



AUGUST 2014

**This  
issue**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
PyroClassic  
Bike Race

Members  
Appreciation  
Picnic

Jaramillo  
Creek  
Work  
Project

Upcoming  
Events

*Friends of the  
Valles Caldera*  
a 501(c)(3)  
tax deductible  
nonprofit  
organization

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual PyroClassic Bike Race

Frank Reeves



Los Amigos de Valles Caldera partnered with the Pajarito Mountain Bike Patrol to launch the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Valles Caldera cross-country mountain bike race on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event was the first of its kind on the Preserve and was a rousing success. Sanctioned by USA Cycling and part of the New Mexico off-road mountain bike racing series, it attracted more than 125 racers from all over New Mexico and southern Colorado.

Race day was a spectacularly clear, sunny day sandwiched between rainy days, and the volunteers and participants started their morning winding through a large herd of elk on the way to the staging area. Racers commented on the awesome venue and many vowed to return if the race becomes a recurring event (we hope it will!).

Amigos volunteers, coordinated by Jack and Darlene Crane, and members of the Pajarito Mtn. Bike Patrol were supported by the VCNP recreation staff, coordinated by Lance Weinbrenner, providing a smoothly run event that included pre-race biking and camping Saturday evening.

The race offered three loops: a 9 mile for beginners, 18 mile for intermediates, and 30 mile loop for the experts. Amazingly, the top experts completed their 30-mile loop in just over 2 hours! Cash prizes, medals, and free bike merchandise (provided by generous sponsors) were awarded at the conclusion of the race. Proceeds after event expenses will benefit the Pajarito Mountain Bike Patrol, a volunteer organization affiliated with the International Mountain Biking Association.



## Member Appreciation Picnic



The Los Amigos de Valles Caldera Board of Directors planned an interesting day on the Preserve for its members and friends.

Participants were treated to a beautiful and informative tour of Los Amigos' wetlands grant work projects and historic district locations. A scrumptious lunch followed, prepared by the Los Amigos board members.



Thanks to Jack Crane and Nina Wells, who explained

the wetlands grant process and showed how our plug and pond technique, rock dams, and Zuni bowls are improving the Preserve's water quality.

### *Upcoming . . .*

#### **Six Tribes Volunteer Workshop and Campout #3, August 22-24**

For more information contact Jack Crane at [jdcrane@valornet.com](mailto:jdcrane@valornet.com)



## Jaramillo Creek Volunteer Workshop and Campout

Almost 50 volunteers from the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, the Wildlife Disease Association conference, and Los Amigos de Valles Caldera worked July 25-27 to restore wetlands and improve water quality and wildlife habitat along Jaramillo Creek.

Friday's campers prepared for the next day's work and enjoyed socializing with new and old friends. The following mornings, after hefty breakfast burritos and hot coffee, groups loaded into vehicles full of shovels and wheelbarrows and headed out for a busy day of building erosion control structures. Several rock structures were built to stop head-cut erosion, and sod tiles were used to plug gullies draining a slope wetland.



Special thanks to Jack Crane for an afternoon educational tour, to Scial and Rodney for yummy breakfast burritos and bison burgers, to Kerry Mower (New Mexico Game and Fish) for his Dutch oven cooking and delightful evening campfire presentation, and Scott Compton, (VCNP Watershed Management Staff) for participating in the workshop.



Photos by Frank Reeves, Kristina G. Fisher