



Tales & Trails

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

November 2009

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy everybody. Well, October was a very busy month for us. The first Saturday (10/3) Bill Hays, foreman of the C.A. Bar Ranch north of Bingham, led six ladies: Jane, Eleanor, Peggy, Shannon, Diane Wiltshire; Antonio "AT" Torres of Middle Rio Grande BCH & myself on a ride up Chupadera Mesa. The weather was cool; the ride was a gradual climb. We rode up to a peak where we could see five different mountain ranges and stopped for lunch. Many thanks to Bill for taking time to lead us through some beautiful country.

The next Saturday (10/10) I was with a group of writers & photographers who toured the El Camino Real Heritage Center, 35 miles south of Socorro. Some of you probably remember that several year ago we "burnt in" & marked a trail from the Heritage Center to a ridge overlooking the river. BLM is now in the process of establishing a trailhead near the Camino Real Monument and our BLM rep, Kevin Carson, wants us to go back and ride that trail & scout the country for a possible route for a loop ride. We have scheduled that ride for Sat. Nov. 14.

The next Saturday (10/17) I rode with members of Lower Rio Grande BCH, led by a federal game warden & Ft Bliss Range Rider. He took us up Soledad Canyon in the Organ Mountains & over into the Fort Bliss impact range which is a closed area, off limits to everyone in the world. It's a beautiful canyon, formerly home to homesteaders who ran cattle, horses, sheep & goats in the steeps pastures & is now home to a few deer & lots of mountain lions. It was a privilege to ride with LRGBCH and see some historic country seldom seen by humans. Back in '03 & '04 I worked with LRGBCH & Las Cruces area BLM to dig tread and establish a loop trail in Bar Canyon which is contiguous to Soledad Canyon & is every bit as beautiful. It's open to hikers, bikers and equestrians – check it out if you're ever down in that area.

On that Saturday (10/17) Jane & John & Carol Dotson, a guest of Jane's, rode the Socorro Valley Bosque Trail & reports that other than some construction trash & a dead cow in a ditch, all seems well. John stated it was a fast ride with some cantering & trotting as it was such a small group, the weather was cool; horses rearing to go – so they let 'em.

But before that, on Thursday (10/15), Jane & Jim hosted our monthly pot-luck/meeting. Jane also arranged for one of her neighbors, hay farmer Travis Harris, to speak on – what else? – hay farming. It was the best explanation of the science of farming hay that I've ever heard. This guy knows what he's doing. If you want excellent horse hay I'd recommend giving him a call; 575-835-2346.

The next Saturday (10/24) John & I attended the BCHNM State Board meeting.

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This Months Calendar

- **November 2nd,**
Ride committees meeting, 5 pm,
John Young's see
page 2 & 3¹
- **November 14th,**
Ride at El Camino
Heritage center.
See page 2²
- **November 19th,**
Meeting at Paula
and Vern's, see
page 2³ & 5
- **December 17,** Pot
Luck Christmas
party at Kiva
RV see page 2⁴
- **January 21,** Meet-
ing see page 2⁵

Editors Notes

Please remember to RSVP if you plan on attending a work party or ride. Many of you are just showing up. This is a safety issue



(Continued from page 1)

Our other Socorro BCH Board rep, Vern Leavitt, had undergone knee surgery and was not able to attend. However, reps from six other NMBCH chapters were there so we proceeded with business – which consisted mainly of talk about BCHNM Rendezvous – the one that just happened in September & the one planned for next year – a place & dates to be decided at the January 16, 2010 meeting at Kiva RV Park, Bernardo.

Other business discussed at the Board meeting was support for the Organ Mountain/Desert Peaks Wilderness Act now in the process of being considered by U.S. congress. LRGBCH President Pat Buls & members of the chapter have been very active in pushing for this bill & have taken several members of the press & congressional aids into the Organ Mountains for educational tours. We should all voice our support for this bill; Contact U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman at <http://bingaman.senate.gov>, 800.443.8658; and/or U.S. Senator Tom Udall at <http://udall.senate.gov>, 202.224.6621

NEW MEMBERS: I want to welcome new members Mile & Alison Walstad of Ruidoso Downs, NM. John & I met Mike & Alison last summer at Ft. Stanton. We invited ‘em to our fire & seeing how they were such nice folk, we also invited ‘em to join our chapter. They have traveled extensively with their horses, mules & dogs and have written two books on their adventures. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings, potlucks, rides & work projects.

AND ONE MO’ THING:¹ We have formed a Ride Committee: Steve & Mary; John & Jane. They’ll be meeting the evening of Monday, Nov. 2, 5:00pm at John’s rancho, to plan rides for the next year or two. Call them &/or join them if you want to participate in the planning &/or volunteer to lead a ride.

AND FINALLY: John has expressed a desire to resign from representing us on the board of Save Our Bosque Task Force (SOBTF). He stated that that once-a-month, early mornin’ meetin’ was interfering with his riding. Graciously, O.J. Simpson volunteered to represent us at the SOBTF meetings, saying she was a mornin’ person. Many thanks O.J. – John owes you a dinner.

PLANNED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 14²: Scouting Ride on the El Camino Heritage Center Trail. RSVP me: 423-3303, la-zytb@juno.com, Be in the saddle & ready to ride NLT 10:00am.

Thursday, Nov. 19³ 6:30pm: potluck, meeting & talk on “Parelli Horse-i-nality” by our own John Young. – at the home of Vern Leavitt & Paula Riley in Polvadera- Call John 505-363-4943 for more information – call Paula & Vern for directions: 575-835-3081.

Thursday, Dec. 17⁴ 6:30pm: potluck/Christmas party – KIVA RV Park, Bernardo.

Thursday, January⁵ **21**, 6:30pm: monthly meeting – at Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), 103 Francisco de Avondo, Socorro. We will begin our New Year program by hosting the popular: PET PEEVE ROUND TABLE. Also - it’s time to re-up & re-new dues, so please bring your check book.

We have been invited by LRGBCH & NM Wilderness Alliance to join them on a site cleanup at San Mateo Peak Lookout, April 9-11, 2010. Meet at Springtime Camp Ground.

The last time I was on a work project at Springtime CG, it was in April ’01 & the wind was blowing hard enough to whip the hair off a dog, so I’m gonna recommend they bump this project up to May. I don’t want to be on San Mateo Peak with the wind blowing 50mph. Stay tuned.

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

Meeting Minutes



Socorro Back Country Horsemen Meeting

October 15, 2009

A potluck at the home of Jane Farmer began at 6:30, followed by the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Bryant and the guest speaker, Travis Harris was introduced. Travis proceeded to talk about his experience growing hay. He said his family had been farming in the Rio Grande Valley for three generations. Travis said he was a strong believer in chemicals to control weeds. He pointed out that milk weed can cause death in horses. Travis likes to cut his hay every 28-30 days to eliminate insects. They cut it flat and double rake it, which hastens drying and curing. He said the hay should be about 10 percent in bloom. They get it out of the fields as rapidly as possible. Travis noted that late hay usually has thicker stems; early hay has more leaf and is more nutritional. The later summer hay may have more weeds. When talking about insects, Travis mentioned that there are many types of blister beetles, which attach themselves to the leaves and are fatal to horses when baled.

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

The estimated treasurer's report was \$795.86.

Committee Reports:

John reviewed a list of activities he had prepared through March 2010.

Meeting Locations: The next meeting will be at Paula and Vern's on November 19. Beginning in January, Jane said meetings could be held at the Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Rides: Tom said he and John had met with Kevin Carson, BLM, and they had decided to ride and evaluate El Camino Real trail down at the Heritage Center on November 14.

Tom reported on the C A Bar ride, the riders, the weather, and what a great time everyone had. Tom suggested a "RIDE" committee¹ be formed. John, Jane, Steve and Mary volunteered, with the first meeting being November 2 at 5 p.m. at John Young's in Lemitar.

John is riding almost daily and mentioned that anyone wanting to accompany him, just give him a call.

Shirts: Jane pointed out that there are two shirts left: a medium and a large, \$30 a piece.

New Business:

BCHM Board meeting: Saturday October 24 at the Kiva RV Park – John & Vern

November 19 meeting and potluck at 6:30 at Paula and Vern's

December 7 meeting/potluck/gift exchange at the Kiva. Mary mentioned that she knew many people who never attended a Christmas party again where the gifts which were exchanged were not nice. Diane had previously mentioned that gifts should not exceed \$10.

It was surfaced that the Valles Caldera may be turned over to the National Park Service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Directions to meeting at Paula & Verns



Directions to Paula & Vern's

From the north take 25 south to the San Acacia off ramp #163. Turn left at the top of the ramp, go over the freeway, and turn right at the green sign at the frontage road that says "Polvadera". Parallel the freeway south a couple of miles, you will go down one dip and 2 arroyo crossings, then look for a sign that says 408 East. Do not turn until you reach the road by the green metal building or you will end up in the neighbor's yard. Once you make the left turn, there is a little round sign that says 408 East so you know you have the right road. Go past the dump, then just past the railroad tracks there are 2 driveways side by side on the right. Take the second driveway which goes along the back of the loafing shed. If you see 2 sorta large horses, you are at the right place. Follow the drive up to the fence by the house.

From the south take 25 north to the Lemitar #156 exit. At the bottom of the ramp turn right. Go over the cattle guard and you have 2 choices to get here. I will give you the easier way. Stay on "Lemitar Rd" (no signs) till you go over the railroad tracks, then turn left at the "T". Go north until 408 turns to the left and crosses over the Socorro main ditch. Immediately turn left on the west ditch bank, then right into our yard.

The house is built on a little mound, it is gray with a green roof, there are flags in front and a high antenna on the ditch side of the house.

Phone #575-835-3081, Vern's cell 575-418-8614, Paula's cell 575-838-7173.

Safety tip of the month. Tires

Check the pressure in ALL (truck and trailer), of the rigs tires. The pressure should be as per the sticker on the door of the truck and on the sticker on the trailer. In no case should the pressure exceed the tire manufactures maximum pressure shown on the side of the tire.

Tires should be the size and load rating recommended by the truck and trailer manufactures.

Trailer tires should be "trailer tires", not passenger car tires or truck tires because the trailer rated tires have a stronger sidewall.

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

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

FOLD



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C bar 3 Ranch Ride 10/3/09

