



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

BACKPACKING SECTION



BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

April 2025

CHAIR'S CORNER - Louise Campbell-Blair



Our main backpacking season kicked off this month with an incredible trip to Utah's Escalante region, led by Rich Schiebel. What an adventure! The scrambling and canyoneering definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone, but thanks to the support and encouragement of this amazing BPX crew (read: a few helpful shoves, a steady shoulder, and some well-timed hands!), it turned into an unforgettable experience.

As you're thinking about which trips to sign up for this season, I encourage you to step outside your usual trail—try a new destination or join a trip led by someone you haven't backpacked with yet. You never know what kind of adventure—or connection—you'll discover.

You'll hear all about the 30+ trips already on the calendar, along with tips to help you get the most out of your adventures, at the BPX Member Summit on April 23. Don't miss it! Let's make this an unforgettable season.

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

BPX MEMBER SUMMIT - April 23

Today, April 20, by 5pm is your last chance to register for the BPX Member Summit on Wednesday, April 23rd. Your BPX Committee has put together a fun and informative event to get us all ready and psyched for the upcoming backpacking and camping season, so please plan to attend!

This is a hybrid event so you can join either in-person or via Zoom-- please indicate when registering. The in-person event this year will be at the Holiday Inn Lakewood: 7390 W Hampden Ave, Lakewood, CO 80227.

BPX TRIP REPORTS

Escalante Camping Trip - Escalante, Grand Staircase National Monument, Glen Canyon NRA

Trip Leader Rich Schiebel - Denver Group

Rich led a group of 4 resilient and good-spirited hikers (Louise Campbell-Blair, Tracy Tomko, Brad Cotten, and Rob Kapner) in 4 hikes off the Hole-in-the Rock Road and another closer to the town of Escalante April 7- 11.

The trip began with a hike (and a bit of a scramble at times) down the original Hole in the Rock wagon road down to Lake Powell, followed by hikes in Davis Gulch and 40 mile creek. In 40 mile creek the group hiked through a set of spectacular narrows normally under the waters of Lake Powell. This was followed by a scramble and wade across the Escalante River up to the opening of massive Stevens Arch. The trip was capped off by a hike that visited 4 arches / bridges: Phipps Arch, Maverick Bridge, Covington Arch and the Highway 12 bridge over the Escalante River Trail!





BPX TIP OF THE MONTH

Snagging Campsites

We first posted this tip a couple of years ago, but I've found these to be very useful apps for scoring campsites, permits, and tickets in National Parks, National Forests, and State Parks booked through Recreation.gov (especially for those of us who procrastinate). Recreation.gov is now also offering notifications when a cancellation is made for the given site/dates you are interested in.

[Campflare](#) - Free service but asks for donations. Every 45 seconds it scans for cancellations at all campgrounds that are reservable on Recreation.gov, including all National Parks and National Forests as well as many State Parks. It has both an IOS app and a website. Both are free and let you receive fast availability alerts. Users indicate campgrounds and the dates they are interested in and receive a notification when a campsite in that campground for the selected dates has been canceled. Users then make their own reservations.

Editors Note: I have used this app to successfully find spots at both the Piñon Flats Campground in the Great Sand Dunes National Park and at the Saddlehorn Campground in the Colorado National Monument. The closer to my date, the more notifications I received.

[CampScanner](#) - Tracks cancellations for 9,600+ campgrounds at National Parks, State Parks, and more! You create a scan to get notified when campsites, timed entry permits, and day passes become available. Just provide your desired dates and location, and it will notify you if a reservation becomes available. Subscribers then make their own reservations. It is a subscription service with plans running from \$39 to \$79/year depending on the frequency and the number of concurrent scans.

[CAMPNAB](#) - Offers a pay-per-use fee ranging from \$10 – \$20, as well as memberships starting at \$10/month, affording frequent campers more options. Actual cost depends on the frequency and concurrent number of scans. Includes campsites in Canada as well as National Parks, National Forests, and State Parks in the US. It can also scan more than 650 permits and tickets (tours, passes, permits, day use, backcountry, etc.) booked through Recreation.gov. It offers custom filters including specific campsites in a campground; whether there are electrical hook ups, etc. As with the other services, subscribers are notified via a text message when a spot opens up for the desired site/dates. Subscribers then make their own reservations.

Editors Note: I have used this app to successfully book Cliff Dwelling Tours at Mesa Verde National Park (due to procrastination on my part). I was a little concerned at first since I wasn't receiving any notifications, but as my date came closer, they started pouring in, including the day of.

TREAD LIGHTLY

Sustainability, Recycling, Leave No Trace

Finally, a solution to your ever-expanding collection of empty propane canisters from your camp stove - [The Little Kamper 1lb Refillable Propane Tank](#)! You purchase a pre-filled tank at a local participating Little Kamper retailer, use it, and then exchange it for a pre-filled replacement. I've used them the past 2 summers, and they work great. 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. REI stores are now selling these too. So pick up one and sustainably fuel your summer camping adventures.



BPX TRIPS/EVENTS

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.

Upcoming Trips With Openings*

Dates / Registration Date	Difficulty	Trip
May 23-24 Fri-Sat / Apr 23	Easy	Morrison Creek from Little Scraggy TH Gear Check
May 31-Jun 1 Sat-Sun / Apr 23	Easy	Morrison Creek from Little Scraggy TH Gear Check
Jun 6-8 Fri-Sun / May 6	Challenging	Lost Park from Rolling Creek TH
Jun 7-9 Sat-Mon / Apr 24	Difficult	Bison and McCurdy Peaks from Lost Park TH
Jun 5-6 Thu-Fri / May 5	Easy	James Peak Wilderness from Moffat Tunnel East Portal TH
Jun 10-12 Tue-Thu / May 10	Easy	Goose Creek Trail to Shafthouse From Goose Creek TH
Jun 25-27 Wed-Fri / May 15	Moderate	Abyss Lake Trail from Burning Bear East TH
Jun 27-28 Fri-Sat / May 23	Moderate	Rich, Rough, and Tumbling Creeks from Rich Creek TH

Upcoming Trips With 0-1 on Waitlist*

Dates / Registration Date	Difficulty	Trip
May 9-11 Fri-Sun	Difficult	Canyonlands - Elephant Canyon Loop to Druid Arch
May 13-14 Tue-Wed	Easy	Wigwam Park from Wigwam TH Gear check

May 17-18 Sat-Sun	Easy	Wigwam Park from Wigwam TH Gear Check
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*As Of April 19

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



Educational Events

EVENT	DATE
Eco-Friendly, Lightweight Backpacking (Zoom)	Jun 5
Become Proficient with GAIA (In-Person)	July 10 & 17 (posting on CMC Website coming soon)



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 displays a page with the activities you are 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

DENVER	
TRIP LEADER SCHOOL	More info here
TRIP LEADER SCHOOL SCENARIO SESSIONS	More Info here
BACKPACKING SCHOOL	Starts May 7
CPR/AED FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS	May 7
WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SCHOOL	Starts May 8
BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGMENT SCHOOL	Sep 13



PIKES PEAK	
WTS - WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS	Starts May 5 Sep 15
LAND NAVIGATION	Starts Jun 2
INTRO TO BACKPACKING	Starts Jun 9 Aug 11

NORTHERN COLORADO	
BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGMENT SCHOOL	Jun 7

STATE	
WILDERNESS FIRST AID/FIRST RESPONDER	Multiple Offerings - Check CMC Website here

Continue to check the CMC Website for additional courses.

WELCOME NEW BPX TRIP LEADERS

John Gode - Denver

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.

COLORADO ROAD INFORMATION: [here](#)

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

It's Mud Season, so remember to check the website or land manager for upcoming trips to make sure the trail is open.

CMC Backpacking Section Supports Leave No Trace

View BPX Calendar



The Colorado Mountain Club
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