



# Front Range Back Country Horsemen est. 1996

P. O. Box 620381, Littleton, CO 80162

www.frontrangebackcountryhorsemen.org or www.frbch.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 - September 2010

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

Those of us who worked around Joker, Keith Brown's horse, appreciated him a great deal. It is sad to report that Joker suffered a broken leg and had to be put down.

A conversation with Ralph Bradt clarified things in the Clear Creek Ranger district. With grant funds, they hired two full-time trail crew for the summer. This crew cleared everything in the Mt. Evans wilderness except for three trails in the southern part of the Mt. Evans wilderness that FRBCH cleared (Lost Creek, Indian Creek, and Cub Creek) from Meridian to Lost Creek. So the only part of the Mt. Evans wilderness that did not get cleared was Cub Creek between Lost Creek and the Bear Tracks Lake Trail. As the Camp Rock road is closed for the season, that will have to wait until next year.

In the Lost Creek Wilderness, two summer interns cleared trail. They left a few big step-across logs in the upper Wigwam Trail and the Hankins Pass trail still has some issues but both are said to be passable for horses. The trails not cleared by anyone are the Brookside McCurdy from Craig Park to the Colorado Trail, the Lake Park Loop, and the two trails that start on the Tarryall Creek Road. If the warm dry weather continues, perhaps some few of us can camp along Tarryall Creek or at Goose Creek and finish off a few more of these trails.

With hardly any high-priority trail work left close to home, Ralph Kraig and I have been looking for excuses to ride on weekdays anyway. So far we have inventoried more than 20 campsites around Shelterhouse Meadow on Mt. Evans and done a "fun ride" on the south end of the Gore Range Trail from the "Scenic Area" just short of Copper Mountain to timberline at Uneva Pass—a truly scenic ride with forests, meadows, ponds, lakes, rock slides, distant mountains in every direction and more.

### Board Members & Task Leaders



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***Next meeting is September 22nd: Red Rocks Grill, 415 Bear Creek Avenue, Morrison, CO 80465, 303-697-9290. The restaurant is in the small 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.***

# Upcoming events

**Indian Creek work day:** A final work day is planned at Indian Creek #800, west of Sedalia on Saturday, October 9th. We would use a chainsaw, clearing the west side north of Stephens Gulch where the trail becomes a knee high trough and the scrub oak has grown almost completely over the top. Helpers will need loppers and hand saws, also gloves and long sleeves, water and lunch. The trail should still be open to this point which will be verified before October 9<sup>th</sup>. The trail will not be closed from the west end to the Colorado Trail. If the FS crew has already done work on this trail in this area since our work-day in May, we will find another section to improve. Be ready to ride between 10:00 and 10:30.

Directions: 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).



# Items of interest

**Goose Creek Trailhead Corrals:** We have completed the four 12X12 horse pens at the Goose Creek Trailhead slightly under budget. This would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Forest Service who handled the shipment of pipes and sucker rods, cutting them to fit into their longest trailer and bringing them to the corral site, as well as providing extra hands at the job site and a welding outfit. With the additional welding outfit that Ralph Kraig brought, welders Ralph Kraig and Jim Chaney were able to put up all the bars, gates, and other pipes in a single day. It would not have been possible without all the others that assisted on one of the two days we spent at the job site. THANKS, ALL OF YOU! The only thing left is to attach the plaque that Glen is having made. Then we will wait for the first member to use them and report back.



At the September general meeting, we will discuss our ideas for other projects we might want to take on in the future.

# Past Events

**September 12th – Fall BBQ and Fun Ride:** We had fifteen people join us for the Fall BBQ and Fun Ride. After parking at Aldefer Three Sisters Open Space, we rode through the park and then over back trails to Dan Lincoln's house, a quite unique place, constructed of logs and steeped in family history. The weather was good and the horses well behaved. We had appetizers, hamburgers, brats, numerous side dishes and desserts brought by the attendees. After stuffing

our tummies and quenching our thirst, we climbed back on our horses. (I'm sure the horses felt the extra weight.) Then we headed back down the trail for another enjoyable ride to the parking lot. A good time was had by all. THANKS FOR HAVING US DAN AND BETH!



# 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](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*  
[www.bchcolorado.org](http://www.bchcolorado.org)

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## **LEATHERWORK** by Keith Brown

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Amy Dunkelman  
Instructor and Trainer at Broce Ranch  
303-921-0315 amydunkelman@msn.com

### **Calendar of Events**

<i>September 22 - Wednesday</i>	General meeting @ Red Rocks Grill - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup
<i>October 9 - Saturday</i>	Indian Creek work day @ 10:00am
<i>October 20 - Wednesday</i>	General meeting @ Lone Tree Library - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup
<i>November 17 - Wednesday</i>	General meeting @ Highlands Ranch Library - 6:30pm, 6:00pm setup