The Grand Canyon is a land that inspires our spirit. Exploring this precious resource on mules with backcountry friends is a trip of a lifetime. Our access to public lands is being challenged. The time is now, to donate to the Backcountry Horsemen of America Legacy Fund to protect and preserve our access. Read about my trail experience in Arizona to see why.

On April 19, Bill and Marybeth Conger met Doug and Teri Argo at the Grand Canyon’s Village South Rim which is about 7100 feet elevation. The temperature was 79 degrees. After getting weighed in (there is a 200-pound limit and Bill was sweating it), they checked in at the Bright Angle Lodge. The Grand Canyon is one of the most inspiring landscapes and overwhelming to one’s senses. Our group took many photos of the sunset and rock formations this first evening at the South Rim.

The morning of April 20, the temperature was 60 degrees. Arriving at the mule corral we mounted our assigned mules and the adventure began. Anyone who might have concerned about the trail height quickly got distracted by the breathtaking views of the rock layers which are windows into time.

Our group shared the Bright Angle trail with many hikers. At times, these encounters were quite close on the trail, but the mules weren’t bothered by anything and all users extended courtesy. About three hours later, we were getting close to the bottom and started seeing the Colorado River, which for the past 5 or 6 million years has carved the Canyon. The temperature was rising and all drank plenty of water on the trail to keep hydrated. We traveled through a very long and dark tunnel to get to the stock bridge that passed over the Colorado. The mules thought nothing of this tunnel.

We arrived at Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Angle Bright Trail on the Colorado River about 3:00 p.m. We saw some ancient Indian ruins that illustrated how the Grand Canyon has sustained people for thousands of years. The temperature now was 90+ degrees. The cabins had air conditioning, so this roving reporter is giving the rooms at Phantom Ranch a five-star rating. We also had a fabulous steak dinner with all the fixings.

At 7:00 a.m. on April 21, the temperature was 70 degrees. The Phantom Ranch served a delicious family-style gourmet breakfast.

[continued on page 2]
Preserve Our Awe-Inspiring and Breathtaking Views

By Marybeth Conger, Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho's Roving Reporter [continued from front page]

By 8:00 a.m., we started back to the Rim on the South Kaibab Trail. Our trail boss Mike let us choose where to ride in the string. His only condition was Bill must ride behind him so they could share packing stories and jokes. Mike pointed out a lot of memorable sites along the trail, including some fossils. The view on this trail really showed the geologic layers of the Grand Canyon. The views were so great that the horses were often stopped to admire them. After too many Kodak moments, the group arrived at the South Kaibab trailhead and each member took a member of the outer order of the Master Mule Skins of the Grand Canyon Trails. There are some things in life that are hard to describe, but experiencing the Grand Canyon on a mule allowed us to see how the geologic process played out along the trail, showing the size, color, and dazzling erosional forms along the rugged landscape of the south side of the Grand Canyon. We cannot lose these awe-inspiring opportunities to see the wonders our beautiful country has to offer. Your support with a donation to the Backcountry Horsemen of America Legacy Fund can and will preserve our access to these dazzling experiences.

What are you doing to increase MEMBERSHIP?

It’s that time of year when we start planning projects for the upcoming season. Let’s reach out to nonmembers and non-active members and get them involved in our activities. In the last issue of the newsletter, we reported that all chapters create a Membership Development and Retention Committee. I am planning some updates this fall. In the presentation, we've brought back ideas and accessible to everyone. Our national membership committee has developed a PowerPoint presentation to show the size, color, and dazzling experiences. We must constantly be innovating and finding new ways to get people to be part of BCHA and learn more about our important mission of keeping the trails open and accessible to everyone. Our national membership committee has developed a powerful presentation to help Membership Development and Retention committee members with the process of developing and retaining members. In the presentation, we’ve brought back ideas from other chapters may have seen in previous newsletters or on websites. Sometimes it helps to have inspiration to help us formulate our programs and developments. By building on the ideas of others, we're borrowing the brilliance of what worked in the past. Combine and cross others’ ideas and develop a brilliant presentation! (Thanks to former aerospace scientist, Fortune 500 executive, chief innovation officer, inventor, and software entrepreneur, David Kord Murray, for that turn of phrase.) For more ideas on recruiting and developing members, look up the Washington Membership Development Handbook. You will also be able to download the presentation from our website. We are using the Membership Development and Retention power point on the website.

Dennis M Serpa
BCHA Ad Hoc Membership Chair
dmserpa@velocite.com

909-531-5175

Create a Lasting Legacy – Make a Bequest to the BCHA Legacy Fund

By Lolitta Rodriguez

The Legacy Fund was established in 2019 to ensure BCHA will have a strong and solid, long-term financial base work well into the future – Keeping Trails Open for Future Generations. This fund is similar to a large savings account with strict limitations on withdrawals. The principal may not be withdrawn for any reason. Earned income can be used by BCHA to support important programs. Eventually, when the principal amount is significant, BCHA will establish an endowment similar to those of many other non-profit organizations.

How can you help to sustain BCHA in the future? One way is to create a personal lasting legacy by adding a charitable bequest to your will, trust, or estate plan. A bequest is typically a financial asset transferred from your estate to BCHA. Of course, the is yours and only yours during your lifetime. A bequest is an easy way to leave a gift to BCHA as a part of your estate plan. Your gift will help fund our vision for the future. When you are updating your estate documents with your financial or legal counsel, you can designate a bequest to the BCHA.

How you benefit
• Your estate can claim a charitable deduction for 100% of the value of the assets transferred to the BCHA Legacy Fund, generally removing assets from estate taxation.
• Making a gift through your estate plan allows you to maintain full control of your assets throughout your lifetime. You will not jeopardize your own financial security in order to make a gift.
• Making a gift through your estate plan may make it possible for you to make a much larger gift than you might otherwise have considered in your lifetime when you need the assets and income.
• You may give cash or a specific item of property. You may specify a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the residue of your estate.
• A bequest of IRA assets may be particularly tax efficient, enabling your estate to avoid estate taxes on IRA assets and your heirs to avoid income taxes on IRA distributions.

What are your personal legacy goals?
After you have provided for your loved ones, your children and grandchildren, where else might you give? Where can your gift be most meaningful? How can you feel assured your bequest is going to an organization that shares your values and will continue to support your love of horses, mules, and America’s heritage of trails and public lands? BCHA can help ensure that our tantalizing visions in the backcountry are available to be enjoyed by your family for years to come.

The Values of BCHA Are Your Values
You appreciate BCHA wants to ensure everyone’s access to public trails and lands — now and in the future. You recognize the importance of BCHA being financially strong and secure to accomplish this important work. You know our future success requires BCHA to have a firm, informed, continuous national voice with public officials, lawmakers, and land managers. For more information, please contact us at 860-586-7540 or fundraising@bcha.org. All inquiries are confidential.
View from the Chairman’s Saddle
By Darrell Wallace, BCHA National Chairman

Spring is coming, and I am looking forward to it! Riding my horse, working on trails, and seeing friends at the National Board Meeting. This year, I will see them on my computer screen as we conduct our first digital National Board Meeting, due to the restrictions based on COVID-19.

I am especially excited about two recent developments. Let me start with BCH’s meeting with the United States Forest Service about clearing the trail backlog. Some very senior U.S.F.S managers agreed to review and try to solve the issues we raised in our Resolution regarding Minimum Resource Analysis. I am grateful for those managers’ responses and I’m hopeful that something good will happen as a result.

I’m also grateful and excited about the wonderful response from our members to our fall fundraising campaign. Fundraising Committee Chair Tif Rodriguez and her crew did a great job of reaching out for donations. Please see Tif’s article elsewhere in this newsletter about how you can continue to further BCH’s mission and create your legacy around your love of the back country and the amazing experiences it offers. Check out Idaho’s Roving Reporter Marybeth Conger’s story about the Grand Canyon. It’s important to preserve our opportunities for such magnificent adventures.

On another note, I see my role as chairman to create a team environment where everyone has a sense of shared accountability. It’s important for board members to feel engaged and useful. That’s why I asked our new Treasurer Mark Himmel to share some of his thoughts in this column about fundraising and how he learned much of what he needed to know in his former role in Media & Marketing.

Happy Trails!
Darrell

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.

Thank you to our Advocacy Partners:
• Equine Trail Sports
• Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association
• North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)
• North Carolina Horse Council
• Old Dominion Endurance Rides Inc.
• Pennsylvania Equine Council
• Walkers & Talkers Saddle Club

BCHA Advocacy Partners are organizations, alliances, and coalitions involved in a common goal of Keeping Trails Open. To learn more about your organization becoming an Advocacy Partner email Partners@bcha.org.

The View from BCHA Treasurer Mark Himmel

This past year I moved from the position of Chairman of the Media & Marketing (M&M) Committee to Treasurer. Nearly everything I needed to know about fundraising I learned from Media & Marketing. It’s all about cultivating and building relationships. You know how it works on Facebook. Someone posts something and other people are inspired to share the content. Sharing allows people to inform others about the good work at BCH and maybe it encourages some action like joining a chapter. A few years ago, a BCH post would reach about 30,000 people. Today, it’s not unusual to reach 100,000. That comes from building relationships based on good and trustworthy content.

The M&M Committee joined with the Fundraising Committee last year to brainstorm ideas and ways to encourage donations. We started the birthday fundraiser that you’ll hear more about at the National Board Meeting in April. These types of fundraisers are easy to set up and can help reach people we normally would not.

A major fundraising event for all nonprofit organizations every year is Giving Tuesday in December. Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 to raise awareness about the work of nonprofits and it’s grown into a global movement. Giving Tuesday was a focus of our joint committee work in 2019. Due to our increased efforts to get the word out, we raised six times what we did in the past. We reached over 500,000 people and that’s quite impressive! How much did we raise? Well, you’ll need to wait for the National Board meeting to find out. In the meantime, as Chairman Darrell mentioned, please consider other ways you can support the meaningful and quality work that BCH does.

Thank you,
Mark
BCHA Newsletter

Media Kit

Our BCHA newsletter is read by passionate trail riders, saddle and pack stock owners, and backcountry public land users. We have nearly 300 active chapters, units, and affiliates in 31 states. Our mailing list includes over 1,000 public land agency personnel (Forest Service, BLM, National Parks, state land agencies), elected officials, advertisers, and others in the industry. Visit www.bcha.org for more information on BCHA.

Display Sponsorship Rates

Sponsorship Ad Size ..........Price per Single Issue
One column ad (W x H) $55
2.5 inches x 2 inches
2.5 inches x 5 inches
2.5 inches x 10 inches $135
Two column ad (W x H) $65
5 inches x 1 inches
5 inches x 5 inches
5 inches x 10 inches $235
Full page ad (W x H) $365
10.5 inches x 5 inches (vertical)
10.5 inches x 7.5 inches (horizontal)
5% of yearly funding
10.5 inches x 15 inches $235
2.5 inches x 15 inches $175
2.5 inches x 15 inches (vertical) $365
5 inches x 5 inches
5 inches x 1 inches
6 inches x 5 inches $135
6 inches x 1 inches $235
Half page ad (W x H) $175
5.25 inches x 15 inches
5.25 inches x 12 inches $235

20% bonus for sponsorships in four issues (one year). All prices are for black and white graphic design and layout of your ad, please arrange your ad. All ads will be black and white unless special arrangements are made. Note: For questions or sponsorship matters, please contact Deborah Schatz (406) 314-1084 or deborah.bcha@gmail.com.

Mechanical Requirements:

Artwork is accepted in these formats: Adobe Acrobat PDF, Photoshop, JPG saved for web format. Images must be at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch at the actual size used in the artwork. All ads will be black and white unless special arrangements are made. Note: For questions or graphic design and layout of your ad, please contact Deborah Schatz at (406) 314-1084 or deborah.bcha@gmail.com.

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860-586-7540
PO Box 305
East Olympia WA 98504-0305
E-mail: bcha@comcast.net

Design, Layout, and Sponsorship Director
Deborah Schatz
4720 E. Rock Road
Columbus Falls MT 59912
(406) 314-1084
E-mail: deborah.bchas@gmail.com

Printing
Eagle Web Press
4971 Indian School Rd. NE
Salem OR 97305

Public Lands Update

By Director of Public Lands and Recreation Randy Rasmussen

Congress Acts to Reverse Public Lands Management Backlog. Provide Full Funding for LWCF

Efforts to improve trails and recreational opportunities in national parks and U.S. public lands took a positive turn in early March when a bipartisan group of senators introduced Senate Bill 3422 (S. 3422), the Great American Outdoors Act. The legislation is intended to tap both on- and off-shore drilling royalties paid to the federal government in order to address the nearly $12 billion maintenance backlog in our national parks and other public lands. It is also anticipated to ensure full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) each and every year going forward.

BCHA is thrilled that Congress heeded the call of the outdoor recreation community to take decisive and lasting action for the benefit of our public lands. We must do everything in our power to promote the swift passage of S. 3422.

Importantly, unlike previous bills that were introduced to benefit agencies solely within the Department of Interior, S. 3422 includes resources to address the maintenance backlog of the U.S. Forest Service. As such, it is broader than the current Restore Our Parks Act (S. 500) which drew wide-spread support that had not included last year—during the previous session of Congress—but had not made its way to the President’s desk. Inclusion of the Forest Service has been a priority for BCHA, its membership and the national recreation coalition of which we are a part (see, for example, the Public Lands Update in BCHA’s Spring 2019 newsletter).

Specifically, S. 3422 would establish and fund a “National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education” to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. If passed, it would allocate up to $1.9 billion each year, over five years (up to $9.5 billion), to be divided among federal land management agencies in the following proportions:

- National Park Service – 70% of yearly funding
- U.S. Forest Service – 15% of yearly funding
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 5% of yearly funding
- Bureau of Land Management – 5% of yearly funding
- Bureau of Indian Education – 5% of yearly funding

S. 3422 would also ensure that LWCF is funded to its full level—$900 million each year—as was intended by Congress when the fund was established in 1964. For various reasons, Congress had chosen to fund LWCF at its full level only twice during the last 56 years.

Inexplicably, Congress allowed LWCF, after its 50-year sunset date, to expire a few years ago. In early 2019, Congress passed legislation to permanently authorize the LWCF. LWCF justifiably has been characterized as America’s most important conservation and recreation program. Today it remains the only federal program dedicated to the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, as well as creating and developing state and local parks, and building or expanding over 1,000 trail projects across the country. Yet the LWCF reauthorization legislation that passed last year left the level of its annual funding up to the whim of Congress. And we know how that has worked out.

To view a fact sheet with information on how LWCF has benefited trails, recreation and public lands in your state, see the state-specific fact sheets at: www.lwcfcoalition.com/tools/. This webpage also includes information on the history of LWCF and the sources of its funding.

In sum, the Great American Outdoors Act includes two of the most robust and far-reaching mechanisms for the support of our national parks and public lands in over half a century. It is not intended to replace or diminish the annual funding (appropriations) provided by Congress to the federal land management agencies. That process will remain an important annual priority for advocacy efforts by BCHA and its allies. Yet, S. 3422 represents both an investment by Congress in perpetuating the public’s long-term use and enjoyment of our public lands and a long overdue recognition of the beleaguered condition of visitor facilities throughout our national parks, forests, BLM lands and national wildlife refuges.

The Great American Outdoors Act was introduced by U.S. Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Steve Daines (R-MT), Rob Portman (R-OH), Mark Warner (D-VA), Angus King (I-ME), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Richard Burr (R-NC). At the time of this writing, S. 3422 enjoyed the support of 58 Senate co-sponsors (and growing).

BCHA is also promoting a companion bill that has yet to be introduced in the House of Representa-
atives. It is reasonable to soon expect a similar bipartisan effort in the House. When that happens, BCHA will issue an alert asking members to reach out to their representatives to request broad support and swift passage of this important legislation. Indeed, the Great American Outdoors Act appears to represent a nearly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to steer significant federal funding directly to the maintenance backlog throughout our public lands—a backlog that has grown to staggering proportions over several decades.

We’ve found that constituent phone calls to both the local (states) offices and to your senator’s Washington DC office are more effective than either emails or letters sent via the U.S. Postal Service. Contact information for your U.S. senators can be found here: www. senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Talking points to use during your phone call can be as simple as:
- “I’m calling from (city/town/county) and would like to leave a mes-
sage for”
- “I’m a (volunteer/official) of Back Country Horsemens of (state/chapter).”
- “I support S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act.”
- “I want to thank the senator for co-sponsoring this important legisla-
tion”[if they are listed as a co-sponsor]
- OR, alternatively, “I want to encourage the senator to co-sponsor this important legislation” [if they are not currently listed as a co-sponsor]
- “[note: you might choose to de-
scribe why you support the bill or why you should consider being a co-spon-
or]”
- “Thank you. A phone number I can be reached at is...”

Thank you for taking action and for supporting BCHA’s efforts to capitalize on this near once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bolster outdoor recreational opportunities throughout our public lands!
Words Matter

By Greg Schatz, Rich Carl, Ally Pike, Elle Eberts, Marion Willmus and Melissa DiNino

Although this article is written in first person, all six of us had a hand in writing it.
Here in east Tennessee we have miles of old logging roads turned forest service roads that lead to lovely moun-
tain trails. What’s the problem, you ask? Parking! Sure, they’re accessible to hikers and bikers in a single vehi-
cle but not a rig hauling a four-legged, trail-blazing equine machine...or two.

One such location is Roan Mountain located in Carter County. Roan Moun-
tain is dotted with small communities and farms. The mountain range has over 20,000 acres of protected land be-
tween Tennessee and North Carolina.

That’s a lot of territory to explore if we just had somewhere to park. Enter Vice President Bill Watson and an entire community of supporters.

Bill came up with a plan to make sure we were included in the county’s new project. He pleaded our case and shared our story with whomever would listen. He worked tirelessly on one of our biggest successes in recent years.

Watson, along with Russell Satton, Larry Jeffers and a host of community members and leaders jumped head first into this project – a project that took over two years to complete. A total of 450 tons of gravel and matting were re-
quired. Over $16,000 was raised to see this project to completion.

On June 8, 2019, we celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony to com-
memorate the completion of a multi-
use parking area which made over 40 miles of Roan Mountain trails accessi-
ble to all types of enthusiasts. The parking area has been aptly named Happy Trails Park. It’s located on Old Railroad Grade Road in Roan Mountain and is open to boaters, cyclists, hikers, ang-
lers, and horses! It sits along the Doe River providing access for anglers and paddlers. It also provides parking for those looking to enjoy an extension of the Tweetsie Railroad trail on foot or by bicycle. For the explorers that seek the solace of the woods on horseback just ride a short distance down the old rail-
road bed and up the old forest service road through rhododendron-lined trails. Large hardwoods and massive ever-
greens tower overhead providing cool shade in the summer and a windbreak in the winter. Wildflowers abound in the spring and the views are breathtaking. The trail system offers a combina-
tion of road beds and single-track trails.

This isn’t the end of the Roan Mountain access. Watson and his crew are busily working with the United States Forest Service and communi-
ty members for an additional parking lot that will open up another trail sys-
tem on Roan Mountain. We are in the process of raising the funds. This lat-
est project will cost roughly $17,000.

We’ve already had a few donors step up to help. The U.S.F.S. has already cleared the area of trees and brush and have it ready for matting and gravel. We hope to report another completed parking area soon!

In the meantime, we want to thank all of the sponsors and partners that made Happy Trails Park a reality. Our members, Northeast Community Cred-
it Union, Carter County Bank, Carter County Parks and Recreation Board, a private family from Roan Mountain, Roan Mountain Citizens Club, Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation, Unit-
ed Way of Elizabethton Carter County, Elizabethton Carter County Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Electric Oper-
ation Pocket Change, and Grow Carter County. These sponsors stepped for-
ward and improved the recreational op-
portunity for all who enjoy the great outdoors.

Bill Watson said, “This park is a great example of our county offices, our businesses, and our community or-

organizations coming together to make the wonderful place in which we live even better.”
Shoshone Back Country Horsemen of Northwest WY would like to share our portion of paradise with the world-wide equine community.

Having just celebrated our 25th anniversary as caretakers of equine trails in the Shoshone National Forest, we want to welcome you to America’s first national forest, a premier equine destination. It was and still is affectionately known as the “horse forest.” It consists of 1,389 miles of non-mechanized trails winding through 1.4 million acres, 56% of which is designated wilderness area.

The Cody, WY area has trailheads, trails and scenery that will make your vacation unforgettable, and is the gateway to Yellowstone National Park. Cody is centrally located to experience western hospitality at its finest. The Buffalo Bill Center of the West (a Smithsonian Affiliate consisting of five museums of western history at a single location), nightly rodeos, dining, lodging, entertainment, and western culture all await you in Cody, WY.

Please go to our website at www.shoshonebch.org for more information on Shoshone Back Country Horsemen and our efforts to preserve this great heritage. Ride the trails less traveled and pack out the experience of a lifetime along with what you packed in.

For additional information on Shoshone National Forest:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone
For more information on the Cody, WY area:
http://www.codyyellowstone.org

IN COOPERATION WITH THE PARK COUNTY TRAVEL COUNCIL

Wolverton Stock Camp Open for Business

By Dick Cochran

The Wolverton Stock Camp, located in Sequoia National Park in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California, is now open to private stock users. This camp, the first of six stock facilities provided for in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) issued in 2015, provides private stock users with two improved campsites as well as two corrals. The Wolverton Stock Camp (WSC) is located near the giant sequoia trees for which the park is famous. The nearby General Sherman tree is among the largest living things on earth. A former commercial pack station was located at this same location. There are multiple trails that can be accessed by riders. There is ample parking for stock rigs as well.

The facility will be open from approximately June to October each year. There is a reservation system established to make reservations for the facility. To access the system a user will need to go to the official website for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) and go to the Camping portion of the website and then to the part describing the Wolverton Stock Camp. The user will then be directed to access a further part of the website in order to get more details about the facility and to apply for a reservation. There is a $22 fee per day to use the facility.

The WSC is best accessed by coming from the north through Kings Canyon National Park from Highway 180. There is a scenic drive between the two parks to be enjoyed. Another way to access the WSC is up Highway 198 from Visalia but this route has numerous hairpin turns and steep grades and is difficult to navigate pulling a horse trailer.

The High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California has been working with management of SEKI to get the WSC up and running and is collaborating with SEKI management to implement the remaining five facilities.
In 2015 the NorthWest Montana Back Country Horsemen chapter was chartered by a group of individuals with a specific goal in mind: to figure out a way to carry forward what Back Country Horsemen started 42 years before. Many members of BCH chapters in the western United States are aging out of active involvement with furthering the mission of keeping the trails open and accessible. Combined with older members’ difficulties as they age, it is increasingly difficult to attract younger generations. Multiple factors are at work, such as family financial constraints and alternative youth activities. We knew we needed younger folks to help clear trails and to provide packing support, but how to get them involved?

Owning and maintaining horses is not an inexpensive proposition. Our basic idea was we needed to start with individuals who already had a commitment to horses. Another proposition was reaching out to people who had yet to explore the back country. If we exposed people to the wonders of the back country, we might just get them to want to help us preserve access to our valuable public lands. Without an emotional connection to these wonders, people just don’t seem to have the time to volunteer to keep them open.

When NorthWest Montana Back Country Horsemen was asked to provide a packing demonstration to the 4-H kids during an annual “Horse Camp” in 2015, we felt that this was a huge opportunity to reach families who owned or were interested in owning horses. Horse Camp is a three-day event where 4-H kids learn and practice new skills with their horses. Our premise was teaching 4-H kids to pack and get their horses ready and trained for trail riding. Over a period of years, we believed we could open up to a large number of people what BCH does and why we do it. This was the beginning of our 4-H Trail and Packing Program with the Flathead County 4-H.

We officially started the program in 2016. Since that time, we have trained an average of 20 kids per year, with some of them staying on for multiple years. Kids in the 4-H program range from as young as 8 years old to 18 years old. One of the interesting things we discovered was, by reaching the kids, we were also reaching and training their parents. Parents ages average between the 30’s and 40’s. We were reaching two younger demographics at the same time. What a bonus!

The goal of 4-H Trail and Packing is to educate the kids on all aspects of packing, training a horse to be safe on the trail, Leave No Trace principals, trail etiquette and proper care of the back country resources. With that in mind, we have an objective to create individuals who will help our chapter of BCH do the work in our area pursuant to our mission and vision.

In 2019 we graduated our first two kids who have made that step. Let me introduce Patrick and Melanie Totten. Patrick is 18 and Melanie is 16 and they completed their first-ever on their own packing support trips for some of our partners. They planned the trip, drove and trailered their stock, fed their stock, fed themselves, took care of their stock, weighed their own loads, packed and loaded their own loads and completed the project! They graduated from students to skilled packers. The impact or our 4-H Trail and Packing program is evident in the amount of in-kind giving they have added to our chapter volunteer totals. In 2018 they contributed $38,529.16 and in 2019 their contribution was $43,499.33. We have several 4-H kids who will reach graduate from students to skilled packers in the very near future.

We brought several families with kids into our chapter with this program. We know that this is a long-term venture and it could take as much as 20 years to replace our current membership. However, it is definitely a way to pass on the values and mission of BCH to the next generation.

As Back Country Horsemen, we must start to think outside the box and be able to change and adapt to a new social and economic environment. If we don’t, what we have done over almost the last 50 years will be due out as the baby boomer generation ages.
Did you know BCH of Washington has a number of members who don’t have horses and don’t ride? We have a growing horseless trail crew work. Due to muddy weather conditions in the winter months and wild beverage, a small group of folks decided they could still get out on the local trails in the winter months and clear logs over the local riding trails, fix trail, and tend to bridge repairs. The University of Chicago research shows that cell phones do reduce the length of our text messages. Emailing and texting actually reduces your IQ. According to the researchers, our eyes are more focused on the cell phone when we are texting and our attention span is reduced. This can make it difficult to concentrate on tasks that require more mental effort. Even when texting to someone we know well, we may feel more stressed and less connected. Some people have even started using apps that block texting and emailing during specific times of the day, such as during meals or when driving. While this may seem like a simple solution, it can be difficult to enforce and may not always be effective. It is important to remember that technology should be a tool to enhance our lives, not a distraction. As we move forward, it is essential that we find ways to balance our use of technology with other aspects of our lives, such as socializing, exercising, and spending time in nature. This will help us maintain a healthy and productive lifestyle. 

BCH Without Horses? 
By Mike McGlenn, Past Chairman BCHA

Some Thoughts on Bringing Technology to Meetings
By Mike McGlenn, Past Chairman BCH

With cringing recognition as one who has run a wide variety of meetings over many years, I read a column from Inc. (the full column titled The Verdict is In: People Who Bring Their Phones to Meetings (Even in Silent Mode) Instantly Get Dumber https://flip.it/15fyij) As I read it, I thought of all of you who know who also run many meetings. As Haden reported, research shows what a cell phone does to your mind. I’ve shared a few excerpts below with you. We need to have limitations on the use of technol-
Non-Equestrians Occupying Horse Camping Sites
By Rhonda Marquis, East Cascades Chapter, BCHO

For more years than I care to think of there have been reports of non-equestrians occupying horse camping sites on Public Lands. A horse camping site is any site designed to accommodate saddle and pack stock use on Public Lands (e.g., tie rails, hi-lines, tie-stalls, box stalls, corrals). So, when I started asking questions of our local Forest Service friends, the answer came back that there aren’t any provisions that enable them to ask non-equestrians to vacate horse camping sites. Listed under the U.S. Code: “36 CFR 261.16 - Developed recreation sites”, it only states: “(l) Bringing in or possessing a saddle, pack, or draft animal except as authorized by posted instructions.” This means that horse camping sites are “authorized by posted instructions” and are not explicitly designated for equestrian use only. This limits the Forest Service in how they can manage horse camping site facilities.

The Forest Service personnel with whom I talked always asked me, “How often does this occur?” This is a good question! I’ve heard many stories of encounters with non-equestrians occupying horse camping sites, but couldn’t find enough of them in writing to help make my case. In conjunction with Back Country Horsemen of America, BCH of Oregon and Oregon Equestrian Trails, data was collected via a survey to help determine the extent to which non-equestrians occupy horse camping sites. Nearly 3,500 people responded. Survey respondents were from 45 states.

### Horse Camping Sites Survey

Here are some highlights from the survey conducted from January 14 – February 15, 2020. The results are from 3,474 respondents from across the United States.

#### How Often People Visit a Horse Camping Site in a Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 times</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 5 times</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 9 times</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 10X</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

94% of respondents disapproved of non-equestrians occupying horse camping sites.

#### Distances Driven to Horse Camping Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 300 miles</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 - 299 miles</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 - 199 miles</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 99 miles</td>
<td>39%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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More often than not, respondents observed more than one horse camping site being occupied by non-equestrians (83%).

94% of respondents disapproved of non-equestrians occupying horse camping sites.

How many times were you denied a reservation, only to learn some of the sites were occupied by non-equestrians?

- Never, 40%
- 1 time, 15%
- 2 - 5 times, 34%
- More than 10X, 5%
- 6 - 9 times, 6%

How many times have you observed non-equestrians occupying a horse camping site?

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Taylor and his wife, Meredith, recently retired from thirty years owning and operating a Yellowstone back country outfitting business.

A Tribute to Pat and Mylon Filkins
By Peggy Whitaker

The 2019 December Dinner/Meeting, of the Kern Sierra Unit of the BCH of California, was special for all attendees. We had the opportunity to honor a couple who have been members of our unit from the day it was formed. Pat and Mylon Filkins have contributed countless hours of trail work and support to our unit. Mylon Filkins is also a familiar name at the state and national level of BCH. But we wanted recognize, as cliché as it may be, “Behind every good man stands a better woman” (or something to that effect). Pat Filkins is that woman – wife, mother, (four children), exceptional cook, trail companion /worker, friend, and most of all cheerleader-baton twirler. Mylon would often tease Pat, after a long day in the saddle or working on a trail, that her injury from the baton twirling days must be acting up. Pat never missed a beat and never stopped smiling, her sunny disposition always prevailed.

The Kern Sierra Unit was privileged to recognize the dedication, hard work, and support contributed by Pat and Mylon. The unit donated $1,000.00 to the BCH Legacy Fund in their honor and presented them with a plaque. Pat’s and Mylons’ adult children surprised their parents by traveling from as far away as San Francisco to be present for this special occasion. The enthusiasm and love for this couple continued to flow. After the presentation, another $1,500.00 was pledged to honor them through the Legacy Fund.

As I wrote this article I wanted to share the humility that Mylon exhibited whenever he volunteered or was asked to help out with unit activities. Nothing expresses it better than the following poem he composed after lending a hand with our fall ride at Tejon Ranch.

The Fall Ride
By Mylon Filkins, D.V.M.

The Kern Sierra Fall Ride was on the Tejon Ranch
Peggy’s assignment to me would make some blanch.
She told me exactly what I had to do
Deliver the sanitary units - better make it two!

Backcountry horsemen arrived, driving rigs so dapper I drove in hauling “The Crapper.”
It’s hard to look cool when passing people you know
In a mobile vet unit with toilets in tow.

You’re recognized less than shirt-tail relation
When you’re seen pulling the comfort station.
It was my grandson Jordan’s first ride, and he was so proud
“But why’s Grandpa’s trailer different?” he wondered out loud.

The riders saddled their horses and climbed up and on
As I sat still hitched to the portable John!
Everyone loved the applesauce and the gingerbread.
No affection was voiced for the mobile head.

There were rants and raves about the bar-b-que meats
No cheers were heard for the oval seats.
Cards were counted in the poker deals
Only full flushes were made - in the potty on wheels.

To the cooks all expressed their thanks
And lonely I drove out pulling full tanks.

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