

POUDRE TRAILS

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

<http://www.fortnet.org/pwv>

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NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS ESTABLISHED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

Frank Lilley and Chuck Bell

Neighborhood groupings of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers will be established this summer to give everyone more opportunity to shape the direction, policies and management of our organization.

The establishment of these new groups is the most significant change to the organization's structure since it was created three

years ago, according to PWV Chair **Chuck Bell**. Bell said PWV has not had a very good way for volunteers to share their experiences on the

trail and their overall expertise and wisdom. "We need this input – we need to know what's working and what isn't," Bell said, "if we are to be fully effective in the back country."

Board member **Wayne Tobey** is in charge of putting together and implementing the new system. "We're trying to work out a way for all volunteers to share their ideas, knowledge, and practical experience about what is and is not working, and what they like and don't like about PWV -- with each other and in a way that will help the Board set policy and implement PWV programs," Tobey said.

He explained that a special session will be held at the **annual training weekend May 29-31**, in which

volunteers will be divided up according to where they live. This will in effect constitute the first of the neighborhood meetings. Previous year volunteers who are not present during this session will be advised by mail or phone about their group and when it will meet.

Tobey said each group will have an interim coordinator to get it off the ground. Volunteers who might be interested in serving as coordinators are urged to call him at Loveland 593-0561.

The coordinators will be responsible for pulling their groups together from time to time to talk

about PWV, their experiences on the trails, and their ideas of how we can improve what we do. The coordinators will be responsible for conveying the views of group members to the appropriate people on the Board or in the Forest Service. The coordinators likewise will serve as a channel to convey information from the Board and USFS to group members.

Tobey is currently looking at the geographical spread of our membership to see how it can best be divided up. Volunteer groupings are likely to include one for Loveland, Berthoud, Longmont & Denver; another for Greeley and Weld County; another for Larimer County north of Fort Collins; and possibly two groups for Fort Collins.

"We're trying to work out a way for all volunteers to share their ideas, knowledge, and practical experience..."
Wayne Tobey

A NEW SEASON IS ALMOST HERE

TRAINING WILL BEGIN IN MAY

Kirsten Maddux

The 3rd annual Poudre Wilderness Volunteer training weekend will be upon us before we know it. It is scheduled for Friday evening, May 29 through mid-day Sunday, May 31, 1998, at Jack's Gulch up the Pingree Park Road. Please mark your calendars.

The training weekend is mandatory for new members. It is not mandatory for second or third year members, but they are highly encouraged to attend. Experienced volunteers are needed to help train and share their ideas. Our goal is to unite all of the members at least once or twice a year to build a sense of organization and camaraderie. We hope that everyone will attend.

The PWV training committee is in full swing, planning and organizing. The committee is trying to implement as many new ideas as possible.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Chuck Bell

Events have a way of making a liar out of you. Last issue, I said this would be my last column "From the Chair." But I'm back once again.

At its January meeting, the PWV Board asked **Martha Moran, Art Bunn** and I to continue to lead PWV for another term. We agreed, but Art and I made it clear that we plan to step down after the coming summer season. We strongly believe that a change in leadership is essential to the maturing of our organization.

To have an evolving – or perhaps revolving – leadership, more volunteers need to step forward to help organize and manage all the things behind putting people on the trails each summer season. We need more people on our committees – training, fund-raising, newsletter, equestrian, publicity, scheduling, public education and the Board itself. I ask each volunteer to think seriously about getting involved in a least one committee. Please call me if you want to discuss how you might contribute (Fort Collins 498-8580 during the day).

I also urge every volunteer to continue to recruit new members. We have done rather well with recruitment this year, but we still need more volunteers to provide comprehensive trail coverage – and our present volunteers are the best source of new recruits.

To bring volunteer experiences and ideas into the decision-making and policy-setting process, the Board has decided to establish a neighborhood network. This is explained in an article in this issue of Poudre Trails. I hope everyone will get involved in these neighborhood groups. This is your organization, and you all can con-

tribute a lot to it – through these new groupings, by joining a committee, and hiking and riding as much as you can this summer.

New Season (Continued from page 1)

Feedback and survey results are being used in the structuring of the training program. They are trying to meet the requests for more knowledge in specific areas. The committee is still in the designing phase of the weekend events. More information will be published in the next issue of the Poudre Trails newsletter. We will also be sending letters about the training weekend in the next month.

The training will give everyone the opportunity to meet new members, renew acquaintances, gain knowledge, share experience, ask questions, listen, and have fun. The PWV and the Forest Service are looking forward to seeing new and existing members as the new season begins.

SHARE YOUR TRAIL INFORMATION

The PWV Handbook is being revised. The trail maps included in the handbook are also being redone. We have all the pertinent information (i.e., elevations), but we are looking for information to place on the maps such as campsites, landmarks or any other interesting facts. We are particularly interested in the trails in the Big Thompson Canyon. If you can provide any information about the trails please e-mail **Frank Lilley** at frank@WebAccess.net or call him at 472-1450.



PLAY A ROLE

Experienced volunteers needed to help with the role playing sessions for first-year volunteers at the pre-season training weekend May 29-31. If you can help, call **Frank Lilley** at Fort Collins 472-1450.

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Chair Chuck Bell
Co-Chair Art Bunn
Secretary Martha Moran

Newsletter committee:

Editorial Coordinator Chuck Bell
Art Director Tony Parent
Reporters Chuck Bell
Amy Williams
Kirsten Maddux
Bill Dold
Frank Lilley

MOST VOLUNTEERS RETURNING THIS YEAR

Chuck Bell

More than 80 volunteers from previous years will be back on the trails again this summer.

By the end of February, PWV Co-Chair **Art Bunn**, who is coordinating applications, had heard from 107 of the 118 volunteers from last year, and only 26 have said they cannot hike this coming summer. This represents a two-thirds rate of return.

Of those who do not plan to hike this year, most are moving from the area or have work conflicts. Only five appear to be dropping for other reasons.

New Volunteers

After a few evenings of interviews, Art said 36 applicants had been invited to join PWV. As of this writing, 16 more interviews were scheduled, and applications and requests for them continued to come in at the rate of four to six per week.

New applications will be accepted up to March 20 for the coming summer season. Volunteers are urged to continue their recruiting efforts to bring in friends and colleagues to PWV. Our current volunteers have been the best source of new recruits over the past year.



FROM THE SADDLE

Amy Williams

Upcoming Events For PWV Horse Patrol Members

Riders please mark these dates on your calendar -- more information will be mailed to you regarding these events:

- Tuesday, March 24
6 to 8 PM
Horse Patrol Meeting
Location: Main Conference Room
USFS Office located at 240 West Prospect
- Saturday, April 25
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Horse & Rider Encounter Training Session
(Snow/Rain date: Sat., May 2)
- Saturday, May 16
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Group Trail Ride at South Lone Pine
- Friday, May 29 - Sunday, May 31
Annual PWV weekend training at Jack's Gulch Campground

A note for hikers: horsepacking for hikers will be covered at the May training weekend.

Our Horses Are Role Models Too!

No matter how experienced we and our horses are at riding in the back country, it never hurts to "brush up" before we hit the trails this season. Whether your horse is young or a seasoned veteran, here are a few obvious tips to remember:

- The most important word a horse should know is "whoa". Gain your horse's confidence through your voice and manner. Be consistent with your training and daily handling.

BLAZE A NEW TRAIL

Hiking and riding with the purpose of educating wilderness users about Leave No Trace philosophy has been a mission of the PWV organization and a pleasure to its members. The mission and pleasure are about to reach into new territories. Our success in the field has sparked the interest of the community, and in response PWV is organizing a community education program.

A list of members is being compiled to fill requests for speakers to give brief presentations to interested groups. The presentations will cover the Leave No Trace principles for preserving our pristine wilderness areas and will relate some of the activities and personal experiences of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. In addition to fulfilling direct requests for speakers, PWV may help the Forest Service fulfill some of its community education requests. The Forest Service has materials to assist in our presentations, and we plan to develop some of our own audiovisual aids.

Additionally, PWV has been contacted by the outdoor programs specialist for the Mountain Prairie Girl Scouts Council who would like to arrange for small groups of scouts and their sponsors to accompany PWV day hikers on patrol to learn how Leave No Trace is applied in the field.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the community education program as a speaker or group leader should contact **Bill Dold**. Berthoud 532-2909 or email WRDLA@aol.com.

- Teach your horse to stand quietly by tying him at home for extended periods of time. Practice hobbling your horse even if you never plan to use this method. A horse comfortable with this type of restraint will be more sensible if he gets into wire or becomes entangled.
- Re-familiarize your horse to backpackers and tents. Have your partner wear a backpack while you're in the saddle and try out different surprise scenarios to safely desensitize your horse to those scary encounters.

Needed for Horse & Rider Encounter

Session: Six Poudre Wilderness Volunteer hikers to help re-enact encounter sessions at April 25th horse training. We realize this date conflicts with the flower identification class but for those not planning to attend that course we could use your help. Call **Amy Williams** at Fort Collins 881-2147 if you can help.

ANECDOTES NEEDED

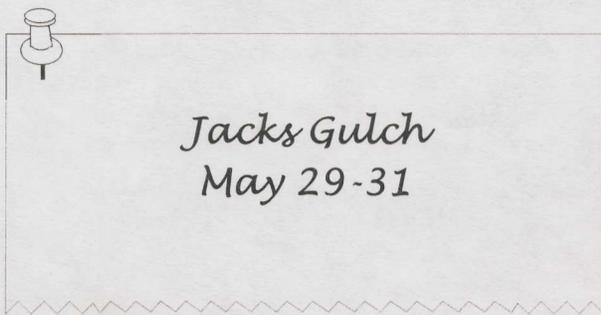
Had an interesting experience on the trail last summer? Would it be worth sharing with other volunteers, and to give new volunteers an idea of what to expect? If so, call **Bill Dold** at Berthoud 532-2909. Bill is looking for people to give short accountings on Friday night May 29 at our pre-season training weekend.



ANOTHER REMINDER!

TRAINING WEEKEND MAY 29-31

Don't forget: PWV training weekend May 29-31. The training is mandatory for all new volunteers, and volunteers from previous years are strongly encouraged to attend at least part of the time – to share their experiences with the new folks, and to benefit from some new advanced training that is being planned (look carefully at the mailing you will receive to find out what's in store.) The training weekend will be held at Jack's Gulch Campground on the Pingree Park Road. Registration will begin Friday afternoon with the first sessions set for Friday evening. The program will wind up on Sunday afternoon.



*Jack's Gulch
May 29-31*

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NEW BOARD MEMBER

Kirsten Maddux

Please welcome **Tony Parent** as our newest member of the board. He works as an electrical engineer for Symbios Logic, one of our corporate supporters, writing software for their analog group. He has been active in PWV since the Fall of 1996 developing our web-site with **Dave Hake** and **Todd Graus**, and designing programs to help with constantly changing information, in addition to hiking, and backpacking.

He is looking forward to joining the board and taking a more active role in improving communications within the organization. He has some excellent ideas about the flow of communications that he would like to implement.

He would like to use the home page to continue to reduce administrative tasks and to build a better communications. The home page has been a great central source of information and communication. In the past year, thanks to Tony's efforts, we have been able to submit our trail reports, and find out about up coming events. If you are interested in viewing the home page, it can be accessed at <http://www.fortnet.org/pwv>. Call Tony at 669-3450, or contact him via email at tonyp@jymis.com for login information.

We look forward to his input and new home page additions in the next year. Tony also has helped with the layout and production of this issue of Poudre Trails, and he has agreed to help with the newsletter in the future. Welcome Tony!



Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
PO Box 271921
Fort Collins, CO 80527