



# COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

## BACKPACKING SECTION



## BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

August 2025

### CHAIR'S CORNER - Louise Campbell-Blair



I was recently reminded that doing a mid-season gear check is definitely worth it. Luckily, I had planned to treat our tent with permethrin before heading out to a mosquito-heavy area. While setting it up in the garden though, things just weren't clicking—literally. Nothing was connecting the way it should.

After a bit of head-scratching, I discovered that my well-meaning partner had re-strung the tent poles after our last trip... but had put them back together incorrectly. Super helpful, just not quite right! Really glad we caught that in the backyard and not miles into the backcountry.

We'd love to hear your stories—from epic trail moments to those unforgettable (or chaotic) pre-trip prep sessions—at the BPX End of Year Party (details below). It's going to be a blast swapping tales from the season!

We'll also be presenting the **BPX Founders Award** ([nomination form here](#)) to an outstanding Leader or Member, so don't forget to get your nomination in now!

Big thanks to our amazing Trip Leaders who led trips since our last newsletter: **Linda Lawson, Marsha Littau, Eric Butler, Sandy Heise, Richard Schiebel, Louise Campbell-Blair, and Timothy Musil**. Trip Leaders are truly the lifeblood of the BPX Section, so be sure to thank them when you see them out on the trail.

Stay connected with us – we love hearing from you on our socials and at [cmcbpx@gmail.com](mailto:cmcbpx@gmail.com).

### BPX MEMBERS

## BPX End of Season Party - October 25, 5-8:30pm

Join us for a fun-filled evening with your fellow BPX Members and Trip Leaders! We'll feature your photos and videos on the big screen—so we can all relive the amazing places you've been and the adventures you've had. Don't miss this chance to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate another unforgettable year on the trails! This is both a Zoom and in-person event at the CMC Basecamp.

Register

### Share Your 2025 Adventures

We're building a photo archive from this year's trips, and we'd love to include yours! Selected photos will appear in a future slide show at a BPX event. Whether you're a leader or participant, please upload your favorite shots [here](#) (Google folder, requires Google account). Trail views, campsite moments, goofy group selfies—we want it all.

## BPX TRIP LEADERS

### Let's Fill the Fall Calendar!

We still have prime backpacking weeks ahead—cooler temps, fewer bugs, golden aspens—let's make the most of them! If you've been meaning to post a trip, now's the time. Even one more outing this season gives members another chance to get outside and builds momentum for next year.

Reminder, we track trip leader activity to budget for gifts and BPX swag. In order to stay active as a BPX trip leader, we ask that you schedule 1 trip every 2 years minimum. That means, if you didn't lead a trip in 2023 or 2024, this is your chance to remain active!

## BPX EDUCATIONAL SERIES

**Unleash the Power of your inReach Mini2** recording. Keith Stinebaugh shows you how to use your inReach Mini2 like a pro to enhance the safety for yourself and your companions.



# Device

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# Functions and Smartphone Apps

## BPX TRIP REPORTS

### Bluebird Lake from Wild Basin TH – RMNP

#### Trip Leader Rich Schiebel - Denver Group

On July 22-24 an intrepid group of backpackers hiked up the Ouzel Creek drainage from Wild Basin for a 3-day backpack in RMNP. The camp was at (arguably) the most beautiful site in RMNP, Upper Ouzel Creek. In spite of the 80% chance of rain forecast, we were able to make camp before a 90 minute downpour. On the middle day we hiked and scrambled up the drainage, passing by several lakes named for birds (Bluebird, Lark, Pipit) and fields of wildflowers before ascending a boulder strewn and slow-going slope up to Isolation Peak (13068 ft.) A nice plus was a sighting of a mother moose and calf near camp.





## Lawn Lake - RMNP

### Trip Leader Sandy Heise - Denver Group

Four BPX members set out on an early, smoky morning hoping for a better hike than the weather forecast predicted. The day did not disappoint! And we arrived at our Lawn Lake campsite dry and excited to explore the area. We had our choice of the 4 campsites and were pleased to find a new-tech privy! On the first night, we had the entire area to ourselves. Day hikes included the beautiful Crystal Lakes below the east face of Fairchild Mountain, The Saddle between Hagues Peak and Fairchild, and Mummy Mountain.

After enjoying dinners on the rocky/sandy beach of Lawn Lake, we were treated to magical alpine sunsets. We viewed moose from a distance and from a careful detour around the trail above the lake. A snowshoe hare doing 180-degree jumps, and other wildlife provided additional entertainment. At the end of the trip, a restaurant in Estes Park provided a delicious, celebratory meal.

Many thanks to the NPS rangers and staff! May our National Park Service survive these challenging times.







## Freemont Loop - Wind River, Wy

### Trip Leader Louise Campbell-Blair - Denver Group

We had an amazing but strenuous 5 day backpack in the Wind River Range in Wyoming camping near 3 different lakes. It was no joke climbing over 2 panoramic passes with some snow fields and slick rock, but the views of the Cirque of the Towers were stunning. We did the Freemont version of the loop which gave us time to spend 2 nights at Lonesome Lake rather than rush through this gorgeous area. Our stats were 35 miles and 4,600ft elevation gain - highly recommended for experienced backpackers.



**TREAD LIGHTLY**

## Sustainability, Recycling, Leave No Trace

### Places Recycle Camping Propane Canisters in Denver Area

- [Rooney Road Recycling](#) at 151 S. Rooney Road in Golden by appointment 8 - 2 on Wed and Sat with no fee. Book appointment online or call 303-316-6262. Must be a resident of Jefferson County or may be charged a fee over \$100.
- [Englewood Propane](#) at 1917 West Cornell Ave, Englewood, CO 80110 for \$1.00 each, cash only. Open 8 - 5, Mon - Fri. Phone: 303.761.8132.
- [AAA Propane](#) at 7405 W. 44th Ave. in Wheat Ridge for \$1.00 each, cash only. Open 8 - 5 Mon - Fri and 9 - 2 Sat. Phone: 303-425-7623.
- [Veolia's Colorado Recycling Center](#) at 9131 E. 96th Ave. in Henderson for Adams and neighboring county residents 9 - 2 Wed and Sat. Book appointment online or call 303-526-8155. Cost is a \$28.35 facility fee plus \$1.45 per pound.
- [Boulder County Hazardous Material Management Facility](#) at 1901 63rd St. in Boulder from 8:30 - 4 Wed - Sat. Free for residents of Boulder County, Broomfield and Erie but \$50 for non-residents.
- **RMNP** – Has a disposal for used canisters at all the campgrounds in the Park.



## BPX TRIPS

### Upcoming Trips With Openings\*

Dates / Registration Date	Difficulty	Trip
Aug 21-23 Thu-Sat	Challenging	<a href="#">Wheeler Geologic Area + Halfmoon Pass from South Fork Saguache TH</a>
Aug 25-27 Mon-Wed	Difficult	<a href="#">Willow and Salmon Lakes from Mesa Cortina TH</a>
Aug 29-31 Fri-Sun	Challenging	<a href="#">Rich, Rough, and Tumbling Creeks from Rich Creek TH</a>
Sep 16-18 Tue-Thu	Moderate	<a href="#">Abyss and Helms Lakes from Bierstadt TH to Burning Bear TH</a>
Oct 1-3 Wed-Fri / Sep 1	Challenging	<a href="#">Bison and McCurdy Peaks from Lost Park TH</a>
Oct 3-5 Fri-Sun	Moderate	<a href="#">Nolan Lake from FS Road 418.1</a>

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### Upcoming Trips With 0-1 on Waitlist\*

Dates / Registration Date	Difficulty	Trip

Aug 22-25 Fri-Mon	Difficult	<a href="#">Pawnee-Buchanan Loop from Long Lake TH</a>
Aug 26-28 Tue-Thu	Challenging	<a href="#">Crater Lake from Monarch Lake TH</a>
Sep 5-7 Fri-Sun	Moderate	<a href="#">Colorado Trail - Segment 11 South from Mt. Elbert TH</a>

\*As Of Aug 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, **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.

## SCHOOLS

### DENVER

DAY HIKER SCHOOL	More info <a href="#">here</a>
INTRO TO HIKING SAFETY	<a href="#">Aug 27</a>
WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL (WTS)	Starts <a href="#">Sep 2</a>
CPR/AED	<a href="#">Sep 11</a>
BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SCHOOL	<a href="#">Sep 13</a> <a href="#">Sep 20</a>

### PIKES PEAK

WTS - WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS	Starts <a href="#">Sep 15</a>
LAND NAVIGATION	Starts <a href="#">Oct 6</a>

### STATE

WILDERNESS FIRST AID/FIRST RESPONDER	Multiple Offerings - Check CMC Website <a href="#">here</a>
TRIP LEADER SCHOOL	More Info <a href="#">here</a>
TRIP LEADER SCHOOL SCENARIOS	<a href="#">Boulder</a> <a href="#">Denver</a> <a href="#">Pikes Peak</a> <a href="#">Western Slope</a>

**Continue to check the CMC Website for additional courses.**

**CMC Backpacking Section Supports Leave No Trace**

[View BPX Calendar](#)



**The Colorado Mountain Club**

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