



# Tales & Trails

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

June 2010

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## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT, MAY 2010

Howdy everybody. Well, where did May go? Seems we had something going on every weekend and the month just flew by.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> I met a younger brother at a campground on Rio Bonito. He's retired Navy and lives in Alabama. He was totally unprepared for the chilling wind, freezing nights and four inches of snow we were blessed with. But we did have a wonderful weekend. Visited the Hubbel Museum of The Horse; the Fort Stanton Museum and the Merchant Marine Cemetery which he was amazed to see in the high desert of New Mexico.

On May eight, Steve, Mary & I motored to the home of Richard and Amber Kingsbury in Edgewood. It was a cool, windy day on that high plains, but lucky for us, the Kingsbury's have a large shop with a huge wood-burning stove so we were quite comfortable as we presented a packing clinic for the 16-or-so members of Pecos BCH, plus two Forest Rangers. After a lunch break of food provided by PBCH, members tacked up their animals with pack saddles and for two hours we helped inspect their outfits and offered suggestions and recommendations. It was a very enlightening experience for us all.

The following weekend, Jane Farmer and her friend, Carol, came out to the ranch and rode with me while I checked on some cattle I'd just turned into a new pasture. We rode east to check on a drinker; discovered that it was almost dry so we rode on a couple miles to the east well where I turned on a solar-operated pump we have there. Then we rode about another two hours, making a big loop west before heading home. The next day, Peggy came out with her little mare that was so badly injured last year. After checking on that drinker, we rode an even bigger loop, logging about four hours of high desert riding.

As Jane reports in the minutes of the May meeting, our guest speakers gave us a first-hand report on the growing, maddeningly frustrating wild horse situation that BLM personnel deal with on an almost daily basis. Their talk, while sobering, was enlightening and we appreciate their time. And we want to especially thank OJ for hosting the meeting/potluck. It was so very nice to sit outside; eat and drink; watch the horses graze & quail run across the yard as our guests entertained and informed us.

On Saturday, of Memorial Day Weekend, John led a small group: Steve n' Mary & their guest Marsha; Sue n' Buster - & me, south of San Lorenzo Canyon, up what he calls "the Jane Farmer Loop." The weather was purt-near perfect and we had a wonderful – but short ride. However, we did enjoy those green chili cheeseburgers – and lots of talk at the Lemitar Truck Stop

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## Calendar of future events

- **June 5 National Trails Day** Trail Clearing Project *see page 2*
- **June 11-12** El Malpais, Homestead Canyon overnight ride *see page 2&3*
- **June 17**, Monthly Meeting / Pot Luck John Young *see page 2*
- **July 24**, Dead line to register for rendezvous.
- **July 31**, State board meeting, Kiva RV
- **Aug 27-29**, Rendezvous

## Editors Notes

Jane Farmer submitted the pictures this month.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED



*(Continued from page 1)*

With all this activity on weekends, don't forget that John is leading rides every Wednesday. Just give him a call (505-363-4943) if you'd like to participate – or to lead a ride.

That's it for now – hope to see you on the trails & at the meetings.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 5, Mule & Donkey show & tack swap/sale. Kiva RV Park, Bernardo. Contact Diane Wiltshire: 505-480-2806

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, June 11, 12, 13: camping/riding: Homestead Canyon (South of Grants). Contact Diane: 505-480-2806.

Thursday, June 17, 6:00 pm. Meeting/potluck. John's rancho, 25 Schmittle Rd. Lemitar.

### RIDES & PROJECTS PLANNED

Build barricade on SVBT - TBA

Pack out trash from San Mateo Lookout – TBA

Mark & clear Camino Heritage Center Trail - TBA

Pack in Supplies for trail crew in Guadalupe National Park – August 9-10.

BCHNM Rendezvous 2010, Fort Stanton – August 27, 28, 29.

**REMEMBER**, if you want to volunteer to lead a ride – just let us know.

## SOCORRO BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

**May 20, 2010**

Tom Bryant opened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the home of Orona Jane Simpson near Escondida. Members and guests introduced themselves. Tom introduced Mark Matthews and Bethany Ritter Rosalez, guest speakers from BLM.

**Program:** BLM Associate Field Manager Mark Matthews began by saying that the Wild Horse Program at the national level was started by Thelma Johnson. He said it is a very emotional program. Nation-wide there are about 30,000 horses. Originally, the Wild Horse and Burro Act required that un-adoptable horses be killed – but that has changed.

Wild Horse specialist Bethany Ritter-Rosalez said that should there be a gathering this summer, it will be by water trapping. The gather would begin around the first of June. The BLM will keep about 40 to 50 of the best horses. In the past there have been other wild horses introduced into the local herd in order to better the genes. Eighty percent, about 3,000 head, of the wild horses on public lands are located in Nevada. Currently it is estimated that the local herd is comprised of between 100 and 140 head.

Processing of the horses includes coggins tests, 5-way shots, West Nile shots, worming, aging, and DNA testing. Freeze branding is handled by the adoption agency. Mary asked about neutering animals; Bethany answered that this is still in a testing phase.

Steve Randall asked how long the herd had been here and question the term “wild” as opposed to “feral”. Mark responded that the herd is actual “feral” (meaning “having reversed to a wild state”). Mark also said

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## March 18th meeting continued

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that most of the DNA indicated SOME Spanish blood. Mark said that prior to The Act, the area ranchers would gather the horses, cut out the best ones, and turn the rest out.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as prepared and distributed.

Treasurer's report indicates bank balance is \$992.84 after paying the State dues. Peggy Johnson reported there are 22 memberships.

### **Committee Reports:**

**S OBTF OJ** enjoyed the Rhodes tract tour; however, she said the saltcedar is coming back. Unfortunately, 4-wheelers have totally taken over the Confluence Riverine Park. Tom indicated that he would write a letter to Doug Boykin of the NM State Forestry noting the problem and also that a great deal of cable there and at the San Antonio Park is missing. Peggy said dirt bikes are utilizing the area north of Otero park now also. Chris Kurtmaker said she had seen some kind of notice about a branch of law enforcement to contact for bosque problems.

**Education** Vern volunteered to give a talk regarding his new emergency position in July; he and Paula will also host that meeting.

### **Projects**

Camino Trail marking was put off until September or October. Tom will tell Kevin Carson, BLM.

Mary, Tom and Steve went to Edgewood to give a packing demonstration. There was a good turnout. People brought their own animals and equipment.

**MCA Mine ride:** Jane said Steve and Mary, Shannon Mounyo and herself had done a scouting trip. The actual ride consisted of only two members: Jane and Sue Conklin; there were 3 guests. Jane followed up with the same ride to include John Young. She did a scouting ride of the next canyon to the north – it was a bust; that ride will not happen – too steep and rocky.

**Memorial Day weekend** – Saturday May 29– John Young will lead a ride at San Lorenzo Canyon; afterwards it is lunch at the Lemitar Truck Stop.

**June 11-12** Homestead Canyon campout: Meet at Kiva at 9:30 to caravan to site and set up camp. There will be a ride that afternoon, and one Saturday. Call Diane if you plan to attend. John will find out if you need to haul water – details to follow.

Tom reported that last year, nationally, the BCHM organization existed in 26 states; there are 121 chapters; and they did 349,000+ hours of volunteer work.

Tom said he had met with the lady regarding work at Fort Stanton.

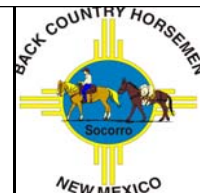
Patches can be purchased for \$10 – let Tom know if you want one. (*See page 5*)

The State Board Meeting is July 31.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Your secretary, Jane

# May 20th Meeting



**Our Hostess, OJ with gift from BLM**

**Guest Speaker Mark Matthews  
Steve**



**Mark Matthews  
Lou, resting**

FYI



Patches for the back of a shirt or jacket are available from Cheryl Nigg of the Pecos Chapter. They are approximately 8-10 inches and cost \$10.00 ea. If you would like one contact Tom so we can put together an order for our unit.

## BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEW MEXICO



Perpetuating the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's  
back country and wilderness

At the last meeting the proposal was made to purchase the illustrated banner for each the BCHNM units. At the June meeting the proposal will be discussed. We would display this banner at public events that our unit participates in. The cost of this banner is 35.00. The banner is 3' X 5'.

### Common Acronyms

**BCH**=Back Country Horsemen

**BCHA**= Back Country Horsemen of America

**BCHNM**= Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico

**MRGBCH**=Middle Rio Grand Back Country Horsemen

**LGRBCH**=Lower Rio Grand Back Country Horsemen

**PBCH** = Pecos back Country Horsemae

**SBCH**=Socorro Back Country Horsemen

**BLM**= Bureau of Land Management

**TWH**=Tennessee Walking Horse

**USFS**= U.S. Forrest Service

**SVBT**=Socorro Valley Bosque Trail

**SOBTF**= Save Our Bosque Task Force

**AHC**= American Horse Council

**CDT**= Continental Divide Trail

**CDTA**= Continental Divide Trail Alliance

## Trading Post

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



### 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)

### 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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