

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?

March 2021 Newsletter



President:

Sharon Jayne
majestictrail@aol.com

Secretary:

Courtney Cowgill
courtney@cowgill.us

Treasurer:

Kitty Bladt
mailingkitty@gmail.com

Chapter Directors:

Linda Mackety
Joan Wealing
John Case

State Directors:

Julie Chaney
John Case

Newsletter editor:

John Case
john@case-IT.us

Deadline for articles
15th of each month!

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

<https://zoom.us/j/96496029227?pwd=NnFLMVEvZVt5ZlJlVnERDR2dLQkR3Zz09>

5 PM Planning Discussion for 2021 Colorado Trail Rides

6 PM Regular Monthly Meeting

Pres Sez

Spring is in the air! So looking forward to riding again. We are in the process of scheduling our work rides and fun rides with our first fun ride on April 24th at the beautiful Douglas County Sandstone Ranch. We will have a pot luck after the ride. You can sign up for the ride and our meetings by going to [FRBCH Activity Signup 2021](#) .

For this year we are also in the process of planning day rides for the Colorado Trail sections as we start over this year starting at Waterton Canyon. Stay tuned for dates and more information...

Please join us for our next meeting March 23rd, again via Zoom. Another email will be sent out with the Zoom information.

Happy Spring!

Sharon



The New FRBCH Calendar - Update

We have developed a Calendar for the chapter using a service at SignUp.com, that we think meets most of the needs of the group. A preliminary calendar is now ready, and can be referenced and utilized by chapter members and non-members at this permanent link:

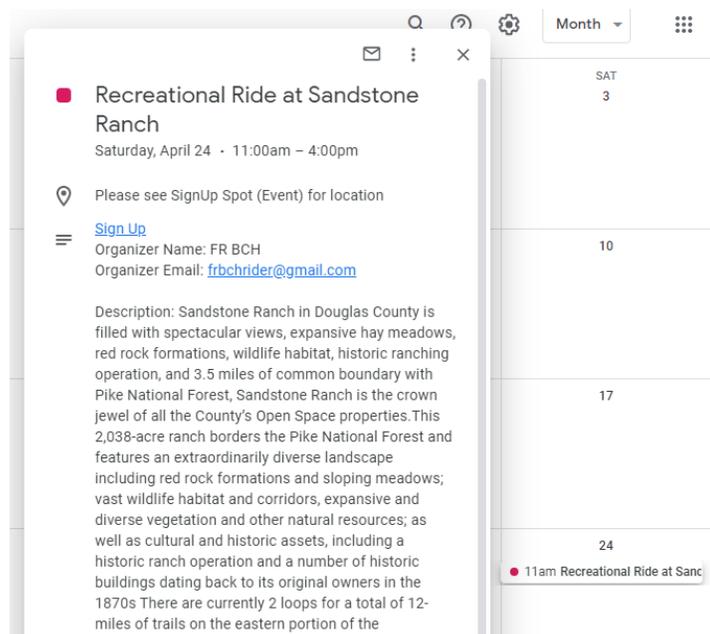
[FRBCH Activity Signup 2021](#)

The calendar has been populated with the monthly meetings, dates for tentative Trail Clearing rides, dates for Recreational Rides, and multi-day camping trips. Tentative dates for the Colorado Trail Rides will be added this month. As you will see, many of the entries are still tentative, in that locations and exact timing are to be determined. We wanted to move to a "Save the Date" concept for our events in order to encourage more participation and make planning easier.

A new feature that is enabled by this system is the ability to export the SignUp data to the FRBCH Gmail calendar. This provides a more typical "Month at a Glance" view of our events, with links back to the SignUp events. Take a look at

[FRBCH Gmail Calendar](#)

Just click on any entry and details of the event will be displayed, then you can choose to go to SignUp to add your name to the event, such as the April 24 ride at Sandstone Ranch:



The calendar of events at the end of this newsletter is now extracted from this new system. We hope you have a chance to reference the new calendar and tell us what you think!

John

Recreational Ride at Sandstone Ranch Saturday, April 24 11 A.M.

Sandstone Ranch in Douglas County is filled with spectacular views, expansive hay meadows, red rock formations, wildlife habitat, historic ranching operation, and 3.5 miles of common boundary with Pike National Forest. Sandstone Ranch is the crown jewel of all the County's Open Space properties.

This 2,038-acre ranch borders the Pike National Forest and features an extraordinarily diverse landscape including red rock formations and sloping meadows; vast wildlife habitat and corridors, expansive and diverse vegetation and other natural resources; as well as cultural and historic assets, including a historic ranch operation and a number of historic buildings dating back to its original owners in the 1870s. There are currently 2 loops for a total of 12 miles of trails on the eastern portion of the Ranch.

Address: 9605 S. Perry Park Road, Larkspur, CO 80118

There is a good size parking lot - plenty of room for horse trailers. Easy trail, shoes not required. Ready to ride at 11 am. We are planning to have a potluck after the ride. Must be a member to ride but will have applications on hand.

Sign up on the FRBCH Calendar - [FRBCH Activity Signup 2021](#) .

Tentative Packing Clinic Wednesday August 11

Message from Dan Shier: Today I got a call from the South Platte Ranger District.

As you are aware, the mule packing string moved from the AG Ranch to Cody Wyoming 2 years ago. This year plans have been approved to bring half of the Mule String to the Goose Creek trailhead. This will consist of 6 mules and one or two packers, each packer having a horse to ride. On Monday, August 9, the mule string will bring materials (and some camping gear) to the Shaft House area on the Goose Creek trail where they will be utilized subsequently by VOC volunteers. On Friday August 13 the mule string will pack the gear back out.

On Tuesday, August 10, the mule string will leave Goose Creek and the mules will go to the AG ranch where they will stay until they are needed the following Friday. In the interim we will have an opportunity to interact with the mules and packers.

The mules, their pack gear, and the packers will be available at the AG Ranch all day Wednesday August 11 and possibly some on Thursday. The Forest Service has suggested that our FRBCH chapter might wish to ask the packers to participate in some education for our members, from a hands-on packing demonstration by the pros to horsemanship discussions or demos. This would be limited to 6-8 FRBCH members and perhaps 2 others from VOC, CTF, or other stewardship groups that work with the Ranger District.

We need to consider how to take advantage of this opportunity.

From our group of 9 officers and key members, we have four that are enthusiastic about attending. Recall that there will be only 8 (or maybe 9 of us) that can attend. I am in the process of contacting the packer(s) to see what will be presented. When I have an idea of what is to be presented, I will send it out to all our members. If we don't have enough from FRBCH I can check with the Northern Colorado Chapter.

Most of us can recall "Training Sessions" in which we were presented with all sorts of good ideas, but as we did not encounter a situation where those ideas were appropriate in the following months, a year later the training never was applied. My suggestion is that we do an overnight member's pack trip within two weeks of the clinic. There is an ideal place to do this. We can park at the Rolling Creek trailhead, proceed up the Colorado Trail and then down the Payne Gulch to the place where that trail crosses Craig Creek, about 5.5 miles. Advantages: (1) That part of the Colorado Trail is wide and easy, so that if a packhorse blows up or a load shifts, repairs can be done in a wide, fairly level place. (2) On the south side of the trail next to the creek, there is a big level campsite back in the aspens with plenty of grass for overnight, trees for highlines, and water for the horses. This is a "legal" campsite, more than 100 ft. from trail and creek.

Possible dates have been suggested: 8/14-15 if we wanted a weekend, or any night 8/12-18 or 9/1-12 if we wanted to do weekdays. To be discussed further during the March Chapter meeting.

Dan Shier

FRBCH Colorado Trail Ride Planning

The first planning meeting for possible Colorado Trail Rides in 2021 was held on Tuesday, February 23. Below are some brief notes from that meeting. If you are interested in participating in additional planning, the next Zoom call is tonight, March 23, starting at 5 P.M. before the regular Monthly Chapter meeting. Thanks to Courtney for taking notes!

ATTENDEES

Sharon Jayne	Joan Wealing	Kitty Bladt
John Case	Courtney Cowgill	Pam Doverspike
Donna Fleischer		

BASIC RIDE DECISIONS

- Will ride 5 segments from May to September. Goal is to end 2021 CTR at the point where we normally start camping at year 2.
- The 2021 rides will tentatively be on Wednesdays, to reduce conflict with bicycles and improve parking options for the trailers.
- Pam can't ride on Wednesdays because of work commitments. Both Pam and Sharon said that the trail is well marked. Sharon also knows it well.
- Will have a minimum of 10 riders and a maximum of 20 riders. If we have the maximum, we could have 50% of the riders starting at the end of the trail, riding east, and meeting in the middle for lunch.
- We need to carefully coordinate start times if we have two groups riding in different directions.

ACTUAL DATES BY MONTH

- First discussion was to ride on the third Wednesday of each month.
- The second discussion was to ride on the following Wednesdays:
 - Day 1 – last Wednesday in May (for less ice/snow)
 - May 26 (Memorial Day is May 31st)
 - Waterton Canyon to Foxton Road/So. Platt River Trailhead, 18 miles
 - Lots of parking at Waterton Canyon and Foxton Road
 - Day 2 – June 9th (2nd week of June)
 - Foxton Road to Little Scraggy/Buffalo Creek, 11.6 miles
 - Lots of parking at Foxton Road but very small lot at Buffalo Creek.
 - We may have to park on side of road. Joan will ask Forest Service if we can park in their lot for one day.
 - Day 3 – July 21 (mid July)
 - Little Scraggy/Buffalo Creek to Wellington Lake Road, 13.3 miles
 - Parking issues at Buffalo Creek.
 - Day 4 – Aug 25 (Labor Day is Sept. 6th)
 - Wellington Lake Road to Long Gulch trail head, 15.1 miles
 - This is a long drive up Lost Park Road for trailers.
 - Day 5 – Sept. 15th (Mid Month)
 - Long Gulch to Kenosha Pass, 13.7 miles
 - Lots of parking at Kenosha Pass.

SYNCHRONIZING TRUCK/TRAILER LOCATIONS AT END OF DAY

- Discussed swapping keys at middle of ride so transportation is available at end of ride to a common location.
 - Risks are many – only members can drive other member's rigs, with preapproval. We must accurately know how experienced they are driving horses and trailers on steep mountain roads.
 - Must also know horses loaded in non-owner trailers because of potential damage from kicking. May need to establish a liability clause or damage repair agreement.
 - Members should drive the steeper or narrower roads before they take horses and trailers on them, unless they have previous experience on that road. For example, end of Segment 1 is a steep and curvy road, potentially end at (or in) the Platt River.

- Non-documented but general consensus, find volunteers to drive trucks and empty trailers from starting point to common end location.
- Pam volunteered to get off of work early and help drive rigs back to common end location.

FEES

- A riding fee should be charged to cover volunteer costs like gas, supplies, and food.
- Want to split the fee between FRBCH and CTF.
- Need to make sure that we cover mileage for volunteers to move trucks/trailers to end-point of ride.
- We need to track the total number of stalls available in all the horse trailers. That may allow us to shuffle one or two less trucks and rigs.
- If we charge, we should provide coffee at start, lunch and water mid-day, snack, and snack, soda or water at end of ride.
- The general consensus is that a fee of \$100 per person, per segment, appears reasonable. There will be no difference in fees between members and non-members. As in the past, part of their fee will cover membership dues.
- We will confirm the rate after we do a preliminary budget.

ADVERTISING/PROMOTION

- Can advertise through the newsletter and on the Facebook page.
- First to register and pay get on the list. We can maintain a waiting list if necessary but won't go beyond 20 riders.

OTHER CONCERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

- We must be prepared to perform necessary trail maintenance on the ride. We will carry appropriate saws. Guests are expected to participate in trail maintenance.
- We need to bring first aid kits for riders and horses.
- We need to estimate how many non-riding volunteers we need and then add a few more.

Mounts for Sale

Kim Berg sent a message about a friend's Paint Gelding for sale:

HORSE FOR SALE - a good kid or husband horse for trails.

OWNER: Sonya Cohan (Bailey)

HORSE: 12 year old gelding about 15.1 hands

He is currently on lease as a schooling horse but Sonya knows he would be happier on the trails as that is where she and her son have ridden him.

contact Sonya sailingcowgirl12@gmail.com 321-508-7956



Denise Bachmann sends this info:

Molly is approximately 12 years old and well broke to ride in parades or pack as well. She is 14.5- 15 hands tall, very stout and well cared for. Shots and farrier work are up-to-date. She has not been ridden for 2 years. Asking \$2500. Mule lives in Amarillo, TX.

For more information call Hal 806-683-5633

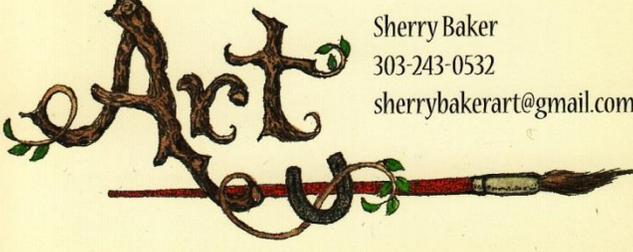




Date	Task	Needed	Time	Filled	Open
Tue, Mar 23, 2021	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	3	
Sat, Apr 24, 2021	Recreational Ride - Sandstone	No Limit	11:00 am - 4:00 pm	0	
Wed, Apr 28, 2021	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	0	
Sun, May 9, 2021	Recreational Ride	No Limit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	0	
Tue, May 25, 2021	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	0	
Thu, May 27, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Fri, May 28, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sat, May 29, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Tue, Jun 8, 2021	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10
Sat, Jun 12, 2021	Recreational Ride	No Limit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	0	
Tue, Jun 15, 2021	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10
Wed, Jun 23, 2021	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	0	
Fri, Jun 25, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sat, Jun 26, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sun, Jun 27, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Thu, Jul 8, 2021	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10
Mon, Jul 12, 2021	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10
Sun, Jul 18, 2021	Recreational Ride	No Limit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	0	
Thu, Jul 22, 2021	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10

Date	Task	Needed	Time	Filled	Open
Thu, Jul 29, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Fri, Jul 30, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sat, Jul 31, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Wed, Aug 11, 2021	Packing Clinic	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10
Tue, Aug 17, 2021	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10
Wed, Aug 25, 2021	Mineral Creek Ride (5 Day)	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Thu, Aug 26, 2021	Mineral Creek Ride (5 Day)	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Fri, Aug 27, 2021	Mineral Creek Ride (5 Day)	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sat, Aug 28, 2021	Mineral Creek Ride (5 Day)	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sun, Aug 29, 2021	Mineral Creek Ride (5 Day)	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Fri, Sep 3, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sat, Sep 4, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sun, Sep 5, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Mon, Sep 6, 2021	3-Day Camping Trip	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	0	
Sun, Sep 12, 2021	Recreational Ride	No Limit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	0	
Tue, Sep 28, 2021	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	0	
Tue, Oct 5, 2021	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	10
Sun, Oct 24, 2021	Recreational Ride	No Limit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	0	
Wed, Oct 27, 2021	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	0	
Tue, Nov 16, 2021	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	0	

Thanks to our Sponsoring Members!



Sherry Baker
303-243-0532
sherrybakerart@gmail.com



Julie Chaney
303-646-2135
jchaney1524@gmail.com

Back Country Horsemen of Colorado
PO Box 1524
Elizabeth, CO 80107
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CowboyEnterprisesLLC.com



Jim Holmes
Broker Associate

303.475.7249
Jim@TheKikerTeam.com
DenverMove.com

THE KIKER TEAM
COLORADO REAL ESTATE EXPERTS



TIA LEFTIN, TRAINER
303-349-6008
LEFTINS280@GMAIL.COM

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LESSON HORSES AVAILABLE AT
TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCH
19000 W 58TH AVENUE
GOLDEN, COLORADO 80403