

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico

March 2010

P.O. Box 445, Radium Springs, NM 88054

Website: <http://lowerriogrande.bchnm.org>

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Lower Rio Grande Chapter

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Spring has arrived early and we're gearin' up for it! We have a busy schedule lined out and we need all members to pitch in and help with our activities this month. We will have our usual booth and packing demonstration at the NM Farm and Ranch Cowboy Days. This year the activities will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14, from 9 am to 5 pm. We'll be demonstrating a Leave No Trace Camp as well, so there will be allot of work to do to make our presentation first class. It's always an interesting and enjoyable experience. Please plan to attend and help meet and greet the public and recruit new members for the LRGC.

The rest of the year is filled with projects in many different areas, working for both the BLM and the Forest Service. This year we will expand our efforts to include work at White Sands National Monument and the Lincoln National Forest at Three Rivers.

Our annual Rendezvous will be held at Fort Stanton, near Capitan, August 25 through 31. Mark your calendar now and plan on a great getaway with lots of trail riding, story telling, food and fun. We extended the length of the Rendezvous, but the main events will be held on the weekend. Stay tuned.

Our questionnaire revealed allot of good information, including your preferences as follows:

Meeting Format: rotating to different members' homes

Preferred Meeting Day: Thursdays

Preferred Meeting Time: 6:30 pm year-round

Activities: a combination of speakers, demos, videos, but mostly meetings short & sweet.

Ride Preferences: mostly Saturdays at 9 am in the summertime, 10 to 11 am in winter

Ride Duration: 3 to 4 hours

Those of you who offered to lead a ride at your favorite place please email me to schedule your ride.

Our March Monthly Meeting will be held at the home of members Bob and Julie Basile in Fairacres at 6:30 pm. See Schedule of Events for directions. If you would like to host the April 15 meeting, or the May 20 meeting, please contact me at 575-571-0221 or 505-990-7801, or email me.

RIDE REPORTS

On February 6 Carol Edmonds led a ride around A-Mountain. The weather was good and it was a pleasant ride for all.

On February 20 we rode up Faulkner Canyon into some rocky country. We rode past the area I was familiar with and did some rock rollin', but Debbie Cantrill led us back down to the sandy canyon floor on her trusty Tennessee Walker.

Minutes for February 2010 Chapter Meeting

Time and Date: 6:00 February 18, 2010 Place: Don Patterson'

Attendees: Joyce Getrost, Pat Buls, Yvonne Denzler, Carol Edmonds, Don Patterson

Business:

Questionnaire: It was requested that all results from the survey be provided to the members.

Trail Ride to A Mt. was attended by 6 members. It was declared a success.

Support for ELCR and NM Chapter of American Horse Council – Although support for these organizations was approved last month, actual cost membership was more than reported. Therefore a motion to support these organizations was tabled until next month. It was requested that links to these web sites be sent to the members so they can review their mission and determine if we wish to support them.

Wilderness Bill - A hearing held by Senators Udall and Bingaman was well attended by BCH members. Both sides of the issue were presented.

Proposed Projects - White Sands. Rusty Jensen of White Sands is looking for support and volunteers to setup another area of White Sands for horses, with parking and signs. We are going to contact him and offer the support of our chapter in this effort.

Quarterly Board Meeting Report – The BCH State will pay for our chapter to have a booth at the Southern NM State Fair. Pat will check on costs, applications, etc.

2010 Rendezvous will be held August 27, 28 and 29 at Ft Stanton. The Socorro Chapter will be the host.

Suggestions from State BCHNM Board:

- Reinroduce the State Newsletter and link Chapter to NM websites
- Reminder to keep track of miles cleared
- Ask for volunteers to weekend train the trainer LNT (Leave No Trace). Requirements after training is give 2 demos each year. Our chapter proposed giving demos at the Southern NM State Fair and at the Horse Expo in May. Also we should notify other horse people of LNT demos and work with them on adding LNT info on their websites.

Vice President proposed that we respond to the National Hiking Group that we will ride at 3 Rivers on June 5 for National Trails Day. The members agreed to this proposal.

Future Activities:

Mar 6 – Picacho Peak

Mar 13-14 – Cowboy Days at Farm and Ranch Museum

Mar 20 – Soledad Canyon

April 3 – Box Canyon

April 17 – Broad Canyon Leader: Lee Preece

June 5 and 26 – Three Rivers Camp out

Next Meeting – tba

Submitted by Joyce Getrost, Secretary/Treasurer

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 13 & 14: Cowboy Days at the NM Farm and Ranch Museum, 9 am to 5 pm both days.

We will have a booth to display pictures of our activities, brochures and membership forms, a packing demo, a Leave No Trace camp demo. We will have shade – bring chairs, come and take a turn at the booth and help get the word out about the Back Country Horsemen.

March 18: LRGC Monthly Meeting, 6:30 pm at the home of Bob & Julie Basile in Fairacres.

Directions: From the intersection of Valley and Picacho Ave. (Hwy. 70) turn West. Head West (towards Deming) on Picacho Ave and you will cross over the Rio Grande Bridge. After bridge you will cross through one stop light. Keeping heading west and look for the Fairacres Elementary School on the left.

Right after you pass the school will be North Fairacres Road, turn left. Come down North Fairacres Road 5/10 mile (look for white pipe fence on left) and turn left onto Escondido Lane. This is a dead end street and my house is the next to the last on the right: 4207 Escondido Lane. There are large willow trees just before the driveway.

Note: If you are coming from the North you can take Shalem Colony Trail and it will take you to West Picacho (Hwy 70). At the stop light make a right turn (west) on Picacho Ave. Look for the Fairacres Elementary School and follow remainder of directions above. Phone (575) 639-1569

March 20: Soledad Canyon Patrol, 10:00 am.

Directions to Soledad Canyon: Take I-25 to University Exit, proceed East past the Farm and Ranch Museum, continue another three miles to Soledad Canyon Road. Turn right and follow Soledad Canyon Rd. to its end in the foothills of the Organ Mountains, about 7 miles from I-25.

April 3: TBA

April 9 & 10: Joint Work Project with Socorro Chapter and NM Wilderness Alliance at San Mateo Peak Lookout. We will camp at Springtime campground, ride to the peak and clean up the area. There is water for the horses at the campground. It is steep, rocky country, your horse should be used to the rocks and equipped accordingly. This is a beautiful place with abundant wildlife and gorgeous views.

April 15: LRGC Monthly Meeting.

April 17: TBA

CLASSIFIEDS (free to members ~ email your ad to Pat Buls, gentletamer1@peoplepc.com

Trail Training Clinic by Pat Buls at Shining Heart Farm in Radium Springs, April 24 at 10:00 am. – 1:00 pm. Learn the strategies you need to know about maneuvering your horse through any obstacle, in any situation. Please see Pat's Training Method page at <http://www.shiningheartfarm.com> for more details on her training philosophy. \$25 entry fee for horse/rider--\$10 audit fee. Call 575-571-0221 to enter, or email Pat at gentletamer1@peoplepc.com.

Directions: From I-25 take Exit 19 (Radium Springs), proceed west over the freeway and take the first right (Tel High) and another immediate Right (Desert Edge) and follow it to the water tower. Turn left onto DeBeers Dr. and go exactly 0.3 mile. You will see a horse-crossing sign on the right, and Pat's driveway on the left. (From old HWY 185 Tel High will be the third left turn after the railroad tracks).

HAY FOR SALE: grass/alfalfa mix, real nice clean heavy bales (2 strand) about 20% alfalfa. Contact Milette Lanphere: 575-649-4307.

RIDING LESSONS AND HORSES TRAINED in a gentle, low-stress environment, including arena obstacles and trail riding, with dressage basics. Call Pat Buls, The Gentle Tamer, at 525-9334.

See Pat's website: <http://www.ShiningHeartFarm.com> for her training method/philosophy.

Websites of our Congressmen, where you can get their email addresses:

US Senator Jeff Bingaman: <http://bingaman.senate.gov> Phone# 800-443-8658

US Senator Tom Udall: <http://udall.senate.gov> Phone# 202-224-6621

US Representative Harry Teague: <http://teague.house.gov> Phone# 202-225-2365

US Representative Silvestre Reyes: <http://reyes.house.gov> Phone# 202-225-4831

Information on the Rio Grande Trail:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/riograndeconcept.htm>

For up-to-date info on National Forests and BLM areas, go to <http://www.nmfireinfo.com> or http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/nm/restrictions_nm.htm.