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## BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

September 2022

### CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

Wow, did summer actually happen? Yes, though for me, it *Zoomed!* How about for you? Already, fall colors are dominating the high country, with the official start of the fall season just days away. Our 2022 CMC Backpacking Section season is winding down. It is the summer vacation you never want to end. Checking, I see the few pending BPX trips are filled, making for a great end to another successful season.

While there is more data to compile, I am happy to report we enjoyed continued growth. Trips completed were up from last year; more leaders led; more BPX members went on trips; less trips canceled; roster churn was down. We had 3 of BPX events and participated in the CMC Mountain Fest. On a roll; let's celebrate! I personally invite you to our 3rd Annual BPX Bash. I guarantee you will be glad you came. More details below.

### BPX BASH 2022

**Clement Park in Littleton - October 1, 10:00am - 1:00pm**

Don't miss our 3rd Annual BPX Bash, celebrating the 2022 Backpacking season! Featured this year are a Corn Hole Tournament, tacos, drinks, drawings, awards and recognition for our BPX Trip Leaders, and a short program recapping the season. Come celebrate with us, the BPX Committee, at Clement Park, covered Picnic Shelter !! It's free and an exclusive benefit for our BPX Members. Don't dally, registration is limited! Plus all BPX members attending the Bash will receive a Kool Tie.

[Register](#)



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## UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

Here's one way to find BPX trips on the new CMC website:

- On the Menu Bar at the top of the CMC Home page, hover over Education & Adventure and select the Find Trips option
- From the Find Trips Search Filter section on the left side of the Trips page, click the Backpacking Section box under the "With this group/section..." search block.

E=Easy M=Moderate D=Difficult

### Trips With 0-1 on Standby List\*

Sep 24-26 Sat-Mon D [Willow Lake & Mount Adams](#)

Sep 30-Oct 1 Fri-Sat M [Crystal Lakes](#)

Oct 22-24 Sat-Mon D [Wheeler Geologic Area](#)

\*As Of Sept 20

Continue to check the CMC trip signup since trips that are currently full may have openings if participants cancel, and leaders may still add October trips.

For now, members on waitlists will receive a notice from the trip leader to signup for the roster if a slot opens up. You can check with the trip leader if you are unsure of your status.

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

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## SCHOOLS/EVENTS

### DENVER

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

CPR/AED FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS [Sep 26](#)

### PIKES PEAK (PPG)

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

GPS BASIC NAVIGATION Starts [Oct 25](#)

## 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.

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## BPX TRIP REPORTS

### 5-Pass Tour De Horn, San Juans

Trip Leaders Bob and Sharon Dawson - Denver Group

Our CMC BPX group of 7 just completed the "2nd annual 5-pass tour de horn" loop in the San Juan's. Tough but gorgeous hike with a great group! This year we went clockwise around the loop, allowing us to have a short 3rd day (wet forecast) vs. a short 1st day (good forecast). I think going clockwise worked great, though CCW works fine too.



### State Forest State Park, Walden - BPX Car Camping Trip

Trip Leaders Linda Lawson and John Walters - Denver Group

#### "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE MOOSE KIND"

We were warned. Yes, the Crags Campground website alerted campers of a young female moose in the area that was helping herself to any food left on picnic tables, so clear the tables each night. Ok, done, no problem - right! - Not quite.

Moose sighting #1 - as we drove into Crags Campground a female moose crossed directly in front of the car.

Moose sighting #2 - well, not quite a sighting, but when all were secure for the night within our tents, "clomp, clomp, clomp, clomp - chew, chew, chew" was heard as a moose passed by. Comparing notes the next morning 4 of us had similar thoughts - "Geez, hope it doesn't step on me, or pee on my tent".

Moose sighting #3 - as 2 campers were storing their food in their car (no bear vaults were available), a female moose exited the forest and came towards them. Throwing food boxes in the trunk, one camper jumped in the car and locked the door while the other walked backwards out of the campsite to the road. The female moose sniffed around the car and discovered a cardboard box accidentally dropped when the moose surprised the camper. Rearing up on her hind legs, the moose stomped the carton until its

contents were spread on the ground. The moose then proceeded to eat butterscotch cookies, plastic container included. Honking the car horn did not deter the visitor which was not interested in leaving, just hanging around, sniffing for more cookies probably. After a while with no more dessert, the moose checked out other campsites chewing on grasses as she slowly moved along.

Sighting #4 - while hiking, 2 bull moose were below us on a trail--not ours fortunately.

Sighting #5 - early morning while exiting the bathroom, a camper finds mamma moose and baby coming into the campsite from the forest; another camper opens her tent to find baby moose inquisitively nosing her tent fly. Mamma and baby ambled around and continued their leisurely morning walk through the campsite.

As nature lovers, wildlife sightings are wondrous, but not so close and personal as these Close Encounters of the Moose Kind



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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](mailto:maggie.burns1@gmail.com), and she will post them for you on FB. Send them to [cmcbpxnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cmcbpxnewsletter@gmail.com) to publish in the BPX Newsletter.

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## BPX GEAR TIP OF THE MONTH

### Pack Liner or Pack Cover

Spending time in the backcountry, especially during Colorado's monsoon season, is almost a guarantee that you'll get wet. But it's important that you keep essential pieces of gear like your sleeping bag, camp clothes, and electronics dry. While there are waterproof backpacks (make sure the seams are sealed), most backpackers use either a pack liner or a pack cover. Here are some pros and cons when considering which one is right for you.

#### PACK LINER

For a liner you can use something as cheap as a compactor (not contractor) bag (2.5 oz), a [Nylofume](#) bag (0.9 oz), or one from [Gossamer Gear](#) (1.2 oz); backpack-specific liners like [Peregrine](#) (3 oz), [Six Moons Design](#) (3 oz), or [Sea To Summit](#) (3.4 oz); or ultralight (and expensive) ones from [Hyperlite Mountain Gear](#) (2 oz) and [Zpacks](#) (1.8 oz).



## Pros

- More effective in keeping your gear dry from rain, wet grass, or falling into a stream.
- Lightweight
- Provides a divider to separate dry gear from wet or muddy items.

## Cons

- Have to remember to put it in first when packing.
- Does not keep the outside of your pack dry, which can add several ounces of water weight until it dries out. Also will not keep the contents of your pack's outside pockets dry.

## PACK COVER

### Pros

- Usually comes with the pack so not an additional cost.
- Keeps outside of your pack dry, including exterior pockets.
- Can protect your pack from mud and snagging on brush.

### Cons

- Covers are going to leak. The pack's backpanel is a vulnerable place for rain to go down your back and seep into your pack. Your shoulder straps and hip belt will still get drenched too, and water dripping off the cover can soak your butt if you are not wearing rain pants.
- Does not protect your gear if you fall into a river.
- It's harder to grab your water bottle and things from your outside pockets.
- Can snag on bushes possibly dislodging it so it's no longer fully covering your pack.
- Must stop to put it on.
- Typically weigh more than a liner although the [Zpacks cover](#) only weighs 1.4 oz.

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](mailto:cmcbpxnewsletter@gmail.com).

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## BPX MEMBER INFO

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

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

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## BPX COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The *BPX Committee Secretary* and *Events Coordinator* positions are 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](mailto:cmcbpx@gmail.com).

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### *CMC Backpacking Section Supports Leave No Trace*

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**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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