



BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

March 2021

Issue 03 - 2021

BPX Founders Lawson and Walters to Retire

By Linda Lawson and John Walters - March 2021

What a ride! When BPX was approved in 2019, we had no idea the new backpacking section would explode to 1600 members in its first year. Then, Covid-19 hit. Yet, hours after rolling out 40 backpacking trips to members in March 2020, few spots remained open.

During the summer, Covid restrictions caused a high percentage of trips to be cancelled. Still, BPX Trip Leaders completed 29 fantastic backpacking trips using approved Covid protocols. For comparison, only six general backpacking trips were completed the year before.

For the 2021 season, BPX is offering 90 preplanned trips for Trip Leaders to claim and lead members on wonderful experiences through wilderness areas, state parks, open spaces, and a neighboring state. Additional joint trips will be offered for trails inventory, high peaks, and fly fishing. Backpacking is both the best way to avoid Covid and the best way to kick the blues from being locked down all year.

So, after a great startup and building an outstanding team to take over, Lawson and Walters are retiring from the BPX Committee. John says he needs the mountains more and the computer less and, besides, turning over BPX operations to a younger group as soon as possible has always been his goal.

Linda's retirement – hmmm – well, it might suffice to say that seven volunteers were recruited to replace the duties she has planned and implemented from the beginning. Both founders are planning more hiking and backpacking, and have claimed several of the 90 trips, themselves.

An excellent team of highly trained and experienced backpacking leaders, headed by Uwe Sartori, will take over in April. We urge everyone to support their leadership, as they continue building and growing a backpacking community to serve the entire state.

Meanwhile, please don't wait for summer backpacking trips to begin. If you have the prerequisites, register today for a Denver or Pikes Peak backpacking school before they reach capacity. Or if you are new to backpacking or have not slept in your tent for a while, register for one of the three spring Gear Checks to be held at Chatfield and Mueller State Parks.

Like John and Linda, you will love becoming an active member of BPX, the new and only, statewide, CMC Backpacking Community.



Chicago Basin

Photo Credit: Shari Pederson

LOOKING TO SUMMIT SOME HIGH PEAKS, FLY FISH IN ALPINE LAKES, OR EMBARK ON A LONG DISTANCE TRAIL – CMC HAS 2 OFFERINGS FOR YOU TO LEARN OR IMPROVE YOUR CAMP CRAFT

Whether you have backpacking experience or are new to backpacking these schools will provide skills and field work.

Denver Backpacking School (BKPS) offers a hybrid course of online learning and reading assignments, webinars and in-person field training. Classroom sessions are Tuesdays, June 1, 8, 15 with 3 overnight June trips. Overnight trips are scheduled by individual group instructors.

Pikes Peak Group includes Backpacking as part of their Basic Mountaineering School. There are 2 sessions. Both include 2 on-line classroom sessions and 1 field session. Session 1 is scheduled June 14 and 21 for Zoom classroom work and June 26-27 for field work. Session 2 will be held August 23 and 30 for Zoom classroom work and September 4-6 for field work.

Both schools cover gear and systems needed for cooking, sleeping, and clothing, as well as trip planning, site selection, group composition and dynamics. Each school has specific prerequisites students need to have completed or have sufficient experience to allow a waiver.

Contacts:

Denver – Jennie Popovich, Director jp_bronocos@yahoo.com

PPG – Glenn Barr, Director glb2000@gmail.com

BPX MEMBERS

TRIP MATRIX ROLLOUT TO MEMBERS - March 31- Members will receive a Trip Matrix containing all trips claimed by BPX Leaders as of March 15. Each trip will include the destination, dates, leader, mileage, elevation gain, and difficulty.

2021 BPX TRIPS ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION - April 14 - All scheduled BPX trips are open for registration. Continue to check the CMC trip signup for additional trips.

The 2 weeks between Trip Matrix Rollout and Registration provides members time to select a trip, request PTO, and arrange coverage for family and furry friends.

WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL (WTS) - Starts April 6. Info [Here](#)

DENVER BACKPACKING SCHOOL (BKPS) - Starts June 1. Info [Here](#)

PIKES PEAK BACKPACKING SCHOOL

- [June 14](#) - 7 Slots
- [August 23](#) - 8 Slots

PIKES PEAK TRIP LEADER SCHOOL

- [April 19](#) - 1 Slots
- [October 18](#) - 10 Slots

COTREX MAPPING RECORDED WEBINARS

- [Module 1](#) - Access Code 34CMCCoTrex@2021
 - [Module 2](#) - Access Code 311CMCCoTrex@2021
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GEAR CHECKS - 3 Overnight Gear Checks with Group Campgrounds reserved so you can check out your equipment. They will go from late afternoon through the next morning, and we'll try to make it as real as possible. A short program focused on various camp skills will be held at each one. Cost is \$20 to cover campsite fees, but free to BPX Trip Leaders--contact CMCBPXTLC@gmail.com to receive discount code.

May 14-15 [Gear Check 1 - Chatfield State Park](#)

May 21-22 [Gear Check 2 - Chatfield State Park](#)

June 18-19 [Gear Check 3 - Mueller State Park](#)

Mountainside Gear Rental in Golden rents backpacking gear or entire kits with a 25% discount for CMC Members.



Colorado Trail, Collegiate West 3 - August 2020

Photo Credit: Leila Murphy

Q&A With Backpackers Bob & Bobbi

Dear Backpackers Bob & Bobbi,

I'm not sure it's worth it to renew my BPX membership this year when it's going to cost me \$20, especially with the pandemic still looming around. What do you plan to do?

Dear Undecided,

If you think you'll do any backpacks this year, then \$20 is a real bargain for all the benefits you get as a BPX member. Here are the top reasons Bobbi and I have for renewing our membership:

Planning

Before BPX, when Bobbi and I sat down each spring to start thinking about our backpacks, we had hours of planning ahead of us. We first had to think about where to go. We then had to research the details of each trip:

- *# of days*
- *Difficulty – Easy, Moderate, or Difficult*
- *Type -- Out-and-Back, Loop, or Shuttle*
- *Total distance and elevation gain*
- *Trail Head(s) and directions to them*
- *Required topo maps*
- *Misc info like permits and bear canister requirements*
- *Route planning on mapping software like COTREX*
- *Day-by-Day itinerary -- distance and elevation gain, camp location, water sources*

This could take hours for each trip, but the BPX Team has already done this work as BPX members will see when they get the Trip Matrix.

Safety

Bobbi and I know that the BPX Trip Leaders have not only completed the training to be a CMC trip leader, including Wilderness First Aid, but are also experienced backpackers. This gives us confidence they know how to handle issues that can come up in the back country as well as be great resources from gear to where to pitch a tent. If you forgot something or have an equipment failure, there will be others on your trip to help you. And there is always safety in numbers.

Education

The BPX team has already hosted sessions on how to use the COTREX app and has 3 Gear Checks coming up. Look for other topics as well like Backpack Meal Planning and Light Weight Backpacking.

Fun

There is nothing better than sharing a backcountry experience with other wilderness enthusiasts, whether is swapping stories, talking gear, or just staring up at the sky.

There are still unknowns of what the summer will hold, but COVID vaccinations and immunity are certainly headed in the right direction. Bobbi and I are confident that the CMC and BPX Team will continue to monitor and adjust to provide a great, but safe backpacking experience that is well worth \$20.

*See ya' on the trails,
Bob & Bobbi Backpacker*



Lynda Law on Colorado Trail, Segment 28 - Sept 2020

Photo Credit: Jan Dudley

BPX HELP WANTED

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR - Seeking a volunteer with free time from marketing or advertising career who has experience writing, editing, planning, and implementing communication strategies. For position description and discussion contact: lk14er@comcast.net.

JOIN THE PACK ON FACEBOOK

The BPX Section has our own Facebook Group where members can share trip reports, photos from backpacking trips, and ask questions to fellow outdoor gearheads.

Join BPX FB

LEAD THE PACK

WELCOME NEW BPX TRIP LEADERS

Maggie Burns, Denver

Linda Jagger, Denver

Tom Jagger, Denver

WELCOME NEW BPX COMITTEE MEMBERS

Pat McKinley and Mercedes Aponte - Trip Leaders Development Team

We are actively recruiting new BPX Trip Leaders from all groups. BPX is open to all CMC members and recruits leaders from all CMC Groups statewide. There are a variety of paths to becoming a BPX Trip Leader. See which one fits [YOU](#).

Over 1460 MEMBERS have heeded our slogan

"Join the Pack"

as of March 16, 2021

THANK YOU FOR BECOMING A BPX MEMBER

Want to contribute to "The Pack"? Send your backpacking photos and articles to CMCBPXNewsletter@gmail.com so we can feature it in our Backcountry Cache Newsletter. For photos please include your name, location, and date.

**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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