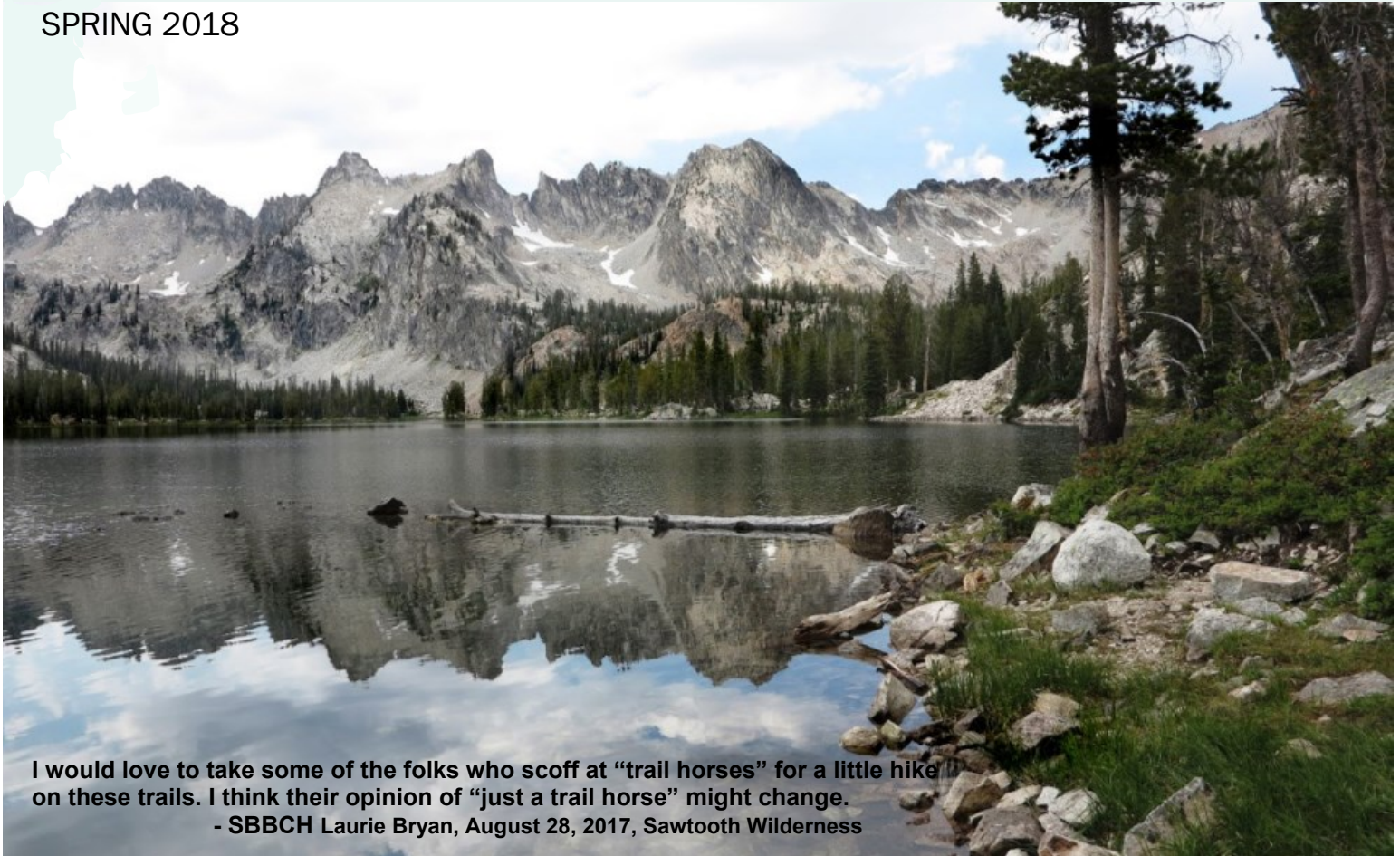




# BROOMTALES

The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Newsletter

SPRING 2018



I would love to take some of the folks who scoff at “trail horses” for a little hike on these trails. I think their opinion of “just a trail horse” might change.

- SBBCH Laurie Bryan, August 28, 2017, Sawtooth Wilderness



## **BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO**

### **- Board Meeting and Convention -**

Hosted by Twin Rivers BCH

March 9 & 10, 2018

Clarkston, Washington

### **“40 Years Down the Trail”**



*Read more about the convention inside...*



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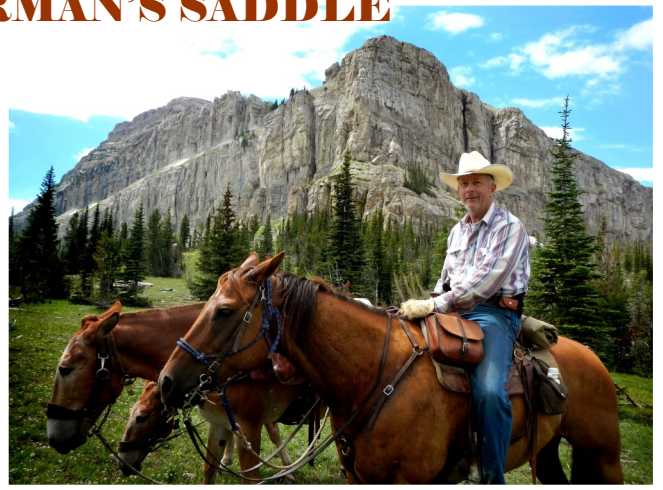
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## View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE

Well I have to admit that as light as our winter has been so far, I have not been out on my horse in weeks. But spring is coming, and I will have no excuses because I am now officially retired. But more important, with spring comes our annual convention, which this year is being hosted by the Twin River Chapter. Folks, this is a member driven organization, and the best way to give your input is at the State Convention. It is also a great way to meet members from other parts of the state, make new friends, see old friends, and find new places to ride.



*Membership still needs to be a focus for us this year.* Sadly, after adding two new Chapters in recent years, we have lost the High Desert Chapter this year. I would again encourage each Chapter to hold some type of outreach to attract new members, whether that be a public ride, a public work party, a barn dance, or a booth at your local fair and outdoor show. We need to let other horse (and mule) users know who we are and what we are all about. We put in a bunch of volunteer work every year, SO let's not keep it a secret; tell people what we do!

Bill Conger  
BCHI Chairman

**PHOTO, above:** Bill rides quarter horse Scout, with mules Babe and Sis in tow, on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. In the background is Cliff Mountain, which is part of the China Wall in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Photo by Mike McGlenn, former BCHA chairman and good friend.

[www.bchi.org](http://www.bchi.org)



# BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO

P.O. Box 513, Salmon, Idaho 83467-0513



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Broomtales is the membership newsletter of the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho (BCHI), a non-profit service organization, and is published three times a year—March, June and October—by BCHI Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3):

**Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Foundation**  
c/o Alice Millington, 261 Buckcamp Road, McCall, Idaho 83638

**COVER PHOTOS Top:** Snowside Peak —elevation 10,650'—is reflected in the pristine waters of Alice Lake in the rugged Sawtooth Wilderness. Photo taken by Rob Adams on the lake's eastern shore, looking northwest from the Pettit Lake Trail-head, Trail 095. **Bottom:** Photo take by Laurie Bryan of Shelly Duff and pack horse, heading down to Stanley Lake Campground on the Iron Creek Trail. Laurie, who dubbed this place "Oh Shit" Drop, commented that "pictures do not do this place justice." **Story on page 6...Pack Support in the Rugged Sawtooths**

# 2018 "EDUCATION" UPDATE

"2018 is on target to be a fun and educational year for interested Back Country Horseman of Idaho members," says Education Chair, Marybeth Conger.

If you are still thinking about attending the Back Country Horseman of Idaho (BCHI) 2018 Directors' Meeting and Annual Convention, please consider that chapter member education has been added to this amazing event. On Saturday, March 10, the first-ever BCHI chapter training will be held in the afternoon. Presented by various volunteers, these educational workshops and presentations are open for all members to attend. What a great way to learn more about your current chapter position or learn the details about something you may be interested in for the future. Some workshops—*schedule below*—will help BCHI grow in both numbers and membership development. With your attendance and feedback, we can make this training an annual BCHI event and improve it, meeting your educational needs. Get your registration form completed and experience some fun learnings and comradery in addition to all of the other fantastic activities scheduled at the 2018 convention. Hope to see you all there!



Bill and Marybeth Conger

Karen Kimball graciously volunteered to be a BCHI education co-chair to help coordinate education efforts up north. Making sure chapter education chairs are familiar with all of the relevant education materials maintained by BCHA and its member states is one way for her to accomplish this. Thank you Karen!

April 13 - 15 marks the date for the 2018 Idaho Horse Expo held at the Ford Idaho Park. SBBCH members Bill and Marybeth Conger are two of the clinicians at this year's event. Their presentations will cover lightweight recreational packing and camping techniques. In addition, local BCH chapters will again man a BCHI booth. These types of public outreach events help the BCHI organization to grow and educate the public on the wise and sustaining use of our backcountry resources. So, come join us if you can!

Marybeth Conger  
BCHI Education Chairman

## Saturday Afternoon Workshop and Presentation Schedule

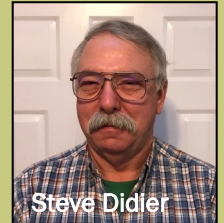
01:00 PM to 1:30 PM	<b>Cross Cut Saw Presentation</b> <i>Idaho Trails Association</i>		
1:30 PM to 1:45 PM	<b>Chapter Training welcome &amp; Introductions-</b> <i>Marybeth Conger &amp; Karen Kimball</i>		
01:45 PM to 02:15 PM	<b>Chapter President/Vice President workshop-</b> <i>Bill Conger &amp; Rod Parks</i>	<b>Chapter Secretary workshop-</b> <i>Debbie Samovar</i>	<b>Chapter Treasurer workshop-</b> <i>Kay Ryan</i>
Transition <i>Phil Ryan</i>			
02:25 to 02:55	<b>Another amazing informational speaker</b>		
Transition <i>Phil Ryan</i>			
03:00 PM to 03:30 PM	<b>BCHI Foundation and Amazon smile fundraising workshop-</b> <i>Chris Reed and Bill Holt</i>	<b>Volunteer Hours Workshop-</b> <i>Rod Parks</i>	<b>Backcountry Horseman of America workshop-</b> <i>Steve Didier</i>
Transition <i>Phil Ryan</i>			
03:40 PM to 04:10 PM	<b>Idaho Horse Council &amp; BCHI Website workshop -</b> <i>Raenette Didier &amp; Jill Nebeker</i>	<b>Chapter Education Chair workshop-</b> <i>Marybeth Conger &amp; Karen Kimball</i>	<b>President/Vice President workshop-</b> <i>Bill Conger &amp; Rod Parks</i>
Transition <i>Phil Ryan</i>			
04:15 PM to 04:30	<b>Wrap up, Q &amp; A, collect Feedback forms</b> <i>Marybeth Conger &amp; Karen Kimball</i>		



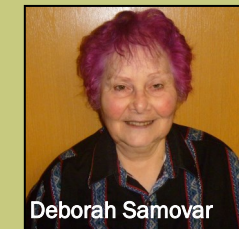
Bill Holt



Raenette Didier



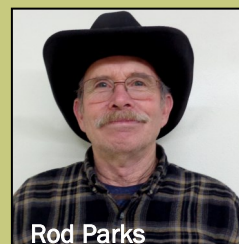
Steve Didier



Deborah Samovar



Karen Kimball



Rod Parks



Chris Reed



Kay Ryan



Jill Nebeker

# 2018 BCHI Convention Report...Check it out!

We are getting closer to the March 9<sup>th</sup> Directors' Meeting and March 10<sup>th</sup> BCHI Convention, which will be held at the Quality Inn & Suites Convention Center in Clarkston, WA. We have a room rate of \$90 per night; this includes a breakfast coupon in their restaurant for each registered guest. The inn has a bar and a reasonably priced restaurant. Camping options are listed on the BCHI website, in the Cover Letter....

The Registration Form, Cover Letter, and Chapter Display and Photo Contest guidelines can be found on the [www.bchi.org](http://www.bchi.org).

The delegate registration fee of \$80 includes a continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dinner on Saturday. On the registration form, read about other meal options for guests.

*40 Years Down the Trail* is this year's theme, and each chapter display should illustrate the history and progression of its chapter. The Chainsaw Award is on the line. Set up chapter displays on Friday.

Judging for the photo contest will be Saturday afternoon. The four photo categories this year: *40 Years Down the Trail, Before & After, Animal, Scenery*.

Each chapter is only asked to bring

one nice item for the auction. Proceeds will all go to the Foundation.

State Directors are on their own for lunch and dinner Friday. There are several local restaurants nearby, and the restaurant at the Quality Inn is good, quick, and reasonable.

Or you might want to walk across the street and visit Basalt Cellars for wine tasting or a bottle of wine (open 'til 5:30 pm) or Riverport Brewery Co. If you'd enjoy a meal with your wine and beer, the BBQ SHAK, in the brewery parking lot, provides delicious smoked meats—tri-tip sandwiches, Lumpia, prime rib, and more—with side dishes. Call before Friday, 208-305-7641, for prime rib. The three businesses work together to make sure your dining experience is complete.

Need coffee? There is a coffee drive-thru within walking distance.

For Friday night wine tasting, Lindsey Creek Vineyards, a short drive, offers a variety of wines and small bites until 9PM.

For golfers, Dave's Golf pro shop/

driving range are behind the motel.

Snake River Adventures offers half-day jet boat rides up the Snake River to Hells Canyon on Friday (10AM to 4PM) if a minimum of 12 persons sign up. Cost: \$128.75 per person.

A ghost and history tour is also available: A trolley will pick up passengers at the Quality Inn. A guide will relate Lewiston's wild history and take customers through Lewiston's underground. This tour has a 10-person minimum for a cost of \$25 per person. If enough people want this tour, it will be scheduled for Friday mid-day.

If you are interested in either the jet boat ride or the Lewiston tour, please call Susie Paulson at 208-743-8639 by February 14.

For information about so much more, the Valley Tourism office is also across the street. Visit Lewis Clark Valley, 847 Port Way, Clarkston, WA, 99403; [877-774-7248](tel:877-774-7248) or [509-758-7489](tel:509-758-7489); or website [www.visitlcv.com](http://www.visitlcv.com) for information about the beautiful Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. "Welcome," says TRBCH member Susie Paulson, "We are proud to show it off to you."

Information provided by Karen Parks and Susie Paulson.



## Thoughts on Keeping and Growing A Chapter's Membership

by Alice Millington

I recently spoke with BCHI members about what they thought made a chapter grow. They had ideas on the subject. And, I took notes. Here are ideas from three...

### Using Facebook to Increase and Energize Membership

"The Eagle Rock Back

Country Horsemen chapter has been using Facebook as our primary means for new membership for several years now. Our chapter has seen our membership grow and become more engaged because of it. 90% of our new members have checked us out on our page before they join. We have 293 members on our page. It is a place they can feel comfortable with us before they join. Also, it gives us great name recognition in the horse community. There is posting on the page from once a week to daily. This allows our members to feel part of our chapter, in real time. It is free and far more effective than a website. I notice a lot chapters in Idaho starting to



use Facebook and I think they are just starting to unlock its potential. The key to getting it to take off is to get your membership to use it and post often. Some members enjoy posting pictures, others post articles, notifications of events and what is going on in the group. If you want people to follow your group post about your chapter in one of the many Idaho Horsemen Facebook sites, ask the public to come and ride with your group on an interesting ride.

Then post pictures of the upcoming ride and welcome people to your group when they check you out. You get out of it what you put into it and it takes more than one person. If you would like to see what this is all about, go on Facebook and go to Eagle Rock Back Country Horsemen."

Tim Palmer, ERBCH



### Invest in Your Members

The definition of "invest in something" is to spend money on something in order to improve it or make it more successful. In this case, Mark Ottman, Cache Peak BCH, believes that to keep a chapter stable and growing it must invest in its members: a chapter's money should be used to support members' efforts to participate in projects; it's good for the members and good for the health of the chapter. **Continued on next page**

Cache Peak takes part in a variety of fundraisers to put money into its coffers, then uses some of that money to help insure members get out to projects. Mark says that when members are able to experience some part of what we do, they not only feel a sense of self-worth, they feel “a part of the program, and they also enjoy the benefits of being able to enjoy this creation we all love.”



### Stay Connected With New Members...

A few weeks ago, Joe Williams, Treasure Valley BCH, organized a conditioning/fun ride. After he finished his ride, instead of immediately heading home, as was his habit, he hung around the parking lot for awhile. Members, new to the rides, had showed up. So, he sauntered over to visit with them. He was enlightened by their conversation.

They wanted to connect with others in the chapter before heading out on rides, but found no one else at the trailhead... the “old hands” had arrived, some even earlier than the scheduled time, saddled up and taken off to ride. The assumption is that everyone knows the routine, but Joe realized that changes were needed; the routine was not okay.

New members needed to connect to fellow riders to discuss what the area and trails were like (and all that involves, think water troughs, fences to open, wild horses, etc.) And, it’s just plain friendly. As Joe says it, “I think what happens over time is we all get in ruts and our own little (riding groups)...we arrive, take off.”

“So, this is repaired,” says Joe. “Got the old hands and myself changing our ride time from 8:00 to 10:30 AM and alternate rides between Saturday to Sunday” to accommodate members needs. Riders may not all head out together, but at least members can arrive and know that they will be greeted by other TVBCH members, a small change which may make a big difference. So, pay attention; business as usual may have to be changed up.

**A HOT TOPIC REDEFINED** Speaking of increasing membership, we’re all having trouble recruiting and engaging younger members to increase our memberships. “Younger” is the operative word. So, who constitutes this group? Answer: the more than 80 million Millennials, that’s who, those born after 1979, ages 18 to 35. And some ride horses & mules.

If the youngest Millennials, who are in their 20’s, are our future members, “the 30-something Millennials should already be participating in our events...If they aren’t, we might just have a generation gap on your hands.” Yep, Back Country Horsemen know that.

So, in the words of Wild Apricot (software company), “If you want to develop a strategy for recruiting and engaging younger members, you’ll need to re-focus your marketing, communications and fundraising strategies to target, embrace, welcome and engage this generation.” Sounds right.

## Glad I made the calls... AJ Millington

Thought I’d visit a saddle shop or two while in the Lewiston-Clarkston area for the convention, so called a few. Out of six calls, only two gentlemen answered their phones. So, we talked.

Spoke with Cliff Ensley, owner of Snake River Saddlery. In a friendly voice, he told me that he’d “been makin’ custom saddles for horses (and mules) for 47 years.” And, though not a BCH member now, turns out, Cliff was one of the original members of Twin Rivers BCH. He may have some custom chinks and chaps in his shop by convention time.

I also spoke with Josh Bostrom who owns Diamond B Quarter Horses. (Google listed him under “saddle shops”, but he doesn’t have one.) He breeds quarter-horses and his specialty is training mules....“They’re a whole different cup of tea,” he said of mules.

Josh just moved from Lewiston to Cottonwood, ID, where for the past three years, he’s trained mules for the Coyote Mule Company. Owners Barney and Bobbi Jo Chambers, sellers & trainers of “quality mules,” pride themselves on finding the right mule/s, tack, and instruction for clients. Spoke briefly with Barney, too.

I’m glad I called...nice people and, with so many BCH members interested in mules, good info to know.

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# Pack Support in the Rugged Sawtooths -Squaw Butte BCH-

On Saturday, August 26, 2017, Squaw Butte BCH members met at Stanley Lake Campground—situated above beautiful Stanley Lake (6,500') at the foot of the Sawtooth Mountains—to provide pack support up to a Wilderness Volunteers (WV) work-site at Sawtooth Lake (8,435') for a WV crew and Caitlin Frawley, Ranger for the Stanley Ranger District. The WV service project: heavy trail maintenance and tread repair (Iron Creek Trailhead and Stanley Lake Trail 640) above Sawtooth Lake on the most heavily used access in the Sawtooth Wilderness, an area that was burned in 2003 by the Trailhead Fire. And where “the spectacular alpine scenery is unparalleled!” This project was rated as challenging by the ranger district, and soon, SBBCH members would face their own challenges transporting the supplies.

Sunday morning, Caitlin arrived at the campground with supplies and other equipment. SBBCH members packed 130 pounds of tools, food, and commissary supplies onto their stock and headed down the Alpine Way Trail. At 6.5 miles, they began to encounter downfall, and at mile 7, two dangerous creek crossings: dangerous ledges dropped down to creeks crisscrossed with many downed trees. They struggled to cross the first creek, but the second creek was worse than the first, which had taken them 45 minutes to cross, and it was getting late. So, they

turned back; they would give it a try the next day from the Iron Creek Trail-Head.

On Monday, the third day in, their numbers reduced, a smaller team of five women (Janine Townsend, Janelle Weeks, Lisa Griffith, Shelly Duff, and Laurie Bryant) and one man (Rob Adams), parked their trailers in a small meadow at Iron Creek and packed their animals. With 11 horses and 1 mule, they headed up the Iron Creek Trail.

The 6-mile trip to the WV camp-site took a bit over three hours, where they were greeted by smiles and helping hands. In 45-minutes, stock had been unpacked. After a quick lunch, it was back to the trailers.

During the week, Laurie and Janine had to leave, but Janelle, Lisa, Shelly, and Rob stayed on, making day trips into other lakes. On Saturday, Sept. 2nd, they returned to the WV campsite on Sawtooth Lake, where they loaded 5 pack stock for the return trip to the Stanley Lake Campground. A busy weekend made it a challenge: They met many hikers, kids, and their pets. With few exceptions, each encounter went well. Other users very interested in what they were doing and the stock. Lots of pictures were taken of the packers/stock.

SBBCH riders, who also made that first tough attempt into Sawtooth Lake on Sunday morning: Terry & Gail MacDonald and Jon & Dianne Seel. Kudos to all.

Of this pack trip, Laurie Bryan said, “The ‘G’ in Girl Power now stands for *Get'er Done!*”



**Top:** WV campsite at Sawtooth Lake. **Left:** Rob Adams and Janelle Weeks getting horse Decafe safely into a creek-bed. **Above:** l-r Rob Adams, Janelle Weeks, Janine Townsend, Lisa Griffith, and Shelly Duff. Photos by Laurie Bryan

# Off-Road Vehicles Not Allowed; Bring Your Binoculars

## — Cache Peak BCH

Cache Peak members cleaned approximately 9 miles of trail in the Big Cottonwood Wildlife Management Area (WMA) this past October. So, where is this place and what makes it so special for hikers, bikers, and (especially) horseback riders? In what is known as the South Hills, the Idaho De-

BCH members heading down the Big Cottonwood Creek Trail.



partment of Fish and Game's Big Cottonwood WMA is 7-miles northwest of Oakley, Idaho, in south central Idaho's Cassia County. Though most of the South Hills area is heavily used by off-road vehicles (ORV's), the one shining light is Cottonwood Creek, where Fish and Game manages the 814-acre Big Cottonwood WMA for fish and wildlife conservation.

The valley of Big Cottonwood Creek has magnificent scenery (canyon cliffs to riparian areas) and wildlife in abundance, so you'll want to carry binoculars. In winter, you'll see the elusive bighorn sheep. And, April "is just a great time of year to visit Big Cottonwood," says Mike Todd, Idaho Fish and Game Magic Valley Region Habitat Biologist. "The creek is running, the turkeys are gobbling, and there are a lot of fun things to do before the heat of the summer is here." The WMA is also home to upland game birds, mule deer, native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, bobcat, and a multitude of other wildlife and bird species.



# Building the Autrey Campground — Twin Rivers BCH by Rod Parks

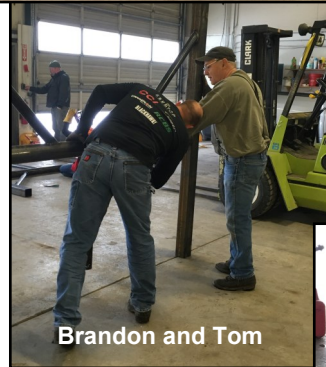
Twin Rivers BCH (TRBCH) members have an excellent working relationship with local Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) employees, who approached TRBCH about helping build a new campground on the newly purchased 4-O Ranch. TRBCH eagerly agreed to help. Managed by WDFW, the 4-O Ranch was purchased in sections from 2011-2015 and consists of 10,500 acres located in the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area. The new area borders the Grand Ronde River and Umatilla Nat'l Forest.

After several on-site meetings and planning, they settled on seven RV sites with a loop drive for ease of access. BCH members began by building a barb wire fence around the camp area last fall. Then roads were laid out on the ground and the earth moving started with Fish & Wildlife crew and equipment. Pit run was spread on the roads and the RV spots. Plans are in the works for a vault toilet. A stock water tank is a short distance down the county road. The entire acreage is open to non-motorized users.

WDFW asked Twin Rivers volunteers to weld up three non-motorized access gates that our chapter designed. Over the 2017 Christmas break, the gates were assembled. One will be installed at the campground this spring, while the remaining gates will go in at other locations sometime in the future.

It is rare to ride this property with your stock without seeing some elk or deer. The campground is open for use. A Discover Pass is required to use any WDFW property. Some members of the chapter have plans to open an old trail that accesses Indian Tom Trail in the Umatilla National Forest.

We have worked with WDFW on several other access points making improvements for non-motorized users. WDFW also provides us the facilities where we hold our annual Kid's Kamp every year in June, open to 25 youths and their stock.



Brandon and Tom



Cortney Bogar

Top, from left: Tom Barnes, Pat Bogar, Cortney Bogar and Brandon Bogar. Pat's granddaughter, Cortney, did the majority of the welding.

# PARTNERING WITH THE FOREST SERVICE TO BUILD A BRIDGE

by Tim Palmer, Eagle Rock BCH

One of the Eagle Rock Back Country Horsemen's best accomplishments in 2017 was the building of a bridge over West Pine Creek, which is located in the Big Hole Mountains of South East Idaho. This project began about 9 months earlier when we were contacted by the Caribou Targhee National Forest to be part of a grant they were applying for—a lot of trail project money now comes from grants for which the Forest Service applies. To be awarded this grant, they needed a partner to supply an "in kind" contribution in the form of labor. That's where we came in. They were successful in getting their grant, and we prepared to build the bridge.

The bridge was only 1.5 miles down the trail on horseback, so we were able to get a good member turnout. The Bridge decking was 7 ft. long, so we wrapped 2 deck boards with canvas and placed them horizontally, on each side of the pack stock. Packing the materials in took most of the day. Some members wrapped and packed animals, while other members transported material into the site. It was very interesting to see it all come together.

We all had a great time, and we left feeling that we had accomplished something that would benefit everyone who uses this trail.



BCH members wrap timbers in canvas, load the timbers onto metal pack frames, put the pack strings together and head out to the bridge site.



One BCH crew packed and brought timbers and materials in, while another BCH crew stayed at the construction site and built the bridge.



# Clearing the Big Fir Cross-Country Ski Trails...

—Salmon River BCH

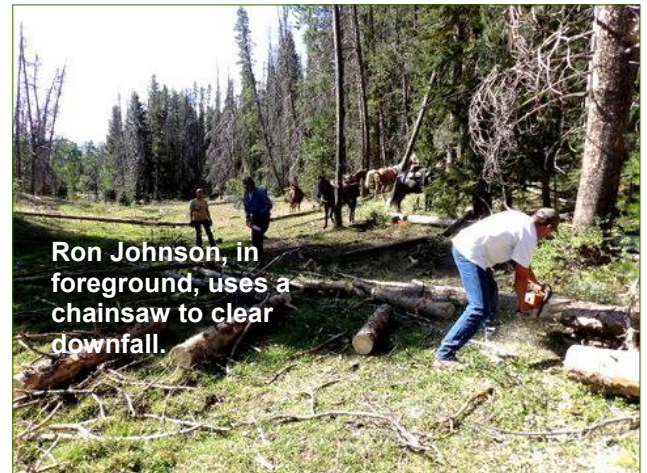
In 2017, nine SRBCH volunteers cleared approximately six miles of trails in Big Fir. Approximately 40 trees were cleared. Developed specifically for cross-country ski trails a number of years ago, this system (marked by signs with “blue diamonds” for the skiers) is comprised of about 17 miles of trail. These trails are also used by hikers and horseback riders in the summer. The trail system, located 15 miles southeast of Salmon, ID, goes through beautiful meadows, a number of creeks, and wildlife areas.



Heidi Tucker on the Big Fir Trail Clearing Project



From left: Heidi Tucker, Marcella Hendericks, Ron Johnson, Dana Tucker, and Mary Monteith clear the Big Fir.



Ron Johnson, in foreground, uses a chainsaw to clear downfall.

## A Trail Users Etiquette Event

—Heartland BCH information from Helen Glidden

The Heartland BCH held their first annual TRUE-Trail Users Etiquette event. The whole idea: to get a variety of trail users (horsemen, hikers, mountain bikers, ATV & Razor drivers) together to learn about etiquette when meeting horses on trails...and they took the time to “sack out” the stock they brought with their props (dogs, Razor, bicycle, rain ponchos, etc.) Most importantly, they told “other” trail users to talk to approaching horses; then, horses will understand that the “monster” they see is really only a human.

Right: Deana holds Lady while Mark Wood waves an umbrella high and Bob Wagner rides past.



Left: Lee King and mule Ginger take a closer look at Mark Wood in his Razor. Bob Wagner looks on.



Excerpt from a short story taken from the book **Partners in Horse Packing** written by Bob Isenberg, Palouse BCH

## "Horse Packing--A Picture With Words"

The heart of the American West lives on in the many characters who blaze trails over a frontier and in the dreams of others across this great land. Few set out on a quest that will restore physical and mental health or provide them with a harrowing ordeal. The wants and adventures of trail riders and packers are filled with chaos and danger that are mitigated by wit and sometimes heroic exploits. The vista that fills our eyes as we see where the sun hangs in dazzling splendor, poised for its drop behind the mountains, draws us back as often as we can escape the bustle of the city. We form deeper relationships and realize how valuable our friends are.

*"...the sun hangs in dazzling splendor..."*



Thanks to SBBCH for the photo

## The Potlatch Canyon and Feather Creek Loop Trails —Palouse BCH

The Palouse BCH have a contract with the Forest Service to clear the Potlatch Canyon and Feather Creek Loop Trails on a yearly basis, for which PBCH is reimbursed for fuel.

The **Potlatch Canyon Trail** is a modest 5-mile ride with a mild elevation change and lots of beauty. You'll ride in the shadows of tall cedars and ponderosa pines and through small clearings full of grass—the understory is low, and on a July hike, full of wildflowers. There is water access in places, and the trail eventually opens into a large meadow with views. Signs of bear, moose, elk, and deer can be seen.

While the Potlatch Canyon Trail is primarily a hiking trail, the **Feather Creek Trail Loop Trail** is open to horseback riding, hiking, and mountain biking. The trail is located approximately 6 miles north of Bovill, Idaho, within the Saint Joe Nat'l Forest. No fees are required, limited parking is available, and the trail is open from May to October. The trail has two established loops for a total of 16 miles. The thick flora gives riders a feeling of quiet seclusion on much of the trail.



Left: Dan Budvarson (cowboy hat) and Bub Latta on the Feather Creek Loop Trail. Top: Lush flora on the Feather Creek Loop Trail.

## *Spirit of the West* -an event of good spirits, good rides, and good fun.

—the 3rd Annual **Spirit of the West** event, a fundraiser benefiting the Palouse BCH and the Appaloosa Museum and Heritage Center, will be held July 27-29. Check out the details on the Palouse BCH website. Ph 208-882-5578

## Portneuf River BCH Keeps Busy

—Information provided by Rich Bingham

In 2017, in addition to monthly public rides, PRBCH took part in the Sportsmen Against Hunger event, where they helped raise money for the Idaho Food Bank. They also held a public-attended Horse Fair and Clinic where they demonstrated hoof trimming and horse shoeing, the basics of starting a colt, packing, and “generalized horsemanship.” Hard work, but enjoyed by all. They also held a Competitive Trail Challenge, their 3rd annual.



Pictures of past trail challenges.

About the trail challenge: Participants rode a 9-mile loop, experiencing “challenges” at stations set at one-mile intervals. There were 8-9 obstacles in all, such things as walking through downfall, a water crossing, having to side-pass or back up, dragging a bucket, putting off and on a rain slicker...They had a good turnout, about 20 participants, a few who have returned for the 3rd-year-in-a-roll.

Participants listen to directions at an obstacle station.

A hearty meal is enjoyed at the event .



If you visit the **Palouse BCH** website and click into Events, this is what you'll see when you scroll down—along with a nice picture of a rider and his horse, of course. What a simple, yet oh-so-clever way of increasing a chapter's membership. You invite the public, you have an enticing list of rides, then ask them to pay a mere pittance for the experience...giddy-up.



## Come Ride With Us (2017 rides)

April 29th Chili Ride at Whitepine Flats 10am

May 13th BBQ Ride at Potlatch Canyon 10am

June 10th Ride to Nunyah for a picnic 10am

July 8th (location and time TBD)

August 12th (location and time TBD)

Ride *one ride or every ride* for only \$30 per person or \$40 per family. Go to the form page on this website and print an application and send it in or bring it to a monthly meeting to be signed up.

## June Obstacle Course Competition Planned

**Just a heads up:** Though just in the planning stages, **Cache Peak BCH** is holding an Obstacle Course Competition in June:

—A public event, this fundraiser will be held at the Minidoka County Fairgrounds in Rupert, ID.

—4-H members compete for free in the morning, and for a very small fee, adults compete in the afternoon.

Contact person for the event:

Mary Ann Shaff 208-431-2278



Back Country Horsemen of Idaho

FOUNDATION

## What We're Doing...

### Donation Opportunities

The news is good: BCHI Foundation has received about \$100 from AmazonSmile since mid-November. And, this month, we'll receive another quarterly donation.

**There are other ways to donate: Ridley's shoppers may give their "earned points" to the charity of their choice.**

—In just over 10 years, Ridley's has donated over \$89,000 to Friends of the Weiser River Trail doing this.

There are a number of good charities, so we thank the BCHI members who have designated the BCHI Foundation as their charity.



### ADVERTISE IN BROOMTALES

FREE BCHI member classified ads, based on space. Business advertisements placed for a fee.

Contact Alice Millington  
to place an advertisement in Broomtales.  
Ph 208.475.4107



## Get Out There And Be Seen— it's an investment that will pay off

A number of chapters participate in their local parades, horse & sport expos, fairs... It's good for name recognition—many members say they learned about our organization through these venues, long before they joined.



And, having the right props makes a big difference: With good signage there's no mistaking what organization the **Salmon River BCH** represents...Also, they make a great showing with sharp appearances and well-groomed horses. Salmon River BCH members are pictured, here, in the Salmon River Days Parade, which is held in June.



BCHI Foundation  
c/o Alice Millington,  
261 Buckcamp Road  
McCall, Idaho 83638

## “40 Years Down the Trail”



### BCH in Idaho—How it began (Abbreviated) From Celeste Bingham—read the entire story at the convention

Helen Eden of the Bitterroot BCH in Hamilton, MT, was responsible for getting BCH into the Salmon area. She had requested that several Salmon locals be placed on the mailing list of the “Hoofbeats” newsletter, a publication of the first BCH group organized in the Columbia Falls area of Montana in 1973.

John Lance, Missoula BCH, and Jack Eden followed up the mailing list contact with an informational meeting Jan. 22, 1978. Joining Jack and John were Mike Chandler and Ray Roberts, Missoula BCH, and Jack and Margaret Watts, Flathead BCH. Salmon area residents in attendance were Richard and Jenny Smith, Maurice Foland, Eddie and Lorraine Hamilton, Norman Guth, Val Johnson and Harold Hanson.

The group decided to call another meeting for Feb. 14 with the Flathead group providing a starting kit, the Bitterroot group providing posters, and the Missoula group providing funds for radio and newspaper advertising.

Approximately 50 local persons attended the Feb. 14 meeting. BCH groups from Montana were represented and a BCH slide presentation was given by Roland Cheek and updated by Jack Watts. Mike Chandler and John Lance moderated a discussion on problems horsemen were having in the Salmon area. Richard Hauff, Salmon NF Supervisor, was in attendance.

**Salmon River BCH was organized on March 14, 1978**, with the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers: President Val Johnson, V-p Richard Smith, Secretary Suzie Ray-

mond, Treasurer Nancy Cummings....and the “purposes” of BCH were established (Mission statement).

Club Presidents, Lloyd Fagerland (Flathead), Ron Gibford (Bitterroot) and Val Johnson (Salmon River), joined Mike Chandler (Missoula) at the Club Chateau in Missoula to lay the groundwork for an umbrella organization. The group felt that BCH was going to grow and it needed a central body to coordinate activities. That organization would be called the **Back Country Horsemen of America**.

Salmon River hosted the 5th Annual Convention of the BCH of America March 19-20, 1983. The convention focused on the River of No Return Wilderness. The convention concluded with a National Board Meeting of BCH of America and Val Johnson was elected Vice-Chairman.

**The 7th Annual Convention in Libby, MT, brought into being a new BCH of America with four states as charter members: MT, ID, CA, & WA.** This was a very emotional upheaval but one deemed necessary for ease of management, expansion, and impact of influence.

This merger necessitated the creation of a new State of Idaho organization. Even with only Salmon River BCH and the newly created Panhandle BCH in the Couer d’Alene area, **BCH of Idaho was created in Libby, MT., on March 18, 1985**, with Dave Couch the new Chairman and Everett DeCora, Secretary.

Val Johnson and Jerry Underwood of Panhandle were elected the first two National Directors. The major order of business was to get the organization on the ground, running, and expanding. March 1986 brought together the three new organizations created at Libby for their first convention: BCH of America, BCH of Montana, and BCH of Idaho.

**This was a very emotional upheaval but one deemed necessary for ease of management, expansion, and impact of influence.**