

NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

August 2009

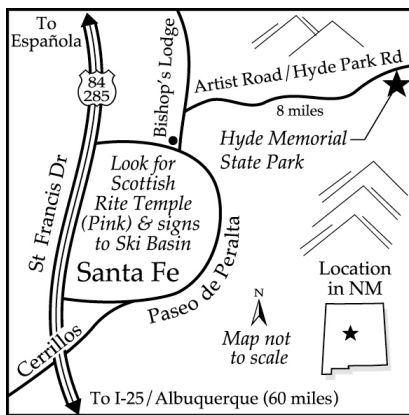
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*New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, (505) 884-1991 or (888) 836-5553
Visit our website at www.nmvfo.org. Email us at lnmvfo@gmail.com.*

NMVFO Summer Social

Sunday, July 26, 2009

Leader: Kevin Balciar, (505) 293-1477, Kevin@soleilwest.com



We are halfway through the project season and probably have many stories to tell about our outdoor adventures. Sunday, July 26 will be the time to share them with other volunteers and potential volunteers, without getting your hands dirty. We will be hosting a social event at the historic lodge at Hyde Memorial State Park north of Santa Fe. The event will start at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

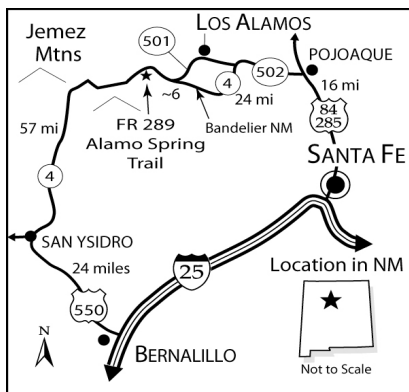
There will be live music, exhibits, slide shows of past projects, flyers describing our group activities, and project schedules. Veteran volunteers will offer advice to new volunteers. Burgers, hot dogs and refreshments will be served. Watch for the green VFO signs to direct you to the event. Contact Kevin (above) for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Alamo Spring Trail, Jemez Mountains (↖↗)

Saturday August 1 through Sunday August 2, 2009

Leader: Phyllis Martinez, (575) 829-3535, ext 3116, pamartinez02@fs.fed.us



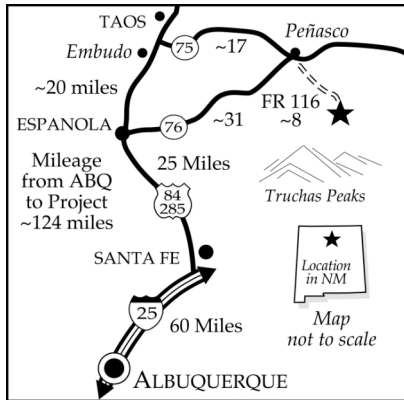
We will begin trail maintenance on the west end of this trail working our way towards the Bandelier National Monument boundary. This project will entail lots of erosion mitigation work (tread outslipping, numerous drainage features installed, retaining walls, pruning, and perhaps a minor reroute or two). This is a very short trail, approximately one mile long, and has not had any comprehensive trail maintenance for many years. This is a kid friendly and dog friendly project.

Camping will be at Graduation Flats. We will provide a port-a-potty, potable water, and transportation to the work site. Pat Collins is the project cook and will prepare Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Please call or email me if you'd like to join us: pamartinez02@fs.fed.us, 505-470-0967.

Santa Barbara Backpack, Pecos Wilderness (↖↗↘)

Thursday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Leaders: Amy Ross, amyross505@gmail.com and Ray Peale, (505) 473-9670, trpeale@msn.com



This backpack project will start at the Santa Barbara Campground on the Middle Fork Trail in the beautiful Northern Pecos Wilderness. We will hike up the narrow canyon along the roaring Rio Santa Barbara, and climb through the aspen forest to a beautiful meadow at the junction of the East Fork and Middle Fork Trails, where we will make our base camp. The 7-mile trail has a gradual elevation gain of approximately 1100 feet and will take 3.5 – 5.0 hours depending on your pace.

The hike and trail work will be on Trails #24 and #25. The project work will include removal of tree blow-downs, tread improvement, installation and repair of drainage structures, removal of vegetation encroaching on the trail corridor, and repair and installation of new signage. All ability and experience levels are welcome and can be accommodated.

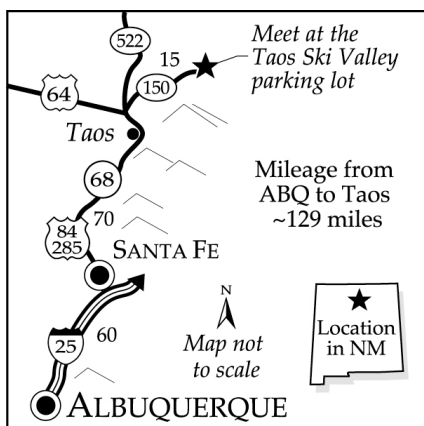
We will hike in on Thursday, work Friday through Monday, and break camp and hike out on Tuesday. The Forest Service will pack in all tools, cookware and food for the project. Volunteers will be responsible for carrying in their personal gear including plates/cups/utensils, tent, sleeping bag, and work clothes/boots and gloves. The Pecos Wilderness is known to bring summer rains, so be sure to bring appropriate rain gear and warm socks. Delicious group meals provided by NMVFO will begin on Thursday Evening and extend through lunch on Tuesday. Volunteers may participate for the entire project or any portion of the days that work with your schedule.

Santa Barbara campground may be accessed via NM 73 south from Penasco. Further directions and information may be obtained from the trip leader. Please sign up for this project by Friday August 14, 2009.

Bull-of-the-Woods, Taos Ski Valley (↖↗)

Saturday, August 29 through Sunday, August 30, 2009

Leader: Lowell Hioki, (505) 474-0913, Lhioki@msn.com



The Gavilan/Manzanita/Yerba Trails project has been changed to Bull-of-the-Woods because a different organization performed the work originally envisioned for us. It has been a few years since we worked on the trail leading to Gold Hill from Bull-of-the-Woods in the gorgeous Taos Ski Valley, and so there is a lot of maintenance to be performed. The trail has been damaged by severe use and needs quite a few water bars and check dams repaired and installed. We'll be cutting trees and peeling them for this application, as well as performing some general trail grooming.

The scenery is spectacular. Among other views, we'll be able to see Goose Lake and the trail we cut several years ago leading up from

the Lake to Gold Hill.

We will be camping at Bull-of-the-Woods, then hiking a little over a mile to the worksite. Because we need to travel on private land with access through locked gates, we will be convoying up to the campsite. The plan is to meet in the ski area parking lot near Twining Road. One group will gather and leave the parking lot at 5:00 pm on Friday afternoon, and the other will do so at 8:00 am on Saturday morning; you do need to make one of the two convoys. High clearance vehicles are necessary for this trip, so if you don't have one, we'll transfer your gear to a suitable vehicle. A toilet is available at the campsite, and the Forest Service will provide potable water. A light Saturday breakfast, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast will be provided; please bring all your other meals and whatever snacks you desire. Remember that we'll be working and camping in the monsoon season, so please bring rain gear and ensure that your tent is watertight.

Please sign up by Monday, August 24, and don't hesitate to contact Lowell Hioki if you have any questions.

Share your Photos

Photographs taken of your project can be shared via a slide show in the Projects Page of our website. Select a dozen or so of your most interesting shots, write captions for each, and send them to Lowell Hioki (Lhioki@msn.com). To see the slide shows, go to the Projects Page, and click on the "Click Here for the NMVFO 2009 Projects and Slide Shows." As you scroll down and click on each individual project, a "View a Slide Show of This Project" note preceding the detailed description indicates which projects have slide shows, and clicking on this will start the show. Many thanks to the project leaders and/or photographers who have submitted photos to share!

Some Reminders for Project Volunteers

Just a reminder to volunteers that you should bring your own eating gear: plate, cup, and utensils. Also, after meals, volunteers should help with cleanup, both your own as well as the cooking gear.

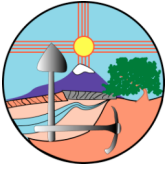
Remember, just like you, our cooks are all volunteers and a thank-you for a meal well done helps keep them cooking for us. Another item that is often overlooked by volunteers is a chair (folding, collapsible, or whatever).

Need Camping Equipment?

VFO has a dome tent, a 0° sleeping bag and foam mattress pad available on a first-come, first-served basis; check with the project leader if you want to borrow them. Another source is REI, in Albuquerque near I-25 and Montano and in Santa Fe at the Railyard; they have a wealth of camping (and other) equipment for rent, including tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads.



We want to again thank Wilson & Company, Engineers and Architects, for printing our flyers during this and many past seasons. In Albuquerque, Wilson & Company's services include architectural, environmental planning, railroad and surveying and mapping services.



New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors
P.O. Box 36246
Albuquerque, NM 87176

Website: www.nmvfo.org
Email: 1nmvfo@gmail.com

Join the NMVFO Today!

Your membership dues help fund all our activities to make improvements to trails and outdoor recreation areas throughout New Mexico. Mail in the form below, along with your check, to NMVFO, P.O. Box 36246, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip + 4 _____

Home Phone (with area code): _____

Work Phone (with area code): _____

email address: _____

May we send you our newsletter by email? _____

Please indicate what information above we may include in our posting of your name in the Members-Only section of our website.

The New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors is a 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of New Mexico. We are an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.

NMVFO Membership Categories

- Individual (\$20)
- Family (\$30)
- Contributor (\$30)
- Sponsor (\$50)
- Benefactor (\$100)
- Life (\$250 and above)
- Corporate (\$250 and above)
- You Name It (above \$250)