

in this issue >>>

- *Meet Your Board*
- *February Special Guest*
- *Advertiser Highlight*
- *Upcoming General Meeting*
- *SAVE THE DATE*



4cbch.org

FEBRUARY 2025

HIGHLINE

P.O Box 3521
Durango, CO
81302

From the President's Pen

Hello everyone!

As February is wrapping up and spring is approaching things at 4CBCH are going to start ramping up.

There are some exciting things coming in 2025 and I hope you all are ready. Keeping in mind that the main mission of 4CBCH is hammering out the rights of equestrian men and women on public lands, cleaning up trails in the Four Corners region and bringing like-minded people together. Though we are not technically a riding club, the board and I believe the best way to keep our mission alive is through fun events to get people together.

There are plans for more clinics, picnics, trail clean ups, and social rides coming soon. Make sure to get your horses and yourselves legged up for an exciting season!

Andrew Carroll



Make sure to
check out
SAVE THE DATE
information below!



**THANK
YOU
BEN
BAIN!**

FEBRUARY SPECIAL GUEST

On February 20, 2025, we were happy to host Ben Bain, Weed Manager at the La Plata County Weed office, as our Special Guest.

Ben presented a very informative presentation on weed management, weed management goals for the county and enforcement policies. He provided resources and vital information about poisonous and noxious weeds, eradication processes and enforcement procedures for La Plata County.

If you have any questions about a site visit to assess your weed situation, information about weed mitigation assistance programs or weed management enforcement, please contact the La Plata County Weed Office:

2500 Main Ave, Durango, CO 81301

Phone: (970) 382-6470

https://www.lpcgov.org/departments/weed_management/weed_lists___laws.php



WEBSITE UPGRADES

Plans are underway to meet with a web designer in the next month to upgrade and enhance our 4CBCH website to make it easier to navigate and more efficient for the user.
Stand by for updates!



Monthly General meetings are held the third **Thursday of every month** at the Florida Grange at 6:30pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 20th!

Please feel free to bring prospective members!
Potluck TBD

On March 20th, our BCH State Representative, Larry Zauberis and President, Andrew Carroll, will attend the BCH of Colorado State meeting via Zoom. Among topics of discussion will be an upcoming Rendezvous of all state chapters in Cortez, CO.

ADVERTISER HIGHLIGHT SARA STABER, Keller Williams Realty

I have loved horses my entire life! What young girl doesn't? I had a Welsh pony when I was a teenager. So, when I moved to Durango in the mid 1980's ... the first thing I did was get a horse, my old Appaloosa "Lightning". This was before I even owned property or a home. I saw him one day in a pasture by Hwy 550 and stopped to admire him. His owner came out to chat with me, who later ended up leaving the area, and selling me Lightning AND his filly.

... And so it began. Lightning and I adventured all over the southwest for 33 years. By the time he passed, I also had a younger Arab/Pinto mare named Ocean and we carried on. You've probably seen my ad with her cavorting in the desert, playing 'wild mare'.

In the meantime, to support my horse habit, LOL, I have been a realtor for 23 years and have delighted in helping people buy and sell some of the lovely horse properties and ranches in this area. I still do, along with general real estate of course Horse folks are unique, caring and down-to-earth, which is why I enjoy working with them.

Little known fact ... before I came to Durango, I was a boatbuilder in the islands and a licensed Coast Guard certified 'Captain' on charter boats and yacht deliveries. Strangely enough there are actually a lot of similarities, the self-sufficiency and love of nature, you learn camping with your horse in the wilderness and being in the middle of the ocean 1,000 miles from land.

What a great journey! Sara Staber ☺

-- WANTED --

**Small Horse Property!
To BUY. 3-10ish acres
Suitable for 2-3 horses.
1200-2000 sf home. Some
horse set-up preferred:
Loafing shed/out building,
couple acres pasture.**

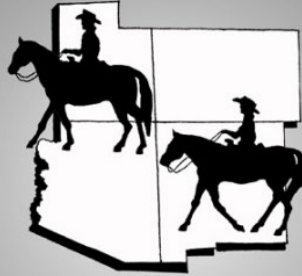
**Call or text Sara Staber
970-759-5033 (KWRSA)**



FUN HORSE FACT

Did you know that horses have lived on our planet for more than 50 million years? This only proves that humans and horses have an ancient relationship. According to National Geographic, Asian nomads domesticated the first horses 4,000 years ago, and the rest is history.

Four Corners



Back Country Horsemen

DURANGO HORSE TRAILS

With our dynamic landscape and plenty of horse-accessible trails, exploring Southwest Colorado by horseback is a great way to see all our region has to offer.

<https://www.durangotrails.org/horseback-riding/>

When tracking your Volunteer Hours, please remember:

What Counts:

- Trail clearing and Trailhead clean up, road clean up.
 - Trail work on public land or open private lands.
 - Onsite support or food prep for work parties.
 - Campground host if agency requested/required.
 - Planning and Prep work for future work parties.
- Report hours ridden for advance planning a trail project to determine the level of effort required as Recon Hours.

What Doesn't Count:

- Cleaning up after yourself on the trail or at the trailhead.
- Trail work on your own property or other private property not open to the public.

Go to 4cbch.org and click on the “Volunteer” option at the top of the page.

If you have any questions about your hours, contact Cindy at

Morincindy7@gmail.com

WHY WHAT WE DO MATTERS:

The recent layoffs within the National Forest Service (NFS) are likely to result in significantly reduced trail maintenance, meaning trails will be less frequently repaired and could deteriorate in quality due to a lack of dedicated staff to manage them, potentially impacting the safety and experience of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts using public lands.

Key points about the impact of NFS layoffs on trail maintenance:

- **Reduced workforce:** With fewer employees, there are fewer people available to perform routine trail maintenance tasks like clearing debris, fixing damaged sections, and addressing erosion issues.
- **Delayed projects:** Important trail improvement projects may be postponed or canceled altogether due to limited staff availability.
- **Increased safety concerns:** Deteriorating trails with less maintenance could lead to increased risks for hikers, including tripping hazards and potential injuries.
- **Impact on backcountry access:** Remote trails may see even greater neglect as access for maintenance crews becomes more difficult with fewer staff.

MEET YOUR 4CBCH BOARD

Four Corners



Back Country
Horsemen

MEET YOUR 4CBCH BOARD

Larry Zauberis – Founding Member and 4CBCH State Representative

I arrived in Durango in 1974. I worked the trail crew for the USFS and started working for an outfitter - hunting in the Hermosa and fishing trips up the Pine River. My wife, Sandy, and I rode the cattle herd in Hermosa for the early 1980's. Then I put in 15 years on the section gang for the D&SNG RR.



I am a founding member of the 4CBCH and have been on the board ever since. I helped start Mercury Payment Systems and retired from Vantiv in 2016. Now that I am getting older, I have sold our horse herd and am letting the next generation take over 4CBCH.

Ed Tolen – Treasurer

Edward (Ed) Tolen is the Treasurer for Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen. Ed lives with his wife Tracey just north of Ignacio where he grows grass hay and she grows raspberries, blackberries and strawberries. Ed has four mules that he doesn't ride or pack nearly as much as he would like to. He enjoys spending time with his kids and grandkids. Ed is the General Manager of La Plata Archuleta Water District.



Donna Bailey – Board Member

My husband and I are almost "locals". I retired about 10 years ago as the Director of a nonprofit organization in Durango. We moved here because we loved all the same things that everyone else does. During the fall seasons I would help my daughter, son-in-law and grand boys round up their cattle off the mountains. After an injury, I was determined to really learn how to ride a horse. I began taking lessons and after a year, I bought my first horse. I continue to take weekly lessons and always learn new things about myself and my two horses. I am blessed to have my daughter's family living nearby. I love watching my grand boys grow up and attend as many of their sports events as possible. I also have a special needs dog that we adopted and a cat. Mostly I spend time riding my horses, camping with my husband and friends and occasionally living large and doing a bit of traveling.



Tara Lahet Board Member



Katie Minkler Board Member



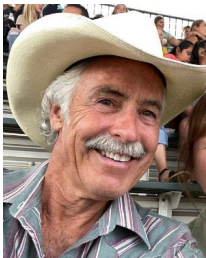
MEET YOUR 4CBCH BOARD



MEET YOUR 4CBCH BOARD

Jon Sherer - Trails Chair

I have been a 4CBCH member for about 20 years and have been the Trails Committee Chairman since 2009. My wife Kathy and I have a 37-acre ranch on County Road 228 where we keep our two horses and 4 cats. In my younger days, working on a ranch in Wyoming, I always wanted to spend a summer on a Forest Service trail crew.



I never got the chance to do that, but working with 4CBCH on trail projects scratches that itch. I enjoy riding our mountain trails, packing, gathering cattle and skjoring on my good friend Trigger.

Linda Boulder – Secretary

I grew up in Maryland but have lived in La Plata County for 37 years. My ancestors included a family of Union Civil War vets who settled in Montrose in the 1880's. My dad got me my first horse when I was 11, and I've never been without one (or more) since. I learned to ride in 4-H. I obtained a journalism degree from CU Boulder and my college summers were spent working at Maryland Thoroughbred racetracks. After a one-year stint as a newspaper reporter, I enrolled in law school at DU. I hauled my best horse (Boy Boulder) from Maryland to Colorado.



During my years in Durango, I had a solo law practice, served as Ignacio Municipal Judge for 8 years, and was Special County Attorney for the La Plata County Department of Human Services for 23 years until I retired. I love to help with 4CBCH's (now 4-H's) tack sale and our club's poker rides and am thrilled that our membership ranks are growing!

Cathy Berra Social Media/Website/Newsletter

After more than 20 years working in Washington, D.C, for a U.S. Ambassador/ philanthropist and at the U.S. Department of State in the Division of Cybersecurity, I returned to beautiful Colorado in 2014. I have lived in Durango for almost two years, have published two books, and am an avid trail rider. I also love giving back to my community. I currently board my 17-year-old rescue, Dancer, and 1 ½ year old rescue, Romeo, at the Minkler's Stone Peak Ranch in Ignacio.



I have been training Romeo since he was five months old, which has been an amazing adventure! As a new board member, I look forward to supporting the mission of 4CBCH and collaborating with members to improve our outreach and to meet fellow horse lovers.



4cbch.org

FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello Fellow Back Countryrians!

In the fall of 2023, the BCHA voted that the Tack Sale would be "passed on" to a club that I founded and continue to coach, The Southwest Silverados 4-H Equestrian Drill Team. Don't worry, I recused myself from voting because of the conflict of interest. We are excited to announce this year's Tack Sale, April 25-26th.



While all the proceeds will go to the Silverados, we know that many of you still want to be a part of it, either by volunteering, consigning or buying and we are happy and grateful! Please feel free to call me if you want to talk anything Tack Sale, 970-799-4644. Also, if you know of any cowgirls between 10-18 who like to perform, hone their horsemanship skills and be a team leader, I'm always recruiting 😊 🐾

God bless and ride on!
Katie O'Hare

Four Corners Annual Tack & Equipment Consignment Sale

Previously hosted by the Four Corners Back Country Horsemen

Saddles, Tack, Equipment, Clothing & more!
All Disciplines and Types!






FREE Admission!

Cash or Check Only!

Saturday, April 26, 2025
8-5pm @ La Plata County Fairgrounds
2500 Main Ave. Durango, Colorado

CONSIGN TO SELL:
Check in equipment.
Friday, April 25, 2025 - 12-6pm.
La Plata County Fairgrounds

COMMISSION RATE:
25% on all merchandise

PICK UP OF UNSOLD GOODS:
Sat, April 26th from 6-8pm. All unclaimed items after this time become the property of the Southwest Silverados 4-H Equestrian Drill Team.

Clean, useable goods only!



CONTACT INFO & VENDOR BOOTH QUESTIONS:
Call or text Katie O'Hare at 970-799-4644

BUYERS:
Buyers pay sales tax. **Cash or check only.**

CONSIGNERS:
\$5 minimum price on merchandise. \$1 tag fee per item. Payments will be mailed following event. The Southwest Silverados 4-H Equestrian Drill Team may decline to sell any unsuitable items.

All proceeds benefit the Southwest Silverados 4-H Equestrian Drill Team

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Four Corners



**Back Country
Horsemen**



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4cbch.org

Four Corners

Back Country Horsemen

WHAT YOU THOUGHT I MEANT BY 'TRAIL RIDING'

WHAT I ACTUALLY MEANT

SAVE THE DATE

4-H EQUESTRIAN 2025 EVENTS

JAN 25	Fuzzy Horse Show & Gymkhana Fundraiser for Southwest Silverado's Drill Team, Ignacio
FEB 22	Fuzzy Horse Show Ignacio
MAY 17-18	Spring Fling Show and Gymkhana, LPC Fairgrounds
JUNE 21	Saturday Night Fever Gymkhana LPC Fairgrounds
JUNE 28-29	Invitational Show and Gymkhana LPC Fairgrounds
JULY 12-13	District Show and Gymkhana LPC Fairgrounds
JULY 18	Friday Night Lights Gymkhana LPC Fairgrounds
AUG 2-3	Fair Show and Gymkhana LPC Fairgrounds

LA PLATA COUNTY COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

100+ HORSES SELL!

COLORADO HORSE SALE

CATALOG CONSIGNMENTS OPEN FEBRUARY 15TH-MARCH 25TH ON THE CHS WEBSITE.

JOIN US AT THE FAIRGROUNDS APRIL 11TH TO TEST RIDE & VIEW HORSES. THIS SALE WILL FEATURE 15 ELITE FEMALE CONSIGNORS DURING OUR WOMEN OF THE WEST SPECIAL SESSION.

MONTROSE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 12 APRIL 2025
PREVIEW 9AM, SALE 1PM

Facebook Instagram COLORADOHORSESALE.COM 970-744-8989

4CDCTA 2025 Shows

5/10 Jump into Spring Hunter Jumper
La Plata County Fairground Pavillion

8/9-10 Dressage in the Canyon 1 and 2
Outlaw Trails Ranch, Cortez, CO

10/26 Hunter/Jumper Spooktacular
McGee Park, Farmington, NM

www.durangohorshes.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.

2025 SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 15th

Brunch Ride
Spring Creek

10:30am (Weather Permitting)

Saturday, April 12

Brunch Ride
Saul's Creek

10:30am (Weather Permitting)

Saturday, June 7

National Trails Day Clean Up
at Saul's Creek

July 2025 - TBD

Hoof Biomechanics Clinic

Friday, July 4

Bayfield Parade

Saturday, September 6

Poker Ride
Saul's Creek Stables

Saturday, September 20

TBD -Pine River cleanup

Saturday, September 27

Bayfield Heritage Day Parade

Saturday, October 4

Durango Cowboy Gathering
Cowboy Parade

Four Corners



Back Country Horsemen



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS at FLORIDA GRANGE 6:30pm

March 20th

**Charly Minkler
Presentation on the
Chief Joseph Trail Ride**



FIRE CONTACT INFORMATION

For information regarding fires in the Four Corners region, you can reach the Durango Interagency Dispatch at (970) 385-1324. Key points about contacting fire information in the Four Corners region:

- **For immediate fire emergencies, always call 911.**
- **Durango Interagency Dispatch:** This is the primary contact number for fire information in the Four Corners area, including the San Juan National Forest. (970) 385-1324
- **InciWeb:** You can also access updated information about wildfires in the region through the InciWeb website. <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/>

www.4cbch.org



P.O. Box 3521
Durango, CO 81302

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.