

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
OF AMERICA  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER  
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<http://middleriogrande.bchnm.org> takes you directly to our site  
<http://www.bchnm.org> takes you to the State Chapter home page



June 2010

### Chapter Notes

The weather is turning hot, so it's time to head for the mountains to cool off. Come to the next meeting to plan on going to your favorite mountain retreat. Get out on the trails and get those horses and mules in shape!

Happy Trails

CALENDAR		
Thur, 17 Jun	June Monthly Business Meeting Potluck at Fernandez Park in Los Lunas 6:00 PM	7:15 PM
Fri-Sun, 27-29 Aug	2010 BCHNM Rendezvous Ft Stanton, NM	

### Chapter Rules

At the last meeting there was a discussion about documenting some of the rules and guidelines that apply to Chapter events – like no dogs, stallions, smoking on the trail, etc. It seems they aren't well documented. A suggested set of guidelines and rules is attached. Be ready to discuss them at the meeting.

### May Training Rides

New member Sue Grant led a half dozen riders around Homestead Canyon on Saturday, May 8. This is in the area east of the El Malpai monument. Becky and a few hardy souls braved the winds on 23 May to ride around San Lorenzo Canyon. Call your friends and create a ride!

### 2010 Rendezvous Scheduled

The 2010 BCHNM Rendezvous is scheduled for 27-29 August at the BLM area around Ft Stanton. Ft Stanton is just east of Capitan, with lots of open space and great riding. Put it on your calendar. More details to follow.

### Country Supply Connection

Don't forget our partnership with Country Supply and the rebate that goes to the Chapter. Go to <http://www.countrysupply.com> and order as usual. When you check out, there is a box to enter our "Country Care" code - "mrgbchnm." Enter the code and the Chapter gets a contribution.



The Middle Rio Grande Chapter of the BCHA is a Non-profit partner supporting the Leave No Trace (LNT) Foundation and advocates for the seven principals of LNT.

## Ride Rules and Etiquette

- Riders bring their own food/snacks/water, as well as water for their horse (some locations will have water available).
- Riders must sign in with the Trail Boss at the trailhead; this sign-in will serve as a release. (And if someone gets lost, we'll know who it is ; )
- Appropriate equine headgear and saddles are required. Please bring a halter and leadrope so you can tie your horse when we stop for lunch.
- Barefoot horses are the responsibility of the individual rider.
- Never feel embarrassed to wear a helmet – it's *your* head you are protecting.
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The Trail Boss will choose a route and speed (usually paced to the least experienced rider) which will make a safe, fun ride for everyone. Remember, not everyone is an experienced rider, and most horses are not bomb proof. Before you think of going on a trail ride, you and your horse should have mastered the basic skills of stop, go, and turning in both directions; ability to cross water is helpful too. Check your tack to make sure it's in good repair. Let someone know where you are riding. Have ID on your person and on your saddle; carry your cell phone on your person – your horse can't use it should he run off with it in your saddlebags.

### Ride Etiquette

- Don't ride ahead of the Trail Boss – he/she knows where you're going.
- Stay in front of the Drag Rider – he/she's watching your back.
- Don't ride away when a rider is off their horse and/or trying to mount up. This can cause panic in the horse left behind.
- If you have to stop anywhere on the trail, inform the Trail Boss or the Drag Rider and the whole group will stop. The Trail Boss will then decide to either wait until the rider is ready to proceed, or to continue, leaving the disabled rider with the Drag Rider.
- If you want to pass the person in front of you, please give a warning alert, ie: "Passing left".
- Don't ride nose to tail; the horse in front may kick, your knee being in the prime "kick" zone.
- Tie a red ribbon in the tail of a known kicker.
- When climbing up or down a hill, keep a horse-length between your horse and the one in front; do not run up or down hills.
- At water crossings, leave room for horses to cross, but don't ride off until all horses have had a chance to drink and cross.
- Make sure all riders agree before trotting or cantering on the trail.
- If the ride is on marked trails, stay on the trail; on off-trail rides, try not to ride single file as that will create a trail.
- Leave gates as you find them. When you pass through a gate, turn your horse towards the gate and wait for the last rider to pass through.
- Show courtesy to others who share the trails.

### Thou Shalt Nots

- No alcohol or drugs on the trail
- No smoking
- No firearms allowed except those authorized by the Trail Boss
- No stallions
- No dogs
- No littering

Borrowed from Northern New Mexico Horseman's Association website.