



## 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 - June 2010

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

The weather Gods favored our first Weekday Warrior event. Dan Shier, Julie Sabados and Doug Torza cleared the Payne Creek trail all the way to Craig Creek (15 miles round trip) on a fine, partly cloudy day. There were not many trees down on the trail, so we had time to trim the willows in the stream bottom and take out four trees leaning over the trail but not yet down.

The follow-up trail clearing the next week, Brookside-McCurdy, had a similar pattern, with not so many trees down and no huge ones. There were seven of us on a cloudless day. Keith Brown brought his personal 42 inch saw on which we had set the teeth wider and now it worked like a charm. Perhaps this will be an "easy year" with regard to deadfalls, just as 2009 was a tough year. Jean, Vanessa and I stopped for supper at Hog Heaven BBQ at the top of Crow Hill and Jean gave it her stamp of approval.

The Officer Training Session at the Booger Red trailhead was fun as well as educational. It was hosted by the Rocky Mountain Chapter, including the use of their 20X40 foot tent. The trailhead is in a dry area, dominated by short buffalo grass. There are scattered ponderosa pines, piñon pines and junipers. We had participants or speakers from four different Chapters, as well as one person hoping to form a Colorado Springs Chapter, for about 17 participants. On Friday three of us rode south on the BLM trail that the Rocky Mountain Chapter has maintained and improved over the past decade. I also rode to the top of the hill where Booger Red, a character from gold mining days, is said to be buried, a total of some 15 miles for the day. On Saturday we were glad to have the tent, as there were intermittent rain showers during the presentations for the training. This was followed by a BBQ with buffalo and elk off the grill and much more. Good fellowship and horse stories abounded.



### **Board Members & Task Leaders**



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**Next meeting on July 21st: 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.**

# Upcoming events

**July 9 through 16 - Colorado Trail Ride 2010:** This year our ride will begin at South Fooses Creek just past Highway 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! **There are still openings for both the 4 days and 6 days.** 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.

**July 23 through 26 - Craig Park Pack-in:** Dan Shier is leading the Craig Park pack-in event. This will include all or mostly all of the July 23-26 period (Friday to Monday). At this point, it is a work in progress and is going to be modified according to who can come and for what days. Ranger Brandon Mitchell (SPRD) expects to borrow a horse from Glen and join us for one or two nights. Generally one pack horse can handle the gear for two or three people. If you don't have access to a pack horse, it may be that

someone who is coming can handle a good part of your gear. If you are interested in joining us, we want you to be part of the planning process early on. Reply to Dan Shier at 303-278-1261.

**No date yet - Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** contributed members to do campsite inventories last summer in Wyoming. This year Ralph Bradt has asked them to help with Lost Creek. Fred Allen is heading up that effort. I have already provided him with a lot of equestrian-specific information of the area. These are opportunities for their members to see different trails and we can expect several teams to be working in Lost Creek this summer. They will welcome any "native guides" on their expeditions. I have invited them to participate in the Lost Park event in August but have not invited them to the Craig Park event in July. I had been thinking of inviting the Buffalo Peaks chapter to the Lost Park event, but perhaps we should wait until we have a better idea of the number of participants. Contact Dan Shier to sign up and set a date.



## Things to point out

**Goose Creek Trailhead Grant:** Still no check for materials so no progress to report.

### **No Dogs on FRBCH Work Days:**

Please remember that on ANY of our FRBCH work days (as much as we hate to do it) for safety sake, we must say no dogs are allowed. There are many reasons for this. Probably most of us have dogs and would love for them to be able to accompany us, but it is unsafe for the other members and for the dogs. Your dog may get along well with your horse, but what about other people's horses - some horses are frightened or just don't like dogs and can be viscous about it. Some people are frightened by dogs -- especially unleashed dogs (I know some of us can take a dog on a leash on our horses -- but they are not allowed either). Many dogs will get along with most any other dog, but you never know. The last thing we need in the back country is a dog fight which could result in an injured dog. When our members are working on the trail, it is hard enough to watch out for other people and horses, let alone worrying about dogs running around (especially true for chain saw work). Add a pack horse to the mix and imagine what could happen! Probably most importantly is our image. It is becoming increasingly evident that the equestrians are not the

avored companions on trails. Add an encounter with a group of equestrians, a few loose dogs accompanying us -- sniffing at the other trail users and their dogs and our image just got worse! Please, save the rides with your dog for your pleasure rides. Thank you for understanding!

**Trail Blazer Magazine:** Send me your organization's news concerning trails for the August 2010 issue of Trail Blazer magazine! Allow us to pat your organization on the back for work accomplished regarding trails across the United States. We also need high resolution photos to go with the article. So if you are hosting fund raisers for trails to add improvements, or working with government officials to improve relationships, working as a team to expand trails - let us know! From Terri R. Folks, Trail Advocacy Editor, Trail Blazer Magazine [www.trailblazermagazine.us](http://www.trailblazermagazine.us)

**North Table Mountain Park Trailhead now open:** Jefferson County Open Space will open the parking area to public use at North Table Mountain Park from Highway 93 north of Golden on Monday, June 21. Visitors will encounter areas of construction for the permanent restroom, kiosk and screening berm on the south end of the parking area and a trail bypass will

connect the parking area to the formal, designated trails. The temporary kiosk will provide information about North Table Mountain Park and Park brochures will be available. *Open Space encourages visitors to use and replace the park brochures at the end of their visit.* A Park dedication event has not been scheduled at this time. This brand new trailhead has seven dedicated diagonal spaces for horse trailers. Proceed

north from Golden on Highway 93. Look for the trailhead just past the last subdivision in Golden. Dan Shier recommends morning rides, as the top of the mesa is not a great place to be in an afternoon thunderstorm with lightning.



## Past Events

**May 23 - Indian Creek work day/campout:** This was our first work day for the season. Some of the members came earlier and camped prior to the work day. We cleared the main outside loop of the official trail. The weather cooperated nicely with it being cool early and warmed up for short sleeved working and riding.

**June 19 & 20 - Campout/Workday at Bruno Gulch (aka Geneva Park):** Julie and Jim Chaney, Keith Brown, Linda Mackety worked on Bruco Gulch trail and

corridor. Pam Doverspike and Julie Sabados took five 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and their two adult mentors and worked the Kirby Creek trail. They carried tools on a pack horse. This was the first camping experience for most of the urban folks so they enjoyed learning ticks of the trade including some dutch oven cooking. The boys also learned about grooming horses and safety around them. Thanks to Linda Mackety for the report.



## Public Lands (comments from our State Director, Julie Chaney)



- I won't be able to attend this July State Parks Board meeting in Denver this time on July 15 as it is during FRBCH's week-long fundraiser ride on the Colorado Trail. Julie Sabados, the other FRBCH member who attended the May meeting with me, will also be on this ride. This meeting will be very contentious as it will be about the dog parks at Chatfield and Cherry Creek. We will need someone(s) who can speak very well (and quickly, 2 minute probable time limit per speaker) about preserving as much multi-use land as possible, especially at Cherry Creek. This is the link to review the process and proposals: <http://parks.state.co.us/dogtraining/Pages/DogTrainingAreas.aspx>
- In response to the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors a grassroots listening session will be held at the REI Flagship store in Denver, Colorado. According to Choose Outdoors Bruce Ward, "This is our chance to stand up and be heard by the Administration. There are many great examples of "best practices" and innovative ways of dealing with many of the issues facing all of us who love to recreate in the great outdoors. We want to be sure that the next generation shares our passion and has access to the public lands legacy that helps to define our country." Where: REI Flagship Store, 1416 Platte st Denver When: July 9 at 11:30 am. I will be unable to attend because this is when the Colorado Trail ride starts. It would be good for someone to attend and report.

## Membership

It is easier, faster and less expensive to send newsletters via e-mail which 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.

### Welcome to our new members:



**Renel Anderson, Erie, CO**



**Lara and Bayard Potter, Castle Rock, CO**

# 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 find them.

# Web sites of interest

- ❖ State Back Country Horsemen: [www.bchcolorado.org](http://www.bchcolorado.org)
- ❖ National Back Country Horsemen: [www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com)
- ❖ Douglas County: [www.douglas.co.us](http://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](http://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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*Preserving historic pack & saddle stock access*  
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## Calendar of Events

<i>July 6 or 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 - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup
<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 @ Red Rocks Grill 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup
<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
<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).