



# LCHA Roundup

www.larimerhorseman.org

LARIMER COUNTY HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

August, 2025 0

## News: REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Judged Obstacle Challenge  
Saturday, September 20

Read about this fantastic event in the following articles.

## Exciting for 2025 -- Save the Date!

**What:** A Judged Obstacle Challenge consisting of 2 kinds of event:

- An in-hand event (leading your horse) in the arena
- An in-saddle event outside the arena.

You can chose to enter the in-hand event of 8 obstacles, the in-saddle (riding) event (with 8 other obstacles), or both events.

At each obstacle, you can also choose to take one of these levels:

- Novice, or
- Intermediate, or
- Advanced.

Do one event or both, at whatever path you choose – whatever is fun and comfortable for you.

At this obstacle last year, our horses met a two-headed dragon.



*The dragon sat in the middle of the barrel.*

## Details

**When:** September 20, 2024.

**Where:** Raven's Roost Ranch, Wellington, Co. (Relax, it's an easy drive from anywhere.)

*See "Details continued" on page 2*

## *In this month's issue . . .*

Exciting for 2025 -- Save the Date! .....	page 1
WHO CAN JOIN IN THE FUN? YOU CAN !!! .....	page 2
What Fun? This Fun, Different – Don't Miss It... ..	page 2
Join Us .....	page 4
Judged Obstacle Challenge: What's New This Year?.....	page 5
Everybody Can Help .....	page 5
Events – August and September .....	page 6
June Ride at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.....	page 8
A Great Sundance Ride .....	page 8
Classified Ads .....	page 9
The Card Shop .....	page 10
Sign Up for Your Event.....	page 11

*Details continued*

**Why:** Fund Raising Event for LCHA.

**Who:** LCHA and horse-loving public.

**What's needed now:** Volunteers to make this event fun, a time to learn, and a fundraising success.

If you can help, please contact Sherry V. at 517.852.3458 or at sherryevaughn@outlook.com. We need help organizing: directing parking, registering folks and horses, judging, with lunch, and other details.

## WHO CAN JOIN IN THE FUN? *YOU CAN !!!*

**ANY horse people.** Any age. Any riding level (beginner, intermediate, or advanced). Any horse breed.

Anybody who would like to know how well they know their horse, and wants to have fun learning what they might not know yet.

## What Fun? This Fun, Different – Don't Miss It

Yes, we will repeat this type of LCHA activity this year.

**Remember this:**

### What? Judged Obstacle Trail Challenge

**When? Saturday, September 20**

**Where? RAVENS' Roost Ranch,  
16687 N County Road 9, Wellington**

**What In The World Is a Judged Obstacle Trail  
Challenge?**

It is a way to have fun with your horse. You can test yourself and your horse through obstacles.

*See "Obstacle?" on page 2?*

*Obstacle?*

Obstacle? Yes.

## Types of Obstacle -- In Hand

- You are on foot
- Halter and lead rope required
- You lead your horse through these obstacles.

At each obstacle you can choose one of three levels, each level increasing in difficulty.

### Here Is an example:

Maze and Pivot:



The obstacle is a pattern of poles.

Level 1: Novice: Walk horse through the maze.

Level 2: Intermediate: Walk horse through the maze, before exit turn on forehand (hind end yield), and then back through the exit.

Level 3: Advanced: Walk horse to mid-point of maze, then turn on forehand 180 degrees at midpoint, and then back the rest of the maze.

The judge will record the difficulty level you chose, and the points you and your horse achieved at that obstacle.

Some of the obstacles are relatively easy; others, not so much. It depends on you and your horse, the skills you have built together, and the trust you have in each other.

There will be 8 in-hand obstacles.

*See "In Saddle" on page 3*

## Types of Obstacle -- In Saddle

- You are mounted.
- Saddle and reins required.
- You ride through the obstacles.

At each obstacle you can choose one of three levels, each level increasing in difficulty.

### Here Is an example:

Ranch Gate



*Sorry, the gate in this picture is not the gate in the challenge.*

Level 1 Ride to the gate and touch it with your hand.

Level 2 Open the gate and ride through it.

Level 3 Open the gate, ride through it, and close it.

The judge will record the difficulty level you chose, and the score you and your horse achieved at that obstacle.

Some of the obstacles are relatively easy; others, more difficult. It depends on you and your horse, the skills you have built together, and the trust you have in each other.

There will be 8 in-saddle obstacles. Obstacle number 6, Gambler's Choice, is likely to be the most fun of all.

### Sign Up Now

It's not too late (of course not, yet). It's also not too early. **We encourage you to sign up (register) online.**

To register for either the in-hand, in saddle, or both sets of obstacles:

Go to the LCHA web site: <https://www.larimerhorseman.org>

On the home page, You will find A copy of the flyer, followed by

*See "On Home Page -- continued" on page 4*

LCHA Roundup is a newsletter of the  
Larimer County Horseman's Association  
(LCHA), P.O. Box 270375, Fort Collins, CO  
80527-0375.

Editor: Hugh Templeton, 970-622-0982  
hughtmpltn@gmail.com

The LCHA Board of Directors:

Officers

President, Susan Kurzweil, .....970-619-0966  
Vice President, Rachael Cohen .....720-273-4798  
Secretary, Sherry Vaughn, .....517-852-3458  
Treasurer, Pati Morel.....'970-488-0041

Committee Managers and Members at Large

Jean Beucler, Member at Large.....970-231-2219  
Karen Muhler, Member at Large.....303-324-5454  
Janet Pancoast, Member at Large .....970-391-9718  
Annette Price, Member at Large .....970-785-9090  
Gary Sibert, Member at Large .....517-852-4486  
Bonnie Templeton, Member at Large .....970-622-0982  
Hugh Templeton, Member at Large .....970-622-0982

If you have ideas, comments, or questions about LCHA, horses,  
the horse industry in Larimer County, or this newsletter, send  
them to the editor.

## Register Early: Save time and Money

Spectators welcome, no charge.

**LCHA JUDGED OBSTACLE CHALLENGE REGISTER HERE**

## Downloads

Download pdf flyer for posting. Download png flyer for sharing on Facebook, Download waiver to bring with you to event.

2025 Flyer for LCHA Obstacle  
Trail Challenge (pdf)

**DOWNLOAD**

2025 Flyer for LCHA Obstacle  
Trail Challenge\_1 (png)

**DOWNLOAD**

Joint waver (pdf)

**DOWNLOAD**

## Join Us

Use the **LCHA JUDGED OBSTACLE  
CHALLENGE REGISTER HERE**

button to register for the Obstacle Challenge>

Yes, you can register on site, On site Registration opens at 8:00 AM Mountain Time and closes at 10:00 AM Mountain Time. If you register on site, you will need to pay by cash or check.

You might be surprised at what your horse will or won't do. You might be delighted (or dismayed) at some of the surprises.

**Come. Find out. September 20 at the LCHA  
JUDGED OBSTACLE TRAIL CHALLENGE.**



# Judged Obstacle Challenge: What's New This Year?

## Times

Early arrival is open at 7:30 AM.

On site registration opens at 8:00 AM and closes at 10:00 AM.

## Obstacles

**Most**, if not all, the **obstacles are new** this year. The final in-saddle obstacle, Gambler's Choice, lets you choose from among several obstacles – some easier than others – that you want to face. You will have an allotted time to complete the obstacles you choose. It will be fun to ride, and to watch – that's for your fan base to have fun as well. By the way, spectators are free.

## Food Truck

Yes, we will have a **FOOD TRUCK** for you. SpicygirlSCO.com offers a variety of street tacos. Many of the tacos and other offerings include gluten free choices. We will provide drinks and desserts.

You can have lunch when you complete your in-hand, in-saddle, or both, sets of obstacles. You can lunch when you get hot and tired. You can lunch when the competitor you came to watch is finished.

We will provide shade, not in the barn but under canopies.

## Scoring and Awards

We have greatly improved our scoring so that it will be complete in the afternoon. So, we will have an **AWARDS CEREMONY AT 2:00 PM**. Competitors and their fans can see how they did in the challenge, and can read the judges' comments on their work

# Everybody Can Help

## Need Helpers

The Judged Obstacle Trail Challenge is a big event. **We need volunteers.**

Hey, it is a day of fun, meeting new people, and making a difference. And it is free to volunteers. How can you ask for anything more?

**Join us** for the Judged Obstacle Challenge, Saturday, September 20, at Ravens' Roost Ranch, 16667 County Road 9, Wellington. Don't worry, it is an easy drive from almost anywhere in the county, and the day is well worth the trip.

## Spread the Word

The Obstacle Trail Challenge is going to be both a fun and a learning experience, but only if people come. We have to get the word out.

Can each of you please post the flyer on all of your social media sites? You can download the flyer from <https://www.larimerhorseman.org>. If you post to social media, use the **.png** flyer downloaded from the LCHA website. Use the PDF file to print flyers and post them in barns, etc.



*Use YOUR social media skills to promote the LCHA JUDGED OBSTACLE CHALLENGE by posting the flyer on your site.*

*See "Share" on page 6*

### Share

Can you share the information with your friends and contacts? Other organizations that you are connected with?

If each of us spreads the word, it will be successful.

## Events – August and September

### AUGUST

#### Friday, August 15 – Trail Ride, Lone Pine State Wildlife Area

Arrive 10:00, Ride 10:30

Walk, Trot, Gait, Bring lunch

Lone Pine is part of the Cherokee Park State Wildlife Area (CPSWA). It is located 20 miles north of Ft Collins. Follow Highway 287 to Red Feather Lakes Rd (CTY RD 74E), and then 8 miles west to the parking area on the right.

CPSWA consists of 6654 acres (10.4 sq miles) and ranges from 6071 ft to 7724 ft in elevation. It offers diverse landscapes of meadows, creek bottoms, riparian areas, rugged and rocky outcrops, and forested areas.

Plan on riding approximately 6-8 miles. Be prepared to cross a river (as shown in the picture). You might even see a rattlesnake. Remember... they don't *want* to hurt you: they just want to be left alone!

The terrain is steep and rocky in places: shoes or boots highly recommended.

**NOTE:** Coggins Test required.

Contact Bonnie May at 970-217-1113



#### Saturday, August 23 – Mount Margaret

Arrive 10:00, Ride 10:30

Walk, Trot, Gait, Bring your lunch

The Mt. Margaret Trail offers an easy and scenic trip along old roadbeds through meadows, granite outcroppings, and ponderosa pine forest. Most of this trail is on an old roadbed where the path is wide, well-worn, and easy to follow. The trail crosses South Lone Pine Creek then meanders through meadows, sparse stands of lodgepole and ponderosa pine trees, and granite outcroppings. Often following old logging roads, the trail passes through an area known as Five Points, which is the intersection of five roads/trails. At least one trail originates in Dowdy Lake Campground, and others are loops off the main trail. The trail continues past Five Points for nearly two miles to the base of Mount Margaret overlooking a deep canyon, North Lone Pine Creek and the Prairie Divide Road.



**NOTE:** Coggins Test required.

Contact -- ride leader to be determined

## September

### Thursday, September 4, Educational Meeting

Speakers:

7 to 9 PM

Location to be determined

Watch your email and text for information

### Saturday, September 6– Trail Ride, Beaver Meadows Resort Ranch

Arrive 10:00, Ride 10:30

Walk, Trot, Gait, Bring your lunch

Starting at 8,500 feet elevation, the trail system consists of 20+ miles of scenic mountain trails into the Roosevelt National Forest and include river crossings. Trails are mostly packed earth, but may include some steep and/or rocky areas.



**NOTE:** Coggins Test required.

RSVP by Thursday, August 7th to Pati Morel at 970-488 0041

### Friday, September 12, Ramsay-Shockey Open Space

Arrive 10:00, Ride 10:30

Walk, Trot, Gait

Bring your lunch

177 acres of ponderosa pine and mixed shrubs on moderately steep slopes, with rocky, shallow soils and interesting rock outcrops provide incredible vistas and wide open spaces. Here are habitat and movement routes for many kinds of wildlife, and if you keep a sharp eye out, you will most likely see signs of elk or deer.

The trail offers 4 miles of natural surface.



**NOTE:** Coggins Test required.

Contact Susan Kurzweil at 970-669-0966.

Parking is limited at the trail head. Your ride leader will arrange trailer pooling, if possible.

### Saturday, September 20, Judged Obstacle Challenge

Ravens' Roost Ranch

16687 N County Road 9

Wellington, CO

The biggest, most important event of the year. See the articles on pages 1 through 5, and then come to the Judged Obstacle Challenge, either as a volunteer or as a participant. See you there.

**NOTE:** Coggins Test required.



# June Ride at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

Seven LCHA Members rode on Friday evening, June 13th at Bobcat Ridge:

## Riders on Horses

Karen Finfer on Suave,  
Laurie Huckabee on Angel,  
Dr. Cynthia Van Farowe on Marley,  
Tatiana riding Cowboy,  
Sarah (Dr. Cindy's daughter) riding my horse, Magic,  
Karen McGee riding Walker  
and myself on Romeo.

It's the first time ever that all my horses have gone on a trail ride together!

## Evening Ride

The evening was beautiful, with perfect temperatures and pretty skies. All the horses were well behaved, and Karen Finfer did a great job leading us.



Toward the end of the ride, one dark cloud came over us and decided to rain. Therefore, we chose to trot the last bit of the ride and again, Karen did a great job and we all arrived happy, but a little wet at the trailers. By the time we had unsaddled, the rain was gone and we enjoyed our picnic dinners in the sunshine.

*See "Night Sky" on page 8*

## Night Sky

A Volunteer Ranger Assistant named Bob came over and thanked us for using the facility and announced that they were setting up telescopes for night sky viewing. If you have never attended this FREE event, make sure you give it a try!!! Amazing!!

Our group also talked about planning a day ride to Vedauwoo outside of Cheyenne, WY. We would all have to have Coggins tests and Health Certificates, but it would be fun to see the amazing rock formations there. Let me know if you are interested.

Thanks to everyone who attended!

1. Susan Kurzweil

**Editor's Note:** The Sundance Trail Guest Ranch ride is a PREMIERE ride for LCHA. It is really good to have a report of the positive experiences of the riders. Thanks to Bonnie May, who arranged the ride with Sundance Trail Guest Ranch, and who wrote this review for us to enjoy..

## A Great Sundance Ride

5 1/2 miles and 47 flights.

That's how far we LCHA folks rode the trails at the Sundance Guest Ranch today - June 29, 2025.

Great ride with great horses and riders:

Pati & Chuck Morel  
Greg & Bonnie May  
Jean Beucler  
Donna Ott  
Lisa Stroyan  
Michael Ebrecht  
Mary Ann Brunson





*Yes, the trail had its ups and downs*

Lunch was a barbecue brisket sandwich and sides at the lodge.

Wonderful day with gorgeous weather and wild flowers in full bloom.



*A brief pause for a group photo*

Thanks to Sundance Trail Guest Ranch for hosting the ride, and to our awesome wranglers, Sarah and Remi.

Thanks to Lisa Stroyan, who shared these great pictures of the Sundance Trail Guest Ranch ride.

Bonnie May

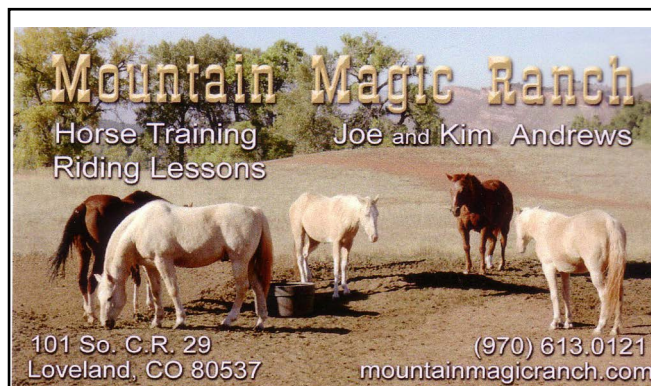
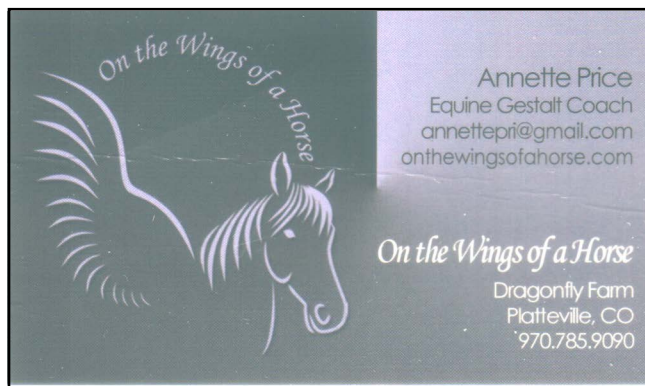
## Classified Ads

At **Mountain Magic Ranch**, Joe and Kim Andrews stress safety, balance, communication, and unity. We provide foundation training for young & old horses, and young & not so young humans. Our lessons build a proper foundation through the use of proper ground work exercises that prepare you and your horse for correct balance, movement, and better use of self. To receive a wealth of knowledge, call today for private lessons at MMR and/or your location. Also barefoot trimming by Joe. Contact us at 970-613-0121 [www.mountainmagicranch.com](http://www.mountainmagicranch.com)

**Larimer County Horseman's Association** is looking for new members to join in the equestrian fun. Are you looking for some real horsey friends for rides, education, and community events? If so, we would like very much for you to join us. Check our website at [www.larimerhorseman.org](http://www.larimerhorseman.org) or go to our Facebook page for more information at [www.facebook.com/larimerhorseman](http://www.facebook.com/larimerhorseman) We are a non-profit and we also love new volunteers. Happy Trails!

Classical Horsemanship <https://www.classhorsemanship.com/> 970-215-3330  
[msorentino@classhorsemanship.com](mailto:msorentino@classhorsemanship.com) **Classical Horsemanship** <https://www.classhorsemanship.com/> 970-215-3330  
[msorentino@classhorsemanship.com](mailto:msorentino@classhorsemanship.com) 2546 Boettcher Farm Ct, Fort Collins, CO 80524

# The Card Shop







Megan Sorentino  
Riding Instructor & Horse Trainer  
<https://www.classhorsemanship.com/>  
970-215-3330



CLASSICAL HORSEMANSHIP  
*Harmony with Horses*

## Sign Up for Your Event

**Please! Please! Please! Sign up for events in advance (especially events that involve riding):**

- For any weekend ride, sign up by the end of Thursday before the ride.
- For any week day ride, sign up at least two days in advance.
- For some events, earlier sign-up may be required.

## Why?

If we need to cancel an event, your ride leader can get in touch with you to let you know before you drive to the location so you won't use gasoline or time waiting for an event that isn't going to happen. Also, your event leader needs to know if anyone is coming: If no one signs up, the leader may cancel or reschedule the event. And, if you have any special concerns or circumstances (for example, it is your horse's first ride with a group), your leader can plan to deal with the situation in the best possible way.

## What's the Deal with "Limit"?

Wilderness areas, properties owned by the city of Fort Collins, and Red Mountain Open Space have a "12-heartbeat rule": a group cannot include more than 12 heartbeats when using trails in these areas:

6 riders (heartbeats) +  
6 horses (heartbeats).

However, if we have significantly more than 6 riders who want to ride, we can split them into 2 or more groups, each group including 6 riders (1 ride leader plus 5 others). The second group must leave the trail head 20 to 25 minutes after the first so that they do not merge with the first group.

When "Limit" is 4 horse trailers, it means that the parking space can hold only 4 horse trailers (tightly packed). However, we encourage "trailer pooling" if more than 4 people want to go on the ride. Actually, we encourage "trailer pooling" for any ride. The benefits are obvious.

For all rides except the Christmas Caroling on Horseback, bring your lunch (unless your ride leader tells you otherwise). You will have lunch somewhere on the trail.

## LCHA Educational Programs

LCHA offers a program meeting on the First Thursday of each month, except June, July, August, and December. Occasionally, program meetings occur on different days, at different times, and at different locations. All members and the public are invited to any program meeting. We usually meet at the McKee 4H Building at The Ranch, but some meetings occur at different locations. Watch your newsletter and email for further information about meetings.

We recommend attending programs in person. We also try to present the programs in Zoom, but cannot guarantee that viewers will see items shown by presenters: we recommend attending these programs in person,

Program meetings typically run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.



# LCHA Roundup



Larimer County Horseman's  
Association

P.O. Box 270375

Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-0375

---

53 Years of Service

A decorative horizontal line consisting of a series of small, overlapping, wavy shapes, resembling a stylized wave or a series of small humps.