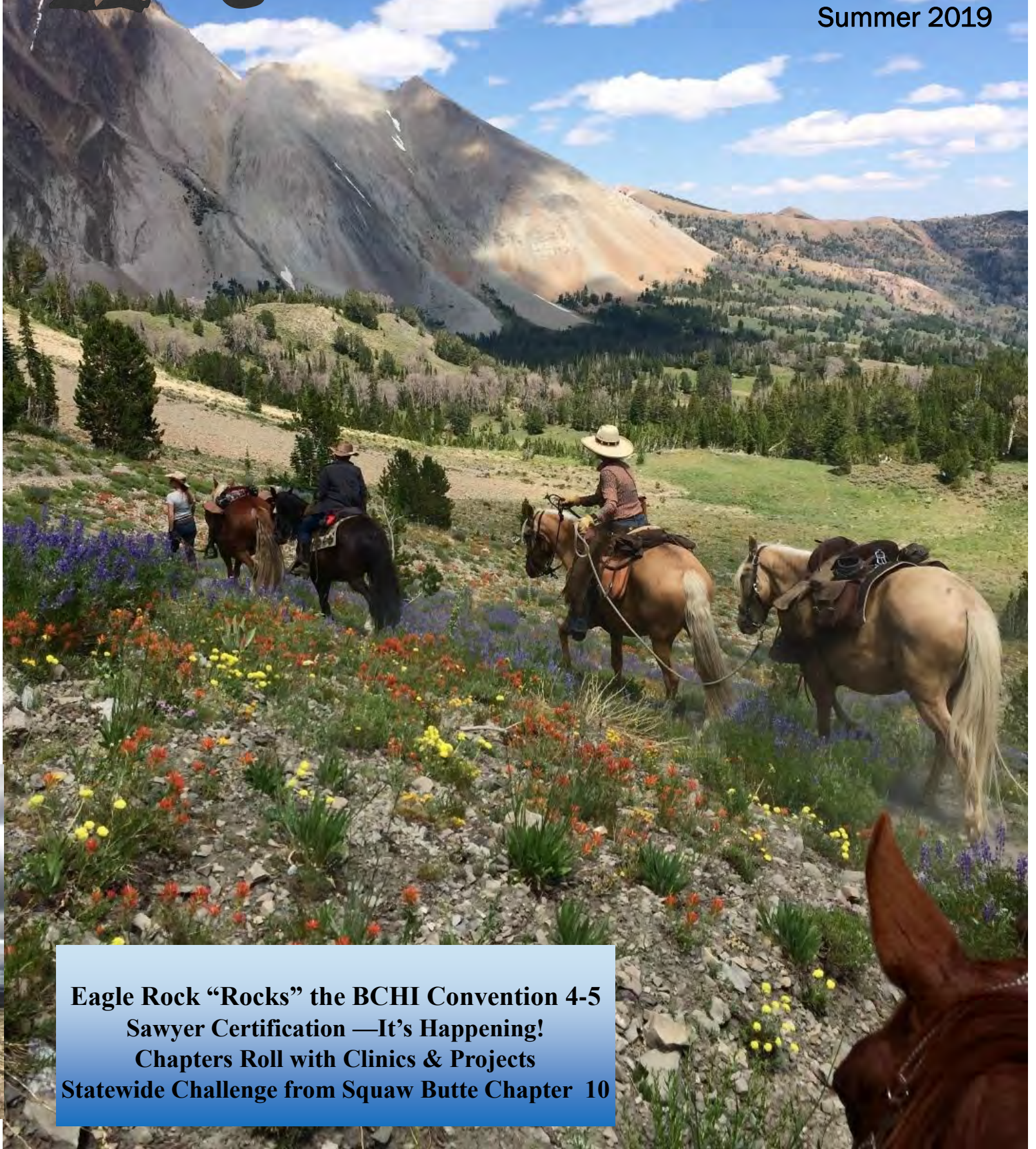




# BROOMTALES

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc. Newsletter

Summer 2019



**Eagle Rock “Rocks” the BCHI Convention 4-5  
Sawyer Certification —It’s Happening!  
Chapters Roll with Clinics & Projects  
Statewide Challenge from Squaw Butte Chapter 10**





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## View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE

You may say, who is that person in the picture. Well, your new chairman does own a cowboy hat to cover his bald head, but with the many trails that are lacking maintenance, a ball cap sure stays on much better fighting the brush. Living in the Banana Belt of Lewiston, ID, and Clarkston, WA, we are very fortunate to be able to ride our stock year around. Well, this year was an exception with the late winter storms and snow on the ground for over three weeks. Finally, we got back in the saddle and actually did a pack trip the end of March in Hells Canyon. Boy did my stock suffer being so out of shape.



Winnie Welker and the rest of the Eagle Rock members put on a fantastic convention. "Sharing the Adventure," their theme, was experienced throughout the entire day. They went all out with some new activities such as a balloon raffle, nice prizes for photo contest winners, and great entertainment during the delicious dinner. I don't know how to describe the auctioneer other than he was able to keep us in laughter the whole time and still get outrageous bids out of many members.

Implemented in July 2016 "The National Forest Saw Policy will facilitate the safe use of chain saws and crosscut saws. The intent of the policy is to optimize critical skills and cooperative opportunities for trail maintenance and other projects on NFS lands." As we all know, the federal government moves very slowly whenever new policies are established, and implementing them can be a challenge. The National Saw Policy is no exception. Idaho is divided into two Forest Service Regions with Region 1 being north of the Salmon River and Region 4 being south of the Salmon River. Those of us who attended the recent State Directors' Meeting in Idaho Falls were very fortunate to have Todd Wilson-FS Region 1 and Brian Burbridge and Larry Valartti-FS, Region 4, help us understand the different options available to have our members certified as "B" and "C" Sawyers, who then can become evaluators and/or trainers. With their willingness to come forward and assist us getting the ball rolling, by the time you read this newsletter we should have tripled the members of BCHI that are qualified to train other members as "B" Sawyers in either chain-saw or crosscut saws. Region 4 had a class on May 7th and Region 1 on May 20th. All sawyers must have current First Aid and CPR Certification and use all their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

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

Rob Parks  
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 ensure that public land remains open to recreational stock-use.
- To assist the government and private agencies in their maintenance & 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](http://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—March, June, and October.

Front Cover: Members of Sawtooth BCH heading into Chamberlain Basin in the White Clouds Wilderness with Castle Peak in the background. The riders are, left to right: Teri Szombathy, Elizabeth Tierney, and Nicole Brass. Photo—Michelle Medsker.

Back Cover: Nicole Brass rides on Bear Gulch Trail near Sun Valley, ID. Photo—Lyn Christensen.

# Education Report

—BCHI Sawyer Certification Education update submitted by Marybeth Conger, BCHI Roving Reporter

This April, Rob Adams (SBBCH) reported that “The National Forests in Idaho are in two different USFS Regions—north of the Salmon River is Region 1, while south of the Salmon River is Region 4. Region 1 is way ahead of Region 4 in regard to the USFS National Saw Policy and volunteer sawyer training.”

In addition, Rob states, “The goal of Region 4 Sawyer and Recreation Managers is to catch up to Region 1 in 2019. BCHI chapters in Region 1 have three members who have been certified as “C” Sawyer Trainer/Evaluators: Joe Robinson (North Central), Todd Brown (North Central) and Jerry Lane (Twin Rivers). These members have been providing Sawyer training for their, and other chapters’, members when USFS Sawyer classes by the Ranger Districts were not available.” And now, Region 4 has two Trainer/Evaluators...

Rob went on to say, “Working with Brian Burbridge (Region 4 Saw Coordinator) and Ryan Erne (BNF Saw Coordinator), a “C” level course was established on May 7th & 8th 2019 for BCHI members in Region 4.” Rob Adams (Squaw Butte), Charles Chick (Squaw Butte), and Mark Ottman (Cache Peak) recently received Letters of designation approving them as volunteer Chainsaw Sawyer Instructors and Evaluators.

A very big thank you to all the volunteers in Regions 1 and 4 for stepping up into this role and volunteering to help instruct. And, to all BCHI members, let’s complete the training these volunteers offer in 2019 and start to clear the trails that so desperately need us. (As of this printing, Region 4 has two “C” crosscut Trainers/Evaluators, also.)



## 2019 National Board Meeting—A few notes about an important resolution that was passed

Everyone should have received a summary of the National Board Meeting Report sent out by Idaho’s National Directors’ Marybeth Conger and Aline Brinkmann who attended the meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, April 8-10, 2019. One item of interest, a resolution was submitted by the BCH organizations of Oregon and Washington concerning the use of Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) as a tool to keep our wilderness trails open and deal with the backlog of trail work which threatens to close trails. An amendment (blue) made by the BCH organizations of Missouri and Montana was added. It passed. Part of the resolution reads:

**“Therefore, let it be resolved** that BCHA requests of the US Forest Service that within two years of the following catastrophic events that render a trail unusable by pack and saddle stock (when such use has been identified as appropriate in previously established Trail Management Objectives), **and all reasonable alternatives have been exhausted**, a Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) process be initiated to restore the affected trails to an acceptable Design Parameter as established in the Forest Service Directives System.

A wildland fire has closed portions of a wilderness trail.

A wind event has closed portions of a wilderness trail.

Any natural event has occurred and closed portions of a wilderness trail.

**Further, let it be resolved** that BCHA requests that a similar process be initiated if a wilderness trail has not been maintained for a period of two years and is effectively closed to pack and saddle stock use.”

This is the bottom-line of a two-page document, and it is a significant resolution as it asks the US Forest Service to analyze trails in the wilderness that are un-usable by stock to decide how best to clear the trail which may lead them to use mechanized methods.\*

“...language in both the Wilderness Act and Forest Service policy provide the flexibility to consider the alternative of using motorized equipment for trail maintenance to the extent that it is the minimum necessary action for accomplishing the purposes of the Act.”

## Our Dynamic Leaders for 2019-2020

While we have a new chairman and vice-chair, most officers and directors retained their positions or mixed them up a bit at the 2019 Board of Directors’ meeting put on by the Eagle Rock BCH of Idaho Falls in March. Pictured are a few of our leaders extraordinaire.

Check out the column of officers, directors, and coordinators on page 2.



*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”*

~Elizabeth Andrew

“Hats off to the 2019-2020 officers and directors of BCHI.” In this picture, from left, Marybeth Conger, Education; Debbie Samovar, BCHI Secretary; Rob Parks, BCHI Chairman; Kay Ryan, BCHI Treasurer; Chris Reed (back), BCHI Vice-Chair; Aline Brinkmann, National Director; Phil Ryan, Public Lands South; and, Amy Cook, Alternate Nat’l Director. The Public Lands North position, previously held by Rod Parks, is currently vacant.





*The members of Eagle Rock BCH were welcoming and enthusiastic.*

## Eagle Rock BCH "Got 'er Done!" at the 2019 BCHI Convention

Kudos to Winnie Welker and her hard-working team for hosting this year's memorable BCHI Board of Directors' Meeting and Convention at the Shilo Inn and Convention Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho, March 22 & 23. The convention was a happy gathering of members from our fifteen chapters. It began with a warm welcome and ended to Old Time Fiddlers' version of "Happy Trails to You", a perfect ending to what was a perfect venue for chapter displays, informative presentations, auctions, meals, and vendors. If you haven't been to a convention, it's worth the price of admission. Photos by Alice Millington (TVBCH) & Helen Glidden (HBCH).



*Are we having fun, or what!*



*Eagle Rock members in their stand-out green shirts.*



*We gave thanks for good leadership.*



*The auction was very entertaining, the entertainment fun.*





*The issues were thoroughly discussed, and decisions were made.*



*The presentations were interesting and informative.*



*It was good to catch up with friends, And get down to business too.*





# Sawyer Certification is Moving Forward

## Region Three Has New "C" Sawyers

—Squaw Butte BCH Pictures by Rob Adams

Charles Chick and Rob Adams from Squaw Butte BCH and Mark Ottman from Cache Peak BCH, successfully completed certification on the Boise National Forest at the C-bucking level for chainsaw. They were issued their Instructor Endorsements by Brian Burbridge, Region 4 Saw Program Manager, following a May 7, 2019, field training and evaluation. Training began at the Garden Valley Work Center, then moved to the Lone Pine Campground on the south fork of the Payette River west of Lowman, ID, where the field training took place.

Brian Burbridge, Operations Coordinator and Region 4 Saw Program Manager, says that the "C-Bucker qualification will now enable these three individuals "to teach and evaluate other members of BCHI and in other volunteer programs in accordance with our Forest Service Saw Policy. In line with the National Forest Service Trail Stewardship Act, this will help provide more opportunities for volunteers and partners to carry out trail maintenance not only on the Boise NF, but in the Intermountain Region." Charles, Rob, and Mark can put on classroom and field training for the "A" & "B" Bucker certification. Brian Burbridge and Rob Adams thanked Ryan Erne and Chad Walker of the Boise National Forest for their involvement in this recent sawyer certification. It was a job well-done by all.



**Above:** Mark Ottman demonstrating his limbing and bucking technique.

**Top:** Charles Chick saws downfall for evaluation.  
**Above:** Instructor Ryan Erne, USFS, evaluates a cut.



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Janice Shepherd, a \$500 card winner in the 2018 calendar raffle sent BCHI a Thank You card...  
*"Thank you so much! What great calendars you have, and for such a good cause."*



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# 2019 Northern Rockies Wilderness Skills Institute—A Big Deal

—A few thoughts from Mark Ottman (Cache Peak BCH) and Jim Gaudry, Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Program Manager



Mark Ottman, who just received his chainsaw “C-Bucker” certification, took his training one step further and earned his “C” Crosscut certification; he can now train and evaluate both chainsaw and crosscut sawyers. He earned his Sawyer “C” Felling and Bucking in the Advanced Crosscut/Axeman Skill Class at the 2019 Northern Rockies Wilderness Skills Institute (NRWSI) held at the historic Powell Ranger Station on the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest held from May 20-24, 2019.

Mark said that the crosscut class was “A first rate class: The staff were professional and very down to earth. They were nice to be around—they joined students for dinner—and were very welcoming in the field training.” In Monday’s class, the instructors laid out the week’s activities and held classroom training. On Tuesday & Wednesday, advanced students—which included Mark and Joe Williams (TVBCH)—were taken to Lolo Pass to practice the skills of cutting, bucking, and felling trees—learning about techniques, leans and binds, etc...On Thursday, teams of three advanced students became the trainers/evaluators for a group of students new to crosscut sawing (“Some had never held a saw.”) Mark and Joe were on the same team. On Friday, it was back to Lolo Pass and time for the advanced teams to train and evaluate the beginning sawyer students assigned to them, who were to cut out the same log/trees that the advanced students had bucked and felled a couple of days prior. The whole experience was great and Mark will return next year to take advantage of more training.



Jimmy Gaudry, USFS Manager in Northern Region, who helped organize the skills institute, said that the 2019 NRWSI included over 100 participants. The Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Society for Wilderness Stewardship, and the USDA Forest Service were the host organizations for the week. Here he talks a little about the NRWSI in general:

“Seven partner organizations participated along with four Back Country Horseman chapters. The group was split almost 50/50 with half of the participants being partners and volunteers and the other half being agency employees. Staff from ten forests across the Northern and Intermountain Regions attended. The University of Montana, National Technology and Design Center, and Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center assisted in leading sessions.

Over the course of a week, participants learned about wilderness law and policy, how to make public contacts in the field, campsite monitoring techniques, fire management in wilderness, basic trip planning skills, basic horsemanship and packing, crosscut saw use, how to be a crosscut saw trainer, trail maintenance and bridge construction techniques, and wilderness first aid and CPR. There were evening sessions focused on women in wilderness, climate change and wilderness stewardship, the use of traditional skills outside of wilderness settings, crosscut saw sharpening, and the European model for designating Wilderness. Mentoring sessions were held throughout the week with around 20 participants taking the opportunity to be mentored by experienced professionals.”

## Five Members of Priest River Valley BCH earn Sawyer Certification

—Reported by Jana Ostler, PRVBCH

On May 4th, five members of our Priest River Valley Back Country Horseman chapter attended a Chain Saw certification class. We met at the Priest Lake Ranger Station in the Panhandle National Forest. Each of us had to demonstrate our skill at safely limbing and bucking downfall.

We all passed our hands-on training and evaluation for the AB Bucking certification for clearing trails. Waylon Meek USFS, of the Priest Lake Ranger District, was the instructor.

**Photo:** Robin Pilkington demonstrates her bucking skills to Instructor Waylon Meek.





## A First Rate Safety Clinic with Practical Information...

—Salmon River BCH, Submitted by Celeste Bingham with photos by Ruth Burns

We held our second annual Trail Safety Clinic on April 27, 2019. Twenty-five riders took three mules, twenty-six horses, and one donkey through the course.

Each rider was given a card with each obstacle listed and was asked to rate it after they finished the course, including a comment section. After demonstrating they knew how to do a one rein stop, riders started with a hill climb to take the “edge” off their mounts. Riders continued on a trail course which included downed logs; a bridge and water crossing; a hiker; a bicycle rider; and a running chainsaw. Then there was a standing, stuffed bear with a bear scented rag for those equines willing to give a sniff; which, proved no problem for some and a quick retreat for others.

Further along, riders were asked to dismount and tie their stock to a horse trailer, demonstrating the knot they use, and, if needed, they were shown a quick release knot to replace the one they commonly use. While their horse or mule was tied, they were also shown how to properly attach a pack animal to their saddle after which they walked over to see suggestions for an emergency equine trailer kit and another for the saddle.

Back in the saddle again, they crossed a large, gray tarp; had a rain-coat rubbed over their equine’s body; encountered multiple cans on a rope (this proved upsetting for several animals); and saw a sinister orange garbage sack over sagebrush. Then, the stock walked by a hanging tarp; tent; rattlesnake sound; rattling cans in a bag; and a barrel with a long pvc pipe to carry around a barrel. Last, but not least, the stock dragged brush or a log.

Before everyone was through the course, the wind began to howl and new tests were put to the equines still out on the course. Banners were flapping, orange signs were flying and one tent, even though weighted down with a large rock, was sent flying into stock tied to a tree— which handled their encounter wonderfully.

A potluck followed that evening at the home of President Dana Tucker and his wife Heidi, where ideas were flowing on how to make next years’ event even better.



**Above:** Arnie Vetrus leads the way up to Marcella Hendricks who holds a bear-scented rag. Dylan SanFlippo follows.

**Below:** The member standing is Lynn Disjong. The rider crossing the tarp is Debra McCoy.



## Tackling a Campground after Fire Damage—A National Trails’ Day Project

—Treasure Valley BCH, Information and photos by Alice Millington

On June 1st, ten TVBCH members and two USFS employs, Hank Ray and Michaela Finley, arrived at the Whoop um Up Equestrian Campground above Idaho City—a campground that TVBCH helped build years before—to clean the grounds and make repairs on feed bunks and handicapped ramps, which had burned in a recent fire. As luck would have it, the sun shined on members, who made many slash piles of debris and smaller downed trees; assisted in repairing two feed bunks, using trees on site; and rebuilt two mounting ramps for handicapped riders. A “Hot Shot” crew briefly “buzzed” through the campground in the afternoon, cleaning up downed trees, which they quickly bucked and stacked for firewood—quite the sight and sound. Later this summer, chapter members will return to clear trail...and have newly certified buckers to do it.



**Photos: Left**—USFS Crew lead Michaela Finley was on the end of a chainsaw all day, guiding us and doing the “wood” work on the handicapped ramps. **Middle**—Part of our crew lined up on the nearly-completed ramps. **Right**—TVBCH members Justin Stucker and Alice Millington hammer long nails into a new rail on a feed bunk.



# “Git It Done” Team Puts on Successful Stock Use Clinic

—Squaw Butte BCH Information by Rob Adam



Above, The Git-It-Done team of (above, left-to-right) Janelle Weeks, Kelly Raglan (behind), Lisa Griffith, Shelly Duff, and Janine Townsend presented a six-hour clinic at the Emmett public arena on April 27, 2019, a perfect spring day. Twenty-six members and guests attended, including members of a local Boy Scout troop.

The team had been planning the clinic for months and put together a great program of both hands-on and demonstrations about stock packing and how stock can be used to explore the backcountry.

Lisa Griffith started the morning session explaining how the day would progress; Janine Townsend talked about basic equipment and stock care; Shelly Duff's presentation centered around pack saddles; Janelle Weeks did a spellbinding presentation on how to “back pack” on your riding horse—just like magic, she pulled a complete outfit from her saddle bags that included a tent, sleeping bag, pad, spare cloths, first aid, personal items, cooking equipment, and food with a total weight 23 pounds; and Kelly Ragland spoke about first aid kits for both humans and stock.



Above: Janine presents, with Lisa Griffith (back).

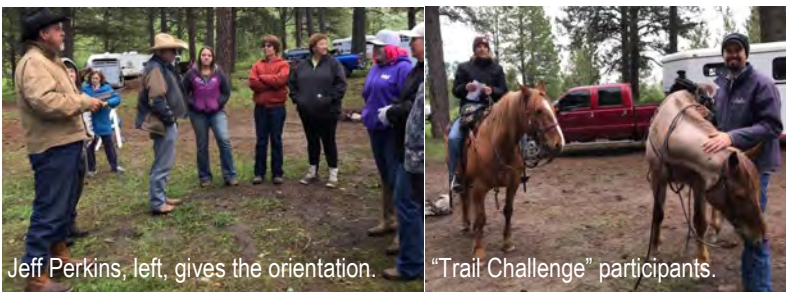
Now, it was break time and Phil Ryan had grilled hot dogs, chips and drinks ready, and the group enjoyed a great lunch. Following lunch, Bubba the Mule, star of the show, took center stage for a pack demonstration. He was fitted with a pack saddle, and the scouts helped load a couple of loaded boxes and an H-Pack onto him. Then, members and guests broke into groups to practice a number of the items that had been discussed and presented and to get their questions answered. Great day all-round.

## Taking up the Challenge

—Portneuf River BCH, photos by Nancy Fox

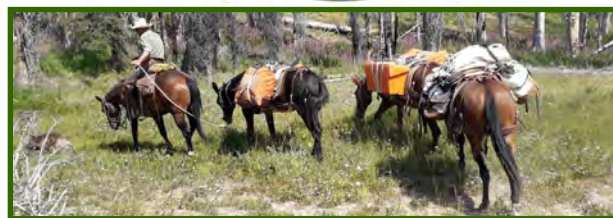
The Annual Portneuf River BCH Trail Challenge took place June 8th. It was a great day, despite the cold weather. Twenty participants each received breakfast and lunch, a *Horse and Rider* “starter” first-aid kit, a PRBCH T-shirt, and a bag of trail mix for a \$50 entry fee. After the morning orientation by PRBCH President Jeff Perkins, riders headed down an 11-mile stretch of trail with “challenges” at every mile, such things as leading a pack horse down the trail, crossing over downfall, and crossing a (safe) mud bog. Winners received gift certificates.

PRBCH members are already planning next year's event because it's all in the planning and improving.



Jeff Perkins, left, gives the orientation.

“Trail Challenge” participants.



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# “Challenge for the BCHI Foundation”

## -A Statewide Challenge From Squaw Butte Chapter-



Back Country Horsemen of Idaho  
FOUNDATION

Since all chapters benefit from the Foundation being a viable entity, the Squaw Butte Back Country Horseman (SBBCH) would like to **challenge all BCHI Chapters to donate to the Foundation Fund**. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage chapters to assist the BCHI Foundation, whose grants can be used for training, projects, and/or the purchase of safety equipment.

**SBBCH will be donating \$500 from their calendar sale profits to the Foundation**

Some possible money-making ideas or projects: Calendar sales, yard sales, donation cans at pack clinics or presentations, fee for advertising at events or on a chapter's website.

*“Help us help our own organization continue to fulfill our mission.”*

**ATTENTION: All chapters must have photos for the 2020 calendar to Debbie Samovar by November 30, 2019!** She will take **ONLY WINTER** photos at the 2020 March convention.



## Sawyer Evaluations at Peace Creek—A National Trails’ Day Project

—Squaw Butte BCH, Information by Rob Adams and Pictures by Janelle Weeks

Squaw Butte members Bill Holt, Shelly Duff, Janelle Weeks, Janine Townsend, and Rob Adams spent the weekend at the Peace Creek trailhead on the Middle Fork of the Payette, north of Garden Valley, ID. Their campsite had been reserved for them by the Lowman Ranger District for their National Trails’ Day project. Charlie Jarvis, supervisor of the BNF Northern trail crew, asked for volunteers to work that Saturday with the "horse guys". He had three volunteers: Tom, Ben and Isaiahh.

Saturday started out with some sawyer field evaluation on downfall near camp. Janine and Shelly were working on their "B" sawyer certifications. Tom, Ben, and Bill worked the lower trail from the Peace Creek trailhead to the western end of the Devil's Slide Trail. They removed more than 50 trees, many of which had blown down, also removing many small pine trees. Janine, Janelle, Shelly, Rob and Isaiahh saddled up and headed up the Peace Creek Trail. Janine and Shelly took turns working each of the downfall, while Rob did their evaluations. Their largest tree was over 32-inches in diameter. They had removed 12 trees, clearing 2.5 miles of trail. By 2:30 pm, the sky was turning dark and thunder could be heard, so back to camp they went. It rained hard off-and-on all evening.

On Sunday morning, the group put on their PPE, grabbed their saws, and walked over the bridge to a section of the trail that was being over-run with young pine trees—re-seeded pine trees from a fire a few years ago, ranging in height from 6 to 15-feet. We removed more that 50 reestablishing a 10-foot corridor on that section. Everyone had a great time that weekend despite heavy rains on Saturday evening, and Shelly and Janine completed their "B" Sawyer evaluations and will be receiving their cards! Congrats!



**Clockwise from left:**  
Rob Adams demonstrates a cut as Shelly Duff looks on.

Shelly saws through a large downfall as Rob evaluates.

Chips fly as Janine Townsend saws through downfall.

Janine is all smiles in a yellow Oregon hard hat.





# Memorials



**Lorraine McPherson** went to join her husband Don—who passed in 2011—on May 27, 2019. Lorraine was born and raised in the Kooskia, Idaho, area. She taught school in Adele, OR, and in Sweet, Salmon, and Kooskia, all in Idaho— 30 years at Kooskia Elementary School.



A founding member of the North Central Idaho Chapter (NCI), Lorraine, along with husband Don, were always willing to help out or to take the lead on projects that required her special organizational skills. She was very active in our chapter, serving as secretary, 1991; president, 1994-1995; vice president, 1999-2000; state director, 2000-2001; and as foundation director 2005-2013.

Lorraine also spent many years on the Idaho Horse Council's (IHC) Board of Directors, representing BCH at both the chapter and state levels. You could find her smiling face at every Horse Expo, greeting people at the main entrance or manning the IHC booth.

*Don and Lorraine are again riding the trails together.*



*Photo—Don & Lorraine receiving their lifetime membership award to the NCI Chapter in 2009*

**Lorraine Joyce Genzmer**, 81, of Rupert, Idaho, passed away July 25, 2018. Lorraine was known affectionally as “Mule Granny” to her family, friends, and to participants in the various stock clubs, events, and projects she was involved in.



She was a current member of the Cache Peak Back Country Horseman (CPBCH). According to Mark Ottman, president, Lorraine was the main-stay of the Cache Peak Chapter for many years, “She kept the chapter going.” Lorraine also served as the Foundation Secretary-Treasurer for many years. It was Lorraine’s wish that donations be made to CPBCH upon her passing, and from monies received, a fund has been set up for future CPBCH events and fundraisers.

*Happy Trails, Lorraine.*

## For Your Information...



**Back Country Horsemen of Idaho**

**FOUNDATION**

**Ten chapters sent directors to the annual BCHI Foundation meeting in March.** It is our goal that every chapter provide a representative to serve on the Foundation. The more involved and familiar chapters become with the Foundation, the more they will understand the services it provides. The Foundation meets once a year at the Friday SBD meeting of the BCHI State Convention week-end and conducts business throughout the year via email and phone. The Foundation will help chapters in grant writing, and as requested at this year’s annual meeting the discussion centered around grants for education and training and reimbursement for chapter-purchased materials used for projects. The Foundation will award grants or reimbursements for equipment, education, and materials.

*We extend a sincere “Thank you” to the 70 BCH members who have chosen the Foundation as their charity on Amazon.Smile.*

**The excellent leadership of Chris Reed, over the last two years, continues with the new and returning officers for 2019-2020:**

**From the left:**

Treasurer John Millington, Secretary Alice Millington, President Bill Holt (back), & V-P Tim Palmer.



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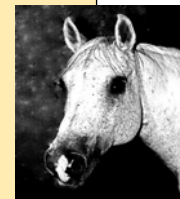
Alice may bend the rules a bit, but generally the following applies:

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**Back Country Horsemen, Inc.**  
**Debbie Samovar, Secretary**  
**9176 E Soaring Hawk Lane**  
**Saint Maries, ID 83861**



Total Value of BCHI Volunteer Efforts for 2018  
**\$653,360.32**

### Sawyer Certification—A Tune-ful Journey 🎵

by AJ Millington, TVBCH



*(Thank you Rob Adams and Phil Ryan...and Tucker, Moose, and Sam. And thank you, Magee, for not dragging me down the trail.)*

I have been using a chainsaw for years for firewood gathering, but now it was time to step up and get certified to participate in trail clearing projects with the Forest Service. So, in May, I was one of four Treasure Valley members who took the classroom portion of chainsaw

training from Rob Adams (SBBCH),—a full day at Rob’s house watching videos and having discussions covering proper sawyer technique and safety, a valuable beginning for the field training I would take on June 13th near my home in McCall ID. Here begins the “tune-ful” journey...

I was nervous on the morning of the 13th as I headed out to meet Rob Adams and Phil Ryan (SBBCH) on the 20 Mile Trail north of McCall, where I would be evaluated on my bucking technique for sawyer certification. In an attempt to keep things simple, I didn’t take my “fresh” horse—I didn’t want to wrangle a horse and mule, who often wanted to part ways...So, I was walking, Molly Magee in hand. Soon, though, I went from being nervous to feeling pretty calm as a result of Rob’s approach to teaching and his and Phil’s friendly banter, relaxed enough, in fact, that songs began popping into in my head...

Early on, I began to hear "I'm a Lumberjack and I'm Okay," made famous by Monty Python—it got into my head because husband, John, was singing it that morning. After bucking some downfall and walking up the trail a bit longer, I began removing pieces of clothing—heavy chaps (which I had kept on), a jacket, hot gloves, a scarf—and the song became "You Can Leave Your Hat On," made famous by Joe Cocker, because my yellow hard hat always remained atop my head. Later that day, after the training was over and I was home, exhausted, but with an ear-to-ear grin on my face, I began singing James Brown's "I Feel Good." I had just earned my "B" Bucker certification for chainsaw. It felt pretty darn good.



**Top** - That’s Moose; Phil, atop Sam; and Rob.

**Bottom** - Me, limbing downfall before bucking.