

HIGHLINE

April 2024

Vol. 30, No. 4

From the President's Pen

By Kathy Sherer

Thank you to Board Member Marcos Costa for the MANY hours of work he put in to renew and reinvigorate our membership system. It is up and running, so any emails you receive now are the real deal. You are being reminded that your membership has expired.

As a reminder, anyone that paid their last dues BEFORE 4/5/2023 is receiving renewal emails with the subject "Your membership is expiring in 5 days!"

If you wish to renew your membership, please click on the renew button in the email and proceed to fill out your membership application and submit payment. This will happen every year on your membership anniversary from now on. This is a great opportunity to update your phone number, address and add your birthday!

This will be the only email you receive to renew, so if you don't take action, your membership will expire.

We strongly encourage everyone to renew, even if you don't ride anymore or can't make it to our meetings. We need your support to keep maintaining our trails and fighting to keep them open for those who still enjoy riding these mountains and the back country ~ for ourselves and for future generations.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Marcos has also been keeping our Facebook page updated and full of news and photos, and our number of followers is growing rapidly.

Check it out, and be sure to send interesting "stuff" to Marcos for our page: membership@4cbch.org

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



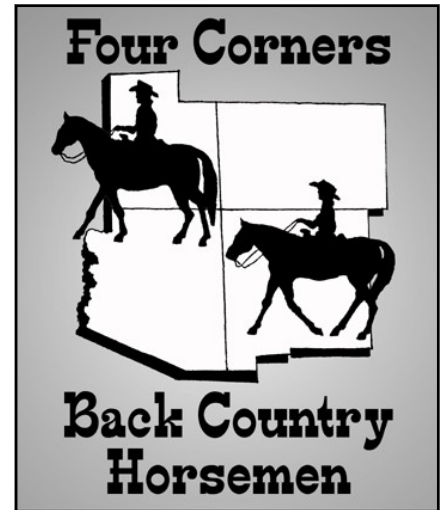
Thursday, April 18, Florida Grange

6:00 scalloped potatoes with ham

6:30 Roundtable Discussion

- Tack Sale results
- Trails meeting report

Ideas shared, questions answered, rides planned!



Next Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 18

6:00 eats, 6:30 meeting

Florida Grange

656 Hwy. 172, Durango

New Meeting Format

Roundtable Discussion



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2024 Trail Projects Planned

By Jon Sherer



On March 21st we had our annual Trails Planning Meeting. It was attended by ten 4CBCH members, four Forest Service members and one SJMA member. We had asked the Forest Service and SJMA to attend to give us some input on the projects they would like us to either work on or provide pack support for.

Kristina Schenck, the Columbine District’s lead wilderness ranger, said she would like us to continue to work on the Crater Lake trail and offered some advice on proper techniques for brushing out the trail. Without having specific dates yet, she said she would like pack support for the following projects:

Mid June – Vallecito Creek packing for 4 trail workers camped 5 miles in

Mid July – Granite Peaks Guard Station packing for 4 trail workers

September – Upper Hermosa packing for SCC crew

Chris Park—Work is scheduled to begin in September on the grant-funded project that 4CBCH helped fund .

Marley Saunders, the Volunteer Coordinator for San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA), said they have taken over our adopted section of the Colorado Trail.

July 22-24—Colorado Trail packing for 10 workers on miles 6-11

August 16-18 Colorado Trail packing for a crew working on the first 5 miles

Mid May—Sean Kelly, with the Forest Service Range program, will again provide us with chemicals and sprayers to use on the East Creek trail. The date is dependent on snow and weed growth.

East Creek—We will also have a trail reconstruction project on the first ¼ mile of the East Creek trail where it is badly eroded. This is a project that doesn’t require riding or pack stock but does require lots of laborers. The exact date has not yet been set.

SJMA is also wanting to start up the **Ghost Riders** program again at Chris Park and on the Pine River Trail. They will train volunteers and provide fuel reimbursement. This is an opportunity to ride with a purpose.

Free Packing Clinic

As we begin providing more pack support for other organizations, we need more packers. If you are interested in learning how to pack, or just want to brush up on your packing skills, there will be a Packing Clinic on May 18, 9:30 AM at the Bears Ranch (formerly Rapp Corral). The clinic is free, so come on out!



Sponsor a Horse!

From Four Corners Equine Rescue

Do you want to help a specific horse but can’t foster or adopt? Think about donating to a horse’s monthly care on a recurring basis:

1/4 sponsorship - \$50

1/2 sponsorship - \$100

3/4 sponsorship - \$150

Full sponsorship - \$200

Please email us at fcernm@gmail.com and identify which horse and level of sponsorship you would like. See the horses at fourcornersequinrescue.org or come pay us a visit.

We can’t keep saving these horses without your help!



Cassie is a seven-year-old female Australian Cattle Dog mix. She may be seven but she will play fetch with you as long as you let her!

This girl is very intelligent and quick to learn new tricks and skills. She would do great in a home with a lot of space to run and get exercise.

Come and meet your new best friend today!



SAVE THESE DATES!
(more details coming soon)



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY ~ June 1, 9 AM
Clean-up at Saul's Creek, Katie 970-749-6303

BARN DANCE & SILENT AUCTION
June 9, 5:00-8:00, River Bend Ranch,
featuring the Tim Sullivan Band, sponsored by
Durango Cowboy Gathering

Buy tickets here:



MESA VERDE POKER RIDE ~ June 22
<https://mesaverdehorsemen.com>

4CBCH ANNUAL PICNIC ~ July 20, Noon
Eagle Park, Bayfield

DURANGO COWBOY GATHERING
October 2-6, lots of new events, including a
Horse Social on Main Street before the parade

AND... don't miss the monthly 4CBCH
membership meetings on the third Thursday
of each month! A delicious light dinner at
6:00 with a roundtable discussion at 6:30.
Come join us to share your ideas, get your
questions answered, meet new people, or set
up a ride. Who knows what will happen!

Are We Over-training Our Horses?

By Anna Blake, February 23, 2024

Here's a List of Fourteen Ways to Engage a
Horse's Curiosity (and not over-train):

Stop at the gate. Breathe. No, really do it. Take
three deep breaths, put a smile on your face as if it's
a job interview, and leave your mental trash on the
ground around your feet. Put only your best self
forward.

- Notice your body language. Is it different while training versus when you're mucking? Stick to the mucking persona; horses like it better.
- Do you change if you're being watched? Of course, so video yourself constantly. It helps with self-awareness and works like a lesson in listening when watched later.
- Rather than claiming all the space is yours, acknowledge the horse's primal need for space (non-collision.) Exhale an apology, step back, and notice his eye soften.
- Speak less with your hands and voice and more with your body. Seem less confusing or aggressive to horses.
- Care less about what you want and more about your horse's mental welfare. Because kindness makes training happen quicker.
- Become less demanding and more understanding. Adopt an affirmative listening attitude.
- Be less dominating and more of a partner. Allow your horse curiosity and choice.
- Build trust rather than sowing doubt. If the horse didn't do as you hoped, call it good. Ask a better question next time.
- Hang out less and intrigue a horse more. Be kindly ambitious. Focus and have a plan, not that you care.
- Forget complacency and be more interesting than grass. Lift your energy.
- Give more and take less. Let it be about the horse.
- Respect your horse's intelligence. Not as a joke, but like penance for those who didn't see it before.

Did you notice the list to engage a horse is all about you? Do you like yourself more already? Perfect. The horses will, too.

NATIONAL MUSTANG ASSOCIATION COLORADO



CAN YOU HELP?

- ◆ We are looking for pastures to possibly lease for pregnant mares that are removed from the park this year. Size of paddocks and pastures can vary, but preferably in Montezuma County or La Plata County.
- ◆ We are looking for pipe fences or panels at least 5' tall.
- ◆ Contact Bonnie Anderson at banderson@nmaco.org



Rodeo Dates:

Wed. May 29, 6:30 P.M. CPRA Rodeo

Wed. June 5, 6:30 P.M. CPRA Rodeo

Wed. June 12, 6:30 P.M. Open Rodeo

Wed. June 19, 6:30 P.M. Open Rodeo

Wed. June 26, 6:30 P.M. Open Rodeo

Wed. July 3, 6:30 P.M. PAFRA Open Rodeo

Friday July 5th, 7:00 P.M. Pro Bull Riding

Saturday July 6, 7:00 P.M. Pro Bull Fighting

Wed. July 10, 6:30 P.M. Open Rodeo

You can Purchase Tickets at the Gate or Online

If tickets are purchased online, please bring your ID and proof of ticket purchases (printed or digital tickets).

Gates open at 5pm ~ Rodeo starts at 6:30pm

Rodeo Tickets:

* Adult (18+): \$20

*Youth (5-17)/Senior (65+)/Military: \$18

4 & under: FREE



Special event tickets:

(July 5 and July 6 ~ Bull Riding & Bull Fights)
Gates Open at 5pm ~ Performance begins at 7pm

- Adult: \$35 before June 30 ~ \$45 after July 1
- Youth/Senior/Military: \$30 before June 30 \$40 after July 1

- VIP seat on the arena floor is \$85
- VIP table for 8 people on arena floor is \$650
- Arena Floor Standing Room Only is \$50

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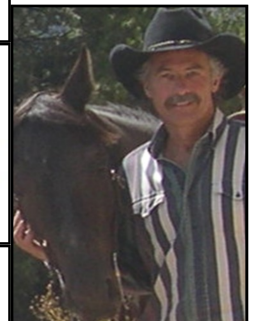
Equestrian Specialist



JON SHERER

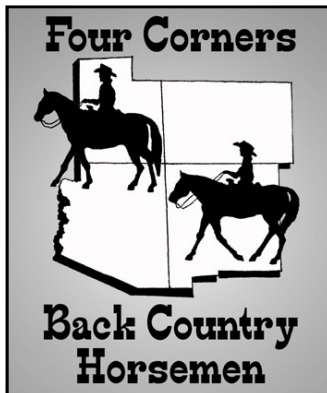


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www.4cbch.org



P.O. Box 3521
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Our Mission Statement:

1. To perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen organizations.

Please report your volunteer hours!

Go to www.4cbch.org and click on "Volunteer"
or contact Cindy at morincindy7@gmail.com

REMEMBER . . .

You can now pay your dues
online at 4cbch.org.

AND

A valid hunting or fishing license is
necessary in order to access any land
leased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
They can be purchased online at
cpw.state.co.us.