

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Chapter

January 2012
Newsletter

P.O. Box 445, Radium Springs, NM 88054

President: Tom Bryant, lazytb@juno.com

V.P.: Don Patterson, donpat37@hotmail.com

Secretary: Joyce Getrost, jgetrost@hotmail.com

Website: <http://lowerriogrande.bchnm.org>

BCHNM: <http://www.bchnm.org>

BCHA: www.backcountryhorse.com



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy all,

As Pat stated in the Dec. NL, I – in a moment of weakness - allowed myself to get voted in as your new president. Anyhow, the deed is done and I'll try to continue the work of BCH that Pat, Joyce, Don, Ron and all of you have done for the past few years. As most of you probably know, for the past five years I ran a ranch up in Socorro County and was president of the Socorro BCH. We started out with about five members, five years ago and grew every year and now they average about 60 members. That's a good thing, but it's also a lot like LRGBCH – we carry about fifty members on the books and only about a dozen show up for meetings, rides and work projects.

I hope all of you will help change those numbers because Back Country Horsemen of America needs your support now more than ever. BCHA was founded in Montana in 1973 because the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) released a memo which would have greatly reduced our right to ride horses and mules in The Bob Marshall Wilderness. I joined in 1974 and instead of being reactive and raising hell, horsemen and women decided to become pro-active, work with land managers to pin-point the problems and work to correct said problems. It was a formula which worked well.

And one would think that after almost 40 years of working with land managers we could take a break. Nothing could be further from the truth. I wish that every member of LRGBCH could have been at the December meeting and heard Oscar Simpson speak of the extremely serious threats to our public lands. We are on the verge of, at the most extreme, losing our beloved public lands altogether, and at the least, having our rights to ride on public lands severely restricted. This is a serious threat and we must be proactive, organized and diligent.

So I'm asking all of you – work with me – renew your dues, come to the meetings, rides and work projects. We have much to do – to paraphrase an old quote: now is the time for all good horsemen and women to come to the aid of our trails and our public lands. Thank you for your time. TB

NOTICE: OUR MEETINGS THIS YEAR WILL BE AT 6:30 PM AT BRANIGAN LIBRARY.

Minutes for December 2011 Chapter Meeting

Time and Date: December 3, 2011, 11:00 IHOP

Attendees: Joyce Getrost, Pat Buls, Tom Bryant, Jane Thomas, Donna Muncrief, David Henderson, Debbie Henderson, new members Sam and Kathie Ellis

Pat had everyone introduce themselves. We had two guests, Jerry Crenshaw and Katharine Chrisley.

Pat referred us to an article written by Dennis Daily about chain saw use in the national forests. He requested we contact our District Forest Service personnel giving our support for the use of chain saws in the forest for trail maintenance in times of extreme conditions, such as the heavy downfall of trees due to the past several years' infestation of Pine Bark Beetles.

Ride Schedule:

Jan 7 – White Sands, Jan 21 – Soledad Canyon

Feb. 4 – Debbie Cantrell, Feb. 18 – Deming

Mar 3 - Tonuco

Oscar Simpson showed us a map of the wilderness study areas in NM. He has asked that we try to investigate these areas and inventory them for wildlife, trails, roads, or any other natural features that should be preserved and protected. With continuing limited resources BLM needs help in identifying where budget money should be spent.

Oscar Simpson gave us handouts of (1) pending legislation (2) statistics on wilderness acreage, protected and unprotected, (3) inventoried roadless area acreages by State, and (4) Cumulative and Universal ATV Impacts on the Landscape and Wildlife paper. He gave us a brief on the pending legislation that will open up our public lands to development – coined The Great Outdoors Giveaway. He stated that only 25% of the land has protection. If these bills pass they will reduce that protection to 12%. Oscar has asked for our support and actions to bring the message to our representatives in Washington to stop the destruction of our public lands by special interest groups.

We also received a report on the Cumulative and Universal ATV Impacts on the Landscape and Wildlife.

These bills are disguised as “job creating” legislation. Unfortunately these are short lived jobs. The destroyed land lasts forever. It is necessary that we educate the public about the jobs created by healthy public lands in the form of recreation – hunting, fishing, hiking, riding are ongoing.

Oscar will provide us the links and letters necessary to websites and representatives.

Our next meeting is January 12, 2012 at 6:30 at IHOP.

Submitted by: Joyce Getrost, Secretary, Treasurer

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 7: Training Ride at White Sands National Monument, 11:00 am. Bring your lunch and your sunglasses. They no longer require a permit, but it costs \$3 per person to get in. The Horsemen's parking area is six miles in on the left, where the little fence is in the middle.

January 9: LRGC Meeting in the Board Room of Branigan Library (that's upstairs towards the back) at 6:30 pm. Tom will take over the reins and we'll renew our memberships and our plans for the coming year. Be there!

Directions: Branigan Library is at the corner of North Main St. (Hwy. 70) and Picacho.

January 21: Soledad Canyon Patrol, 10:00 am. Always a beautiful ride!

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 in the foothills of the Organ Mountains, about 7 miles from I-25. (It takes a 90 degree left turn at the Fire Station).

February 4: Training Ride at Rick & Debbie Cantrill's place in Anthony, 10:00 am.

Directions: Take I-25 south to I-10 eastbound

Exit 155 Vado, turn right (west) on Vado Dr. (NM 227), drive approx. 1 mile to stop sign.

At stop sign turn left (south) on NM 478, go less than 0.5 mi. & turn right (west) on NM 189.

Crop Production Services building will be on your right, turn just past them.

Cross RR tracks & river, drive to stop sign.

Turn left (south) at this stop sign. This road is NM 28.

Drive 6.5 - 7 miles, turn right (west) on Ranch Rd.

Ranch Rd. is a dirt road. It is a private road, so it has a red street sign instead of a green one.

Follow this road to the top of the hill, we are at 1210 & Pull in at the chain link fence/gate.

Directions to: 1210 Ranch Rd, Anthony, NM 88021-8545 on Yahoo! Maps:

<http://maps.yahoo.com/#q=Las+Cruces%2C+NM&start=1&lat=32.11707507268144&lon=-106.66134595870972&z=16&mvt=m&trf=0&q1=Las+Cruces%2C+NM&q2=1210+Ranch+Rd%2C+Anthony%2C+NM++88021-8545&w0=32.118355%2C-106.667175>

February 13: LRGC Meeting at Branigan Library Board Room, 6:30 pm. Directions above.

February 18: Training Ride in Florida Mountains near Deming, 11:00 AM. Directions TBA

March 3: Training Ride at Tonuco Mountain, 10:00 am.

Tonuco Mountain is the one to the west of the Border Patrol station on I-25 north of Las Cruces. To get to it take the Upham Exit, go under the underpass and turn south (left) on the dirt road just inside the fence-line. Proceed to the corrals near the base of the mountain.

March 12: LRGC Meeting at Branigan Library Board Room, 6:30 pm. Directions above.

If you are going shopping online for your horses or pets, go to www.backcountryhorse.com and click on the links to:

- Horse.com (Country Supply)
- State Line Tack
- Dog.com
- Amazon.com outdoor gear and apparel

BCHA gets a commission on your purchases and no code or other input is required.

CLASSIFIEDS

New Sport: Combined Trail Event starts at Shining Heart Farm (Pat Bulls' place in Radium Springs) on January 14 & 15. Learning something new keeps you sharp – come out and try it.

Lots of fun and great prizes! Learn all about it at www.ShiningHeartFarm.com or call or email me. 575-621-9068 or gentletamer1@peoplepc.com

Trail Events in the series: February 11 & 12: March 24 & 25: April 14 & 15

Clinics at Shining Heart Farm relating to the Combined Trail Events will be held on:

January 28 February 25 March 10

The clinics will include arena patterns and obstacles.

Clinic Fee: \$20, Audit Fee: \$5

Riding lessons and horses trained in a gentle, low-stress environment, including arena obstacles and trail riding. Learn a simple, logical language of communication that makes sense to your horse, no matter what discipline you prefer. Call Pat Buls, The Gentle Tamer, at 505-990-7801 or 575-621-9068.

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>

