



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?

September 2023 Newsletter



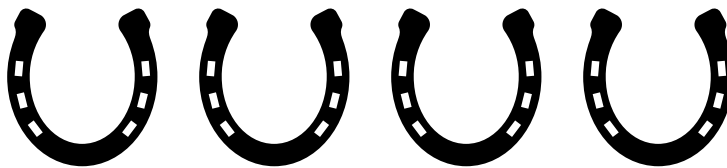
September 2023

President Report:

- Looking for a leather tooler to create scabbards for the 2 new SILKY saws.
- Bill Klink reported they are effective to use for logs up to 18-24"

Next Membership Meeting: October 24, Q's Pub and Grille, 10133 W. Chatfield Ave., Littleton, CO 80127

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



Frank Blaha gave a talk on his attendance at the June Annual Meeting of the [American Horse Council](#) (AHC), a national organization, in Denver. It is interesting to note that the Back Country Horsemen are a member of the AHC. Here is some of the highlights Frank shared at our recent membership meeting:

The AHC Annual Meeting was three full days of panel discussions, presentations, and committee meetings. The theme of the Annual Meeting was “The Measure of Tomorrow” and the mood of the Meeting was certainly forward-focused, active, and engaged. Total attendance was on the order of 100+, but some were only there for a day. I was an oddity at the meeting as I was one of the few that did not make my living in the horse community. There were veterinarians and representatives of the vet community, several state regulators involved with livestock, various horse rescue groups and other professionals from the world of horses. Many of the people were involved with horses in multiple ways, both professionally and personally.

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**Deadline for articles
10th of each month!**

Notable Take-Aways:

Equine Economic Impact Study and Equine Census: AHC is conducting an equine economic impact study this year, updating our data and information from the previous 2017 study. The data generated in this study can be extremely valuable in demonstrating the value of the equine community to the general and local economy. Some examples were provided of how these data could be used to make an argument for or against certain facilities or initiatives. The Equine Economic Impact Study is open until September 29, having opened in early April, and we were all encouraged to participate if we have not already. It was also noted that the USDA (estimate about 3 million US horses) and the AHC (over 7 million US horses) have very different estimates of the number of horses in the US. The USDA is intending to start an equine census in the next couple of years that should be helpful in resolving what our equine population is.

Improving the Sustainability and Reducing the Environmental Impact of the Horse Community: There were several presentations and panel discussion on this issue on Monday. Some of the presenters were associated with, and even students of, Colorado State University. In short, as currently structured, the equine community has a significant greenhouse gas and waste generation footprint. There are groups specifically focused on lowered environmental impact and increased sustainability in horse-related activities. Some ideas along these lines: using digesters for management of horse manure and generating natural gas from this waste product, developing alternatives to the use of wood shavings at horse shows, working to make horse manure and carcasses compostable. As an example, Helsinki Finland recently built a new equine show facility primarily for the XYZ show which is a large four-day horse show. That facility uses the xyz tons of manure produced during that four-day show as a source of energy for the facility for a year. Horse carcass disposal was a point of considerable discussion. It is getting increasingly expensive and difficult to dispose of horse carcasses. There are strong regulations in some states against burying the carcasses, the rendering of the carcasses is getting increasingly restricted (especially for animals that have been euthanized due to the carry-through of the euthanasia chemicals), and composting is not always an option for the same issue of the chemicals associated with the carcasses. Incineration seems to be one of the more prevalent and viable means of carcass disposal that overcomes most of these concerns.

Horse Rescues and Horse Aid Groups: There are many organizations that exist and can provide resources to help people having difficulty keeping their horses. The majority of people that give up their horses to a horse rescue would rather keep their animals, but typically they are facing a financial challenge of some sort, and typically a short-term challenge. With some help these people might overcome their financial challenge, happily continue to own and care for their animal, and there will be one fewer rescue horse looking to be adopted. A big problem here is that people are not always aware of the resources that are available so there will be more focus going forward on increased marketing and outreach associated with these groups and resources. <https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/uhc-materials/resources-for-owners/>

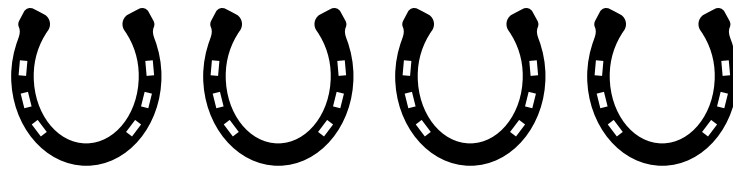
Biosecurity and Communicable Diseases in the Equine Community: Climate change is leading to changes in the range of different parasites that can transmit pathogens, as well as changing ranges for pathogens themselves. These changes are leading to new and changing risks for our equines. Biosecurity is also a concern since large shows and gatherings of horses are ideal for the transmittal of infectious diseases if good biosecurity measures are not in place. Increased outreach and education was identified as the primary need. Similar to horse rescues and horse aid organizations it seems that many people and organizations are unaware of the available resources in this area. In particular, the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) was cited as a source of information and useful resources.

Recreation and Trails: The Recreation and Trails Committee of AHC is currently chaired by a staff member of the Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA). In addition, the primary contact at the United States Forest Service (USFS) for trails is a Lakewood resident - a horse owner that has a child in Westernaires - and she gave a very informative presentation as part of the Recreation and Trails Committee Meeting. The USFS maintains 163,000 miles of trails, which is the most of any federal agency. The National Park Service (NPS) is next in line in terms of miles of trails maintained at approximately 18,000 miles of trails. The USFS and the NPS are working together to canvas trail experts across the country and come up with best practices in trail

design and maintenance, and to further advance general trail competency within the agencies. These efforts are feeding into a revision of the trail design and maintenance manual the agencies use that currently dates to 2007. They are also considering adjustments in training programs that they offer to help address particular areas of need. The USFS is also doing a trail workforce analysis – looking at the core staff at each facility looking for key gaps – what types of positions or skills are missing, and what force multipliers can be found? Some districts and forests have 0 people assigned to trails. The moneys being made available for trails both within the federal agencies as well as available through various grant programs were discussed in detail. We are in an unprecedented time right now in terms of large amounts of money being made available for trails and other infrastructure related to recreational use of the outdoors. **A key take-home message was that this is THE time in our lives to step forward and aid in any of this work and to make our needs and desires known.**

There was much more, but this gives you an idea of the meeting. It was very worthwhile use of time.

Note: Individual AHC membership costs \$60, annually.



[Baxter Black's](#) final column: **A Horse Matters.**

I like living someplace where a horse matters.

There is just some country where horseback is the only way to get the job done. Places where the four-wheeler is a poor second, not to mention a noisy, track-leaving unnatural conveyance. Besides, it's hard to throw a rope from.

Helicopters can spot and scare, if that's what you need, but it's helpless when you have to doctor a calf. It is a great feeling to be pushing a cow out of a mesquite thicket, packing a dude down the Grand Canyon or tracking a mountain lion on a high ridge, knowing you're on the perfect tool for the job.

You look at a horse different when he's on the payroll.

I like being a person to whom a horse matters.

It puts me in such good company, Will Rogers, Teddy Roosevelt, Rudyard Kipling, Ray Hunt, Queen Elizabeth, Jerry Diaz, Casey Tibbs, cowboys, Mongols, Gauchos, teamsters, Lipizzaners and vaqueros of all kinds.

Granted being a horse person doesn't make me easier to get along with, better at spelling or richer. It simply gives me a direct connection to one of the most ancient, mutually beneficial interspecies relationships on the planet. Winston Churchill said, "There is something about the outside of a horse, that is good for the inside of a man."

I like being there when a horse matters.

When you can't do the job alone; a cow in the bog, a race against time, a boulder to move, a detour to take, a mountain to cross, a crevice to leap, a war to win, a sweetheart to impress, or... when you've gone too far to walk back.

Shakespeare's King Richard III said when fate hung in the balance, "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!"

I've also come to believe that you either are a horse person or you aren't. Many who are, never know it because they never have the chance. It's a primitive acceptance, often mutual. A lack of fear.

You see it in some children when they are first introduced to the horse. It always gives me a sense of wonder to be there and help them make their acquaintance. I believe the horse can sense the child's innate trust. It is the beginning of a natural bond. I count myself very lucky that I get to be a part of the wonderful world of horse sweat, soft noses, close calls and twilight on the trail.

I like living a life where a horse matters.

Thanks Karen Chaney

LAST CALL

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.

[Highlights of the 2017 Economic Impact Study by the American Horse Council.](#)

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., Oct. 3, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am – 4:00 pm	1	9
Fri., Oct 6, 7, 8 2023	3-Day Camping Trip in Meadows CG	open	8:00am – 5:00pm	3	
Wed., Oct 11, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	open	9:00am – 4:00pm	2	
Tue., Oct 24, 2023	Monthly Meeting				

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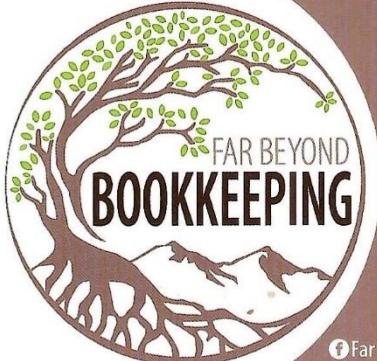
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Thank you for your patience and persistence for reading all the way to the end of this newsletter.

What do you call a horse who lives next door?

Neighbor!

Your feedback is appreciated. Paulette PJ Dyon