



Front Range Back Country Horsemen est. 1996

P. O. Box 620381, Littleton, CO 80162

www.frontrangebackcountryhorsemen.org; FRBCH1@yahoo.com

Working to keep trails open to saddle and pack stock today and for future generations through education, service and voice.

Without trails, where would we ride?

Newsletter - April 2010

Next meeting

This month's meeting is on April 28th at Red Rocks Grill, 415 Bear Creek Avenue, Morrison, CO 80465, 303-697-9290. Plan to attend to give your input for the upcoming events for FRBCH plus you can order food and a beverage.

Directions: Red Rocks Grill is in tiny downtown of Morrison on Bear Creek Avenue. It is on the right or north side of the street before the liquor store. You can park on the street, in the T&N parking lot across the street or in the parking lot in the back.

After you enter the restaurant go to the right and follow the ramp to the private back room.

Quick Calendar

April 25th meeting
Work day at Chatfield State Park

April 28th meeting
6:30 – 9:00 – Red Rock Grill in Morrison

Board Members & Task Leaders

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Julie Chaney
Pam Doverspike
Linda Mackety

Newsletter editor:
Kitty Bladt

Prez Sez (A note from our President, Dan Shier)

After a long bout with a nasty virus, I finally feel good enough to do some 5 hour patrols on Open Space.

On the 9th, Julie Sabados and I met with Glen Ryan and South Platte Ranger Brandon Mitchell to discuss a grant application to the Roundup Riders of the Rockies. We settled on the Goose Creek trailhead as the best project. The present ticky-tacky corral put up by previous users would be replaced with from two permanent corrals constructed from iron pipe and 7/8 inch bars. On April 13, Ranger Brandon Mitchell and I visited the site and took appropriate pictures. The proposal was submitted April 21. It involves a good deal of assistance from the Forest Service. If approved, we plan to schedule the work in May. We will need at least six volunteers to work Saturday afternoon, camp overnight and work Sunday morning. Doubtless there will be some fine camp cooking Saturday night.

On the 12th, I attended the Forest Service Planning Rule session. Here "Rule" means Regulations, so that the topic was public input on the set of regulations that the various National Forests would use to do their revisions of their Forest Plan each decade. We had about 200 people in the general session, with just a few from very diverse groups including wildlife people, conservationists, environmentalists, county commissioners and planners, cattlemen, lawyers, hunters and trail user groups. This last included our equestrian group, OHV groups and mountain bikers.

Past attempts at finalizing Forest Plans have taken way to long and have often been disallowed by lawsuits. This time they hope to set up rules so that the Forest Plans will be more robust, shorter, and take less staff time to create. This meeting is for stakeholder input prior to even setting the rules for planning. This is a new thing for the Forest Service. They hope thereby to defuse previous problems.

When they have completed this session and other similar sessions in other areas, the Forest Service will come out with a draft plan which they will present at additional stakeholder meetings.



New Signs

Jefferson County Open Space has posted new signs for five parking lots: East Mt. Falcon, West Mt. Falcon, Matthews-Winters, Aldefer Three Sisters and Lair O' the Bear. The signs read "Horse Trail Parking only until Noon". These signs were the suggestion of two FRBCH members that serve on the Trails Users Task Force for Open Space: Dan Shier and Doug Torza. The basic concepts are simple enough. If you are going to do all the necessary preparations for visiting Open Space with your horse, you want to spend some hours there and you will get there before noon. Hikers and bikers arrive at all times of day, sometimes peaking after work in the evening. If these spaces were to be reserved for horse trailers all day, and usually vacant, it would breed resentment in other users seeking a parking place (and also encourage them to park there anyway).



Mark June 12 and 13 on your calendar.

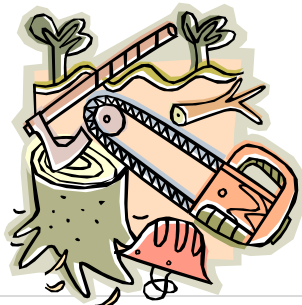
The Leadership Workshop this year will be at a trailhead in the Canyon City area. There will be a potluck on Saturday night and hopefully some entertainment.

- Steve Dietemeyer, formerly a Director for Recreation in Forest Service Region 2 will talk on Recreation on Public Lands. He will also discuss Trail Boss Basics.
- Ottie Ottersten will cover Volunteer Hours reporting.
- Karen Otterstein will discuss the duties of Secretary.
- Fred Allen from the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers will present Fund Raising and Grants.
- Kathy Burgess will present Tax Advantages of Volunteering.
- Other speakers are being added.

FRBCH members will receive an email with details when they are available.

Upcoming events

Chatfield Work Day - Sunday, April 25th: This is our first "work day" of the Season. The plan is to be ready to ride at 10:00 from the Waterton Canyon trail head, just outside of Chatfield State Park. Bring lunch for on the trail, halter and lead rope, appropriate coats and/or rain gear,



work gloves and plenty of water to drink. If you have any small hand tools, like "rose clippers" or small folding saws, bring them along too. We will have the FRBCH Cross Cut saw, small hand saws and "loppers" available also. Chatfield is a great area to do trail maintenance early in the season. If you have not participated in a work day because you were not sure if you and/or your horse would do well at it, this is a great place to try for the 1st time. The terrain is flat, there will probably be water crossings and you don't need shoes on your horses. It would be nice if you would RSVP to me if you are coming so I know how many to expect, and so that I know who to contact should there be any changes, but it is okay to come even though you don't RSVP! Julie Sabados, 720-733-0399 or julierandy1@yahoo.com

White Ranch Pack In Camping: Our White Ranch pack in campout originally scheduled for May 8th & 9th has been cancelled for those dates, as that is Mother's Day weekend! We decided that was not the best date for a weekend event! We could change this event to June 5th & 6th (which is also National Trails Day weekend) if we have enough interest. I need comments from you ASAP if you would want to participate in an overnight pack in the weekend of June 5th & 6th at White Ranch Open Space. This pack in is a nice time to practice your packing skills with your pack horse (or share a packhorse with a friend) as the camp area is not too far from the trail head so you can walk if necessary and/or can return to the trailhead early if the camping is just not working for you or your horse. In the past we have shared meals and had a great time.

Informal Packing Clinic: I periodically have heard members say things like "I was told my horse can pack, but I have never had the chance to try", or "I think my horse would make a good pack horse, but I have never had the chance to try". Therefore, we are going to have a Informal Packing Clinic where you can bring your horse or horses and practice some very basics of packing. We have 4 FRBCH Decker pack saddles that we can use to try on the horses. Just learning how the pack saddle rigging goes on is a good first step! Then we can lead the horses around - - try with your lead horse if you want to bring both. Depending on the desire and temperment of the horses and people, we can try putting on the packs also.

Our member, John Kelley, has volunteered his place near Elizabeth for the clinic. He has an indoor arena we can use, and also has trails to ride on. The plan so far is to go for about an hour ride around his place to get the horses calm, then go to the indoor

arena to work on "packing stuff". Somewhere in there we can have either a BBQ or pot luck. We can make a fun day of this. The date has not been set yet, but will be either Saturday, May 8th or 15th, so watch your e-mail for the final date! If you don't have e-mail, be sure to call me if you want to receive additional information by phone 8). Please RSVP to me if you are interested in attending this clinic. Julie S. - 720-733-039 or julierandy1@yahoo.com.

Directions: Chadman Farms on the Roc'n GMC Ranch is located 3 miles south of the Safeway in Elizabeth. 32023 county rd 9-15. Take either Pine Ridge or Elbert Street south to rd 132, go west to top of hill, turn south on 9-15. 1/2 mile down on right, landscaped gate out front. Follow long drive down toward barn.

CPR First Aid class: Jim Chaney has lined up a CPR/First Aid class for FRBCH members on May 16, 2010. The location is the Franktown Fire Station 181 (corner of Hwy 86 and Hwy 83) or possibly Station 184 at Bayou Gulch Road and Parker road just north of Franktown. This is an all day class. He does not have the exact times yet, but he will get them out as soon as he can. Tentatively he expects 8am to about 4pm. The course will be for a maximum of 15 students. He is currently waiting to hear on cost but at this time he believes there will be no charge except for books and he does not believe they are required. If you plan to attend, email Jim directly at jimf34@q.com and he will start a list.

Colorado Trail Ride 2010: Come join us on a beautiful catered ride through the Colorado Rockies along the scenic Colorado Trail. This year our ride will begin at South Fooses Creek just past Hwy 50 and the whole ride will cover approximately 92 miles to San Luis Pass. We will be camping for 7 nights, riding 6 days (7 if you day ride on Wednesday). If you wish, you may join us only for the first 4 days of riding - 5 nights camping. Please be aware, this is not a training ride! We could use some additional "ground crew" and this could be the spouse of a rider. Contact us if you need the brochure with the registration form.

Past Events

Trail Riding 101 – March 27th: It was a cooler day than we would have preferred. The sun was shining and the wind was blowing. Luckily we were inside the Pole Barn trying to stay warm listening to the enjoyable presentations. However, we had hot coffee, hot cider, and a space heater which improved the situation. A big thank you goes to our great organizer Julie Sabados who brought the kitchen, tables, heater, chairs, horses, and coordinated the

presentations. A number of other helpers, Linda Mackety, Doug Torza, Dan Shier, Julie Chaney, Jim Chaney, Victoria Long, and chef Kitty helped make the event complete.

Dawson Butte Spring Ride: Our "Spring Fun Ride" was held on Saturday, April 17th at Dawson Butte Open Space. We had a nice ride even though the weather was only marginally OK! We stayed in the tree area of this Douglas County Open space for most of the time, exploring the various loop trails of the Open Space. There were only 8 adventurous people who rode and had a great time. We were joined by FRBCH's newest members, Jessica Slusser and Rich Thompson.

Public Lands

- The Rampart East Roadless Area proposal group from Colorado Mountain Club is having a planning meeting Monday, April 26 at the library in Castle Rock at 6:00. They would like BCH members to attend. If anyone would like to attend contact Phil Kummer and let him know: philkummer@q.com
- Tuesday, April 27 will be the wrap-up public meeting for future trails on the Colorado Springs Utilities property on the slope of Pikes Peak. The Utilities proposed allowing stock on both new trails and adding trailer parking at a new TH. But public comments from the previous meeting listed concern for horse use/trail damage as #2 in concerns and #7 in comments (including both supporting and concern) for the proposal. The meeting will be held at 5:00 at the Pikes Peak Room at the Leon Young Service Center located at 1521 Hancock Expressway, Colorado Springs, 80903.
- Please join us for a Town of Parker open house on Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. The open house will be to review the draft update to the Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan and provide your comments. For more information regarding the plan update and the open house, please contact Bryce Matthews at 303.805.3174 or bmatthews@parkeronline.org or Mary Munekata at 303.805.3337 or mmunekata@parkeronline.org
- Public comment on the plans for the mule concession and private recreational riding into the Grand Canyon is on now until April 30. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and proposed actions can be viewed online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca> by clicking on the project name, and then scrolling to "Open for Public Comments." Comments can be submitted online at the same Web address (the



preferred method), mailed to Steve Martin,
Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park,
Attention: Stock Use EA, P.O. Box 129,
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023.

Membership

Membership Renewal Time: This newsletter is going out to every member by regular mail and by e-mail (for those who have signed up). Please, if you DO NOT receive BOTH copies, let us know so we can correct our records. It is easier, faster and less expensive to send newsletters via e-mail, so that is our preferred method of communication. However, if you do not prefer the e-mail version or you cannot or do not open the e-mail version, please let us know and we will put you on the "regular mail" list.

If you have NOT renewed, this is your last newsletter. You will know if you are one of those people because your mailing label will have a cute little sticker on it.

Welcome to our new members:

Catherine Bender, Boulder, CO
Jonathan Jolicoeur, Golden, CO
Amy Dunkelman, Evergreen, CO
Bill & Diane Wingle, Golden, CO
Jessica Slusser & Rich Thompson,
Lakewood, CO



News about our web site

For the few of us that don't like typing in frontrangebackcountryhorsemen.org or have a link setup, you can type in frbch.org and it takes you to the site.

Be sure to check the Calendar section of the web site for additional information on our planned events. Are you looking for a past issue of the newsletter and cannot find it on your computer? Or it might be in that stack of paper somewhere but you don't have time to go through it. Well gee, we have the answer. You can go to our web site (frbch.org) and follow the link for 'About us'. Go down the page and you will find past issues.

Web sites of interest

- ❖ State Back Country Horsemen: www.bchcolorado.org
- ❖ National Back Country Horsemen: www.backcountryhorse.com
- ❖ Douglas County: www.douglas.co.us (for open space information, go to Services - Open Space)
- ❖ Pike National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/news/pike_opening.htm

Third of 4-part series on horse camping from Dan Shier

Back Country Camping with your Horse, Part 2 – Packing Your Stuff

I don't know anything about professional packing, with wall tents, metal stoves and a cooler full of T-bone steaks, borne by as many horses as it takes. On my trips, we have had only two horses available. Generally one pack horse can handle camping gear for two adults, or one adult and two kids. So we packed one horse and took turns riding the other horse.

Both sawbuck and Decker pack saddles allow you to fill up your panniers on the ground or some other convenient place and then place both filled panniers on the horse more or less simultaneously. If you have a stout branch and a 100 pound capacity pack scale, you can weigh each pannier and make

sure they are exactly the same weight. With saddle panniers, you place the panniers on the horse first and then add items to each side, one at a time. To get the weight on each side matched, you need a 50 or 60 pound capacity pack scale to weigh each item and keep a running total on a bit of paper. This process is more time consuming, but it does not require two people to place each pannier on the horse at about the same time, so may be better when traveling alone or with small children.

A properly designed set of saddle panniers can carry just as much bulk and weight as a pack saddle. Both kinds can bring you to grief if the loads are not balanced. The big advantages of

the saddle panniers are lower cost and the fact that once in camp, the pack horse is available for riding. The advantage of the Decker pack saddle is that you can securely load many odd-shaped items that cannot be handled by saddle panniers. I used only saddle panniers for my first decades of horse packing. When I go elk hunting, I use my Decker pack saddle on the mare and carry along, neatly rolled, a saddle pannier for the gelding. On the way out, I have my gear on one horse and lead the other horse that has the elk on it.

To state the obvious, bring only what will fit on your pack horse. I prefer clothing that can be layered, so that one particular item may be used in various

combinations depending on the temperature. Items that are especially useful for their weight include long underwear (which doubles as pajamas) and an unlined nylon windbreaker. When

tending the horses on a cold morning when the meadow is heavy with dew or rain, a fairly common situation, it is desirable to have a way to keep your feet warm and dry. Over the years I

have acquired stuff sacks of many colors. All the gear goes in these before it goes on the packhorse. Light weight tents and other gear designed backpacking have been quite satisfactory for me.



For Your Information – these ads in our newsletter are only from our members – those who have joined as “Corporate Members” who pay an additional membership fee to help support FRBCH. If you can use any of their services, please be sure to give them a call!

Fourteen year old bay and white tobiano registered half arab mare for sale. 14.2 hands, sweet disposition, western trail horse. Has been on the week long Colorado trail rides 4 years running. Shoes, loads great, crosses water without a problem and rides in parades. Just too "araby" for me---her decisions are faster than mine! She's very smart, learns easily, just needs time and consistency. For more information, call Cathy at 303-730-7309.

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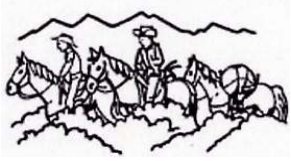
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Calendar of Events

<i>April 25 - Sunday</i>	Work day at Chatfield State Park
<i>April 28 - Wednesday</i>	General Meeting - Red Rocks Grill, Morrison
<i>May 8-9 - weekend</i>	Pack-in camping at White Ranch Cancelled for now - Mother's Day Weekend! See "upcoming events" for more info.
<i>May 8 - Saturday</i>	Informal packing clinic near Elizabeth (or May 15 – not confirmed)
<i>May 16 - Sunday</i>	CPR First Aid class for FRBCH
<i>May 22 - Saturday</i>	Optional campout at Indian Creek prior to work day
<i>May 23 - Sunday.</i>	Work day at Indian Creek (Pike National Forest)
<i>May 26 - Wednesday</i>	General Meeting - Highlands Ranch Library
<i>May 28-31 (Memorial Day Weekend)</i>	Non FRBCH event, but members invited – Chaney's camping/riding at Goose Creek, contact Julie or Jim for details.
<i>June 9 - Wednesday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>June 12-13 - weekend</i>	BCHCO Leadership Workshop - trailhead in the Canyon City area
<i>June 17 - Thursday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>June 19-20 - weekend</i>	Tentative date change for Campout/work day with kids at Bruno Gulch - Pam Doverspike's project
<i>June 22 - Tuesday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>June 23 - Wednesday</i>	General Meeting - Lone Tree Library
<i>July 7 - Wednesday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>July 9 - 16 - week</i>	Colorado Trail Ride
<i>July 20 - Tuesday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>July 21 - Wednesday</i>	General Meeting - Lone Tree Library
<i>July 23-26 - weekend+</i>	Craig Park pack-in campout/work project
<i>July 29 - Thursday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>August 3 - Tuesday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>August 7 - Saturday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>August 12-15 - weekend+</i>	Lost Creek Campout/work project
<i>August 18 - Wednesday</i>	General Meeting - Lone Tree Library
<i>August 19 - Thursday</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>August 22 - Sunday.</i>	Work day - location TBA
<i>August 25 - Wednesday</i>	Work day - location TBA



FRONT RANGE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Year 2010

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS: _____ City _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL: _____ May we use this to send the newsletter? YES _____ NO _____

TELEPHONE: Home _____ Work (if OK to call): _____ Cell: _____

SADDLE Partner (participating individual) \$25.00 _____ **SADDLE Partners (participating family) \$30.00** _____

Yes, I would like to serve on the Finance _____ Education _____ Project _____ Training _____ Membership _____ Records _____ Committee.

SILVER SPUR Partner (supporting individual or family) \$40.00+ _____

CORPORATE Partner \$55.00+ _____ (includes Newsletter ad – please attach a business card sized text – sorry no graphics can be included)

All membership levels include chapter newsletters and a quarterly BCHA newsletter.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **FRONT RANGE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**

SEND TO: FRBCH, c/o Patti Caudell, 41086 Thunder Hill Rd., Parker, CO 80138

Warning – Under Colorado Law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes. I (We) release the Front Range Back Country Horsemen, its' officers, directors, members and agents of any and all liability which may arise as a result of injury to my (our) person or property that may be sustained in connection with the club's activities.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____