

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Chapter

February 2011
Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S PROSE

It looks like we're gonna get some winter weather after all – let's hope it takes the place of the "spring winds" we've been having in January. We sure need some moisture around here...

Welcome and thanks to all the new and returning members who have sent in their memberships for 2011! It's great to see so many new faces and to know that we have many members who have been with the LRGC since its inception in 2000. We've come a long way in ten years ~ learned a lot, had many great campin' trips together, made lots of great memories to keep. Our combined voice has been heard from our local land managers on up to our state and national legislators. We have made a difference, and will continue to be a watchman and a voice for horsemen's right to ride on our public lands.

This year the Gila National Forest is working on its Travel Management Plan, as the BLM prepares to develop a National Landscape Conservation System management plan. I encourage you to express your thoughts on these plans as the agencies seek public input, a different perspective, and fresh ideas from all stakeholders. Our best strategy is to be proactive in accomplishing the goals of the back country horseman:

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.

To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To assist the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the back country resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

Send your comment on the FS Travel Management Plan to r3_gila_travel@fs.fed.us by March 7th.

There are new faces at the Black Range District Office and the Las Cruces BLM Office as well. We look forward to meeting and working with Forest Ranger Larry Cosper and also Bill Childress at the BLM.

We have arranged to have our meetings at the Southwest Environmental Center, as it is a great centralized quiet meeting place. There is a change in the meeting date to the SECOND THURSDAY of the month.

We had a great ride at White Sands National Monument in January. Eight riders enjoyed a beautiful day and great camaraderie. Don Patterson loaned new member Piedad Mayagoitia his Paso Fino horse, Chance. She started out thinking she was taking a BIG chance, but she soon figured out what a good little horse he is, took the advice of several fellow riders, and ended up with a big smile on her face and riding like a pro!

At the January BCHNM Board Meeting the 2011 **Rendezvous date was changed to August 26 through the 28th**. It will still be at the Resumidero Campground in the Santa Fe National Forest (north of Cuba).

We discussed the issue of getting involved in government. Our BCHNM Bylaws state, under Article II – Purpose:

Section 4: To assist government agencies **and elected officials** on regulation and policies for management of public lands.

Although some members think that politics are beyond the scope of our mission statement, the general consensus is that we *must* be involved in politics in order to stay informed on issues involving public lands and horsemen's rights, and to be pro-active as our national BCHA leaders advise.

Middle Rio Grande Chapter member Oscar Simpson was appointed as our State Legislative Chairman. His duties as such, according to our BCHNM Bylaws are: to attempt to keep track of all legislation, rules and regulations filed in the State that could affect horsemen and/or horse use. He shall attempt to keep state membership aware of all such activity. He shall confer with the State Chairman on issues that might be controversial. He shall be the official speaker for the State membership at all hearings on horse or recreational legislation.

LRGC January 20 MEETING MINUTES:

Members present: Pat Buls, Don Patterson, Nana Delanoy, Nathan & Xochitl Small, Piedad Mayagoitia, Latana & Tom Bernier, Jane Thomas, Trinna Riddle, Amy Carpenter, Suzi Temple, Debbie Cantrill, Kathi-jane Alvarado, Cathy Boyer, Radwan Jallad, and Joel Hoffman.

Election of officers: President - Pat Buls; V.P. - Don Patterson; Secretary/Treasurer - Joyce Getrost; State Director - Pat Buls; Alternate State Director - Ron Parker; Board Members - Lee Preece, Jane Thomas, and Nathan Small

Pat Buls stated that the LRGCC will meet with the BLM to discuss a management plan for the National Landscape Conservation System.

The Gila Travel Management Plan options were discussed and members were encouraged to attend the Forest Service Open House at Hotel Encanto on Jan. 29 from 10 am to 4 pm and to make comments.

A motion was passed to renew the LRGC's memberships in the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource and the NM Horse Council.

A motion was passed to purchase the BCHA CD: Wilderness Planning by Dennis Dailey.

Meeting places were discussed for this years' LRGC meetings. The Southwest Environmental Center was selected as a regular meeting place, due to its central location.

Meeting date was discussed and changed to the SECOND THURSDAY of every month.

Schedule of events through April were discussed.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Buls

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 10: LRGC BCH regular monthly meeting at 6:30 pm at the Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC). Our speaker will be Mr. Oz Gomez of the BLM to discuss projects that we may be able to help with.

Directions: the Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) is next to Day's Hamburgers at the corner of Water St. (the southbound extension of Main St. on the downtown mall) and Las Cruces Ave. Main Street is Hwy. 70, so exit the freeway at Hwy. 70 and proceed to the middle of town, then look for the above intersection.

February 12: Soledad Canyon Patrol, 11 am.

Directions to Soledad Canyon: Take I-25 to University Exit, proceed East past the Farm and Ranch Museum, continue another three miles to Soledad Canyon Road. Turn right and follow Soledad Canyon Rd. to its end, about 7 miles from I-25.

February 26: Broad Canyon Scouting Ride, 11 am. We will meet at the old Broad Canyon Ranch Headquarters, 6 miles north of the Rio Grande Bridge at Radium Springs.

March 5: Training Ride in the Potrillo Mountains southwest of Las Cruces, 11 am. Directions will be provided as the ride approaches.

March 10: Regular Monthly meeting at SWEC, 6:30 pm.

March 12 & 13: Cowboy Days at the Farm & Ranch Museum. Please plan to attend and help out at our LRGC BCH Booth – free of charge!

Further rides/activities will be scheduled pending any BLM projects that come to light at the February meeting.

We have been invited by Dr. Jason Turner at NMSU to send a representative to an Equine Industry Summit in Clovis on Saturday, March 26th. If you're interested in attending this summit please call me for further info: 505-990-7801. Flier attached to this newsletter.

CLASSIFIEDS

Trail Clinic and ride at Shining Heart Farm, Saturday, February 12 at 10 am. Sponsored by the Mesilla Valley Arabian Horse Association. Fee: \$15. Come join the fun!

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> or http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/nm/restrictions_nm.htm.

The website of the New Mexico DOT BPE (Bicycle/Pedestrian/Equestrian trails):

<http://www.nmshtd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=11190>