

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

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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?

May 2020 Newsletter



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Deadline for articles
15th of each month!

Next (Planned) Meeting: Tuesday June 23, Morrison Inn - 301 Bear Creek Avenue in downtown Morrison. 6:00 pm social, 6:30 meeting
Look for an update for this meeting on status due to COVID restrictions

Pres Sez

Hello all first I want to say I hope everyone is safe wherever you are. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 our March and April meetings were canceled. I am also canceling our May meeting since things haven't opened up enough. We will see what is going on later for our June meeting and we will continue to communicate through email as things evolve. This has been a crazy time for all of Colorado for sure! I am hopeful that the summer is back to normal or whatever the new normal will be. It is nice to have a few rain showers which will help in green grass and hopefully lower fires danger this summer.

Since we haven't had a newsletter in a couple months I want to thank Helena Laliberte for all the coordinating and all the volunteers that helped FRBCH have a successful booth during the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. There were a lot of fun events and a lot of very experienced clinicians to watch. It was a wonderful experience to have our booth right next to the Trailmeister! It was such a pleasure to talk to Robert throughout the weekend. If you aren't familiar with Trailmeister check out his website www.trailmeister.com.

The 2nd annual Rendezvous has been cancelled. A previous email went out. We are very hopeful that it will continue in 2021. Plans are also in works for this year's Colorado trail. We are always looking for volunteers. Please let Pam Doverspike know if you're interested in volunteering.

Everyone should have received an email concerning our change in leadership and we are looking for volunteers. The 2 positions are Vice President and Alt State Board member. Again if anyone is willing to step up as Vice President please email me at majestictrail@aol.com. We can't keep this club going without the volunteers. We do have a volunteer for Alt State Board which we are very thankful for. Thank you Courtney for accepting that position!

It is still very upsetting of the news of Kim Meyer's passing earlier this month. She had dedicated many years of volunteer hours to FRBCH and to BCHCO. Life is too short - so please make each day count. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to John Case! He has accepted the state vice-chairman position for BCHCO and has stepped up to FRBCH state board member!!

Stay safe!!
Sharon

Activities with low risk of contracting Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Hanging with your horse

Riding your horse

Petting your horse

Looking at your horse

Grooming your horse

Reminding your horse that he/she is a good horse

In Fond Memory of Kim Meyer

It deeply saddens us to have to pass on the terrible news that Kim Meyer passed away on May 7. Kim had been fighting cancer even though we thought she was in remission. This happened very quickly and we understand it she did not suffer. Her family was with her until the end. Kim has been a huge asset to FRBCH for many years along with BCHCO secretarial duties and director positions. Kim will be missed by all.

We will send out an update when more information is available on a memorial. Please keep Kim's family in your thoughts and prayers as they process their loss.

This is a picture of Kim riding her all-time-favorite horse Danny and her diminutive packhorse Athena on a 2012 pack trip to Craig Park.



Kim (Ramsey) Meyer (1952 - 2020)



Kim Ramsey Meyer was born in 1952 in New York City, first child to Nancy Kerr and Craig Ramsey. The young family moved to Colorado in the same year. Her two siblings, Shelley and Jim, were born three and five years after, eventually settling in Colorado Springs.

During her childhood, she kept two horses with her sister, beginning a lifelong passion. Kim met a lifelong friend at the age of 8 when Becky moved next door. A precocious youth, Kim was very active, participating in a wide range of activities including sports, music, pep club and the debutante ball.

In 1969, Kim met her future husband, Mark Meyer, a cadet at the Air Force Academy, on a blind date. After graduating high school in 1970, Kim enrolled in the University of Northern Colorado studying education and music. She pledged to the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority with childhood friend Becky.

In 1973, she married Mark, and they moved to Tucson, Ariz., where he was stationed with the Air Force. They toured the American Southwest on bicycles, visiting the great vistas of Utah and Arizona. Following Mark's departure from active duty, the couple moved to Evergreen, where they would raise three sons: Eric (1981), Patrick (1983) and Christopher (1986).

Kim took leadership roles in nearly every organization she was part of. From 1992 to 1996, she was national president of Alpha Sigma Alpha, became president of the Colorado Association of School Librarians, president of the Front Range Back Country Horsemen of Colorado, president of the Evergreen Rodeo and president of multiple church congregations. In her career as an educator, Kim guided many young children, eventually receiving a master's degree in library science and becoming a board-certified librarian. Kim always taught with compassion and care, and impacted the lives of many young people in the Evergreen community.

Kim's selflessness is exemplified in her support of her family through disruptive medical challenges. She supported her young son Patrick through epilepsy, which would eventually be cured with surgery. She was similarly steadfast during her husband's 20-year journey through a difficult medical condition, which would eventually lead to a heart transplant.

Kim remained an avid outdoorswoman, going on solo horse-packing trips, climbing mountains, and completing triathlons and a bike tour across the Rocky Mountains with Mark in 2018.

To her sons, she was every comfort, her love and gentle care forming powerful men of intellect and understanding. She taught the men in her life, including her husband, how to be patient, and how to

enjoy life and each other, despite difficulty and hardship. To her daughters-in-law, she was a role model, teaching how to tame wild hearts. She welcomed her sons' spouses as daughters not of blood, but of heart and spirit.

Kim was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2019. Following treatment and an apparent remission, Kim's cancer returned aggressively. She passed peacefully at home on the afternoon of May 7, 2020, surrounded by her sons.

Kim is survived by her three sons, Eric (Carolyn), Patrick (Emily) and Christopher (Kelley); four grandchildren; her mother Nancy; and siblings Shelley and Jim. She is predeceased by her husband Mark, who died in 2018.

On Owning Horses... from Dan Shier

On this cold and gloomy Monday, I have been going over some of the memoirs of various ancestors which are part of my family records. What follows was written my father, based on growing up on a farm in central Kansas which operated with about 20 horses of various capabilities. Here he is trying to explain to later generations the horse/human relationship.

"But perhaps the hardest thing to imagine is the close feeling a man had for horses. Horses probably had a real interest in their owner, but not affection of the kind that dogs have. To the horse, man was the source of his food and orders and an intelligent horse was usually willing to learn what was expected and then do it when told to do so. But some horses were rebels or too dumb. When a man had a good mare that could work and follow orders, he usually had her raise colts from time to time, expecting that some of them would be as good or better than the mother. Although perhaps the horse did not become really attached to its owner, the owner became very attached to the horse and after the horse had helped him out of many a tight spot, he gave it much care to keep it in condition, watching its feet and places where harness might rub, and being patient when it had doubts about what it could do."

2020 BCHCO Rendezvous Canceled

Greetings State Directors and Chapter Members in Colorado.

I've consulted with our BCHCO vice chair and it seems we may go ahead and cancel this year's Rendezvous. I am sure MVBCH will host in 2021, but I will clear that with the MVBCH board and update you when I know.

Being we've been unable to plan and book folks not knowing when things will open up, not to mention the average age of our attendees, we just think it wise to play it safe. I'm sure we're all anxious to get out and get things done, ride our favorite trails and make sure our trails are usable. This, too, shall pass.

If you have an objection or other ideas, please pass them along. Otherwise, I'll be letting my agency know next week that we're postponing until next year.

Tif Rodriguez

Making sawdust under 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. Here are my suggestions:

- 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>

Conditions are favorable for an early start this year. Lots of dry, warm days in the forecast. Reduced traffic on roads to the mountains. Some members having an extended furlough. Fuel prices are down.

Last Wednesday, Bill Klink, John Case and Dan Shier rode up the Brookside/McCurdy trail for about 2.5 miles, quitting about a half mile short of the wilderness boundary. Along the way we cleared 26 trees of various sizes.

Last summer had less than half the usual down trees. It looks like this summer will have significantly more down trees than average. Lots to do. Let's do what we can as long as this weather holds, and before the monsoons of the second half of the summer. I have finished checking and reconditioning all of the saws.

As you may recall, anyone in our Chapter can initiate a trail clearing ride. I can provide a list of suggestions as to which trails to clear when, so as to do the lower elevation ones first. Toward the end of May, Bill Klink will likely be leading rides. Any member just has to send me the details and I will email it out promptly to members. I will see to it that you have a complete collection of tools from our inventory of three tool sets. Historically May has very fickle weather, so for now plans will likely be finalized a few days in advance when we have a reliable weather forecast. By mid-June we should be able to plan further ahead.

I plan to go on many of the rides, but I have a left shoulder issue that limits my staying power on the big saw.

Dan Shier, trail boss *emeritus*

New Trail Rules for Apex Park

JCOS has released a draft plan for new trail rules for the Apex Park in Golden.

The second survey is the one that was sent to FRBCH members a few weeks ago, so if you responded then, you can ignore that one. The first one (the new one) is to assess your opinion on two things that have been brought up lately: (1) There is concern about tradeoffs between restrictions on certain trails on certain days. You have a chance to suggest what pattern would appeal to you. (2) How about making a short section of new trail that would ease the awkwardness of some of the proposed rules.

Dan Shier's notes: The cloudburst a few years ago ended up stripping away the soil from bedrock on portions of the trail up the gulch, making it extremely hazardous for equestrian traffic unless your horse has rubber boots. With no use of the gulch trail, you can't do a loop. As for current possibilities for parking, they have the usual "Oversize vehicles park here" signs but no restrictions on cars parking there. I have no idea how crowded it is on nice days, but probably the Jeffco Open Space app has all that. Lots of "getting my exercise" users from nearby suburb. While this was a good ride 10 years ago, I have effectively written it off for my riding these last few years.

This is a summary of the plan as initially proposed:

Following more than two years of public and visitor engagement, intense in-park education efforts, and field observations, Jeffco Open Space (JCOS) has developed a draft plan to improve trail safety and reduce visitor conflict at Apex Park. This plan calls for the portion of the trail system with the highest levels of safety and conflict concerns to operate under an *alternating, designated use schedule*:

- Apex, Enchanted Forest, Hardscrabble, Sluicebox, and lower Pick-n-Sledge Trails, a total of 3.8 miles, will alternate designated use by DAY OF THE WEEK:
 - BIKE ONLY: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday (no hiker/equestrian)
 - HIKER/RUNNER/EQUESTRIAN ONLY: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (no bikes)
- Argos, upper Pick-n-Sledge, Bonanza, and Grubstake Trails, a total of 5.3 miles, will remain multi-use, every day.

Trail conflict and safety concerns can be attributed to speed differentials, high visitation, and challenging technical terrain, including blind corners, tight corridors, and steep pitches. Visitor surveys indicate the current trail management strategy is confusing; stakeholder listening session indicated a desire to improve trail management. This solution is a compromise that combines popular trail management options that can be implemented on existing trails, provide designated use in the areas that are most impacted by safety and conflict concerns, and offer at least part of the trail system to any visitor group, any day of the week.

February 20 Webinar Recording "Solutions for Managing Conflict on Shared-Use Trails"

Julie Chaney recently listened to this webinar, and found it useful. Here is a link to listen to the recording. The equestrian representative was from NATRC.

Thank you for your interest in our February 20, 2020 webinar "[Solutions for Managing Conflict on Shared-Use Trails](#)" which is a part of our [Advancing Trails Webinar Series](#).

THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR: This webinar is free to the public, thanks to a generous sponsorship from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), and the Federal Highway Administration.

WEBINAR RECORDING:

- View recorded webinar presentation online (enter your name and email to view): [CLICK HERE](#)
- Download and save to your computer (104mb): [CLICK HERE](#)

ATTACHMENTS:

- Closed Captioning Transcript: We are excited to offer multi-lingual closed captioning in over 100 languages for our webinars, thanks to a partnership with [VZP Digital](#). An unedited English transcript from this webinar is attached for your reference. If you require another language, please let me know.
- Resources Slide: Attached is the PDF of the Resources Slide (the slide that was shown during the Q&A portion of the webinar that includes contact details for the presenters).

Here are additional links for this series:

[Advancing Trails Webinar Series](#)
[International Trails Symposium & Training Institute](#)

Check out TrailMeister At Home Trail Riding Clinics

At TrailMeister, we know how critical the natural world is to your well-being, especially during unsettling times. That's why we're working so hard to make sure www.TrailMeister.com is keeping people connected to nature and to each other.

We also know that as our community emerges from this crisis, horse trails across the nation will play an important role in helping us heal and rebuild our collective strength. Both now — and in the future — TrailMeister is here for you.

The Great Water Bar Caper From Dan Shier

FRBCH has taken on Colorado Trail Section 4.1, from the Rolling Creek Trailhead to the North Fork, over Hooper Pass. A good deal of the route is over an old toll road. In the fall of 2018 I noted significant gullying because parts of the old road had no water bars. The summer of 2019 The Colorado Trail Foundation sent in hiker and camper crews to do the part about 1 mile from the trailhead and another section about 4.5 miles in, around and about the major side creek with its nice campsite. We were told "If you adopt a section, it is more than just removing down trees. These new water bars don't do any good if they are not cleaned out as needed."

The ideal tool for this is the "combi-tool" which weighs about 5 pounds. Below see the business end of the tool folded for transport.

The second picture, below, shows the spade in the hoe position and the pick deployed for cleaning the water bar channel and handling any pesky rock that is in the way.



I have been wrestling with how to carry the tool on a horse. My leather professional who created the sheaths for our big crosscut saws came up with the design below for the head. Note that the tool cannot slip around in the sheath and that the part that fits against the horse is nice and smooth.



The picture below shows the basic rigging with the stirrup out of the way. The two vertical straps suspend the weight. The diagonal strap determines how far forward the head is, so you can make sure the head does not interfere with the movement of the front leg. The head is below the widest part of the belly so as to allow the right leg to settle in the stirrup normally.



Although the side of the head against the head is smooth, you don't want it whacking against the side of the horse each step. The pressure of the stirrup tends to hold it against the horse's side but that is not enough. I have secured the bottom strap of the front of the head to the D ring on the cinch, keeping the head always in loose contact with the horse's side.

This is how it looks with a person in the saddle.



So the tool's head is secure, but what about the handle sticking out behind? Not so good if it swings into the horse's butt with each stride. Note the bit of blue hay string coming from the place where the rear strap goes around the handle. This runs under the belly to the left side D ring behind the saddle to keep it from swinging more than 2 inches from the horse's hind quarter. Tighter might backfire. In practice parachute cord would replace the hay string. Or maybe a leather strap that would be more comfortable for the horse and could be tighter. Or perhaps we will come up with something better to combat handle swing.

After this picture was taken, I rode Marco (22 years old) around a bit. He was kind of fresh. Was it the rigging that was exciting him? Or was it because he had been penned up in the corral for a long time and was not being allowed to get his share of the new green grass?

I had mentioned my plan for the tool to Ranger Brandon. He said we ought to concentrate on removing down trees in places remote from the trailhead and let the ground-pounders work the tread. Which is what we have been doing for years for the Forest Service. But the Colorado Trail Foundation expects FRBCH to do the water bars too.

At any rate, Sue McKelvy and I think it would be good to ride up Section 4.1 as early as we can while the water is still running down and across the trail. With this tool we ought to be able to fix a bunch of problems on the spot.

BCHCO Quarterly Newsletter

Please see the attached quarterly news and share with your members. Share with others that may find it of interest and encourage those that haven't renewed to do so today.

Also - click [<here>](#) for a PP we put together recapping this year's national board meeting. Share with your members. Maybe even do a presentation at your next chapter meeting. We got quite a bit done, and the virtual aspect was a resounding success for our first time out.

Tif Rodriguez

CPW Commission requires a valid hunting or fishing license to access all State Wildlife Areas and CPW-leased State Trust Lands



DENVER - A valid hunting or fishing license will be required for everyone 18 or older attempting to access any State Wildlife Area or State Trust Land leased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, beginning July 1.

The rule change was adopted unanimously April 30 by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission.

“By policy, state wildlife areas are acquired with hunter and angler dollars, and are intended specifically to provide wildlife habitat and wildlife-related recreation,” Southeast Regional Manager Brett Ackerman told the commission at its meeting. “This rule is aimed at curtailing non-wildlife-related use of these properties.

At the meeting, Ackerman presented examples from across the state of the increasing use of state wildlife areas inconsistent with their purpose, including set up of temporary residences, vehicular use on big game winter range, vandalism, and other uses detrimental to wildlife and wildlife-related uses.

“There’s certainly an impact on staff and resources, potential public health impact, degradation of habitat and displacement of wildlife,” Ackerman told commissioners. “There is a pattern of non-wildlife related issues we’re seeing out there.”

Beginning on July 1, 2020, anyone entering a state wildlife area or state trust land leased by CPW must hold either a valid hunting or fishing license in Colorado.

Ackerman emphasized that, “As with all new regulations, especially one as far reaching as this, our policy is to first educate. Especially when talking to constituent users of state wildlife areas, we want to help people understand why we’re taking this action. We’re not seeking to catch people off guard and write them tickets. We want to curtail non-wildlife use of these properties and return them to their original intended purpose.”

Time to renew your 2020 membership.

You can go to the website frbch.org to choose either of two options for renewing. One is to send in your membership with your check. The other option is to renew by filling in the application and waiver, then pay by credit card.

In addition, at the end of this newsletter is an application and waiver which can be printed and sent to our post office box.

Thank you for rejoining - Kitty, FRBCH Membership

FRBCH Activity Schedule for 2020

June

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

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

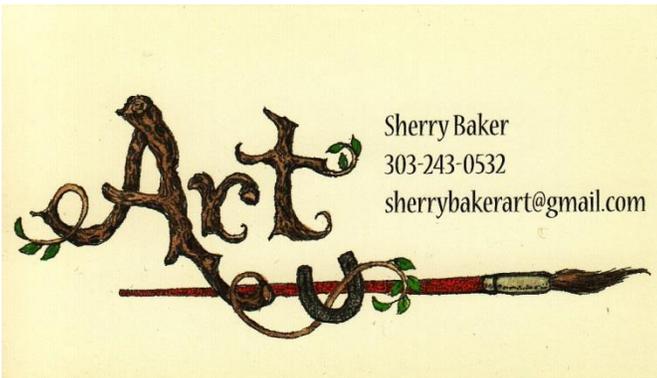
December

- 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 5/25/2020



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