



BROOMTALES

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc. Newsletter

SUMMER 2018

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View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE

April was a busy BCH month around our place. First, there was the Idaho Horse Expo, followed by the BCHA National Board meeting, and then I successfully completed an all-day First aid/ CPR class.

I would like to say a big **Thank You** to all the BCH members who volunteered their time at this year's Horse Expo. The Treasure Valley BCH Chapter took the lead for set up and general organization of the BCHI booth. This public outreach event positively introduces attendees to BCH and our mission statement. BCHI has a number of members who are also Idaho Horse Council Board members, and most volunteered their time all three days. Everywhere I looked there were so many BCHI members helping with security and other duties, too. It made me proud to see all of the BCH support that displayed the Idaho horse industry to the public.

MB and I did a talk on Camping with Horses, where we discussed the equipment we take to minimize our impact in the backcountry. There was a packing demo with manties but I didn't recognize the folks as BCH members. There was even a jousting demo put on by our daughter Elise Dix and her husband Brian. I know jousting has nothing to do with the BCH mission statement, but I am just being a proud father.

I did not attend all of the sessions at the National Board Meeting, but I can tell you that our BCHA Chairperson, Freddy Dunn, keeps the directors very busy. From my perspective, the cost to send our two directors is very well worth it. Marybeth and Amy spent three LONG days sharing and discussing ideas along with issues for the betterment of BCH. Plus, both of them are on BCHA committees that work throughout the year via email and conference calls. In other words, being a National Director takes a lot more time than just three days. It was an experience to attend the National meeting, and I would suggest members attend when one is close. I got roped into being the auctioneer, but it was fun meeting all the folks from around the country.

Bill Conger
BCHI Chairman



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 & 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, Inc., a non-profit service organization, and is published three times a year—March, June and October.

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc.

P.O. Box 513, Salmon, Idaho 83467

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

Page 1 photo: Marcella Hendricks, Salmon River BCH (SRBCH), sits astride her quarter-horse, Rocky, looking out at the majestic White Clouds. **Back cover photo:** Nicole Johnson, SRBCH, in the White Clouds. **Both photos taken by** SRBCH member Celeste Bingham.

Education Report

Chapter member training at our BCHI Convention in March was a great success, thanks to all the amazing volunteers that made it happen, says Marybeth Conger and Karen Kimball, BCHI Education co-chairs.

Results from the 72 feedback forms and emails were tabulated. Here are some of the highlights:

- Everyone wants to see this type of statewide training continue, whether it is part of the annual convention or something more regional.
- Attendees felt workshops were rushed at 30 minutes; an hour would be better to ensure all training topics are covered and there is time for Q&A.
- The workshop locations need to minimize noise.
- Instructors were complemented for their presentations and well-thought-out handouts.
- We need less workshop choices at one time; folks want the chance to attend all that is offered.

Karen shares that BCHI wants to begin gathering statewide mentor information from all chapters. Once completed, BCHI will have a current listing of training resources across the state. Those listed need to be active and willing to help train members, whether in their chapter or one near-by. All chapters will be emailed the form in June. Marybeth and Karen will compile the results for presentation at the September board meeting.

Marybeth reveals that she has completed her application to attend the 2018 Master Stock Education course this September. Several chapters close to her have already requested Leave No Trace (LNT) training. This is exciting news, since the primary goal of an effective Master Educator is to train/certify LNT trainers who then will have the knowledge and confidence to teach LNT awareness workshops. Also, Marybeth is delving into all aspects of the LNT organization.

Many chapters, in both state regions, are working on First Aide/CPR certifications and sawyer training using the models from other BCH states. Keep up the great work here.

Marybeth Conger and Karen Kimball
BCHI Education Co-Chairs



Marybeth on Slick.



Karen Kimball on Smarty.

2018-2019 Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Officers



“Good leaders don’t set out to be leaders... They set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role, always about the goal.”

Hats off to all the men and women who serve as officers, directors, and heads of departments in the BCHI organization.



Our BCHI State Officers

Pictured, from left to right—
Bill Conger, BCHI Chairman
Rod Parks, Vice-Chairman
Debbie Samovar, Secretary
Kay Ryan, Treasurer
Amy Lyman, Nat’l Director (back)
Aline Brinkman, Alt Nat’l Director
Marybeth Conger, Nat’l Director

September Board of Directors’ Meeting in Moscow

The meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 8-5pm at the **American Legion Cabin**, 317 South Howard St., **Moscow**, ID 83843. Discounted rate set up with Fairfield Inn the weekend of Sept. 22nd; they have set aside rooms for BCHI. When making a reservation, tell them you are with the BCHI group. **Fairfield Inn & Suites, 1000 W Pullman Rd., Moscow, ID83843 208.882.4600**

BCHI National Director Report

The annual BCHA board meeting was April 23-25 in Spokane, Washington, which is where Bill and I came from. Meeting highlights include: a memorial for lost members, acceptance of all agendas, letters, minutes, Wisconsin was voted as our newest state, 11 committee reports, and a budget was approved. Very impressed to hear that BCHA combined volunteer hours were very close to 13 million and the budget included funds for education. Erica Fern is a full-time employee who handles administration to include data; she presented a brochure and a traveling booth for use at public out reach.

Also heard about Your Membership (YM) and how Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) piloted to have this computer platform handle their membership data. There is some cost if a state chooses to do that. Ken Carmichael, BCHW, presented a membership expansion program that was impressive.

States then divided into 4 regions to discuss issues that were presented to the committees. Bottom line, feedback was given on how the committees can help us and what the priority of their actions should be. The committees then met and decided action plans and next steps. It was interesting to see that all board members are on at least one committee. After all, we need to be part of the solution, right?

Also, there was a guest speaker from Trail Master, a presentation on the most effective way to contact politicians, and a retired Forest Service employee shared his knowledge. We passed several governing policy changes, which were informative. Then there were nominations—BCHA leadership is as follows: Freddy Dunn, Chairman; Darrell Wallace, Vice Chair; Sherry Copeland, Treasurer; non-director Executive Committee (EC) member, Mike McGlenn; and two board members to the EC, Mark Himmell and Ginny Grulk. There was a wording issue in the governing policy stating that the past chair would be on the EC for one year. The board voted to have the past chair on the EC for 2018 and decided that the committee reviews this wording for presentation at the next annual meeting. Bill even agreed to be the auctioneer at the live auction. He did a great job getting people to spend more than they planned, just ask Mike McGlenn next time you see him.



Marybeth on Cherokee.

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent BCHI at the BCHA annual board meeting. Next year the meeting will be in North Carolina.”

Marybeth

Marybeth Conger
National Director

2018 BCHI Convention—Twin Rivers “Got ‘er Done”

...And a good time was had by all. The Quality Inn and Suites Convention Center in Clarkston, WA, was a perfect venue for the board meetings, chapter displays, auctions, meals, and vendors at this year’s convention. Refreshments and meals were delicious. Service, excellent.

If you’ve never been, volunteer to become one of your chapter’s state directors to attend Friday’s BCHI Board Meeting or as a delegate for Saturday’s Annual Business Meeting. Then, enjoy the informative afternoon speakers and breakout sessions (new this year); a delicious lunch and dinner; and, finally, the evening auction action...all worth the price of admission.

Read the board minutes at www.BCHI.org. Kudos go out to the Twin Rivers BCH ladies and gentlemen who put on this great convention... and for smiling all-the-while; proof is in the pictures. Oh, and Where’s Waldo?...in this case it’s Rod Parks, whom the camera was often focused on as he handled (well) many duties at the convention.



The Winners
Susan Clark, SVBCH, accepts the traveling trophy for Best Chapter Display



Twin Rivers BCH members in action





The "Good-Vibe" Energy



The Camaraderie



The Speakers



2018 Convention Pictures



The Board Meetings



The Dinner Discussions



The Entertainment



The Meals



The Photographers



The Auction Fun



The Break-out Sessions

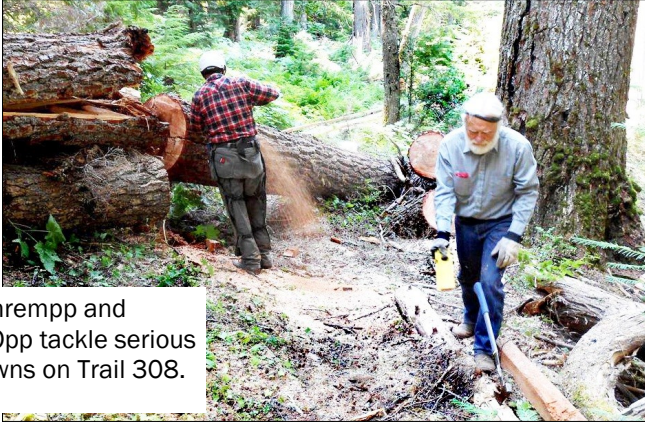


Where "old growth" gets the ax (or saw)...if it's across a trail, that is...

The Upper Priest River Trail

—Priest River Valley BCH

In 2017, a work party of PRVCH members met at Upper Priest River Trail, FS 308, trailhead to clear trail. The next day they cleared trail on FS 317, up to Cabinet Pass.



Dale Schrempp and Dwight Opp tackle serious blow-downs on Trail 308.



Left: PRVCH crew work to clear Trail 308 near upper Priest Lake.

A few words about the 308: It is a very scenic trail, receiving heavy use. A beautiful trail—with stands of massive old-growth red cedar

and lush river bottom vegetation—it follows along the Upper Priest River. This trail is 8 miles of mostly level terrain with several bridges and turnpikes. The 308 ends at the junction of Continental Creek Trail #28 which continues on to the Upper Priest River Falls, also known as American Falls.



Trail 308, cleared and ready for business.

The 308 trailhead is approximately 18 miles north of Nordman, Idaho.

Dale Schrempp watering his pack stock on Trail 308 near upper Priest Lake.



A chapter continues to brush & clear trail as a forest emerges from the ashes...

Cummins Creek Trail

—Twin Rivers BCH by Trail Boss, Billie Havens & Rod Parks

On April 15th, inclement weather discouraged several riders from enjoying a beautiful ride/trail clearing trip up Cummins Creek, a tributary of the Tucannon River in Eastern Washington state, a forty-five minute drive from Lewiston, ID. The trail begins on Washington State Depart. of Fish and Wildlife property and continues on into the Umatilla Nat'l Forest. It's open from April 1st to November 30th for non-motorized use. It is closed the rest of the year as it is winter elk range.

Six TRBCH members met at the trail head, saddled up, loaded pack animals, and left in beautiful sunshine to enjoy the Cummins Creek Trail. This area burned in 2007, and there are usually several trees across the trail to log out, and the brush is getting re-established. Rod Parks and Steve Cooper led the way with a pack animal carrying the chain-saw. Linda and Jerry Lane, Connie Marshall, and Billie Havens followed with loppers and cleared brush.

FYI: The trail terminates at an abandoned gold mine and a nice camp site. Probably a hunting camp had built hitching rails, which are convenient. It would be an easy excursion and overnight pack trip for in-experienced riders and kids, and kids could have fun fishing in the creek. We saw some mule deer and turkeys, which added to the enjoyment of the ride.

After lunch and a jaunt to the mouth of the abandoned mine, we headed down the trail, clearing more trees and brush...until Rod hit a rock with his saw. The rest of us cheered as he is hard to convince that it is time to quit. We finished the ride without getting wet.



Steve Cooper; after logs cleared.

Lunch break for Kitty the Mule and Woody.



Linda Lane brushing from horseback with loppers. Jerry Lane has taught his horse to do the work for him.



We were sad that more riders didn't get to enjoy the ride. Lesson: "Expect the best, prepare for the worst, and never turn down a chance to ride."

Clinics: "Trip Tips for Mules & Horses" and Trail Safety

—Salmon River BCH by Celeste Bingham...Photos by Ruth Burns

Friday, April 13, 2018, the Salmon River BCH put on a free "Trip Tips for Mules and Horses Clinic" at the annual Salmon Select Mule Sale in Salmon, Idaho. Led by long-time member John Burns, the fun and informative demonstration and hands-on session was attended by eighty interested mule and horse people.

John Cranny, who runs Rawhide Outfitters, a family-owned and -operated outfitting business in Salmon, provided instruction on using a riding saddle to pack hay and other gear, and Forest Service Trail Manager, Jeff Fast, demonstrated the techniques of tying and packing mantled loads. Basic ties and hitches, as well as tips on safety, equipment, and personal items were discussed.



Top, l to r, Dana Tucker, Arnie Vetrus, and outfitter John Cranny from Rawhide Outfitters.

Left, John Burns speaks to the crowd.

Far left, the crowd.



The Salmon River Back Country Horsemen held a Trail Safety Clinic May 12, 2018. It proved to be a huge success with members-only participating this first year. The objective of the clinic was to kick off the riding and trail-clearing season with a positive attitude toward safety and to expose the stock and riders to a variety of scary objects and scenarios they may be confronted with on the trail. The clinic focused on pack string safety, group riding, desensitizing to scary objects, trail situations, and bicycles and hikers on the trail. After completing the clinic, riders had a better idea of how their animals will react to a variety of situations on the trail.

Members of the mountain bike and hiking community, with an interest in trail safety, were invited. The clinic provided them with an opportunity to gain insight into the dangerous reactions horsemen face when confronted by a mountain biker or a large colorful backpack.

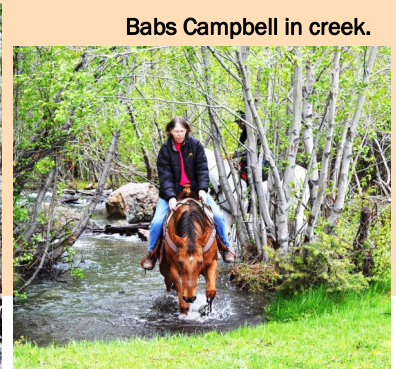
The clinic was an excellent opportunity for trail-user groups to come together and discuss common solutions to avoid potential problems out on the trails. This year's event brought two new members to the chapter. Salmon River BCH plans to open this event to the public in years to follow, inviting 4H members, bicycle riders, and hikers as a fundraiser for the chapter and a way to attract new members.



Getta Bradley pulls the rope, moving the plastic for Steph Gallardo's horse.



Dana Tucker rides up to Hiker Chuck Bradley



Babs Campbell in creek.

"The idea with a horse is when you see things going in the wrong direction, then you redirect his mind. You don't wait for him to get into trouble...you try to keep him out of trouble."
Buck Brannaman



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Valley County, Idaho



“Ridin’ fence” in the Cecil D Andrus WMA

—Treasure Valley BCH by AJ Millington

Riding fence usually refers to someone who is checking fence-lines, alone, for long periods of time...enough to drive a man crazy; however, that is not quite what our volunteer work entailed as we rode fence in the Cecil D Andrus WMA, 18 miles west of Cambridge, ID: We checked just a few miles of fence, in groups, arriving back at “The Ranch” towards evening for a steak barbeque provided by Fish & Game. The story...

On Saturday, April 28th, seven TVBCH volunteers headed out to check a few miles of fence in the WMA. We split up into two groups. Regional Habitat Biologist, Aaron Switalski, headed out with one group, while Wildlife Technician, Gerren Steel, headed down another fence-line with my group.

We checked for twisted or broken wires, broken or leaning posts, and open gates. And, there were a few. We pulled wires back into place, shook our heads at most of the old wooden posts, and closed all the gates. Gerren and Aaron noted where new fence posts needed to be set. Both groups had one guy walking down the fence line, shaking posts, untangling wire, checking the strength of post and corners, while the rest of us rode in zig-zag patterns up and down the relatively steep hills. We stopped when someone found a problem

to be fixed...some tended horses while others donned tools. After lunch, Gerren offered the walker in our group, husband John, his ride, which John gratefully accepted for the rest of the day. Gerren, the junior in our group, by many years, didn't seem to mind...as he walked, he looked for “sheds” (antlers).

Although clouds made it a comfortable, not-too-hot day, we got hailed on as we made our way back to the trucks and trailers. (The hail was small, but it “stung” our ears...wow!)

That evening, “back at the ranch”, we fed and left our stock in very nice corrals—what was once the Hillman Ranch was purchased by the Mellon Foundation and given to the ID Dept. of Fish & Game for wildlife conservation, and the actual ranch house is F&G headquarters. After we cleaned up a bit, we put our feet up (beverage in hand), and enjoyed conversations with our new F&G friends; then, it was on to a delicious steak dinner. Senior Wildlife Technician, Zac Huling, provided, and barbecued, deliciously tender steaks, and we provided the sides. To our delight, Zac's wife, Krysta sent home-made apple and rhubarb pies for dessert. We'll be back.



Clockwise L to R: F&G Aaron Switalski, Zac Huling, & Gerren Steel; Krysta Huling's homemade pies; Joe Williams unloads tools; (l to r) John Millington and Joe Williams fixin' fence; Cheryl Bice riding fenceline; (l to r) Cheryl Bice, Tony Quintana, Jill Nebeker, and Mark Nebeker head out in the morning, packin' tools.

TIPS AND TRICKS

For a quick repair of broken straps or reins...

“Carry a couple of different-sized Conway buckles in your saddle bags. If you break a strap on a pack saddle or a set of reins, punch a hole on each side of the break and feed through both sides of a buckle—make sure you leave enough strap to tuck under the keepers. This will hold 'til you can get it fixed properly.”



From Cody Henson, owner/operator of the Royal Tine Guide and Packer School...thanks, Cody.

44 Livestock & Pet Supply, LLC
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Certified Alfalfa & Grass Hay
 Horse Feeds & Supplements
 Stock Supplies & Wormers
 Pet Food & Supplies
 Farm Animal Feeds & Supplies



Javier Guajardo - Owner

208.514.5134 44livestocknpet@qwestoffice.net

1663 West Main Street—Middleton, ID—83644

Ladies' Pack Clinic, Equine First Aid, Hoof Care

—Squaw Butte BCH by Rob Adams

On April 28, 2018 the “Git R Done” team of Janine Townsend, Janelle Weeks, Shelly Duff and Kelly Ragland, lead by Lisa Griffith, planned and executed one of the best clinics that Squaw Butte has ever hosted. They arranged for guest speakers farrier Joe Prince and Vet Daniel Dombroski to do presentations. Also, they arranged for a hot dog truck to be on site for lunch, and they spent hours working on presentations for a woman-centrist packing clinic. They divided the clinic up into four segments...

The first was Joe Prince’s presentation on what to do if your horse loses a shoe in the back country. Participants asked lots of good questions and Lisa-horse did a great job modeling her hooves. The second segment was lead by Janine Townsend and was a quick, fact-filled discussion of packing tips and techniques.

After lunch, and for the third segment, three demonstration stations were set up and Marybeth Conger and Rob Adams assisted the rest of the team doing hands-on demonstrations and answering lots of great questions.

The final segment of the day was a question and answer session with “Dr. Dan”. He covered trail first aid for stock and what to look for, and how to start treatment, before we can get them to a vet. A great clinic, all-round.



Rob Adams demonstrates hitches.



Farrier Joe Prince and demonstration horse, Lisa.



Left, Marybeth Conger demonstrates how to manta up a body. Her presentation had everyone in stitches.

Above, right—Shelly Duff and Kelly Ragland fold a manta.

Right—Dan Dombroski, DVM, assisted by horse radiologist Dana Neelis, gives a first aid lesson.

Trail Course ETS Competition in Idaho City

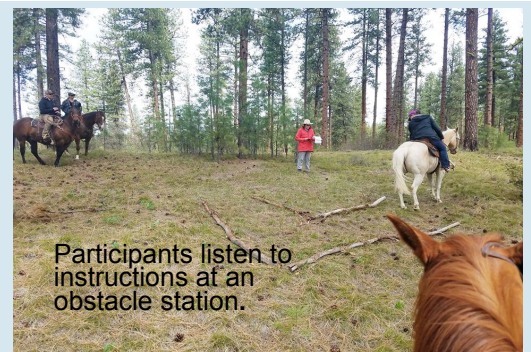
—Boise BCH by Cullen Raley

On April 28 and 29, 2018, I had the honor of hosting Idaho City’s first Equine Trial Sports (ETS) for the Boise Back Country Horsemen (BBCH). Having never hosted an event like this before, or anything like it ever, it made for a very exciting and interesting experience. Thanks to the BBCH; my wife, Kimberly; and Ian Jones, a representative from ETS, the event went off perfectly.

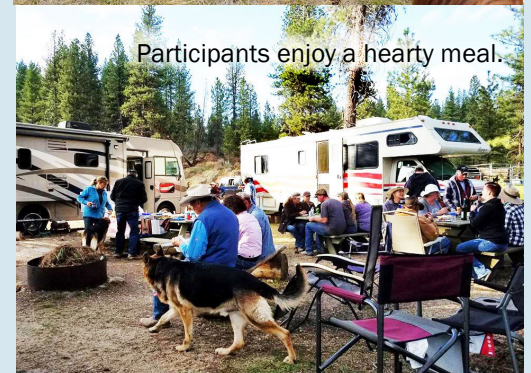
The event brought participants from as far away as northern Washington and western Oregon; more than half were local. In total, we had 45 participants the first day and 25 the second day, making it a smashing success. Cowboy campground, owned and operated by Bill Sterling, was icing on the cake with horse ready camp sites and pens all-round. Most new participants loved the no pressure approach at each obstacle, as well as having them spread out over 8 beautiful miles of Idaho national forest. All in all, everyone had a great time and **are looking forward to the second event on September 15 & 16, 2018.**



Trail Course participants and members of BBCH



Participants listen to instructions at an obstacle station.



Participants enjoy a hearty meal.

We're All About **EVENTS**

Invitation to attend the 2019 BCHI Convention in Idaho Falls

—Eagle Rock BCH, President Winnie Welker

Dear fellow Backcountry Horsemen, we are excited to be hosting your 2019 Convention here in Idaho Falls during the traditional last of March. We are a small group of horsemen but we are large in spirit. As the current President, I am blessed and honored to be surrounded with an amazing group of people that are dedicated to the mission of the BCHI. Their willingness, generosity, time, commitment, and congeniality are a continual inspiration to me.



We are surrounded by some pretty amazing country here in Southeast Idaho. Many come from all around the United States to enjoy this area. While the weather in March can be unpredictable, should you extend your visit, you will not be lacking in some of the most beautiful scenery. Within in a short 1 1/2 - 2 hour drive in various directions, we have the majestic Tetons in the scenic Teton Valley; the historic city of Jackson Hole; the Island Park recreation area; the gateway to West Yellowstone National Park; Craters of the Moon National Monument; Heise Hot Springs and Lava Hot Springs, just to mention a few. Riding in the Tetons is my personal favorite and always takes my breath away.

As we plan for your convention, it is our goal to have an informative and fun time. It will be great to get together for a common cause, reacquaint with one another, and meet new friends. I look forward to meeting each of you. *Winnie*

Trail stewardship...a trail-user mandate

For the love of our heritage and our stock, we have raised our collective voice to keep trails open for stock use, and everyday we put our muscle into it. Therefore, it is important to never take our access to our trails for granted, especially since we work so hard to keep it.

Of non-motorized trail use, horse use is the hardest on trails. And so, while most of us practice good stewardship, we know what it looks like when someone has taken a short-cut off a switch-back or broken down a stream bank rather than use an established ford. Trail users notice.

In the words of Gene W. Wood—trail-user, conservationist, and author: "Careless riding that degrades trails and the lands on which they lie, and treats other trail and land users with disrespect, is not only an embarrassment to horsemen, it is an insult to all of those who dedicate themselves to trail and land stewardship in order to preserve trail riding opportunities." We are the ones who dedicate themselves...

Embracing Leave No Trace principals, the idea of treading lightly on the land, should be foremost in our minds as we ride the trails, so that the trails remain environmentally sound. This is good stewardship.

Proceeds to benefit 4H & Cache Peak BCH of Idaho
Dana Lovell judging!

Trail Clinic & Obstacle Course

Saturday, June 9 at 8:30 AM

Minidoka Country Fair Grounds

Free 4H trail clinic in morning - Afternoon Obstacle Challenge

Hosted by

Cache Peak Back Country Horsemen



Proceeds to benefit St. Jude's

The Boise Back Country Horsemen invite you to attend

Saddle-Up for St. Jude's

Saturday, June 9 at 9:00am

Idaho City's Cowboy Campground



\$20 donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital

3, 6, or 10 mile rides in Boise Nat'l Forest

Beautiful Ride - Prizes - Lunch - Silent Auction

Curtis Elton 855-0308 or 484-8598



Proceeds to benefit Portneuf River BCH for trail work

4th Annual Competitive Trail Challenge

Saturday, July 28 - 7am Breakfast - 9am Event Start

Location: South Fork of Mink Creek

\$55 - Includes breakfast, lunch, & T-shirt

Prizes awarded

Contact Darrell for information or to register 208-221-6625

Contact Darrell for more information or to register 208-221-6625.



"Spirits of the West" Event benefiting the Appaloosa Museum and the Palouse Back Country Horsemen

July 27-29, 2018

Registration deadline, July 5.

Pony Club Grounds, Deary, ID

Begins Friday at noon

Saturday Breakfast, Game Ride for points/prizes! Evening Leisure and Morning History Rides! In-Camp Activities, Dinner & Dancing, Games, Prizes!
Wine & Brew Vendor Stations in Camp! Campground & Stalls!

To Register/For more information

MUSEUM@APPALOOSA.COM

Or 208-882-5578 ext. 279

Please be thinking about the projects that your chapters will complete in the next few months. Have someone write up a short article giving the highlights, and have someone take pictures. Then, submit to millington0606@gmail.com for the October issue.

It's a theme, a mantra, an evolution... and it's a good thing. As seen on Portnuef River BCH Website

Keeping Trails Open for Everyone

Idaho is blessed with thousands of square miles of open public land. However, access to the back country is by a network of fragile trails. Just as our roads need constant repair so do back country trails. When trails become washed out or blocked by natural downfall and overgrowth, people stop using them. Under-use of a trail is as bad as over-use. Horse back riders, hikers, back packers, mountain bikers, dirt bikers, and trail runners, all share the same trail. PRBCH would like to promote cooperation among these trail users through planning, volunteer service, public education, and negotiation with government agencies.

What We're Doing...



A Story About Selling Calendars

I spend a weekend every October selling calendars. I feel self-conscious every time I set up my calendar table/BCH display in front of a local grocery store— trying to look as Western as I can in my boots and jeans. I'm the "Calendar Lady" to some, while most avoid eye contact. It's tough, but once a year I suck it up, sit and smile, and sell about 20 calendars. And the smile is genuine...I can "cowgirl up" for something that fuels my passion. AJM

For Sale: Cross-buck pack saddle, leather rigging, pad, leather/canvas panniers with liners, H-top pack; Cordura panniers with coolers and top pack for cross-buck; Heavy canvas saddle panniers. Other misc. items.
208 949-3689 ljarner2525@gmail.com



Check out ads for RC Bean's Saddlery (7), Payette River Farrier Service (7), and 44 Livestock & Pet Supply (8). They all support BCH. If you love the smell of leather, "Beans" is the place for saddles & tack, for cowboys and trail-riders alike. Check out the "44" for everything you'll need for horse feed and care....and that all-important certified hay.

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 **Stop the Bleed** 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
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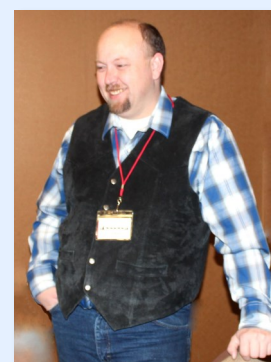
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Chris Reed
BCHI Foundation Chair



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 Debbie Samovar, Secretary
 9176 E Soaring Hawk Lane
 Saint Maries ID 83861



“Summer Issue”

The September Board of Directors’ Meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 22nd, from 8am-5pm in Moscow at the American Legion Cabin at 317 South Howard St, Moscow, ID 83843.



More information and where to stay, page 3

How I Discovered Back Country Horsemen... Letter from a Rider by Karen Young, Twin Rivers BCH

A little history: I grew up in Wyoming riding anything with 4 legs which mostly meant 4 legs and an attitude, since I rode the critters other folks had decided NOT to ride.

This didn't mean I developed sense but as the ground was often prickly with cactus and rocky, I learned how to stay on top most of the time. In 1972 I moved to Benewah County, Idaho, and found an unpaid "job" working on a cattle ranch in the days of open range in the mountains (come to think of it, those days are still with us). My "pay" was that I got to ride all day, every day, from May 'til October on all sorts of horses, and I had a wonderful mentor, an old cowboy named Sam Nye. He was a horse trader and a horseman of deep experience, aged 80 plus. We would pick up a load of equines at the sales yard, drive them back to the ranch in the old stock truck, dump them out in the corral, and I'd go home, worn out from trying to keep the truck on the twisty road with its poor steering.

Sam would spend the next 12 to 24 hours with ropes and various other "behind the barn" skills and the new horses and mules. When I showed up the next morning, he would open the barn door and every critter would walk into its open stall and stand quietly to be handled, saddled, and bridled. The next part of the job was mine: stay on top while we worked cattle in the mountains! To get around after 300 agile and enterprising cows we used logging roads, elk trails, and deer trails, and when all else failed, we simply laid low on our horses' necks and hoped for the best.

In 1985, I purchased some land in Latah County, on what is called Moscow Mountain. I had a few horses that no one else wanted and a lot of space to ride the usual elk trails, deer trails, and close-your-eyes-and-hope-for-the-best trails. I raised and trained horses with the help of my two sons. The sons grew up, the horses were sold or grew old, new and better ones took their places, I got older myself, and eventually I decided to move south to avoid the mountain winters. I landed in Lewiston, Idaho, with a couple of good horses and a view of the Blue Mountains.

In the feed stores I began to hear tales of trails in the "Blues." A cowboy gave me a few sketchy directions, and I set out one day with a loaded trailer and found a parking lot at a place he'd described. From there, a trail led up a gulley into the hills. I rode

up the trail, amazed at how the big windfall trees had been cut out, the brush nipped back, and the going easy. I didn't have to duck, but I had my trusty little saw and nippers in the saddle bag, just in case.

After a few miles the trail burst out onto a ridge. I rode down the ridge for the view, joining a few cows bedded down in the bunchgrass. Out on the ridge, in the cool breeze, I found a perfect lunch spot, turned the ponies out to nibble and sat on a rock. Viewed from here, Lewiston was a tiny town in the distance, and farther away I could see Latah County's Thatuna Range and beyond that the dim, high ridge of West Dennis and Gold Hill in Benewah County. To the south, I could see the peaks of the Seven Devils poking up, the Wallows to their west and the big ridge of Gospel Hump.

What a view! My whole life spread out before me!

My informer had said there was a down trail by a big downed tree. I poked around for a while trying out various downed trees and finally found a little trail heading down a gulch. Not far down the trail I began to see the amazing (to me) signs of work: snapped branches, cut logs, and finally a big, bear-sized stump with the letters BCH carved on it with a chainsaw. I wondered who this BCH guy was and blessed him for his obvious efforts as I descended the trail without having to jump logs, scramble up and down steep side hills, or put my head down and pray.



Back in the feed store (my source of equine gossip), I asked someone about the initials BCH carved in the tree in the Blues. A kindly person explained to me, "That's the Back Country Horsemen. They cut out those trails to make access easier for the rest of us."

What a concept! I realized, of course, that the Forest Service had fallen down on the job of trail maintenance, probably underfunded. Several times in the St. Joe region I'd tried trails that turned out to be impassable. But here were trails cut out by a group of helpful people who did the work without pay!...much as I'd learned to work on cattle ranches, for the sheer love of being out in the open air with equine companions!

After a short hunt, I discovered my local BCH chapter and joined up. I pay dues, but don't provide other help, since, with my work and other proclivities at this phase of my life, I haven't the time to help out on projects. But I am grateful, and I bless the Back Country Horsemen every time I come to a pile of deadfall that's been sawed through, and every time I pass the old black stump in the Blues with the initials carved on it, BCH. Thank you!