



BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

November 2023

CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

Summer. Vacations. The great vacations I never wanted to end. Okay, there were some I couldn't wait for them to end. For the good ones, memorable ones, I am sure you know the vibe: can we please stay a bit longer? That pretty much sums up my 2023 CMC Backpacking Section season. I hope all of you who took a BPX trip experienced that same wistful longing for just one more day out in the Colorado backcountry. If so, I'm thinking all of us together pulled off another season of creating, executing, and participating in wonderful outdoor adventures with old and new friends. With our 4th season behind us, the CMC Backpacking Section Committee looks forward to making our 5th season bigger and better than ever.

Well now, here we are in November. Winter is a-knocking. A couple of days and nights in sub-freezing temps puts that sweet summer vibe on ice. Bring on the winter! Hey, if you have winter backpacking trips on your mind, drop us a note. We just might put one together for you. There are several on the CMC calendar already. I'm guessing more will be added.

Below is the updated list of the 31 BPX Trip Leaders and their Co-Leaders who led the 55 BPX trips completed this season. Garrett Pettingell set a new bar for trips led: 7. He takes home the *Boots Award* for the second year in a row. With his Tetons Trek/Climb/Backpack trip, Kevin Galliers takes home the *Explorer Award*, his second in three years.

Dave Molyneaux, a first year leader completed 3 trips, was a Co-Leader on one, and a participant in another. One of the trips he led was a "save" by stepping in for another leader. Dania Spohn, another first year BPX Leader, completed 3 trips. Gwyneth and Eric Gerber, first year leaders, completed the first ever Family BPX trip. Other first year leaders include Wayne Howell, James Borgel, Lisa Paige, Marsha Littau, and Richard Schiebel. Each completed one BPX trip.

Our two, three, and four year BPX Trip Leaders who led this year include Linda Lawson, Cheryl Harmel, Randy Blosser, Daniel Schweissing, Holly Myers, Janet Martel, Robert and Sharon Dawson, Bob and Annie Legrand, Linda and Tom Jagger, Kristen Paris, Sandy Heise, Mercedes Aponte, Brian Burd, Patrick McKinley, Louise Campbell-Blair, Carol Munch, John Broadbooks, Brad Cotten, and Lisa Shroyer. All the BPX Trip Leaders are to be congratulated for their volunteerism and dedication to the CMC Backpacking Section. With them in the lead, the Backpacking Section Committee continues to deliver solid recreational programming for BPX members who love backpacking and camping.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season, and we'll see you again in January!

2023 BPX Trip Leaders & Their Co-Leaders Completing 55 Trips

Trip Leader	#Trips	Trip Leader	#Trips	Trip Leader	#Trips	Co-Leader	#Trips	Co-Leader	#Trips
Garrett Pettingell	7	Bob Legrand	1	Linda Jagger	1	Brad Cotten	5	Maddie Brunk	1
Uwe Sartori	5	Brian Burd	1	Lisa Paige	1	Louise Campbell-Blair	1	Tom Jagger	1
Linda Lawson	4	Carol Munch	1	Louise Campbell-Blair	1	Samantha Superstine	1	Dave Molyneaux	1
Dania Spohn	3	Daniel Schweissing	1	Marsha Littau	1	Carol Munch	1	Jillian Ardrey	1
Dave Molyneaux	3	Gwyneth Gerber	1	Mercedes Aponte	1	Brian Burd	1	Jodi Venden Eng	1
John Broadbooks	3	Holly Myers	1	Patrick McKinley	1	Jennifer Bealer	1	Marianne Curtis	1
Cheryl Harmel	3	James Borgel	1	Richard Schiebel	1	Bob Legrand	1	Sharon Dawson	1
Lisa Shroyer	2	Janet Martel	1	Robert Dawson	1	Annie Legrand	1	Holly Myers	1
Randall Blosser	2	Kevin Galliers	1	Sharon Dawson	1	Mercedes Aponte	1		
Sandy Heise	2	Kristen Paris	1	Wayne Howell	1	Eric Gerber	1		
Annie Legrand	1								

CONGRATS TO UWE!

A BIG Congratulations to BPX Chair Uwe Sartori, recipient of this year's Denver Group 'Volunteer of the Year Award'.

This award recognizes a volunteer who is active in multiple aspects of CMC, generates creative ideas, demonstrates integrity, and is not easily discouraged. That pretty well sums up our Chair!

Uwe has been volunteering since 2007. He is a backpack/hike/snowshoe/climb Trip Leader, Co-Director of the Denver AIRE School, a Senior Instructor in the Alpine Climbing School, and Chair of the Backpacking Section. Be sure to tell him congratulations when you see him on the trail!



UPCOMING BPX 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 is open. Winter Camping School or equivalent and leader permission is required. Email 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.

SCHOOLS/EVENTS

DENVER

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

[WINTER CAMPING SCHOOL](#) Starts [Feb 13](#)

[BACKPACKING SCHOOL](#) Starts [Jun 4](#)

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

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

[BACKCOUNTRY NORDIC SKI SCHOOL](#) Starts [Dec 5](#)

[AVALANCHE TERRAIN AVOIDANCE](#) [Dec 16](#) [Jan 6](#) [Jan 27](#) [Feb 17](#)

[AVALANCHE RESCUE](#) [Dec 17](#) [Jan 6](#) [Feb 10](#) [Mar 2](#) [Mar 30](#)

[AIARE 1](#) Starts [Jan 22](#) [Jan 30](#) [Feb 2](#) [Feb 20](#) [Feb 23](#) [Mar 22](#) [Mar 25](#)

NORTHERN COLORADO

[AVALANCHE TERRAIN AVOIDANCE](#) [Class Dec 5](#), [Field Trip Dec 9](#)

[MOUNTAIN HIKING COURSE](#) Starts [Mar 12](#)

PIKES PEAK

[AIARE 1](#) Starts [Jan 22](#)

[AVALANCHE RESCUE](#) [Mar 3](#)

STATE

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

Continue to check the CMC website for additional courses.

BPX TRIP REPORTS

[Colorado Trail, Segment 6, Kenosha Pass to Breckenridge](#)

[Wheeler Geologic Area, La Garita Wilderness](#)

[Trip Leader Uwe Sartori - Denver Group](#)

The BPX trips I did this year fell between September 1st - October 9. Just beautiful! Only caveat is you need a little orange - hunting season is on. I am totally sold on Colorado's "Leaf-Peeping" season for BPX backpack trips. Reasons a plenty. Here are a few. Exchanging the hot summer days for comfortable late summer and early fall days. Think warm days, cool nights. Bug season is over. The monsoon season is pretty much over. How about less crowds? Yes, folks are all over Colorado 'peepin'; but mostly in cars. The colors! Fall colors popping all over the state. Just gorgeous!

Two trips I did are must do's trips for Colorado backpackers. The Colorado Trail, Segment 6, from

Kenosha Pass to Breckenridge. I'm now calling this the Breck for Beer trip. You can do it as we did it - a 3 day chill backpack. Or a one day mountain bike ride from Kenosha Pass to Breckenridge. A 5 star trip for sure.

The other was the Wheeler Geologic Area trip in the La Garita Wilderness. If you have not been there, put it on your list. Consider it mountain art, over 30 million years in the making. Just fantastic! 5 stars, too.



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

BPX Committee 2023 Favorites

Here are this season's favorite backpacking/camping items from your BPX Committee:

Uwe Sartori, Chair: Pillow. With all the lightweight pillow options there are now, after a long day on the trail, just say "NO" to resting your weary head on a stuff sack filled with lumpy clothes (which you probably will raid during the night when you get cold).

Louise Campbell-Blair, Vice Chair and Treasurer: [Katadyn Befree water filter \(1 Liter\)](#). I love this collapsible water filter/water bottle. It is light weight, easy to store, and doubles as a water bottle as well as a filter.

Lisa Shroyer, Trip Leader Coordinator: [Hummingbird ultralight hammock](#), for setting up at camp and relaxing with a book after hiking in. It packs so little and is so lightweight! I used it in the Grand Canyon this spring and all over Colorado this summer.

Craig Townsend, BPX Committee Member: My sons. There's nothing like spending time in the backcountry with them...

Susan Quechenberger, Membership Coordinator: [GoalZero Flip 24](#) or [Flip 36 charger](#). There's so much to be charged about in the backcountry these days—cell phone, GPS, watch, Kindle, speaker loaded with the greatest hits of John Denver...

Maggie Burns, Event and Social Media Coordinator: Peanut M&Ms. We all remember from Wilderness Trekking School that your body needs fuel when you are out on adventures, and it's imperative it's something you like to eat...

Leila Murphy, Communications Coordinator and Newsletter Editor: [Little Kamper 1lb Refillable Propane Tank](#). Finally, a solution to my ever-expanding collection of empty propane canisters. You purchase a pre-filled 1lb tank at a local participating Little Kamper retailer, use it, and then exchange it for a pre-filled replacement. Little Kamper is affiliated with ACE Hardware stores, so if your local store doesn't have them, you can ask them to become a retailer.

Randy Blosser, Special Project Coordinator:

My Favorite Backpacking Things

Raindrops on a Cuben fiber tent at night
Bright colored clothes and a warm sleeping bag
A lightweight pack on a fresh summer day
These are a few of my favorite things

Instant mash potatoes on a cold rainy night
Some crunchy Fritos in a bean burrito wrap
Three Oreos after climbing a high mountain pass
These are a few of my favorite things

Warm and dry sleep socks in a down sleeping bag
A bear cannister I don't have to hang in a tree
My sun hat and shades on a nice clear tundra day
These are a few of my favorite things

Cold filtered spring water on a hot sunny day
Eating ramen and curry and watching the sun set
Stroopwafels and a mocha café at the start of my day
These are a few of my favorite things

When the thunder cracks
When the miles hurt me
When I am feeling lonely
I simply remember my favorites things
And then I don't feel so bad

Lyrics by Randy Blosser

Melody "My Favorite Things" by Rodgers and Hammerstein from The Sound of Music

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](#)

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

BPX HELP WANTED

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](#).

And, as you start planning your activities for next year, please consider joining the BPX Committee and lend a hand in planning an awesome 2024 season of backpacking and camping adventures!

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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