



Tales & Trails

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

September 2009

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Notes From The President

Howdy everybody. Most every afternoon, I sit outside, facing west, sipping suds & watching the sun go down. It's one of my favorite times of the day. Watching the sun come up is also pretty high on my list of daily activities. On the last Sunday morning in August, I joined John Young on his front porch, facing east, sipping coffee & watching the sun come up. We both mused at the beauty of it all & both were in awe of "IT'S ALMOST SEPTEMBER – WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?" The answer, of course, is that we've been busy. John's been conducting horsemanship clinics almost every day & I've been taking care of three ranches spread out over 60 square miles, spending about six hour hours a day looking at cattle, grass & water tanks through the windshield of my little ranch truck.

Still, we managed to get in some riding. The first weekend in August, John & I joined Rick Babcock & JoAnn Van der Geest of Middle Rio Grande BCH & Nancy Searle of the Northwest Chapter on a trail marking project where the Continental Divide Trail crosses through the Adobe Ranch. Rick did an excellent job of organizing & supervising the project. We camped in Chavez Draw which offered protection from the winds and provided tall pine trees for shade & stout anchors for hi-lines. At the trailhead, we dug holes & erected a hitching rail & a registration box, plus we installed signs with trail location & directions. All in all, it was a very successful work project & we enjoyed lots of good food & drink, some good riding & two nights sleeping under the stars. Hard to beat that.

The planned Fort Stanton project was canceled because our BLM rep, Bill Murry, called & said there was just too much going on over there that weekend & it'd be better if we postponed. At this time, I have no idea when we'll get back – but we will continue with the trail marking project – just not anytime soon as far as I can see.

Our secretary, Jane Farmer, was somewhat disappointed that we weren't going to Fort Stanton – she was all packed & ready to roll – so she quickly started to arrange an alternative outing: a camp-out & ride near the old ghost town of Rosedale. She sent out an e-mail, stating her intentions but I suppose by then most members had already made other plans for the weekend. Anyhoo, Jane, her daughter Shannon & Eleanor Miller did ride – but not camp at Rosedale & Jane reports that it was a fun outing & we should plan a chapter ride there in the near future – perhaps next spring or summer.

Our August meeting & potluck was hosted by the Randall's & Steve conducted a knot tying demonstration; proving handouts of popular knots & a string for which to practice tying said knots. It was a most educational & enjoyable evening.

Thanks to Steve & Mary.

Steve & Mary also scouted out and led a ride up Priest Canyon which was at-

(Continued on page 3)

This Months Calendar

- **Sept 4 & 5**, Socorro County Fair & Rodeo, Jane Farmer 575-835-3619 *see page 2 & 3¹*
- **Sept 11-13**, Rendezvous Contact Amber Kingsbury, *see page 3²*
- **Sept 17th** Meeting / potluck. John Young's 505-363-4943 *see page 5*
- **Sept 19th** Ride Bosque, in saddle at 9:00 at Escondida lake. John Young 505-363-4943 *see page 3³*
- **Sept 25th** Bosque Clean up day *see page 3⁴*

Editors Notes

Meeting Minutes



SOCORRO BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

MEETING

August 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Bryant at the home of Steve and Mary Randall, in Veguita, at 8:15 p.m.. This followed a knot tying session led by Steve and a potluck.

Tom thanked the Randall's for serving as hosts, and Steve for spending the time to prepare and conduct the knot tying class. Steve did an excellent job.

The minutes from the July meeting were approved as prepared and distributed.

There was no treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

Education – John Young

John reported that only he and Tom Bryant had attended the Continental Divide Trail project from the Socorro BCHM. However others were there from the Middle Rio Grande club. They re-set posts on the trail going through the Adobe Ranch. They also put signs at each end of that portion of the trail, installed a hitching rail and a sign-in box. Only one horse got loose this time, and it was soon recaptured. There was a 6-hour ride, little wildlife, and no water – but a good time was had by all. Rick Babcock was the trail box; he was well organized and had adequate tools.

Fort Station trail work will need to be rescheduled.

Fair & Rodeo – Jane

¹ Jane said there were just enough people for each night. Those helping should be at the **rodeo arena entrance at 5 p.m. September 4 and 5**, wearing their new denim shirts, and plan to stay until 8 p.m.

The **next meeting** will be at John Young's house in **Lemitar at 6 p.m.** The program will consist of some horsemanship techniques. There will be the usual potluck. The October meeting will be at Jane Farmer's in San Antonio; speaker will be Travis Harris on hay. November meeting will be at Paula and Vern's. Christmas part at Kiva RV Park in Bernardo December 17 – bring a game gift.

The group decided to ride the bosque riverine park trail September 19, prior to the cleanup on September 25. Participants for the ride should be **in the saddle at 9 a.m.**

John and Jane reported on the ride and campout at the Valles Caldera (VC). Both agreed it was a great experience and beautiful place to go. Staff was extremely nice. Tom will be publishing an article regarding the VC in the Horseman's Voice magazine.

Steve Randall announced that he and Mary will lead a ride at Priest Canyon August 29. There is no water available for horses. Be ready to ride about 3 or 4 hours at 10 a.m. Bring a lunch to eat back at the trailers. Directions were provided in the August newsletter.

Jane expressed disappointment that when the Fort Stanton excursion was cancelled, no one was interested in moving the ride and campout to Rosedale. She said she had been down there the last 3 weekends scouting trails, visiting with the rancher, and paving the way for the group to make a trip. The group agreed that next spring, after hunting season, might be a good time to go.



(Continued from page 1)

tended by several of our members. I was not able to make that ride so I defer to our NL Editor & let him report on that outing.

PLANNED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

¹ **Sept. 4 & 5:** manning gates & collecting entry fees at Socorro County Fair & Rodeo. To volunteer, Contact, Jane Farmer, 575-835-3619

² **Sept. 11-13:** BCHNM Rendezvous, Gilas National Forest. Contact Amber Kingsbury: ama-zonaalk@earthlink.net 505.281.1342.

Thursday, Sept. 17, 6:00pm: Horsemanship demonstration, potluck, meeting. John Young's rancho, Schmittle Road, Lemitar. 505.363.4943.

³ **Friday or Saturday, Sept. 18 or 19:** SVBT Ride: Please let John know what date you prefer – Friday? or Saturday? Meet at Escondida Lake Trailhead, 9:00a.m. Contact John: jyoung@nmt.edu 505.363.4943

⁴ **Friday, Sept. 25:** SVBT Cleanup, maintenance & repair of horse crossings.

Contact John Young: jyoung@nmt.edu 505.363.4943. John & I will attend a SOBTF meeting on Tue. 9/1 & will get details as to where & where to meet for this project – we'll send out reminders & keep you updated.

Thursday, Oct. 15: potluck, meeting & talk on hay for horses. Farmers' in San Antonio. Details to be arranged at September meeting.

Saturday, October 24, BCHNM Board of director's meeting, Kiva Rv Park.

Thursday, Nov. 19: potluck/meeting: Vern & Paula's place in Polvadero.

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.

(Continued from page 2)

Rendezvous – September 11-13, 2009 – only John and Tom are currently planning to attend.

Jane and Mary showed the denim shirts which Creative Graphics had embroidered. The group was very happy with the quality, etc.

Tom Bryant will check with Ranch Manager Bill Hayes about doing another ride at the C A Bar Ranch north of Bingham.

October 24, 2009 is a State BCHM Board Meeting. Board representatives are Vern and John.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Farmer, Secretary

Socorro BCHM

September Unit Happenings



Priest Canyon Ride 09/29

There were 8 people that made the ride on the 29th, the weather was perfect, we rode for about 3 hours returning to the staging area for lunch. It was cool enough for the deer to be up and moving about, we saw several.





September Meeting

The September meeting will be held on September 17th at John Young's. There will be a horsemanship demonstration at 6:00 followed by a pot luck dinner and the meeting. A grill and flatware will be provided.

Bring:

- Folding chair
- Meat to grill
- A dish to share

A map to John's is to the left, directions are as follows:

- From I-25 take exit 152 go North on NM 408 toward Escondida
- Turn Right, (East) on Schmittle Rd, go about .9 mi. to 25 Schmittle Rd. John's is on the left (North) side of the road.

Call John at 505-363-4943 for more information or if you get lost!



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



Two-string bales of horse-quality K-31 grass hay for sale as available -- \$6.50 a bale. It was baled and stacked in the hay barn BEFORE the rain!! Karen Bailey-Bowman. Please call my cell at 575-418-8220.

Socorro BCHNM Shirts

I have 3 denim shirts with the Socorro BCHNM logo left: 1 med, 1 lrg, and 1 xlg. They are \$30 a piece. First come, first served.

Jane Farmer 575-835-3619

E-Mail 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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