

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Chapter

June 2011
Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Still hot, dry and *windy*...fire season is upon us. We have cancelled all activities in the high country until the rains mitigate the situation up there, but we have been busy in Dona Ana County, scouting new places to ride--until the EHM scare reared its ugly head...

You can find the current EHM info from the USDA here:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>

You can find the current EHM info from the NM Livestock Board here:

<http://nmlbonline.com/>

You can find info on the fires in New Mexico here: <http://nmfireinfo.wordpress.com/> and here: <http://fs.usda.gov/gila>

The NM Livestock Board has recommended that we not move horses to large gatherings until June 5th (pending another confirmed case). Most shows/competitions in the state have been postponed. Our local activities are not in the category of large gatherings of horses, and we are mostly from closed herds or individual farms with no exposure to potential carriers of EHM, so don't panic. However, if your horse is boarded at a place where there are show/competition horses, or farriers who might have come to your place from such a facility, you are advised to stay home until the Livestock Board gives us a green light. This is a good example of why you should never let your horse get nose-to-nose with anyone else's horse to "meet and greet". Always keep your horse out of harm's (nasal secretions) way—you are his protector.

That being said, (restrictions allowing), why not brush up on your riding skills, do some groundwork over obstacles ~ learn something new! I'll be offering some help with that at my place this month—if you don't want to bring your horse you can ride one of mine--check out the classifieds in this issue!

RIDE REPORTS

We rode the BLM-proposed extension of the north end of the Sierra Vista Trail in May. The arroyo crossings are not treacherous. Flagging was applied to the route scouted.

We rode a new canyon south of Faulkner Canyon, which had some cactus blooming. We were hoping for a loop trail, but the steep canyon walls and rocks were too much of an impediment at the point we turned around, so we came back the way we went in. It's a good place to scout further when the weather cools.

We scouted (in the truck) the road to the new BLM parking areas for the Camino Real Trail north of the Upham Exit, but the road was bad and would take a lot of time to navigate to the proposed ride site, with a lot of wear and tear on vehicles/trailers, so we cancelled that ride.

MINUTES for May 2011 Chapter Meeting

Time and Date: 6:30 May 12, 2011 at Branigan Library

Attendees: Joyce Getrost, Pat Buls, Don Patterson, Piedad Mayagoitia, Ron Parker, Tom Bryant, and Sue Snyder

Our scheduled rides into the Gila have been cancelled because of the fire danger. Lincoln Forest has been closed to the public because of fires. Our planned ride in Cloudcroft for National Trails Day is cancelled.

Don reported on the Sierra Vista scouting ride. A trail was marked with ribbon. We will let BLM know that the arroyos in that area are good crossings and don't need a lot of work.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Please RSVP Pat Buls at gentletamer1@peoplepc.com or 575-621-9068)
Remember to record your mileage and time of travel to these activities!

June 4: May 7: Sierra Vista Trail scouting ride, from Dripping Springs Road, 9 am. We'll park at the old corrals on the North side of the road and ride to the BLM parking area just down the road on the south side of Dripping Springs Road. Take the University Exit off of I-25, proceed as if to Soledad Canyon, but don't turn onto Soledad Canyon Rd., just keep going straight. The corrals are on the left side of the road, between one and two miles east (toward the Organ Mts.) of the Soledad Canyon Rd. turnoff.

June 9: Regular Monthly Meeting, 6:30 pm at Branigan Library Board Room (upstairs).

June 18: Training Ride at Muncrief Ranch, 9:00 am.

Directions: take old Hwy. 185 north to mile marker 28 (past Radium Springs). There is an ORANGE trailer on the right, and the ranch entrance is on the left, at the corrals and barn (Ranch Cerro Pedregoso).

July 2: Soledad Canyon Patrol, 9 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 in the foothills of the Organ Mountains, about 7 miles from I-25.

July 14: Regular Monthly meeting, 6:30 pm, Branigan Library Board Room (upstairs).

July 16: TBA

July 23: BCHNM Board Meeting.

August 26-28: BCHNM RENDEZVOUS in the Santa Fe National Forest, San Pedro Parks Wilderness.

CLASSIFIEDS

TRAIL TRAINING CLINIC at Shining Heart Farm: 8:30-10:30 AM Saturday, June 11, Fees: Bring your horse ~\$20; Use My Horse ~\$30; Audit ~\$10. We will work on gaining precision control with lightness and balance, through simple exercises. **Hobble training demo.** Call Pat at 575-621-9068.

Directions: From I-25 take Exit 19 (Radium Springs), proceed west over the freeway and take the first right (Tel High) and another immediate Right (Desert Edge) and follow it to the water tower. Turn left onto DeBeers Dr. and go exactly 0.3 mile. You will see a horse-crossing sign on the right, and Pat's driveway on the left. (From old HWY 185 Tel High will be the third left turn after the railroad tracks).

RIDING LESSONS and **HORSES TRAINED** in a gentle, low-stress environment, including arena obstacles and trail riding, with dressage basics. **Always a few good trail horses for sale!** 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://fs.usda.gov/gila> or <http://nmfireinfo.wordpress.com/>

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

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

