



Front Range Back Country Horsemen (est. 1996)  
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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?*

## July 2023 Newsletter

**T**ravel light in life  
take only what you need;  
a loving family,  
good friends,  
simple pleasures,  
someone to love,  
and someone to love you,  
enough to eat, enough to wear,  
and a little more than enough to drink,  
for thirst is a dangerous thing.



Prez Sez, July '23

We had a good turnout for the recreational ride and meeting at Sandstone open space on June 20. About 8 riders enjoyed the perfect weather and did both loops at this great Douglas County open space park. We enjoyed the ride so much we didn't get much meeting done!

**Joan Wealing and Sue McKelvy** coordinated the first clearing ride of the season on our adopted segment of the Colorado Trail. About 5 miles were cleared, then **Bill and Debbie Klink** went back on the 12th and finished up the segment. Great job on the clearing efforts to all who joined in – and got the chance to try out our new Silky Katanaboy saws! Initial reaction is that they are light weight and do a great job of trees up to 16-18" in diameter.

As I'm writing this, we are packing to head up to Fairplay to enjoy the campout at Julie Errend's this weekend – I hope all that like to camp with horses can join us!

**Kathy Olsen and Karen Chaney** have been working with Sharron Pizzuto to schedule another **De-Spook Clinic**, and the details have been finalized. So, join in for this very popular clinic on Saturday August 5 at 10 AM at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds – Westernaires arena. See additional details in this newsletter. This clinic got filled quickly when it was last held – so don't miss out!

As we're moving quickly through the summer, we could not finalize the plans for a Rendezvous for BCH Colorado, so I have elected to cancel this event and free up that August weekend. Apologies to all who were looking forward to it, we'll try again next year!

The next meeting on Tuesday July 18 is at the SMFR building, and we don't have a speaker scheduled. So, we should have time to review the activities for the remainder of the summer and will

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**Deadline for articles  
10<sup>th</sup> of each month!**

update the calendar. We need to have leaders and coordinators identified for all the remaining events, so don't be bashful – step up to leading an event with a great trail riding crew!  
The online calendar is current, and we continue to update the activities as things change. See you all [on the trails!](#) --John

## **De-Spook clinic Saturday August 5 at Westernaires Complex at Jeffco County Fairgrounds - Volunteer Arena.**

The Front Range Back Country Horsemen group is offering a DeSpook Clinic event for members! Sign Up for this clinic will be completed at the time of payment on our website. Cost for FRBCH Members \$80 Entry fee can be paid via Paypal on the FRBCH web site at [FRBCH.org](http://FRBCH.org). Home page first selection on the left of the page. Not yet a member? JOIN NOW! Then join the clinic!

**Clinic participants are limited to 20 riders and horses.** So, reserve your spot ASAP, it will fill up fast!

Join us for an afternoon of learning and navigating your horses through unfamiliar situations and scary objects. Clinic introduces horses to a variety of stimuli to include; sound conditioning, noisy objects, tarps, balloons, etc. This experience allows a horse of any age to accept guidance and safety when the unexpected happens!

### **Clinic Instructor: Sharron Pizzuto**

Sharron has had the pleasure of working with Mounted Patrol Officer, Mr. Roger Kyle. She enjoyed his methods of teaching new and challenging obstacles to horses and their riders. She now has conducted many clinics of her own.

Sharron is a firm believer in the trust partnership we develop with our horses and continues to work with horses to gain confidence on the trail.

Today is an introduction to you and your horse on ways you can learn together and prepare for a few new experiences you may encounter on the trail!

You are encouraged to request help with certain situations that have caused your horses to spook. Request or bring any objects, such as strollers, bikes, backpacks etc. Please make these requests at least a week before to allow time to accommodate your needs.

Plan to bring water and a snack (or lunch) for both you and your trusty steed!

The Westernaires Volunteer Arena is located at Jefferson County Fairgrounds at 15200 W. 6th Avenue, Golden, CO 80401. There is plenty of horse trailer parking. The arena will open for registration at 12:30 pm.

Contact the chapter Secretary, Karen Chaney at 303-396-4474 with any questions!

**SEE YOU THERE!**



**STATS**

- \* Distance  
11.5mi
- \* Duration  
6 hr 35 min 20 sec
- \* Average Speed  
1.8mph
- \* Ascent  
2,037ft
- \* Descent  
1,979ft
- \* Min Elevation  
8,154ft
- \* Max Elevation  
9,978ft



FRBCH rode again (finally!) thanks to Susan McKelvy and Joan Wealing, our trail bosses. We rode Saturday July 8 to clear the adopted section 4.1 of the Colorado Trail of winter and wind-downed trees. Total count was 12 but we know we probably have a few more to go on another foray. A very cool and wet spring with several late snowfalls in the higher altitudes kept us from the annual task. Our section of the trail goes up to a bit over 10,000 feet. A big thanks to the nine riders who turned out and rode a total of 11.5 miles RT. Trail riders giving back in appreciation for having scenic paths to travel. And thanks to Sue for submitting this post and most of the photos.

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Karen Chaney



On July 12, a two-person work crew returned to Colorado Trail Section 4.1 to complete our club's obligation to clear that trail segment. The club's initial ride up CT 4.1 was conducted a week earlier and that crew was able to clear the first 5+ miles of the trail. The July 12 expedition covered miles 5-7 of this trail.

The July 12 crew consisted of Bill Klink and Debbie Black along with our trusted 4-legged partners, Freedom and Ignite. The initial two hours was a tranquil trail ride covering the portion of the trail that had already been cleared by the previous team. But from miles 5-7 we cut and moved 12 fallen trees of various sizes from less than 6" to more than 12". In several cases 'social trails' had already formed around the deadfall trees, so clearing and reestablishing the original tread was of primary importance.

Mother nature gave us perfect weather, our horses gave us safe and enjoyable transportation, and our club's recently sharpened saws made easy work of those dozen trees. We were also able to put the club's recently acquired Silky Katanaboy saw to the test. Debbie Black is shown in this photo making quick work of a 12" tree with the new Silky Katanaboy.

We are both looking forward to the club's next work ride to accomplish more of this worthy and satisfying work.

Bill Klink

## 2023 Equine Economic Impact Study



**As a member of the equine industry,  
the American Horse Council needs your input!**

Let your voice be heard and your impact counted. We invite you to participate in the 2023 Equine Economic Impact Study, which runs until September 29, 2023.

**Horse Owner Study**

**Industry Supplier Study**

Data collected will inform public and private investments in equine-related businesses, equine health care, education, land use decisions, tax policy, tourism, employment incentives and more.

Read more about the study and the new incentives being offered with participation. New this year are sponsored incentives for individuals and groups who participate in the survey, including the chance to win a John Deere Z545R ZTrak Mower valued at \$7,500, one year of Nutrena feed for one horse (a \$2,000 value); one year of Purina feed for one horse (a \$500 value/horse); gift certificates from Trafalgar Square Books (total value \$180); enrollment in Texas A&M AgriLife Equine Reproductive Management Online Course valued at \$300/enrollment; plus more.

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## **NOXIOUS WEED IN COLORADO**



Be on the lookout, and yes, this is a repeat of last month's article... *Centaurea solstitialis*, the yellow star-thistle, is a species of thorny plant in the genus *Centaurea*, which is part of the family Asteraceae. A winter annual, it is native to the Mediterranean Basin region and invasive in many other places.

<https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds/noxious-weed-species-id/yellow-starthistle>

**Yellow star thistle has been found in our vicinity (Jefferson, Douglas and Arapaho Counties, as well as in other areas of Colorado). See website for more information including map of where reported. Please be on the lookout for this and report it immediately if you see it (see website for how to report).** This is a List A noxious weed in Colorado and a single plant produces 100,000 airborne seeds. **Of particular concern to horse owners is this weed is toxic to horses and other animals.** It causes an irreversible and serious brain lesion. Nigropalladiol-encephalomalacia. This is a long word to describe death of dopamine producing neurons.



**Next time someone says "JUST for Trails" ... you will understand they may have no clue!**

- Your Partner needs to be as maneuverable as a Dressage Horse...to be able to place each foot exactly where and when you need because there is a steep cliff drop-off on one side and a wall of solid mountainside on the other. A sure-footed Partner is a must to be a good Trail horse.
- Your Partner needs to be as bold as a Foxhunter....to go willingly where they are pointed, whether that is over a log, up a steep hill, down a gully, through rushing water, boot-sucking mud or bushwhacking through thick scrub.
- Your Partner needs to be as agile as a Show Jumper....able to easily twist and turn around trees and bushes, boulders and hop over fallen logs.
- Your Partner needs to have the stamina of an Endurance Horse....because a 7 mile ride can easily turn into a 20 mile ride if his "on-board GPS" (aka rider) takes a wrong turn.

- Your Partner needs to have the calm mind of a Rodeo Pick-Up Horse....because many cannot hold it together under stress. But a good Trail Horse must be able to cope with the high emotional energy often coming from others in front, behind and either side of them. They need to always be level-headed and sensible.
  - Your Partner needs to manage being squashed against others like a Polo Pony....because on some trails their nose might be pushed against a tail in front, or flanks pressed side-by-side with rider's knees banging against other rider's knees, or another horse breathing down his back. They need to have patience and get along well with others.
  - Your Partner needs to cope with bursts of speed like a Racehorse.....because if that "on-board GPS" (aka rider) turns the short ride into 20 miles you won't get home till dark if walking that whole distance.
  - Your Partner needs to be a clever problem-solver with their mind and feet like a Cutting horse....sometimes a rider is gonna get stuck in places that seem impossible to get out of!
  - Your Partner needs to be brave like a Cow Horse not because they will have to deal with protective mama cows and bulls out on the trails, but because they will be faced with hikers, loose dogs, mountain bikes, ATVs, motorcycles, strollers, tractors, logging equipment, chainsaws, horse-drawn carts, bullet-riddled appliances, floating plastic bags and balloons, booming thunder and pouring rain with flapping slickers, loose wild horses and burros, and all forms of wildlife.
  - Your Partner needs to be cuddly, brave and sweet like a Child's Pony....because they will spend countless hours exploring trails with you.
- But hey.... Your Partner is "JUST" for Trails

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A good Trail Partner is worth their weight in gold!!!

### **BCH National Newsletter**

As a member of the FRBCH, you should have 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 current newsletters please go to <https://www.bcha.org/blog/newsletter/> There's great info here!



## Upcoming FRBCH Chapter Events


Date	Task	Needed	Time	Filled	Open
Tue, Jul 18, 2023	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	9	
Thu, Jul 27, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	4	6
Wed, Aug 2, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	1	9
Fri, Aug 5, 2023	De-Spook Clinic	20	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	5	15
Wed, Aug 16, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am – 4:00 pm	1	9
Tue, Aug 22, 2023	Chatfield Rec Ride & Chapter Meeting	No Limit	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	2	

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



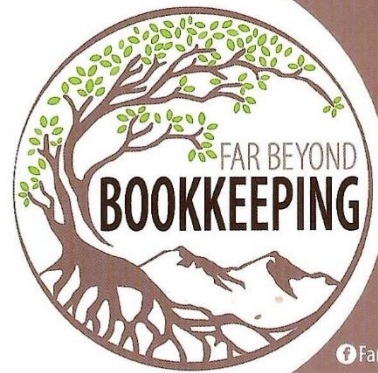


## Special Thanks to our Sponsoring Members!




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*"Your Finance Team"*

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 Find us at Mike Brashear Horsemanship

Thank you for your patience and persistence for reading all the way to the end of this newsletter.

**Why was the horse feeling so stressed?**  
It was saddled with responsibility!

Your feedback is appreciated. Paulette PJ Dyon