

Kentucky BCH Wins Award in the
Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Parade

By Ginny Grulke



Edith Conyers and her team of Haflingers were invited to drive in the May 3 Derby Pegasus Parade, along with the prestigious Budweiser Clydesdales team and many other fine equestrian units. Over 2,500 people participated in the parade, with scores of equestrian entries. All equestrian units were judged, and the Back

Country Horsemen unit WON the Best Non-Commercial Driven Unit. Congratulations to Edith and her ponies, and the excellent promotion of Back Country Horsemen to this national audience!

Budweiser Clydesdales and Edith Conyers with her team of Haflingers



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National Reports

Public Lands Report

By Randy Rasmussen, Director of Public Lands and Recreation

S. 2877, Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act

Unfortunately, another “front” has emerged in BCHA’s battle to protect the sanctity of the 1964 Wilderness Act. On May 17th, Utah senator Mike Lee introduced S. 2877, the Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act.

S. 2877 is nearly identical to a bill he introduced in 2016 that launched the bikes-in-Wilderness battle. Fortunately, that billed died in the Senate. At present, Senator Lee’s revived bill has no co-sponsors.

PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR U.S. SENATORS TODAY. Tell them why you oppose Senate Bill 2877 and ask them not to co-sponsor this toxic and controversial legislation.

Contact information for your senators can be found at www.congress.gov

S. 2877 was introduced as another attempt to undermine the Wilderness Act and strip its provision that prohibits “mechanical transport” in congressionally-designated Wilderness areas. The bill currently sits before the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, chaired by Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). The provisions of S. 2877 are more detailed and its repercussions more sinister than that of H.R. 1349, the “Bikes-in-Wilderness” currently before the House of Representatives.

You’ll recall that H.R. 1349 advanced through the House Committee on Natural Resources last December (see BCHA’s Spring 2018 newsletter). It has yet to be scheduled for a “floor vote” before the entire House. Yet the threat still remains that H.R. 1349 could be slipped in with other, less controversial, legislation at any time.

Please take another opportunity to remind your representative in Congress why you oppose H.R. 1349. Member contact information can be found at www.congress.gov

Toxic and Controversial

If passed by Congress, S. 2877 would almost guarantee that use of mountain bikes would be allowed on existing trails throughout most, if not all, currently designated Wilderness areas. This is because the bill specifies if action to specifically exclude mountain bikes is not taken by a federal land

management agency within two years, then “any form of nonmotorized travel shall be allowable” on existing trails.

Yet by design, S. 2877 does not provide funding for wilderness management agencies to conduct the necessary public process and environmental analysis. With 765 federal wilderness areas throughout the U.S., this represents a huge unfunded mandate. Imagine the level of funding necessary to support a public planning process for up to 765 wilderness areas. www.wilderness.net/NWPS/fastfacts

For example, if a public process associated with a single Environmental Assessment were to cost \$100,000 (a reasonable estimate), the unfunded mandate related to S. 2877 could cost the federal government up to \$76.5 million. And where would that funding come from? The trail and recreation budgets of the federal agencies, of course. We could not expect to see any trail maintenance occur during those two years, if not longer, with S. 2877’s unfunded and irresponsible mandate.

Worse yet, language proposed in S. 2877 would serve to tilt the playing field of any public process in favor of authorizing mountain bike use on all trails in Wilderness. It contains a “requirement” that reads:

“In making a determination...a local official shall seek to accommodate all forms of nonmotorized travel, to the maximum extent practicable” (Section 3(A)(iii).

With that type of edict, why would the agencies go through two years of expensive and acrimonious public debate when they were given little ability to change an outcome clearly pre-ordained by S. 2877? What would be the result? Should S. 2877 be signed into law, the agencies would have little choice but to authorize mountain bike use on nearly every trail in Wilderness.

Why We Oppose Amending the Wilderness Act

To be clear, BCHA does not oppose mountain bike use. It is a legitimate activity on our public lands that has grown in popularity in the past few decades. Yet only about 2.7 percent of the contiguous United States are designated as Wilderness. Pack and saddle stock users should feel justified in defending those few landscapes where only prim-

itive forms of travel are allowed.

The Wilderness Act is quite clear where it states:

“Except as specifically provided for in this Act...there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and...there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, **no other form of mechanical transport...**” (Section 4(C), emphasis added).

S. 2877 would remove and radically amend the general prohibition of mechanical transport in Wilderness.

Attempts to Amend the Wilderness Act Detract from the Larger Good

BCHA regularly works with organizations such as American Hiking Society and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) on issues of mutual interest. These issues range from the need for Congress to appropriately fund recreation and trails on public lands, to implementation of the 2016 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act in order to begin reversing the trail maintenance backlog on our national forests. On these and other issues, the national trails community is united.

Moreover, IMBA has gone on the record, via its website and in congressional testimony, to oppose H.R. 1349 and attacks that attempt to undermine the Wilderness Act. Presumably, IMBA will also come out in strong opposition to S. 2877.

H.R. 1349 and S. 2877 are being promoted by a new group—the Sustainable Trails Coalition (STC)—whose small membership is not representative of the broader mountain biking community. It’s truly a sad day when a group like the STC, which does not have the best interests of the trails community in mind and—despite its comically misleading name—does not perform any trail maintenance or stewardship whatsoever, attempts to unravel the 53-year-old Wilderness Act for its own self-serving desires.

We need your help to stop this assault on the Wilderness Act. Please contact your members of Congress today!

We Are the Public Lands Committee. . . And We Are Here to Help!

By Sherry Copeland

Are trails in jeopardy of closure? Having issues with other user groups? Is the bureaucratic process at an impasse? Are the public lands planning processes confusing? How to approach local land managers? What are the agencies’ policies and procedures?

WE CAN HELP!

The Public Lands Committee (PLC) is co-chaired by Jim Allen (South Dakota) and Barry Reiswig (Wyoming), with assistance from Sherry Copeland (Missouri) and Roy Cornett (Kentucky). The committee is comprised of members from across the nation who have extensive experience with issues

relating to public lands – federal, state, and local.

The PLC purpose is twofold. First, we work with BCHA’s Director of Public Lands & Recreation Randy Rasmussen to evaluate the policies and procedures of public land management agencies and provide recommendations and support in the identification of issues of national significance. For example, BCHA continues to influence national issues such as the “Sale or Transfer of Federal Public Lands” and “Threats to the Wilderness Act,” and other precedent-setting issues. Second, and equally important, the PLC serves as a source of expertise, knowledge, information

and assistance available to BCHA State and Chapter Units.

We may not have all the answers, but collectively the PLC has seen a lot of water go under the bridge, and welcome the opportunity provide support, guidance, and information to YOU!

Remember, the public lands are OUR lands and WE are charged with protecting the saddle and pack stock use and access on OUR Public Lands - Give us a shout, we may be able to help.

Jim Allen
Barry Reiswig
Sherry Copeland
Roy Cornett

View from the Chairman’s Saddle

By Freddy Dunn, BCHA National Chairman



We’re ON it!

By Chairman Freddy Dunn

Communication, information, and direction are the words that best describe this year’s National Board Meeting held in Spokane. We had representation from 24 of our 30 states including our newest – Wisconsin!!

We also had lots of new faces this year, so we held a New Director Orientation. The purpose was to help new folks work through the shock of being in a huge room sitting in a rectangle with their counterparts from all over the country. It’s pretty amazing to be there. It can be exciting and a bit overwhelming. The good news is New Director Orientation seemed to help people feel comfortable and participate. The even better news was that there was less gray hair than in years past!! Hoorah!

BCHA’s committees have been in full swing for the past year and we learned about their accomplishments. At the beginning of the meeting, we spent two full days talking with fellow directors from our region and then communicating our concerns and priorities to committee chairmen. Then the committees met – and all National Directors are part of a committee. Your National Board discussed regional issues, directed those issues to the appropriate committees, and will now, as committee members, work to accomplish the goals you set for us. Some goals are short-term and easily accomplished within the next year, and others will necessitate longer range planning.

But the most important thing for all of our members is that we are here to

work for you! All of the committees received feedback that more tools were needed at the state and chapter level. Some of these tools will be tangible materials and others will be human resources. You’ll read another article in this newsletter from our Public Lands committee offering their help and expertise wherever it might be needed. We have an incredible pool of talent and knowledge among our membership and these folks are stepping forward and offering their help. Education has taken on a HUGE task that will likely be a multi-year project. Marketing & Media are working on a promotional video to make available to everyone on YouTube as a recruitment and retention tool. AND...we’re looking into the possibility of an app for your phone to capture those volunteer hours while they’re fresh on your mind!

The takeaway here is – don’t hesitate to call us. Don’t hesitate to ask for help. We are all here – your volunteers – to help make BCHA a successful, sustainable organization with Five Principles that continue to guide us.

Below is a list of the Committees, their Chairmen, and their contact information.

I am honored to be serving you for another year as your National Board Chairman. Here’s how to reach me: by email bchachairman@bcha.org or call (435) 862-6181.

Have a great, safe summer!

Freddy Dunn

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Jim Thramer, Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead, Montana, cuts a log during our annual Memorial Day project on the Spotted Bear Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest. Photo by Dawn Brennan.

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.

Media & Marketing Slide Show -- Urgent Request!

By Mark Himmel, Media & Marketing Chairman

BCHA members, the Media & Marketing Committee is assembling a slide show to illustrate what we do and why we do it. We need about 20 good quality photos from each state organization. Yes, we’re interested in the work but it’s not all about work. We’re looking for photos that show the fun you have. A few tips for selecting photos:

- Highest resolution possible.
- Bright, outdoor natural lighting – if photos are taken indoors, make sure there’s lots of daylight.

- Look for shadows and dark spots, especially over faces – billed caps and people standing with the light behind them are two common shadow-makers.

The original image is best – one that hasn’t been cropped or “doctored” in any way. When you have the pictures, email markahimmel@gmail.com or call me at 406-781-8252 (cell) and I will walk you through the upload using Google Docs. Thank you!

Newsletter Picture Policy

By Mark Himmel, Media and Marketing Chairman

The BCHA newsletter is distributed and read all across the United States, including, and especially, by our land managers and partners. Consequently, we must follow OSHA policies for personal protective equipment (PPE) in all photographs published in our newsletter. Photographs without the proper PPE will not be published. Thank you in advance for your support of this policy.

<https://www.bcha.org/blog/2018/05/05/personnel-protective-equipment-ppe/>



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To place an ad in the BCHA quarterly newsletter,
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Chapter Cents

A resource center for improving your chapter or state’s financial standing.

By Ginny Grulke, Funding Committee Chairman

Is your BCH chapter always low on funds for the projects you’d like to do? Or for paying for your National Board Representative to go to the National Meeting? Do you need new ideas and help to fundraise so you can do more? CHAPTER CENTS is a new newsletter column to pass along fundraising ideas to chapters and states, to jump start your efforts to beef up your checking account balance.

The BCHA Fundraising Committee (after getting feedback at the National Board Meeting) will be providing you with resources for grants, fundraisers, sponsorships and donations.

We are just getting started with this new effort, and so this column will gradually build as we develop the resources.

CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Be sure to read the eligibility criteria on each website.

- AQHA STEP (Stewards for Trails Education and Partnerships): Deadline August 1, 2018
 - o <https://www.aqha.com/riding/pages/trail-conservation/step/grant-information/>
 - o Equestrian groups and individuals are encouraged to participate in trail maintenance and restoration projects. AQHA funds groups or organizations that have the most impact for community involvement and trail sustainability.
- Silver Family Foundation: Deadline September 30
 - o <http://www.silverfoundation.org/>
 - o The Silver Family Foundation supports non-profit organizations in **Oregon and Washington** that work with at-risk youth. The Foundation’s Transitional Youth Development Grant Program provides funds to organizations that offer in-depth, long-term investments and opportunities for motivated, low-income youth. Priority is given to organizations that work in the areas of mentorship, high school completion, college and post-secondary preparation, and experiential education. Letters of inquiry may be submitted throughout the year; invited proposals are due March 31 and September 30, annually. Visit the Foundation’s website to review the grant guidelines.
- Lowe’s Community Partners Grants: Fall Cycle July 2, 2018 – August 24, 2018
<https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>
Lowe’s Community Partners grant program helps build better communities by providing monetary assistance to nonprofit organizations and

municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements. Grants range from \$2,001 to \$100,000.

Comment: This might be used for trailhead kiosks or trail safety projects.

- Lowe’s Small Grants: On-going
<https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

The small grants program is an outlet for organizations seeking smaller-scale assistance for non-educational focused projects. These grants range from \$100 to \$2,000.

Congratulations!

National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partnership Funding

Congratulations to the following BCHA units who will be receiving National Forest TSP Funding in 2018:

Region 1: Back Country Horsemen of America - Wild Horse Plains Chapter

Region 5: Back Country Horsemen of America - Mother Lode Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of America - San Joaquin Chapter

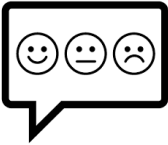
Coming Soon

Chapter Fundraising Starter Kits

The Fundraising Committee is developing Starter Kits for Chapters to download and use to start a fundraiser. The kits will contain files such as posters, pricing suggestions, templates, sample press releases, etc. By the next newsletter we will have kits for:

- Chapter Calendars
- 3-Day Riding Events with Auctions

How-To Booklet for Approaching Sponsors



FEEDBACK & REQUESTS

If you have suggestions or questions, contact the fundraising committee.

Education Committee Focuses First on Organizational Excellence

By Craig Allen

The Education Committee works to compile information with regard to gentle use on the land/leave no trace/minimum impact and other information that will assist the states in their quest to keep the back country available for stock use through education. Several of the states have extensive programs in place now and are willing to share with states who do not have the wherewithal for one reason or another to put their own in place.

The Education Committee used the last day of the National Board Meeting to review the feedback from all the region issues, to establish a subcommittee structure, and to assign each subcommittee a priority list of tasks, goals and objectives. In summary, the Education Committee has three subcommittees:

1. The Curriculum Subcommittee: charged with identifying education needs, existing source material, and maintaining the overall education curriculum.
2. The Course Development Subcommittee: charged with using/creating the source materials identified by the Curriculum Subcommittee to create organized courses with structure and content that instructs, informs and meets the needs of our members, chapters and states.
3. The Field Outreach Subcommittee: charged with creating, developing and implementing methods and processes for getting the courses into the field.

All three committees are off to a good start. The Curriculum Subcommittee has been compiling the results

of the education survey completed at the National Board Meeting and will be updating the education architecture. The next step will be to make the architecture available as a member resource. Course Development is tackling the National Board Member Training course as a pathfinder for future courses focusing on the roles of chapter officers and how to run a chapter. Field Outreach is working with the Expansion Committee on creating a handoff process for new states. As you can see, our focus is on organization and administration at national, state and chapter levels.

All in all, we are started on the path. Our challenge is to maintain the current momentum. We can use more help! If you are interested, please contact Craig Allen by email allenceco@msn.com.

Meeting a Horse on the Trail

By Ken Brown, Vice President and Issues Chairman, Back Country Horsemen of Missoula, MT

Below is information we put on a small plastic card, front and back, to give to hiker and bikers. We have our members but also Forest Service, other BCH chapters, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Montana Wilderness Association and the Tennessee Walker Enthusiast of Montana (TWEAM) giving them out as a way to educate the public. I thought other chapters/states might want to use them.

Meeting a Horse on the Trail

What to do when you meet a horse/rider on the trail:

- Horses have the right of way – yield to them.
- Stop, get off your bike and stand still.
- Speak up and let them know you are there, especially if you are coming from behind the horse. It identifies you as a human, not an animal that wants to eat them.
- On a narrow trail, step off on the down side of the trail:
 - Give the horse plenty of room. Horses may kick with their hind or strike with their front legs if they feel threatened.
 - Prey animals attack from above. Horses feel safer with people below them.
 - If the horse becomes frightened it could spook and may run away from you.
 - It is easier/safer for the rider to stay on a horse going uphill.
 - If in a group, all the riders need to be on the same side of the trail.
- Stay in full view of the horse. Don't hide behind a tree or bush. Horses don't like sneaky.
- Wait for instructions from the rider on what to do.
- Do not try to pet the horse unless you have permission from the rider.
- If on a bridge: Get off the bridge to let the horse/rider pass you safely. Don't get smucked!

Adapted from an article by Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, a mountain bicyclist club, Blue Ridge Trail Riders, Inc., an equestrian club; and Harvey Broome Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, conservation and hiking club; by Ginny Fay & Tom Brigham, Missoula, Montana, May 30, 2017. Summarized by Ken Brown, Back Country Horsemen of Missoula.



Write for the BCHA Media & Marketing Committee

Articles Needed to Tell Our BCHA Story

The Media & Marketing Committee develops marketing strategies to get the word out about what BCHA does for members, all types of backcountry enthusiasts, and the general public. We're seeking talented authors to provide commentary on an extensive range of subjects from trails projects to protecting our access to public lands. BCHA is a source for learning, understanding, and reflection on protecting and maintaining our public lands resources. You can help provide information and insights for our various audiences, whether it be essays, opinion pieces, analyses, or fun facts.

BCHA is a recognized and well-regarded source of opinion about the many challenges of keeping our trails open and accessible, such as upholding the integrity of the Wilderness Act of 1964. We're looking for articles, lively in tone, much like that which you would find in our newsletter. You might want

to argue a point, discuss emerging trends, or just write about something interesting. You don't even need to write an essay. Other ideas include posting something in a list form, like The Top 10 Things Most People Don't Know About BCHA. Or you might consider writing a quiz or FAQ. The most important thing to remember is that we're not looking for an explicitly promotional piece. We want to spark a conversation.

Do you have any writing guidelines?

No technical expertise is needed. The most important thing is to write in your own voice, using your own perspectives and thoughts on a subject.

- Submit your article as a Word document.
- Single-space between sentences.

Resolution Passed at National Board Meeting

RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NEW YOUTH CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP TO ENTICE MORE YOUTH PARTICIPATION WITH BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Approved April 24, 2018 by the National Board of Directors

WHEREAS, BCHA currently has only two adult membership options, i.e. Individual & Family, and

WHEREAS, many youth have parents and/or guardians who do not share their youth's interest in equine activities and, therefore, these youth might not be able to take advantage of a family membership, and

WHEREAS, involvement in BCH would teach good equine practices to these youth, and

WHEREAS, involvement in BCH would promote responsible use of the back country to these youth, and

WHEREAS, involving youth in service-oriented opportunities would provide youth leadership development, experience, community involvement, and

WHEREAS, involving youth at a young age would expose them to all that BCH is about with the hope they would continue their involvement into adulthood, and

WHEREAS, BCHA would, as a result, benefit greatly from the addition of youth members,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Back Country Horsemen of America to create a Non-Voting Youth membership category for youth aged 12yrs to 24yrs at a rate of \$10 per annum with all other rights, privileges and obligations as an adult membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Youth Memberships require appropriate Parental/Guardian permissions and liability release.

<https://bcha.site-ym.com/store/>

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Thank You Donors!

Below are individuals and chapters who have generously donated to BCHA for our future and sustained growth. *If you would like to join the list of supporting members, visit www.bcha.org and click on **DONATE** in the upper right.* Remember: Your donation is tax-deductible under our BCHA 501(c)3 status.

Spur

Spur donors give a single donation either online or by check. Thank you to all SPUR donors who have donated since June 2017. You make the national BCHA work possible!

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Trails Forever Fund

Trails Forever Fund donors typically donate an amount monthly, although single donations are also accepted. TFF funds are utilized for state and chapter grants. Thank you to these TFF donors who have given in 2018!

Craig Allen	Susan Kiley
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Barbara Fleming	Donald Saner
Diane Freese	Jody Schnell - I'm counting on having equestrian trails open and available for my grandchildren, thank you for all the work you do.
Ginny Grulke	Lynda Stafford, Keep up the good work!
William Hackney - This donation is to help protect our public lands. When US Territories petitioned to become states they had to relinquish ownership of all public land in their territory and agree to never try to gain ownership of those public lands.	jennifer storey
Chris Hall	Trena Stover
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	Karen White
	Becky Wolf
	Russell Wright

\$500 Chapter Challenge

Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen in Kentucky issued a nationwide Chapter Challenge, challenging BCH chapters to donate \$500 towards travel funds for the BCHA Advisor for Public Lands and Recreation. THANK YOU to the chapters who have met the challenge in 2018!

Chapter Challenge donors as of May 25, 2018 are listed below.

Fort Harrod Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Kentucky
Mammoth Cave Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Kentucky
Priest River Valley Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Idaho
Trail Wise Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Colorado
Wasatch Front Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Utah



BCHA Optional State and Chapter Services

If your chapter or state would like to use volunteer time more effectively regarding membership records, financial records, emails to membership, etc., BCHA is now offering contract services through Mainspring Association Management LLC, the service company BCHA uses for national management.

The concept was piloted with BCH Washington in the fall of 2017.

The services are made possible using an online system called YourMembership(™) (YM), which is the same system that your members use when they login to the BCHA members-only site. Services offered include:

- Membership Management and Marketing
- Community Building (Social Media)
- Website Design and Hosting
- Event Management
- E-commerce (Shopping Carts)
- Donor and Fund Management

Examples of additional services that Mainspring Association Management can provide are:

- Set-up of online membership renewal, with welcome email and (optionally) membership cards
- Creation of Chapter web pages with files, messages, photos, public page and members only page
- Group pages including document library for state and chapters
- Committee pages
- Monthly financial reporting on YM transactions
- Custom reports, contact forms and surveys

For more detailed information about this service, including approximate fees and additional services, please contact Erica Fearn, 860-586-7540/efearn@bcha.org.

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National Board Meeting

April 21-26, 2018



Photo captions:
 1. Randy Rasmussen, Director for Public Lands & Recreation and Chairman Freddy Dunn gearing up for the meeting.
 2. The Board at work; some of the highlights of the board meeting were the committee breakout sessions.
 3. Welcome included the BCHA Trade Show Display available for states and chapters to borrow.
 4. Randy Rasmussen and Beth Andresen, BCHA volunteer, reviewing the agenda.
 5-9. A sampling of the silent auction items from our generous donors.

