



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 - February 2010

Meeting:

Be sure to check the newsletters and watch your e-mail for dates and location of our monthly meetings this year. Our meeting locations will rotate between the Lone Tree Library and the Highlands Ranch Library, and will be either on the 3rd or the 4th Wednesdays of each month. Apparently we are not the only non-profit organization who likes to meet at the libraries and some were "quicker with the mouse" that Julie S. was for reserving the rooms! Please come join us and help form the future of FRBCH!

The February meeting will be on Wednesday, February 24th, 6:30 to 9:00 at the Highlands Ranch Library. This meeting and all our meetings are very important. We continue to plan a lot of our calendar for the year. Please come help us plan for a great, fun and productive 2010 for FRBCH! Bring your calendar, plans and suggestions so we can brainstorm. Set up and social time is from 6:00 to 6:30. The library closes at 9:00 so we have to be finished by then!

Directions: Highlands Ranch Library, 9292 Ridgeline Blvd., Highlands Ranch, CO, meeting room is to the left after you enter the library.

From the East: Hwy 470 to Broadway, exit onto Broadway going south, continue to Highlands Ranch Parkway. Turn right (west) onto Highlands Ranch Pkwy, get into the left lane and turn left at the next street, which is Ridgeline Blvd. Watch for the library on the left, after the shopping center.

From the West: Hwy 470 to Lucent Blvd., exit onto Lucent Blvd. going south, continue to Highlands Ranch Parkway. Turn left (east) onto Highlands Ranch Pkwy, get into the right lane, turn right onto Ridgeline Blvd.

Note: The date of our April meeting has changed to April 28th. In addition the location will be 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 beer.

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

In late December I winterized my mare with snow poppers to prevent the buildup of ice-balls in the center of the shoes. I also used borium-headed nails as ice cleats. The borium-headed nails have carried us across glare ice without slipping, but if parts of the trail are rocky, they will only last a few weeks. However they are easy to replace without removing the shoes. Just file off the clench, punch out the old nail, drive a new nail into the same hole, and clinch the nails down again. Four borium-headed nails per foot seem to be enough. I was able to get in 24 hours of patrolling for Open Space in January.

Obama is talking about freezing non-military and non-entitlement spending for three years. With wildfire fighting and pine beetle damage at the top of the Forest Service spending priorities, it looks like clearing deadfalls from the wilderness trails is going to be the same old story. If we don't do it, it won't get done. The deadfalls don't affect the hikers so much, but they can ruin a day on horseback, so it is going to be another busy summer for us.

I have sent off an article on our Wilderness trail clearing to the BHCA Quarterly. I am not sure which pictures they will use, but you should see some familiar faces in the next issue. Perhaps some other chapters will wish to imitate our vests.

Records from 2009 indicate that on a typical trail-clearing expedition, we spend an equal amount of time in the saddle and on the ground removing trees and eating lunch. Clearly if we want to

President:

Dan Shier
303-278-1261
dan@rockypine.com

Vice President:

Kitty Bladt
303-984-2387
kittymail@comcast.net

Secretary &

Projects Coordinator:

Julie Sabados
303-933-0201
julierandy1@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Patti Caudell
303-646-4861
rcaudell@edirectlink.com

Directors:

Julie Chaney
Pam Doverspike
Linda Mackety

Newsletter editor:

Kitty Bladt

Quick Calendar:

March 12 - 14
Rocky Mountain
Horse Expo @
National Western
Complex

Saturday, March 27th
Back Country
Horsemen @
Pole Barn, Jeffco
Fairgrounds

Meeting Dates:

Wed., February 24th
6:30 – 9:00 –
Highlands Ranch
Library

Wed., March 24th
6:30 – 9:00 – Lone
Tree Library

spend more time in the saddle, anything we can do to clear away the trees faster would help. In the fall of 2009, we purchased two new “trimming saws”, the kind with a curved blade that you pull rather than push. The new 15 and the new 17 inch saw have “tricut” teeth, an advancement that came about some 15 years ago. In January I did some trials with these and existing saws. The percentages represent the percentage of the cross section cut during the allotted time.

Type of saw	Dry pine 3.5” thick	Dry pine 5” thick	Green aspen 7” thick
	In 10 sec.	In 30 sec.	In 30 sec.
24”, narrow tooth set	30%	50%	30%
24”, wide tooth set	30%	50%	40%
17” tricut	90%	70%	50%
15” tricut	70%	75%	50%
21” bow saw	30%	40%	blade stuck
42” crosscut	not tried	45%	80%

The three percentages which I have shaded are cases in which that saw performs much better than any of the other saws. The 24 inch saw that has been our workhorse in the past is the best one to have if you are traveling alone, because it can handle anything up to 15 inches if you are patient. However in the general mix what we encounter, the new 15 and 17 inch saws should speed things up a lot. Limbing a fallen tree could be three times faster. By summer we will have three 15 and three 17 inch saws in quick-draw leather holsters made by Keith Brown. The trials detailed above also indicate that we can set the teeth of the 24 inch saws wider to handle green logs without slowing down our work, so I have done this. Along with the other saws we used last summer, we will be able to outfit two trail-clearing parties on the same day with highly effective tools.

Upcoming events:

Rocky Mountain Horse Expo:

We need help at our booth from 8:30am to 7:00pm on Friday the 12th, Saturday the 13th, and from 8:30am to 5:00pm on Sunday the 14th. The location is the same place as last year at National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO 80216. Details can be found at <http://www.rockymountainhorseexpo.com> . If we get enough volunteers, we can do 2-hour shifts at the booth. If not, we will do 3-hour shifts. We can also use some creative talent to help design or set-up the booth. Let Kitty know (see side panel) if you will be able to give us some extra help.

BCHCO March 20th meeting:

The BCHCO meeting is on Saturday, March 20th at 11:00 AM at Deer Valley Ranch & Resort in Nathrop (deervalleyranch.com for directions). This meeting is open to all BCH members. FRBCH needs a second state director willing to attend these state meetings & participate to improve the strength of BCHA in Colorado to promote solidarity and share ideas. Our chapter is required to have 2 directors sit on the state board. We have 2 votes but can only exercise them if 2 members attend. Contact Julie C JChaney1524@aol.com if further information about the meeting is needed or Dan if they would like to volunteer to represent FRBCH at the state level.

Horsemanship March 27th event:

This is the event we will be conducting on Saturday, March 27th after the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. This event will replace the “Camping with Horses” event that we held the last 2 years. The event will be full of information people can use for trail riding. Some possible name ideas are: “Mountain Horsemanship”, “Back Country Horsemanship” & “Mountain/Plains Horsemanship”. Julie Sabados is coordinating the event and getting together with those who expressed a desire to help in the planning. She thanks everyone who has volunteered help and/or submitted ideas or comments. Please mark your calendar to help at this event if you can. We will need many volunteers to help at this event, as we did the “Camping with Horses”. Let’s hope this event is just as popular! Please contact Julie “S” (julierandy1@yahoo.com or 720-733-0399) if you know now that you can help at this event, or have additional ideas and suggestions, or want to help plan this event. We will need people to set up, take down, and assist at the event. We will again invite the “social” riding clubs from the metro area to come and bring information about their organization. We feel it is quite important that every horse owner/rider in the Metro area belong to some “horse” association so they can learn about the important issues that we “horse owners” face every day. So, if you know of a “horse association” that we should invite, please send Julie S. their contact information.

Past Events:

Our Silent Auction held during our Holiday Party in December was a lot of fun for the participants, who took home some wonderful items. The purpose of this event, besides the fun, was to raise funds for the BCHA Legal Fund. Thanks to the

generous donors of the items used for the auction, and for the purchasers of those items, we raised \$258.00 which has been donated to the Legal Fund. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event!

FRBCH State Board Member Needed

In 2009, Dan Shier was elected to the Board of Colorado Back Country Horsemen for a two year term. In general, the state organization prefers that presidents of local chapters not be Board members. We need a replacement for Dan on the state Board. There are two main obligations of Board members. One is to attend state board meetings twice a year. These have been generally held in Buena Vista. The other obligation is to serve as a liaison between the state organization and the local chapter. If you have any questions about this, check with Julie Chaney who is president of the state organization.

Miscellaneous:

Special recognition

Sherry Baker submitted an article and pictures about the FRBCH Urban Farms ride we had at Spruce Mountain. She earned the high price real estate and got front page coverage in the Winter 2010 BCHA newsletter. Way to go Sherry!

Diesel vehicle owners beware! We have heard “through the grapevine” that BP gas stations are changing all their gas pump handle colors to green. As most diesel gas users are used to looking for the green handles for diesel gas, this could cause some disastrous problems if you don’t pay attention to what type of gas is being delivered through those new green handles. Be aware and be safe!

E-mail Addresses:

Are you receiving your newsletters? If not perhaps we do not have your correct email address. Or do you want your newsletters sent by snail mail? Let Julie Sabados know about the change.

First of 4 part series on horse camping from Dan Shier

Back Country Camping with your Horse, Part 1
Horse Packing is an Outstanding Part of Your Summer

This is the first of a four part series on equine-assisted camping in the back country. I make no claim to be an expert on the subject, nor will I try to be exhaustive. Certainly others have much more experience than I have. My intent is simply to pass along some of the things that I have learned. As you will see, my whole experience has been colored by the fact that I was always limited to the two horses, all that I owned and could transport. When I had a growing family we would pack one horse and take turns riding the other horse. The picture shows my kids Alex (leading) and Dana (riding) on a 1996 expedition into the Piney River Country of the Eagle’s Nest Wilderness north of Vail. These days I can travel in luxury, with one riding horse plus one packhorse just for myself and my gear.



Packing your gear on a packhorse and heading into the wilderness is an adventure and a great joy. Most, but not all horses view it in the same light—better by far than hanging around the corral. After all, part of our contract with our horses is to keep them from being bored.

I love it there in some remote wilderness valley, far from the distractions of cell phones, traffic, bosses and all. Practically all the STUFF that rules our lives at home is left behind. We live intimately tuned to the vagaries of the weather and the moods of our companions and horses. There is a spirit of mutual dependence that you don’t get in more civilized settings. There are fond memories of deep pools and crispy brook trout in the frying pan. Of gray dawn, waiting for enough light to reveal an elk for my muzzle-loader. Of baking my front side in front of a campfire on a chilly night, and turning to bake the backside in turn.

Of the cheerful clink of hobbles in the early morning stillness.

It is better than backpacking because you don’t have to carry the camping gear. But backpackers can camp many places, while you must camp where there is adequate grass for your four-footed friends.

Next month I will discuss some of the things your horse needs to get accustomed to before you start packing and camping far from the trailhead.

Membership Renewal Time:

It's that time of year again. There is a renewal form at the back of this newsletter. Remove it right now, write your check and send in your renewal, OK! Be sure to sign the membership form, and if your membership is for a family, please have both adults sign. This form serves as our "liability release".

Remember to check out our website at www.frontrangebackcountryhorsemen.org and you can access our photo album from there through a link.

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 Nat'l Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/news/pike_opening.htm

FYI – 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!

DKL
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Parker, CO 80138 Fax: 303-840-8455
dkl@myedl.com Cell: 303-956-5011

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JRS Janitorial, LLC

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Contact Randy or Julie Sabados at 303-933-1201

Calendar of Events

- February 24th, Wednesday – meeting at Highlands Ranch Library
- March 12th – 14th, Friday, Saturday & Sunday – Rock Mountain Horse Expo
- March 24th, Wednesday – meeting at Lone Tree Library
- March 20th, Saturday – BCHCO State Board Meeting, Buena Vista
- March 27th, Saturday – Back Country Horsemanship event at Jeffco Fairgrounds
- April 20th - 24th – BCH National Board Meeting in Branson, Missouri
- April 28th, Wednesday – meeting at Red Rocks Grill, Morrison
- May 26th, Wednesday – meeting at Highlands Ranch Library
- June 5th – 6th, Saturday & Sunday – BCHCO Leadership workshop
- June 12th – 13th, Saturday & Sunday – Campout/workdays with “at risk” kids, Bruno Gulch
- June 19th – 20th, Saturday & Sunday – Rain Date for Bruno Gulch project
- June 23rd, Wednesday – meeting at Lone Tree Library
- July 9th – 16th, Friday to Friday – Colorado Trail Ride
- July 21st, Wednesday – meeting at Lone Tree Library
- August 18th, Wednesday – meeting at Lone Tree Library
- September 22nd, Wednesday – meeting at Lone Tree Library
- October 20th, Wednesday – meeting at Lone Tree Library
- November 17th, Wednesday – meeting at Highlands Ranch Library

Note: Julie S. is working on the calendar for our work days and campouts. The dates and events will be discussed and finalized at the February 24th meeting. We will send out the finalized calendar after the meeting.



**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.

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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** _____