



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

BACKPACKING SECTION



BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

July 2025

CHAIR'S CORNER - Louise Campbell-Blair



Since the last newsletter, 8 more BPX trips are either completed or in progress—huge thanks to our amazing Trip Leaders: **Linda Lawson, Sharon Dawson, Garrett Pettingell, Wayne Howell, Dave Molyneaux, Steve Norman, Brian Burd, and Marianne Curtis.** Trip Leaders are truly the lifeblood of the BPX Section, so be sure to thank them when you see them out on the trail.

Don't forget to nominate your favorite Leader or Member for the **BPX Founders Award** ([nomination form here](#))—it's a great way to recognize the dedication and spirit that make BPX special.

Want to Give Back to BPX? We'd Love Your Help! We're on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to join the BPX Committee! Our Events & Social Media Coordinator, Maggie Burns, has recently moved on—please join us in thanking Maggie for everything she did for BPX. Now, we're looking for fresh faces to help us keep the momentum going. With more hands on deck, we can plan more events and experiences for the BPX community. Volunteering is a fun and fulfilling way to support the CMC and connect with fellow adventurers. Interested in joining us? Reach out—we'd love to talk to you.

Our BPX Educational Events are a hit! We recently hosted two excellent GAIA GPS training sessions, led by **Rich McAdams** with expert support from volunteers **Ed Cotgageorge, Jim Guerra, and Wayne Howell.** Thank you all! Later this month, **Keith Stinebaugh** will be teaching a session on the InReach Mini. These trainings help ensure our BPX members are safer and better prepared than ever on the trail. Have an idea for a future educational event? Let us know—we're always open to suggestions!

Stay connected with us – we love hearing from you on our socials and at cmcbpx@gmail.com.

BPX EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Backcountry Cooking with Chef Corso: On June 17th, Chef Corso treated BPX Members to a fabulous backcountry cooking demonstration at the CMC Basecamp, including breakfast grits, beef stroganoff, veggie grain bowl, and Pad Thai. No more dehydrated meals for us! If you missed it, you can find Chef Corso online at [OutdoorEats.com](https://www.outdooreats.com). Huge thanks to our volunteers - Susan Quechenberger, Garrett Pettingell, Brad Cotten, Lynn Clay, and Bob Coorsen - we couldn't have managed without you!





Event	Date/Time	Description
Unleash the Power of your inReach Mini2	Thu, Jul 24; 06:30-08:00 PM via Zoom	Focusing on the InReach Mini2, topics include the SOS function, InReach to InReach communications, InReach to other user communications, and a look at some of the navigation tools available.

BPX TRIP REPORTS

Abyss Trail - Mount Blue Sky Wilderness

Trip Leader Linda Lawson and John Gode - Denver Group

Plan A was for a 3-Day, 2-Nite trip, but the forecast called for rain Day 1. Fortunately our team was flexible for Plan B – backpack in about 3+ miles to dispersed campsites.

Setting up camp Day 1 involved the usual water sanitation, Happy Hour of Wine & Watermelon, freeze dried dinners, story exchanges, etc.

Day 2 found everyone rested and ready to hike to the Rosalie/Abyss junction. Returning to our campsite, everyone broke camp and headed to the TH.

It turned out to be a perfect weather gear check with a highly compatible, congeal group of backpackers!



Rich, Rough and Tumble Creek – Buffalo Peaks Wilderness

Trip Leader Sharon Dawson - Denver Group

Nine friendly and fun folks backpacked along this 12 mile route. Day 1 started gently uphill through forests and wildflowers galore. The trail levels off through wide meadows and marshy grasses. We looked high and low for a moose but did not see any.

We camped half way through the loop with great, open views. The folks had a fun evening sharing stories and laughs. The hike closes the loop mostly downhill along the tumble creek. Another fun, successful, and safe backpack trip for the books!



Abyss Lake Trail - Mount Blue Sky Wilderness

Trip Leader Steve Norman - Denver Group

Seven BPX members ventured out on the Abyss Lake Trail for a quick, 1 night outing. After a 4-mile approach to the junction of the Abyss Lake and Rosalie trails, we made our camp at a lovely spot. During the afternoon we took a nice day hike up to Helms Lake, elevation 11,730. A highlight was seeing a momma moose and her calf (from a safe distance) on Sunday morning when we arose from our tents!



TREAD LIGHTLY

Sustainability, Recycling, Leave No Trace

Stylish and affordable these washable, reusable bags are the perfect replacement for plastic bags.

The outside layer is durable poly/cotton with a food-safe, inside layer and zip closure. Just wipe clean and reuse. Brands I like are ['LunchSkins'](#) and ['Nordic by Nature'](#).



BPX TRIPS

Upcoming Trips With Openings*

Dates / Registration Date	Difficulty	Trip
Jul 22-24 Tue-Thu	Challenging	Bluebird Lake from Wild Basin TH (RMNP)
Aug 9-10 Sat-Sun	Challenging	Macey Lakes from Horn Creek TH
Aug 10-12 Sun-Tue / Jul 26	Challenging	Lawn Lake from Lawn Lake TH (RMNP)
Aug 11-17 Mon-Sun	Challenging	Heart Lake and Snake River from Heart Lake TH (Yellowstone National Park)
Aug 12-13 Tue-Wed	Easy	James Peak Wilderness from East Portal TH
Aug 22-25 Fri-Mon / Jul 22	Difficult	Pawnee-Buchanan Loop from Long Lake TH
Aug 23-24 Sat-Sun / Jul 23	Moderate	Lake Ann from South Fork Clear Creek / Huron Peak TH
Aug 24-25 Sun - Mon / Aug 11	Moderate	Lake Constantine from Fall Creek TH
Aug 25-27 Mon-Wed	Difficult	Willow and Salmon Lakes from Mesa Cortina TH
Aug 26-28 Tue-Thu / Jul 26	Challenging	Crater Lake from Monarch Lake TH

Upcoming Trips With 0-1 on Waitlist*

Dates / Registration Date	Difficulty	Trip
Aug 1-3 Fri-Sun	Challenging	Marvine and Twin Lakes from Marvine TH
Aug 21-23 Thu-Sat	Challenging	Wheeler Geologic Area + Halfmoon Pass from South Fork Saguache TH

*As Of Jul 19

Continue to check the CMC Website since Leaders add trips throughout the season.

Whether you are on a waitlist or a roster, if you decide to NOT go on a trip, please **CANCEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** 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.

Starts Sep 2

Hiking may not be as easy as it looks! Do you know all you need for staying found, for braving Colorado's rapidly changing weather, for handling an emergency? Wilderness Trekking School (WTS) is for all – whether you want to bag a few 14ers – OR – just want to enjoy the scenery. WTS is a comprehensive course on day hiking in the mountains, with no prerequisites. If you're new to hiking, WTS provides the opportunity to learn how to travel safely and confidently in the backcountry. If you're an experienced hiker, WTS gives you a chance to review and enhance your skills, and possibly to fill in some gaps. It is also a great introduction to the Colorado Mountain Club and a place to meet new friends. Student ages range from 18 to 80, with about half under 40. WTS is a prerequisite for Backpacking School, Alpine Scrambling Course, and Technical Climbing Schools.

Registration opens July 7. More information, including a complete schedule of lectures and field trips and enrollment instructions, available [here](#).

SCHOOLS

DENVER

DAY HIKER SCHOOL

More info [here](#)

CPR/AED

[Jul 23](#)

WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL (WTS)

Starts [Sep 2](#)

BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

[Sep 13](#) [Sep 20](#)

PIKES PEAK

INTRO TO BACKPACKING

Starts [Aug 6](#)

WTS - WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS

Starts [Sep 15](#)

LAND NAVIGATION

Starts [Oct 6](#)

STATE

WILDERNESS FIRST AID/FIRST RESPONDER

Multiple Offerings - Check CMC Website [here](#)

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL

More Info [here](#)

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL SCENARIOS

[Boulder](#) [Denver](#) [Pikes Peak](#) [Western Slope](#)

Continue to check the CMC Website for additional courses.

BPX MEMBER INFO

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 calling the CMC Office at (303) 279-3080.

CMC Backpacking Section Supports Leave No Trace

[View BPX Calendar](#)



The Colorado Mountain Club

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