

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Chapter

April 2011
Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S PROSE

April is coming in like a lion alright, raging with thirst! Let's hope it goes out like the proverbial lamb... We had some great training rides in March, to the Potrillo Mountains to the south, and to the Organ Mountains. We enjoyed great weather at the annual Cowboy Days at the Farm and Ranch Museum, along with great fun and entertainment, visiting with old friends and making some new ones. Our packing demonstration was wonderfully done by new member Latana Bernier and her side-kick, Nacho, who as her husband Tom puts it, is nacho average burrito! He attracted people like flies as he carried his custom-made pack saddle around the grounds. It was great fun!

The New Mexico Equine Industry summit was attended by member Ron Parker. We hope to get a report on that at our April meeting. We'll also hear from our new Black Range Forester, Larry Cosper.

We've been invited to join the Socorro Chapter at Fort Stanton on the 16th to celebrate the return of Tom Bryant to the LRGC—we'll be celebrating and they'll be cryin' in their beer, as they send him off with a steak dinner cooked over a campfire. If you can't make that ride, consider the Jimmy Durante Ride for Charity along the Rio Grande in Arrey, organized by LRGC member Trinna Riddle. Get the details from Trinna at 575-640-8482.

Pat, Tom and Don attended the State Board Meeting in March. We worked on Rendezvous 2011 details. Our annual gathering will be August 26-28 at the Resumidero Campground in the Santa Fe National Forest. This is on the west side of the SFNF in the Coyote Ranger District, San Pedro Parks Wilderness. We will have the opportunity to come early, pack in to a high meadow for a day or two, or ride different trails from the main camp where we will be treated to demonstrations by the Forest Service on how to do trail maintenance, and by horse trainers on how to hobble-train your horse. A GPS workshop is planned. There will be lots of Dutch Oven cookin' goin' on, a raffle, and great camaraderie around the campfire, so watch for the registration application in your email (by June) and plan on joining us!

We also elected new State Officers, though most remain at their posts. Our new State Secretary is Barb Kiipper of the Three Rivers Chapter (northern NM), and new National Director is Oscar Simpson of the Middle Rio Grande Chapter. Dick Rahal (our State

Chairman) and Pat Buls are the new Alternate National Directors. Getting Oscar onboard as a National Director is a big step in the right direction for BCHNM and for the BCHA. Oscar has lots of experience dealing with the State and National Legislatures and is a past president of the NM Wildlife Federation, and is currently their Conservation Policy Chairman. We are very lucky to have him working with us to accomplish our BCHA Mission!

As you know, the Forest Service is working on a new planning rule to address current and future needs of the 155 national forests and 20 grasslands in the National Forest System. The proposed planning rule was published in the February 14, 2011 Federal Register, kicking off a 90-day public comment period ending on May 16, 2011. The Forest Service will use comments to develop a final rule. Please see the proposed rule www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule and make a comment. There are public forums scheduled in Albuquerque on April 5th at 1:00 and 6:00 pm at the Marriot on Louisiana Blvd. NE. These are to help us better understand the proposed rule at which they will NOT be taking comments. They want the comments in writing at: <http://www.govcomments.com/> or <http://www.regulations.gov> or send hard copy to Forest Service Planning DEIS, C/O Bear West Company, 132 E 500 s, Bountiful, UT 84010 or by fax to 801-397-1605. Please identify your written comments by including "planning rule" on the cover sheet or first page. If you plan to attend a forum please RSVP to Sheila Poole at 505-842-3291 or spoole@fs.fed.us For more info on the forums, contact Bob Davis, Director of Planning, at 505-842-3210, or bdavis03@fs.fed.us

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Joyce Getrost, Pat Buls, Kathi-Jane Alvarado, Latana Bernier, Kathy Boyer, Lee Preece, Lisa Parshall, Don Patterson, Tom Bryant, Piedad Mayagoitia

Oz Gomez from BLM gave a presentation on the plans at BLM for trails in this area. Unfortunately BLM is under financial constraints for recreational projects and supplies. This is where BCH can help them define, work and maintain some of the areas.

The areas he mentioned as projects he hopes the BLM can pursue are:

Dona Ana has problems with motorized vehicles, shootings and trash dumping. After Environmental Assessment on the Dona Anas he will then ask for help in setting up trails. Sierra Vista Trail - he hopes to extend this trail and will need help with arroyos, gates and signage.

Alamo Canyon to Dog Canyon, Argoro Canyon and San Andres Canyon in Alamogordo are other areas for trails. We could be riding those areas now to help determine what is needed to set up trails when approved.

Oz was optimistic about the future trails for equestrians in the area.

Members were encouraged to attend Cowboy Days on March 12-13. We will have a table and demo packing skills. Latana Bernier volunteered her donkey for the job of packing and pleasing the children.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Subject to change in inclement weather – please RSVP Pat by phone: 575-621-9068 or email: gentletamer1@peoplepc.com

April 2: Cook's Peak ride. We will meet at the Radium Springs Exit on I-25 north of Las Cruces (on the east side of the freeway) at 9:00 am, and caravan to Cook's Peak.

April 14: Regular Monthly Meeting, 6:30 pm at Branigan Library, upstairs in the Board Room.

April 16: Ride at Fort Stanton with Socorro Chapter. Friday afternoon ride: 2 pm, Saturday ride at 9 am, Sunday ride again and/or return. There will be a steak dinner (steaks provided by the Socorro Chapter, bring your own sides) on Saturday night, hosted by the Socorro Chapter, to honor Socorro past President Tom Bryant. Please RSVP Pat Buls ASAP if you plan to attend (see contact info above).

April 16: Jimmy Durante Ride for charity at Arrey, NM. For details, call Trinna: 575-640-8482.

April 30: Summerford Mt. Ride on the Chihuahuan Desert Range Research Ranch, 9:00 am. Directions: From Highway 70 east take the Mesa Grande Exit, then turn left, go back under the highway and go west to Jornada Rd. Turn right and proceed to the gate and on into the ranch headquarters and corrals. Alternatively, take I-25 north to the Radium Springs Exit (Exit 19) and turn right at the exit ramp, then left onto the first dirt road, just at the bottom of the hill. Proceed north to County Rd 79 east and go seven miles to the ranch headquarters and corrals. Either way allow at least a half hour after you leave the highway.

CLASSIFIEDS

Riding lessons and horses trained in a gentle, low-stress environment, including arena obstacles and trail riding, with dressage basics. Call Pat Buls, The Gentle Tamer, at 505-990-7801 or 575-571-0221.

Websites of our Congressmen, where you can get their email addresses:

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/default.aspx>

US Senator Jeff Bingaman: <http://bingaman.senate.gov> Phone# 800-443-8658

US Senator Tom Udall: <http://udall.senate.gov> Phone# 202-224-6621

Representative Steve Pearce's website with contact info: <http://pearce.house.gov/>

Equine Land Conservation Resource: www.elcr.org

New Mexico Horse Council: www.nmhorsecouncil.org

Information on the Rio Grande Trail:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/riograndeconcept.htm>

For up-to-date info on National Forests and BLM areas, go to <http://www.nmfireinfo.com>