



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 - March 2010

Next meeting

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday, **March 24th, 6:30 to 9:00** at the **Lone Tree Library**.

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. 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: 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: Hwy 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 Hwy 470 east bound! If you are coming from south of Hwy 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 Hwy 470, take County Line going east to Yosemite, turn left (south) and travel past Hwy 470 for a few blocks to Lone Tree Parkway, turn right and look for the library on your right.

Reminder: 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 beverage.

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

Dan Lincoln asked me to give a presentation about FRBCH at the monthly meeting of the *Intermountain Horse Association of Evergreen*. I put together a slide show presentation with some points about what we do based on the mission statement, plus a lot of pictures of us doing the fun things we do. On February 16th, I gave my talk to about 23 members in BeauJo's in Evergreen. After 12 minutes for the pictures, I answered questions for another 10 minutes. It was clear from the questions that some of the members were feeling their trail riding was quite incomplete because they had never ridden in the granite monolith country of the Lost Creek Wilderness. The presentation was long on scenery and pictures of clearing trees—so much so that Dan Lincoln pointed out that there was lots of trail work that did not involve the 42 inch cross cut saw. The talk was well received.

The IHA has diverse interests. At the meeting there was much talk about cattle sorting, the sort of thing that cutting horses do. They are also a riding club and one member was going to attend a PERC meeting to find out more about how they organize things. I pointed out that if they wanted to come along on one of our expeditions as a "sample" of what we do, as long as they signed the FS sheets, there was no problem. I passed out 12 membership forms and hope we will pick up at least a few new members.

When I showed up to watch Doug give the same show at the Jeffco Horse Council, he insisted I deliver it again. It was one of five

short presentations by local horse organizations.

Two of our members, Ralph Kraig and Joe Heckendorn are mid-way through the process of having both knee joints replaced. We hope to see both back in the saddle sometime this summer or fall.

Quick Calendar

March 27th - Trail Riding 101 @ Pole Barn, Jefferson County Fairgrounds

April 17th - Spring Fun Ride
Location to be determined

March 24th meeting
6:30 – 9:00 – Lone Tree Library

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

Board Members & Task Leaders

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

Vice President:
Kitty Bladt
303-984-2387
kittyemail@comcast.net

Secretary & Projects Coordinator:
Julie Sabados
720-733-0399
julierandy1@yahoo.com

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

Directors:
Julie Chaney
Pam Doverspike
Linda Mackety

Newsletter editor:
Kitty Bladt

Upcoming events

(A note from our Projects Coordinator, Julie Sabados)



We have some volunteers for the event but of course can use more. If you want to help with this event please let me know. We need a few more "presenters", and can use lots of helpers to set up, take down, and just help in general during the presentation.

Now, the fun part of what we need: We have a lot of knowledge and experience within our membership regarding all aspects of Trail Riding, which we want to share with the people at "Trail Riding 101". Send me any ideas, tips, notes, experiences, etc. that you think might help someone else be able to enjoy their trail riding experiences. I will pass these ideas on to the people who are giving the appropriate demonstrations and talks. Don't be shy about your ideas -- EVERYTHING might be of interest to someone! I will leave it up to the people doing the demonstrations and talks to choose what they want to include but the more ideas you send the better their talks will be, and the easier it will be for them to plan their part. Send your ideas to me at julierandy1@yahoo.com or call me at 720-733-0399.

Past Events

Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

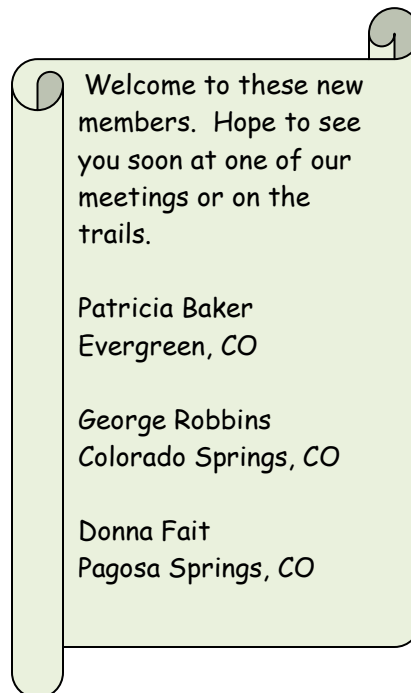
Hearty thanks go to Julie Sabados, Linda Mackety, and Keith Brown for setting up and organizing the Expo

booth. Thanks go to Kitty for coordinating the scheduling. And of course we cannot forget to thank all those who manned the booth. Your contribution was greatly appreciated. Even though the Horse Expo was not as well attended as in the past, we did get two new members and possibly more who seemed very interested.

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.

Membership



Membership Renewal Time

If you have not already renewed your FRBCH membership, please do it right now! There is a renewal form at

the end of this newsletter, please remove it right now, write your check and send in your renewal, If you are not sure if you have sent in your renewal, contact Julie Sabados, our Membership person, and she will check the records. 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".

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.

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

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

Back Country Camping with your Horse, Part 2 – Getting Your Horse Ready

Before you head for the high country with your horse packed with camping gear, there are a few experiences you need to share with that horse.

The first issue is that a pack load may generate sounds he is unfamiliar with, especially the sound of the tips of bushes against canvas. The best way to handle this is to load up your panniers with some bulky items and then lead him through some bushes. It is probably best to do this while riding on a lead horse, for if your horse gives a first panicky jump, it is best to have a horse rump in between you and the pack horse. After about the fourth bush and your horse finds he is not attacked by monsters, this phase of the training is over. You can also add some noisy items to the pack if you wish.

Try not to repeat my first packing experience with 6 year old Marco. I tied him to the corral fence with a loose knot and loaded 50 pounds of feed in each pannier. About the time I got the second sack loaded, he realized that his load was making terrifying paper crinkling sounds. He pulled loose from the corral fence and off he went humping and jiggling. After about 150 feet he stopped, found himself uninjured, turned around and trotted back to me, saying “Boss, you put this stuff on me, and it is up to you to take it off.”

The second issue is handling trees that grow very close to the trail. Find a narrow trail where this is an issue and put a bulky load on your packhorse. Soon enough he will encounter one of those trees. Work with him patiently until he figures out how to handle the problem. Horses can see fairly well behind them, so a good pack horse will use his vision to ease the load past the tree trunk. Yatahay, my Appaloosa gelding, had an

unfortunate solution to the problem and seemed to enjoy smashing the pack against every tree that came close. Only rarely was he pressed into service for packing.

I use a picket rope attached to a halter because I want to be absolutely sure I know where my horse is at all times. The disadvantage is that an inexperienced horse can get a loop of rope around a fetlock, panic, and take off a bunch of skin. When an experienced horse gets a loop around a foot, he will back up and dance around until the loop drops off. I don't recommend this for highly spirited horses. I have trained my horses by putting them out on good grass on a thick picket rope and sitting close by in a lawn chair. When the horse first starts to get tangled, I rush over, calm the horse, and work loose the loop of rope. This process goes on for enough hours that I am satisfied that the horse understands what to do. My picket ropes are 30 foot long soft 5/8 inch nylon that I buy at Ace Hardware. You can buy adequately strong polypropylene ropes which are smaller and much cheaper, but if the horse gets tangled up they are more likely to bite deep and cripple a horse.

Others advise using a single hobble on a front foot. As a heavy rope is more likely to stay flat on the ground, this should help prevent getting a loop around a foot. When I tried this with Marco, he got pretty panicky, so I terminated this experience.

Hobbling the front feet will keep a horse close to camp until their initial appetite is mostly satisfied—in perhaps half an hour. After that, they may decide to go adventuring. Some horses quickly learn to do a sort of gallop with hobbles and can be miles away when you go looking for them. My most successful experiences with hobbles have been when I was right there to take action when the first horse decided to head out, but that requires time that you might want to use in some other way. Three-leg hobbles will slow down horses a lot, but I don't have any experience with them. If you want to use them, I suggest the same

familiarization routine I use for head picketing.

You can pack along a portable electric fence unit, clearly visible electric wire and some posts, as is often done when camping out of a pickup truck. Whether this will really deter horses if the rest of the herd goes galloping off in some sort of panic is unknown to me. The disadvantage is all the extra gear that you have to pack.

The last confinement method is the buddy system. In any herd of horses that have spent time together, the alpha mare is the one that determines when and where the herd moves. Packers who simply turn their horses loose at night to graze depend on this—as long as they have the right understanding with their alpha mare. With a number of the mare/gelding combinations I have kept in my corral and used on wilderness camping, I find that if I have picketed the mare, the gelding will never go a place where he cannot see the mare. The mare, on the other hand, has often been willing to leave on her own. Sex matters.

These issues may not always be a problem. Most of the pre-owned horses 12-16 years old horses that I purchased had a “Whatever” attitude and performed well despite not having this preliminary familiarization. Nobody wants to wake up in the morning and find the horses have headed home. Whatever method that you select to make sure this does not happen, be sure your horse is familiar with it.

The last matter is making sure that your horse's stomach is accustomed to green grass. The most straight forward way is to put your horse out on grass for 15 minutes the first day and increase it a bit more each day. If you have no access to pasture, an alternative is to acquire green fodder from the public right of way along a highway and make it a part of your horse's diet prior to the pack trip. The best tool to do this is a sickle, which is the curved implement that appears on the Russian flag.

Next month: Packing Your Stuff.



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!

DKL
Business Solutions Inc.
 Deborah K. Lynn, EA
Accounting and Tax Preparation

407 Rolling Hills Pl. Bus: 303-840-8452
 Parker, CO 80138 Fax: 303-840-8455
dkl@myedl.com Cell: 303-956-5011

Snap-On Tools

Larry Fields, Authorized Dealer

720-291-0080
www.larryfields.snapontools.com

Jim Holmes, Realtor

Providing Real Estate Solutions
 Residential, Land, Commercial

Keller Williams Realty, DTC
303-475-7249



LEATHERWORK by Keith Brown

Custom Cowboy Gear and Repairs
 Cell: Keith Brown 720-323-3612

ANN FENNER SPIEGEL

SPIEGEL PROPERTIES, LLC
 15020 W. COACHMAN DRIVE
 BLACK FOREST, CO 80908
 719.322.5384 – Direct Line & Cell
ann@annspiegel.biz – www.AnnSpiegel.biz

FLEXIBLE COMMISSIONS! BUYER
 REBATES!
 BLACK FOREST, ELBERT & DOUGLAS
 HORSE PROPERTIES!

JRS Janitorial, LLC

Providing quality commercial cleaning
 services to the Metro Area for over 20 years.

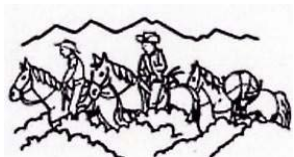
“For a cleaner tomorrow, call us today”

Randy or Julie Sabados 303-933-1201

Calendar of Events

<i>March 24 - Wednesday</i>	General Meeting - Lone Tree Library
<i>March 27 - Saturday</i>	Trail Riding 101 Event at Pole Barn at Jefferson County Fairgrounds
<i>April 17 - Saturday</i>	Spring Fun Ride - location to be determined
<i>April 20-24- week</i>	BCHA National Board Meeting, Branson, Missouri
<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
<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

June 12-13 - weekend	BCHCO Leadership Workshop - Buena Vista Area
June 17 - Thursday	Work day - location TBA
June 19-20 - weekend	Tentative date change for Campout/work day with kids at Bruno Gulch - Pam Doverspike's project
June 22 - Tuesday	Work day - location TBA
June 23 - Wednesday	General Meeting - Lone Tree Library
July 7 - Wednesday	Work day - location TBA
July 9 - 16 - week	Colorado Trail Ride
July 20 - Tuesday	Work day - location TBA
July 21 - Wednesday	General Meeting - Lone Tree Library
July 23-26 - weekend+	Craig Park pack-in campout/work project
July 29 - Thursday	Work day - location TBA
August 3 - Tuesday	Work day - location TBA
August 7 - Saturday	Work day - location TBA
August 12-15 - weekend+	Lost Creek Campout/work project
August 18 - Wednesday	General Meeting - Lone Tree Library
August 19 - Thursday	Work day - location TBA
August 22 - Sunday.	Work day - location TBA
August 25 - Wednesday	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 _____