



Front Range Back Country Horsemen est. 1996
P.O. Box 150521 Lakewood, CO 80215

info@FRBCH.org

Working to keep trails open to saddle and pack stock today and for future generations through education, service and voice.

Without trails, where would we ride?

June 2020 Newsletter



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Deadline for articles
15th of each month!

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 23 6 PM, via Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7453854987?pwd=eWpYeUJ3bVhDT1paR05xakM1cXdxQT09>

Meeting ID: 745 385 4987

Password: FRBCH

Pres Sez

Yet another month has past and personally I am so thankful for my horses during these times. We will be having our June meeting via Zoom. All members should have received the information. Hope you can join us.

There have been several work rides and more to come. I hope if you are available for the rides that you consider volunteering. The more the merrier! Info is communicated through email.

Plans are in full force for this year's Colorado trail. Thank you to all the volunteers as we could never make this happen without you! This is an exciting year as we will have several members that will be completing the trail!!!

Continue to stay safe!!

Sharon



June Meeting to be Virtual via Zoom

Hope everyone is still doing OK during these unusual times. Since we still are not allowed to meet with more than 10 people we are going to try a Zoom meeting.

Please attend if you are available. I suggest that prior to the meeting you make sure your Zoom is downloaded correctly. We currently only have 40 minutes so it won't be that long of a meeting and we will start on time. Sometimes Zoom extends the time but we will not know that until the meeting.

Topic: Zoom FRBCH June Meeting

Time: Jun 23, 2020 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7453854987?pwd=eWpYeUJ3bVhDT1paR05xakM1cXdxQT09>

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Look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday!

Reminder on current restrictions

The advisory below for recreation is useful but does not necessarily apply to our trail maintenance which is an essential activity for assuring safety of all users on the trails.

- Trail crews should consist of 2 to 4 persons.
- Using our big crosscut saws requires lots of heavy breathing at a distance less than 6 feet, so plan to wear a mask during this work.
- On returning from a day in the field, put all your tools, gloves, mask, etc. somewhere undisturbed for at least 3 days for any coronavirus to die from exposure.
- On a personal diary, record the date and the names of the crew should this ever be required.
- We have three complete sets of tools. Bill Klink will be keeping and using one set for the summer. Anyone else who can use a set to good effect can also acquire a set temporarily or for the season.

For more information on the restrictions, please check out the following website:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/safer-at-home-local-and-personal-recreation>

Recent Clearing Activities

On Thursday June 11, nine of us were able to clear the entire 4.1 section of the Colorado Trail, as we were not slowed down by many deadfalls. We took out 12 trees along the way. We are changing our early estimate of a year with more-than-normal trees down. Based on patrol reports from FOMELC and Forest service sources, it appears very spotty. Some trails have few deadfalls while others have much more than normal.

Sue McKelvy led this ride, as well as the earlier effort on June 4, when we cleared the first 3 miles of this trail, taking out 26 trees. Since then a windstorm will have added at least a few to the already-cleared section.

On Wednesday June 17, we tackled the Brookside McCurdy trail again. Dan Shier led the ride and the team of six finished the clearing of this trail all the way to the top, clearing an additional 18 trees. It was a beautiful day for a ride and to get some high-country exercise!

**Trails Usually Cleared by FRBCH
(Unless labeled “sometimes”)
Edited 6/10/2020, Dan Shier**

Early Season Trails—lower altitude

Payne Gulch, TH to Craig Creek. We have completed all this, but that was before all the wind these last few days.

Colorado Trail Section 4.1—As we are adopters, we also need to clean out the water bars. We are half done with this. We will be back at it 6/11/2020.

Cub Creek Trail, east trailhead to wilderness boundary. This is part of a loop through Staunton State Park, popular with bikers. The bikers can be expected to clear out small diameter stuff. So maybe lower priority.

Brookside McCurdy trail. We have done the first 40%, but probably the big wind will have added a few to the cleared section. We plan to complete this in the next week or two.

Can be done a little later, at moderate altitude

Meridian Trail—is all on southern exposure. Before the big wind, FOMELC patrol says nothing of significance to clear. So we have given this a lower priority.

Indian Creek (from Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area) Plan to do this 3rd week of June.

Probably can't do Cub Creek from the intersection both ways in one trip. See High Summer below. Maybe two trips?

Captain Mtn from Echo Lake to lower creek crossing July likely.

Captain Mtn from Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area to lower creek crossing—but never on a weekend because of very restricted parking. July likely.

Wigwam Trail—not done in recent years. Dale says FS will do this one.

High Summer Trails

Brookside McCurdy trail, the high part up to Craig Park. We should have this one done by the end of July. No horseless group is willing to make the climb to this section.

Cub Creek from Meridian intersection to Lost Creek. No FOMELC patrol info. Late June?

Cub Creek from east Wilderness boundary to Indian Creek trail. Not so high altitude but dense timber on northern exposure means snow stays late. 7 trees reported, one being quite large. July likely.

Lost Creek (from Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area) July or August.

Rosalie from Deer Creek TH to intersection with 3 mile creek. July or August.

Tanglewood. July or August.

Ben Tyler from Rock Creek trailhead—Sometimes.

Shelterhouse trail to Lincoln Lake from Echo Lake—Sometimes

Abyss Trail—sometimes Dale says FS will do this one.

South Park trail, both directions out of Buno Gulch trailhead—sometimes

Working under the FRBCH Volunteer Services Agreement In times of COVID-19

The following revised rules for volunteer services were released by the US Forest Service. The revised Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) will be provided at the start of any trail clearing activity.

By volunteering, you are affirming that:

- You do not have any physical limitations or pre-existing conditions that would be adversely affected by, or exacerbated by, the work you are volunteering to do.
- That you are physically able to perform this work.

Before the ride starts, your Ride Leader will ask you the following questions:

1. Have you or anyone living in your household been diagnosed with COVID-19?
2. Have you or someone living in your household been close to or in frequent contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19?
3. Is someone you have been caring for been diagnosed with COVID-19, or been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
4. In the last 14 days, have you or someone living in your household been in close or frequent contact with someone who, returned from or made a travel connection through a foreign CDC Level 2 or Level 3 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 Country, for example China, Korea, Japan, the European Union, Iran?
5. In the last 14 days, has someone you are caring for returned or made a travel connection through a foreign CDC Level 2 or Level 3 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 Country, for example China, Korea, Japan, the European Union, Iran?
6. Do you currently have, or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms indicating a fever more than 100.4, shortness of breath, body aches and coughing?

If the answer is YES to any of these questions then your ride leader will have to postpone or reschedule your trail crew work. If you cannot answer NO to all the questions then proceed as follows:

If they are from out-of-state, consider a 14 day quarantine period even though state directives have exempted those who are travelling for work-related purposes from the 14 day quarantine period requirement. After quarantine period is completed, answer the same questions again before you will be considered for volunteer work.

If you are from the local area and have answered yes, you will need to quarantine at home and answer the questions again after the minimum quarantine period before you will be considered for volunteer work.

At the trailhead, all participants must sign the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) provided by your ride leader at the trailhead. It is attached to this email. Read it now so you can quickly sign at the trailhead. It is the practice of the Forest Service to prepare a Risk Analysis (RA) to cover different activities. As of June 22, 2020, the Forest Service is still working out the best RA format to make participants aware of the Covid risks involved.

All participants must use mitigation measures in the RA's including all local, state, and CDS guidelines (limit group sizes, maintain social distance, wear a facial covering, no carpooling with non-family members, etc.).

Recommended: Avoid field work on high public visitation days, weekends and holidays to reduce possible public interaction, possible first responder shortage and dispatch tracking.

Phases

The USDA Reopening Playbook defines these phases

- Gated- No Volunteer activities allowed.
- Phase 1: Volunteer activities may resume limited to groups of 5 or less or individuals and increase social distancing to 10 feet
- Phase 2: Volunteer activities may resume limited to groups of 10 or less
- Phase 3: Volunteer activities may resume following local guidance and health orders

We are currently in Phase 1 status. In, Phase 1 groups larger than 5 can break into smaller groups of 5 total persons at one time (use sight and sound as a separation guideline).

Change to Chapter Emailing

Dan Shier

The system we have been using for all-member emails was pretty clunky. It used a public domain email program and had a limit of 50 emails at a time. Kitty Bladt and Dan Shier, working together, have greatly simplified the job of the Communications Chairman.

Messages to info@frbch.org are now automatically rerouted to frbchrider@gmail.com in the process removing the spam which constituted 98% of the emails received with the old setup. I can now send out one all-member email, rather than breaking it down into three parts with the old system.

When you receive a message now, it will be labeled "FRBCH" but if you wave your cursor over the sender, it will say it is frbchrider@gmail.com, not info@frbch.org. If you "Reply" to any email, it will go to our gmail box where the Communications Chairman will handle it or route it appropriately. Most members will not notice any difference.

FRBCH Activity Schedule for 2020

June

- 23, Tuesday - General Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 pm
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7453854987?pwd=eWpYeUJ3bVhDT1paR05xakM1cXdxQT09>
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July

- No July meeting - possible social trail ride and potluck

August

- 16-22 Colorado Trail Ride
- 26, Wednesday - General Meeting, South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

September

- 22, Tuesday - General Meeting, Morrison Inn, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

October

- 28, Wednesday - General Meeting, South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

November

- 17, Tuesday - General Meeting, Morrison Inn, 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting

December


- Christmas Tree Ambassadors
- Parker Carriage Parade
- 13, Sunday Christmas Party

South Metro Fire & Rescue Headquarters is located at 9195 East Mineral Avenue in Centennial. The meeting room is downstairs (take the elevator).

The Morrison Inn is at 301 Bear Creek Avenue in downtown Morrison. There is additional parking east of the restaurant.

updated 6/23/2020

Thanks to our Sponsoring Members!



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