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4cbch.org

MARCH 2025

# HIGHLINE

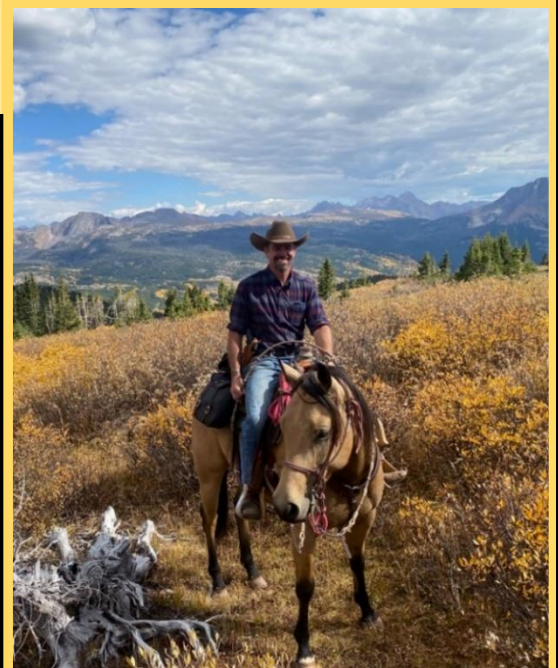
P.O Box 3521  
Durango, CO  
81302

## *From the President's Pen – Andrew Carroll*

As many of you are aware there will more than likely be cuts to the Forest Service amongst other federal entities. Whether you agree with them or not, it's looking like things might be tight in their budget for a while. That is why it is going to be even more important to have volunteers such as ourselves and other groups to keep these trails in functional order so all outdoors enthusiasts can keep enjoying this beautiful landscape.

Last year we decided to take a step back from the big trail jobs and focus more on providing support to the Forest Service and other volunteer groups that help maintain these trails. The biggest way we are able to provide support is through doing something that comes natural to people like us, through horses and mules. Since many of the trails are only accessible by foot or in a saddle we have offered our services to the Forest Service and other volunteer groups to pack supplies and equipment into the back country in order to allow these groups more time to work and spend less time worrying about logistics.

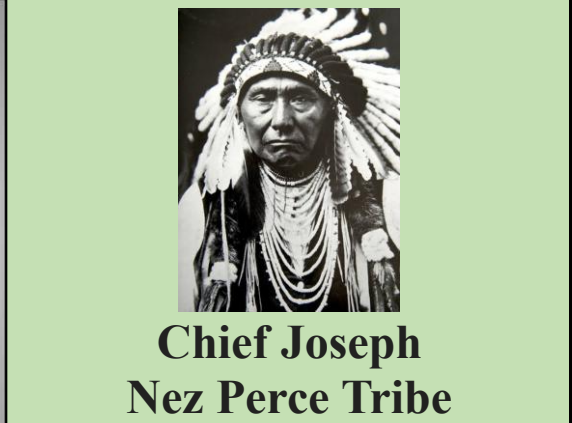
In our membership there are several individuals who have already taken up this task. My hope is to get more of the membership involved. There's some information in this newsletter regarding a pack clinic that Steve Rodrigues will be hosting the first weekend of May. I am hoping this will appeal to some of you and that you will be up for the call when there is a group in need of equipment deep in the backcountry. This isn't about just hauling in for other groups as it's also my hope that this group can once again enjoy the camaraderie it used to have and we can get groups together for camping in the backcountry. If that sounds appealing but you feel a little nervous, this group has many men and women who are there to support you in any way necessary. Hope to see you on the trail!



Make sure to  
check out  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
information below!



Katie and Charly Minkler



Chief Joseph  
Nez Perce Tribe

## MARCH SPECIAL GUESTS

### CHARLY AND KATIE MINKLER THE CHIEF JOSEPH TRAIL RIDE

On Thursday, a 20<sup>th</sup>, Charly and Katie Minkler held a presentation on the historic Chief Joseph Trail Ride.

The Chief Joseph Trail Ride, sponsored by the Appaloosa Horse Club since 1965, retraces the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce tribe, led by Chief Joseph, across 1,300 miles and through four states, offering a glimpse into a pivotal moment in American history. The ride is conducted each year on a different section of the trail, and participants ride 100 miles each year. Nez Perce Tribal Members also participate. To complete the entire ride, it requires 13-years to finish. For many years, the ride included only registered Appaloosa owners, but they have now opened it up for any breed of horse as long as the horse meets certain requirements. In 1877, Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce attempted to escape to Canada after a conflict with the U.S. Army, leading to a 1,170-mile journey across the Rocky Mountains. Chief Joseph surrendered to the US army in the Bears Paw Mountains of Montana, 40 miles south of Canada on October 5, 1877. Last year, the group was fortunate to end the annual ride at the Montana trail that commemorated 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conflict. Members of the Nez Perce tribe presented a riderless horse tribute and circled the encampment four times in honor of those fallen.

Board member, Katie Minkler, shared her experiences about the seven legs of the ride in which she has already ridden, sharing her thoughts about the terrain, the spiritual feeling of the ride and preparation of her horses for the ride. Charly presented details of the conflict, the lengths to which the Nez Perce tribe attempted to escape to Canada, the importance of the annual trail ride for the Nez Perce tribe, and how he assists Katie in her journey.

For this week-long ride, Charly supports Katie's and helps her with details to ride out each morning with the 75+ group and then meets her with the trailer at the end of the day at camp to assist with her horse and preparations for the next day. This year, they will once again participate in the July ride. The Nez Perce Trail Foundation helps to continue to interpret, protect, preserve and commemorate the trail. Thank you Charly and Katie for a great presentation!



<https://thenezperceway.org/>



EDGES FIRST

**KELLY BLECK**

303-642-6448

kelly@edgesfirst.co

**Four Corners**



**Back Country Horsemen**

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

**Our next Potluck meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 17th!**

Please feel free to bring prospective members!

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**May 3-4, 2025**

**Trail Skills and Obstacles Packing clinic**

Steve Rodrigues will hold a Pack Clinic on May 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> for 4CBCH. It will be optional to do either one day for \$200, or two days for \$400. Steve will be donating back to 4CBCH for each participant. The clinic will be open to 12 riders who will bring their own horse and pack equipment if they have their own. Some equipment will be provided if needed. Either style of pack is acceptable, and is the rider's preference. Auditors are welcome for \$40 per day.

The clinic will be held at the Triangle Bar V Ranch located at 2777 CR 225 Durango. For more information visit his website at

<https://rodicotrailschool.com/schedule>

This will be a great clinic with a lot of information for both newcomers to packing and individuals looking to brush up on their skills.



**4CBCH WEBSITE UPGRADES**

On March 11, 2025, Board members met with Kelly Bleck of Edges First, LLC, to discuss upgrades to our 4CBCH website. In particular, we explained the need for a more streamlined experience on our site, including how to improve the Volunteer Hours page to accurately document these hours.

Other concepts were discussed about Membership renewal applications, group emails, payments for clinics, and an updateable calendar with links to upcoming events. Upgrades will allow our Treasurer, Ed Tolen, to receive accurate membership renewal information and members to more efficiently receive reminders.

Kelly will be working with the board to continue certain upgrades and costs will be approved as they occur to ensure the best use of chapter funds. Once these upgrades are made, the efficiency of our website will be improved for all members!

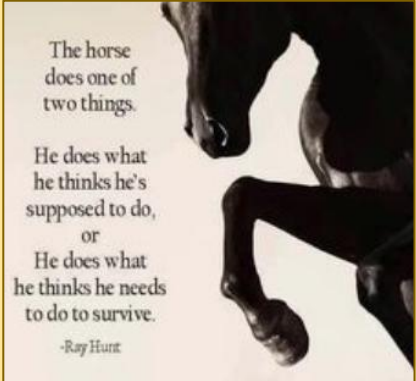


4cbch.org

Four Corners



Back Country Horsemen



The horse does one of two things.

He does what he thinks he's supposed to do, or

He does what he thinks he needs to do to survive.

-Ray Hunt

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.

Please report your VOLUNTEER HOURS!  
 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

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBER

Katie Minkler

I have lived around Ignacio since 1973. I grew up in Kansas and have been a 4CBCH member since 1995. I love doing long distances rides, riding the Continental Divide and the Colorado Trail. I loved horsepacking, spending 30 years in the Weminuche Wilderness. I was also in MT and AZ for a short while.



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Small Horse Property!  
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 1200-2000 sf home. Some horse set-up preferred:  
 Loafing shed/out building,  
 couple acres pasture.

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 970-759-5033 (KWRSA)

**Four Corners**



**Back Country  
Horsemen**



## **4CBCH BOARD**

**Andrew Carroll – President**  
Email: [drew48200@gmail.com](mailto:drew48200@gmail.com)

**Katie O’Hare – Vice President**

**Larry Zauberis –  
State Representative**

**Linda Boulder – Secretary**

**Ed Tolen – Treasurer**

**Jon Sherer – Trails Chair**

**Cathy Berra –  
Social Media/Website/Newsletter**

**Katie Minkler**

**Donna Bailey**

**Tara Lahet**

## **2025 SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, April 12**

**Brunch Ride - Saul’s Creek  
10:30am (Weather Permitting)**

**May 3<sup>RD</sup> and 4th**

**Steve Rodrigues Pack Clinic  
Triangle Bar V Ranch, 2777 CR 225 Durango**

**Saturday, June 7**

**National Trails Day Clean-Up at Saul’s Creek**

**July 2025 - TBD**

**Hoof Biomechanics Clinic with Matt Lamarr  
Cowboy Church - TBD**

**Friday, July 4**

**Bayfield Parade**

**Friday, July 11th**

**4CBCH Summer Picnic  
Eagle Park / 5pm -8pm**

**Saturday, September 6**

**Poker Ride - Saul’s Creek Stables/TBD**

**Saturday, September 27**

**Pine River Cleanup and  
Bayfield Heritage Day Parade**

**Saturday, October 4**

**Durango Cowboy Parade**

**Saturday, December 13**

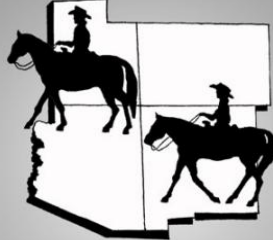
**4CBCH Holiday Party at Sky Ute Downs  
from 9am – 5pm**

## MEMBERS!

We will begin collecting donations for our September 6<sup>th</sup> Poker Ride in the next few months.

If you have any ideas or would like to make a donation, contact a Board member!

## Four Corners



## Back Country Horsemen



### ADVERTISER HIGHLIGHT

#### TUCKER, BECHTOLT & DIPONIO, P.C.

I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation native Coloradoan, descending from family mostly located in the Four Corners Region of Southwest Colorado. My grandfather, Ed Bechtolt, was one of the first babies born in La Plata County, in 1882.

His family settled between Lightner and Deep Creeks and remnants of their homestead remains. Both my parents, now 91 and 87 years of age, grew up in La Plata County. My mom tells stories of riding her horse to school in Hesperus and letting it walk back home on its own.

Although I grew up in the Denver metro area and attended college there, I relocated to Durango in 2022 to join forces with an amazing team of CPAs to form Tucker, Bechtolt & DiPonio. Although I had established my own CPA firm in Denver, my love for the Durango area and the desire to be closer to my parents and other family members, were the impetus to make the move. Our firm is busy, growing and dedicated to helping individuals and businesses wade through the quagmire that is often times known as the inevitable tax season.

We specialize in Tax and Accounting and provide a professional, knowledgeable, and affordable experience. We offer a broad range of services for business owners, executives, and independent professionals.

I am proud to be a Colorado native and to know that my Durango roots have brought me full circle. I support the Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen and their mission and truly appreciate what you all do to help keep our trails open!

Feel free to contact me with questions about your taxes, accounting and business consulting. We look forward to assisting you in any way we can.

Connie S. Bechtolt, CPA  
970-385-2518



**Steve Rodrigues**  
**Obstacle play day**  
**Saturday, March 29**  
**\$30/rider**  
**2777 CR 225 Durango**  
**Use the north entrance by the arena**  
**Steve Rodrigues 970-317-8281**



**THANK YOU TO  
BRENDA'S  
OLD WEST GRILL  
FOR DONATING THE  
SANDWICHES FOR OUR  
RECENT MEETING AND  
PREPARING A CAKE FOR  
THE COMMEMORATION OF  
OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**



**4cbch.org**

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for 4CBCH!**

As another event of celebrating 30 years of designated wilderness in the fall of 1994, the USFS and SJMA (formerly known as the San Juan National Forest Association) partnered in hosting a FREE weekend clinic at Sky Ute Downs. “Back Country Horse Sense” was organized and advertised by Tess Lewis-Stransky, Education Coordinator of SJMA, and presented by the USFS, Biff Stransky and Penny Roeder, on March 18-19, 1995.

Biff and Penny presented common sense Leave-No-Trace information and demonstrated packing techniques/equipment with special demonstrations by John Kinkaid and the Region 3 pack string. Other presenters were from our local farrier, George Martin, local vet, Jodie Peterson, local trainer, Edna Van Nort, and local saddle maker, Buck Profit. Many vendors were also there FREE... as a result, approximately 200 horsemen attended. The Budweiser Team was even there!

Horsemen were ready for this event. Too many were still tying to trees, burying their trash, etc. The pressure was on them to change their ways. They knew it, read about it, and came to learn. The last event on Saturday was a presentation by Sandy Fuller from the Rocky Mountain Back Country Horsemen chapter. After informing the audience of the national organization, Back Country Horsemen of America, and the chapters that existed, the crowd was ready to begin another local chapter—the Four Corners Back Country Horsemen. The deal was sealed the following day at noon, March 19, 1995 at Sky Ute Downs. It truly was an exciting time and many life-long friendships began!

**We hope to hold an official celebration this summer! STAND BY FOR DETAILS!**

**The Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen Meeting on March 20, 2025, commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**



# TUCKER, BECHTOLT & DIPONIO, P.C.

Call us today 970-385-2518



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**Four Corners**



**Back Country  
Horsemen**



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Four Corners



Back Country Horsemen

HORSES ARE LIKE POTATO CHIPS



YOU CAN'T HAVE JUST ONE

**SAVE THE DATE**

**4-H EQUESTRIAN 2025 EVENTS**

JAN 25	Fuzzy Horse Show & Gymkhana Fundraiser for Southwest Silverados' 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

**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.durangohorseshows.com](http://www.durangohorseshows.com)

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

**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!**

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

**Cash or Check Only!**

**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

**THE 'GREEN' HORSE SHOW SERIES**

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHWEST SILVERADOS 4-H EQUESTRIAN DRILL TEAM AND THE STABLE LIFE, LLC

New to showing? Need more experience showing? Do you have a 'green' horse that needs seasoning? Join us for our 'Green' Horse Show Series!

Show starts at 9am sharp, Registration at 8am.  
\$10 per class, \$60 for the day, \$5 for time only's

JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE, SENIOR & OPEN CLASSES. RIBBONS FOR 1-6TH PLACE.

**Dates & Locations**

MARCH 22	JUNE 14	JULY 19
APRIL 12	AUGUST 23	
OCTOBER 11	SEPTEMBER 13	
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HOSTED BY SOUTHWEST SILVERADOS 4-H EQUESTRIAN DRILL TEAM	HOSTED BY THE STABLE LIFE, LLC	

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- DISCIPLINE ON THE RAIL
- HORSEMANSHIP
- BARRELS
- POLES
- MYSTERY CLASS

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**MYSTERY CLASSES**

- TRAIL
- KEYHOLE
- RANCH RIDING
- ENGLISH CONTROL
- OVER FENCES
- WESTERN DRESSAGE
- REINING

**CASH OR CHECK DUE AT EVENT. CALL KATIE O'HARE AT 970-799-4644 WITH QUESTIONS.**

Southwest Silverados 4-H Equestrian Drill Team logo and The Stable Life, LLC logo.

## WEATHER INFORMATION

For accurate and hyperlocal weather information in Durango, CO, consider the La Plata County Weather Radar app, which draws from the radar tower at the Durango-La Plata County Airport.

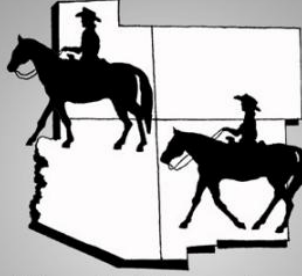
### La Plata County Weather Radar App:

- This app offers hyper-local weather forecasts, current conditions, and storm tracking for Southwest Colorado and the Four Corners Region.
- It's available on both Apple and Android devices, and on the web.

[https://www.lpcgov.org/departments/emergency\\_management/regional\\_weather\\_radar\\_system\\_project/index.php](https://www.lpcgov.org/departments/emergency_management/regional_weather_radar_system_project/index.php)

- The radar data is sourced directly from the radar tower at the Durango-La Plata County Airport, providing increased coverage and accuracy.
- You can find the app on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching "La Plata County Weather Radar".

## Four Corners



## Back Country Horsemen



## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS at FLORIDA GRANGE 6:30pm Potluck

**April 17th**  
**General Meeting**  
**Todd Rodas**  
**Packing Saddle Horses for Overnight Trips**

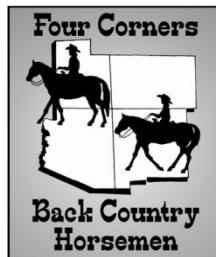


## FIRE CONTACT INFORMATION

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](http://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.