



# Tales & Trails

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

January 2010

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 505-861-1088

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy everybody. Well, that takes some gettin' used to, eh? 2010? This is the time of year we reflect back on our accomplishments of the previous year & make big plans for the coming year. We were able to get in lots of rides in '09 & we're always thankful for that – that's what we live for. We also got some work done on some of the trails: picked up trash on the Socorro Valley Bosque Trail; put up posts, signs & a hitch rail on the Continental Divide Trail; did a campout & scouting ride at Fort Stanton and scouted out and evaluated the Camino Real Trail.

Some of the members made history when they did a campout & ride on the Valle Caldera as no other horse group had been allowed to camp on the reserve since it was taken over by a committee representing several different agencies. We plan to go back up there this summer for another ride.

We have formed a ride committee & they have come up with a list of rides & projects which will keep us busy for at least two years. We're always looking for volunteers to lead rides so don't be bashful – if you have a favorite place to ride & want to share, please let us know. And please make a resolution to come to our meetings – they're fun & informative and that's where all the planning takes place – so get in the loop; come to the meetings.

We had a good gathering at Kiva RV Park for our Christmas party. Many thanks to Bob & Diane for opening up their office building for us & especially thanks for Diane for cooking that turkey – it was wonderful. There were 20 people at the party including potential new members Bob & Laura Bishop who are former members of Lower Rio Grande BCH & the BCH chapter in Durango, Co. We look forward to Bob & Laura joining us.

No business was discussed at the party – just good fellowship & good food – but we plan to jump back into the fray big time at our January meeting. Plan now to attend. Meanwhile, I hope you & your loved ones have a very peaceful and enjoyable holiday season.

## NEWS NOTES

Karen Bailey Bowman was stricken by an illness the eve of her planned ride & had to cancel - that ride will be rescheduled – perhaps in February.

Jane & John scouted a ride into the badlands east of the river and have scheduled a ride there on Friday, Jan. 1 - see the ride schedule for specifics.

## PLANNED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Friday, Jan. 1:** Badlands ride. Meet at the historical marker just east of the river

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## This Months Calendar

- **January 1,** Badlands Ride, *see page 1 & 2*
- **January 16,** SVBT Trail ride *see page 2*
- **January 21,** Meeting, 6:30. BLM field Office, Socorro *see page 2*
- **January 29,** SVBT Clean up, contact O.J. Simpson @ 505-250-7952
- **January 23,** NMBCH Board Meeting, *see page 2*
- **January 30,** Sand Hills Ride, Kiva RV *see page 2*

## Editors Notes

**Newsletter Acronyms.** It has been suggested that a list of the acronyms used in the newsletter be published. It can be found on page 3

**Dues are due.** Page 4 of this newsletter is a **2010 application for membership**, in order to ensure that the contact information for you is correct, please fill it out and return it with your 2010 dues.



*(Continued from page 1)*

on Hwy. 380, 11:00 a.m. Pack a lunch. The ride will last about four hours – including a lunch break. RSVP Jane Farmer, 835-3619 or [farmer3619@msn.com](mailto:farmer3619@msn.com). Ride will be canceled in case of inclement weather.

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

**Thursday, January 21**, 6:30 pm: 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.

**Saturday, Jan. 23**, 12:00 noon. NMBCH Board of Director's meeting, Kiva RV Park, Bernardo.

**Saturday, Jan. 30**: Kiva Sand Hills Ride, Bernardo. RSVP Diane Wiltshire: 505-861-0693 or 505-480-2806.

**Saturday, Feb. 13**: Camino Real Trail project. RSVP Tom, 423-3303.

**Thursday, Feb. 18**: SBCH monthly meeting. BLM building, 6:30 pm.

**Thursday, Mar. 18**: SBCH monthly meeting. BLM building, 6:30 pm.

**Saturday, Mar. 27**: SVBT ride: RSVP John Young: 5405=363-4943.

**April 9-11**: Joint project with LRGBCH & NM Wilderness Alliance: site cleanup at San Mateo Peak Lookout, **April 9-11**, 2010. Meet at Springtime Camp Ground. RSVP Tom: 423-3303.

REMEMBER: RSVP on all rides or projects you plan to attend. It's a safety issue – we need to know who to expect to participate. Rides & projects may be canceled in case of illness or inclement weather.

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.

## New Years Day Trail Ride

Jane Farmer will lead us on a New Years Day ride to see the Petroglyphs east of San Antonio.

Meet at the historical marker on Highway 380 just east of the river on the south side of the highway at 11:00 AM. We then will caravan about 1 mile to a gate and then to the staging area when there is plenty of parking.

The trail is mostly sandy with some rocks, shoes should not be necessary if your horse has decent feet.

Bring a lunch to eat at the petroglyph site; the ride will be about 4 hours including lunch.

If the weather is cold and windy the ride will be postponed / canceled as it is mostly out in the flats. Be sure and RSVP to Jane so that you can be notified if this happens. Telephone 835-3619 or <mailto:farmer3619@msn.com>

**FYI****THE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On December 17 the Socorro Back Country Horsemen convened at the KIVA RV Park in Bernardo for the annual Christmas party. Bob, Diane, and their elves had decorated the KIVA recreation room, cooked a turkey, put up a tree, and were ready for visitors. For those of you who missed it – maybe next year. A good group showed for the occasion with lots of homemade dishes for the potluck and a present for the gift exchange. It is always fun to eat someone else’s cooking. There wasn’t a bite left of the double recipe for green bean casserole, and Laura’s pumpkin roll was not only attractive, but tasted great too. That fruit salad John makes is hard to top; surely it has to be good for you!

The gift exchange was quite interesting: wine, booze, horseshoe cross, jewelry, white elephants, tack, etc. etc. It was fun to see what other people find desirable. No one knew what they might end up with. Gifts went back and forth, with only a few grumbles, and no actual fist fights.

Thank you Diane and Bob for being very gracious hosts, and we hope we left in time for Diane to make her 9 p.m. bed time.

*Submitted by Jane Farmer*

<b>Common Acronyms</b>
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<b>BCH</b> =Back Country Horsemen	<b>TWH</b> =Tennessee Walking Horse
<b>BCHA</b> = Back Country Horsemen of America	<b>USFS</b> = U.S. Forrest Service
<b>NMBCH</b> = Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico	<b>SVBT</b> =Socorro Valley Bosque Trail
<b>MRGBCH</b> =Middle Rio Grand Back Country Horsemen	<b>SOBTF</b> = Save Our Bosque Task Force
<b>LGRBCH</b> =Lower Rio Grand Back Country Horsemen	<b>AHC</b> = American Horse Council
<b>SBCH</b> =Socorro Back Country Horsemen	<b>YSOB</b> =my mule is getting better in mule speak
<b>BLM</b> = Bureau of Land Management	



## Socorro Back Country Horseman Chapter 2010 Membership Application

Please list all names for family membership. Children over 18 may be included in family membership or may join as an individual.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Hospital/Physician

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I/We realize there are inherent risks involved in all activities with equine animals and I/We hereby release BCHA/SBCH/NM and its Officers, Directors and Membership, from liability for any accident, injury, or death that may occur to myself/ourselves or my/our equine by participation in any Back Country Horsemen of America activity. In accordance with EQUINE LIABILITY ACT SJC/SENATE BILL 268.a.a. 1993.

I/We further understand that I/We are fully responsible for our minor children and release BCHA/SBCH/NM of any and all liability for any accident, injury, and/or death of any minor child. Children under the age of eighteen (18) years are not allowed to participate in any BCHA activity unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Ride Rules and Trail Etiquette of the Socorro chapter of the BCHNM.

Dues: \$25.00 - annually for individual \$35.00 - annually for family

\$5.00 - One time Event. Associate Membership \$10.00 (must be a paid up member of another chapter) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Chapter

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail application and your dues to: Socorro BCH  
PO Box 63  
San Antonio, NM 87832

Renewing Member  New Member

## National Issues



The following is the text of an e-mail that was received by Tom on 12/21

**Subject: Trail closure to stock - info needed**

Hi Packers,

As we talked about in our meeting Wednesday, here is the info being requested from Backcountry Horsemen of America:

Here is the notice: "The reduction of trails, trailheads and closure of public lands to horses and pack animals is a growing problem. The American Horse Council and its member organizations are working to address this issue on federal lands with introduction of legislation that will protect the rights of historic and traditional recreational users of public land such as equestrians. No effort to pass such legislation will be successful unless evidence can be supplied that clearly demonstrates the scope of the problem and the need for action on the part of Congress. The AHC is asking for documented examples of trails or entire areas that have been closed to equestrians on federal land (Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management), due to administrative decisions, lack of maintenance or any reason.

**Examples need to include:**

**Name & Address of individual reporting closure:** (This is so the appropriate member of Congress can be identified)

**Jurisdiction:** (Park, Forest, BLM)

**Location:** (specific trail, district, forest)

**Stated Reason for closure:** (environmental impact, user conflict, maintenance issue, reclassification)

**Process associated with closure:** (was public comment solicited, was NEPA performed, etc)

**History of equestrian use:**

**Any additional relevant details:** such as volunteer work performed by the pack station, equestrian group; user conflicts, etc)

Please feel free to send this to anyone who travels with stock. This info can either be sent back to me and I will compile it to send to the Backcountry Horsemen or it can be sent to Ann Lange, Wilderness Director for BCH of American.

Jennifer Roeser: McGee Creek Pack Station - HCR 79, Box 162, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or [mcgee@Onet.com](mailto:mcgee@Onet.com)

Ann Lange: Kern Valley Veterinary Clinic - 14934 Highway 178, Lake Isabella, CA 93240 work: 760 378 2113

The success or failure of this effort will depend on us actually being pro-active and reporting this info.

## Trading Post

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



### Blanket Repair

Repair your expensive blankets rather than replace them. 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](mailto: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

FOLD



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