



Tales & Trails

Newsletter of the Socorro chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico

December 2009

Editor: Steve Randall
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 505-861-1088

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy everybody. Well, I hope you all survived Thanksgiving okay & are now in full Christmas mode. We had a busy November; the weather was beautiful and we were able to get out & enjoy riding in the desert. Our ride on the Camino Real trail was both enjoyable & educational. We helped establish & mark that trail as one of our first projects in '06. The trail still is good shape but needs additional markers & also decals put on existing markers. Our BLM rep wants us to get that accomplished this winter so we'll get back to you with dates & times when they become available.

We had eight riders on the Camino Real ride; two of whom were guest & potential members. We're always on the scout for new members & welcome guest who understand our mission & purpose & who will abide by our rules.

Jane has met two potential members, Bob & Laura Bishop, retired equine consultants & TWH enthusiasts who own a ranch near San Marcial. We look forward to having them attend our meetings and joining Socorro BCH..

We had a good meeting in November, courtesy of Vern Leavitt & Paula Riley who graciously opened their home to us for the third time this year. They're wonderful host and staunch BCH supporters. Thanks, Vern & Paula.

At the November meeting, all officers agreed to continue in their respective position & no nominations were forthcoming so we're set for another year of riding, working & enjoying the back country together while making it better for those who follow.

We won't hold a business meeting in December, instead, we'll gather at Kiva RV Park, Thursday, December 17 for a potluck/gift exchange (\$10.00 or less) Christmas party.

Karen Bailey Bowman has agreed to lead a ride into the San Lorenzo Canyon area on Saturday, December 12.

Jane has volunteered to lead a ride from her home near San Antonio on Friday, Jan. 1 - see the ride schedule for specifics.

John will lead a ride on the Socorro Valley Bosque Trail (SVBT) on Saturday 16 - this will be the first of four rides on this trail in 2010.

PLANNED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

¹ Saturday, December 12, 11:30 am; San Lorenzo Canyon area ride. **RSVP**

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This Months Calendar

- **December 1,** SOBTH meeting, contact O J at 575-835-1237
- **December 12,** Ride, San Lorenzo Canyon area. *See page 1 & 2*¹
- **December 17,** Pot Luck Christmas party at Kiva RV *See page 2*²
- **January 1,** Ride, Rio Grande Valley *See page 2*³
- **January 16,** SVBT Trail ride⁴
- **January 21,** Meeting *See page 2*⁵

Editors Notes

Welcome to our newest members Mike & Allison Walstead

Dead line for the January newsletter is December 22nd so that I can get it out before Christmas.



(Continued from page 1)

Karen Bailey Bowman: 575-418-8220

² Thursday, Dec. 17: 6:30 pm: potluck/Christmas party – KIVA RV Park, Bernardo.

³ Friday, Jan. 1: Rio Grande Valley Ride. RSVP Jane Farmer, 835-3614 or farmer3619@msn.com.

⁴ Saturday, January 16, 10:00 am: Socorro Valley Bosque Trail (SVBT) ride. RSVP John Young 505-363-4943.

⁵ Thursday, January 21, 6:30pm: monthly meeting – at BLM field office. We will begin our New Year with a membership drive. We have invited new members Mike & Alison Walstad of Ruidoso Downs to talk about their riding adventures & their two books on that subject. It's time to re-up & re-new dues, so please bring your check book.

April 9-11: Joint project with LRGBCH & NM Wilderness Alliance: site cleanup at San Mateo Peak Lookout, Meet at Springtime Camp Ground.

Thank you for your time. Hope to see you at the meetings, the rides and the work projects. Take care – and be careful out there.

December 12th Ride Information

Meet at Karen's place at 11:30 am; Be ready to go by noon. Eat ahead of time. Please, no dogs at all! This ride should take no more than 3 hours total. It will be on desert terrain, so horses with soft hooves need shoes. Some up and down ridges. People should call 575-418-8220 for confirmation before they leave home if the weather looks iffy, like windy or really cold or stormy.

To get to Karen's:

From the Lemitar exit on I-25.

From the off ramps, turn away from the truck stop and towards the valley. Notice your mileage. You will be on State Route 408. Proceed eastward on 408, over the railroad tracks, over the main canal, and bear north (left) immediately after the main canal -- you will stay with 408. You are going north on 408 -- the tracks will be on your left. You will pass Midway Road, then SW Cattle Feeders (white pipe fences), and then the blue wooden sign for Pembroke Farms and the little green mile 4 mile marker sign. Slow down. My gravel driveway is on the right at the intersection of the dirt Community Road and 408 between MM 4 and 5. Look for a line of cottonwood trees, a red pipe fence and turquoise gates. Also, - 786 and 73 Bowman are stenciled on the red pipe pasture fence. If you go 5 miles from the freeway or pass the green MM 5 sign, or get to the Rancho Querencia sign, you have gone too far!

Ride Description

People should expect to ride on ditch banks and pass by concrete and steel structures, go next to horses in big fields that might run around, meet unrestrained dogs that shoot out of a yard and bark. We will be riding on the ditch bank next to 498 and not far from the tracks. The trains may come by and they blow their whistles. You have to cross the RR tracks on horseback and go down right next to the tracks into the San Lorenzo channel and then go in a dark tunnel under the freeway on pavement before going up and opening a fence gate to get into the desert area. In the desert, we will ride up San Lorenzo and then cross the dirt road, go up a drainage a ways, go up a steep path to a ridge, and then down the ridge cross country to an arroyo, then back on the sandy arroyo, cross the power line road, and then retrace our way under the freeway, etc. **People whose horses are not used to these features will not have a good time.**

Alternate Meeting Place at 11:45

We won't actually be near the entrance to San Lorenzo canyon at all, but people could park their trailers on the power line road just off the main dirt road to San Lorenzo. It takes about 1/2 hour for the ride from Karen's house to that point. Meeting here will avoid some of the hazards listed above

Again, if you plan on making this ride please RSVP to Karen at 575-418-8220

Meeting Minutes



SOCORRO BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MEETING

MINUTES – November 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Bryant at 7:10 p.m. at the home of Paula Riley and Vern Leavitt, in Lemitar. This followed a potluck and thank you to the gracious hosts.

The minutes were approved with a correction on the date of the Christmas party, that being December 17 at the Kiva RV park in Bernardo. Don't forget to bring a gift.

The treasurer reported that the bank balance was approximately \$800 and some cents. Peggy said she needed to order checks and asked if we really needed a bank card (as it had never been used). The consensus was to get another bank card, just in case it should be needed.

Committee Reports:

Education: John changed the program from "Horseanality" to discussing the proposed rides suggested by the Ride Committee. John distributed a listing of the suggested rides.

There were 8 riders on the Camino ride. Due to time constraints, the scouting of a loop trail did not occur, but might be a possibility when we go back to put decals on the markers (requested by BLM). Eleanor really out-did herself on lunch for the group, What was anticipated to be a routine ride really turned out to be an exceptional event.

The November 28 ride at Water Canyon was discussed. Peggy indicated that the campground was closed and possibility the road to the Copper Canyon Trail. (Shannon and Jane made a scouting trip – the road is open, but as discussed: there is only room for maybe three trailers. People must let Jane know if they are coming and some coordination and consolidation of rides may need to be done. A time and meeting place was not set yet until we know the number of riders.

A continuation of proposed rides led to recommendations of June for Rosedale and July for the Valle Vidal. John said the State Board had discussed the Rendezvous taking place at either Fort Stanton or in northern New Mexico.

Membership: Tom said January would be the membership drive meeting and it would take place at the BLM office. The new members from Ruidoso will be speaking.

SOBTF: O. J. attended the November Save Our Bosque Task Force Meeting. John had turned in his report of the Riverine Park ride which indicated trash at the Stumps Park and also at Escondida. He complimented the Radio Club on the cleanliness and repair work at Confluence Park. O. J. said the next SOBTF meeting will be December 1 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Forestry office. It will be a potluck and all members of the BCHM are invited.

At this point Jane totally spaced the taking of minutes and joined in the conversation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Other Stuff



Tom received the Following information from BCHA, if you are interested in this training contact Tom

2010 BCHA LEAVE NO TRACE MASTERS CLASS

BCHA is proud to announce sponsorship of its fourth annual Leave No Trace Master Educators class. The class will be held at the Historic 9-Mile Ranger Station in Huson , Montana May 3-7.

Student Nominations are due not later than 01 March 2010 .

Nominations are to be e-mailed to Bob Wagner, BCHA LNT Program Manager at twostar@hughes.net , US Postal service: 3038 Mick English Road Metropolis , Illinois 62960 , Telephone (618) 638 4416

Seat availability is limited to twelve students with the following students in mind.

State / Affiliate States with two or more Master Trainers focusing on outstanding /deserving (proven) LNT trainers who have shown the initiative and desire to become LNT Masters and carry the program forward

State /Affiliate States with no Master Trainers

State / Affiliate States with one Master Trainer

Student requirements: **State supported**, highly motivated, self starting individuals who are members in good standing of BCHA .

BCHA will pay student tuition with each student being asked to apply for an educational grant thru Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics to help defray tuition costs . State / individual pays travel, hotel expenses. Historically, students will spend two /three nights in a Hotel (depending on their arrival time) that will have a block of rooms set aside for the students (expect \$75-\$80). Transportation to Nine mile from the Hotel and return is furnished. Students, who drive, can in fact use their POV if desired.

Once student selection is complete, all students will receive an information package that will include instructions for grant application from the LNT Center for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder , Co. These are to be filled out (grant applied for) and returned to Leave No Trace.

Upon satisfactory course completion, graduates will be expected to hold two Train the Trainer classes per year for the first two years at a minimum.

Quarterly reports, outlining both classes held, if any, or negative reports if none, will be required to be sent to BCHA LNT program manager for tracking of State LNT program progress, Master Educator Support and information to the BHCA Education chair.

With three previous classes now complete, 36 personnel trained, over \$15,000.00 has been invested in this educational endeavor. Education is not cheap. Please consider this as your State begins the student selection process. Remember Class size is limited to twelve persons and when all seats are filled, three alternates will be chosen as well. Student and alternate selection will be on a first come, first served€ basis.

Respectfully,

Robert W. Wagner, BCHA LNT Program Manager

RSVP Please

If you are planning on attending a ride or work party please call the contact person to RSVP so that you can be notified of last minute changes or cancellation

When ALL of the people RSVP ALL OF THE TIME this notice will no longer appear in the newsletter.

Camino Real Ride 11/14/09



The 8 people that made this ride departed the new trail head at 10:30 and returned at 1:00. We followed the trail that our unit helped to establish and mark a couple of years ago. The BLM would like us to put decals on all of the trail markers and scout out a return route to make this trail into a loop. After the ride we all drove over to Eleanor's ranch for lunch. Eleanor had enough food for twice as many people. This was a great ride with good friends and the weather was perfect. Try and make it when we go back to work on the trail.

Trading Post

Items will be listed month to month contact the editor to run again



Blanket Repair

Winter is coming, get your blankets repaired now before they are needed. We have hardware, straps and patching material in stock. Blankets must be clean and dry.

Steve or Mary 505-861-1088

Socorro BCHNM Shirts

To order shirts with the Socorro BCHNM logo on it contact Jane. They are \$30 a piece.

Jane Farmer 575-835-3619

E-Mail farmer3619@msn.com

For Sale

Alfalfa Hay, 1000 bales barn stored, 5.00 / Bale.
Located in San Acacia

Pete Hughes 575-835-3098

Hyperlinks

If you get your newsletter on line hold down the "control" button and click on the [blue link](#) to go to the web site or to e-mail

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