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# BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

October 2023

## CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

The summer season ends with many of us putting up our backpacking gear - after cleaning, inspecting, repairing, building the holiday gear gift list - and transitioning to the activities that will carry us through spring. Here's to a great season of snowshoeing, skiing, ice climbing, peak bagging and, yes, winter backpacking. In fact, BPX Trip Leader Daniel Schweissing is already putting together his first winter trip. My personal goal for this winter overnights are a hut trip and a mellow 3-4 day ski and backpacking tour.

The BPX Committee meets next week for its annual planning meeting. We'll share our 2024 plans in our November BPX newsletter.

I'd like to give a shoutout to one of our long time BPX members, Judy Cohen, (J.C.). I had the pleasure of having her on my recent BPX Lake Constantine trip. She was celebrating 55 years of backpacking! Wow! Congratulations J.C.!!

By the numbers. This season we had 31 BPX Leaders and their Co-Leaders lead 53 successful backpacking and camping trips, including our first family backpacking trip. 242 BPX members - about a third of our membership - participated. The BPX Trip Leaders below are recognized and owed a huge collective thank you from the BPX Committee and the BPX membership. A shoutout to Lisa Shroyer, the Committee's BPX Leader Coordinator, for her work. This year we had more leaders post trips than ever before.

Finally, as always and most sincerely, a thank you to our BPX members. You and your financial support are what keeps the CMC Backpacking Section going. When you renew your CMC membership, be sure to renew your BPX membership, too. We need your support!

BPX Leader	# of Trips	BPX Leader	# of Trips	BPX Leader	# of Trips
Garrett Pettingell	7	Annie Legrand	1	Linda Jagger	1
Uwe Sartori	5	Bob Legrand	1	Louise Campbell Blair	1
Cheryl Harmel	3	Brian Burd	1	Marsha Littau	1
Dania Spohn	3	Carol Munch	1	Mercedes Aponte	1
Dave Molyneaux	3	Daniel Schweissing	1	Patrick McKinley	1
John Broadbrooks	3	Holly Myers	1	Paul Attridge	1
Linda Lawson	3	James Borgel	1	Randy Blosser	1
Lisa Shroyer	2	Janet Martel	1	Richard Schiebel	1
Sandy Heise	2	Kevin Galliers	1	Robert Dawson	1
		Kristen Paris	1	Sharon Dawson	1
		Lisa Page	1	Wayne Howell	1

## HAPPY TRAILS TO BPX CO-FOUNDER, JOHN WALTERS

We are very sad to share news of the passing of our dear friend and CMC Backpacking Section Co-Founder, John Walters. A good man; a loving husband and father; a friend to many. John approached life as an opportunity to pursue excellence and make things better. He was passionate about the Colorado Mountain Club and made many contributions, including leading the charge in creating the CMC Backpacking Section. We will miss him. May he rest in peace.



He will be laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery with military honors. A “Celebration of Life” and luncheon will be held on Monday, November 20, 2023 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden Colorado. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by November 15 at [celebratejohnw@gmail.com](mailto:celebratejohnw@gmail.com) for planning purposes.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to John’s favorite organization, the Colorado Mountain Club. The “Adult Education/Volunteer & Instructor Training” fund provides statewide scholarships for training CMC Leaders and volunteers (<https://www.cmc.org/donate>). You can read John’s obituary [here](#).

## UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

There is just one BPX trip left on the "summer" schedule, and it has a full roster. But please stay tuned if you are interested in winter trips--BPX currently has 3 winter camping trips on the calendar! Location of these trips is TBD, depending on snow conditions. You can expect a ~2-3 mile snowshoe to the

campsite, some sort of optional day hike from camp (typically 3-6 miles), and then ~2-3 miles back to the trailhead. More details and equipment requirements forthcoming. In addition, we will be offering our 2nd Annual Winter Camping Gear Check.

Dec 1-2 Fri-Sat Moderate [Winter Camping Gear Check](#)

Jan 12-13 Fri-Sat Moderate [Winter Camping Trip #1](#)

Feb 9-10 Fri-Sat Moderate [Winter Camping Trip #2](#)

Mar 16-17 Sat-Sun Moderate [Winter Camping Trip #3](#)



Registration for each of these trips opens on Monday, October 23rd. Winter Camping School or equivalent and leader permission is required. Email [dschweissing@gmail.com](mailto:dschweissing@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining one of the trips.

[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](#)

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

[CPR/AED](#) [Nov 29](#)

[KNOT TYING SCHOOL](#) [Nov 8 and 15](#)

### STATE

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

[2023 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT](#) [Nov 4](#)

Continue to check the CMC website for additional courses.

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## DENVER GROUP ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING

AMC in Golden - October 28, 5 - 9PM

Enjoy a catered dinner, beverages, volunteer recognition, and speaker Julian Carr, award-winning professional skier and athlete for Rab. His talk is titled "Other Side of Fear" and will explore the topic of fear, his journey and relationship with fear, and how it applies to outdoor adventure and everyday life.

[Register](#)

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## BPX TRIP REPORTS

[Saddlehorn Campground, Colorado National Monument](#)

[Trip Leader Linda Lawson - Denver Group](#)

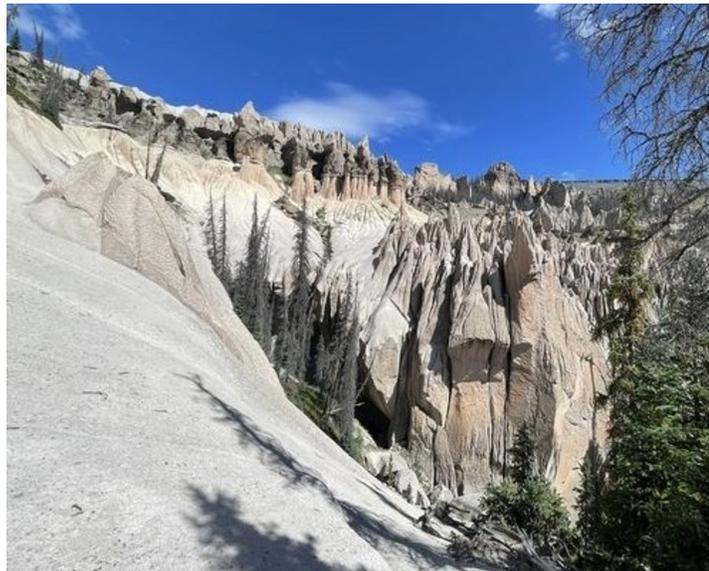
October finds fewer campers and hikers as well as lower temperatures in "The Monument". Although not all of the iconic Monument Valley trail was open due to rock scaling, first time CMC trekkers enjoyed the majority of the trail and viewed the iconic Independence and Kissing Couple rock formations. The group included a professional photographer who was able to photograph the Milky Way in all its splendor on the cool, clear nights experienced in early October.



### Wheeler Geologic Area

#### Trip Leader Dania Spohn - Denver Group

Another great trip this season! Wheeler Geological Area, 25 mile loop. Maybe a little longer. These backpackers are the best!



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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 TIP OF THE MONTH**  
**Support Search and Rescue**

One of the best things about living in Colorado is the year-round opportunity for outdoor activities. But outdoor recreation comes with risks - injuries, altitude sickness, bad weather, avalanches, becoming lost or disoriented, and not being properly prepared. With more and more people moving to Colorado and visiting the outdoors, rescue operations are becoming more frequent. A study completed in 2022 by Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife found that Search and Rescue (SAR) teams responded to an average of 3,600 incidents a year; more than any other state, with 94% for hikers and backpackers.

Colorado Backcountry Search and Rescue (BSAR) organizations have teams that are ready to help in times of emergency, free of charge, to those stranded, lost, or injured in the backcountry. Colorado residents and visitors are well served by dedicated volunteer search and rescue teams, but mission costs are often in the thousands of dollars.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs operates a [Search and Rescue Fund](#) to reimburse SAR teams for costs incurred during a mission, help pay for the SAR teams' equipment and training, and cover the cost of volunteers' equipment that is damaged or destroyed during SAR missions.

You can help fund these SAR teams by purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card. The cost is \$3 for a 1-year card or \$12 for a 5-year card. [Purchase a CORSAR Card](#).

It is important to note that SAR teams will assist anyone in need, regardless of whether they have a CORSAR card. The card does not provide the bearer with any special privileges, nor does it cover the cost of medical transport, and it is not insurance.

After a BSAR incident concludes, the County in which the mission was conducted sends a request to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for reimbursement. If the subject of the incident has a CORSAR card or eligible Parks and Wildlife license or registration, a reimbursement payment is processed immediately. If the subject of the search does not, the request for reimbursement is held until the end of the year. If money is available in the fund at the end of the year, the requesting county receives reimbursement.

And SAR teams don't respond to just "people" rescues.

Bailey the Dog: At ~14:15 hrs on Thursday, July 6th, 2023, Chaffee County Search and Rescue North was alerted to a dog in distress at ~13,600' near the summit of Mt Hope. Bailey, a 100-pound German shepherd, was immobile and unable or unwilling to continue after having summited earlier that afternoon. After a few hours of trying to coax him along, his owner determined that he was concerned for his own wellbeing and needed to descend himself, but could not carry Bailey down the class 2+ ridge.



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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.

**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](#)

Reminder that COTREX shows current closures due to incidents like wildfires whereas Gaia and other apps do not.

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

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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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