

# Poudre Trails

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

[www.fortnet.org/pwv](http://www.fortnet.org/pwv)

November 2000

## From the Field: Trail Report Highlights

by Kristy Wumpkes

*Extra-terrestrials. Rattlesnakes. Dogs. Life on the trail with PWV never has a dull moment.* Occasionally we're lucky enough to read about your exotic experiences hiking, riding and backpacking throughout the Poudre Canyon and beyond. Now that the season is wrapping up, we thought you might enjoy reading some of the trail report highlights submitted by your fellow volunteers. I like to call it *KPWV NEWS* (that's Kristy's PWV report findings!).

### Trivia First

#### Number of visitors:

Of the 5,216 folks you saw in the backcountry this summer, you contacted 92%. Way to go!

#### Number of Volunteer Days:

As of the end of August, you've given 462 hiking/riding days to PWV.

#### Wildlife sightings:

**Bears** North Fork Trail, Lion Gulch, Long Draw area, Hewlitt

Gulch, Montgomery Pass

**Moose** Roaring Creek, Long Draw area, Emmaline Trail, Neota Creek, Camp Lake

**Grouse** Round Mountain Trail

**Rattlesnake** Hewlett Gulch

**Ladybugs** Crosier summit (*apparently in the thousands!*)

**Mosquitos** Numbering 312,701 on the West Branch Trail in July

### Tales from the Trail

#### Throw me a life saver!

*Tamara Taussig and Laurie Hollis* had a busy June day on the Grey Rock trail. They taped a hiker's sprained ankle and gave food and water to a dehydrated jogger.

In August *Bill Bollinger* came across a dehydrated horse rider on an all-day trek along the North Fork trail. Bill rescued the woman from heat exhaustion by driving her back to the stables (yes, he has AC).

*Kevin Dunn and Brett Berlin* also rescued a hiker along the Camp

(See *From the Field* on page 2)

## Volunteerism Beyond the Trail

by Carol Busch

Spring Training, fundraising, managing the online database, planning winter programs—all these PWV projects require hours of work, work that is currently performed by a handful of volunteers. Do you have a skill and passion that would benefit PWV beyond the trail and help us make a bigger impact?

We're actively seeking individuals for participation on any one of the numerous committees that help run PWV. If you're interested in getting involved, contact the committee chair or come to one of the monthly Board of Directors meetings.

(See *Volunteerism* on page 2)

## Help Wanted!

### PWV'ers! Start thinking 2001!

If you meet or know someone who would make an excellent PWV candidate ask him or her to call (970) 498-2776 for more information and an application, or visit our web site at [www.fortnet.org/pwv](http://www.fortnet.org/pwv).

Please mention that we hold interviews from mid-February to mid-

April. New volunteers are required to attend the weekend training session in late May and to commit to 6 hiking or riding days throughout the patrol season. Thanks for helping us grow our organization!

—The PWV Recruitment Committee





## HP Donation Sets Stage for PWV Office Space

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers will have basic computer equipment and an office to call home, thanks to Hewlett-Packard and the U.S. Forest Service. HP approval of a grant submitted by PWV recently resulted in the donation of a computer terminal, laser printer and scanner. The U.S. Forest service has donated office space at the Prospect Street building for the computer equipment, which will primarily assist volunteers with administrative and in-house publishing projects—from Spring Training materials to recruitment to online database endeavors. HP, which made a generous donation to PWV during its first year in operation, is a long-time supporter of PWV. Thanks again for the continued support!



*(From the Field continued from front page)*

Lake trail in August (and learned the value of taking a two-way radio). They taped a young man's injured knee and managed to call out for assistance—on a cell phone. *(They left home without a radio.)*

### Close Encounters of the PWV Kind

Robert Kretschman found a back-packer with an RMNP permit for the Lost Lake area getting ready to unknowingly head to Bulwark Ridge. The neophyte also had a trunkload of brand-new, never-used equipment which included a large boom-box. The intrepid hiker asked Robert if he would need a sleeping bag and water. Thanks for being there Robert!

In August Ben Manvel ran into a snowboarder along the Emmaline Lake trail bemoaning the rocky and dangerous conditions in the high country.

### If a tree falls in the forest...

Linda Bell and George Brooks found the answer to that question on the Montgomery Pass trail. On an August hike, they heard a loud crash. They soon discovered that a large, dead tree along the trail had just toppled.

### Talking Trash

Jacques Rieux and his horse win the award for hauling the weirdest item out of the woods. Jacques discovered a full-length tailpipe along the Mount Margaret trail in August. He somehow folded it in half, then put it over his shoulder while the mare calmly walked on.

Check Bell's horse managed to avoid serious injury at Brown's Lake in July when he grabbed more than a mouthful of grass. Tator (the horse) also grabbed some fishing line with a bobber, which Chuck found just before the horse could swallow it.

Kevin Dunn and Scott French found the remains of an abandoned camp along the Flowers Trail in July... complete with lawn chairs.

### Is it working?

Mike Stadjahar, 3rd year volunteer: "I am convinced PWV has gotten the education word out. In five days of backcountry fun, I only saw one dog (leashed) and only one camp we would consider illegal. Keep up the good work!!! PWV is definitely making a difference."

Nicholas Kemp and Aaron Zimonoff agree. In August they backpacked along the West Brach Trail, and noted that all 24 of their contacts were following the spirit of wilderness, *Leave No Trace ethics.*

Ben Manvel also echoed those thoughts after a day on the Mummy Pass trail: "The trails were very clean, the people I met were all pleasant, and the two dogs were on leashes..."

**CONGRATULATIONS everyone on another fantastic season of hiking and riding with a purpose!**



*(Volunteerism continued from front page)*

### Communications

—Carol Busch 495-1760

### Community Education, Mentors

—Garin VanDeMark 226-2051

### Field Guide

—Dave Cantrell 482-0809

### Fundraising

—Bill Hart 223-7234

### Newsletter

—Carol Busch 495-1760

### Recruiting

—Ras Erdal 225-9035

### Spring Training

—Paul Asmus 484-0724

### Winter Programs

—Dave Cantrell 482-0809

**Next Board Meeting:** Board of Directors meets monthly. Call Carol Busch at 495-1760 for date, time and location



# From the Saddle

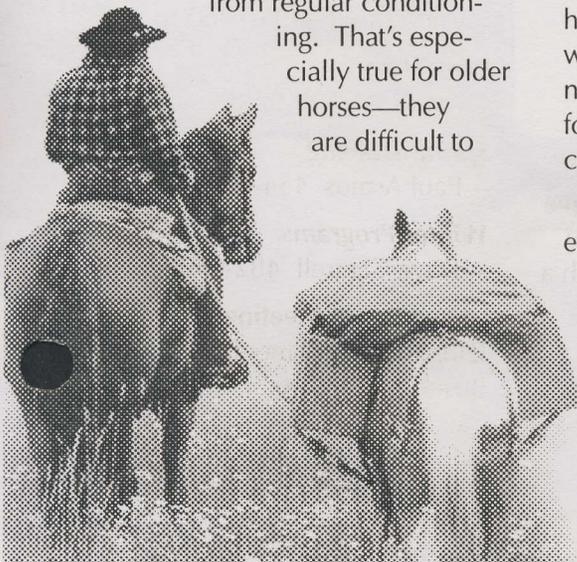


by Jacques Rieux

It's been a good year for the PWV horse patrol. Although we have not yet totaled up miles ridden and contacts made for the season, it was great to see all our riders actively participating and filling the 6-ride commitment. Several far exceeded the minimum.

It was an especially good year from a safety point of view. All reports indicate both our horses and riders came through in good shape. It's evidence of our skill and prudence... and as every rider knows, it sure helps to have the gods of weather smile at you!

Our PWV season is over for the year, but this is not the time to park your horse until next May. Fall is my favorite season for riding: the horses are in good shape from summer riding, the first frost has taken care of most of the bugs, the colors are glorious and the trails have little traffic on them. Also, keeping your horse exercised pretty much year round is best for both horse and rider. Like any athlete, your horse benefits from regular conditioning. That's especially true for older horses—they are difficult to



condition after long layoffs. Taper your riding in mid-winter, but try to get active again by mid-March. When the 2001 PWV season starts in May, you and your horse will be ready.

If you have enjoyed riding the trails with PWV, talk to your fellow riders and encourage them to join us next year. *Ras Erdal or Jacque Bolinger will be glad to send PWV information to your friends.*

## Packing with Horses

By Bette Blinde

This summer PWV horse patrol members had an opportunity to learn about packing techniques from veteran outfitter, Chuck Peterson. His one-day presentation was enlightening, humorous and informative.

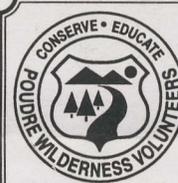
Chuck covered a variety of skills from rigging and packing riding saddles, to trail etiquette while packing. He discussed the fitting and using of sawbuck and Decker pack saddles, demonstrated the tying of diamond, basco, and basket sling knots, the loading of panniers, and how to lead pack animals.

Twelve veteran and novice PWV horse patrollers, some who had packed before and several who have not, learned about equipment and techniques required to safely take horses on an overnight trip into the wilderness. *Leave No Trace* techniques for horse packing and options for feeding while packing were also covered.

Chuck has extensive experience, especially in the Rawah Wilderness. He shared stories of trips (the good and the bad), how he learned what works and what doesn't. His message boiled down to three key points: *plan, think ahead and be prepared.*

## Horse Riders Keep Track!

The expenses you accrue from PWV activities are a legitimate income tax deduction. Keep track of your horse expenses and save receipts for feed, shoeing, vet bills and miles traveled. More information on this to come.



Poudre Trails is a bi-monthly publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other back country areas.

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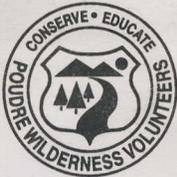
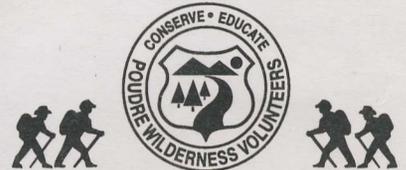
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