

Cabinet BCH of Montana Natural Equine Care Clinic

By Deena Shotzberger, President



BCHA Education Grants at Work in Montana

Left: Cindy Brannon demonstrating a boot fit on Dr. Oedekoven's horse, Sonny.
Below: Jim Brannon discussing and trimming Jenny Holifield's Arabian, John Henry.

Thanks to a grant from the BCH Education Foundation, Cabinet BCH hosted a clinic with Dr. Amanda Oedekoven, veterinarian; Jim Brannon, natural hoof care practitioner; and Cindy Brannon, hoof boot specialist in Libby, MT on March 21. This was a great opportunity for 23 equine owners in our small community to learn about nutrition, exercise and environment; anatomy and function of the lower leg and hoofs; hoof care and trimming principles. In addition, they experienced hands-on demonstrations of natural trimming, hoof care, and boot type and fit. The instructors and demonstrators donated their time to prepare and teach this session. The majority of the participants were Back Country Horsemen. By the end of the clinic, we are happy to report that we had four new families become members of the Cabinet Back Country Horsemen.

Libby has several great farriers, but none who specialize in natural hoof care and trimming. Cabinet BCH wanted

to offer a more complete approach to hoof care for consideration (regardless of whether animals were shod or barefoot). Many hoof problems can be avoided by following better nutrition, exercise and environment, and a more holistic method of hoof care. The clinic offered participants information on how to lower the risk for navicular, laminitis, and insulin resistance. Participants learned how to provide their horse a healthier and fitter life through recommended nutrition and methods of keeping horses and mules, how to maintain correct hoof form to help restore hooves to their original healthy condition, how to perform a barefoot trim, and how to use and fit riding boots.

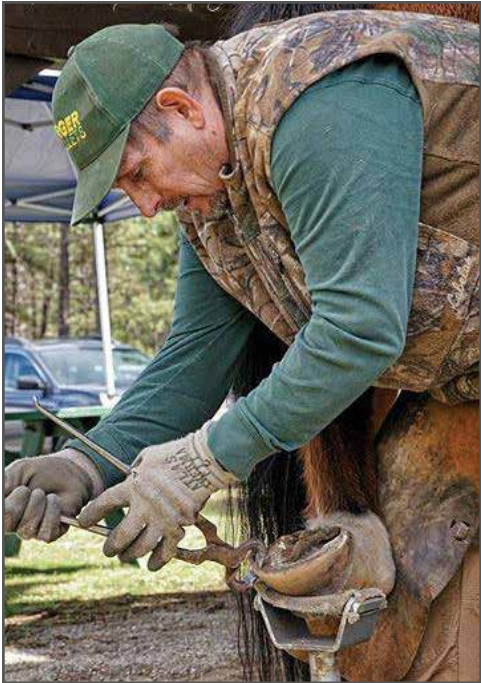
Clinic topics included:

- Proper nutrition and mineral supplements for our area
- How to provide your equine with a natural environment even on limited acreage
- Anatomy of the hoof and the

hoof's role and function

- Assessing the health of hooves
- Why proper hoof care and living conditions can lead to a longer working life for your horse, and why this is critical in young growing horses
- The difference between a shoeing trim and a barefoot trim and how the differences improve the health of your horses' hooves
- How to spot and address imbalances in the hoof before they cause problems
- How to recognize and treat common hoof ailments such as cracks, abscesses, white line disease, thrush, laminitis and navicular
- The role of boots and how to transition a horse from shoes to natural trimming and boots
- How to perform a maintenance trim between professional hoof care trimming
- How to fit your horse for boots and the best type of boot for your horse
- A demonstration on natural trimming with an electric grinder

We received great feedback from participants. A second clinic (also funded by a BCH Education Founda-



tion Grant) was held on April 25. Cabinet BCH presented a saddle-fitting clinic by Dr. Ron Stuber, DVM. This clinic had lecture component in the morning and offered participants the opportunity to work individually with Dr. Stuber to help them determine a correct saddle size and type to fit their horse, and to try a variety of saddles on their horse.

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From the Secretary's Desk



By Peg Greiwe, Executive Secretary

Hello BCHA Friends,

The BCHA office has been on sporadic hours since May 7th. I had open heart bypass and mitral value replacement. The surgery was successful and I can hear the little “click, click” of the mechanical valve – which is a good thing. I thought I would have the surgery later in the summer but the sur-

geon had an opening and I went for it. Good thing, too, because my poor ol’ heart was working overtime. I got out of the hospital on the 14th and have been working on getting better. Every day there is improvement. My husband sees it more than I do. I am trying to walk a lot which is one of the best ways to get better, but no driving for a while.

As is usual during the summer months, things have quieted down in the BCHA office since the National Board Meeting.

Speaking of the National Board Meeting (NBM) in Sacramento CA, it was well attended with most all of our states represented. The minutes are on the website if you are interested. We had many lively discussions and heard some great speakers. Our new officers for 2015-2016 are Chairman Don Saner (WY), Vice Chair Tom Thomas (NC), Treasurer Freddy Dunn (UT), and Past Chair Jim McGarvey (GA). Mack Long

and Chuck Miller were elected to the Executive Committee. Jim McGarvey has taken on the executive director’s position as a volunteer. BCHA will reimburse him for actual expenses only. We are fortunate to have such a dynamic person for BCHA as Jim McGarvey.

At the NBM, Michigan and Mississippi were voted in as BCHA state organizations! Saratoga New York was given affiliate status!

Thank you, thank you to Dennis Serpa, the Mid-Valley Unit and the Back Country Horsemen of California for hosting the National Board Meeting in Sacramento! The hotel was good, old Sacramento was fun as was the wonderful dinner and entertainment on Thursday evening. Thank you for all your work! It is appreciated!

Hope your summer goes well and you have lots of time on the trails!

Peg

Tales of the Trails Your Friend, The Map

By Robert Eversole, Owner and Chief Trail Boss of Trailmeister

Many tools are commonly used to help find your way happily down the trail. While without a doubt the single most important element in your equine travel toolbox is you, a map of where you’re riding is a close second. Let’s take a moment to consider the often-overlooked map.

The early 16th century saw the first use of the word *map* as we know it. From the Latin *mappa* (napkin or sheet) and *mundi* (of the world), we have *map-pa mundi* or sheet of the world. The glorious definition “sheet of the world” perfectly describes this simple piece of paper that holds a representation of the world within its bounds.

A map can and should be the basis for planning every trip. The information that a map contains can help you choose the perfect campsite, find water sources, determine the difficulty of your route, and even help you estimate how long you’ll be on the trail. A map gives us such a good picture of an area’s terrain that it’s hard to understand why riders would ever depart the trailhead without one. Unfortunately, riders often do so, especially when they think they’ll stay on trail.

To put it in a different perspective a map is a teleportation device. With a map you can visit an area without ever pulling into the trailhead or talking about it with someone who has.

The trail begins at the end of a gravel road on the south side of a camping area located in the middle of a broad flat valley with a stream running along the edge. For the first ½ mile we’ll ride along with the stream on our right. Riding this section during the afternoon will provide the best lighting for photos of the towering cliffs that line the left side of the valley. In a mile and a half we’ll leave the streamside, better top off our water here if the ponies are thirsty, and head uphill. Soon we’ll drop into a slot canyon as we work our way down hill towards a gem in the desert, a waterfall.

The source of all of these details is of course that “sheet of the world”—or as we would call it in the 21st century—a map. A map gives us a bird’s eye view of the area on a flat piece of paper filled with symbols to help guide the way. Different types of maps give us different types of information so you might need more than one map for a given trip.

Two of the most common types of maps that you’ll encounter are *planimetric* and *topographic*. Planimetric maps treat the ground as flat and you most likely have one in your truck. Most commonly found as highway maps this type of map generally covers a large area and accurately places roads and towns making it perfect for the job of getting you to and from the trailhead.

A rider’s best friend is the topographic map. Through the use of contour lines it will give you a detailed picture of the shape of the land you’ll be exploring on horseback: the hills, depressions, flat areas, cliffs, and other features you’ll need to know about. The various colors and symbols on the map will help you find water, campsites, and many other valuable bits of information that will help you on your ride.

Besides helping you find your way a topographic map can be fun to use. If you need more motives to bring a map along on your next ride here are 6 reasons to have and to use a map.

1. A few minutes spent inspecting your topographic map before your ride can give you a tremendous amount of information about your upcoming trip.

2. The map will preview your trip by showing you not only where the trail goes but also some of the treasures and obstacles you’ll find along the way. Areas with wonderful ridge-top views, challenging water crossing, and more.

3. The elevation data will show

you where you might encounter lingering spring snow in early summer, or where a fall ride might include a dusting of the white stuff.

4. The patterns of the contour lines will tell you how steep a trail segment will be and how hard your ponies will be working to make the climb.

5. A map will show you likely water sources along your route where you’ll have a chance to quench your horse’s thirst.

6. Studying your map will give you a view of the area much larger than what you’ll see from the back of your horse. A map can show you places to visit that you wouldn’t otherwise know about.

As always for more information on trail riding as well as the largest equine trail and camp guide in the world, visit www.trailmeister.com.



From the Chairman's Saddle



By Don Saner, Chairman

As your new chairman, I want to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me and give you a little of my BCHA history.

I am one of the founding members of Teton BCH chapter in Jackson, WY. Founded in 1994, the chapter is still going strong. Over the years, I was elected chapter chairman five times and served as our chapter's state director for over 21 years. I have also served as chairman and vice chair for Wyoming. The state elected me as a national director—a position I have held for over 14 years. I have served as a member of the executive committee for three years and have held the offices of treasurer for two years, vice chair for one year, and now look forward to serving as your chairman.

Over the last four years, BCHA made great strides in determining ways to better serve you at the national level. Past Chairmen Mike McGlenn and Jim McGarvey worked hard to lay the groundwork and better position BCHA to fulfill the needs of individual members, state, and chapter organizations. As an allied grassroots organization, we are much stronger today than we have ever been. We are better able to get out in front of issues, rather than merely reacting to them. Our new and old partnerships are as strong as ever and we are a force to be reckoned with! It all starts with YOU, our individual members.

I am honored to work with the quality folks who comprise our national board. It is amazing how 50+ folks can come together and work for the good of our organization. The amount of volunteer time and effort that is put into our organization and at the national board meeting always amazes me.

I also want each of you to know what an honor it is to me to serve as your national chairman. There are a few folks who helped me get to this place of honor and I would like to recognize them now. First is my wife Karen. I couldn't ask for a better person to have my back. Every chairman I have talked to has spoken about how important it is to have your spouse's support and I know I have hers.

In Wyoming, I'd like to thank Al Sammons, Linda Serduik, and Dick Inberg. They have shown me the ropes from starting a chapter, running a chapter, working at the state level, and then the national. I would like to thank the Wyoming BCHA for giving me the opportunity to serve at the state and national level. Val Johnson is the person who showed me the meaning of BCHA and I can still hear him say "Narrow focus and the mission!"

I would like to thank Mack and Connie Long of Montana for the gift of two packing scholarships and to the folks who kicked in to help cover the cost of travel expenses for the winners. BCHA applied for a new grant so that we can continue this great educational opportunity for our youth and to teach them to become good stewards of our Wilderness. We will let you know if we get the grant. Let's all keep our fingers crossed!

Executive Secretary Peg Greiwe has been the keeper of BCHA's historical records for a number of years. A big "that-a-boy" goes out to Chuck Miller for getting the Montana Historical Society to take these records to sort and scan them into a digital format. Past Chairman Mike McGlenn is going to be my point man on this.

A few other items we are working on are:

- Expansion Committee Chair Steve Lindsey (KS) is putting his nose to the grindstone to look at the Midwest to add a few more states.

- ED Jim McGarvey has a goal of finding us more partners like the Wilderness Society and the American Horse Council. These two partners have been huge assets to BCHA. I'm hoping we can find other like-minded organizations that would be a good fit with BCHA. Of course, he'll be doing this while working on all the other issues that we have on our plate.

- Public Lands Advisor Randy Rasmussen is busy keeping on top of all national and local items of concern. He is the man behind the scene for the HR bills and keeps me well informed!

- Robbin Schindele is in charge of the content on our website so don't hesitate to contact him with important news we all need to hear.

- Cindy McGarvey manages our Facebook presence and does such a wonderful job for all of us!

Well, thanks for listening and see ya next time!

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BCHA Mission Statement

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America’s back country and wilderness areas.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen’s organizations.

BCHA Calendar

2016

April 20-23

BCHA National Board Meeting - NV

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Back Country Horsemen of America 2015 National Board Meeting Highlights

By Freddy Dunn

Chairman Jim McGarvey’s Report

- **Crowdfunding** event brought BCHA back to financial stability with the balance sheet returning to the same level as 2008
- Advisor for Public Lands and Recreation **Randy Rasmussen** was hired as our first full time employee
- Keep abreast of any/all upcoming Management Plan Revisions by our public land managers and notify the local BCHA chapter/state
- Work our partners and national land managers as directed in our mission statement
- New Logo
- **New Website** and obtained www.bcha.org
- McGarvey elected to board of CHA
- Established monthly presidents’ calls
- **Introduced HR845** into the House of Representatives
- Signed a MOU with the National Park Service

New States Accepted

- Michigan (from affiliate to state)
- Mississippi
- Saratoga, NY as affiliate member

American Endurance Riding Conference - Monica Chapman

- About 5,000 members
- Work on Education – health of the horse
 - o Research – AERC weed study
 - o Trails committee - \$170,000 in trails grants; trails master classes

American Horse Council – Ben Pend-ergrass

- Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act – making it legal for veterinarians to provide complete medical care to their patients beyond their clinics and across state lines. Before were unable to transport Controlled Substances.

Elections 2015

- Chairman – Donald Saner, WY
- Vice Chairman – Tom Thomas, NC
- Treasurer – Freddy Dunn, UT
- Executive Director – Jim McGarvey, GA at no cost to BCHA except expenses: working with Ginny Grulke, KY to raise \$150,000 to fund this as a full time position. Also looking for sustainable funding for the future.
- Executive Committee:
 - o **Non Director** – Mack Long, MT (Alan Hill, CA continues for another year)
 - o **Director** – **Chuck Miller** – **MT** (Darrell Wallace, WA and Roy Cornett, KY continue for another year)

Committees

- **Organization/Affiliates/Partners/Associates /National Trails Advocacy & Public Liaison – Alan Hill, CA: BCHA should continue to pay for the following (\$3450):**
 - American Horse Council – unlimited access to Wash DC (\$2500)
 - Coalition for Recreational Trails (\$100)
 - American Trails (\$100)
 - Partnership for the National Trails (\$100)
 - National Recreational Trails Training (\$100)
 - Public Lands Service Corp (\$100)
 - 21st Century Service Corps (\$100)
 - Nat’l Wilderness Alliance (\$100)
 - Leave No Trace (\$100)

Other

- **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation’s Hunter Christmas** in Las Vegas to be held during the 10 days of the NFR Finals and Cowboy Christmas! Donations and help for the booth are greatly needed.
- **The Country Store:** Jim McGarvey talked to Columbia bank about using two of our Legal fund CD’s as collateral. MSP that we develop a line of credit up to \$30,000 using the CD’s.

2014 Volunteer Hours Committee Report

By Larry Zauberis

The Volunteer Hours committee met to finalize the 2014 report of the BCHA volunteer effort and select a recipient of the Double Diamond Award. Members in participating were:

- Russ Wright (BCH Arizona)
- Melinda Wagner (BCH Georgia)
- Mary K Church (Show-Me Missouri BCH)
- Steve Lindsey (BCH Kansas)
- Joanne Mitchell (BCH Tennessee)
- Laurie Hufstader (BCH Oregon)
- Larry Zauberis, Chairman (BCH Colorado)

Volunteer Effort

The committee received reports from 24 of 27 states in the organization. The exceptions were Alaska, Illinois, and West Virginia. A report is expected from BCH Alaska in the next few weeks that will be included in an amended report. This amended report will be submitted to the chairman as soon as possible. No report was expected from the newly organized organizations in New York and Mississippi. Summarized highlights:

- Total value of the volunteer effort reported in 2014 was \$14,419,615.89—an increase of \$466,666.18 over the 2013 value of \$13,972,949.71 or ~0.3%
- 417,134 hours of basic and skilled work, administrative service, education and public meeting participation valued at \$10,180,960—an increase of 49,973 hours (\$1,375,433)
- 1726179 miles were recorded for personal vehicles and stock hauling valued at \$1,684,563—an increase of 88,127 miles (\$77,021).
- 7,152 hours of equipment use were recorded valued at \$300,519—a decrease of 4409 hours (\$114,511)

- 13,044 head of pack and saddle stock were used for 21,832 stock days with a value of \$2,182,300—a significant decrease from 30,732 stock days (\$890,900)
 - Cash and in-kind donations were down an insignificant \$377
- It is noted that even though the total work hours increased by almost 14%, equipment and pack and saddle stock usage was down significantly from the previous year. There is no way to determine the cause for this anomaly. However, in my opinion, it is probably due to inconsistent reporting of those resources by local chapters.
- In 2015 I will make an effort to educate the membership on the importance of accurately reporting all resources applied to volunteer efforts on the BCHA website and in the newsletter. I have asked the national directors to provide me with the name of the person in their state organization responsible for compiling the volunteer hours report.
- The figures in the Volunteer Hours Report are based on the value of volunteer service for 2014 determined by the Independent Sector (https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time). The value used is \$23.07, an increase of \$0.52 from 2013 value used in 2013 of \$22.55/hour.
- At the 2014 NBM the committee decided to value the hourly rate for skilled labor to one and one-half the value for basic labor. The value used for the 2014 report was \$34.61 (\$23.07 x 1.5).
- Other values for stock use (\$100/day) and vehicle usage (\$0.90 – POV; \$1.10 – Stock hauling) were maintained at rates determined in previous years.

Double Diamond Award

The committee received five nominations for the 2014 Double Diamond Award which were considered:

- Mother Lode Unit (California) for completion of Phase I of the Caples Creek Trailhead
- Show-me Missouri BCH (Missouri) for their partnership with Pepsi-Co to develop and distribute mesh bags for the removal of trash from trails and trailheads.
- Pigeon River and Beyond BCH (Michigan) for their effort to help DNR personnel understand the requirements of horsemen, to teach equine safety, and resolve issues between users and land managers.
- Beartooth BCH (Montana) for the Ernie Strum trail project.
- Uinta Basin BCH (Utah) for their recognition by the Utah Lieutenant Governor for hard work in environmental stewardship with U Serve Utah.

The Ernie Strum Trail Project completed by Beartooth BCH in Montana was selected on a unanimous vote by the committee.

This project was completed in 2014 but it represents a concerted effort of several years by the Montana Beartooth chapter. The project opened public access to McDonald Basin and the north face of Beartooth Mountain adjacent to a wilderness area in the Custer National Forest. The development and execution of this effort required the chapter to manage the coordination of many government agencies including the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Montana Department of Natural Resources, and the Montana

[continued next page]

2014 Volunteer Hours Committee Report
continued

Conservation Corps over a sustained period. In all, 5 government agencies and 15 private entities were involved, which took tremendous dedication by the Beartooth chapter. In 2014 alone, the chapter expended 480 hours' labor and 2,953 vehicle miles of travel valued at over \$17,000. The trail was dedicated to Ernie Strum, a long-time member of the Beartooth chapter, after his passing in late 2013 to commemorate his tireless work on the project.

Backcountry Horsemen of America
Volunteer Hours Report
Back Country Horsemen of America
2014

	P1 Totals	Rate per hour/mile/day	Total Value	
Total Basic Hours	125723	\$23.07	\$2,900,425.00	Calculated per hour
Total Skilled Hours	48346	\$34.61	\$1,673,011.60	Calculated per hour
Total Trail Recon Hours	10874	\$23.07	\$250,863.18	Calculated per hour
Total LNT - Education	19456	\$23.07	\$448,849.92	Calculated per hour
Total Public Meetings	14324	\$23.07	\$330,460.45	Calculated per hour
Total Administrative Service	141300	\$23.07	\$3,259,784.08	Calculated per hour
Total Travel Time	57112	\$23.07	\$1,317,566.00	Calculated per hour
Total Hours	417134.36		\$10,180,960.22	
Wilderness Trail Miles	12935			
Other Trail Miles	23242			
Total Trail Miles	36177			
Personal Vehicle	1071171	\$0.90	\$964,054.17	Calculated per mile
Stock Hauling	655008	\$1.10	\$720,509.24	Calculated per mile
Total Travel Miles	1726179.7			
Power Equipment	5069	\$26.00	\$131,796.60	Calculated per hour
Heavy Equipment	2083	\$81.00	\$168,723.00	Calculated per hour
Total Equipment Hours	7152.1			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	13044			
Total Stock Days	21823	\$100.00	\$2,182,300.00	Calculated per day
Total Donations	\$71,272.66		\$71,272.66	
Total			\$14,419,615.89	

The Catch Pen
Mother Lode Unit CA Pack Clinic

By Lucy Badenhoop

Dru Barner Horse Camp near Georgetown, CA was the site of this year's pack clinic training for the Mother Lode Unit. The many trees for high lines and several pipe pens kept the stock safe and accessible. Spacious sites and parking for the many participants are available in the large camp. Picnic tables, campfire rings, toilets and potable water made for a comfortable stay. The potluck suppers and breakfasts further enhanced the weekend experience. Saturday at 10 a.m., the clinic started with Al Kaiser and Jerry Heitzler leading the session. After self-introductions, the two packers launched into

the educational material punctuated with appropriate stories from their personal experiences on the trail. Included in the presentation were a demonstration of the basket hitch method and an explanation of the functional differences of the sawbuck and Decker style pack saddles. This was followed by an opportunity for attendees to get hands-on practice with the animals and equipment. At the end of the training session, attendees were treated to a luscious lunch before heading out for an afternoon ride. Several riders brought extra stock and used the ride for practicing their ponying skills or training the

stock. The super weather during the whole weekend made is difficult to contemplate leaving, so after breakfast on Sunday, riders tacked up for another ride before heading home.



Al Kaiser & Jerry Hetzler

River Springs Chapter of Show-Me Missouri Receives Regional Award

By Paula Hull

The River Springs Chapter of Show-Me Missouri BCH has received the 2014 Volunteer & Service Region 9 Award – Restoration from USDA US Forest Service for work accomplished by the chapter in Mark Twain National Forest. The award was presented to the chapter by Mark Twain National Forest Supervisor Bill Nightingale and Volunteer Coordinator Jane Mobley on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at the Eleven Point Ranger District office in Doniphan, Missouri. The state organization, Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen, was also presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award for their volunteer service. Staff members from Mark Twain

National Forest in Doniphan nominated the River Springs Chapter for their initiative and quality job performance. "Members of the River Springs Chapter of Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen have been exemplary and have been an invaluable resource, contributing significantly to the zone's recreation delivery system," said Nightingale. The chapter has helped to restore and maintain over 300 miles of multi-purpose trail miles for public use since 2009 and assisted in the restoration of the Lazy C Trailhead/Primitive Camping Area south of Winona, Missouri. Region 9, or US Forest Service's Eastern Region, is one of nine Forest

Service administrative regions. It encompasses more than 12 million acres across 17 National Forests and one tallgrass prairie in 20 states in the East and Midwest. During fiscal year 2014, at least 10,682 individual Volunteer and Service participants contributed more than 428,510 service hours valued at over \$9 million to the Eastern Region. Mark Twain National Forest is the largest public land manager in Missouri with 1.5 million acres in 29 counties in southern and central Missouri. The River Springs Chapter is one of nine chapters of Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen.



Candace Hale, President of the River Springs Chapter of Show-Me MO BCH, left, accepts the 2014 Volunteer & Service Region 9 Award – Restoration from Bill Nightingale, Mark Twain National Forest's forest supervisor. Staff members from Mark Twain National Forest nominated the River Springs Chapter for their initiative and quality job performance. (Photo by Paula Hull)

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East Valley Arizona Provides Pack String Support for Wilderness Volunteers

By Russ Wright, East Valley Chapter & BCHA National Director

On March 21 and March 28, members of the East Valley BCH chapter of Apache Junction, AZ (EVBCH) used their packhorses to haul in supplies, tools, food, and water for a group of volunteer workers. The workers spent the week clearing trails deep in the eastern end of the Superstition Wilderness, Globe ranger district, of the Ton-ton National Forest. The pack-in was on the Haunted Canyon trail 203 to Tony Ranch which is reached by traveling 7 miles of 4x4 road through the Pinto Valley copper mines west of Globe and then 6 miles into the canyon to Tony Ranch. The group we were supporting was the Wilderness Volunteers out of Flagstaff (www.wildernessvolunteers.org). The wilderness volunteers cleared the Bull Basin Trail that extends 8 miles west of the Tony Ranch over to the West Pinto Creek trail 212 near Miles Ranch trailhead.

Our group consisted of 17 horses and 14 riders on the pack in trip on Friday March 21. We provided 10 horses and 8 riders on the pack out trip on Saturday March 28. We have been pro-

viding pack train support like this for over 10 years in many different areas of the Superstition Wilderness. The US Forest Service is so strapped for funding that virtually no trail maintenance would be done except for the volunteer efforts like this. Our head packer is Darryl Cross of Apache Junction and our pack horse men were Steve Goodnick of Ft. McDowell, Bruce Davis of Gold Canyon, and Tom Colbert and Dave Boron of Apache Junction.

Besides supporting the volunteer groups with pack train support, our club has contributed over 700 hours so far this year with our own efforts to keep trails in good shape. The Haunted Canyon trail 203 has been completely cleared due to our efforts and in the next year or two we hope to have the Bull Basin trail 270 and the Paradise trail 271 cleared, which will allow several riding loops centered on the Miles Ranch Trailhead. Ask any of the snowbird horsemen who winter in the East Valley – this area is the epitome of Superstition Wilderness trail riding.



Dolan Springs Workday Kingman Arizona

By Trish Carter

On April 18, the Kingman BCH chapter fulfilled a commitment of a grant for the Dolan Springs Trail System to install four benches. KBCH group's role included packing in the supplies on horseback to the locations and doing the actual labor of installing the benches.

The Dolan Springs Trail System is located in the small, unincorporated community of Dolan Springs, Arizona. The trails are located on 480 acres of Bureau of Land Management land at the northern end of the Mount Tipton Wilderness Area, which is in the Cerbat Mountains. The Dolan Springs Trail System welcomes hikers, joggers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and nature lovers of all ages.

Specifically, KBCH utilized packhorses to carry metal benches along with cement and tools to four different

designated areas amongst two trails. The less than 2-mile trails were somewhat narrow, the terrain was rocky with patches of river wash and sand which made the horses a perfect vehicle of transport for the benches, concrete and essential supplies.

This project was not only rewarding, but also exciting to watch our members dive in and take a role whether it was mixing cement or getting on your knees and placing the benches into the ground. Overall, 17 people and 7 pack horses turned out for this project, which took approximately 3 hours to complete. Dolan Springs Trail System President Sue Baughman said, "I'm extremely pleased with the installment of the benches and I'd like to thank each member of the KBCH group that came out today to make this project a success!"



Member Sharon Noake's Gypsy horse, Nighthawk, is being prepared to pack cement.

Horse Camp Gets New Water Tank and Trough!

Several years ago, the Lake-Mendo Unit of the Back Country Horsemen (BCH) established a horse camp on a beautiful level site at the intersection of Roads 500, 530 and 400. Paul Villanueva, President of this BCH unit, has worked hard with other volunteers over the years to add more facilities: a high-line, vault toilet, and fire pit. But it has been a dilemma as to how water could be brought to the camp and made available for horses which can require 5-10 gallons of drinking water a day.

Friends of Boggs Mountain (FOBM) and BCH held several discussions to find an economical, low impact solution. Finally this past winter, we decided on a 2,500 gallon water tank, providing a gravity-fed trough (covered to minimize evaporation and debris) located at an elevation at least 2 feet lower than the bottom of the tank. The water would be used solely

for equine consumption (with signage indicating this) so as to minimize tank refills. A float valve in the trough will regulate the amount of water drawn from the tank.

We successfully acquired a grant from the Cobb Geothermal Mitigation Fund Committee for the materials. Paul planned the system, and with other BCH members, installed the tank, pipes and trough in a couple of weekends this past spring.

FOBM has committed to helping pay for the next two tank refills. With the establishment of a silent ranger at the horse camp, we hope that equestrian campers can help fund the refills as well.

We are grateful to the Cobb Geothermal Mitigation Fund Committee for their generous assistance, to the BCH volunteers who worked tirelessly on this much-needed facility, and for



the great collaboration between FOBM and BCH leaders to finally make this happen! Let us know if you'd be interested in volunteering with FOBM to support our mission to enhance the vis-

itor's experience at Boggs!

© 2015 Friends of Boggs Mountain
Submitted by Lisa Deas, Wilderness Rider with Lake/Mendo unit BCH CA and reprinted with permission

The Catch Pen

WY Great Divide Chapter: New Trail Volunteers off at a Gallop

By Carole Genaro

Wyoming's newest chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America (BCHA) – the Great Divide Chapter – is just a few months old but has hit the ground at a gallop! After successfully organizing, electing officers, and adopting bylaws, the group's attention has turned to scheduling activities and projects. Plans included last weekend's horse packing clinic, and several proposed trail work projects coordinated with local US Forest Service and BLM personnel.

Recently, two GDBCH members, Carole Genaro and Richard Dana, spent several hours assisting Rawlins BLM Recreation Specialist Dave Hullum on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). The three met on the trail south of Rawlins, intending to simply identify future volunteer opportunities. However, the trip soon turned into an actual work project, during which several much-needed CDT delineator

posts were put in. These posts help riders and hikers locate the trail where it passes through open country with few other typical trail landmarks, like emblazoned trees, to mark the route.

Part of the trail in that area also traverses high, thick stands of sagebrush. A June 6 (aka National Trails Day) work party is planned to define, clear, and sign the trail. Local Boy Scouts have been invited to join GDBCH members. The Chapter is hoping to install information kiosks, with maps and other trail tidbits, at several area trailheads later this summer.

Most folks probably recall that the Continental Divide Trail stretches from the Mexican to Canadian borders, running along or closely parallel to the actual Divide. After initial work on the BLM sections around Rawlins, the GDBCH Chapter has planned several horseback rides to scout and prepare for work on portions of the CDT

on the Medicine Bow National Forest in the Sierra Madre Mountains. From Rawlins south to the Colorado line, the trail winds for 44 miles through high desert and dense forests of lodgepole pine, with elevations ranging from 8,000 – 11,000'. Thirteen miles are inside the Huston Park Wilderness.

Wyoming is blessed with beautifully varied terrain and enthusiastic volunteers. For more information about the Great Divide Backcountry Horsemen and/or area rides and projects, please contact Chapter President Heather Schultz at 307-321-0238.



It's obvious that Carole is hard at work, but we can't quite figure-out what Richard is doing? Maybe some new Cow-boy dance?!?!?!

Buffalo River Arkansas Spring Pull for the Park

By Nancy Deisch

Photos by Donna Blake

April is such a beautiful time in the Arkansas Ozark Mountains. There are lots of waterfalls and cascades, wildflowers blooming, dogwoods and redbuds in colorful profusion and in abundance, everything greening-up. So there's no wonder that being in the woods with the National Park Service pulling logs takes on a feeling of exhilaration as well as purpose and accomplishment from a job well done. We received a nice bit of local publicity too!

The primitive Hathaway Horse camp in the Lower Buffalo River Wilderness is a rugged place from which to ride. The conditions were worse because of a particularly washed-out area of trail on one of the two ways out of camp. This hazardous path was so bad that even Back Country Horsemen were at times known to get off and LEAD their horses UPHILL! Well, no more. Five members of the Buffalo River chapter and their horses—1 Missouri Foxtrotter, 1 Tennessee Walker, 1 Polish/Arab/Quarter Horse cross, 1 Kiger mustang, 1 Haflinger, and 4 mules—joined to help the 3 hardworking National Park Service trail personnel. NPS needed help hauling the logs they had cut in adjoining woods to an appropriate site for installation.

Bill Kenter with Junior and Izzy are the log-pulling pros from previous volunteer jobs on the Buffalo, and they were joined by Jeff and Donna Blake with their four mules (one of which had never really been in the woods OR pulled a log). Elaine Appel, along with Pam and Larkin Floyd facilitated the movement of stock and equipment as the work progressed. Buffalo River BCH enjoys and looks forward to each opportunity to work with the NPS to keep those trails open for stock use now and forever!

Below is the thank you note that we received from the NPS. It's nice to be appreciated!



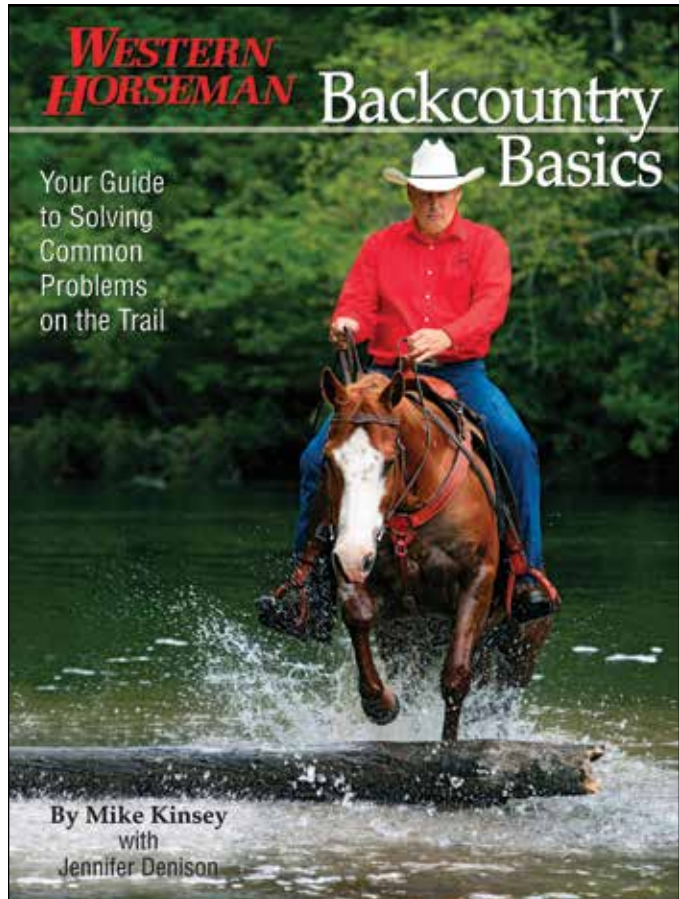
Above: Elaine Appel (Buffalo River president) on foot ready to un-snag, while Jeff Blake leads a pulling mule up the hill. Larkin and Pam Floyd prepare the next log.

Below: Elaine Appel, Jeff Blake, Larkin and Pam Floyd all escort the last log to its place.



Just want to give a shout out to our friends at Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen of America and extend a BIG THANK YOU for all the volunteer hours they donate to maintain horse trails at Buffalo National River. During this latest effort, BCHA members helped the park trail crew move a total of thirty-five 8-foot cedar logs approximately a quarter mile using pack animals. Their assistance put us about two weeks ahead of schedule on the Cow Creek Trail project in the Lower Buffalo Wilderness.

We are so thankful for all the park volunteers who help to make Buffalo National River such a great park!



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Reporting From Mariposa County: Home of Yosemite National Park

By Wendy Brown-Barry, Member of the Sierra Freepackers and the Mid Valley BCH

This will be the last summer for day horseback rides in Yosemite National Park!

Three years ago at the Yosemite Wrangler's Reunion it was reported that the Park Service was planning on discontinuing the day horseback rides in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows. I was shocked and saddened as one of my fondest memories as a youngster was a horseback ride in Yosemite Valley. My husband and I are advocates for continued stock use on our public lands, and are actively involved in lobbying to keep our National Forests and Parks accessible to "we the people" and our livestock. When the hard-to-acquire Preliminary Workbook came out about a year later, I managed to get one and was surprised to see that many of the recreational activities and amenities that have been enjoyed in the Park for over 100 years were going to be eliminated or severely limited. Some of the things listed were the historic ice rink, bike stands, river rafting, the Tuolumne Meadows Service Station, Sport Shop and Mountaineering School, several gift shops, and the historic bridges. Interestingly the horseback rides were not mentioned in this document, and the Workbook said it was beyond the scope of the Plan.

That piqued my interest and I decided to attend every public meeting possible and let my voice be heard. I wrote articles for various newspapers and publications as I acquired information in an effort to inform our citizens of what the National Park Service (NPS) intended to do, and requested the Merced River Plan (MRP) as soon as it was available. It arrived when I was recovering from knee surgery, so I had some time to read the lengthy 2,500-page document. I found it extremely flawed, and discovered that the reason the NPS was removing all of these things was to satisfy the Ninth Circuit Court in an effort to avoid future litigation. The MRP arose from a settlement in a legal action brought against the NPS by local preservationists who spoke for themselves only and not the public. Instead of complying with a court order, the NPS settled the case and agreed to undertake a whole new comprehensive master plan and bought off the plaintiffs' attorneys with \$1 million of taxpayers' funds, when not required to do so. During this process of discovery, we became acquainted with Peter T. Hoss, a retired attorney from Salinas. Hoss wrote Born in Yosemite, and grew up in Yosemite National Park (YNP). He also had many contacts with other concerned individuals who have an intimate connection with YNP, and we became founders of Yosemite for Everyone.

Our research uncovered several false grounds for the Merced River Plan:

- Tony Coehlo drafted the legislation applying the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) to the Merced River. He provided documentation that he never intended that the WSRA to apply to the Merced River within YNP. The



Tom McClintock and Y4E.

legislation was aimed at stopping dams west of Yosemite Valley outside the Park. The NPS has refused to accept this statement.

- The WSRA, applied to the Merced River within Yosemite Valley, supersedes and pre-empts the 1864 grant of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove and the Organic Act of 1916, which set aside these areas for public enjoyment.

- Yosemite Valley should be "restored" to a "wilderness" it never was. Yosemite Valley was inhabited by Native Americans for countless years and has been a recreational area for almost 150 years.

- Due only to numbers, visitors have become the enemy rather than beneficiaries of a public trust.

- Services provided to visitors to make their visit more enjoyable are "commercial" and should be limited. Yosemite was saved for the visitor by its early champions from truly commercial activities, such as mining, logging and sheep and cattle grazing.

On May 7, 2013 five founding members from Yosemite For Everyone and Bob Magee our BCHC Public Lands Representative met in Fresno with representatives for senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, and Congressman Jim Costa to discuss our concerns about the Merced Wild & Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. They listened to our input, but decided to wait until the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) came out to comment on the Plan.

Then on July 9, 2013, Hoss and I along with Brian Ouzounian of the Yosemite Campers Coalition were invited by Congressman Tom McClintock to testify in Washington DC before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation on the "Public Impacts of Closing Amenities at Yosemite National Park." It was an experience that I will never forget, and an honor to be invited to speak on behalf of people.

So where are we today? On April 11, 2014 a letter was sent to Sally Jewell, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior from Senator Feinstein and representatives Costa, McClintock, and Denham requesting more detailed information about how the management plans will be implemented in YNP. Director Jonathan Jarvis replied with a very vague letter on July 22, 2014. The Prospectus was released on July 9, 2014. It did in fact eliminate the day

horseback rides in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, and listed all of the activities that would be discontinued or relocated. So it appears that the NPS is moving forward with the plan despite strong opposition from a passionate concerned public.

Following are excerpted comments Wendy submitted to representatives concerning the discontinuation of the day horseback rides.

I have already expressed my tremendous disappointment over the removal of the day horseback rides in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows. I find Director Jarvis' reasoning flawed...The trend for many years in Yosemite and other parks has been to incrementally remove horses and stock use. The private horse camp in Tuolumne has shrunk dramatically over the years. There is no private horse camping in the Valley, and designated parking and trailheads for private horse users has not been identified. The Wawona horse camps will be relocated to the Maintenance Yard area, with no details as to where or how many they will accommodate. Once again, the present horse camps near the South Fork in Wawona have not degraded the river in any way. Concerning the High Sierra Camps, it appears that the Park Service is working toward incrementally removing them as well, with slight reductions that perhaps no one will notice or miss once they are gone.

Jarvis says that the 4-bed reduction at Glen Aulin is an insignificant change. However, when you add the 18-bed reduction at Merced Lake, this could add up to a substantial reduction of TOT taxes for the county. They will also be removing 11 of the 22 historic canvas tents at Merced Lake, but retaining the tent pads to "preserve these historic resources"...The bed reduction in these two camps will also create an imbalance in the hut-to-hut experience. Groups of various sizes can enjoy this popular loop trail system together if the accommodations in the camps are consistent. Lastly, the High Sierra Camps are historical. They are enclaves, and are not part of the designated wilderness. Horse and stock use are allowed by law in the Wilderness Act. The High Sierra Camps (with no reductions in bed space) and stock use should be retained and embraced as part of our heritage, and are unrelated to river protection.

What I find interesting is that the day horseback rides were never listed for removal in the ...Footnote 5, that

[continued next page]

the Park Service is using for its justification to eliminate all of the activities mentioned. We were told by the Park Service that it was a law, when in fact Footnote 5 was merely a suggestion by the Ninth Circuit Court. It was never mandated. The only thing I found in the MRP was a graph, showing low usage of the activity. So the general public was never fully informed about the removal of the day rides, and was mostly unaware that they were going away. The Park Service plans to relocate the day rides to Wawona, which is beautiful, but it's not Yosemite Valley with Half Dome framed between two ears.

In conclusion, here is a cowboy poem that I wrote as a tribute to the past Yosemite Wranglers, and all of the present ones who will be losing their jobs after this summer. Adios!

YOSEMITE WRANGLERS

By
Wendy Brown-Barry

Here's to the Yosemite Wranglers
They're the last of a dying breed
They can pack anything from woodstoves to privies
"Git 'er done," is the Wrangler's creed.

Their days in the Park may be numbered
Our history's slipping away
If it weren't for the wranglers, horses, and mules
The world'd be quite different today.

They helped build the trails, roads, and bridges
They're farriers, teamsters, and guides
Takin' youngsters and oldsters and handicapped folks
On perhaps, their very first ride.

These boys all came from hardy stock
And lived by a mountain "Code"
They were Yosemite's first stewards
And took care of the livestock they rode.

Like the time along Cathedral Lake
Bob Barrett was leadin' a string
When a mule kicked out or' the lead rope
A wreck was a comin' sure thing.

The mule behind flipped upside down
And landed in the lake
It took brains and brawn and courage
Cause there was some lives at stake.

Remembering McGregor's words
"If he goes, you go," he said.
Bob held that mule's head to keep him from drowning
If he hadn't that mule would be dead.

He got the rope cut and got him out
And really saved the day
If Bob hadn't jumped in to save him
There'd be some Hell to pay.

Or the time Eddie Mankins and George Meyer
Rode thirty miles in the snow
Bringin' stock down off a high meadow
To the Mt. Bullion pastures below.

Horses and mules made their livin'
They needed their stock to survive
They were ready to do whatever it took
To keep their livestock alive.

Some are still out there packin' them mules
And many have passed on
I wish I could mention them all right here
But, this poem would be way too long.

I'm sure grateful for the ones I've known
And wish I'd known the rest
They're a part of our living history
A legacy of the West!

The campfire's down to a flicker
Let's pray it never goes out
Let 'em still cargo that sawbuck and decker
'Cause that's just what packin's about.

© 2014 Wendy Brown-Barry

For more about Wendy's poems, go to www.wendybrown-barry.com
For more information on the Merced River Plan, visit Yosemite for Everyone's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/YosemiteForEveryone>

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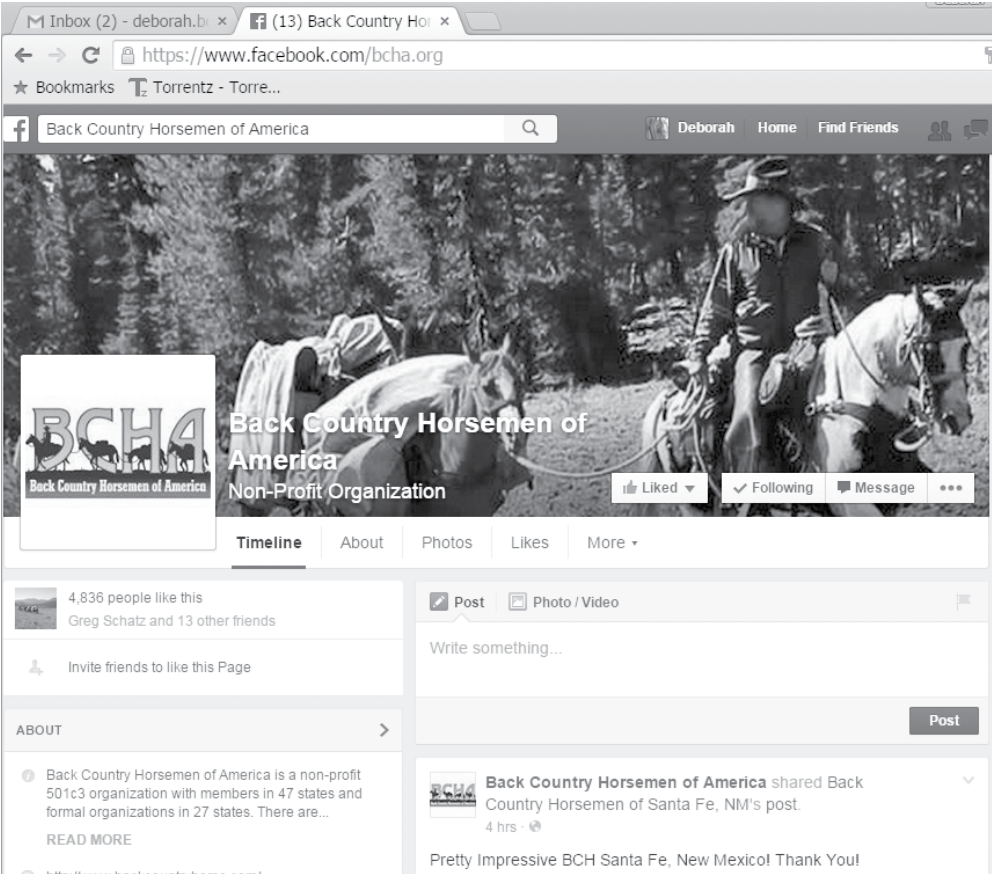
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If you haven't yet visited, you need to see the BCHA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bcha.org>. You'll find lots of good, timely information on everything from equine liability releases to FS chainsaw policy. You'll also see many new and familiar faces to BCHA. Many thanks to Cindy Garvey for helping us find new friends and stay connected!!



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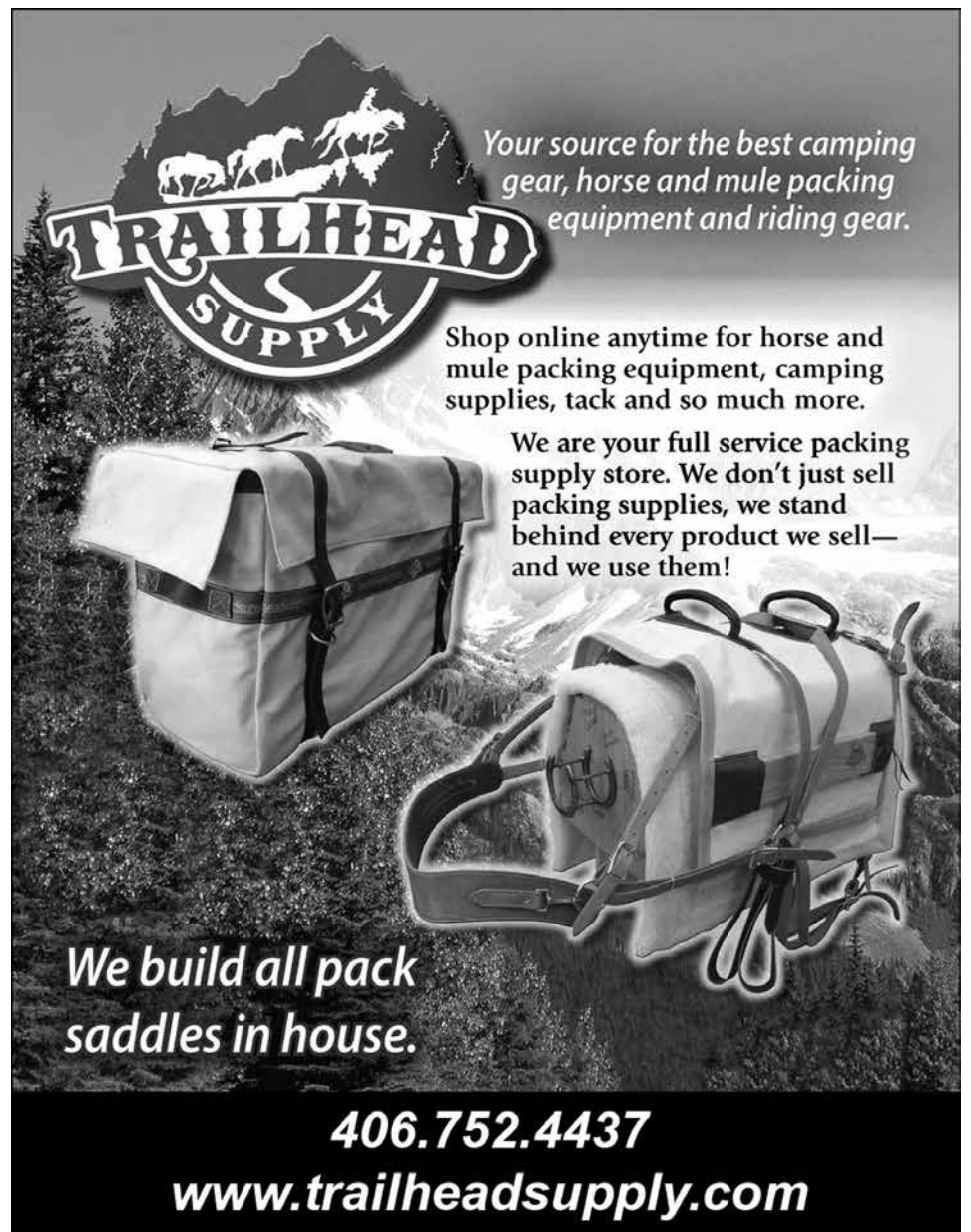
Letters to BCHA Repentance of a Trail Rider:

(In response to local Forest Service superintendent statements that trail riders are “impacting wildlife habitat & viewing” and scaring the forest animals.)

It has been brought to my attention the psychological harm I have been contributing to by riding my mule in our national forest.

It is weighing on my mind that I have caused *eleutherophobia* (a fear of freedom), *tachophobia* (a fear of speed-?? but my mule & I are not too speedy), *agryophobia* (fear of crossing the trail), *hodophobia* (fear of death) in so many critters in the woods.

I can't begin to tell you how sorry I am that I startled that buck so badly that his antlers fell off! It pulls at my heart-strings when I remember the tears in that turtle's eye as he pulled his head into his shell, in abject horror as I rode past. The redheaded woodpecker that became so distraught he stopped pecking and flew on. The toad that winced so hard when he saw me that his warts stood out and he visibly paled. The centipede that spasmed and quaked when he heard our footfalls. Oh, if I could only take back the consternation I subjected that bear cub to as he sat in the tree watching us pass. On the other hand, the possum who froze in horror and could only spit and growl in fear as I plodded on past. Oh for forgiveness of that turkey taking a sand bath, standing up startled, shaking his feathers in panic as he darted off. The owl that stopped hooting when he eyeballed me. The coyote that skedaddled, all the butterflies that flew as I approached. The katydids that stopped diddying. The rattlesnake casta-



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nets that became silent in the bush.

I suspect that over the years I have been the cause of late night forest therapy sessions for those animals. I am truly sorry for the duress and anxiety I have cause all the forest critters!

NOW, with that off my chest, I can saddle up and once more hit the trail with a clean conscious. Yippie-ti-aye!

Linda Meyer, Speedwell, VA

Rapid Lesson Sharing: A “Fuel Geyser”Erupts from Chainsaw Tank

On Monday, May 25, a firefighter was seriously injured on the Willow Peak Fire in southern Nevada.

The fire started late Sunday evening in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness. Early the next morning, an engine module hiked in over rough terrain to suppress the fire. The initial size-up: 0.10 acre, single tree on upper third of slope with 75 percent of perimeter active.

A firefighter received serious burns after gasoline sprayed out of a chainsaw gas tank and ignited. The saw became hot during saw operations so the firefighter had set it aside to cool for a few minutes. After it would not restart, he opened the fuel tank. A “fuel geyser” erupted from the tank.

Review of this event is currently underway. An FLA team is committed to investigating the technical aspects of this incident and will complete a thorough report in the future. In the interim, firefighters and leaders are encouraged to review a 45-second video of a fuel geyser and to read three reports on similar incidents. (See link to this video on right and three reports below.)

What's a “fuel geyser” look like? Watch this video to see: https://youtu.be/Ja9t4PtJx_Q

Recommended Mitigations:

1. Remove the saw from all sources of ignition.
2. Let the saw cool thoroughly before attempting to open the fuel cap.
3. Cover the fuel cap with a rag to deflect potential fuel from spraying toward your face.
4. Open the fuel cap slowly, expecting that fuel could spray out.
5. Always wear all PPE (eye protection, gloves, long sleeve shirt, face protection, etc.)

Ignition sources can be open flames, hot exhaust, etc.

Pressurized Saw Fuel Incidents

Other Reports in the LLC Incident Review Database

Chainsaw Vapor Lock, 2014. (2 pages) “While troubleshooting the problem, the crew member held the saw at waist height and opened the saw's fuel cap. That's when the pressurized fuel from the tank sprayed out—into the crew member's face and eyes.”

Chainsaw Vapor Lock Accident, 2013. (2 pages) “A sawyer was injured when gas from a Stihl MS460 chainsaw fuel tank ignited after the sawyer opened the fuel cap to release excess pressure in the tank. The fuel ignited and ‘flashed’ causing minor burns to the sawyer's right arm, right side of neck, and right ear. The sawyer was evaluated by burn center physicians and released.”

Oak Mesa Fire, 2008. (6 pages) “The chainsaw operator thought the saw was running low on fuel due to the way it was running and sounded, and stopped to check. The sawyer stepped back from the line about 5 feet. When the fuel cap was opened, pressurized fuel and vapors vented from the fuel tank, spilling onto the right sleeve of the individual's Nomex fire shirt. He tried to move the chainsaw but it ignited almost immediately and the fire spread instantly to his right arm.”

This RLS was submitted by: Willow Peak Firefighter, Burn Injury FLA Team

From the Executive Director's Desk



By Jim McGarvey, Executive Director

BCHA's New TRAILS FOREVER FUND

Hello All,
Looking Forward...

The last article I wrote for our spring newsletter was as BCHA Chairman. The chairmanship baton has been passed to the very capable Don Sanner of Wyoming. I have volunteered to be the pro bono Executive Director of BCHA for the next two years or until we can afford a permanent paid executive director. With that in mind, we are pleased to announce our new TRAILS FOREVER FUND. This fund, whose name tells simply our goal for not only the fund but also for BCHA and future generations, is being established with two main goals,

The Trails Forever Fund is for growth of the BCHA.

Growth is critical for BCHA at this "tipping point" in our history. We have become a known entity to land managers, federal policy makers, legislators (both local and national) and other trail support groups. In addition, each year, new chapters are being formed as trails are threatened, or the message about BCHA reaches willing ears.

Growth is essential to our future. The first element of that growth is to hire a full time Executive Director. We need someone who will be the ears and eyes of BCHA everyday, who will identify additional partnering and sponsorship opportunities, oversee organizational structure and policies, and represent BCHA at important events or meetings.

After the goal of hiring an Executive Director has been reached, there are other growth activities BCHA can assess, such as a national educational plan for expertise and skills in hands-on trail building, Leave No Trace, and federal structures and policies, to name a few.

The Trails Forever Fund is also "rainy day fund" for BCHA.

Just as with most families, organizations occasionally run into unexpected expenses. Without a rainy day fund, meeting those unusual expenses could significantly impact and slow down the work of BCHA. To be fiscally responsible, BCHA needs to plan, setting aside a "buffer" of funds to handle the unexpected.

You will be hearing more about the TRAILS FOREVER FUND in future newsletters, email blasts, press releases and reports.

We hope you share our enthusiasm about the future of BCHA with the establishment of this fund. You can help by making a pledge to the fund, either a recurring donation, a one-time pledge, or by including the fund in your estate plans.

Help get the TRAILS FOREVER FUND rolling... donate to share your passion about equine trails. Thank you.

NEW! The Trails Forever Fund

Helping BCHA Continue to Save our Trails for Equine Access

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Forty years ago, BCHA was formed by four horsemen concerned about the future of trails in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana. Around kitchen tables and around pickup trucks, these four set in motion an organization that is now known as Back Country Horsemen of America. Now, forty years later...

- BCHA has grown in membership and in geographical coverage.
 - 29 states with BCH units
 - 14,000 members
- BCHA has grown in influence and power at the national level.
- BCHA has become a successful, influential and well-respected national association.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY: Thousands of miles of equestrian trails have been saved.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The first step for BCHA's long-term future: employ a full time Executive Director (ED). Now is the time. BCHA is too big and important to go without someone at the head to guide the organization day-to-day.

A professional ED will oversee all of the national organizational activities, from finance and fund-raising to partnerships, public relations, and the press, and more. This person will pull together all of the pieces into one coherent BCHA picture. This person will be "the face of BCHA", supporting the board and its officers, the staff, and partner and donors. This person will get up every morning thinking, "What can I do for BCHA today?"

DIRECT IMMEDIATE DONATIONS

Your 2015 donation to the new TRAILS FOREVER FUND gets us started on planning for an Executive Director hire next year.

Remember that ALL donations to BCHA are tax-deductible from your federal income tax.

Direct donations can be made online by clicking on the DONATE button on the upper right, at bcha.org

\$5 A MONTH CLUB

This new support program enables a person to donate \$5 per month (with an automatic credit card charge) to the Trails Forever Fund.

\$5 is an amount that few would miss in their budget and is a small but important way for our grassroots members and supporters to help keep BCHA alive into the future.

STATE CHALLENGE!

We challenge all BCHA states to achieve a 20% sign-up for the \$5 A Month Club... ie. can you get 20% (or 1/5) of your members in the state to pledge to join the \$5 A Month Club?

We will be sending all the materials, including sign-up forms, to the State Presidents.

Or go to www.bcha.org/donate5 to sign up.

More about this new way of helping BCHA will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

OTHER METHODS OF ESTATE GIVING

It is also very easy to make other lifetime gifts to BCHA. You can authorize your agent under a power of attorney to make lifetime gifts, at whatever times and in whatever amounts make sense to you. Below are some examples.

LIFE INSURANCE & ANNUITIES

You can name BCHA as a beneficiary as to a share of a life insurance policy. For high net worth individuals with significant exposure to estate taxes, a charitable gift annuity may make sense. A charitable gift annuity can provide an income stream during life for the charity, and an income tax deduction for you at the same time.

IRA ACCOUNTS

One of the most powerful gifting techniques is to give part or all of an IRA account to a charity, or name the charity as a death beneficiary of an IRA.

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Discuss your interest in providing a donation to BCHA in your estate plans with your attorney, accountant, investment advisor or banker. Each individual's financial situation varies, so your advisors will help you decide the best way to leave a legacy for BCHA: directly out of your estate, through an IRA, or from an insurance policy. If there are questions or information that you need from BCHA to complete this step, please contact the BCHA office and someone will get back to you. Contact ExecSecretary@bcha.org -or- (888) 893-5161.

START-UP FUNDS FOR THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BCHA is introducing a new fund today dedicated to helping BCHA grow, ensuring equine trails for future generations: The TRAILS FOREVER FUND. This fund will provide start-up money for the new Executive Director position, as well as provide revenue for future projects to keep BCHA healthy.

Once the new ED is in place, he or she can continue to raise additional funds, while we apply the Trails Forever resource to other uses to keep BCHA growing.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Trail riding and caring for trails are your passions. The generosity of many of you has kept BCHA in business over the years.

There are three different ways you might consider helping BCHA move to the next level of success:

- Joining the \$5 A Month Club – Sustainable grassroots giving for Trails Forever
- Providing direct, immediate donations for Trails Forever
- Include BCHA in your estate plans to keep Trails Forever

The information below will help you get started. You will be donating to a cause that is close to your heart.

Thank you in advance for your support to help carry BCHA into the future.

YOUR LEGACY AND BCHA

A legacy giving arrangement is not difficult to set up. Your accountant, banker, investment advisor or insurance agent will tell you that any responsible adult should have, at a minimum: a will, a power of attorney, and a medical directive.

By spending 2 or 3 hours of your time, and a few hundred dollars, you can control where your assets will go, who will administer your estate, and with a few simple provisions reduce or eliminate your estate's exposure to taxes (estate taxes, gift taxes, and some forms of income taxes.)

While you are at it, it would be very easy to include a charitable bequest to BCHA. Such a bequest, such as \$5,000 or \$10,000, would hardly be missed when your estate is administered, but it would make a world of difference to BCHA.

If you already have estate planning documents in place, congratulations!

But remember that estate planning is not an event; it is a process. It is important to review your plan with your attorney every 4 or 5 years, to be sure that the plan continues to meet your needs. Births, deaths, marriages, divorces and adoptions are just a few of the events that can trigger a need for plan revisions. Powers of Attorney should be redone every ten years at a minimum.

During a plan update is a perfect time to set up a gift to BCHA upon your demise. This can be done with a will or with a living trust.

The Catch Pen

North Central Idaho Packing Clinic

The organizers of the Camas Festival in Weippe, ID asked the BCH of North Central ID Chapter to conduct a Packing Clinic on May 23rd. BCH members set up stations & demonstrated the following;

- Manta & pannier packing & the use of a highline
- A minimum impact camp showing lightweight equip, such as; a range teepee (18 lbs), a fold-a-cot (10 lbs), fold-a-table (11 lbs) & collapsible chair (10 lbs) & other lightweight gear
- Different type of fires including a pit fire, mound fire, a pan fire & an example of what your fire pit should never look like

- By using a portable hitch rail let people have a hands on experience of how to tie up their animal safely & securely

- Provided booklets on the current noxious weeds listed in Idaho & had on display Idaho County's horse-back sprayer.

- Provided BCH handouts on what Back Country Horsemen is & does to keep our access to the backcountry, education of other horsemen & the public.

Submitted by Raenette Didier, BCH of North Central Idaho



Caples Creek Gets a Post Planting Party

By Lucy Badenhoop, photos by Daryl Shankles & Jerry Heitzler

The Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead near Kyburz, CA was open for use in June 2014. The official entrance sign was received in March but it required two wooden support posts. Russ Niesz donated six steel hitching posts for the trailhead, so a post planting work party was scheduled for May 6. Seven volunteers and Cathy Bounds of the USFS started with a safety briefing and worked from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to get the posts in the ground before the forecasted thunder storm arrived. The goal was met!!

The team brought their professional equipment, which made the job go faster. Jerry Heitzler brought his tractor/auger towed by Daryl Shankles with his truck/trailer. The auger made quick work of digging the 3-4 foot deep holes. Russ Niesz brought 40 bags of

concrete, the steel posts, and his welder on his heavy duty flatbed truck. He saved the day when a support arm on the tractor needed a welding repair.

Cordell Van Reese came in his "shop" van with all sorts of tools for assembling the sign, mounting it to the 4x4 posts and making sure everything was square and level. Lucy Badenhoop brought her landscape trailer filled with seven tubs of water, wheel barrows, ladders, and hand tools. Mike Kohlbaker came with his truck bed loaded with similar items needed for the work. Chris Chaloupka put in a surprise appearance and was a big help setting the posts.

The next time you visit the Caples Creek Trailhead, you can't miss the large new sign locate 0.3 mile down the dirt entry road to the main parking

area. Cathy Bounds delivered the sign components, helped assemble it and approved the location of the sign and hitching posts. She added a small sign at the equestrian connector trail.

Visitors should then proceed toward the right to the cul-de-sac (day-use parking) and look for the four steel hitching posts. As you enter the turn-around area, there are two on the left side and two on the right side. They are suitably spaced to provide separate hitching or to string a highline between each pair of posts. The last two hitching posts are located across the bridge at the hiker's trailhead. They are on the slope, across the driveway from the vault toilet.

Once all the holes were dug, the group took a lunch break at a table and



chairs borrowed from the newly outfitted MLU trailer. Everyone packed their own lunch, but bottled water on ice and cookies were provided. After lunch, the finishing touches were put on the hitching posts, tools loaded in the various rigs, and the area policed for trash.... everyone was ready to head home.

NextGen BCHA (Youth)

Modesto Junior College Mule Packing Team

By Julia Heller

The Modesto Junior College Mule Packing Team would like to extend its gratitude to the Mid-Valley Unit of California for its sponsorship at this year's Bishop Mule Days. Thanks to their efforts, the MJC pack team won first at the inter-scholastic competition. This was our second year competing, and after placing third overall in last-year's competition, they brought us back to sweep it all.

If you don't know what Bishop Mule Days is, it is part mule show, part test of skills, and part Wild West show. Taking place every year on Memorial Day weekend, there are 14 shows featuring over 700 mules with their trainers, riders and packers. Bishop Mule Days is the largest annual gathering of its kind in the world, with an excess of 30,000 fans converging to watch the events and visit the exhibitors. The fourteen mule shows consist of: Western, youth, English, cattle working, gaited, coon jumping, racing, musical tires, gymkhana, packing, shoeing, chariot racing, team roping, and driving. The event features the world-championship competitions at the high school, college, individual, and professional levels.

Our story started over a year ago when Anna Baglione, a Mid-Valley

member and Modesto Junior College student, approached the board with an idea how to educate and involve youths in packing, Leave No Trace, gentle use, and other matters important to our organization. Her idea was to invite three other girls, Aislinn Finn, Julia Heller, and Hannah Smith, each with varying degrees of livestock experience to join the pack team, attend Mule Days, and become more involved with BCH.

Eager to encourage youth participation, this call was answered by none other than the Mid-Valley President, Carl Perry, and Dave Moser, Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteer committee chairman. These members volunteered their time, stock, and equipment to instruct us, some of whom had never even heard of mule packing. Two other members worth special recognition are Debra Mason and Michael King. Debra graciously made leather chaps for all four of us, while Michael supplied team jackets to ensure that we looked sharp and represented BCH while in Bishop.

Their support paid off. Thanks to their training, we became the first all-girls team to win and to take first in all four packing events, including scramble, pack relay, pack'n'load, and even entertaining the crowd in the comedy



load. But the benefits of their support go much further than the competition. "I have built friendships, memories, and myself through Bishop Mule Days and mule packing," said team-member Hannah Smith. "These experiences that I gain through mule packing and the community around it shape who I am every day and I cannot explain how lucky and grateful I am for all of it." Anna has returned every summer to work at the Rock Creek Pack Station for the past four years, while team-member Julia Heller became so driven to participate further in BCH that she now serves on the Mid-Valley Unit Board of Directors.

Mid-Valley Unit has changed the lives of all four of us. We encour-

age other units to follow the example set by Mid-Valley to introduce even more young people to the values of Backcountry Horseman. We met many teams that were driven and motivated, but lacked the guidance and support that we received. These teams, and countless other youths, are out there, but they need instruction and encouragement. In the words of team-member Aislinn Finn, "I am so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have competed at Mule Days this year. We had the support of some amazing people that made achieving our goals possible." It takes a community to build a team, and that is exactly what Mid-Valley Unit did for us.