

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Chapter

May 2011
Newsletter

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BCHA: www.backcountryhorse.com



PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Well, if the forests don't burn before we get there, we'll be headin' for the hills this month, along with the Gila Chapter, to clear trails in the Black Range. Fire danger is extremely high, and there is a fire burning near the Gila Cliff Dwellings right now. We've been watching the Organ Mountains burn for the past week... let's all pray for early rain this summer.

Despite the winds and dry conditions we had some great rides in April. We rode out at Fort Cummings, near Cook's Peak, early in the month. Then we joined the Socorro Chapter at Fort Stanton for some great riding and a wonderful pot-luck and steak dinner (steaks provided and grilled by the Socorro folks, who really know how to do it right!). Several of our chapter members rode up on an elk herd of about fifty animals, which crossed our path twice. There is a serious need for more trail markers at Fort Stanton, so we hope to join the Socorro Chapter again this year for that project.

This month we'll be scouting the northern extension of the Sierra Vista Trail, at the foot of the Organ Mountains, and taking a look at the Camino Real, at the beginning of the Jornada Del Muerto, north of Upham. The BLM has put in some parking areas and kiosks to point out the historic trail. We plan to spend National Trails Day (first Saturday in June) in the Lincoln National Forest, near Cloudcroft, and in July we plan a campout at the Gillespie Ranch near Mayhill. So get your pony out and leg him up—we're goin' to the mountains!

Minutes for April 2011 Chapter Meeting

Time and Date: 6:30 April 13, 2011 at Branigan Library

Attendees: Joyce Getrost, Pat Buls, Kathi-Jane Alvarado Kathy Boyer, Lisa Parshall, Don Patterson, Piedad Mayagoitia, Jane Thomas, Ron Parker

Pat Buls presented the Gila Chapter work schedule for this summer. We are invited to join them whenever possible to get as much work done in the Gila as possible. Several dates were discussed as possible times we can join them.

Ron Parker reported on his attendance at the New Mexico Equine Industry Summit in Clovis, NM 3/26 as our representative. This meeting was by invitation only. It was a gathering of

horsemen from various backgrounds interested in joining together to help promote the equine industry. Organized by NMSU Professor Jason Turner, it is planned to be an annual event.

Don Patterson proposed that we provide all new members with a free copy of the BLM Guide book. The motion was seconded and passed.

Don Patterson volunteered to provide our chapter's contribution to the Rendezvous Raffle. He will be reimbursed for supplies used. He also volunteered to convert a used Forest Service tent to a useful item for our chapter.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please RSVP Pat Buls at gentletamer1@peoplepc.com or call 575-621-9068 or 505-990-7801.

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.

May 11-15: join the Gila Chapter to clear trails around the Mimbres River Trailhead off of the North Star Mesa road (Forest Road 150). This will be a campout. My plan is to go to the trailhead on the 11th and camp so we can get a good start on the morning of the 12th. We would work on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th, leaving for home the evening of the 15th. The primary emphasis will be to clear the Mimbres River Trail to the forks in preparation for the next project which will be a pack in to the forks. I am hopeful that we can also work on the Sign Board Saddle/Reeds Peak Trail. Part of that trail is the Continental Divide Trail and has not been cleared in a couple of years. Please let me know by the 7th if you plan to help. Let me know if you will be camping with us or if you plan to come for any particular days. Thanks, Gerry Engel 575-590-3497 or engelhill@comcast.net or Pat Buls as above.

May 12: Regular Monthly Meeting at 6:30 pm at Branigan Library, Board Room (upstairs and toward the back).

May 21: Camino Real Ride. We will meet at the Upham Exit on I-25 north of Radium Springs at 9:00 am, and proceed approx. 15 miles north to the BLM parking area.

June 3-5: Pump House Canyon, Lincoln National Forest near Cloudcroft. Details to follow.

June 26 – 28 or 29: Tentative Gila Chapter Project to clear the McKnight Trail from Kelly Tank to McKnight Cabin (approximately 10 miles). This section of trail was worked and reconstructed by the Wilderness District two years ago, so there should not be too many downed logs. This will be the first time since we have been clearing trails that we will be able to ride this trail all the way to McKnight Cabin. The BCH folks that do not want to work on the trail would transport our food and camping equipment by truck to the McKnight Cabin so that we can camp at the cabin for two or three nights and work on a loop trail in that area.

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 575-621-9068.

Several good TRAIL HORSES available. Call Tom Bryant, 575-517-0413.

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>