



# Tales & Trails

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

May 2010

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## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT, MAY 2010

Howdy everybody. Well, spring has finally sprung - & along with it, spring rains –something we don't see every year. The rains, along with all the snow we got this winter, is sure greening the country up – it's got its Sunday clothes on. Get out & enjoy all the new grasses and wild flowers – it may be a long time before you see anything as beautiful. We have rides &/or projects scheduled almost every week. You should join us – we're so very lucky here in this part of the country – we can ride in many different directions almost any time we want. Not many people in the world can say that.

We enjoyed a wonderful ride from Al & Sue Conklin's' place on April 3. We had seven riders: Steve & Mary; Jane & Shannon, me & John & Sue. Weather was purt near perfect, with just a slight breeze. We made a loop, east up a big arroyo, north up Bursum Spring, west along the Badlands Road & back to the rancho where we enjoyed the Conklin's' hospitality; Sue's cooking & several side dishes provided by the riders.

And once again we had planned a work project to mark sign post on the Camino Real Trail, but once again the weather was cold and windy so we are forced re-scheduled – at a time to be announced later. This project seems to be jinxed – but we'll keep trying until we get 'er done.

Our April meeting was held in the Kiva-RV Park commons room – thanks to Diane & Bob. It was a joint meeting/potluck with the Middle Rio Grande BCH. We do this about once a year to get better acquainted with our neighbors. We're only separated by about 50 miles and frequently ride the same country - & being the good folk that they are, they're always welcome to join us on our rides & projects.

The day after the meeting six of our members: Steve & Mary; Paula & Vern; Sue & Al, joined members of the SOBTF & NM State Forestry on a cleanup of the SVBT. I'm recovering from eye surgery & am restricted from bending over & lifting no more than ten pounds; John's daughter had shoulder surgery the day before & he had to go visit her so we couldn't participate in the cleanup – but we were there to wish the workers well.

Due to the inclement weather on Saturday, April 17 - & John's other commitments – the scheduled Fun Day with Horses & Mules was canceled. At this writing, that has not been rescheduled – but John has volunteered to lead a ride every Wednesday. Here's an opportunity to get to ride with the group, school your animal, see some country & learn geology from a geologist & ride with some won-

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## Calendar of future events

- **May 8**, Pecos Chapter packing clinic, *see page 4*
- **May 20**, Monthly Meeting / Pot Luck O.J. Simpson's *see page 2*
- **June 5 National Trails Day** Trail Clearing Project *see page 3*
- **June 11-12** El Malpais, Homestead Canyon overnight ride *see page 3*

## Editors Notes

Page 6 is a copy of the **Ride Rules** for your review.

Jane Farmer, Rick Babcock and Steve Randall submitted the pictures this month.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED



*(Continued from page 1)*

derful people. Like I stated earlier; we're lucky people. If you want to enjoy this opportunity, contact John: 505-363-4943

On Saturday, May 24, Jane lead a small group – of two SBCH members (her & Sue) and three guest, just outside Socorro's city limits, across the desert to the old MCA Mine – a place that few members even know of. Jane was somewhat disappointed at the turnout so she will reschedule the ride for a later date – stay tuned.

### PLANNED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Saturday, May 1:** Desert ride south of San Lorenzo Canyon, 9:30 am. RSVP John, 505-363-4943

**Thursday, May 20,** 6:00 pm. Meeting/potluck: home of "OJ" Simpson, 222 County Rd. 91 (Escondida Road). For specific directions, contact OJ: 835-1237.

That's all for now. Hope you're staying warm & well. Be careful out there & I hope to see you down the trail, at the meetings, projects & rides.

## JOINT SOCORRO/MIDDLE RIO GRANDE BCHM MEETING

**APRIL 15, 2010 6:45 KIVA, BERNARDO**

After a potluck at 6 p.m., Socorro BCHM President Tom Bryant called the meeting to order. All present introduced themselves.

The Middle Rio Grande president proceeded with that chapter's business meeting. Rod said their membership was doing well. They had a great ride recently at San Lorenzo – 8 riders were present. There will be a work project ride at Priest Canyon on April 25 (changed from April 24). Rod said their chapter was going to move the medical liability form to be a part of the membership application. There will be a ride May 8 south of Grants; Ed to lead; meet on Highway 117 past the narrows.

At this time Socorro BCHM Vice President Steve Randall took over and proceeded with the Socorro portion of the meeting. President Tom Bryant was in attendance but was not 100 percent due to recent cataract surgery (which was successful).

**Minutes:** Were approved as prepared as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as per Peggy Johnson's e-mail - \$1,527.84.

### Committee Reports:

**SOBTF:** O.J. Simpson said there would be a cleanup the next day, April 16. Participants should meet at Otero Park and a potluck would follow. She would be unable to attend. She also said that there would be a tour of the Rhodes clearing and rehab project (East of the River) as the program for the SOBTF May 4 meeting at 9 a.m.

### Past Rides:

**April 3,** Ride from Conklin's – Seven members rode for about 3 ½ hours. This was followed by a potluck and then a pickup tour of Pear Springs (just off Quebradas Road). Weather was perfect and a "good time was had by all".

**April 10** Tom and John rode the Riverine Parks trail. ATVs have totally destroyed and taken over the Conflu-

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## March 18th meeting continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

ence Park: Trail markers gone, cable gone. The video camera had not been installed yet, but should be in the near future.

**April 17** Fun Day at KIVA was canceled due to John Young not being available to lead activities.

### **Future Rides:**

**Camino Trail Marker Project** – To be announced

**San Mateo Lookout Cleanup** – delayed due to snow

**April 24** – MCA Mine ride on Pounds Ranch – Jane Farmer contact 835-3619

**May ???? – To be announced. Rosedale campout (?) - later**

**June 5 – National Trails Day** – Tom said we had been invited to participate with the Lower Rio Grande Chapter in a Trail Clearing Project at Three Rivers – details to follow.

**June 11-12** – El Malpais, Homestead Canyon – overnigher – Diane Wilshire is contact

### **Old Business:**

Steve noted that if dues are not paid by the end of April: No newsletter.

**March 27** State Board Meeting: Tom reported that the main topic was the Rendezvous, August 26-29 at Fort Stanton. Tom and John will go up Monday April 19 to talk about the horse facilities. There will be a couple guest speakers at the Rendezvous, including BLMer Mike Bilbo (who will talk about the Snowy River Cave, and possibly lead a tour). Dinner will be catered Saturday night (brisket or chicken). There will be portapotties, in addition to existing facilities. Rick Babcock added that the registration will be \$35.. A committee is working on Rendezvous souvenirs and T-shirts will be sold. Rick said some people will be leaving early, and will attend all week. Rick said there would be a raffle and each club needs to contribute something. There will also be a tack swap. Deadline for registration will be July 24.

Rick said the State was trying to schedule Leave No Trace Train the Trainer. It looked like it would be difficult to get enough interested people

Rick Babcock reported that the State would like to buy a vinyl banner (\$35) for each club to use.

Rick said there are some BCHM patches available. They are approximately 8-10 inches and cost \$16.00 Contact Rick.

Rick also said the BLM was doing a NEPA review for trail closures.

The next Socorro BCHM meeting will be May 20 at 6 p.m. at O.J. Simpson's between Lemitar and Escondida. The June meeting will be at John Young's in Lemitar at 6 p.m., potluck.

The next State Board meeting will be July 31. Potluck at 12 noon; meeting at 1 p.m.

Rod announced that the next Middle Rio Grande Chapter meeting would be April 20 at 6 p.m.

Oscar surfaced that the BLM and Forest Service had several different Wilderness Study Area proposals, He was trying to encourage people to comment on the trails issue. There would be a Regional Forest Service meeting April 28 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. He will attend.

Oscar said Bandelier was wanting to open trails. Oscar would like to form a task force to participate; several people voiced interest.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Farmer, Secretary

## South San Lorenzo Canyon Ride May 1st



During a break in the weather on the 1st, John Young led a ride in the area to the south of San Lorenzo Canyon. John would like to start riding this area on Wednesdays as the Cacti are all getting ready to bloom. It will be a spectacular display this year. Contact John if you would like to make this ride.



## Pecos Chapter Packing Clinic



On May 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a packing clinic sponsored by the Pecos Unit. It will be held at the home of Amber and Richard Kingsbury in Edgewood. Tom Bryant and Steve Randall will be helping out with the demonstrations.

This is to be a "hands on" event to give those members who have animals to pack an opportunity to get some instruction and practice before arriving at the trailhead to participate in trail projects.

The clinic will be starting at 10:00 AM, and it is expected it to last until 4:00 or so. Lunch will be provided.

If you would like to participate in this clinic please contact Richard at 505-269-3429 as soon as possible

To get to the Kingsbury's take I-40 east to exit 187 (Edgewood), turn right at bottom of ramp. Go to traffic light, and then turn left (east, toward Moriarty). Go 2.2 miles, then take a left on Williams Ranch Road. (There will be an overpass there) After crossing the cattle guard, take your 3rd. left on Prairie Wind Trail. Kingsbury's house is the 3rd on the left.

FYI



Patches for the back of a shirt on jacket are available from Rick Babcock. They are approximately 8-10 inches and cost \$16.00 ea. If you would like one contact Rick at 505-869-2388 or [rbabcock@earthlink.net](mailto:rbabcock@earthlink.net)

## 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 May 20th 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'.



**Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico  
Socorro Unit  
Ride Rules & Trail Etiquette**

1. No Stallions are allowed on trail rides.
2. Keep your Horse one horse length behind others.
3. Horses that are known kickers must have a red ribbon tied to their tail
4. Do not stop unnecessarily. If a stop is necessary, move off to the side of the trail, and advise the trail boss that you are stopping.
5. Stay behind the Trail Boss at all times.
6. Do not lag behind the group, stay in front of the drag rider and with the rider in front within sight.
7. Do not run or trot up behind another animal
8. When passing, advise the rider in front of your intention, do so at a walk.
9. Stay on designated trails.
10. Dogs are not allowed on trail rides
11. Ride single file in hazardous areas.
12. If you bring it in, you pack it out
13. Leave all gates as you found them.
14. No smoking on the trail

These minimal ride rules are to ensure that every rider has a safe, enjoyable ride. There are numerous other “rules” that could be listed, but if common sense is used, they are not needed

**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  
**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



### Saddle For Sale

Custom McClintock saddle

Trail Saddle, rawhide braided cantle, pommel, and horn. 16" seat. Matching breast collar, tapaderos and saddle bags included. Semi quarter horse bars. 1200.00

Steve or Mary 505-861-1088, for pictures, e-mail [sdrandall@hughes.net](mailto:sdrandall@hughes.net)

### 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

Very nice Bay Arabian Mare, 12 years old, registered and sound. Has been used as a broodmare, \$750 OBO, Located in Lemitar, for more information call John Young at 505-363-4943.

### 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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