



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?*

July 2011 Newsletter

Meeting: July 27, 2011 at Lone Tree Library at 6 PM for socializing, meeting at 6:30 PM

Camping/Packing with Horses Committee Meeting at 5:45 PM at Lone Tree Library

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 the Red Rocks Grill and will be on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Directions: Red Rocks Grill, Morrison, CO. From C470 turn west on Morrison Road into downtown Morrison. Business district is about 5 blocks long, Red Rocks Grill is on north side at the west end opposite a public parking lot. Enter the restaurant and go to the right to a private, back room..

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 C- 470. The meeting room is straight through the entrance, then on the right.

From the West: Take C-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 C-470 west 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.

'Prez Sez':

(A note from our President, Dan Shier)



Left to Right: Dan Lincoln, Linda Baur, Dan Shier, Linda Mackety
Hard working logging crew at Indian Creek on Mt. Evans, early July, 2011

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

Vice President:
Kitty Bladt
kittyemail@comcast.net

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

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

Directors:
Julie Chaney
Pam Doverspike
Linda Mackety

State Directors:
Julie Chaney
Kathy Davey

Newsletter editor:
Susan McKelvy
303-838-2890
Sumac@idcomm.com
Deadline for articles
15th of each month!

On July 6 I gave my FRBCH Powerpoint to about 20 members of the Lakewood Riding Club. As with the presentation for the Buffalo Bill Riding club, our Goose Creek corrals got a lot of appreciation. Afterwards there was a lot of discussion about working with the Forest Service on keeping trails open to horses. The particular issue seemed to be in the area around Pine Valley Open Space where the club's members ride frequently. As mountain bikers have swarmed there, the Forest Service has accommodated them by rerouting Charlie's Cutoff trail over a lot of slick rock unsuitable for horses and then putting up "No Horses" signs on that trail. I pointed out that by the Forest Service rules, they could not do this without public input. If there was public input, the equestrian fraternity was unaware of it. I said that there was much information on this on the National BCHA web site where it could be downloaded. I guess they liked the presentation and the fact that we were active in protecting horse trails, because they made out a check for a \$50 membership.

We had four members and a guest for the third of our weekday trail clearing events at Indian Creek on Mt. Evans. In the first meadow, past the end of the fire road, the columbines were particularly intense. The trail was almost entirely clear of deadfalls, so it seemed like a ride in the park—until we came to the first bad place which had about six trees down over 100 yards. We chewed through that (see the photograph above) and went on south, past where the Cub Creek trail comes in from the east. No deadfalls, so we did some corridor work. Then we came to the second bad place, and being out of time we had to quit after a few minutes. After all the corridor work in the last few years, I can say that up to the second bad place, the trail looked better than I have ever seen it.

HEY! WE COULD USE A LITTLE ASSISTANCE!

Julie Sabados has done an outstanding job buying groceries, getting the gear squared away for events like the Colorado Trail, the Goose Creek camp-out, and the Lost Park camp-out. Just getting the gear out of storage, checked, filled and loaded takes half a day. It is a bit much for any one person, especially one who has a business to run. She needs some volunteers to assist in getting ready for one of these events and then putting it away until the next one.

WORK DAY SCHEDULES and REPORTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Each work/ride listed below will have additional information on leader(s) and directions provided by e-mail closer to the time of the event. Notify Linda Baur to sign up.

Indian Creek Ride 2 – July 12 (Cancelled due to weather...to be rescheduled)

The Indian Creek trail is neither rocky nor steep, with the first two miles on a fire road. If we ride all the way to the south end of the Meridian trail, as we have done sometimes in the past, the round trip is 13 or 14 miles. The trailhead is about 8600 feet. At the end, it is about 9600 feet. On our July 8 ride we found the meadows green and lush. There was very little in the way of deadfalls until the first bad place in about 4.5 miles. It took more than two hours to saw our way through that. When we encountered the second bad place, in about 5.5 miles, we could see four trees needing attention and we had to quit for lack of time. When we return on July 12, it will be mostly riding and only a bit of clearing at the far end (if all goes as we hope).

Lost Creek Ride 1 and 2 – July 19 and July 23

The trailhead is at about 8600 feet. The first 2/3 of the trail rises gently and includes about 2 miles of fire road. The last 1/3 of the trail rises from 9400 feet to 11000 feet over two miles and has some steep sections. The farthest half of the trail is shady and cool, with some large trees that sometimes fall on the trail. Round trip distance is about 12 miles. Some of us would vote this as the most charming ride on Mt. Evans. It does not have many hikers or other visitors. A ranger has hiked this trail this year and reported a lot of downfall, so we have allocated it two trips.

Brookside McCurdy North Ride – August 2

Parking is at the Payne Creek trailhead. The Brookside McCurdy trail splits off from the Payne Creek trail about 1.5 miles from the trailhead and proceeds upward through lodgepole pine forest, changing to spruce and fir at higher elevations. After you cross over the lip of the mountain into Craig Park, it opens out into meadows and a pleasant stream populated with many small brook trout. There are some stretches with more fist-sized rocks on the trail than would be desired, but otherwise is an easy trail. The Forest Service has cleared this trail up to the Wilderness boundary, so expect more riding than clearing.

Lost Park Event – August 11-15

Come join the fun on this great campout and work days. You are welcome for the whole time (some of us are going up on Thursday the 11th and returning on Monday the 15th) or just a day or two. FRBCH will supply the food, bring our camp kitchen and the porta-potties. You bring yourself, your horse, feed for your horse (certified weed free hay as we are camping on public land), your camping gear (tent, camper, trailer, etc), and water for yourself and your horse.

Lost Creek Trail (Mt. Evans) Work Day Ride 2

Dates: Saturday, July 23

Ride Leader: Dan Shier 303-278-1261, dan@rockypine.com

Please RSVP to Linda Baur at lbaur@denver.net or call 303-670-3550 by 7/21.

Ride Description: This is a one day work ride. Please be ready to ride by 9:30AM.

The trailhead is at about 8600 feet. The first 2/3 of the trail rises gently and includes about 2 miles of fire road. The last 1/3 of the trail rises from 9400 feet to 11000 feet over two miles and has some steep sections. The farthest half of the trail is shady and cool, with some large trees that sometimes fall on the trail. Round trip distance is about 12 miles. Some of us would vote this as the most charming ride on Mt. Evans. It does not have many hikers or other visitors. This is the second of the two Lost Creek rides.

You must provide your own water and lunch to eat on the trail.

Directions:

From Denver, take I-70 west to Evergreen Pkwy. exit; go 6 miles south on HWY 74 to Evergreen Lake; when you can first see Evergreen Lake, slow down for your right turn onto Upper Bear Creek Rd. which is more like an exit ramp downward then a real right turn. Go 6.5 miles to CR480. Look for a yellow sign that says "School bus turn-around". About 150 feet past that sign, turn right at the signs that say "Sawmill" and "Outdoor Lab". This is CR480. (Julie S.'s note: I don't think the road is marked CR480 here, but at this approx. mileage you come to a "Y", take the right!) . Drive on for 3 miles. You will see a sign for the Mt. Evans state wildlife area where you turn left. Proceed about 1/2 mile to the buildings. Shift into 4WD and go up the hill for about 1/4 mile. The road surface is good but it is just steep with a climbing switchback near the top. Park by the toilets in the level area at the top known as Groundhog Flat. Figure it will take 20-25 minutes to get to the parking area from Evergreen because the road winds a good bit and speeds have to be slow.

Buno (or Bruno) Gulch Work Project: Jim Chaney, leader

When: Thurs., Fri. & Sat., July 28, 29 & 30 (31st is an optional ride day)

Directions: Proceed SW on US285. Go past Bailey. When you get to Grant, turn right (north) on Rd. 62 and proceed toward Guenella Pass. Proceed past the Abyss Lake TH & Burning Bear CG at the top of the switchbacks on your right. Turn left (West) at the first gravel road in the trees (there is no sign of any kind), cross Geneva creek (BIG culverts), and proceed to the pens at the end of the road (Y to the right), about a mile of slow & rough road.

***Note: A few hundred feet past the turn-off is a left Y to Geneva Creek Rd. #119 & Geneva Park FS campground. If you get to the campground sign, turn around because you have missed your turn.**

Project Details:

Thursday July 28 and Friday July 29 Jim & Julie Chaney will be leading the days riding to the South Park #600 trail to perform corridor clearing with Jim the Sawyer and chain saw (this is not Wilderness). We will be using a packhorse to transport equipment. Riders will help clear & trim with hand tools-saws & loppers.

We will also be performing rail maintenance work & installing 4 new gates on the horse pens near the camping area to make them safe. This will be an after ride project as we can work on it a little at a time and should not take too long. The Chaney's will provide the needed repair parts, power tools, Generator etc.

Day Riders-You do not need to camp. You can join us for either day. Please be at the pen area no later than 9:30 so you can be ready to ride by 10. Please allow extra time to drive the unpaved, very rough 4 miles on the Guenella Pass Rd. as well as the one-mile down to the pens. We plan to be back in the afternoon so you will have plenty of time to drive home before dark if you don't stay to help repair the pens.

Saturday July 30th Pam Doverspike (arriving Friday night) will be leading the project performing GPS work of social trails in the area for the Forest Service in preparation of their plans to expand the official trail network in this area. Riders will perform additional corridor work as needed on those trails too.

Sunday July 31st anyone that can stay over until Sunday can either continue corridor work or GPSing with Pam.

FRBCH will NOT be providing food or the porta-potties trailer for this project so please bring your own food etc. As we get closer and RSVP's are in we will have an email discussion regarding interest in potluck dinners. If you want to bring snacks to share at "cocktail time", that would be great.

What to bring:

You must bring feed and water for your horse (certified weed free hay as we are camping on public land). There is no water at the campsite. There is horse water in the stream about 200 yds south of camp. There are 4 approx. 10x20 pens we can use but not all of our horses will fit, so also bring "housing" for your horse – highline (plenty of trees), portable pen, etc.

You must bring water for yourself.

Bring your camping gear (tent, camper, trailer, etc). Also remember your heavy coat as it can get cold at night, rain gear, work gloves, sunscreen, hat, and water bottles for the trail -- bring more water than you do for a normal ride as you get thirsty doing work.

This is a very popular camping place for equestrians. ATVers, shooters and others use it as well. On a weekend, all of the better, shaded spots are generally taken early. However, it is pretty much always possible to find a level campsite on the short-grass meadow on the right side of the road.

Orts and Oats – Miscellaneous Information:

VIGILANCE CAN PAY OFF!

Keep up with National Issues and know what's happening regarding maintenance and continuance of Horse Trails by logging on to websites for the Equine Land Conservation Resource, American Horse Council and Backcountry Horsemen!

A Timely Warning!

Riders to the high country in Colorado and elsewhere in the West need to be aware of livestock protection dogs traveling with bands of sheep grazing on public lands. They are not to be approached as they are on duty protecting the flocks from predators. If you ride with a dog, keep it on leash with you as you skirt the sheep as far away as possible.

Trail of the Month: Deer Creek Canyon Open Space is improving! Dan Shier reports that Jeffco is working to improve parking and trail head areas with storm drainage systems being installed, new asphalt being overlaid on the parking area and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements being met with new concrete sidewalks added by ADA parking slots. He says there are 9 horse trailer spots currently and usually they are not all being used. It's a great place to ride as the two loops of the trails take about 4.5 hours on horseback. Yes, you meet some bikers and hikers, but early mornings are cool and you can enjoy the greens, flowers and soon, raspberries, in the deep canyons.

Calendar of Events - 2011

Ride leaders contact info: Dan Shier - 303-278-1261, dan@rockypine.com

Julie Sabados - 720-733-0399, julierandy1@yahoo.com

Pam Doverspike, 303-425-4964, pjdovers@aol.com

Jim Chaney, 303-646-2135, jmcf34@gmail.com

Julie Chaney, 303-646-2135, jchaney1524@gmail.com

July 19, Tues	Weekend Work Day, Lost Creek Trail 1, Mt Evans Wilderness
July 23, Sat	Weekend Work Day, Lost Creek Trail 2, Mt Evans Wilderness
July 27, Wed	Monthly meeting at Lone Tree Library
July 28 - 31, Thurs - Sun	Weekend workdays, Buno Gulch
Aug 2, Tue	Weekday workday, Brookside McCurdy North
Aug 11 - 15, Thur - Mon	Campout/workdays at Lost Park. Rides/work days will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday -- Arrive and join us for whichever days work for you!
Aug 20, Sat	Workday, Jefferson Loop Trail (Mac's Bridge)
Aug. 24, Wed.	Monthly meeting at Red Rocks Grill in Morrison
Aug. 27, Sat	Workday, Cub Creek Trail
Aug. 27, Sat	BCHCO State Meeting
Aug. 26 & 28, Fri & Sun	Fun ride in Nathrop area with people from BCHCO State Meeting.
Aug. 31, Wed	Weekday workday, Abyss lake
Sept. 8, Thur	Weekday workday, TBD
Sept. 11, Sunday	Founders Day BBQ & Ride
Sept. 16 - 18, Fri - Sun	Pack in Campout at Twin Eagle
Sept. 21, Wed	Fun ride to view aspen
Sept. 28, Wed	Monthly meeting at Lone Tree Library

Tougher and Higher Level of Protection Urged for Roadless Areas.

The USFS has invited public comment on proposed changes to the Colorado Roadless Rule that was enacted to provide varying tiers of protection to areas designated "roadless".. Wild Connections has urged people to support a stronger "upper tier" status for the Pike-San Isabel National Forests which will protect wildlife, watershed, recreation and other valued aspects of certain areas. Right now, these areas are at risk for commercial oil/gas development and pipeline and transmission line installations. Comment window ended July 14th. We hope to bring FRBCH more details on this situation as they unfold.

Western Slope No Fee Coalition – Mt. Evans Update (aka- Know your Rights!)

USFS charges a \$10/vehicle access fee to Colorado State Hwy 5, highest paved U.S. road, accessing the summit of Mt. Evans. This action exceeds USFS' legal authority! Several lawsuits have been filed in U.S. Federal Court in Denver and much legal action has been taken and countered, creating a legal rollercoaster. After 3 years of legal wrangling, a panel of three judges is to render a decision. Currently a Convenient Entrance Pay Station straddles the uphill section of the highway to collect fees by stopping all vehicles before they can continue toward the summit. According to a USFS memo, motorists and visitors do NOT have to pay a fee unless they plan to stop and "use the facilities (i.e. restrooms), stopping at pull outs to enjoy the view or take a picture is not a fee-triggering activity,. Visitors who know their rights can pass through the entrance station without fear of prosecution as the USFS has no ability to do more than render a NRF (Notice of Required fee document which is not a ticket but a non-enforceable compliance tool . However, be advised that USFS personnel manning the Pay Station will tell you if you stop for any reason, the fee is applicable even when it is NOT!

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!

JRS Janitorial, LLC

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

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Randy or Julie Sabados 303-933-1201

DKL

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Deborah K. Lynn, EA

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407 Rolling Hills Pl.
Parker, CO 80138
dkl@myedl.com

Bus: 303-840-8452
Fax: 303-840-8455
Cell: 303-956-5011

Jim Holmes, Realtor

Providing Real Estate Solutions
Residential, Land, Commercial

Keller Williams Realty, DTC
303-475-7249

Julie Chaney

303-646-2135

jchaney1524@aol.com

Back Country Horsemen of Colorado
P.O. Box 1309
Elizabeth, CO 80107

Preserving historic pack & saddle stock access

www.bchcolorado.org

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

