

HIGHLINE

June 2024

Vol. 30, No. 6

From the President's Pen

By Kathy Sherer

The next membership meeting on **June 20** will NOT be at the Grange. Instead, we have been invited to attend a saddle fitting clinic at the home of Lisa & Loren Skyhorse. This is a wonderful and rare opportunity to learn everything you didn't know you didn't know! See all the details on page 3 of this newsletter.

Our free clinics are for members only, but you still have time to join 4CBCH by going to www.4cbch.org. To reserve a spot in the saddle fitting clinic, email membership@4cbch.org.

Be sure to check out page 2 for a look at all we've been up to since May 18th:

- * Clinics for packing, hobbling & highlining
- * Trash cleanup on National Trails Day
- * Talking to bikers about trail etiquette
- * Give-aways for riding clinics

And there's more coming:

- * Spring Creek Horse Rescue tack sale
- * Rally for Mustangs dance & silent auction
- * Mesa Verde BCH poker ride
- * Pack support for other trail crews

See you somewhere!

4CBCH Summer Picnic

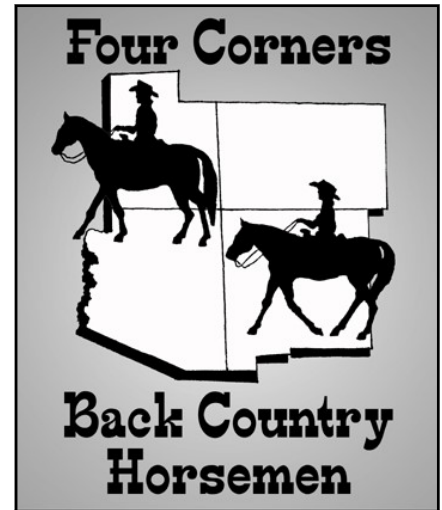
Join your friends under the pavilion in Eagle Park
(next to Bayfield Town Hall)

Saturday, July 20, Noon to 3:00 PM

Bring a dish to share

4CBCH will provide meat & drinks

RSVP to Kathy at jksherer1@outlook.com



Next Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 20

Saddle Fitting

with Lisa & Loren Skyhorse

details on page 3



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Contact the editor:

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



The Packing Clinic on May 18 at Bears Ranch had Shawn Greyeyes showing 20 members the ropes.



At the Hobble & Highline Clinic at the Sherer ranch on May 25, Steve Rodriquez had his hands full. 12 members watched as 8 others showed their horses the ropes. Donna Bailey won the drawing for a free ticket to the Wylene Wilson riding clinic.



The Saul's Creek cleanup June 1 on National Trails Day brought out 14 members and 3 non-members (who read about it on Facebook). Organizer Katie Minkler had a full truckload of trash. Todd Rodas filled his truck with bed springs & several rolls of barbed wire to take to Recla Metals. Two \$25 gift certificates to Basin Coop were given out.

Jon & Kathy Sherer (with Trigger & Dupree) were invited to a Durango Trails National Trails Day project at Dry Fork on June 1 to talk about bicycle/horse interaction on the trails.



Ten free audits and one free ticket to the Wylene Wilson Confidence Building & Horsemanship Clinic (May 31) were given away. Thank you to Allie Stones for hosting the event and donating the free audit passes to 4CBCH.

SADDLE FITTING CLINIC

with Lisa & Loren Skyhorse ~ making saddles for 50 years!

June 20, shop tour 5 PM, clinic starts at 6 PM

565 S. Lakeside Drive, Hesperus

See the scope of their work at www.skyhorse.com

Limit of 50 participants ~ 4CBCH members only

Join 4CBCH at <https://form.jotform.com/240496140586056>

Bring your saddle & pad if you're having problems

AUDIT only ~ no horses

Reserve a clinic spot by emailing membership@4cbch.org

Note: This clinic takes the place of the 4CBCH June membership meeting!

What will be covered in the clinic?

1. The tree ~ It is all about the tree!

- Rigid or flex or treeless
- Bars. . . ANGLE, length, shape, rocker, width (pressure area may differ from total length: 25" bar has 23.5" pressure)
- Wither tracing techniques
- Bars must extend behind cantle to allow for riders weight
- ANGLE has changed as horse growth & nutrition has changed
- Fit to horse, compare stationary vs dynamic (in motion)
- No matter the shape of saddle, the tree is the structure that carries the rider (frame on a backpack is like a sack of rocks)
- Clearance over withers and spine is critical ~ also space between skirts under the tree eases contact and allows for air circulation (Peruvian/Andes example)
- Three ways to sore a horse: shape, heat, movement (swish)

2. Rigging position ~ Where on your horse's back are you carried?

- Shape of skirts is less important than skirt length
- Why are some "roping" saddles rigged in FULL position?
- What is the purpose of the "flank cinch set"
- Explanation of: full, 7/8, 3/4, 5/8, center fire rigging, placement on the horse, comfort for the rider, security of the saddle, keeping the cinch out of the area behind the horse's front leg (girth area)

3. Saddle pads and shims:

- Natural fibers? Horse hair?
- Breathability (heat build-up)
- Discuss felt, foam, gel, air
- Cutback to allow more clearance? (don't forget the spine)
- Keeping pad in place under saddle (all horses move differently)

4. Common questions:

- Rear of saddle elevated without rider ~ rigging position too far forward ~ "downhill" horse ~ proper skirt blocking
- Position of the saddle (a horse carries weight better near the shoulder): easy test with fingers ~ looking for sweat patterns or "ruffed" up hair



OPEN HOUSE
Horse Adoption
Huge Tack &
Garage Sale

WHEN:
Friday & Saturday
June 21 & 22
9AM—4PM

LOCATION:
2888 County Road 234
Durango, CO 81301

Contact us:
www.springcreekhorserescue.org
springcreekhorserescue@yahoo.com
or on Facebook



RALLY  FOR MUSTANGS
 SUMMER BASH
 JUNE 22, 2024
 4PM TO 7PM



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INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
505-360-5996



233 NM 511, BLANCO NM

Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen ANNUAL POKER RIDE



Saturday, 22 June 2024



Check-in at 8:30am
Last rider out at 10:00am

Register at www.mesaverdehorsemen.com

Join us for camping June 21st-23rd

- *Certified weed free hay required
- *Camping fee \$10/site/weekend (portable restrooms available)
- *Saturday dinner and entertainment \$10/person
- *Minors welcome with accompanied adult
- *No dogs or stallions at the event

Event Location

Hamlin Reservoir

Directions from Mancos, CO:

North on Hwy 184 1 ¾ Miles,

Right turn on Road 41 for 4 Miles

to Forest Service (FS) Rd 385.

Stay on FS 385 another 2 Miles to Hamlin Reservoir.

CAUTION: Last 1½ Miles a bit rough in spots – go slow

GPS Coordinates: 37.441659N 108.28W



Prizes for Top Hands

\$20/hand

\$10/each additional hand

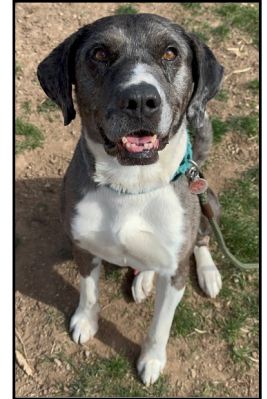
You don't have to ride to play!

Lunch Available \$13/person

DATES AT A GLANCE
FIND DETAILS IN THE NEWSLETTERS!



- SADDLE FITTING CLINIC ~ June 20**
- SPRING CREEK TACK SALE ~ June 21**
- RALLY FOR MUSTANGS ~ June 22**
- MESA VERDE POKER RIDE ~ June 22**
- VALLECITO CREEK PACKING ~ Mid-June**
- MESA VERDE POKER RIDE ~ June 22**
- GRANITE PEAKS PACKING ~ Mid-July**
- 4CBCH ANNUAL PICNIC ~ July 20**
- COLO TRAIL PACKING I ~ July 22-24**
- COLO TRAIL PACKING II ~ August 16-18**
- UPPER HERMOSA PACKING ~ September**
- E. CREEK TRAIL PROJECT ~ Date TBD**
- DGO COWBOY GATHERING ~ October 2-6**



Mayo is a 3-year-old Male Great Dane mix. He stands tall among other dogs here at the shelter. All heads turn when he strolls confidently into the kennel. He spends his time sniffing and exploring the play yard. He prefers the company of his humans more than other dogs, though he tolerates puppies like a really cool uncle!

Mayo would appreciate a calmer home with lots of walks or room to roam. He's an independent boy who is looking for a human to love him as much as he will love them. The entire staff loves Mayo and he's our go-to guy for adventures because he's so chill and easy-going.

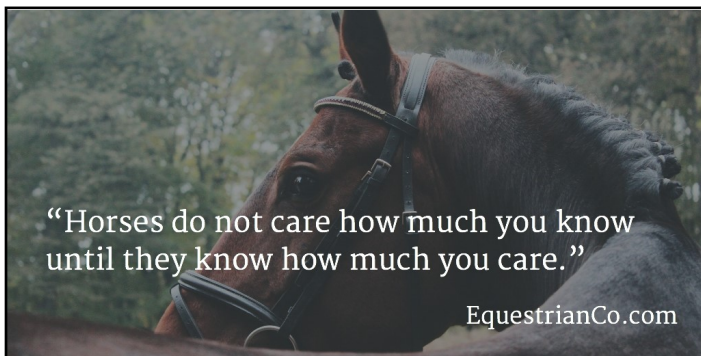


FCER Horse of the Month

Meet Rita! She is a 3-year-old mustang mare standing 13.3 hands high. Along with being mild-mannered, she is the most affectionate horse on the property and will follow you around for neck scratches.

We think she will make a great kids pony or a friendly companion to keep the pasture mowed.

For information about Rita or any of her friends here at FCER, please contact us at 505-334-7220 or visit www.fourcornersequinerecue.org.




Respect the Sweat by Dr. Kellon, VMD posted on May 30, 2024

Sweating causes prodigious losses of water and salt in a horse. Water loss can be as high as about 4 gallons/hour with heavy sweating and salt losses the equivalent of as much as 4 ounces of salt. The sodium in salt (sodium chloride) is absolutely essential for the horse’s body to be able to hold on to normal levels of water. Without adequate sodium/salt, regardless of how much water the horse drinks, they will not be able to retain a normal amount of water in the body. Hydration requires normal sodium levels to hold the correct amount of water.

The brain reads sodium levels in the blood to control when the horse is stimulated to drink. When water levels drop and sodium concentration rises, the horse is signaled to drink. However, before any changes in water or sodium levels in the blood can occur, the body will pull what it needs out of the tissues to maintain blood levels. This can, and does, result in severe dehydration at the tissue level before it shows up in the blood. The results of this include poor exercise tolerance, cramping, apparent weight loss (actually water loss) and increased risk of colic and heat stroke. Sweat production may decrease. Exercising horses and lactating mares are at particularly high risk.

To monitor for dehydration, do the skin pinch test. A fold of skin on the neck lifted up away from the body should snap back into place quickly when you let go. Somewhat more reliable is the capillary refill time. Press a finger firmly against the gum above the upper teeth. The white indentation this forms should return to a pink color again in 1.5 seconds or less.

Clean water must be available at all times and in unlimited amounts. Let the horse drink freely and as much as they want immediately after exercise. Have a salt block or loose coarse salt available at all times. Also add 2 to 3 ounces per day to grain feeds, dissolved and sprayed on hay or sprinkled onto moistened hay. If the horse is on less than 1% of body weight in hay per day, or if working an hour a day or more, also use an electrolyte product containing twice as much chloride as sodium and about half as much potassium as sodium.



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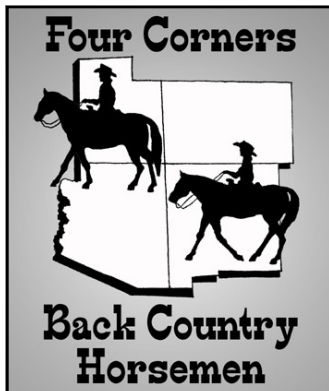


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www.4cbch.org



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

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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.
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cpw.state.co.us.