



PLAY LEARN EXPLORE PROTECT YOUTH RENEW



# BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

June 2024

## CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

Feedback on the change from the 'Big Bang' sign-up to the 'Month-In-Advance Sign-up' has been mostly positive. Not sure it resolved much in terms of the 'Roster Churn'. That just might be the way it is. BPX Members, like all CMC Members, have the freedom to sign-up and drop-off--life and things change, even on the spur of the moment. That's ok. Rather than grouching about BPX Member roster churn, pivot to easy. Do your best to keep the commitment to yourself and to your fellow mates to enjoy a wonderful backpacking or camping adventure exploring the beauty and wonders of the Colorado landscape. However, if you see you are not going, please cancel as soon as possible, giving the BPX Trip Leader time to bring onboard a potential standby.

Our BPX season is unfolding nicely: 44 trips on tap with more to be added. If you go, please share your stories and photos with the BPX community through our FB page. Or just send them to [Maggie Burns](#), our Social Media Coordinator, and/or [Leila Murphy](#), our Newsletter Editor. We all want to hear about your adventure!

Important Note - There have been some solid improvements in the managing of BPX Member data. BPX Trip sign-ups now require a prerequisite BPX Member Badge. (Check your profile. If it's not there, please contact [Susan Quechenberger](#), our Membership Coordinator.) With these improvements, we'll be able to send out renewal reminders as well as welcome new members. The BPX Member Badge is tied to being a currently paid member of the Backpacking Section. When joining CMC or renewing, make sure you check the box for Backpacking Section. A shoutout of appreciation to Scott Kramer, Jeff Flax, and the CMC staff, especially Ashley Hanlon, for their awesome work in coordinating and testing these new IT functionalities.

Last, but not least, the BPX Committee would like to welcome back Sandy Heise as our Denver Group Council Liaison. We're both fortunate and grateful to have her with us again.

## UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

Trips will typically open up 30 days prior to their start date (trips requiring camping or permit fees may open up sooner), and there is no limit on the number of BPX trips you can go on! However, you must be a member of the BPX Section to join a BPX Trip.

E=Easy M=Moderate C=Challenging D=Difficult

### Upcoming Trips with Openings\*

Jul 1-2	Mon-Tue	M	<a href="#">French Pass from French Creek TH</a>	
Jul 9-14	Tue-Sun	C	<a href="#">Colorado Trail - Segments 18-21 from CO Highway 114 TH</a>	
Jul 11-13	Thu-Sat	C	<a href="#">Cathedral Lake/Option Electric Pass from Cathedral Lake TH</a>	
Jul 13-14	Sat-Sun	M	<a href="#">Lamphier Lake from Gold Creek TH</a>	
Jul 14-16	Sun-Tue	C	<a href="#">Cathedral Lake with option for Electric Pass from Cathedral Lake TH</a>	
Jul 19-20	Fri-Sat	M	<a href="#">Native Lake from Native Lake TH</a>	
Jul 19-22	Fri-Mon	D	<a href="#">Colorado Trail Segments 4 &amp; 5 from Rolling Creek TH</a>	
Jul 22-24	Mon-Wed	E	<a href="#">Colorado Trail Segment 11 South from Mt Elbert TH</a>	Opens Jun 21, 8am
Jul 24-26	Wed-Fri	M	<a href="#">Never Summer in RMNP from Colorado River TH</a>	Opens Jun 24 8:30am
Jul 27-28	Sat-Sun	M	<a href="#">American Lakes from American Lakes TH</a>	Opens Jun 27, 5pm
Jul 29-31	Mon-Wed	M	<a href="#">Elliot Ridge and Gore Range from Elliot Ridge TH</a>	
Aug 1-3	Thu-Sat	E	<a href="#">Brady Lake from Sopris Lake TH</a>	
Aug 5-7	Mon-Wed	C	<a href="#">McCurdy Park from Lost Park TH</a>	Opens Jul 5, 8:30am
Aug 5-7	Mon-Wed	C	<a href="#">Lawn Lake in RMNP from Lawn Lake TH</a>	Opens Jul 5, 8am

### Upcoming Trips with 0-1 on Waitlist\*

Jun 24-28	Mon-Fri	C	<a href="#">Camp - Grand Canyon North Rim Campground</a>	
Jul 5-7	Fri-Sun	D	<a href="#">Colorado Trail Segments 4 &amp; 5 from Rolling Creek TH</a>	
Jul 7-9	Sun-Tue	M	<a href="#">Finch Lake from Finch Lake TH</a>	
Jul 8-10	Mon-Wed	C	<a href="#">Cathedral Lake with option for Electric Pass from Cathedral Lake TH</a>	
Jul 16-18	Tue-Thu	M	<a href="#">Never Summer in RMNP from Colorado River TH</a>	

\*As Of June 19. 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 or Waitlist with your waitlist position. 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 to open up a spot for the next person.

[Mountain Side Gear Rental](#) in Golden rents backpacking gear with a 10% discount for CMC Members.

---

## SCHOOLS/EVENTS

### DENVER

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

[WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL \(WTS\)](#) Starts [Sep 3](#)

[TRIP LEADER SCHOOL](#) More info [here](#)

[INTO TO HIKING SAFETY](#) [Jun 26](#) [Jul 24](#)

[CPR/AED](#) [Jun 25](#)

[BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT](#) [Sep 14](#)

### PIKES PEAK

[WTS WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS](#) Starts [Sep 16](#)

## STATE

WILDERNESS FIRST AID/FIRST RESPONDER Multiple Offerings - Check CMC Website [here](#)

Continue to check the CMC Website for additional courses.

---

## BPX TRIP REPORTS

### Saddlehorn Campground - Colorado National Monument

#### Trip Leaders Linda and Tom Jagger - Denver Group

On Mother's Day, 6 BPX'rs escaped the cold and rain of Denver for a 4-day camping trip to enjoy the sun and adventures of the Colorado National Monument. Besides good food, a highlight was hiking the Monument Canyon Loop trail. Thanks to the trip leading skills of the Jagers (or maybe luck), most of the uphill stretch was in the shade. A sudden afternoon storm did blow over some tents, and a pretty wicked lightning storm one evening encouraged one of our group to seek shelter in the concrete bathroom. But with a good book, one can weather a storm anywhere.



---

### Family Backpack Gear Check - White Ranch

#### Trip Leader Eric Gerber - Denver Group

A beautiful early-season trip with three CMC families including five kids ages 8-13. This one-nighter was close to home just north of Golden with a 1.8 mile walk from the parking lot mostly along an old two-track road to the established Sourdough campground. We had 2 sites affording pads for 5 tents pre-reserved by the leader. Each site was equipped with a picnic table and wooden benches for general communing. Metal bear boxes and a superb pit toilet were included in the campground; however, there was NO water, which was known by all beforehand and prepared for very well. The hike out was a beautiful undulating 3.5 mile singletrack trail feeling much more remote than it actually is - shady, great views and many early wildflowers. Back at the trailhead, we shared feedback and tidbits below to the question "what did you learn from this gear check?"

- All benefited from learning how much water is or is not needed for various family dynamics. Great for planning or dealing with any unexpected adventure with limited water sources.
- Old gear can be great – but old gear needs frequent pre-trip testing.
- Old aluminum frame packs can be durable and trustworthy.
- Old Thermo-rest sleeping pads, however, might not hold air any longer. That's a bummer at 2am!
- Setting up ultralight tents is tricky and worth it!

- Kids packs feel lighter with other kids around.
- Homemade dehydrated meals are a hit.

This was a quick in-and-out gear check, we weighed packs at the lot to ensure kids weren't overburdened, and parents had a baseline for any potential future gear considerations.

Gear checks are a great way for both new and experienced backpackers and families to check out their equipment, food and routines before committing to a longer BPX backpack or camping trip.



## Great Sand Dunes National Park

### Trip Leader Lisa Shroyer - Denver Group

Fantastic trip with BPX to Great Sand Dunes National Park. We camped at the designated backcountry site Little Medano. I will definitely go back!



---

## BPX TIPS OF THE MONTH

### Keep Your Shoelaces Tied (so they can be untied)

Frustrated when a shoelace needs to be re-tied while you're on the trail? Having difficulties untying the double knot to secure your shoelaces? Didn't learn about the Lisbon knot in Knot Tying School? Click [here](#) for a simple and effective method to tie shoelaces that will stay secured, and it's a breeze to untie!



### Apple Introducing 2-Way Satellite Messaging for iPhones

With a mid to late September release of the iOS 18 software update, iPhones 14 and newer will be able to send and receive text messages via a satellite connection. So when you are in the backcountry, you will be able to check in with family and friends almost as easily as sending a normal text via both iMessage and SMS. Currently iPhones 14 and newer have a satellite-based SOS feature, enabling remote contact with emergency services even in areas with no cell service. Rumor has it that Google has been beta testing satellite messaging features for its upcoming Android 15 release.

---

# LEAD THE PACK

## WELCOME NEW BPX TRIP LEADERS

Dean Waits - Pikes Peak  
Roger Leikas - Denver  
Maggie Henderson - Denver

---

## 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.

**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](#)

**AMC PARKING INFO:** [here](#)

**COLORADO ROAD INFORMATION:** [here](#)

**FIRE INFO:** [National Interagency Fire Center News](#) [Colorado Fire Restrictions](#) [Wildfire Risk Management Checklist](#)

---

*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.