

Executive Committee Non-director Resume for Greg Schatz

I have been asked to run for a second term as a non- director on the BCHA EC. I got my start in Back Country Horsemen in 1990. The reason I joined the Flathead chapter was because as a member you received a 10% discount at the local tack store. It was cheaper to belong to BCH than to pay full price. I had no idea what was in store for me!

It was just by chance that I joined the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead in Montana. At the time I had no idea that it was the very first chapter of BCH, nor did I realize what that meant. Many of the charter members and founders of BCH were still very active. I learned a lot from these people. When I joined there were 11 chapters in BCHMT and 8 states in BCHA. I learned that BCHA works best when the local chapter members have a strong voice and the national board and officers of BCHA listen to that voice.

Over the past 35 years I have volunteered for many trail clearing projects, the major rebuilding of many trailheads, packed my string of horses many thousands of miles packing supplies for trail crews, taught hundreds of people how to pack, and have attended many Forest Service and Park Service meetings about the management of trails and public land. I teach a packing class at the Flathead Valley Community College. I have held all of the chapter offices including being a state director to the BCHMT board. The past few years I have stepped down from holding local positions so my young friends can pick up the reins and direct our chapter into the future.

I am the BCHMT Youth Program chair. For the past 10 years I have strongly encouraged our BCHMT chapters to engage young people. I feel we have grown our program well. With most of the BCHMT chapters participating, we engaged about 4,500 young people in 2024.

I am also the BCHA Youth Committee chair. I have held this position since it was started in 2000. The youth committee encourages chapters around the country to engage young people, and our committee has seen great progress every year. We have also added a youth web page to the BCHA website. We are always looking at ways to add content to this site. I also engage young people to come to the national board meeting to help spread the word about the importance of having young people in your local chapter.

I am retired now, but in between all of my riding and packing, I built houses for 44 years. The last 30 years I had my own building company where I had to attract new clients, develop plans and budgets, and work to stay within those budgets. Many of my projects were multi-million dollar homes. To stay in business I had to learn how to sell what I believed in.

I have been to many BCHA national board meetings starting in the early 90s. As the Youth Committee chair I have been to all of them since 2021. I was at the national board meeting in

Butte MT when the executive committee was formed. There was a lot of discussion at that meeting about making sure that the local chapter members have a voice in the EC and that the non-director position is for an actual non-director and not someone entrenched in BCHA.

Important BCHA issues:

Membership drives income. We've all heard the excuses as to why BCHA membership is declining. As a member, I feel it's time to change the culture of the organization to make sure everyone feels included. I have way too many friends around the country who have quit BCH because of the poor behavior of a few individuals. How many times does a new member have to have their ideas dismissed before they know they're not welcome? How many times do we need to hear "we can't do it that way, we've always done it this way"? I was in my 20s when I joined BCH. Unfortunately I heard a lot of those same rude comments back then.

Income is driven by membership. The executive committee needs to continue to work within the budget so BCHA doesn't go into a spending tailspin. We need to make sure we safeguard our two most valuable assets, Michelle and Randy. I've been a member of BCH when BCGA didn't have an executive administrator; it was chaos. We don't want to go back to that. Hiring Randy as director of public lands and recreation was the single most genius thing the national directors have done in the past 35 years. We need to make sure our membership remains stable so we can continue this work.

The executive committee and the national directors need to do everything in our power to make sure every single chapter member understands what BCHA does for them. We need to 'sell' BCHA. When I started in BCH there were eight state organizations clustered in the Rockies. General members saw firsthand what BCHA was doing. Now BCHA has spread from north to south and east to west, which is great. Now that we're not clustered in the Rockies we need to make sure we're spreading the message of BCHA to all of our general members. At the EC we have started to talk about ways to do this, and we need to start taking steps to make it happen.

I have spent my entire adult life in BCH promoting stock use on our public lands. I appreciate your vote for another term as a non-director on the Executive Committee.