

NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

July 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.*

Volunteer Opportunities

San Pedro Park Wilderness Backpack ()

Friday, July 10 through Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Leader: John Thomas, (505) 298-5234, Jt87111@comcast.net



This will be a trail maintenance operation (brushing, cutting logs blocking the trail, etc) in San Pedro Parks, probably on the San Jose Trail, and we will work for the Cuba Ranger District. The USFS will carry in our camp, kitchen, tools and a small amount of gear per person, such as your tent, sleeping bag, pad, and clothing. All food will be provided except Friday lunch. The campsite will be in the wilderness at about 10,000' and will involve a 6-mile hike, with a 2000' elevation gain. The leader will personally guide participants to the campsite.

If you can't or don't want to do all 6 days, shorter hikes can be accommodated; just please tell me in advance.

Stuff to Bring: Your own plate, cup and eating utensils, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, good raingear, insect repellent, sunscreen, tent, sleeping bag and mat, cold weather clothing, lunch and water for the hike in, leather work gloves, boots, and USFS-approved eye protection (available at Lowe's). Be prepared for freezing temperatures.

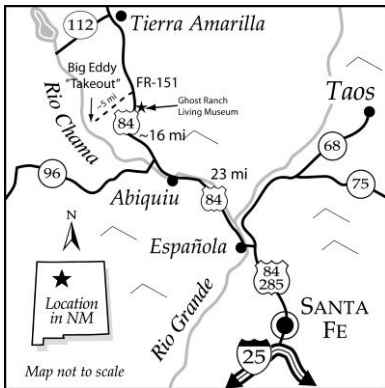
We will meet Friday morning at 9:15 am at the USFS Cuba RD office, which is just off the right side of US 550 (as you drive NW into Cuba) at the city limits. It is a one-story office with brick and green siding. There is a tiny sign on US 550 indicating its presence. If you need a ride, I will facilitate carpooling. Notify me when you make your reservation. At the office in Cuba we will drop off our gear then caravan to the trailhead for our hike in.

This trip is limited to 8 participants. Three people have already made reservations. I would be very happy if you can make your reservations before July 5 so that I can plan menus and purchase food.

July is in the beginning of the rainy season in San Pedro Parks and we will probably have afternoon showers most days. We must comply with all USFS safety regulations. The USFS will provide hard hats for when we work.

Rio Chama Raft Trip (↖↗), Friday, July 17 through Sunday, July 19, 2008

Leader: Deborah Radcliffe, (505) 255-4960, dradcliffe@salud.unm.edu



This project is a wonderful opportunity to experience a raft trip down a beautiful river. Working with the BLM (who supply the rafts, kayaks, and river expertise) we will paddle and float down the wild and scenic Chama River from just below El Vado Dam to our work sites. This trip takes us to an area that most people have to win a lottery to see! We will get to see and hear wonderful birds and interesting mammals and reptiles. We will be constructing steps to campsites, camping both Friday and Saturday nights. We meet at Big Eddy on Forest Road 151 (FR 151 heads west from 84 between Ghost Ranch and Echo Amphitheater) on Friday July 11th at 8 AM. We will finish on Sunday afternoon July 12th taking out below the monastery or perhaps going further down river to Big Eddy to experience the rapids. Group meals begin with Friday supper. **This year's project is full** (it's limited to just 8 volunteers) but experienced VFO members are encouraged to sign up early in 2009 for next year's trip.

East Fork Spurs Trail (↖↗↖) Saturday, July 18 through Sunday, July 19, 2009

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

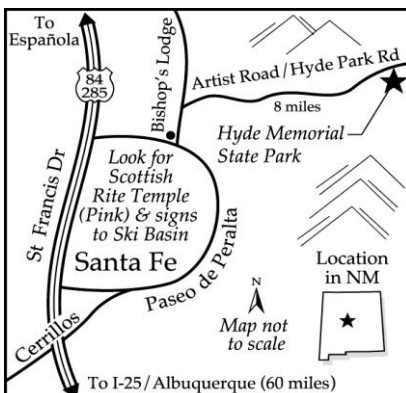


We will continue to improve the West Spur Trail that leads hikers down to the East Fork of the Jemez River. We will reconstruct trail segments with numerous climbing turns and perhaps rebuild some of the steps that make up the stairway.

Camping on Friday and Saturday is in Loop 4 of the Jemez Falls Campground. From I-25, take Highway 550 north to San Isidro, then north on Highway 4. The campground is off Highway 4, 12 miles north of Jemez Springs.

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. Visit our website, www.nmvfo.org and click on the Join the NMVFO link for a map. If you need further information, contact Kevin Balciar at kevin@soleilwest.com or 505-293-1477.

Alamo Spring Trail

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 outsloping, numerous drainage features installed, retaining walls, pruning, and perhaps a minor reroute or two. This is a very short trail, it is approximately 1 mile long. This trail has not had any comprehensive trail maintenance for many years.

Please contact the project leader for information regarding where to meet and where the camping site is.

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 of your most interesting shots, write captions for each, and send them to Lowell Hioki (Lhioki@msn.com).

Some Reminders for Project Volunteers

Just a reminder to volunteers that while the NMVFO provides some meals on our projects, we don't always pack extra plates, cups, and eating utensils. *Project participants should come prepared with their own eating gear. Also, please remember that after meals, volunteers should help with cleanup.* NMVFO cooks spend time planning, shopping and preparing our meals. To this add the extra time to gather equipment and clean it before return to storage and you can begin to understand the work that's entailed. If you are not the type who wants to wash plates and other items, please bring your own disposable eating gear. (But this doesn't relieve you of helping to clean 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). *Please don't assume that an unoccupied chair is "fair game" and was hauled to the campsite for your use because you forgot to bring one.*

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)