



June 2010

Volume 6, Issue 6

## HIGH DESERT RIDERS, EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO

### Clinton Anderson Training Tip of the Week

Horses don't learn from pressure; they learn from the release of pressure. While pressure motivates the horse to look for another answer, it is the release of pressure that teaches him that he did the right thing. That's why timing is such a crucial element in training horses. If your timing is off, you may be rewarding the horse for the wrong behavior and sending him mixed signals. Whatever the horse is doing the exact

second you release the pressure is what you're rewarding him for. So if he rears and you release pressure, you've just rewarded him for rearing. If he pushes into your space and you back off, you've just rewarded him for being dominant toward you. It also works in reverse. If the horse is responding correctly, but you don't release pressure, he'll learn to ignore you. You have to be very conscious to release the pressure as soon

as the horse even attempts to respond the way you want. Always reward the slightest try. The quicker you can release the pressure, the faster the horse will understand he did the right thing.

[http://  
www.downunderhors  
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The next High Desert Riders General Meeting is Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgewood Community Center

The next Trail Committee Meeting is Wednesday August 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at Chili Hills Restaurant in Edgewood. Everyone is welcome to attend.  
[www.HighDesertRiders.com](http://www.HighDesertRiders.com)



Thanks to our HDR Officers, Directors and Committee Leaders and Members who give their time to make HDR a success for all of us:

- Ta-Willow Romero, President & Director
- Jim Stundon, Vice President & Director
- Susan Hill, Secretary & Director
- Diane Lindsey, Treasurer & Director
- Martha Eden, Director
- Hallie McFadden, Director
- Ray Seagers, Sergeant at Arms, Director, Government Liaison
- Trail Ride Committee Leader: Sheryl LaRue
- Membership Committee Leader: John Lindsey
- Public Relations, Newsletter and website: Martha Eden, Dana Scott



## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS

### SASS End of Trail, June 25-27

I went to SASS End of Trail at Founders Ranch on Saturday. We could easily have spent the entire day looking at the vendors' booths and watching the shooting and taking in the shows. We saw a wild west show (which included our own Chili Cowboy, Ralph Hill, and Calloway) with rope twirling, skits, trick horses and trick riding, and of course shooting balloons that exploded into flames when shot! See page 4 for some pictures of some of our HDR members who competed.  
~Dana

### Juan Tomas, June 27

Just as we left Edgewood to caravan to the trailhead, lightning started, thunder boomed and rain spattered our windshields. By the time we turned onto 217 the rain was long gone, but we still had a light show going on. We had 12 riders who continued to saddle up despite the threat of getting wet. By the time we hit the trail, things were looking pretty good. We told the customary New Mexico weather joke—if you don't like the weather, wait 5 minutes. It's still funny because it's true.

I brought some props with me (hula hoops, ropes, dog toys) because I

thought maybe we could work on some trail obstacles and play some games along the way, but we decided not to push our luck and if we could make it back without getting wet that would be enough. It turned out to be a really nice ride—the clouds didn't rain on us, just kept us shaded from the sun. We had a nice breeze and the additional shade of the tall pines also kept us comfortable.

We had a great group of riders — Nicole, Danny, Susan L., new member Marcia Schick all the way from Peralta, Penny, Debbie, Chuck, Cathy, Mike, Carolyn and Rebecca (well, almost—Rebecca was out riding before we got there and by the time we met up with her, the young horse she was on needed to do some "time out" back at the trailer), and me.

We really didn't get lost but we did (accidentally) find a new section of trail that none of us had been on before. The new trail also took us back to the trailers and we did have a good ride.  
~Dana

### Edward Sargent Wildlife Area, July 3-5

Correct me if memory serves me ill, but in my 32 years in the East Mountains, I recall nearly every July 4 holiday; it is always preceded by a "no

fires, no fireworks" edict on or near July 2, which is invariably followed by a veritable deluge on July 3, then on July 4 itself, Mother Nature does her thing with heat lightning on a 360 degree sweep of the edges of the night sky, which mightily overpowers most of the puny fireworks we manage to set off by individuals, municipalities, counties, non-profit groups, etc. This year was not much different. As Ray and I and three horses, (one for Ray, one for me, one for Jane Vickers' game but mostly non-riding son Michael), we heard the news that open fires would be banned as would all non-official fireworks in and around national forests and game management areas. Not a big deal; we were headed for the Sargents Game Management Area, but fireworks were the last thing on our minds. Ahead as we drove north, we could see a huge mass of black clouds, but in New Mexico, who knows where they might go or what they might soak?

We left on time, caravanning with Jim and Marilyn Stundon and Jane and Michael Vickers, and arrived around 3:00 (highly unusual, Ray and I normally hit our target closer to midnight,

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## END OF TRAIL PICTURES



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### MORE END OF TRAIL PICTURES



## HDR SCHEDULE OF RIDES AND EVENTS

July 15-17: HDR Tunnel Springs Ride. Edgewood to Navajo, NM is 210 miles or approx. 3 1/2 to 4 hour drive. This ride is in the mountains East of and near Window Rock. Plan is to leave Ray Seagers' old office July 15 at 1:30 pm. Ride July 16 at 9:30, bring lunch for trail. Potluck that evening. Short ride July 17 at 9:30. Return to Edgewood. Ride will be moderate to easy. Shoes recommended. Ralph Hill, cell: 379-8957

July 24: 4th of July Canyon – Manzanos. Willow Romero, Trail Leader, Sheryl LaRue as back-up. Meet at Ray's old office in Edgewood at 10 am.

July 25: CMSA Vaqueros having Mounted Shooting match at Moriarty Heritage Arena starting at 9:00 am, gates open at 8 am. Contact Cynthia Burke, 286-0100.

July 27: HDR General Meeting, 7 pm, Edgewood Community Center.

July 31 or August 1: Obstacle course at Dana's.

August 4-8: Annual Lincoln County Sheriff's Posse Pony Express Ride.

August 5-8: SASS Buffalo Range Riders "Outlaw Trail" at Founders Ranch. Contact Paula Hodge or Ralph Hill for more info.

August 11: Wednesday! HDR Trail Committee meeting, 7 pm at Chili Hills on the patio.

August 13–15: – HDR weekend at Gallineas Peak. Approx. 2-1/2 hour drive from Edgewood. Willow and Pete Romero, Trail Leaders and head cooks! More info soon to come. Those not wanting to do an overnight could come up early Saturday morning. Breakfast around 8:30-9, ride out at 10:00 am on Saturday.

August 19-22: HDR Betty Ansley Memorial Ride at Valle Vidal, Cimarron Camp. Contact Ralph or Susan Hill.

August 21 & 22: – Not an HDR Event, but SASS Buffalo Range Riders will be doing a new rider and desensitization Mounted Shooting Clinic on August 21st, at 10:00 a.m. Expect to run a few stages after the clinic. August 22nd will be the usual monthly Mounted Shooting practice.

August 26-29: We have been invited to join the Rio Grande Mule & Donkey Association riders at the Whittington Center in Raton. Info about Whittington Center available on their website. Large camping area and water and outhouses provided. All participants must become members of the Rio Grande Mule & Donkey Assoc, but that can be done upon arrival or on their web beforehand. Contact Sheryl (505) 730-9899. More info to come.

August 28: – ACTHA Competitive trail ride at Santa Fe. Get info and sign up on website: [www.actha.us](http://www.actha.us)

September 2-6: HDR - Labor day weekend ride at Resumidero. Contact Sam and Karen Pallin for more info.

September 11: HDR ride at Martha's Chinchonte Ranch and BBQ.

September 18: HDR day ride at Santa Rosa Lake.

September 25 & 26: Mounted shooting with SASS Buffalo Range Riders Sept 25th, CMSA Vacqueros Sept 26th.

September 24-26: Last available weekend to ride at Valle Caldera. Sheryl LaRue looking for interest to go on Friday, the 24th.

October 2: Tentative plans to ride North of Stanley off Simmons road at Gayle West's place. HDR ride & BBQ.

October 15-17: Yes! HDR THOMPSON RANCH RIDE at Don Thompson's, an HDR favorite. Estimate \$80.00/individual.

October 16: ACTHA Competitive Trail Ride in Aztec, NM

October 30: HDR "Fall Festival" & Flea Market – Edgewood. Contact Willow Romero, Martha Eden to help!



## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS

*(Continued from page 2)*

sometimes even right at dawn) in the afternoon. As we passed through Chama, we saw wall-to-wall tourists, RV's and boats, but not many horse trailers. We crossed our fingers that we would not enter the Sargents and view a mass of those same RV's pulling horse trailers and spewing out their occupants and attendant owners. Surprise! There were two horses in the provided iron corrals, one trailer, and then over the hill surrounding Privy #2, our early contingent of High Desert Riders (Sam and Karen Pallin) and guests (Judy from Arizona and Stan and Sheryl from Georgia), and that was not only it for Friday, but the two others left Saturday, and we basically had the whole umpteen thousand acres and camping facilities to ourselves. How cool is that?

Jane and Michael spent the next hour or two unraveling and setting up their brand new electric fence for Jane's horse, and pitching their tent. Ray and I unloaded horses, staked them out, and proceeded to attach our huge tarp-cum-awning on the trailer and stake it into the ground with these really cute aluminum extendable poles Ray had found. Ray told Jim the creek was just over the hill, and Jim set out with his two horses to find water. (About 45 minutes later, Jim came back by with two thirsty horses and declared the "creek just over the hill" to be dry. That made no sense; it was obvious from the extensive greenery on all sides that the area had not exactly experienced a drought. Ray told Jim he just hadn't gone far enough. The next

day when we rode to the "creek" and saw lots of water, Jim plaintively pointed out, "you didn't say I had to go over the hill and then three more miles!"

Just about as Ray and I had the "awning" in place, the wind picked up and within 15 minutes we were involved in the classic July 2 deluge joined by high cold winds, whipping rain, a little hail, and lots and lots of water. We were soaked but laughing at the whole thing, finally giving up on our redneck "awning" and hopping back into the shelter of the trailer where we donned warm, dry clothes and waited out the storm with the help of a hot toddy or two.

By the time our potluck dinner time arrived, the rain had stopped, but it was quite cool, and the mud was of the composition of adobe, making every step an exercise in ever heavier feet. We persevered as usual, had a feast to tempt the gods, wiped down the table and chairs and actually ended the evening outside as the clouds rolled and roiled refusing to give us much of a hint about what to expect the next day.

Early morning, scattered cloud cover, news that the previous Friday morning ride of the early arrivals had been cut short by lightning, which scared the heck out of everyone, native and visitor alike. After a breakfast of coffee, ham scramble and home-made cinnamon rolls, we decided to ride anyway and risk a renewed thunderstorm. Just to be on the safe side, I rode in water-proof rain pants, and decided by the end of the surprisingly dry day, that I had single-handedly staved off another soaking rain.

We took the road for awhile, until Ray spotted a deer by herself to the west, so we left the trail and ascended the nearby hill. As we reached the top of the hill, the deer was not in sight, but suddenly, Stan yelled "Hey look! It's a fawn right here in the leaves!" I rode back and managed to get a picture.



Stan and Sheryl felt like their trip was made, but we knew we would see lots more game of all kinds before we went back to camp. Our goal for the day was to reach Nabor Lake, a small but lovely lake in the hills of the refuge. After riding for three hours, we stopped for lunch. Some of the riders elected to go on back, but most of us stayed on course, looking for the lake, using Ray and Sam's GPS indicators to find it. When we finally did, it was in fact a beautiful and peaceful setting, and all of us were delighted to find it. We rode back to camp, growing more and more hungry for the hot dogs and hamburgers we had brought for Saturday supper. Later that night we were entertained by the local Chama fireworks display which was quite impressive for a small town, and pretty easy to view from our campsite.

By the next morning, the campsite

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## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS

(Continued from page 6)

had mostly dried out, and after a breakfast of "pancakes by Marilyn," we shed mud boots in favor of riding boots and left the rain pants behind as the sun cleared most of the mist and fog away, and the sky was clear. We rode, looking for the trail that was supposed to be a switchback trail to the high mesa, and then eventually down to the River Chama herself. On the way, from time to time we sighted a herd of about 40 elk, catching sight of them occasionally as they would stop to look back at us and try to decide how much of a threat to them we really posed. After having to cut around a large felled aspen to get by on the trail, and finding our way around some of the deadfall, we got to the switchback trail. Sam's GPS let us know the journey to the river could be as much as 10-13 miles, and we knew, with two green horses, and two green riders (thankfully not matched up), we would do best by helping all of our riders get down off the extremely high point we had reached by following the "trail to the mesa." It was occasionally a bit of an ordeal: high, steep climbs followed by very steep descents and nearly always a water crossing of some kind at the bottom of each valley. Relieved to see our trailers in the distance, we urged all the horses and riders forward. On the way back to camp, I happened to be looking west and saw the back of some animal moving behind a hill. It was too husky to be a deer, and I thought it might be an elk, until it suddenly took off up the hill behind it, and it was unquestionably too bulky to be an elk, and was in fact finally

identified as a cinnamon-colored black bear. We finished the ride by around 3:30 in the afternoon, and then prepared for dinner. Ray and I had not planned to stay through Monday at first, and did not have extra food, but, fortunately, Jane Vickers came through with some of the best pork ribs I have ever eaten. She had pre-cooked them, and merely warmed them up on the grill over the wood fire which we sat around each night. They were sensational, and I can state without condition that no one went to bed hungry that night unless he or she just wanted to.

Monday was spent packing, cleaning, erasing our respective footprints from the campsite, and sitting around talking and enjoying tales of our outing and simply receiving pleasure from the company of happily dedicated riders.

~Martha Eden



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