

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Chapter

October 2011
Newsletter

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BCHA: www.backcountryhorse.com



PRESIDENT'S PROSE

We're finally getting some great ridin' weather, along with a little rain – too little too late, but welcome just the same. It seems like life gets busier every year and it gets harder and harder to work everything in, but taking time to ride your horse is good for both of you, and goes a long way towards keeping your sanity at this pace. Join us on our upcoming rides and work projects – you'll be glad you did.

In September we rode at Soledad Canyon and Picacho Peak – both beautiful places for their stark natural wonders, and we had great weather to top off the great companionship. This month we'll be working with the BLM putting in a horse-friendly gate on the Sierra Vista Trail Extension, north of Soledad Canyon Road. It's National Public Lands Day, so get in the spirit and plan to come help on this project!

I had a few days in the Gila in September. The bears are still very present, and the horses were not their usual selves, by any means, but I got to use the new pipe corrals at the Upper Gallinas Campground. We all owe a big THANK YOU to the Gila Back Country Horsemen Chapter and Mr. Gerry Engel in particular for engineering the plans, the funding, and the construction of these beautiful corrals. The trail from there is challenging – Railroad Canyon/Gallinas Canyon loop is a six-hour ride, with breath-taking views and gorgeous scenery, but it requires a seasoned mount in good shape, with shoes or boots to make it. There are some tricky places, so if you go up there this fall for the turning of the Aspens, as always be sure and go with a buddy, just in case you have trouble on the trail.

I gave a Trail Clinic at my place October 2nd, to celebrate my new arena. It was well attended and everyone had a great time trying all the new obstacles, and getting their horses to give them the "seeking behavior" that helps them accept scary things without a big scary over-reaction. It was great to see them willingly approach the obstacles, looking for a reward, and getting lots of praise and positive reinforcement. I'll be having a monthly clinic during the winter months, so watch for the dates in your email, and join in on the fun.

Last year we rode at White Sands in October and it was still too hot, so watch the schedule for a ride there in November, probably the first weekend. We'll firm up the schedule at our October meeting at the Library. Join us there – we'll be taking nominations for next year's officers. If you would consider taking a term as President, VP, or Secretary, please come and let us know!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 13: Regular Monthly Meeting at Branigan Library Board Room, 6:30 pm

October 15: 10:00 am, Gate Project on the Sierra Vista Trail. Park at the Soledad Canyon Road Parking Area for the Sierra Vista Trail, on the right. We will not need horses for the project, but we can bring horses and ride afterwards.

October 29: BCHNM Board Meeting, Bernardo.

November 5: Ride at White Sands National Monument. (Tentative) 11:00 am.

CLASSIFIEDS

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>

