



Front Range Back Country Horsemen est. 1996

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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 - August 2010

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

In the middle of the summer, I can see some significant changes from 2009. The blowdown in the Mt. Evans Wilderness is much less than last year, but in the Lost Creek Wilderness, there is more blowdown. Fortunately there is a new, energetic team in the South Platte Ranger District. Rangers Brandon Mitchell, Dale Franchina and two interns have been active in clearing the Hankins Pass and Wigwam trails, with the Chaney's clearing the Goose Creek trail. Brandon and Dale have supported our grant to build horse corrals at the Goose Creek trailhead and solve the bog problem where the Brookside McCurdy trail crosses Craig Creek. The situation in Mt. Evans wilderness is less clear, but we have been asked to clear the more remote trails in the south. The Weekday Warriors program is less active this year, as we have fewer participants.

The equipment purchased for the Colorado Trail Ride has taken the edge off roughing it when we work out of a base camp at a trailhead, with porta-potties on a trailer and a field kitchen. Special thanks for this goes to Julie Sabados and Jim Chaney. The Lost Park Event is our biggest for the year and I hope everyone can attend and enjoy our new equipment.



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Next meeting on August 18th: Lone Tree Library, 8827 Lone Tree Parkway, Lone Tree, CO. This is on the west side of the intersection of Yosemite and Lone Tree, a few blocks south of 470. The meeting room is straight through the entrance, then on the right.

From the West - Highway 470, exit at Yosemite, go right (south) for a few blocks, watch for the library on the right at Lone Tree Parkway.

From the East - There is NO exit onto Yosemite from Highway 470 east bound! If you are coming from south of Highway 470, take Lincoln and go east to Yosemite, turn right on Yosemite for a fair distance, then turn left onto Lone Tree Parkway, the library will be on your right. Coming from north of Highway 470, take County Line going east to Yosemite, turn left (south) and travel past Highway 470 for a few blocks to Lone Tree Parkway, turn right and look for the library on your right.

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Upcoming events

Weekday Warriors: Our season is coming to a close. We have two more "work days" on the schedule, Thursday the 19th and Wednesday the 25th. Unless something changes that is beyond our control, Thursday the 19th will be a work day again up at Goose Creek finishing up the horse corrals. Our "welder guys" have chosen this date when they both can come. We will need additional helpers -- to hold the rails while they weld, etc. Please contact Dan at the FRBCH e-mail (or by reply to this newsletter) if you can help on the 19th. On 25th the plan is to work on the Cub Creek Trail. I don't know yet where we will start from, so watch your e-mail or let me know if you want me to call you when details are finalized.

Weekend Workdays: We have Sunday, Aug. 22nd listed on our calendar as a work day. I think we may have been too zealous planning work days on three

Items of interest

Goose Creek Trailhead Grant: Our grant funds are being put to work. We have completed our first phase of creating four 12X12 horse pens at the Goose Creek trailhead. The posts were cut from 2 7/8 inch used oil



field drill pipe. The pipe had been hauled to the AG Ranch where Forest Service volunteers cut the 30 foot pipes into lengths about 8 feet long. On July 30, Dan hauled the 24 posts from the AG Ranch to the trailhead. The next morning, twelve members showed up with some 3600 pounds of concrete mix and lots of hand tools. The site looked

as active as a disturbed anthill. We rented a mini-jackhammer to deal with all the embedded rocks we expected to find, but in the actual event, mostly we dug our holes into gravel. By 4:00 in the afternoon we had removed the old tumble-down corral and set all 24 posts into concrete, completing a job that we had expected to take a good part of the next day. There was not much left to do except to sit around a blazing campfire, sip favorite beverages and tell horse stories. Julie S. brought along all the comforts of the Colorado Trail, including the two porta-potties and the big propane stove. We ate well for supper and the following breakfast. Pictures can be found on our



weekends in August! I think it best to cancel that date unless anyone is really planning on that work date. If this is the case, please contact Julie S. and we can plan something. We have no days scheduled for September but may have a few "last minute" work days if the weather stays nice and people are available. Julie S. will be out of town a lot in September for vacations, but any of you can plan a work day if you like - let Dan know when and where and he will send out an e-mail. Julie Sabados, 720-733-0399.

Fall BBQ or ride: This ride location has not been chosen yet. We have discussed a couple of places. If you have a favorite trail, let us know.



website at frbch.org → Photo album click here (bottom right picture).

The next phase will involve welding 1 inch steel rods (oil field sucker rods) between the posts and installing steel gates. We have two members with some welding expertise. In addition we will need two or three helpers. The Forest Service will provide their heavy-duty arc welder generator mounted on a trailer for this work, as well as transporting the 25 foot sucker rods to the work site. We will schedule this sometime before the middle of September.



America's Great Outdoors: Obama's "America's Great Outdoors" initiative is intended to get more Americans out of their cars and homes into the outdoors more to improve both their physical and mental health. This is especially important for the youth. As part of this, the relevant departments and agencies (BLM, Forest Service, Environmental Quality, etc.) have hosted or will host a couple dozen "Listening" meetings around the country. Their intention is to gather ideas from all over and use them as the basis for planning the program from-the-bottom-up rather than come up with some top-down program. They want to know what worked and what does not. There were 500-600 attendees.

The Denver session was July 16. After the initial speeches and a panel discussion among the various officials, chaired by Secretary of Interior Salazar, participants attended one of eight different breakout sessions. The moderator for my breakout session of 20 some people was Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Harris Sherman. Wow, one-on-one with the top guy for a few short moments. I suggested that there ought to be some money dedicated to trail maintenance that would be safe from the demands of pine beetles and wildfire. Not much response on that one. I talked about volunteers developing a sense of ownership, but considerable frustration with all the rules and delays of Forest Service bureaucracy. More favorable noises on that one, but I think he had heard it before. I mentioned that 4H got kids out of doors, but the program was somewhat

crippled by a lack of funding for enough County Agents. No response on that one. All was taken down by two scribes with laptops and will be sorted at length in Washington before being presented to the planners.

In my breakout group there was considerable discussion of the dozens of outdoor-oriented non-profits already in place and dozens, if not hundreds, of places to get grant money. If the groups can get together and subscribe to a common vision, it often results in Collaborative Partnerships and much better results than all the organizations working on their own. The word Partnership was used by many of those speaking in the breakout session as they described their work.



Past Events

Great Rustic Horse Getaway! - Colorado Trail Ride 2010

special thank you: We have discovered a great place to "get away from it all" with your horse, especially if you like rustic, not crowded places! And Hunters -- this may be perfect for you! The Quarter-Circle Circle Ranch is located in an easy to get to, but remote valley near Saguache, CO and I believe it backs up to public land.

They have several nicely accommodated rustic log cabin units to stay in, and accommodations for your horse too! If you don't want to haul your horse for this vacation, or have other people who want to ride who don't have their own horse, you can rent horses from them also. The owners were very gracious to us during this year's Colorado Trail Ride, and we really appreciated their help! Three of us stayed in one of



their cabins during our "scout trip" for the CT ride, and all of us want to go back, we enjoyed the place so much. Check out their web site at www.quartercircle.net and tell your friends too!

July 22 through July 25 – Craig Park Expedition:

Members Julie Chaney, Jim Chaney, Dan Shier and and SPRD Rangers Brandon Mitchell and Dale

Franchina packed 7 miles up the Brookside McCurdy trail into Craig Park, camping at about 11,100 feet in elevation. George Robbins accompanied us for a couple of miles until his pack horse injured a foot. The main objective was to examine a trail obstruction of some long standing, bog about 75 feet across and about two feet deep near Craig Creek. Various solutions were examined, but the most likely seems to be to bring in enough rock and other fill to make a sort of mini-causeway across the bog. Brandon is thinking about a grant, use of the Colorado Youth Corps and Glen's mules to get the work done—maybe \$15,000. This being done, on Saturday Dale and the Chaney's returned to the trailhead, while Dan and Brandon cleared a couple big trees that obstructed the trail that goes up to the head of Craig Creek. On Sunday, Dan and his packhorse proceeded back to the trailhead, while Brandon on his Forest Service horse Cody, rode down the Ben Tyler trail and across to the AG Ranch, getting good idea of how rocky some of that trail has become. We enjoyed perfect weather.

There were plenty of brook trout in the stream, but few 8 inches long or bigger. Dan would find a deep run (3 feet wide and 3 feet deep) and dangle his dry fly about an inch over the water, watching the fish compete to jump up and catch themselves.



News about our web site

Be sure to check the Calendar section of the web site for additional information on our planned events. Past issues of our newsletter are on our web site (frbch.org).

Follow the link for 'About us', go down the page and you will them.

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

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!

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Calendar of Events

<i>August 12-15 - weekend+</i>	Lost Park campout and work project
<i>August 18 - Wednesday</i>	General meeting @ Lone Tree Library - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup
<i>August 19 - Thursday</i>	Work day - Goose Creek
<i>August 25 - Wednesday</i>	Work day – Cub Creek
<i>September 22 - Wednesday</i>	General meeting @ Lone Tree Library - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup
<i>October 20 - Wednesday</i>	General meeting @ Red Rocks Grill - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup
<i>November 17 – Wednesday</i>	General meeting @ Highlands Ranch Library - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup

Directions to Trailheads:

Brookside McCurdy - Trail #607 & Payne Creek - Trail #637: Highway 285 west (signs say south) to Bailey. Turn left onto road #110 (cross the bridge that is across the street from the gas station at the bottom of Crow Hill in Bailey), then follow #110 to the right for about 1.5 to 2 miles (note -- the road splits and the split you want is to the left going up a hill -- sort of looks like it could be someone’s driveway -- but that is the road you want). Pass the trailhead parking that you see on the left as it is too small for horse trailers. Shortly you will come to a “Y” in the road, take the right and you will see a meadow area. This is where we park for the Brookside McCurdy Trail and Payne Creek Trail.

Brookside AG - Trail #719: Highway 285 South to Shawnee (Shawnee is about 5 miles farther past Bailey). Keep going for probably about 1 mile more. Look for a large open area on the left side of the road, go to the end of the open area and there is a dirt road that heads up a small hill - take that road up just to the top of the hill, there is parking to the right. NOTE: There is a sign on this road that says something to the effect of “No Trespassing, property of {something}” - it is OK to park there, we have permission.

Indian Creek: Highway 85 (Santa Fe) to Sedalia, Highway 67. Turn west onto Highway 67, go through the small town of Sedalia for about 10 miles on Highway 67 to the trailhead on the right. After a few miles, there is a steep hill for a short section, then for the rest of the road you wind through easy “ups and downs” until you see the trailhead on the right - there is a sign that says Indian Creek (note: don’t turn into the Rampart Road on the left, this is not the correct trailhead, keep going down the hill to the parking lot on the right).

Lost Park: Proceed SW on US285. Go over Kenosha Pass. About a mile past the pass, just before you hit the tiny community of Jefferson, turn left (East) on the Lost Park road. Proceed down that gravel road about 20 miles. After you go over the divide, there are three logging roads off to the right (South), numbered 852, 853 and 854. Go past the first two and turn on 854. Proceed about 400 yards and park on the flat grassy area to the left just before the road enters the trees. Some of the best tent campsites are back in the trees but your horse trailer must be parked out on the grass.