trip(s) (#) (CMC Group)	2021 BPX Leaders Leading Their 1st Trip
Bob Legrand (2) (Denver)	Linda Lawson (7) (Denver)	Carol Munch
Brad Cotten (2) (Denver)	Linda Taipale (1) (Denver)	Daniel Schweissing
Brian Burd (2) (Denver)	Lisa Shroyer (2) (Denver)	Glenn Barr
Carol Munch (1) (Denver)	Louise Campbell Blair (1) (Denver)	John Broadbrooks
Dale Plaff (2) (Gore Range)	Mercedes Aponte (2) (Denver)	Linda Jagger
Daniel Schweissing (2) (Denver)	Randy Blosser (1) (Denver)	Linda Taipale
Glenn Barr (1) (Pikes Peak)	Robert Dawson (1) (Denver)	Lisa Shroyer
Grayson Garner (3) (Denver)	Sharon Dawson (1) (Denver)	Louise Campbell Blair
Janet Martel (2) (Denver)	Steve Norman (1) (Denver)	Steve Norman
John Broadbrooks (3) Western Slope)	Steve Wolf (1) (Denver)	Steve Wolf
John Walters (5) (Denver)	Tim Musil (1) (Denver)	Tim Musil
Kevin Galliers (2) (Denver)	Uwe Sartori (5) (Denver)	William Greer
Linda Jagger (1) (Denver)	William Greer (1) Pueblo	

ANNUAL BPX MEMBER SURVEY

It's time for you to let us know what you thought about this season's backpacking program. The BPX committee needs your help in making next season even better. You will receive an invitation to complete a short survey in a couple of days. Please complete this by Friday, October 29 and let us know what you think.

Thank you!



Last Backpack of the Season: Colorado Trail, Segment 3; October 15-16; Led by Daniel Schweissing

Photo Credit: Albert Keam

SCHOOLS/EVENTS

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

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

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

STATE - 2-DAY WILDERNESS FIRST AID: [Oct 29-30](#)

STATE - CAMPSITE COOKING WITH WILD EATS WEBINAR: [Nov 9](#)

FORT COLLINS - 2-DAY WILDERNESS FIRST AID: [Nov 20-21](#)

GLENWOOD SPRINGS - HYBRID WILDERNESS FIRST AID: [Nov 20](#)

STATE - HYBRID WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER: [Nov 30 & Dec 4-5 & 11-12](#)

BOULDER - AIARE AVALANCHE LEVEL 1:

- [Dec 2](#)
- [Dec 9](#)
- [Dec 16](#)
- [Jan 6](#)
- [Jan 13](#)
- [Jan 20](#)
- [Jan 27](#)

- [Feb 3](#)
- [Feb 10](#)
- [Feb 24](#)

DENVER - AVALANCHE TERRAIN AVOIDANCE (ATA):

- Morning Seminar: [Dec 11](#) Afternoon Field Day: [Dec 11](#)
- Morning Seminar: [Jan 8](#) Afternoon Field Day: [Jan 8](#)
- Morning Seminar: [Feb 5](#) Afternoon Field Day: [Feb 5](#)
- Morning Seminar: [Feb 19](#) Afternoon Field Day: [Feb 19](#)

DENVER - AIARE LEVEL 1, DECISION MAKING IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN:

- [Jan 21-23](#)
- [Jan 24-26](#)
- [Feb 18-20](#)
- [Feb 21-23](#)

THE COMPASS - Pat McKinley

The Trailhead

We finished September's discussion with the important but unpopular *Pre-Trip* call. When appropriate, use these calls as a means to establish a relationship as you discuss the route, technical equipment, or additional gear needed to prepare for unique weather or trail and parking conditions. This may allow you to explore questions of experience and skills. A team member's special skill in first aid, their past experience with the route, experience in area history or botanical uniqueness can all contribute to the other trip members' enjoyment.

Make sure you know of any team member's special concerns or requirements, such as medical conditions. People should volunteer this information since it is their safety that is at stake but typically do not unless given the opportunity or are asked directly. Trailhead introductions are frequently used for these questions but are not the best place to obtain what is often considered private information. Also, it is difficult to tell someone at the trailhead that the trip is not appropriate for them.

If you have spoken to each person that you don't know, then you might have a small bit of information you can share at the trailhead. Think of the impact if you introduce each person by calling their name and sharing something like "Jack likes to fish". Have Jack identify himself by raising his hand, and then have Jack share something.

Expect the unexpected. At the trailhead of a high-altitude snowshoe trip, I had a student sheepishly approach me to mention he had a "small heart attack" a few months earlier and hadn't been at altitude since, but wanted to participate to see if he could make it. Hmmm..... Or the student who collapsed behind me from a seizure and who didn't think it was important to tell me he had one a year ago. Yes, both had been asked and give the opportunity to tell me as their WTS instructor many weeks before these hikes. Expect the unexpected!

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 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 Aug 9. These protocols and the recommendations in the BPX Ride Share Suggested Protocols [here](#), are tools for BPX Trip Leaders to use in planning their backpacking trips. We'll send additional updates as they come out.

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

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

LEAD THE PACK

WELCOME NEW BPX TRIP LEADERS

Connor Jacobs, Denver
Lynda Law, Western Slope

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!

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.**

JOIN

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

710 10th Street, Suite 200
Golden, CO | 80401 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.