



Chris Reed—BCHI CHAIRMAN 208-596-1222 gunslinger44@turbonet.com

Aline Brinkmann—VICE CHAIR 208-521-3480 horsnrnd1@qmail.com

Debbie Samovar—SECRETARY 208-245-3041 secretarybchi@gmail.com

Kay Ryan—TREASURER 208-398-8993 ryan3863@speedyquick.net

Rod Parks—PAST CHAIRMAN 208-791-3246 rod.d.parks@gmail.com

Pat Bogar—NAT'L DIRECTOR 509-780-3545 mpbogars@gmail.com

Aline Brinkmann—NAT'L DIR 208-521-3480 horsnrnd1@gmail.com

Gary Kalmbach—ALT NAT'L DIR 208-962-7305 garykalmbach@wildblue.net

Gary Kalmbach—PUBLIC LANDS-NO 208-962-7305 garykalmbach@wildblue.net

Curtis Elton—PUBLIC LANDS-SO 208-484-8598 eltonchak@yahoo.com

Tim Palmer—PUBLIC LANDS-East 208-604-2736 tpalmer@watkinsdist.com

Rob Adams—SAWYER COORD 208-781-0548 moosely.adams@gmail.com

Aline Brinkmann—WAYS & MEANS 208-521-3480 horsnrnd1@gmail.com

Vacant—EDUCATION CHAIR 831-402-7482 muledaze@yahoo.com

Karen Kimball—EDU CO-CHAIR 208-772-2434 jkkimball01@gmail.com

Debbie Samovar—CALENDAR & MAILING LIST COORDINATOR 208-245-3041 secretarybchi@gmail.com

Steve Didier—EXPANSION 208-451-0146 steve.didier@gmail.com

Jill Nebeker—WEBSITE 208-922-4370 website-coordinator@bchi.org

Corey L. Dwinell—INSURANCE 208-661-4265

coreysfarmers@gmail.com

Tim Palmer—FOUNDATION CHAIR 208-604-2736 tpalmer@watkinsdist.com

Pat Bogar/Susan Johnson— BROOMTALES 509-780-3545 bchibroomtales@gmail.com

www.bchi.org

View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE

As I come to the end of my term, I would like to thank you all for letting me be a part of this team. I have greatly enjoyed learning what it means to be a part of the Back Country of Idaho family. It has been a great honor; one I will cherish my whole life. Six years ago, I would not have dreamed of finding that an organization with the level of people who encompass the BCHI existed. By watching all these great volunteers who create this great family it motivates me to do and be more. I am encouraged to help others become a part of this family. I again would like to thank you all for helping me learn about BCHI. I would also like to implore you all to try and find one new member each and encourage them to be a part of our family.



I know we have a great team of volunteers. I would like to ask if there is anyone who would like to be our education chair to please contact me or the next chairman. We are looking for someone to take this challenge on.

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

Albert Einstein

Chris Reed BCHI Chairman



Salmon River BCHI to host the 2023 BOD Meeting & Convention

Friday, March 17 – Saturday, March 18 LOCATION: Elks Lodge, Salmon, ID

Chapter Display Theme: Tales from the Trails

For more information please email:

Celeste — celbingham @netscape.net Karen — Kmf52@icloud.com



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO



MISSION STATEMENT

To perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country & wilderness. To work to ensure that public land remains open to recreational stock-use.

To assist the government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of these resources by horsemen and the general public.

To foster and encourage the formation of new Back Country Horsemen state organizations.

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc. P.O. Box 513 Salmon, Idaho 83467

For more information about Back Country Horsemen of Idaho state chapters, visit us on the web at:

www.bchi.org

Broomtales is the membership newsletter of the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc., a non-profit service organization, and is published three times a year—Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Large Front Cover: USFS/BCH August Pack Trip Service project on Moose-Mesquite-Phillips Pass loop in The Jedediah Smith Wilderness. (Teton Valley BCH Adopt-A-Trail). Left to right: Will Nelson, Erin Casey, Melissa Pangraze, Photographer Lacy Garton. **Back Cover:** Forest Service/TTBCH service project pack trip. Erin Casey and Melissa Pangraze.

Education Report— Article by Melissa Pangraze, President of Teton Valley BCHI

Looking for some focus for your chapter? Adopt-A-Trail in your nearby forest! (Here's a little bit of Teton's story.)

As a new chapter in Teton Valley Idaho, we were looking to get on the map and prove to our local forest service ranger district that we existed and meant business. As our vision/mission statement reads: "We are committed to doing our part as trail stewards while keeping the western riding tradition alive and we will work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use".

We started by identifying several enthusiastic members of our local chapter who showed interest in becoming skilled sawyers. We then contacted our local Teton Basin Ranger District office to learn about any upcoming certification opportunities. Sure enough, the USFS wilderness manager, Jeremy Kunzman, knew just where to send us! He informed us we can be trained to run both the chainsaw and cross-cut saw, so we jumped at the free opportunity. Within the month, six chapter volunteers traveled the hour and a half to Idaho Falls for classroom training and later participated in additional hours of field training from Jeremy to get checked off and officially certified. That part was fun and easy. Ahead of us now ... the challenge to put our skills where our mouth is and get cutting.

The Jedediah Smith Wilderness is located in our backyard just over the state line in Wyoming. Designated wilderness by Congress in 1984, the Jed is within Caribou-Targhee National Forest bordering Grand Teton National Park and consists of 123,451 acres. Our valley has access to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest on our side of the Tetons via 9 trailheads in the Teton Basin Ranger District. Since it hits the wilderness boundary pretty quickly, no matter what trail you access in the Teton Range, we realized we wouldn't be humping chainsaws up a trail very far before they were illegal to use. In wilderness is the glory of the "quieter" saw and the boasting rights of non-gas, human-generated muscle power! Wow, what did we get ourselves into?! Ranger Jeremy explained to us the great need for persistent effort, using just man-powered saws, to keep the trails clear because of all of the past and current wind storms damage that impedes the trails. This seemed a little daunting trying and do our part as dedicated Back Country Horsemen keeping so many miles of trail clear and open. So we heeded Jeremy's advice and zeroed in on a 19-mile trail loop that we felt comfortable calling our own and adopting: the Moose Creek – Mesquite – Phillips Pass – South Teton Crest – Moose Creek Loop. This meant we promised to do our best to keep that chosen trail open for all hikers and horseback riders during the spring/summer/fall season. And we did just that! To help us make sure we didn't just ride the trails but would also make time to get out of our saddles to cut trees across the trail, we planned 2 pack trips this summer in cooperation with the USFS. Honing our skills on how to pack was a bonus!

With the help of a National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance grant we recently received, we will be able to continue to improve our adopted trail next year when we again team up with the Forest Service to repair an eroded section of the trail that connects to the

Grand Teton National Park. Two more 3-day pack trips are planned for 2023! Won't you grab a shovel and come out and join us?

Wilderness is an integral part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and we feel proud to have done our part. We look forward to continuing our efforts on our adopted trail in the years to come and might even create a sign at the trailhead to recognize Teton Valley Backcountry Horsemen volunteers so that Valley residents might continue to support our nonprofit's efforts. Thanks for reading and good luck with YOUR future Adopt-A-Trail programs:-)

Will Nelson, Erin Casey and Melissa Pangraze





24th Annual

Salmon Select Mule Sale

Lemhi Co. Fairgrounds, Salmon, ID

Selling 60 Quality Mules



Friday, April 14, 2023

Preview: 8:00 AM—5:00 PM Mule Race at 3:00 PM Mule Sale - 5:00 PM

♥ 50th Annual ♥

Salmon Select Horse Sale

Lemhi Co. Fairgrounds, Salmon, ID

Selling 110 Quality Head

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Preview: Friday 8:00 AM—5:00 PM & Saturday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM



Idaho's Premier Horse/Mule Sales

For info/catalog 208-756-2125 - Fax 208-756-6809

www.salmonselectsale.com Sale Manager: Fred Snook, 44 Cemetery Ln, Salmon, ID 83467

Revisiting an important message for the coming year...

"Every member needs to read the BCHI Mission Statement in this newsletter and pick one of the statements for your chapter to highlight ... Make a plan to do at least three activities ... that represent what BCHI is all about."

This was a message from past BCHI Chairman Rob Parks. It's a simple and thought-provoking directive, and a possible jumping-off-point for your chapter's projects and activities for 2023.



Update from BROOMTALES



We want to apologize for the late publication of the Winter 2022 issue of Broomtales. We are in the process of trying to find someone to take over putting this newsletter together.

Broomtales was first introduced in 1986 and Alice Millington has been the editor for the last 4 years, but due to circumstances beyond her control, she has had to step away.

We want to also apologize for any repeat articles, missed advertisements, and incorrect information in this current issue. If there is anything that you notice we have missed or need to correct, please let us know.

Thank you for your patience during this transition. We hope to be back on schedule with the next issue.

For Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Certification, Contact an Instructor, below:

- All BCHI members operating Chainsaw and/or Crosscut Saw for federal agencies are required to be Certified Sawyers.
- All members of BCHI who are interested in being trained as Certified Sawyers for federal agencies, contact an instructor in your region.
- All certified sawyer cards are good for three years from the date of issue, so there will be continuing education.
- Also, all BCHI members who are interested in sawyer certification must have their current First Aid/CPR Training prior to hands-on training.

Region 4 Chainsaw

Rob Adams Squaw Butte Moosely.Adams@gmail.com 208-781-0548 **Charles Chick** Squaw Butte cchick.cc@gmail.com 208-870-6289 Mark Ottman Cache Peak bchidahocp@gmail.com 208-731-5885

Region 4 Crosscut
Mark Ottman Cache Peak bchidahocp@gmail.com 208-731-5885

Region 1 Chainsaw

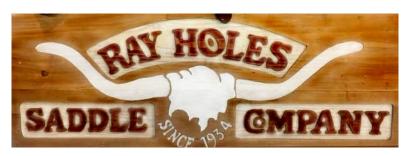
Joe Robinson North Central rockinranchik@gmail.com 208-926-4562 Todd Brown North Central idahopoleguy@gmail.com 208-451-3161

Region 1 Crosscut

Joe Robinson North Central rockinranchjk@gmail.com 208-926-4562 Todd Brown North Central idahopoleguy@gmail.com 208-451-3161









Selling stock: a matter of ethics, integrity, and too often, a matter of moral culpability (that's a legal term.)

here's a difference between selling stock whose risks are known to the buyer and selling stock whose risks the seller knows, but conceals from the buyer.

"Awww, she's just a little cinchy...may crow-hop a bit...Yes, he's sound; would make a great trail horse..." How many have heard those or similar words when they are looking to buy riding stock, ridden the animal in a controlled environment, then discovered they had a horse that was totally unsuitable—wouldn't let them mount, was a run-a-way, reared, bucked, or proved lame? They've got good reason to return the animal. And, the seller should take it back. Of course, after the buyer has made that call, it depends on the seller's integrity, moral compass...It boils down to the sellers' basic character as to whether he/she will take an animal back. Most likely, if the seller knows he dumped an unsuitable animal, well, you likely know what his answer will be.

If the seller, indeed, hadn't disclosed serious problems—withheld important information—to sell a dangerous or an unsuitable equine to an unwitting buyer, he or she very well could be morally culpable and legally responsible in the case the buyer sustains an injury as a result; the seller could be held responsible for the cost of the animal and it's care, hospital fees, and lawyer fees.

When selling stock, make all reasonable efforts to provide potential buyers with all pertinent information. Honest communication is built on truth and *integrity*.





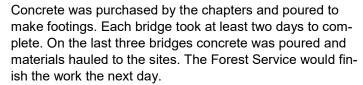


Four Bridges Down...

by Alice Millington, Treasure Valley BCHI

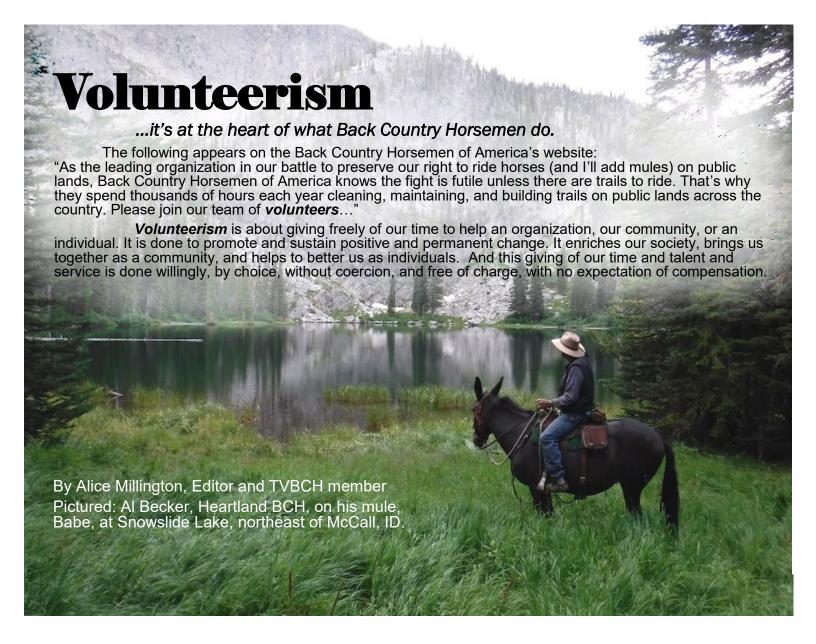
In the summer our chapter was asked by Matt Nance, of the Idaho City Ranger District, if we could help construct a bridge near the Whoop Em Up Equestrian Campground above Idaho City. Yes, we said. Well, one bridge turned into four bridges, but we were grateful to help. Boise BCHI members also joined us. We dug out and set footings, poured footings, hauled planks to the sites, moved heavy stringers over the various creeks, nailed down planks, hauled rocks, and generally enjoyed ourselves as we put our backs into it. Both chapters spent money to help the Idaho City Ranger District get these bridges built just prior to grant deadlines (yes, there's a story in there). A few FS personnel were there to supervise and help, but without the help of these two chapters (labor and monetary) these bridges would not have been built. The Forest Service gave us "in kind" payment in saws. All parties were happy and four new bridges are awaiting hoof, ski and foot traffic.











The A, B, C's of "Bucker" Certification Explained

...of those who earn sawyer certification, most are buckers (and proud of it!)

A Sawyer An apprentice sawyer may saw only in the least complex situations, or, for training purposes, saw at the next higher level, in either case only under the immediate supervision of a B or C Sawyer qualified to supervise the work.

B Sawyer–Bucking Only An intermediate Sawyer who may independently buck and limb any size material in moderately complex situations within the restrictions noted on the sawyer's National Sawyer Certification Card, and who may saw at the next higher level, but only under the immediate supervision of a sawyer qualified to supervise the work.

C Sawyer–Bucking Only An advanced sawyer who may independently buck and limb any size material in highly complex Situations, based on the Regional Saw Program Manager's or Saw Program Coordinator's written recommendation, which must be supported by demonstrated advanced saw knowledge and skills and, in most cases can, as a B Sawyer (FSM 2358.1, ex. 02); may conduct classroom and field training within their skill level for A and B Sawyers; and who may conduct field proficiency evaluations within their skill level for A Sawyers and B Sawyers—Bucking Only.

How To Find Sawyer Certification Training

To find out when sawyer safety workshops are being held, contact one of the following Sawyer Trainers (in your region) or a Ranger District.

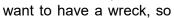
Region 1 —Todd Brown email idahopoleguy@gmail.com or call 208-451-3161 Region 4 — Rob Adams email Moosely.Adams@gmail.com or call 208-781-0548



John's Creek Project June 2022

Submitted by Rod Parks

Twin Rivers BCH volunteers headed out at the break of dawn to get a decent start clearing trails for the Nez Perce - Clearwater N.F. John's Creek Trailhead is located on the South Fork of the Clearwater River on the road to Elk City, a very scenic drive. We arrived shortly after 9:00 am with a crew of eight, a great turnout considering the forecast was for rain both days. We split into two crews, one following the ridge and the other following John's CR drainage, with plans to meet in the middle if everything went well. A family had to leave early, as a young horse got excited and kept leaving the trail on the steep hillside. They did not



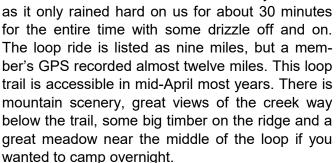
returned to the trailhead. The rest of us continued working until we met back at the trailhead at 5:00pm. There were more trees down than last year so we never finished. We loaded our stock and headed on to Leggett Creek Campground for the night. It is 14.5 miles past John's

Creek Trailhead as overnight camping is not allowed at the trailhead. We had a great Potluck Sunday night with fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, vegetables, fresh fruit and

chocolate chip cookies for dessert. Monday morning, after breakfast, we tore down camp and moved back to the trailhead to finish the work. We lost one more worker as he was not feeling good. The last four of us headed up the ridge trail, started sling shotting with stock and chainsaws up the trail clearing trail, and finished shortly after 2:00 pm. We had a nice ride back to the trailhead, din-

ner in Grangeville and a couple hour ride home, feeling good about our accomplishments. We had much better weather than the members that stayed home,

> as it only rained hard on us for about 30 minutes for the entire time with some drizzle off and on. The loop ride is listed as nine miles, but a member's GPS recorded almost twelve miles. This loop trail is accessible in mid-April most years. There is mountain scenery, great views of the creek way below the trail, some big timber on the ridge and a great meadow near the middle of the loop if you















The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation's "Idaho Trails Supporter" Sticker became available on National Trails Day. For a \$10 donation, you can sponsor Idaho's hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. All proceeds of this voluntary pro-

gram will go toward maintaining and protecting Idaho's non-motorized trails. To purchase, go to:

https://idahostateparks.reserveamerica.com/pos.page?repurchasePrdID=184619

The colorful 2022 Idaho Trails Supporter Sticker

is on sale in stores, state parks, and online for only 10 bucks...or you can buy the 2021 version for just 2 bucks. (The stickers change every year, so op for the green 2022 version, or both!)

Created by Idaho Parks & Recreation, the sticker program is intended to fund maintenance on 10,000 miles of *non-motorized trails*.

GET YOURS NOW!



Have you heard about

"STOP the Bleed"

"Uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of preventable death from trauma." The only thing more tragic than a death from bleeding IS A DEATH THAT COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED. Obtain the tools and knowledge to make a difference in how you respond to the next emergency. Whether at home, work, or on the trail, what you "know and do" can make a difference in someone's life.





"I am a member of the Treasure

Valley and Boise BCH chapters and one of the instructors for the <code>Stop</code> the <code>Bleed</code> Course. I would be happy to provide this course to assist chapters in obtaining this skill set, within a reasonable distance from Boise. This free class is ~ 1.5 hours, and participants will receive certification upon completion."

Cheryl R. Bice, BSN, CCRN, CFRN, NREMT

Trauma Coordinator Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center cheryl.bice@saintalphonsus.org

Cell (208) 407-2912 Work (208) 367-6139

Update: E-Bike Use on Non-Motorized Trails

First, a little background: On August 29, 2019, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) were directed to include e-bikes in their governing regulations by the US Secretary of the Interior (Order 3376). The order states that "E-bikes shall be allowed where other types of bicycles are allowed; and E-bikes shall not be allowed where other types of bicycles are prohibited."



In response to this, the aforementioned agencies included guidance rules in their governing regulations, which they could implement without seeking advice from experts, stakeholders, and the public because the "order" was made without notice or input, to the chagrin of stakeholders and the public. So, in April 2020, they proposed new regulations, and public comment was sought by all four agencies, regarding these proposed regulations; the individual comment periods for the agencies all ended in early June.

Part of the proposals: The BLM, FWS, and BOR's rules create an *opt-in* system where agency officials must decide on an area-by-area basis whether to allow e-bikes; whereas, the NPS created an *opt-out* system, which permits e-bikes access unless an NPS official restricts the use of e-bikes in an area.

Google Back Country Horsemen of America to read BCHA's formal, and very lengthy, thorough and well-written public comments to the BLM, NPS, and FWS to their proposed rules for the use of e-bikes. In a nutshell: BCHA opposes any effort, including the Proposed Rule, that would attempt to superimpose motorized forms of travel and recreation on non-motorized trails used by hikers, equestrians and others. The Back Country Horsemen of America, joined by 60 regional and national trail and recreation organizations, "Expressed, in no uncertain terms, their unified opposition to any change in agency policy that would authorize e-Bikes, which clearly are motorized vehicles, on non-motorized trails."

The Trail Boss

Twin Rivers BCH Trail Boss Duties

I. ALWAYS BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROJECT

II. BEFORE THE PROJECT

- 1. Contact the chapter liaison for the agency as far in advance as possible prior to the project and make sure cost share agreement (Forest Service) is signed and available by project date.
- 2. Find out who will be in charge of the project for the agency and exchange contact information with him/her and review the project.
 - 3. Ascertain project needs; materials, equipment, stock, etc.
 - 4. Discuss trailhead or camp location facilities; feed bunks, feed, hitchrails, stock water, potable water, toilets, etc.
 - 5. Discuss time and location to meet on project date and starting time.
- 6. Enlist other members interested in the project to assist you. These people can help cover specific responsibilities of the project this can range from trail work to camp helpers. Coordinate the project with these people.
- 7. Pre-ride and/or visit the project site with agency personnel if needed. Reimbursement from chapter for travel expenses may be approved.
- 8. Submit article to newsletter editor two weeks prior to general membership meeting preceding the project with brief description of project, directions, dates, start time, etc.
- 9. Prepare what is needed for the project and make arrangements to get them to the project. Phones or radios, awning, equine first aid kit, people first aid kit, BBQ/cookstove, firewood, propane, chapter toilet, chapter power tools/fuel/oil, camera, Volunteer Hours Report, and meat for potluck (chapter pays for the meat).

III. PROJECT DAY

- 1. Place directional signs to camp location.
- 2. Sign up all workers on BCH of America Volunteer Hours Report for the project, number of stock, and round trip travel time in hours and round trip vehicle mileage.
 - 3. Have Safety Meeting and discuss work plan with all present.
 - 4. Announce time for potluck.
 - 5. Pick up directional signs on your return trip home.

IV. AFTER PROJECT

- 1. Check that equipment is clean and ready to go for next project and return to storage shed promptly.
- 2. Do the paperwork. Fill out BCH of America volunteer hours report and follow up with chapter liaison on Cost Share Agreement and payment, if it applies.
 - 3. Provide Newsletter Editor, website person, and agency contact with project report, include photos if available.
 - 4. Give a wrap-up report at next general meeting.

Panhandle BCH End-of-Year Party

Submitted by Karen Kimball

On January 21st Panhandle BCH had our annual end-of-year party. The chapter furnished the buffet -style dinner of ham, lasagna, scalloped potatoes, salads and rolls. Members brought desserts.



Horseman of the year was presented to Tom Knoll. He was presented with an engraved pocket knife which said, "PBCH Horseman of the year, Tom Knoll, 2022". Loni Lueck was our Horsewoman of the year but was not able to attend the party. She was given the award at our February 18th meeting.

All of the 2022 Officers and Directors received a Certificate of Appreciation and

the 2023 Officers and Directors were recognized.

Everyone enjoyed talking about the past outings and talked about upcoming events.



C4 Creative Designs offers

The Original Western Leg Cuff Keepers







Cuff keepers & wild rag slides—men's & ladies'—in a variety of Western & Wildlife Concho Styles.

Keeps jean cuffs off the ground with inter-changeable conchos

Solid metal construction

Powder-coated for protection

A variety of colors to choose

from

"Swing on over and check





Robert's Rules of Order

Here's a question for General Robert: In determining the result of a vote, what is considered a majority?

General Robert's answer: The word "majority" in this context means, simply, *more than half*. The use of any other definition, such as 50 percent plus one, is apt to cause problems. So, if you have 17 members vote; 9 members voting Yay will pass the motion.

How about a two-thirds vote, General Robert, can we round to the nearest number in computing the result of a vote?

For example, since two-thirds of 101 is 67.33, will 67 affirmative votes out of 101 votes cast meet the requirement of a two-thirds vote, will 67 be enough?

General Robert's answer: No. The requirement of a two-thirds vote means *at least two-thirds*. As a consequence, nothing less will do. A simple method of determining whether a motion has attained a two-thirds vote is to observe whether the affirmative votes are at least double all the other votes.

BCHI Facebook Page

You can now post stories and pictures on our Facebook page. Share information about your upcoming events and rides on Facebook at:

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho



Congratulations!

2022 Calendar Raffle Winners

\$3,000 Gift Card "Grand Prize" Winner:

Kathy Forrester — Emmett, ID



\$500 Gift Card Winners:

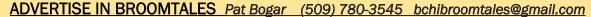
Laurie Williams Bellevue, WA
Rob Price Parma, ID
Paula Martin Priest River, ID
Phil Forrester Kamiah, ID
Rick Ramsen Heyburn, ID
Frank Knight Hagerman, ID
Bartley Baer Emmett, ID
Rhonda Kellerer Nampa, ID
Diane Hansel Albion, WA
Kyle stamper Moscow, ID
Carol Sanborn Juliaetta, ID

BCHI & BCHA Newsletters

If any member would prefer to receive the BCHI and/or BCHA newsletters via email, please let the person who manages your chapter's membership roster know so that they can pass this information on to BCHI Secretary Debbie Samovar at:

BROOMTALES

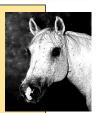
secretarybchi@gmail.com



We may bend the rules a bit, but generally the following applies:

FREE Member Classified Ads - Equine/Back Country-related only - No Business/Service Ads FREE Chapter Event Announcements

Business Card-Size Advertisements—Member \$35 Non-member \$50 - Larger ads can be accommodated BCHI and the Broomtales editor are not responsible for the content of any ad or the condition or temperament of any merchandise.





"Praise the Lord, and Pass the Biscuits" —Alice Millington, TVBCH

When President Bill Murphy called one of our monthly spring meetings to order, two desserts baked in Dutch ovens nearby. With a little help prior to the meeting, Bill had prepared the Dutch ovens, heated the coals, and set the baking in motion out on a patio. After the meeting, chapter members gathered outside where Bill lifted the lids off delicious cherry and peach cobblers. So hot, so delicious; we've all had them, right? It seems a natural fit, Dutch ovens and Back Country Horsemen, and while many of us own one, do many of us actually use them? So, while you go digging out your Dutch ovens temperature charts, tongs, lid lifters, and briquette chimneys — here's a simple recipe for possibly the best buttermilk biscuits ever, especially with good sausage gravy:

Buttermilk Biscuit Recipe—for a 12" Dutch Oven

12 Tbsp *cold* butter, cubed

2 Tbsp baking powder

4 cups all-purpose flour

2 tsp salt

2 Tbsp sugar

2 cups buttermilk 1/2 tsp baking soda

Instructions: Mix dry ingredients, then cut the butter into mixture with pastry cutter. Make a well in the center of the now crumbly mixture; add buttermilk. Stir until dough is mixed—it should be slightly tacky, but not overly sticky. Flour hands and lightly fold the tender dough six times to bring it into a lump in center of bowl (don't over-work it or it will become tough), then pinch off same-sized amounts of dough, shaping each by hand into 1" thick biscuits, placing each into a generously greased Dutch oven (shortening or oil will do) so that they just "kiss" each other.

You want a hot, 450-degree Dutch oven, so place hot briquets, 15 on the bottom (5 between each leg) and 22+ on top—not the accepted ratio of 1/3 on bottom and 2/3s on top, but this will do. Bake the biscuits approx. 30 mins—turning the Dutch oven and the lid a quarter turn, but in opposite directions, about every 10 minutes to bake evenly. Check biscuits in 30 mins. When golden brown, they are done.

In conventional oven: After mixing and folding dough over 6 times to form a square, pat down to 1" thick layer, then cut with 2.5 biscuit cutter—do not twist as you lift cutter off. Place on sheet into 450-degree oven for 12-15 minutes. Golden!

Do you have a great Dutch oven recipe? Share it with us, with pictures of course, at bchibroomtales@gmail.com.

