



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?

April 2023 Newsletter



SAVE THE DATE, On Tuesday, **April 25, 2023**, the Front Range chapter of Back Country Horsemen will meet in-person, at the **South Metro Fire and Rescue (SMFR) Headquarters, 9195 E Mineral Ave. in Centennial.**

We will be on the first floor in the boardroom on the left side when you walk in. Meeting begins at **6:00 p.m.** We plan to have a speaker at this meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Pres Sez

We have good example of the changeable weather in Colorado with Tuesday's snow after a beautiful spring weekend. Happily, it was clear and warm for our first Clinic of the year, with Equine First Aid taught by Dr. Autumn Sorensen. Hosted at Donna Fleischer's spacious barn, we learned a lot about conditions and mishaps our equine friends might encounter when out on the trail. This session gave us a start on the supplies and skills we should prepare, both in the saddle bag and back at the trailer. We will polish up some notes from this clinic and get out to the group quickly. Thanks much to Dr. Sorensen

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Deadline for articles
10th of each month!

and to Donna for this great clinic, and to several new members to the Chapter that joined us on Saturday!

Coming up next month, we have the Foundation Horsemanship clinic with Mike Brashear full with attendees – we're really looking forward to this experience with Mike at the Happy Dog Ranch. Keep an eye on the chapter Calendar for more details on this next event. Later in May, we're planning our first outing at Indian Creek on May 19-21, so let's all hope for good weather for that camp trip!

Now's the time to get out on the nice days and start to condition your mounts to get them ready for the higher elevations and longer trips starting in June. Also remember your spring vaccinations and Coggins test for the year, so you'll be all ready to ride! Don't miss the next meeting on Tuesday, April 25 at the SMFR Headquarters in Centennial – 6 PM. We're working on a speaker for this meeting. See you at these events and on the trail!

--John Chase



Front Range Backcountry Horsemen sponsored a Horse First Aid Clinic Saturday, April 1st. The clinic was presented by Autumn Sorensen DVM and hosted by Donna Fleischer. It was a beautiful, sunny Colorado day and the people who attended learned about horse first aid from taking basic vital signs to emergency euthanasia. The group discussed trail first aid and what to bring in your first aid kits both for day rides and for a much more extensive kit for your trailer. Donna provided her mule and horse so everyone could get hands on practice. Autumn brought examples of products to add to

your kits including medications and dressings for physical injuries. We packed a lot of information into a three-and-a-half-hour clinic. Thanks to all the participants for making this a fun and informative day!

--Karen Chaney

Book Corner

It occurred to me (thanks, Dan Shier, for the nudge,) that the members of FRBCH might enjoy some good, horse related reading. Please share your favorite horse themed book titles. Send your favs to pdyon54@aol.com Here are three nonfiction selections to get the ball rolling.

Southern Cross to Pole Star – Tschiffely's Ride

by A. F. Tschiffely

In 1925, Aimee Tschiffely set out on a 2-1/2-year, 10,000-mile journey from Patagonia to New York, with nothing but two horses, against unspeakable odds, both natural and man-made. *Southern Cross to Pole Star* is a classic of the travel-writing genre, ready to reawaken the spirit of adventure in all those who dare to dream big.

Chasing the Wilderness

by Gramma Smokey

This is a book of short stories written by a woman in her late 80's, looking back. She never made much money, never had much education, but along the way she lived with a lot of horses and had many adventures which are briefly described. She writes: "*There is something wonderful about charging through the wilderness on a good horse. It's a deep feeling being free and at one with nature. It's quiet and beautiful. You can travel places no vehicle could ever take you.*"

Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of the World's Smartest Horse

by Mim Eichler Rivas

Beautiful Jim Key -- the one-time ugly duckling of a scrub colt who became one of the most beloved heroes of the turn of the 20th century -- was adored not for his beauty and speed but rather for his remarkable abilities to read, write, spell, do mathematics, even debate politics. Trained with patience and kindness by one of the most renowned horse whisperers of his day -- former slave, Civil War veteran, and self-taught veterinarian Dr. William Key -- Jim performed in expositions across the country to wildly receptive crowds for nine glorious years, smashing box office records, clearing towering hurdles of skepticism and prejudice, and earning the respect and admiration of some of the most influential figures of the era, from Booker T. Washington to President William McKinley.



WHERE HAVE ALL THE COWBOYS GONE?

Women Are the Future of Trail Riding

By Doug West



**The Long View
"Jayne" and Soraya, Monument Valley**

Introduction

At my age, I'm a bit slow both in body and mind. It dawned on me one day as I took my horses to South Valley Large Animal Clinic for what I don't remember. As usual the parking lot was packed with trucks and horse trailers. Everyone patiently awaited their turn. What finally caught my attention was that I was the only guy waiting to see a vet. Everyone else sitting in their trucks and talking through rolled-down windows was women. Where have all the cowboys gone?

That same question pops into my mind at every trailhead I ride from these days. Other than my septuagenarian riding buddies (Ron, John, Jim, Bill, etc.), most everyone I meet is named Mary, Rochelle, Michelle, Debbie, Jody, Jeanette, etc. For the most part, I recognize their trucks, trailers, horses, and dogs. I can't say that for the men because I see so few of them on the trail.

My data-driven mind required confirmation of what I was seeing on the trail. A quick Google Search confirmed my observations. According to the data, 77.4% of today's equestrians are women. I grew up surrounded by men who rode. Both my grandfathers were avid horsemen. I rarely met a woman on the trail riding the Wasatch Mountains surrounding my small hometown of Pleasant Grove, Utah.

I don't know "Where all the cowboys have gone?", but I do know that the future of trail riding rests with today's young women. I always thought I would mentor young men wanting to become horsemen. I assumed I would be teaching the basic skills needed to ride out and return safely from the backcountry to boys. Little did I know that my final years of riding would be spent with my two ersatz granddaughters ages fifteen and sixteen.



**"JAYNE WAYNE", Kaylee and "BLITZ CASSIDY", Maggie
Laverkin Creek, Zion National Park**

Where I come from, you don't get to pick your own trail name. My two granddaughters aren't pleased with their handles, but I think they fit. "Jayne Wayne" is "Oh MY Gosh!" enthusiastic about everything and can ride anything on four legs with or without a saddle. "Blitz Cassidy" is a bit quieter with a wicked sense of humor who tells me all the time "You are not funny Grandpa!" and one heck of a rider. They have both been riding horses since they were seven or eight, schooled by professional women instructors. I can't teach them anything about riding. It's my job getting them into the backcountry and safely home again.

Getting There

I can't remember where I learned to drive a truck and trailer, but it was most likely in the school of hard knocks. To continue their backcountry education, these young women and others like them need to learn how to drive and maintain their own trucks and horse trailers. I have started teaching "Blitz" to drive a rig. It's a bit intimidating for a fifteen- year- old with only her learner's permit, but she can turn the truck and trailer around to load the horses. Backing up has never been my long suit, but we are working on that too. Eventually, she will need someone with patience enough to refine her skills. Both girls must learn about truck and trailer maintenance. I have seen too many trucks and trailers broken down due to failed trailer wheel bearings or faulty trailer lights and brakes. Eventually, someone will have to teach them how to change truck and trailer tires. AAA may or may not come to tow your truck or change a tire, it's state dependent.

Staying Found

I have ridden in most western states including Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. On occasion, I have been accused of being lost. I respond by saying, "I'm not lost. I just don't know where I am right now." My granddaughters get very tired of location questions while riding in the backcountry. In the past, I dared to question their horsemanship, but no more. I used to tell "Blitz" to kick Gwen into a natural walking horse gate. She responds politely, "Leave me alone. I know what I'm doing." She is right.

Their horsemanship is not in question, but they still have a lot to learn about backcountry orienteering. To prepare them for riding on their own, I ask about which direction we are going, where the truck is located, and names of the prominent landmarks. I encourage them to

become proficient in using at least one of the many electronic navigation aides now available. While these devices are very useful in staying found, they also need to know how to read topographical maps and use a compass. The army taught me, but I doubt their mothers would want them enlisting in the infantry.

Staying Safe

In today's world, staying safe requires thinking ahead and being prepared for emergencies. A while back, the three of us took a supposedly short afternoon ride before dinner at six. "Jayne" was training a young filly with little trail experience. Like most southwestern Utah horses, she had never seen water except in a trough. We got her across the river, but couldn't get her back to the truck and trailer on our original route. We tried everything. It was getting dark, so we implemented Plan B. Plan B took us cross country in the near dark to the highway. They thought I was crazy pushing my big mare Gen through some very rough country to get there. I heard a lot of "No, no, no. Not going up or down that." I responded, "do you want to spend the night under a tree while your moms have search and rescue looking for us?" They learned the importance of staying found and having a Plan B.

Staying safe also requires dealing with unplanned medical emergencies. I shared with them my own example when I got dumped a long way from medical care. If my friend Doc Johnson, DVM, hadn't been with me, I probably wouldn't be riding with "Jayne" and "Blitz" today. Two ambulance rides later I was in the ICU with a punctured lung, multiple rib fractures, and a dinged- up head. I coached them never to ride alone, always to tell someone where they are going, and when to expect them back. At their age, they think they are bullet-proof. I have tried to convince them to learn basic first aid and how to summon emergency help in the backcountry.

Caring for Your Horse

Both these young women know the basics of horse health care. I try to teach them that a healthy horse in the backcountry starts with a well- cared- for horse at home. They get frequent lectures about up-to-date vaccinations (twice a year), rotational worming (every two months), phyllium for sand colic (once a month) if stabled on sandy ground, and regular hoof care (every eight to 10 weeks).

My schedule comes from occasional bad experiences horsepacking some remote areas of the west. I once rode 65 miles on an easyboot in Yellowstone after losing a shoe. I have had to treat other supposedly experienced packers' horses with bute, banamine, or electrolyte paste from the horse first aid kit that I carry which they didn't have. They both are learning how to take temperatures, check respiration rates, and listen for gut sounds.

In addition to backcountry vet care, we are working on how to hobble, picket, and highline a horse. These essential skills are taught at BCHA horsepacking clinics.

The Cost

When I was a kid, most everyone in my small town had a horse in their backyard. Land was plentiful and feed was cheap. We either rode from the house or jumped our horse into the back of a pickup with a homemade rack on the back. We had no fancy horse trailers or trucks back then. My granddaughters doubt my veracity when I tell them that I could get my mare to jump

from level ground into the back of my truck and out again. The condition of the tail gate was proof it happened.

Today, land is scarce and feed is expensive. Occasionally you will see one of the early, small straight load trailers around, but not often. The old two-wheel drive, standard transmission trucks have been replaced by \$75,000+, fourwheel-drive behemoths, and horse trailers are large and expensive.

To prepare "Blitz" and "Jayne" for the future, we discussed costs of horse ownership frequently. They know that purchasing a horse is the smallest expense of ownership. As of now, "Blitz" and I jointly own her four-year-old filly Gwen. She keeps a detailed accounting ledger of Gwen's expenses, which we review regularly. Both girls are learning the true costs of horse ownership.

We also discuss the future when they will be on their own without help from Mom, Dad, or Grandpa. To encourage them to pursue education, so they can afford the horse lifestyle, I have promised them both new saddles when they graduate from college. They tell me to put their saddle money in an interest bearing- account because they aren't sure I will still be around for their graduations. As I have mentioned, they are too smart for their own good!

The Future

I may have passed my personal expiration date, but I have also promised my granddaughters to hang around long enough to see them riding on their own in the backcountry. As they continue to learn and improve their backcountry skills, they become less dependent on me. Soon I will provide transportation only. Once they get their own trucks and trailers and learn to drive them, Grandpa will be waiting at home to hear their trail stories.

I look forward to their independence and hope they help sustain the future of trail riding. It makes me terribly sad to think that in the future horses won't be found on the many historic trails of the west. The future of backcountry trail riding now rests upon these wonderful young women. I believe with some mentoring they will be up to the task.

Doug West is a member of the Southwest Chapter of BCHU. He lives in St. George Utah with his wife Caroline, two dogs (Maynard and Bitsy), two cats (Molly and Ellie), and four walking horses (Rose, Dottie, Gen, and Gwen). Send your observations, criticisms, and concerns to parasite.ranch@gmail.com.

Thanks, Karen Chaney, for the submission.



BCH National Newsletter

As a member of the FRBCH, you should or will be receiving your copy of the BCH Newsletter. If for some reason you do not, please follow the link below: To catch up on historical newsletters or to read the upcoming newsletters please go to <https://www.bcha.org/blog/newsletter/> There's great info here!

Back Country Horsemen of America

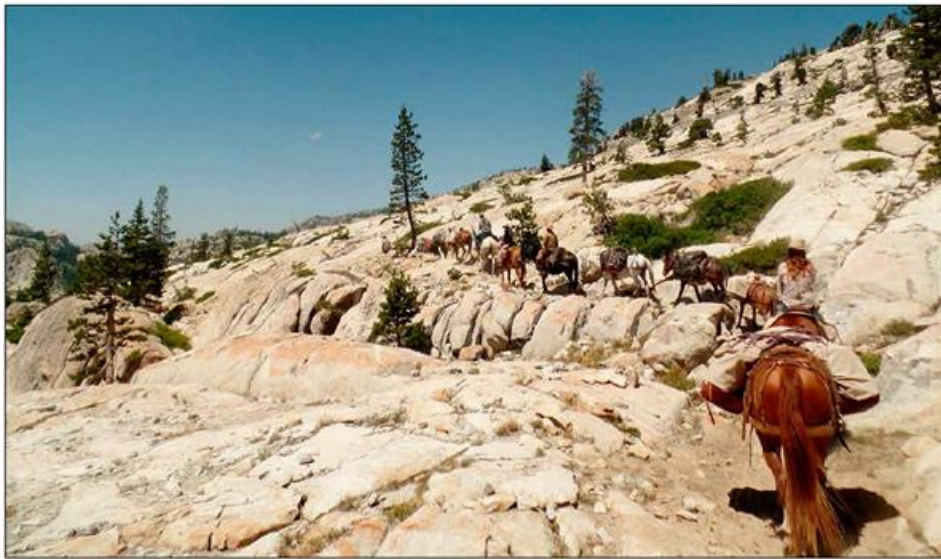
Volume 27, Issue 1

www.bcha.org

Winter 2016

Arkansas Buffalo River Emigrant Wilderness Pack Trip

Article and photographs by Nancy Deisch



Upcoming FRBCH Chapter Events

Date	Task	Needed	Time	Filled	Open
Tue, Apr 25, 2023	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	3	
Sat, May 6, 2023	Foundation Horsemanship Clinic	1	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	1	0
Fri, May 19-21, 2023	Indian Creek Camp Trip and Rec Ride	No Limit	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	
Tue, May 23, 2023	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4	
Sat, Jun 3, 2023	Recreational Ride - Wealing Ranch	No Limit	9:30 am - 3:00 pm	8	

Date	Task	Needed	Time	Filled	Open
Wed, Jun 7, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	7	3
Mon, Jun 12, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	1	9
Tue, Jun 20, 2023	Sandstone Rec Ride & Chapter Meeting	No Limit	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	1	
Sat, Jul 8, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	1	9
Wed, Jul 12, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	0	10
Fri, Jul 14-16, 2023	Camping Trip and Recreational Ride	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	6	
Tue, Jul 18, 2023	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	2	
Thu, Jul 27, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	2	8
Wed, Aug 2, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	0	10
Fri, Aug 11-13, 2023	BCHCO Rendezvous (tentative)	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	1	

Use this link to view the complete detailed list and for sign-up. <https://signup.com/go/seVyPnj>



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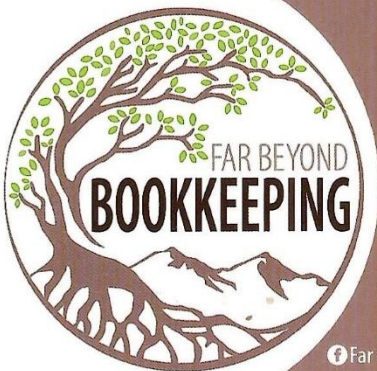
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 Far Beyond Bookkeeping Tools and Tips

Thank you for your patience and persistence for reading all the way to the end of my second attempt at the newsletter. Your feedback is appreciated. Paulette PJ Dyon



Start 'em young!