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BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

July 2023

CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

"Half-way through the season and the best is yet to come" is the apt phrase. After a slow start, the Backpacking Section is moving into high gear with multiple backpacking trips almost every week through September. Our season runs through October so keep checking since new trips continue to post. I'm sure your special trip is there waiting for you to sign up. I want to encourage the BPX Trip Leaders and trip participants to share your pictures and stories. How was it? Special moments? Gear stories. Bear, moose, and raccoon stories work, too.

Denver's Wilderness Trekking School (WTS) fall session starts on Sept 5. It's a great way to expand your backcountry skill set, and I highly recommend it if you haven't taken this class or it's been a while and you could use a refresher. Click [here](#) to see the WTS brochure. The last Backcountry Incident Management School (BIMS) session is Sept 23. I encourage all Trip Leaders to take this course. Click [here](#) for the BIMS brochure.

I've good news to share with you: Susan Quechenberger and Craig Townsend have joined the CMC Backpacking Section Committee as Membership Coordinator and Trips Team Assistant, respectively. Both are avid backpackers, long on experience, and committed to the club and volunteering. I'm excited they are on board and look forward to their contributions.

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 August 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

July-August Trips With Openings*

Jul 28-30 Fri-Sun D [Bear Lakes and Flattop Mtn. from Lone Pine North TH](#)
Jul 31-Aug 2 Mon-Wed M [Fancy, Treasure Vault and Missouri Lakes from Missouri Lake/Fancy Pass TH](#)

Aug 2-4 Wed-Fri E [Brady Lake from Sopris Lake TH](#)
Aug 4-6 Fri-Sun M [Meadow Creek Trail to Eccles Pass and climb Buffalo Peak](#)
Aug 9-11 Wed-Fri M [Ptarmigan Lake from Ptarmigan Lake TH](#)
Aug 10-13 Thu-Sun D [Avalanche Lake from Avalanche Creek TH](#)
Aug 15-20 Tue-Sun D [CDT Wolf Creek Pass Lobo TH to Weminuche Pass Rio Grande Reservoir 30 Mile TH](#)
Aug 17-20 Thu-Sun D [Avalanche Lake from Avalanche Creek TH](#)
Aug 23-25 Wed-Fri D [Comanche Venable Figure-eight from Comanche Venable TH](#)
Aug 26-28 Sat-Mon E [Turquoise Lake Printer Boy Campground Camping Trip](#)

July-August Trips With 0-1 on Waitlist*

Jul 28-30 Fri-Sun D [Colorado Trail - Segments 4 & 5 from the Rolling Creek TH](#)
Jul 22-23 Sat-Sun M [American Lakes from American Lakes TH](#)
Jul 23-24 Sun-Mon D [Crater Lake from Monarch Lake TH](#)
Jul 31-Aug 2 Mon-Wed E [Mosquito Lake from Stillwater Reservoir/Hike over Devils Causeway](#)

Aug 4-6 Fri-Sun M [East Inlet Trail Rocky Mountain National Park](#)
Aug 5-8 Sat-Tue M [Blue Lake and CDT from Conejos River TH](#)
Aug 11-13 Fri-Sun D [Rawah Crater Lakes and McIntyre Lake loop from West Branch TH](#)
Aug 11-13 Fri-Sun M [Rogers Pass Lake from East Portal TH](#)
Aug 16-18 Wed-Fri M [Colorado Trail - Segment 3 from the Little Scraggy TH](#)
Aug 25-27 Fri-Sun D [Deep Lake and Heart Lake from Sheep Lake TH returning over Medicine Bow Peak](#)
Aug 25-27 Fri-Sun D [Colorado Trail - Segment 6 from Kenosha Pass West TH](#)
Aug 28-31 Mon-Thu M [Larson and Crystal Lake Loop from Crystal Larson TH](#)

*As Of July 20. 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

WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL (WTS) Starts Sept 5. [Registration Now Open.](#)

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

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL More info [here](#)

CPR/AED [Aug 1](#)

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](#)

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

Continue to check the CMC website for additional courses.

BPX TRIP REPORTS

Elliott Ridge/Gore Range Trail, Eagles Nest Wilderness

Trip Leader Bob Dawson - Denver Group

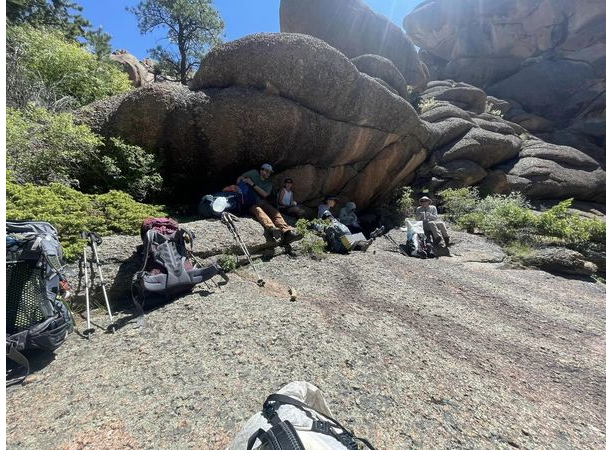
Another successful BPX trip complete, this one to the Gore Range's Elliott Ridge area, great trip, fun group, all went perfectly! We had a cool Moose show (eat, bathe, swim, scamper off) the first night at one of my favorite campsites (unnamed lakes down from Elliott ridge). Thanks everyone for coming and making this a great time!



McCurdy Park Loop, Lost Creek Wilderness

Trip Leader Dania Spohn - Pikes Peak Group

A fantastic 3 Day 2 night BPX trip to the McCurdy Park loop from the Goose Creek TH. Not a cloud in the sky all weekend long. The rock formations never ceased to amaze and the contrast with the cobalt blue sky was spectacular! We shared tips and experiences of wild adventures and kicked start the backpacking season in true BPX fashion.



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

Snagging Campsites

A recent Wall Street Journal article by Allison Pohle identified website services that scan campsite reservations for cancellations and send notifications to subscribers. Here are 3 verified sites:

[Campflare](#) - Free service but asks for donations. Every 45 seconds it scans for cancellations at all campgrounds that are reservable on Recreation.gov, including all National Parks and National Forests as well as 23 State Parks. It has both an IOS app and a website. Both are free and let you receive fast availability alerts. Users indicate campgrounds and the dates they are interested in and receive a notification when a campsite in that campground for the selected dates has been canceled. Users then make their own reservations.

[CampScanner](#) - Subscription service with plans running from \$39 to \$79/year depending on the frequency and the number of concurrent scans. It tracks cancellations at campgrounds listed on Recreation.gov. Subscribers indicate campgrounds and the dates they are interested in and receive a text when a campsite in that campground for the selected dates has been canceled. Subscribers then make their own reservations.

[CAMPNAB](#) - Offers a pay-per-use fee ranging from \$10 – \$20, as well as memberships starting at \$10/month, affording frequent campers more options. Actual cost depends on the frequency and concurrent number of scans. Includes campsites in Canada as well as National Parks, National Forests, and State Parks in the US. It can also scan more than 650 permits and tickets (tours, passes, permits, day use, backcountry, etc.) booked through Recreation.gov. It offers custom filters including specific campsites in a campground; whether there are electrical hook ups, etc. As with the other services, subscribers are notified via a text message when a spot opens up for the desired site/dates. Subscribers then make their own reservations.

(Courtesy of Linda Lawson)

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](#) [Info on Current Devils Thumb Closure](#)

Reminder that COTREX shows current closures due to incidents like wildfires whereas Gaia and other apps do not. [Here](#) is an example of the High Lonesome Trail closure due to the fire burning in that area.

SAVE
THE DATE

Reserved for BPX Members

BPX BASH

- Saturday, October 7
- Lunch provided
- Clement Park
- Lawn games
- Shelter "N"
- Celebrate a successful season!

Address: 7306 W Bowles Ave, Littleton, CO 80123



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 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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