



# LCHA Roundup

## LCHA – Alive and Well



Yes, LCHA is doing well, as indicated by events of Saturday, June 14. The events were

- Saddle Fit Clinic, led by Joe Andrews
- Potluck Picnic, with barbecued ribs cooked by Gary Sibert and lots of luscious sides
- Dessert Auction, with an entire table laded with wonderful desserts
- Annual Meeting, with discussions and elections.

### Saddle Fit Clinic

For many years, Joe Andrews has used his knowledge of proper saddle fit to help people fit saddles to their horses. Before he started talking about saddles and horses, he showed two devices that demonstrated the pressure we put on the horse's mouth when we use a snaffle bit or curb bit with long shank.

He opened by talking of the horse's conformation, pointing out the various areas on the horse that affect how the saddle fits. For example, he pointed out the size and angle of the withers, the horse's long or short back, and several other features on the horse.

He then started with a saddled horse, asking that the owner remove the saddle so that all could see the horse's conformation features, and then placed the saddle on the horse without a pad, gently moving it until it settled onto the spot where it would fit best.

Joe then explained to the owner, and all of us, what to look for when fitting the saddle; for example, space between the front of the saddle and the withers and shoulder, a channel between the center of the saddle and the spine, and others.

He then asked the owner to remove the saddle, place a pad, and tack up the horse. The owner then walked the horse a short distance, and made a sharp turn to return to Joe. He explained what he looked for in the walk and turn.

*See "Other Factors" on page 1*

### Other Factors

Joe pointed out several other factors in saddle fit that may or may not affect a way a specific saddle fits a specific horse, and told us what to look for on our own horses.

He worked through saddle fit for 7horses (one owner brought two horses) and one mule. He carefully talked about horse/mule differences, and how they affect fit on mules.

It was an excellent clinic, and all who attended gained valuable information about fitting their saddles to their horses.

### Potluck Picnic

Our hosts, Sherry Vaughn and Gary Sibert, have a new barn. It has a large open space on one side, and several horse stalls on the other side. The large open space is large enough for all of us (nearly 30 people) plus several long tables arranged in a U shape around the sides and closed end of the barn, and all our chairs.

*See "Barn Advantages" on page 2*

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### *Barn Advantages*

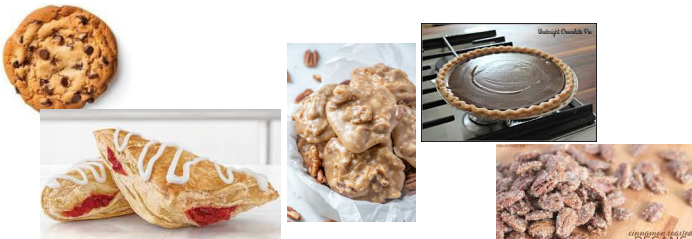
It offers several advantages: it offered shade, protection from rain (we did have a short sprinkle of rain), and enough space for all of our attendees to be in one place for the meeting where we could all speak and be heard.

Gary had smoked and barbecued ribs for the meat for all of use, and LCHA had arranged for some fried chicken for those could not eat the meat. They were on a couple of long tables along with a dizzying array of delightful sides (salads, baked beans, etc.).



*These are only examples. Our table had a lot of different food, all of it very good.*

On other tables were the desserts being auctioned, and another table held a selection of beverages from water to iced tea to lemonade, and others.



*Yes, we had many desserts in the auction. These are only examples of some of them. It was a dessert lover's paradise.*

Needless to say, as is typical of most potluck meals, the food was fantastically delicious. Of course, we had more food than we could possibly eat. But we tried.

We ate. We talked. We laughed. We had a great meal.

*See "Annual Meeting" on page 2*

### *Annual Meeting*

## Annual Meeting

About the time most of us were finishing our lunch, President Susan Kurzweil called our annual meeting to order. She started the meeting by giving a recap of many of the events of the 2023/2024 year. She then introduced Pati Morel, who presented a proposed budget for 2024/2025. Some discussion and questions followed.

We then moved to elections. As Vice President, Bonnie Templeton had the job of presenting the ballots. She introduced each person on the ballot, explaining that only one position has two people nominated for election: President – Susan Kurzweil and Bonnie May. All other positions had only one nominee. The remaining persons on the ballot were

- Vice President - Bonnie Templeton
- Secretary -- Sherry Vaughn
- Treasurer - Pati Morel

Member at Large:

- Rachael Cohen
- Karen Finfer
- Lucinda Loudon
- Annette Price
- Gary Sibert
- Hugh Templeton

Bonnie then counted the ballot while the meeting progressed to these discussions. Results – Susan Kurzweil won the presidency by a large margin. All others were elected unanimously.

## Trail Maintenance

Hugh presented the current schedule of trail maintenance trips to Lion Gulch (June 29, July 13, and August 3). He announced that he is retiring from the position of Trail Maintenance Coordinator effective August 4. LCHA will need to find a new Trail Maintenance Coordinator.

Do we need to maintain trails? Several people pointed out that in other Areas, equestrians and their organizations who do not work with landowners to keep trails, lose their access to those trails.

*See "Older Membership" on page 3*

### Older Membership

We also discussed that LCHA has a declining population of people young enough to do trail work, and heard several ideas on how to enlist younger people to help us maintain trails. The consensus seemed to be that LCHA *must* continue to maintain trails. However, we may change trails that we care for. Stay tuned.

## Communication

We changed to another topic: How should the Board of Directors, among others, communicate to LCHA members?

- Text?
- Email?
- Phone Calls?
- Newsletter

The consensus was this:

- People appreciate getting texts that tell them of upcoming events, but do not want to be flooded with them
- Most people do read their emails from LCHA
- Phone calls are old
- Most people read their newsletter, but sometimes forget what they read.

Overall, texts plus emails are most effective.

## Dessert Auction

The group then descended on the table with all the desserts, writing their bids for each. When bidding was complete, winning bidders could take their dessert(s) home, or share them with meeting attendees.

At that point, people began picking up their dishes, dessert(s), chairs, and anything else they needed to take home with them. And attendees started to disappear until most were gone except for the few who stayed to clean up, remove tables, and pack their cars/trucks to go home.

## Good Day

It was a very good day. People left with positive thoughts on LCHA operations from the past year and for the next year.

## Events – July and August

### July

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 6 – Trail Ride, Lone Pine**

Arrive 10:00 AM, ride 10:30 AM

Walk/Trot/Gait

Bring lunch

*See "July 6, 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.

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Annette Price, Member at Large .....970-785-9090  
Gary Sibert, Member at Large .....517-852-4486  
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.

*July 6, Continued*



Contact Pati Morel at 970-488-0041

**SATURDAY, JULY 13 – Trail Stewardship, Lion Gulch Trail**

Arrive 8:30 AM, start at 9:00 AM

We need **at least 10 volunteers** for this trail stewardship day.

We provide tools. Bring lunch.

Above the second bridge is a grade. Near the top of the grade the trail has a switchback turn. Just before the turn, a difficult step has degraded. We will rebuild the step.

Just above the switchback turn, a large flat rock tilts steeply enough that it is difficult to cross, especially on horses with shoes that could easily slip to the side. A forest service team will operate a machine that will chip enough of the tilted rock to make a level path across it to make it safer to cross for hikers and horses.

If time permits and if we have enough volunteers on the trail, LCHA teams will remove brush and overhanging limbs from the trail corridor.

Contact Hugh Templeton at 970-800-1750

*See “July 20” on page 4*

*July 20*

**SATURDAY, JULY 20 – Trail Ride, Mt Margaret**

Arrive 10:00, ride 10:330

Walk/Trot/Gait

Bring lunch



Contact Janet Pancoast at 970-484-1976

**August**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 – Trail Stewardship, Lion Gulch Trail, near Estes Park**

Arrive 8:30 AM, start at 9:00 AM

We need **at least 10 volunteers** for this trail stewardship day.



*See all these rocks? We are going to reroute the trail around this rocky rise, to make this trail safe for all.*

*See “Tools” on page 5*

### *Tools*

We provide tools. Bring lunch.

Contact Hugh Templeton at 970-800-1750

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 – Trail Ride, Mt Margaret**

Arrive 10:00, ride 10:330

Walk/Trot/Gait

Bring lunch



*Yes, we can ride to where we can view this beautiful sight*

Contact Janet Pancoast at 970-484-1976

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 – Trail Ride, Hermit Park**

Arrive 10:00, ride 10:330

Walk/Trot/Gait

Bring lunch

*See “Limber Pine” on page 5*

### *Limber Pine*



*Yes, the Limber Pine trail in Hermit Park Open Space has lots of fun and beauty.*

Contact Karen Finfer at 303-928-9973

## Beautiful Sundance Trail Guest Ranch Ride

LCHA friends had a wonderful day riding at the Sundance Guest Ranch Memorial Day weekend ride.



*See “Sundance” on page 6*

*Sundance**Photos by Bonnie May*

## Lush Hills Greet Eagles' Nest Riders

On Saturday, June 8th, I led a wonderful and fun group of horses and their owners to the Eagles' Nest Open Space for a gorgeous two-hour ride. I, Karen Finfer, rode my horse Suave. Bonnie May rode Rio, Greg May rode Amigo, Susan Kurzweil rode Romeo, Vivi rode Scout, Pati Morel rode Joely, and Chuck Morel rode Happy.

The hills were alive with such beautiful flowers and green grass everywhere. The late spring rains have really kept the hills lush and just gorgeous.

*See "Eagles Nest Ride Pics" on page 6*

*Eagles Nest Ride Pics**Photos by Chuck Morel*

We only rode for two hours, as there was a thunderstorm threatening above. We ate lunch at our trailers and loaded the horses. As soon as we hit Highway #287 the skies opened up and we got hit with a heck of a rainstorm! Luckily no one got soaked and as soon as we landed home, the rain subsided. Thank you Mother Nature for giving us those two great hours!!!

Pati Morel mentored me and she did a fine job making sure I got it all right! I am excited about becoming a trail ride leader! See you on the trail!

Happy Trails,  
Karen Finfer

# Reminder

## Time To Renew Membership

Our Membership Year Starts on June 1 and goes to May 31.

## Already a Member? We Want You Back

And it is time for renewal.

Yes, it's true for the Larimer County Horseman's Association (LCHA).



The LCHA membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. Therefore, your dues cover the period from June 1 through May 31. Since many organizational years coincide with

the calendar year, we tend to forget that the LCHA year differs. We also forget to renew our membership in May or June.

That is why LCHA sends a post card to members reminding them to renew their membership and continue to enjoy the many benefits of LCHA membership. Check out the list below.

You don't really want to miss all the benefits of membership, do you? We don't want to you miss them, either. We want you back. Renew your membership.

## Special Note

You can pay your renewal dues online with your credit card. See the article *Option to Pay Membership Online* in this issue.

See "New Members" on page 7

## New Members

## New Members

What a great time to recruit some new members. I'm sure most of us know folks who have horses, and who are not yet LCHA members. Why not ask them to join us? After all, LCHA offers a lot of benefits to members:



- Network with Horse People!
- Trail Rides (geared toward all levels of riders)
- Annual Picnic, Parades, Play Day, Camp Out, Christmas Party, Christmas Caroling on Horseback!
- Programs, Seminars, Training Activities
- Monthly Newsletter, "The LCHA Roundup," Online or in print

- Discounts with local businesses (see the Business Members list on the web site)
- Exposure for Business Members
- Trail Maintenance. Provide good stewardship of the trails we ride.
- Large Animal Emergency Evacuation Team.
- Temporary Shelter.

Note: For both the emergency evacuation team and the temporary shelter program, LCHA works with Northern Colorado Back Country Horsemen.

You can take this list with you or add some positive points. Let folks know what you like about LCHA, and tell of a great experience you have had with us. Remember, it is only \$24 per year for an individual or \$36 per year for a family – well worth it for anyone.

Ask your friends. Ask your neighbors. Ask anyone.

Let's get some new members.

## Business Members

There is an exception. LCHA is, as officially formed, a 501C3 business. When dealing with business members, we will no longer send a post card reminder. Instead, we will send an invoice (many businesses respond only to invoices) so that both LCHA and its business members can maintain records of the transaction.

## Renewing Membership

The LCHA membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. **It is time to renew your membership for the 2024-2025 membership year**

### Payment Options

Members have options for paying membership dues:

#### Pay by Check

- Download and print the form from the LCHA web site at [www.larimerhorseman.org](http://www.larimerhorseman.org)
- Write your check.
- Send your check (for the amount listed on the form) with a membership form (A.K.A. "application form") to LCHA, P.O. Box 270375, Fort Collins, CO. 80527-0375 You can also bring your check to a meeting or the annual picnic or give it to a Board member.

#### Pay Online

- Go to the LCHA web site at [www.larimerhorseman.org](http://www.larimerhorseman.org)
- Click **JOIN** (on the top of the page)
- Then click **PAY ONLINE**
- Click **Tickets**
- Fill out the information form and click complete order
- You will see a button for additional questions. Please click the button and answer the questions so that we have complete information for your membership.

LCHA does not have the capability to process payments and provide security for your credit information. A third party company provides that service, for which it will add a small service charge. If you want to avoid the service charge, you can still pay by check or cash.

But don't forget. **We want you back.**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**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](https://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)  
2546 Boettcher Farm Ct, Fort Collins, CO 80524



# The Card Shop

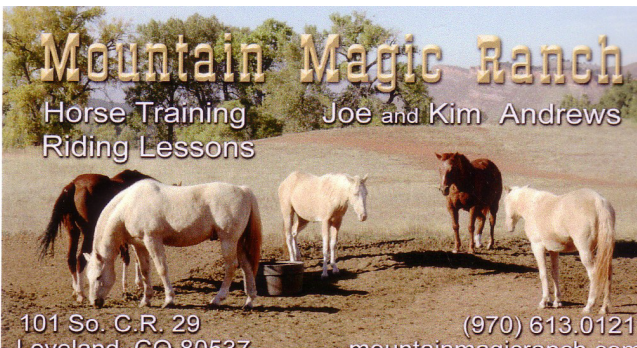


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## Sign Up for Your Event

**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. 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.



**No matter how you do it, sign up**

### 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.

When riding our horses, the rule limits our groups to 6 riders (plus 6 horses with hearts) to meet the 12-heartbeat rule. 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.

*See "Limit" on page 11*

### *Limit*

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 are invited, and the public is invited, to any program meeting. We meet at the McKee 4H Building at The Ranch.

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

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

Before each educational meeting the LCHA newsletter, *LCHA Roundup*, will publish program details.

## **LCHA Board Of Directors Meetings**

The Larimer County Horseman’s Association Board of Directors meets on the second Friday of every month, except December. All Board meetings are open to all LCHA members and to the public.

# LCHA Roundup



Larimer County Horseman's  
Association  
P.O. Box 270375  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-0375

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52 Years of Service

