



BACKCOUNTRY CACHE

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

January 2024

BPX UPDATES FOR 2024 SEASON

In October the BPX Committee met for an all-day retreat in beautiful, downtown Golden (i.e., a free room at the AMC). There we discussed the successes and challenges of this past season as well as planned for next season. A big success from last season was no safety incidents on BPX trips! Other successes included more BPX Trip Leaders leading, and more BPX trips than ever being posted to the CMC Activities Calendar. The [2023 BPX Annual Report](#) has a complete review of last season.

Roster churn, however, continues to be a challenge. Trip Leaders often saw their trip when registration opened as full with 9-10 people on the waitlist, to not only a complete turnover of registered participants by the time the trip occurred, but even sometimes having to cancel it due to a lack of participants.

For the upcoming season we are going to try a different strategy. We will still launch the Trip Catalog in the spring, but instead of opening all the trips up on April 1, our plan is to use a rolling sign up. BPX trips will open for registration 30 days prior to departure, with registration closing a week before the trip. We will continue to publicize upcoming trips in the next 30 days in the BPX Newsletter. With the new rolling open dates, we will drop the rule restricting registration to 3 BPX Backpacking and/or Camping trips.

Another major challenge for the Committee has been determining the roster of active BPX members. Currently, data is being pulled from a number of sources and then manually reconciled. Work is now underway to enhance the CMC system to better support Sections like BPX and RMOTHG. Stay tuned for updates.

The BPX Committee is now busy working on the 2024 Trip Catalog. We are soliciting inputs from Trip Leaders for updates needed for existing routes, like trailhead parking issues, trail conditions, permits, etc. as well as suggestions for new routes. The Difficulty Rating for all BPX routes are also being updated to match the CMC 4-level rating system, considering factors unique to BPX.

Upcoming Dates:

March 6 – BPX Trip Leader “Stake Your Claim” Rollout – In-person at AMC in Golden and Zoom
April 11 – BPX Member Trip Rollout - In-person at AMC in Golden and Zoom

We are also considering hosting a Gear Workshop in early May with gear demos, gear swaps, etc.

As always, we appreciate any feedback or comments—send them to cmcbpx@gmail.com.

Here's to a great 2024 Season! Your BPX Committee:

Uwe Sartori	Chair and Secretary
Louise Campbell-Blair	Vice Chair and Treasurer
Lisa Shroyer	Trip Leader Coordinator
Maggie Burns	Events and Social Media Coordinator
Susan Quechenberger	Membership Coordinator
Randy Blosser	Trip Coordinator
Craig Townsend	Trip Coordinator
Leila Murphy	Communications Coordinator and Newsletter Editor

UPCOMING BPX TRIPS

BPX currently has 2 winter backpacking/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. Trips will be updated with more details and equipment requirements as the dates get closer.

Feb 9-10 Fri-Sat Moderate [Winter Camping Trip #2](#)

Mar 16-17 Sat-Sun Moderate [Winter Camping Trip #3](#)

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](#)

TRIP LEADER SCHOOL More info [here](#)

WINTER CAMPING SCHOOL Starts [Feb 13](#)

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

BACKPACKING SCHOOL Starts [Jun 4](#)

CPR/AED [Feb 6](#)

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

AVALANCHE RESCUE [Feb 10](#) [Mar 2](#) [Mar 30](#)

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

NORTHERN COLORADO

AIARE 1 Starts [Feb 20](#)

MOUNTAIN HIKING COURSE Starts [Mar 12](#)

PIKES PEAK

AIARE 1 Starts [Jan 22](#)

WTS WILDERNESS FUNDAMENTALS Starts [Feb 5](#) [May 13](#) [Sep 16](#)
AVALANCHE TERRAIN AVOIDANCE Starts [Feb 20](#)
AVALANCHE RESCUE [Mar 3](#)
WINTER WILDERNESS SURVIVAL Starts [Mar 6](#)
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.

BPX TRIP REPORTS

2nd Annual BPX Winter Camping Gear Check Near Guanella Pass

Trip Leader Daniel Schweissing - Denver Group

For most of us, it was the first winter camping trip of the season and the last camping trip for 2023 and was very well attended (at least by winter camping standards).

1 night

2 days

2" snowfall

6 campers

9 degrees overnight low

18 degrees high (day 2)

28 degrees high (day 1)

9600' campsite elevation

Looking forward to more snow for January's trip!!!



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.

CMC has great trips; also great schools with equally great leaders and instructors. However, almost all of our trips go on some form of public land, which is where CMC's statewide conservation staff and the Denver Trails & Conservation Committee come in. We deal with all the management plans, and plan revisions, keeping an eye out for the interests of Club members.

Denver T & C leads hikes into special areas not often seen by members. We also coordinate and lead much of the Club's Give Back and Stewardship trips. CMC is the largest single user of public lands in Colorado. We have a responsibility to help maintain those trails that we love. Watch for more information coming in the Conservation Corner in future issues of the BPX Newsletter.

DENVER WILDERNESS TREKKING SCHOOL- Starts April 2

Hiking in Colorado's mountains is fabulous recreation! Wilderness Trekking School (WTS) is for all – whether you want to bag a few 14ers – OR – just want to enjoy the scenery. WTS is a great introduction to the Colorado Mountain Club and a place to meet new friends. WTS is a comprehensive course on mountain day hiking, with no prerequisites, and CMC's largest school. Students are all ages, from 18 to 80. If you're new to hiking, WTS provides the opportunity to learn how to travel safely and confidently in the backcountry. If you're an experienced hiker, WTS gives you a chance to review and enhance your skills, and possibly to fill in some gaps. WTS also fulfills one of the requirements to take Denver Group's Backpacking and Alpine Climbing Schools.

The course consists of streaming videos on your own, 5 Tuesday night small group meetings, 5 field days, and weekly homework (yes, really!). Students are divided into groups of 9-11 people, based on preferred field day, with consideration for fitness level.

The curriculum includes safe backcountry travel techniques and opportunity to practice them in a supportive environment. Students plan and complete a CMC trip with their field group. WTS is a great place to learn and practice new skills, make new friends, and become a safer, more confident backcountry traveler.

Tuition is \$170 through March 25 for current CMC Members and then goes up to \$190. Registration opens in mid-January.

For more information, including a complete schedule of lectures and field trips and enrollment instructions, please visit our web site at [Wilderness Trekking School](#) or search wts denver on CMC.org. Information is also available by calling the CMC office at 303-279-3080 ext. 1.

"This course is way beyond what I thought it was going to be - it has challenged me physically and emotionally (I have overcome many fears)." –WTS Student

"I thought I came into the class with a lot of knowledge, but I learned far more than I expected!" –WTS Student

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.

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.

JOIN

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

710 10th Street, Suite 200
Golden, CO | 80401 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.