



PLAY LEARN EXPLORE PROTECT YOUTH RENEW



# BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

March 2024

## CHAIR'S CORNER - Uwe Sartori

As we move into the BPX summer season, let's chat about Conservation. Leave No Trace, Trail Etiquette, using the CMC RIMS app, removing illegal fire rings, and working on trail maintenance all serve as opportunities for BPX members to contribute to good stewardship of the land. Below are highlights of the CMC's and Denver Group's Trails and Conservation Committee work chaired by Steve Bonowski. Impressive. They are looking for Trail Crew Leaders and volunteers. Training is provided. Interested? E-mail [climbersteveb@gmail.com](mailto:climbersteveb@gmail.com)

- Nicole Budine, CMC Conservation Policy Director, recently resigned. We appreciate her leadership and service. Kendall Chastain, is our new Senior Conservation Manager and heads the Conservation Department. Please join me in welcoming Kendall.
- Senate Bill 24-058 for reforming the Colorado Recreation Use Statute is a win for outdoor recreationalists. See the text [here](#).
- CMC engages in advocacy work. Thank you to volunteers Bill Pasczyk and Michael McMahon for representing CMC interests with Jefferson County Open Space, and Jim Guerra for his work with Douglas County Open Space.
- Recently, Denver Group represented the Club in signing on to a comment letter to the US Forest Service regarding proposed fuels reduction (fire mitigation) on the South Platte Ranger District. We'll keep you posted.
- Outside-285, is a regional recreation partnership set up by Colorado Parks & Wildlife and funded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GoCo). This partnership enhances recreational opportunities while protecting wildlife habitat and migration corridors. CMC is a lead partner. For more information, go to [outside285.com](http://outside285.com).
- Denver Group's summer trails maintenance program will kick off soon. We expect to be back on Guanella Pass working on the staircases at the start of the Squaretop Lakes Trail. (We built these staircases 15 years ago.) We also plan work in Roxborough State Park.

## BPX TRIP LEADERS

Thanks BPX Trip Leaders for attending this year's Stake Your Claim event! Please claim and customize your trips by [April 6<sup>th</sup>](#) to be included in the Trip Catalog for the BPX Member Roll-Out.

[2024 SYC Presentation](#)

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## BPX MEMBERS

**2024 TRIP ROLLOUT April 11:** A fun night to get together with your fellow outdoor enthusiasts & backpacker friends to plan YOUR upcoming season! We'll roll-out the trips for the spring, summer & fall, and share the stoke for those alpine lakes, dirt trails, & beautiful views! Food & drinks will be provided. This event is for BPX members AND BPX trip leaders. This is a hybrid event so you can join either in person at the AMC or via Zoom-- please indicate when registering.

[Trip Rollout Signup](#)

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## UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

Winter backpack/camping trips are over for this season, but stay tuned for upcoming summer BPX trips! A change this year is 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 longer a limit on the number of BPX trips you can go on! We will continue to publish in this newsletter trips coming up in the next month with openings as well as with 0-1 on the wait list.

Here are Shakedown Trips scheduled so far, giving you a chance to do a test of your personal fitness and gear before heading out on more challenging backpacks.

May 18-19 Sat-Sun E [White Ranch Loop - Family Backpack](#)  
May 23-24 Thu-Fri E [Morrison Creek](#) Opens Apr 23, 5:00pm  
Jun 1-2 Sat-Sun M [Wigwam Park](#) Opens May 2, 6:00pm  
Jun 18-19 Tue-Wed E [Morrison Creek](#) Opens May 18, 6:00pm

[Mountain Side Gear Rental](#) in Golden rents backpacking gear with a 25% discount for CMC Members.

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## SCHOOLS/EVENTS

### DENVER

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

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL More info [here](#)

WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL (WTS) Starts [Apr 2](#)

BACKPACKING SCHOOL Starts [Jun 4](#)

CPR/AED [Apr 16](#)

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SCHOOL Starts [May 6](#)

BACKCOUNTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT [May 18](#) [Sep 14](#)

## NORTHERN COLORADO

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL Starts [Apr 4](#)

## PIKES PEAK

WTS LAND NAVIGATION Starts [Apr 17](#) [Oct 9](#)

WTS WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS Starts [May 13](#) [Sep 16](#)

WTS INTRO TO BACKPACKING Starts [Jun 10](#) [Jul 29](#)

## STATE

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

Continue to check the CMC website for additional courses.

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## BPX TRIP REPORTS

### Abyss Lake Trail - Full Moon Winter Trip

Trip Leader Daniel Schweissing - Denver Group

1 night

2 days

3 backpackers

3.4 miles day hiking

5 miles RT to campsite

15 degrees overnight low

40 degrees daytime high

1417' elevation gain

10202' campsite elevation

10693' max elevation



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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](mailto:maggie.burns1@gmail.com), and

## BPX TIP OF THE MONTH

### Gear List Apps

A Gear List with the weights of each item is an important piece of “gear” for your backpacking trips:

- Helps make sure you have everything—don’t want to discover in the wilds that you forgot a critical piece of gear or didn’t pack all your food. It also helps you weed out what you don’t need, which can happen by just throwing stuff in your pack at the last minute.
- When you get home, it helps you re-evaluate what you took, making tweaks for things you forgot, didn’t need, had too much or too little of, etc.
- Helps you identify where the weight in your pack is coming from and evaluate whether or not to take non-critical items; e.g., I really like the comfort of my chair, but is it worth the extra pound on this long backpack?

In the past, many of us used a spreadsheet to track our gear, manually recording each item and its weight. But now there are apps for that. One of the most popular is [LighterPack](#). It allows you to Enter Your Packing Lists, Visualize Your Pack Weights with Pie Charts, and Share Your Lists. It also collects the gear you’ve entered into your Gear Library. So when you are putting together a list for your next trip, you can just pull in gear from this library. You can export your list to a .csv file to get a hard-copy to check off as you load items into your pack. The best part is it’s FREE.

A newer app is [PackWizard](#). Like LighterPack, it lets you create lists, see your pack weights in pie charts, share your lists, create a Gear Closet, and print out a check list as well as check off items online. It also is FREE. It does have links to affiliate gear sites (which you can turn off) where a small portion of any sale helps support the continuing operation of this site, but this provides funding for more features than LighterPack. This includes a gear database, providing the option to research gear if you are in the market for a new tent, backpack, etc., see daily gear deals, and to auto-fill items you are adding, filling in the weight, price, image, and link to the item’s webpage. If you already have your gear in LighterPack, no worries—you can import them into PackWizard if you’d like to give it a try.

The screenshot displays the LighterPack (beta) app interface. On the left, a sidebar shows a list of gear items with their weights: USA oven 2.0 backpack (938 g), Mont Bell Down Hugger #3 30F Sleeping Bag (536 g), Big Agnes Fly Creek HV UL2 Tent (879 g), Granite Gear Blaze 60 Backpack (3 lb), and Therm-a-Rest NeoAir UberLite Sleeping Pad (0.25 kg). The main screen shows a 'Copy of UL Backpack' list with a pie chart and a summary table. The pie chart is divided into four segments: Sleeping (blue), Shelter (red), Backpack (yellow), and accessories (green). The summary table shows: Total Price \$660.00, Total Weight 7.44 lb, Worn 1.18 lb, and Base Weight 6.26 lb. Below the pie chart, there are detailed tables for 'Sleeping', 'Shelter', and 'Backpack' items, including their names, descriptions, prices, weights, and quantities.

Category	Price	Weight
Sleeping	\$395.00	1.73 lb
Shelter	\$0.00	1.94 lb
Backpack	\$265.00	3 lb
accessories	\$0.00	0.77 lb
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$660.00</b>	<b>7.44 lb</b>
Worn		1.18 lb
Base Weight		6.26 lb

Sleeping		Price	Weight	qty
Name	Description	0.00	0 oz	1
Mont Bell Dov	Sleeping Bag	245.00	536 g	1
Therm-a-Rest	Sleeping pad	150.00	0.25 kg	1

Shelter		Price	Weight	qty
Big Agnes Fly	Tent	0.00	879 g	1

Backpack		Price	Weight	qty
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A newer app is [PackWizard](#). Like LighterPack, it lets you create lists, see your pack weights in pie charts, share your lists, create a Gear Closet (database), and print out a check list as well as check off items

online. It also is FREE. It does have links to affiliate gear sites (which you can turn off) where a small portion of any sale helps support the continuing operation of this site, but this provides funding for more features than LighterPack. This includes a gear database, providing the option to research gear if you are in the market for a new tent, backpack, etc., see daily gear deals, and to auto-fill items you are adding, filling in the weight, price, image, and link to the item's webpage. If you already have your gear in LighterPack, no worries—you can import them into PackWizard if you'd like to give it a try.

The screenshot shows a user interface for a backpacking gear list. At the top, there's a toggle for 'HIDE PACK STATS & ITEM SUGGESTIONS'. Below that is a donut chart showing the weight distribution of the pack. A table to the right of the chart lists categories and their weights and percentages. Below the chart is a 'SHOW GEAR SUGGESTIONS' button. The main title is 'Ultralight Gear List 2023'. Below the title are tags for the user '@JustinOutdoors', the trail 'Great Divide Trail (GDT)', and the season '3-Season'. There are also tags for 'Thru-Hike' and 'Backpacking'. A short description follows: 'If you're looking to shed some weight from your pack or have an ultralight backpack, check out this gear list for some inspiration. The priority with this...'. Below this is an 'EXPAND DESCRIPTION' button. The main section is titled 'Big 3' and is described as a 'Pack, Tent, Sleep System'. Below this is a table with columns for Item, Item Type, Qty, Weight, and Price. The table lists six items: Plex Solo Tent, Therm-a-Rest NeoAir XLite NXT Sleeping Pad, Enigma Quilt 20F 950fp, Nylofume, Mountainsmith Zerk 40L Backpack, and Dream Sleeper Pillow.

Category	Weight	%
Base	7.80 lb	94.93%
Worn	0.00 lb	0.00%
Consumables	0.42 lb	5.07%
Total	8.22 lb	100.00%

  

Category	Weight	%
Big 3	4.15 lb	50.5%
Clothing	1.83 lb	22.2%
Cook System	1.19 lb	14.5%
Utilities	0.59 lb	7.2%

  

Item	Item Type	Qty	Weight	Price
Plex Solo Tent	1-person tent	1	394 g	\$599.00
Therm-a-Rest NeoAir XLite NXT Sleeping Pad	sleeping pad	1	339 g	\$199.95
Enigma Quilt 20F 950fp	20f quilt	1	540 g	\$319.99
Nylofume	Pack Liner	1	9 g	\$2.25
Mountainsmith Zerk 40L Backpack	40l pack	1	549 g	\$219.95
Dream Sleeper Pillow	Pillow	1	52 g	\$25.00

**Note:** There is currently not a mobile app for either of these, but you can view them via your phone's web browser.

[LighterPack Tutorial](#)

[PackWizard Tutorial](#)

[LightPacker Versus PackWizard Comparison](#)

## BPX MEMBER INFO

**BPX FACEBOOK:** [BPX FB](#) Send Photos and Trips Reports to post on BPX Facebook Page to: [maggie.burns1@gmail.com](mailto: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](#)

**AMC PARKING INFO:** [here](#)

**COLORADO ROAD INFORMATION:** [here](#)

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

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

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## LEAD THE PACK

### WELCOME NEW BPX TRIP LEADERS

Eric Butler - Denver

Lynn Clay - Northern Colorado

Michael Rees - Denver

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*CMC Backpacking Section Supports Leave No Trace*

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**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.**

**JOIN**

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