

# Back Country Horsemen of America

Volume 25, Issue 3

www.backcountryhorse.com

Summer 2014

## BCH WA Packing for PCTA

Submitted by "Doc" Wesselius, Lewis County BCH, WA



Maintaining an isolated wilderness trail has challenges for work crews that must use non-mechanized tools. Accessing wilderness regions that are off limits to motorized vehicles requires the assistance of pack stock.

Traveling a wilderness trail, away from civilization, is a unique and rewarding experience. Washington State has 11 wilderness areas as defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act (<http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/legisAct>). The first chief of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Gifford Pinchot established the first principles of wilderness area management declaring, "The work of today is caring for wilderness and managing it to best meet the needs of all people." BCH of Washington collaborates and partners with other trail advocacy organizations to manage and maintain some of the most remote regions in Washington's mountains.

Maintaining an isolated wilderness trail has challenges for work crews that must use non-mechanized tools. For work crews to access wilderness regions that are off limits to motorized vehicles requires the assistance of pack stock. BCHW Lewis County Chapter provided packstock support for USFS and Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) for a project on the Pacific

Crest Trail – a 2,550-mile trail corridor from Mexico to Canada.

Prior to packing PCTA trail crews to a 7,000-foot worksite, a bridge on a major feeder trail (Snowgrass Trail) needed repair. Old, rotten decking was replaced to safely support equestrian loads, especially cargo-laden pack strings. Chapter volunteers, in preparation for the bridge repair, manufactured 50 hand-hewn cedar planks. Balanced on each side of a pack animal, two planks at a time were carried two miles to the Goat Creek worksite by chapter packers. USFS Cowlitz Valley Ranger District personnel removed the old decking, nailed down the new bridge planks, and then were tasked with clearing winter blowdowns from the trail to the PCTA basecamp.

Chapter packers hauled supplies and tools from Berrypatch Trailhead seven miles to the basecamp located at the remnants of Dana Yelverton Shelter on the slopes of Old Snowy. Organized by PCTA, the trail project reconstructed a section of the trail across

Packwood Glacier basin. The trail crew arrived at trailhead the night before the scheduled takeoff with an assortment of supplies and tools. The next morning, USFS added agency tools to the growing stack of cargo while the packers assembled loads of equal weight for the seven packstock. Twelve loads averaging sixty pounds each were secured in panniers and bear boxes before two tool haulers were loaded. The last order of business before heading up the trail was to soundproof each load and check for rattles. Once the pack stock were loaded, the caravan started up the trail led by the trail crew vanguard that advised fellow hikers of the oncoming pack string.

On a spectacular clear, warm August day the procession was treated with the splendors of Snowgrass Flat meadows before crossing several snowfields to reach the alpine campsite. The rugged, mountainous setting was ornamented with a patriotic mix of red, white, and blue wildflowers. Before setting up basecamp and locating flat spots for

tents, the crew joined the packers for lunch and a spectacular view that included three dormant volcanoes. The trail crew was extremely appreciative of the packstock that hauled 800 pounds of consignment to the worksite.

After a weeklong hitch, the trail crew was ready to descend the mountain and grateful for three unloaded packstock that arrived to haul out their gear. The weather had changed and there was a chill in the air. Packers returned to basecamp the next day with food supplies for the next hitch. Camp gear and tools were left at basecamp for subsequent crews. The day's chill began to build as packstock were unloaded just before a frigid rain started and the packers headed downhill to trailhead. A second re-supply a week later was more than chilly. Packers were pelted with an ice-rain accompanied by 30 mph winds. Little time was spent socializing with the replacement trail crew after the supplies were unloaded into the basecamp tent to keep

[continued on page 3]



BCHA  
PO Box 1367  
Graham WA 98338-1367

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 178  
SALEM, OR

### Inside...

Right or Privilege? .....	2
The Catch Pen .....	6-7, 12
National Board Meeting Reports .....	8-9
BCHA's Legacy Award presented to Smoke Elser of Montana .....	9
Tales of the Trails .....	10-11
Letters to BCHA.....	11



PO Box 1367  
Graham WA 98338-1367  
(888) 893-5161

## Interested in Joining?

Contact BCHA or the organization nearest you for more information.

- National:**  
BCH of Montana  
PO Box 4864  
Butte MT 59701  
markhimmel@bridgemail.com  
www.bchmt.org
- BCH of Nevada  
PO Box 19324  
Reno NV 89511  
(775) 843-2569  
info@bchnv.com  
www.bchnv.com
- BCH of New Mexico  
PO Box 37005  
Albuquerque NM 87176  
chairman@bchnm.org  
www.bchnm.org
- BCH of North Carolina  
110 Hobbit Lane  
Pisgah Forest NC 28768  
(828) 577-3462  
tomthomas262@gmail.com  
www.bchofnc.org
- BCH of Oregon  
37245 Wheeler Rd  
Pleasant Hill OR 97455  
(541) 746-4547  
www.bcho.org
- Black Hills BCH  
of South Dakota  
20112 Buckin Horse Lane  
Whitewood SD 57793  
(605) 645-2296  
bhbchsd@gmail.com  
www.bhbchsd.com  
@blogspot.com
- BCH of Tennessee, Inc.  
777 Cedar Creek Cave Rd  
Greenville TN 37743  
(423) 552-3767  
TJConnor@hotmail.com  
www.bchet.org
- BCH of Utah  
PO Box 13195  
Ogden UT 84412  
(801) 985-1909  
www.bchu.com
- Virginia BCH  
55 Lost Creek Lane  
Buena Vista VA 24416  
(540) 570-1910  
deborasensaba@gmail.com
- BCH of Washington  
110 W 6th Ave PMB 393  
Ellensburg WA 98926  
(509) 276-6226  
www.bchw.org
- BCH of West Virginia  
PO Box 216  
Wardensville WV 26851  
(304) 897-5795  
Dianeand4mules@yahoo.com
- BCH of Wyoming  
2446 Spriggs Dr  
Lander WY 82520  
bighorn@vcn.com  
www.wyobch.org
- Affiliates:**  
BCH of Alaska  
PO Box 3148  
Palmer AK 99645  
(907) 360-0480  
kaylene.johnson@gmail.com
- BCH Pigeon River and  
Beyond, MI, Inc.  
6631 E Ashard Road  
Clare MI 48617  
(517) 296-4475  
marietad@frontiernet.net
- BCH of Arizona  
PO Box 4486  
Chino Valley AZ 86323  
(928) 445-3809  
www.bchaz.org
- BCH of California  
13061 Rosedale Highway  
Ste G Box 217  
Bakersfield CA 93314  
www.bchcalifornia.org
- BCH of Colorado  
PO Box 1524  
Elizabeth CO 80107  
www.bchcolorado.org
- Florida BCH  
5393 Pony Path  
Brooksville FL 34602  
(352) 796-9272  
tprevatt@mindspring.net  
https://sites.google.com/site/bchofflorida/
- BCH of Georgia  
PO Box 1471  
Blue Ridge GA 30513  
706-374-7075  
carlosmartel@bellsouth.net
- BCH of Idaho  
PO Box 513  
Salmon ID 83467  
www.bchi.org
- BCH of Illinois  
Rt # 2 BOX 214  
Golconda IL 62938  
(618) 672-4841  
Mulemaid@shawneelink.net
- Hoosier BCH Indiana  
12784 E Rollins Lane  
Springville IN 47462  
(812) 797-4540  
hoosierhorsemen@yahoo.com
- BCH of Kansas  
1409 Lincoln Road  
Concordia KS 66901  
785-243-2494  
steve.lindsey@ia\_ks.com
- Kentucky BCH  
7900 Wades Mill Road  
Mt. Sterling KY 40353  
(859) 744-0397  
ehconyers7900@gmail.com  
www.kybch.com
- Show-Me Missouri BCH  
519 Good Hope Road  
Marshfield, MO 65706  
(417) 859-0600  
www.showmebch.org

## Right or Privilege?

By Roland Cheek

The question was: “Do you consider riding your horse on public land a ‘right’ or a ‘privilege?’”

The topic under general discussion was Back Country Horsemen.

We were four couples gathered for beer and pizza, along with a modicum of conviviality at the Montana home of Ken and Phyllis Ausk. I’ve often referred to Ken, one of the founders of the organization, as the “Moses” for Back Country Horsemen. But perhaps the guy should be better thought of as the group’s patriarch having been deeply involved from the beginning through all 41 years of its existence. Greg and Deborah Schatz were the youngest couple. They joined the Flathead Chapter of BCH a couple of decades ago. Both are deeply conscious of both the culture and volunteerism embedded within the group. Ken, Phyllis, Greg, and Deborah attended Montana’s state BCH convention, as did BCHA Chairman Jim McGarvey and wife Cindy of Calhoun, GA. The McGarveys accepted a gracious invitation from the Ausks to spend a couple of tag-along days after the convention.

I’m Roland Cheek. My wife Jane and I were invited by the other three couples to the pizza get together. I guess it was because my wife and I were also in at BCHA’s beginning. I was elected to lead that first pilot club. Ken and I are the last two (of four) surviving founders.

When Jim McGarvey asked the “right or privilege” question, I assumed he searched for a perspective rooted in BCH’s very foundation.

My response was crisp: “A right—without question! Traveling by horseback through mountains and across deserts and prairies were fundamental to American history, particularly in the West.” Pausing to take a breath, I continued: “Riding horses on trails is part of our culture; one for which we should be damned if we feel we must beg!”

(Admittedly, my actual response might have been some saltier, but you get the drift.)

Jim inferred that a debate exists in the upper levels of BCHA’s national leadership on that very question. One school of thought is that too much is at risk with some land managers to consider it more than a question of privilege. There seems a fear that retaliation might be the result of being anything less than humble and obedient.

The question still rankled a day or two later when the McGarveys stopped by our home with Ken and Phyllis to snap a photo of the two surviving founders. When I revisited the topic, Jim said Ken—who’d said very little during the first evening—had a slightly different view from mine. Surprised, I asked Ken’s view. He said, “Both.”

Though I’ve not yet had a chance to explore the question in depth with my long-standing friend and am writing this on a laptop as Jane motors us through Salt Lake City on our way to Utah’s Canyonlands, we’ve been best friends so long and debated BCH subjects so often (sometimes stridently) that I’m pretty sure I know where he’s

coming from. And Ken is correct—it is both privilege and a right to ride your horse on public lands. A little critical thinking discloses that God, you see, didn’t create all places equal. Some simply are not suitable for horses. Other public lands have been designated for other uses. Nevada bombing ranges are classic examples. Hanford and Oak Ridge nuclear reservations are others. Some trails have long-standing designations precluding horse use.

Ken Ausk’s forté is to sit quietly and listen, then make a cogent suggestion or raise thus-far uncovered questions. He’s annoyed the hell out of me for most of 50 years! But he’s also been responsible for sometimes keeping my feet on the ground instead of in other less likely places.

That being said, let’s get back to the original question: horses on public lands—right or privilege?

Perhaps a little historical perspective might be in order.

Back Country Horsemen came to be because of what we considered a real threat to continuing use of horses in what much of America considers the greatest chunk of wildlands in America—the Bob Marshall Wilderness, spreading across the Continental Divide south of Glacier National Park in Northwestern Montana, “The Bob” has a long history of government pack-strings, as well as outfitter-led, and private-party horse parties. Its landscape is stunning, with vast open meadows filled with knee-high, even waist-high, grass in some places. Yet in 1972 the U.S. Forest Service issued a planning document out of their Region One headquarters that would lead to implementing a permit system for all private horse use in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Privilege or right?

I had recently witnessed permit regulations imposed in million-acre Glacier National Park (just to the north of the Bob Marshall) and the continuing loss of opportunity for horseback riders through constant whittling and paring of opportunity. These occurred through actions by junior managers who seemed determined to leave their mark on posterity (reduced party sizes, no overnight camping in areas normal for horse people, inopportune times and places to simply request a permit) until horsebackers pretty much despaired of visiting Glacier.

Privilege or right?

Enter in 1972 the U.S. Forest Service’s proposed new Bob Marshall Wilderness management plan. A few horse users decided to react and BCH was born. We had lots of support from the outset. Large numbers of people across a broad spectrum of the general populace were repelled by the plan. The planners’ ideas were so pure that their plan also included removing any man-made structures from the wilderness—bridges across dangerous streams, old log administrative buildings with historical significance. Even trail junction and informational signs were in question.

Our embryo group released a po-

sition paper in opposition to the plan. Among our ten listed objections was the tenor of the plan’s bias against horses and horseback users, with heritage and historic use as our primary rationale.

In our view, opportunity to use horses in America’s greatest wilderness was not a privilege, but a right!

Various Boy Scout groups signed on to our objections. Outfitter and Guide organizations lent their support. Three different saddle clubs joined in protest. And there were more organizations that my near-octogenarian memory fails to conjure, as well as a plethora of individuals. Individuals included a retired judge, schoolteachers, and a couple of political aspirants. A U.S. Forest Service District Ranger also sat as a member of our board of directors! (His wife served as our club’s first treasurer.)

Public meetings were called with requests for the agency to explain the rationale behind their decisions. Their defense seemed based on misuse, in some cases, by private stock users. But primarily it seems their decision was based on an erroneous perception of mushrooming numbers of stock use, including claimed conflicts between horseback riders and hikers.

Our research showed otherwise. Hiking groups we contacted expressed dismay at the claim of conflict between types of using public. When challenged to present evidence of mushrooming horse numbers, none presented by the land managers seemed credible. So the agency instituted new studies designed—so we thought—to achieve a controlled response.

To cut to the chase, the proposed plan failed. That’s history. Visitor use in the Bob Marshall Wilderness is today about the same as it has been for decades, though that use has indeed changed to include more backpackers and smaller horse parties. Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) the outcome indicates that a small cadre of land managers with a bias gained control of the agency’s planning process and tried to leave heavy footprints on posterity. Thank God they never succeeded!

Right or privilege?

The question actually involves perception in the minds of both visitor and manager. And history. Our struggle ended favorably, but what about the war? There are other places in this great land of ours with a history of horse use where right should not be left to the whim of managers with an axe to grind. There are other places where rights exist over privilege.

Fairness, of course, dictates that places exist where using horses should be a privilege, not a right. Those are places where opportunity exists subject to two extraneous—albeit important—factors: 1) support of land managers, and 2) our own performance as responsible users.

Next: Earning privileges through responsible use.

Roland Cheek is one of the two surviving founders of the BCHA.

# From the Chairman's Saddle



By Jim McGarvey, Chairman

*Hello Everyone,*

We have a lot of exciting news to share.

*Keeping the Trails Open for All Campaign*

You did it! We surpassed our own expectations by a far piece. As of June 20th, we have reached \$67,887 with monies still coming from members and chapters via USPS. With the Foundation Challenge Grant of \$25,000, we will likely come close to \$100,000 in total donations. Let's congratulate ourselves for a job well done in the great giving spirit of the Back Country Horsemen! There are costs associated with any type of fundraising campaign. For this one, we had expenses such as the Indiegogo website fees, credit card processing fees, costs of the incentives, and expert fundraising consulting. Fees are approximately 23% of revenues.

We staged the fundraiser in four segments to keep the momentum going.

1. Kickoff night with folks watching the live streaming at home brought in over \$18,000

2. Chapter Challenge started by **Lori Lennox** and the Grays Harbor WA chapter:

**\$100 - \$150**

Show-Me Missouri  
 Uinta Basin UT  
 West Desert UT  
 Capitol Riders Chapter WA  
 Whatcom Chapter WA

**\$200 - \$250**

Los Padres CA  
 Mother Lode Unit CA  
 San Geronio Pass Unit CA  
 Shasta-Trinity Unit CA  
 Grand Mesa CO  
 Middle & South GA  
 North Georgia  
 Panhandle ID  
 Kansas  
 Central Kentucky  
 Fort Harrod KY  
 Mammoth Cave Equine Trail Riders KY  
 Charlie Russell MT  
 Mission Valley MT  
 Santa Fe NM  
 Territorial Riders OR  
 East Tennessee  
 Southwest Chapter UT  
 Wasatch Front UT  
 Grays Harbor Chapter WA  
 Mt. Adams WA  
 Nisqually WA  
 Okanogan Valley WA  
 NE Chapter WA  
 Peninsula WA  
 Yakima WA  
 Rattlesnake Ride Riders WA  
 Wind River WY

**\$274 - \$370**

Buffalo River AR  
 Mid-Valley Unit CA  
 Hoosier IN  
 New Mexico  
 Pisgah NC

Pierce County WA

**\$400 - \$450**

Mt. St. Helens WA  
 Mountain Man WY

**\$500-\$550**

4 Corners CO  
 BCH WA

**\$700**

Flathead MT

Olympic Chapter WA (Undisclosed)

**A special thank you to Back Country Horsemen of California for their \$3,000 contribution**

3. Postal mail (USPS) challenge sent to our frequent givers with a great response

4. Frequent highlights about incentives and campaign updates kept people coming back to the Indiegogo site

BCHA will donate half of all funds over \$50,000 to the BCH Education Foundation of America to provide grants to BCH chapters and state organizations. Past BCHA Chairman **Mylon Filkins DVM** chairs the Foundation that reviews grant applications. Grant forms will be on our website. Further information and notifications will be sent via e-mail. Grants will be funded at a level between \$500-\$1,000.

*A Trip Back to the Beginning*

I accepted an invitation from the BCH of Montana to speak at their annual state meeting in Missoula. There wasn't money in the BCHA budget for an unplanned trip, so my wife Cindy and I decided to take a vacation in Montana and attend the meeting at the same time.

The BCH MT Missoula chapter's celebration of its 40th year was the theme of the meeting. Missoula is our second oldest chapter after our founding chapter the Flathead (1973). The state meeting was extraordinarily well organized with over 30 quality exhibitors, a seamless meeting agenda, and a completely sold out banquet of over 200. Cindy and I appreciate the gracious reception and extended hospitality. We have some great memories. Cindy and I send special thanks to Past State Chair **Mark Himmel**, new State Chair **Connie Long**, and Missoula chapter member **Dean Hoistad**.

One of the highlights of the meeting was awarding the BCHA Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement to **Arnold "Smoke" Elser**. Smoke is a founding member of the Missoula chapter and, along with his wife **Thelma**, has had an incredible career teaching packing clinics not only at the Forest Service Nine Mile station but also at his legendary training barn. Students included Navy Seals, FBI agents, U.S. Border Patrol and over three thousand individuals. It was quite a treat for Cindy and me to be given a personal tour by Smoke.

The original idea to form a volunteer organization to keep the trails open on public lands was conceived around a campfire. But the nuts-and-bolts accomplishment occurred in the northern end of the Flathead Valley just south of Glacier NP. Some heated discussions arose about topics of the day, including whether riding on our public lands is a right or a privilege (see **Roland Cheek's** article in this newsletter).

After the state meeting, Cindy and I traveled with **Ken and Phyllis Ausk** to their home in the Flathead Valley.



The view from the founding spot.

The four original founders lived within a few miles of each other in the Valley. Ken Ausk and Roland Cheek are the two surviving founders. Ken Ausk identified what could be considered the central starting point of the BCHA. It turns out that central point is in Roland's back yard – complete with a fire pit. The Trip Back to The Beginning was a moving experience.

*2014 National Board Meeting in Chattanooga*

The 2014 National Board meeting was a rousing success (a good portion of the four-day meeting can be viewed at our website – [www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com)). Highlights included speakers USDA/USFS Director Recreation Heritage & Volunteer Resources **Joe Meade** and NPS Program Chief, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation **Bob Ratcliffe**. The National Board of Directors welcomed three new states – Arkansas, Florida, and Kansas – as full members of the BCHA. Wyoming proposed a Resolution dividing the BCHA into four governing regions to save national board meeting expenses. The Resolution was unanimously defeated.

Thursday April 24th was devoted to Public Lands issues, specifically the US Forest Service Trails Maintenance Backlog and Challenges Toward Limiting Recreational Stock Use in National Parks. Our Public Lands Recreation Advisor Randy Rasmussen ably moderated the day's events. Panel discussion members included **Paul Sanford** and **Bill Hodge** of The Wilderness Society, **Ben Pendergrass** of the American Horse Council, and USFS Region 8 Trails Program Manager **Deb Caffin**.

Officers elected were Chairman **Jim McGarvey**, GA; Vice Chair **Don Saner**, WY; Treasurer **Freddy Dunn**, UT; Executive Committee Non Direc-

tor Position **Alan Hill**, CA (Ken Ausk MT serving second year); Director Positions **Darrell Wallace**, WA and **Roy Cornett**, KY (**Chuck Miller** MT serving second year).

*News as its Happening*

For the past year, the BCHA and The Wilderness Society have been working on a response to the GAO Forest Service Trails Maintenance Backlog Study. The work reached a milestone on Tuesday June 17th. **Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)** and **Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN)** introduced HR 4886 The National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. The Act would keep more trails across the nation open and accessible by expanding the use of volunteer and partner organizations and providing increased focus on a handful of priority areas around the country. Please see our website to follow and participate in this action. We need members of Congress to sign on to and support this bill. If you have contacts or make contact with members of Congress or staff, please inform Public Lands Recreation Advisor Randy Rasmussen so he can track our efforts.

*Kern Valley*  
**VETERINARY  
 CLINIC**

Ann Lange &  
 Detlev Lange, DVM

**760-378-2486**

## BCH WA Packing for PCTA

[from front page]

them dry. The fog was so thick that the returning crew was sent ahead to warn oncoming hikers of the descending stock. The third re-supply to the base-camp was a soaker. Heavy rain for two days had washed out some of the water crossings on the Snowgrass Trail. The final pack out was a blessing – beautiful September weather for a scenic ride in the high mountains. Mother Nature rewarded the packers who volunteered their time and trail stock to assist PCTA on a month-long trail project in a remote area of wilderness.

Final PCTA projects for 2013 in the Goat Rocks Wilderness were two work parties staged out of Walupt Lake Trailhead. Cargo and tools for two crews were packed to Short Camp and Sheep Lake via Walupt Lake Trail and Nan-

nie Ridge Trail. A packer from Mount St. Helens assisted the Lewis County Chapter's packers to get the trail crews in place for their weeklong work on the trail. Both trail crews were packed out of the wilderness just before winter blanketed the mountains.

Packing for PCTA is a textbook example of successful BCH partnerships with trail advocacy organizations to accomplish the common goals of keeping trail open for the public. Many wilderness trails are often not properly maintained because of their remote location. Trail crews, with the assistance of pack stock, can access distant worksites and spend the necessary time to maintain trails in the wilderness.

Submitted by "Doc" Wesselius

# 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

2014	
TBA	BCHA/The Wilderness Society Planning Meeting
September 17	The Wilderness Society's Commemorative Dinner Celebration of the Wilderness Act's Golden Anniversary
October 14-19	National Wilderness Conference Albuquerque NM
December 4-7	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Hunter Christmas Expo - Las Vegas NV (BCH booth)
2015	
April 22-25	BCHA National Board Meeting - CA
May 17-20	American Trails International Trails Symposium - Portland OR (BCHA will have a booth)
2016	
April 20-23	BCHA National Board Meeting - NV

## Index of Sponsors

American Endurance Ride Conference.....	11
Back Country Store .....	9
Bear Country Containers.....	9
Canyon Country Books.....	7
Chris Tornow Saddlemaker .....	5
Kern Valley Veterinary Clinic .....	3
Kinsey Horsemanship.....	7
Riding Warehouse .....	8
Outfitters Supply .....	11
Trailhead Supply.....	9

Check out  
[www.BackCountryHorse.com](http://www.BackCountryHorse.com)  
 for more advertisers!!

# On the Trail with the TrailMeister - Fear on the Trail

Greetings and salutations! It's a privilege to be able to share my trail musings and thoughts with you in this new BCHA newsletter column, On the Trail with the TrailMeister.

For this first go 'round I think a brief introduction is in order. I'm Robert Eversole, a BCHA member from the Evergreen State of Washington. During the past six years I've had the privilege of having served my BCHW members in various capacities including chapter director and assistant state treasurer. When I'm not on the trail I can usually be found writing about riding or teaching riders how to be safe on the trail. You may have seen my regular columns in national magazines such as Trail Blazer, and Western Mule, as well as a slew of regional periodicals. Or we may have chatted in person during my seminars on back country navigation or lightweight horse camping at BCH gatherings in Washington, Oregon, California, or Montana, as well as the Midwest Horse Fair in Wisconsin.

Because keeping trails open to riding and pack stock is important, I operate the largest horse and mule trail riding and camping directory in the US, [www.TrailMeister.com](http://www.TrailMeister.com), to get more riders out of the arena and on the trails. The more that they're used the more likely trails are to remain open and maintained. TrailMeister.com is proud to be the official BCHA trail directory. Prior to TrailMeister I served as a U.S. Marine, followed by a stint as a commercial banker (I've since reformed), and a member of a mounted search and

rescue team.

Lastly, in my spare time I'm a registered PATH International instructor where I teach equitation to individuals with physical and cognitive challenges.

And that was more than enough "I's. This column is about WE as Backcountry Horsemen and those topics that affect us. One such topic that I regularly encounter is fear. If you ride you've experienced fear. Whether on the trails or in an arena the potential for a problem is quite real. Rather than try to push this trepidation aside let's instead find ways to understand and minimize the inherent dangers that our equestrian activities present. By mentally preparing ourselves the challenges of venturing into the mountains and valleys of the backcountry become much less daunting.

A common fear that we have all felt at one time or another is the fear of falling. From the back of our horse the earth looks pretty far away and a rapid descent is the potential outcome of any problem we encounter. If we can learn to control this very valid fear we'll be better able to enjoy the ride. Here are a few tips that I use to help control the "fear factor" when the going gets tricky.

It may seem counterintuitive, but spend a moment thinking about dismounting. We've all felt the sensation of losing our seat so thoroughly that we're coming off the beast. It's a matter of when, not if (hopefully, your when happened long ago when you were still

young and flexible.). Rather than wait for the proverbial "train wreck" consider taking control of the fall and learning how to perform an emergency dismount. Find a good trainer, and a soft patch of ground, to help you learn this maneuver in a controlled situation.

Relax. Yes, this is much easier said than done. When you're tense your riding suffers and it feels even more frightening. Rather than clinching the stirrups with your toes, try wiggling them. If you can get your body to relax it will help you feel more relaxed emotionally as well.

Breathe. When you're anxious, you unconsciously hold your breath. To start breathing regularly, try talking or singing; when I get nervous and tense I often sing (You'll often hear me singing when pulling a pack string). You may not win a Tony, but you will feel much better.

Balance. When you're edgy, you have a tendency to lean forward into a fetal position. Fight this by sitting up straight and deep in the saddle, putting your shoulders back (I tell my students to sit tall like a Marine). Try this and you'll feel how much easier it is to breathe, and sing, and relax.

And finally find something to focus on that's positive. Put a smile on, think about what a great day it is, how much fun it is to ride with your favorite trail buddy, and what great things we're doing to keep the trails open to riders just like you and me.

Thank you for hanging out with me, and remember to enjoy the ride!

# Legacy Management for the future of Back Country Horsemen!

By Ed Haefliger

The key to success in our world, past and present, has always been knowledge. There are individuals in the Back Country Horsemen (BCH) who have constantly offered up their learned skills to others in the hope that it would make other riders' experience in the back country safer and more rewarding. This sharing is the basis for what I like to call Legacy Leadership at Work! I believe that BCH has already, within its membership, all of the resources it needs to guarantee its success far into the future. But I believe that this legacy must be nurtured through encouragement and thoughtful management.

In my time, the norm was an effort to capture the attention of the youth while they are still forming opinions and beliefs, in order to encourage their participation in the future. That has reasonable merit. But we will never see the dividends of our investment of this time for years into the future – only after these now junior members have grown to middle age and after their young families have grown. Usually it is during this phase of life that they can afford such an expensive hobby as horses or mules. I believe that the investment in youth will bloom in time, but what about the 25 or so years in between? How can we see the membership of this meaningful organization grow, as it must, to survive?

I have given this a lot of thought and concluded that the best way to achieve this is to advertise our product (our mission statement) as a free loss-leader through gifts of knowledge! I believe in the saying "if you build it, they will come." I believe there are thousands of people that would like to know how to ride and pack in the back country. So what is stopping them? It may be the lack of knowledge that would build confidence; that in turn would fuel imagi-

nation and courage to try going on their own. This is where the BCH can come in, with an offer of such a gift as the foundation knowledge, for the interested individuals to formulate their own skills to venture out with a level of confidence safely on their own.

This, in my experience, requires a greater effort than simple ego-based demonstrations of said skills, but instead, educational based classes. The greatest reason for this effort is because we are dealing with a mature student with many years of life experiences. The demonstration type of program will not satisfy the reason they attend such a program. Classes must be structured, preplanned, and organized down to the last detail – the same as we would expect from any formal type of adult education.

Where do we find the kind of personnel to develop or man such a program? From our existing membership is the best place to look. We have on our membership rolls, professional teachers, professors, and vocational trainers. We have hundreds of past students who sat through numerous hours of lecture and lab classes and know what teaching skills they enjoyed. A teach-the-teacher program tapping the professionals in our midst, concentrating on the basics for a classroom presentation, will broaden the base for such a program. We need to better understand what to include such as lesson plans, all of the tooling and resource materials needed, site lay out, and student comfort. The accompanying photos are of a pack saddle adjusting workshop, involving a horse or mule tied into cross ties.

The photos provide an example of what the future tooling for the longevity of the BCH could look like. Such



Top: Members of BCHW at a pack saddle fitting workshop, adjusting the fit of a pack saddle that bridged (contacting on the ends without any contact in the middle).

Bottom: In this photo is shown the workstation with the necessary items and material to map a horse or mule's back prior to shaping the pack saddle tree.

activities need to be locally advertised and promoted. There is no reason that, without some planned effort, the BCH could not be known in the horse community as the go-to organization for education in trail riding and use of the trails in the back country! This will naturally increase our membership and at the same time it will put more hoof prints on the trails declaring; "we use this trail and we are here to stay!"

## The Great Divide

By Pat Buls for Tom Bryant,  
Copyright August, 2014

He's gone back to where he belongs now,  
In town here he always felt strange.  
The twinkle is back in his eye now,  
The cowboy is back on the range.

His horses and dogs are his family,  
He reckons them good company.  
The ranchin' life makes him feel manly,  
And that's really all that he needs.

There's no use to try an' dissuade him.  
It's somethin' like hobos and trains...  
He only feels free and alive when  
He's ridin' out there on the range.

And now he's gone on to green pastures  
He's no longer sufferin' the drought.  
There'll be no more chasin' the water,  
Nor waitin' the hot summer out.

He's ridin' back up to high country,  
He's topped out on that Great Divide~  
And I'm lookin' forward to someday  
When I ride once again by his side.



## From the Secretary's Desk



By Peg Greiwe, Executive Secretary

Dear friends,

I am grateful to the wonderful volunteers who made the National Board Meeting a huge success. On behalf of the national directors and everyone who enjoyed the Southern hospitality, thank you!!

Following is a list of the volunteers who made all the "fun" possible. This is the largest group of volunteers we have ever had for a National Board Meeting.

### CHAIRMEN

Joanne & Bobby Mitchell

### LOCAL

Karen Isaacs  
Jessee Johnson  
Carol Martel  
Tom Conner  
Lynn Walsh  
Jerry Fenstermaker  
Janice Butt

### REGISTRATION

Karen Saner, WY  
Karen Parks, ID  
Renee Bechen, SD

### EAST MEETS WEST BBQ

Cindy & Jim McGarvey  
Katie & Jason Barkwell  
Shelly & Steve

John Schoewe  
Debby Allen  
Nelli Lucas  
Lanice & Holly Potter  
Lynne & Rob Newton  
John Proper  
Martha Fillingham  
Dawn Cochran  
Lakota Towe  
Kelly Locke  
Colton Cochran  
Heather Fillingham  
Melinda & Bob Wagner

### BCH GEORGIA BATTLEFIELD RIDE

Cindy McGarvey  
North GA Chapter  
Kathleen Corcoran  
Martha Fillingham  
Heather Fillingham  
Dewey Campbell  
Carol Martel  
Hanley Rose  
Carolyn Tournyiere  
Susan & Bruce Shedd  
Nanci Tarrant  
Debbie Kraemer  
NW GA Chapter  
Larry Wheat  
Anthony Emanuel  
Nancy Searles  
Jim McGarvey  
Middle & South GA Chapter  
Randy Brown  
BCH KY  
Edith Conyers  
Roy Cornett

### BCH WY

Karen Saner  
Friends Lynne & Rob Newton  
Historians  
Rick Manion  
Grant Mosley  
Bob Fugate

See you on the trails,  
Peg

## In Memory of Thomas Allen Bryant

By Pat Buls

Georgia-born Tom Bryant grew up farming with horses and mules. He liked to say, "as soon as I got my bearings and long britches I got the hell out of Georgia and never went back."

After eight years in the Army where he was a Drill Instructor, Tom moved to Montana and a short while later graduated from the University of Montana with a BS in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. For ten years he was Recreation Director of Missoula's Parks and Recreation Department. Tom wrote a weekly column on outdoor recreation and had a daily radio show and a weekly TV series on that subject.

But the horse thing never left him and in 1981 he resigned his day job and went cowboyin'. In 1985 a horse fell with Tom and laid him up. That winter, while recovering, he began to write down stories he'd heard from ranchers and cowboys. Western Horseman bought one of the stories and Tom was off on a writing career. He started a quarterly magazine. In 1986 he authored a youth educational coloring book called Cowboys, America's Number One Hero. In 1989 he co-authored A Taste of Ranching, and in 1994, A Taste of Texas Ranching.

Tom moved to New Mexico in 1996 and began work on a novel about a wild horse. He was also working on a third book about cowboys and cooks, and wrote the script for a series of radio shows based on those cookbooks. He published his memoirs, 50 Years Handlin' Horses, and 20 Years Doin' Without in 2013.

Tom's greatest love was packing into the wilderness on horseback and he did plenty of it during his thirty years in Montana. He was dedicated to helping other horsemen learn those packing skills and he did that with the BCHA for over 40 years. He helped get many chapters started and helped preserve many a trail.

To me he was something of a legend. Webster defines a legend as "a notable person, or the stories told about his exploits."

There's no doubt that many, many stories have been told about Tom's exploits – besides the ones he told.

Notable? He really worked on being true to his heart.

His philosophy was that of Henry David Thoreau: "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

He was not influenced by popular belief, politics, greed or ambition.

He listened to his heart.

He listened to the earth and the sky.

He listened to God through them, and he lived by what he heard.

He worked tirelessly to preserve the wild places, and the trails that lead us there, so that we could all meet with God, and listen to our hearts.

## National Finals Rodeo Dec. 4-7, 2014

For those who might be going to the National Finals Rodeo, come by and help out at the BCHA booth at Hunter's Christmas. This will be a good time to visit with horsemen from all over the U.S. and inform them about what BCHA is doing for them and sign up some new members.

Contact me if you can be there. I also have some Rodeo tickets available.

Dennis M Serpa dmserpa@velociter.net  
209-531-5175

For more information go to YouTube and search for 2014 RMEF Hunter Christmas Expo.

Hunter Christmas will be in the Central Halls of the LVCC, adjacent to the popular Cowboy Christmas Gift Show and Cowboy Fan Fest. In 2013 Cowboy Christmas and Cowboy Fan Fest welcomed more than 196,000 attendees!



Deckers, Sawbucks, adjustable pack saddles, panniers, alforjas bags, saddle accessories, and much more!

*Specializing in Equipment for the*  
**THE BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN**  
Call Toll Free +1 800-435-9744  
visit: [horseandmulegear.com](http://horseandmulegear.com)

# The Catch Pen

## Cabinet Unit BCH MT

Recently, the Cabinet Unit of the BCH of Montana began a project of building two drive-through overnight camp spots for travelers with horses. The campsites will offer 20X40 pipe corrals with feeders. The sites are being constructed at the Pleasant Valley Campground on Hwy 2 in Northwest Montana about 30 miles south of the town of Libby. This project was possible through cooperation of the BCH and the USFS through a RAC grant.

We hope to have the camp spots open and available by late July.

Submitted by Jeff Nisbet



## Iron Mountain BCH VA Install Mailbox

## High Sierra BCH Mini Mascot "Oliver the Packing Pony" Ropes in New Members

It began innocently enough with mini pony Oliver and his trusty sidekick BCHNV Vice President Jim Drago volunteering at the Mendive Middle School career fair. At the school fair, Oliver and Jim promoted not only the mission of BCHA but also informed students about Jim's second career as a barefoot horse farrier. Students herded around the "My Little Pony" superstar and that's when the idea was born. Why not use Oliver as our official recruitment mascot?

Oliver and Jim began making guest appearances at all of our local chapter events, most notably the televised delivery of food items for our local food bank at the annual Christmas food drive. Members of our club delivered 325 pounds of food by pack string. Oliver was in the lead with bells on, mini panniers and, of course, a Santa hat.

At the annual Washoe County 4-H horse club's tack sale, Oliver was a hit with children and parents alike. Attendees gathered around our little superstar for pictures and left with BCH and LNT information packets, as well as membership applications. Due to Oliver's stardom, we recruited two new family memberships at the event!

Our chapter's annual 4-H mini-pack clinic soon followed with Oliver's mini-packing station attracting repeat visitors. Jim, club President Ed Acosta, and member Jerry Williams designed their packing demonstration with the 4-H'ers in mind. Due to Oliver's short

stature, the mini-packers were able to easily throw a diamond hitch over Oliver's pack and could easily practice knots and hitches at their level.

Other educational stations included the U.S. Forest Service LNT Workshop put on by Ranger Lucas Nugent. Jeb from the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Program talked about why wild mustangs make awesome trail horses. Oliver's personal favorite station was what to take on a day ride. Oliver's job was to sample the horse treats included in the saddle pack!

Oliver's most recent appearance was at the annual Spring Horse Expo hosted by Comstock Animal Hospital. Our dedicated members put on a full-size packing demo, introducing horse owners of all persuasions to the mission of BCH, and how to safely and responsibly enjoy and explore America's beautiful back country on horseback.

You are all invited to Oliver's next appearance at our local Fiftieth Birthday Party for the Wilderness Act. Oliver will lead a hike with our partners



Oliver and Jim deliver food for Christmas food drive.



New for trail enthusiasts at the Ivanhoe Show Grounds/Campground on the New River is a mailbox holding the Wythe County Trail Maps. The box was put up by IMBCH to hold the new, beautiful 18x32 full color trail maps recently released by the Wythe County Tourism committee. The best news is that they are FREE. The map details the trails, trailheads and even elevation. The Ivanhoe Horse Show grounds are on the New River trail and is the crossroads of it (57 miles) and the Virginia Highlands Horse trail (86 miles).

IMBCH gathered in May to do trail maintenance on area trails and enjoy a weekend of camping. Pictured (l to r) are Mr. Stephenson, Gina Hagsis, Diane Cherry, and Sandy Stephenson at the new installation.

Iron Mountain BCH is the southwest Virginia advocacy/trail maintenance group that puts in many hundreds of volunteer hours yearly to help the forest service maintain multi-use trails. For information about IMBCH visit [www.ironmountainbch.org](http://www.ironmountainbch.org) or find us on Facebook.

Submitted by Linda Meyer

## Iron Mountain BCH VA Trail Work Day

On May 31, the Iron Mountain BCH (IMBCH) and the Eastern Divide BCH groups of Virginia teamed up for a National Trails Day project in the eastern end of the Mount Rogers National Recreational Area. Fourteen members on foot and four on horseback with a packhorse set out to make repairs. We repaired a switchback on the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail that had become washed out and dangerous and cleared deadfall from six miles of trail. The group included ranger Stephen Hmuriaciak from the USFS and two American Endurance Ride Conference certified trail masters – Nancy Sluys and Gina Hagsis – to advise in the best way to solve the problems on the trail. In five hours the group widened and repaired several hundred yards of trail tread and

reworked the switchback. A tree was cut to form cribbing which was filled with rock and soil to form a sturdy and wider trail bed making the dangerous area much safer. All work was done by hand using trail tools and a chain saw.

The IMBCH is a volunteer trail advocacy group that was formed in 2009 to maintain the trails in the Mount Rogers National Recreational Area. The USFS no longer has the money or man power to keep the trails in good shape, so it's up to individuals and groups like us to step up and volunteer to keep the trails safe and clear. The IMBCH organizes trail workdays, fun trail rides and other events and is actively seeking new members and encourages people to visit their web site at <http://www.ironmountainbch.org>.



The IMBCH along with the Eastern Divide BCH, from Blacksburg, will be holding a membership drive and fund raising event on the weekend of October 10-12 at the Ivanhoe Horse Show Grounds on the New River in Ivanhoe. The event is the New River Rendezvous and features trail riding, cowboy

challenge obstacle practice and trail challenge, food, and music. The event has a Facebook page and additional information is available on the IMBCH web site.

Submitted by Nancy Sluys, Photo by Becky Pearman

# The Catch Pen

## San Rafael BCH of UT

The first equestrian campground in Utah on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land was recently completed. The campground is in the beautiful and remote, but easily accessed Buckhorn Draw in the San Rafael Swell adjacent to the San Rafael River. Thirty miles from the nearest community, its location provides views of towering cliffs to the north and the iconic landmarks Window Blind and Assemble Hall Peaks to the south.

The original campground is on the south side of the river and the BLM expanded it to the north side of the river in 2002. This expansion took over an area heavily used by equestrians because of the shade provided by cottonwood trees. BLM prohibited horses in the campground but planned to provide a corral nearby for horse users in the future. In 2009, the San Rafael Back Country Horsemen (SRBCH) contacted the Price BLM with an offer to help them apply for funds and build the proposed corrals. Funds came from several sources – the State Recreational Trails grant, the BCHA Education Fund grant, Emery County, the BLM, and the SRBCH. SRBCH members agreed to provide welding equipment and expertise, plus manpower to construct the corrals. Work began in 2012.

In the spring of 2012, Emery County contributed several days of heavy equipment work, as well as many yards of road base to construct improved access, road, and parking for the campsites. In March 2012 SRBCH assisted with the construction of the campsites by moving soil, building several hundred feet of post and rail barriers, constructing pipe tie rails, and cementing in metal poles for the corrals at each



Above: Dale Ken welding.  
Below: Finished first site Equestrian Camp.



campsite. In December of 2012 the SRBCH set the posts in concrete, just before a snowstorm blanketed the area. The BLM graveled the five campsites and outfitted the sites with picnic tables and fire rings. SRBCH members and BLM staff returned twice in 2013 (spring and fall) and a final time in April 2014 to finish construction and welding of the five horse camp sites, the group corral, and the vault toilets.

SRBCH members are very proud of their contribution to a designated place to camp that encourages visitors to stay awhile and explore. The desert solitude and magnificent landscape is awe-inspiring. A number of nearby

trails follow the river or carry the rider off into the canyons of the Sids Mountain and Mexican Mountain Wilderness Study Areas, where Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch took refuge from the law. For more information go to [www.bchu.com](http://www.bchu.com) and click on the San Rafael Chapter link.

Submitted by  
SRBCH Secretary Priscilla Burton

## Grand Mesa BCH CO Safety Clinic

For the past three years in Grand Junction, the Grand Mesa BCH (GM-BCH) have hosted a clinic with 36-year veteran mounted police officer Ted Holland. Each year 10-15 riders and their equines get to spend two days going through a clinic that focuses on safety, de-spooking exercises, and a little thing called FUN!

To people outside of the equine world, the idea of paying to doing scary things on your horse might seem a bit odd. But to many local riders it provides a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the bond between horse and rider in a safe environment. Knowing how you handle scary things, how your horse or mule handles scary things, and how the two of you handle scary things together is a very important part of riding. Ted said, "Another main goal of the clinic is to give the people confidence in their riding skills. And the biggest thing I want people to learn is how to gain respect of their mounts."

Obstacle courses and de-spooking are done in a low-key environment. Riders have the option to not do an obstacle or take a time out. Ted, Cindy, and members of the GMBCH are there to help. This clinic is hopefully going to continue as an annual event. Each year Ted and his wife Cindy present a clinic with different obstacles and challenges. Day one starts off with introduc-

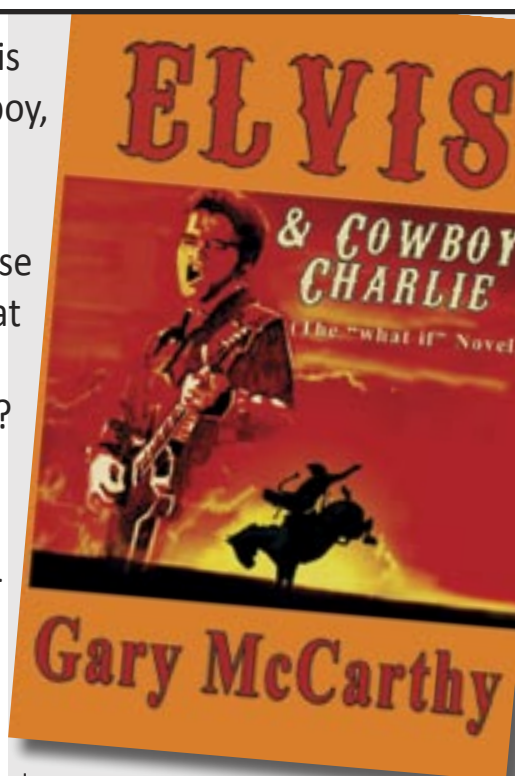


tions and groundwork. It progresses to saddling and working on the obstacles while mounted. Obstacles and scary objects include flags, a 72-inch diameter ball for the horses to push around, having small balls and Frisbees thrown at you, a car wash, pool noodles, dragging a noisy tarp, or getting shot at with silly string from a can.

Day two of the clinic usually starts off with some bareback riding and confidence building. For many riders this is the first time they have done any sort of bareback exercises with their horses. After lunch the clinic culminates to the

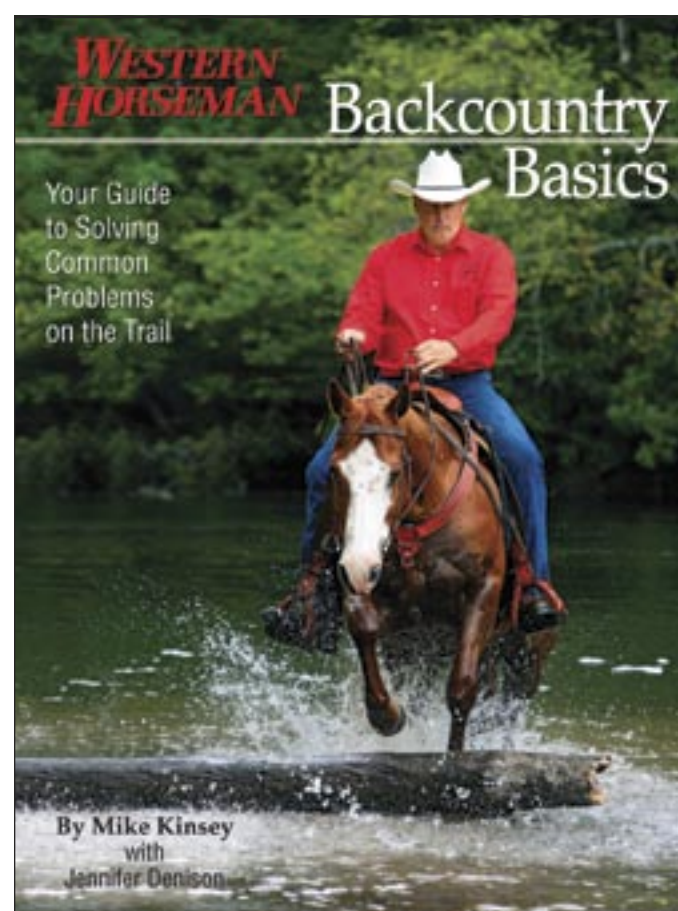
ultimate de-spook exercise: trailering to a local truck stop and taking a horseback ride through town. Challenges include the noisy truck stop, crossing a highway overpass, going through the town square, passing the local middle school, and other things you might encounter on a ride in a busy small town. Sometimes the end of the ride includes a ride up to and through the local McDonald's for some apples and a drink.

Because of the GM-BCH, local riders are able to learn and grow together in a fun, safe and supportive environment. Many of the participants remark on how the GMBCH and this clinic allow them to feel safe, secure, and in the company of new friends. Clinic organizer Katey Kelly was most impressed "...to see how supportive everyone was of each other. Every person and every horse or mule has a different background and set of skills. What seems to be the simplest task can



What if, in 1972, Elvis had met a real cowboy, his beautiful barrel-racing sister and Cowboy Charlie's wise Hopi Grandmother at an All-Indian Rodeo at Winslow, Arizona?

Written by Western Writers of America multiple Spur Award winning author Gary McCarthy. \$14.95 each with free S & H. Send payment to: Canyon Country Books, P.O. Box 161, Williams, AZ 86046. See more great western and historical Gary McCarthy trade paperbacks or e-books on Amazon or at: [www.CanyonCountryBooks.com](http://www.CanyonCountryBooks.com)



**StartemRight.com**

**Your horse is speaking ...  
are you listening?**

Tune ups based on  
your Horse's Behavioral Needs  
Clinics & Consulting,  
**55 years of Behavioral Diagnostics  
& Training**

**Kinsey Horsemanship  
126 Docheno Road  
Belton, South Carolina 29627**

**(864) 933-6713 (EST)  
info@startemright.com**

be the hardest or spookiest." After the 2013 clinic Katey summed up the clinic experience, "It will challenge you to go outside of your comfort zone but will result in a new level of trust and confidence in both the rider and horse/mule making for a stronger partnership."

Submitted by Jill Henneberg

Fall Sponsorship Deadline:  
September 5, 2014

## BCHA Newsletter Media Kit

Our BCHA newsletter is read by passionate trail riders, saddle and pack stock owners, avid back country packers and others who have an investment in saddle and pack stock. We serve over 14,300 members nationwide who belong to 180 active chapters/units and affiliates in 26 states.

Visit [www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com) for more information on BCHA.

### Display Sponsorship Rates

Newsletter Ad Size *Single Issue*

#### One column wide (W x H)

2.5 inches x 2.5 inches..... \$55  
2.5 inches x 5 inches..... \$95  
2.5 inches x 10 inches..... \$135

#### Two columns wide (W x H)

5 inches x 2.5 inches..... \$95  
5 inches x 5 inches..... \$135  
5 inches x 10 inches..... \$235

#### Half page (W x H)

5.25 inches x 15 inches (vertical)..... \$365  
10.5 inches x 7.5 inches (horizontal).... \$365

#### Full page (W x H)

10.5 inches x 15 inches..... \$720

#### Deborah's specials

2.5 x 15 full right column..... \$175  
10.5 x 3.5 full width,  
across bottom of page..... \$175

**20% bonus for sponsorships in four issues** (one year). All prices are for black and white ads. Ask about full color prices.

BCHA reserves the right to refuse advertising space to any person or company. All ads must be paid for before inserting in the newsletter. The 4-issue package must be paid at time of first insertion.

### Mechanical Requirements:

Artwork is accepted in these formats: Adobe Acrobat PDF, Photoshop JPG saved for PC 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) 892-0200 or [deborah.bcha@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.bcha@gmail.com).

**Annual subscriptions for non-members are available by sending your name, address and \$45 to:**

BCHA  
PO Box 1367  
Graham WA 98338-1367  
or [www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com)

### Subscription or Address Corrections to:

Peg Greiwe, Executive Secretary BCHA  
Phone: (888) 893-5161  
Fax: 360-832-1564  
E-mail: [peg@backcountryhorse.com](mailto:peg@backcountryhorse.com)

### Managing Editor

Sherry Jennings  
PO Box 305  
East Olympia WA 98540-0305  
E-mail: [BCHAEditor@comcast.net](mailto:BCHAEditor@comcast.net)

### Design, Layout and Sponsorship Director

Deborah Schatz  
4720 Trumble Creek Road  
Columbia Falls MT 59912  
(406) 892-0200  
E-mail: [deborah.bcha@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.bcha@gmail.com)

### Printing

Eagle Web Press  
4901 Indian School Rd. NE  
Salem OR 97305

# National Board Meeting Reports

## Double Diamond Award Received by The Black Hills BCH of SD

BCHA awarded the Black Hills BCH of South Dakota (BH BCH SD) the prestigious Double Diamond award during the 2014 National BCHA meeting in Chattanooga, TN. The Double Diamond award recognizes volunteer projects that benefit the general public on public lands. BCHA has 174 chapters in 27 states with over 13,000 members. BCHA's overall goal is to assist on public land projects that may include trail maintenance, trail construction, and educational programs. The BH BCH SD chapter submitted an award application based upon a cooperative U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Black Hills National Forest project completed during September 9-13, 2013. Black Hills National Forest personnel aptly named the project the Harney Peak Preservation Project. The BH BCH SD assisted USFS Glen Ryan – R 2 Lead Packer with his mule pack string and additional forest service personnel on this Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) Project.

The USFS-BHNF proposed redoing structural work to the famous Harney Peak Lookout Tower. Years of weather damage, vandalism and tourist use had taken its toll on the National Historic structure. The Harney Peak Lookout Tower was missing windows allowing weather to erode and wear the structure's interior. Numerous original structural stones to the steps and tower were also missing on the structure's exterior. USFS archeologists and Wil-



The Black Hills BCH of South Dakota accepting the award: Jim Allen, Doug Bechen and Renee Bechen and Rod Parks.

derness personnel initiated planning a project in order to return the Lookout Tower to some of its original state. It was proposed that windows could be re-installed in the lower structure while also locating and replacing the stones that had been removed due to weather, vandalism, and other events.

Planning and coordinating a project of this magnitude is a challenge. A crew of USFS personnel (fire, wilderness, R2 packstring and archeology), volunteers from hiking groups, local masons, carpenters, and BH BCH SD members assembled to help during the

week of September 9-13, 2014 on the project. Volunteers and USFS personnel gathered at Willow Creek Horse Camp or Harney Peak Lookout to assist with the endeavors of the project. It was an arduous undertaking to coordinate personnel plus livestock to initiate this project.

BH BCH SD's Harney Peak Preservation project was selected out of five projects submitted by BCHA chapters from CA and CO. Renee Bechen, public relations officer for the BH BCH SD, accepted a plaque recognizing the Double Diamond award.

## Kansas – The Link Between East And West – BCHA

By Steve Lindsey, National Representative for Kansas

With the addition of Kansas to BCHA, our organization now spans east coast to west coast. At the 2014 annual meeting, Kansas was accepted as the 27th state member. The idea for Kansas to join with BCHA began in late summer of 2013. Steve and Priscilla Lindsey worked in trail establishment and management on their own for over 30 years. They met with the frustration and reward of working with various state, local and federal agencies. Learning of the principles of BCHA, they decided it might be a good match to pursue the backing and experience of an established organization. However, they were totally unaware of the extensive resources and framework already in place in the BCHA.

The Lindseys sent emails to many of their friends and associates in the state and asked for interested people to meet at the beautiful Kanopolis State Park trails. Nearly 40 met for a short trail ride and an evening burger fry. Then, the principles and purpose of BCHA were discussed and how it could be beneficial to Kansas. Kansas does not have what is traditionally considered back country. We have a National Forest in the Cimarron National Grassland in the far southwest corner of the state. We do not have national parks, BOR, or BLM public lands. However, Kansas has 20+ Corps of Engineer lakes and many state parks that have thousands of acres of public lands. The group decided that it would be good to join up with BCHA and adopted a draft for a charter and bylaws.

Sherry Copeland from Missouri was a tremendous resource to develop our organizational documents. Sherry and her mother Marsha Copeland, charter member of Missouri BCH, came to Kansas and spent several days with us at the Kansas Equifest. We had not formed officially, but had a booth at this statewide horse fair and sought to publicize our efforts and secure additional members. Suddenly, we were approaching the 40-member status. BCHA Executive Secretary Peg Greiwe and Expansion Chairman Freddy Dunn helped correct our bylaws and we were ready to proceed.

In early March, Kansas met as a group for their first annual meeting. Officers were elected, committees were formed, regions delineated, and work began. We were fortunate to have Freddy Dunn attend our first meeting and lead us through this organizational period. Kansas is somewhat unique in that Kansas is also the chapter. The state is divided into six regions with representatives elected for each region. Those regions are our "mini-chapters" and work through and with the state leaders to accomplish our goals. Kansas's population is skewed to the eastern 1/3 of the state, so the western population is often neglected. We decided early on

to work with regions to avoid neglecting any part of the state. Our fledgling organization also works closely with the Kansas Horse Council and has received valuable assistance from that organization.

We elected our national representatives and were fortunate that they could attend the BCHA Annual Meeting in Chattanooga. This was a tremendous building block to our organization. We were able to meet the "cogs in the wheel" – the people who really get things done. We met and befriended representatives from all over America, learned of common concern, learned how obstacles can be removed or tolerated, observed the cooperation between states and chapters, participated in discussions, and watched the crowdfunding from the ground up—all this was extremely valuable. And, one experience not to be forgotten: riding Bob, the gaited mule, through a Civil War battleground national park!

Kansas is unique among the many states, but yet so much the same in problems, goals and resources. We hope we can prove to be as valuable a resource to BCHA as it has been to Kansas. Time will certainly tell. In the meantime, THANK YOU, BCHA, for letting us tag along.





## BCHA Volunteer Contribution

By Larry Zauberis, BCHA Volunteer Hours Committee Chairman

At the national board meeting in Chattanooga, I was happy to report the value of the BCHA's volunteer efforts across the country in 2013 was almost \$14M. This is an increase of more than \$1.4M over that reported for 2012.

Part of the increase was due to an increase in the per hour rate for basic and skilled labor which the committee approved. The basic skilled rate set at \$22.55 per hour from the value of volunteer time stated on the Independent Sector website ([www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)) and the skilled labor rate is 1 1/2 times the basic rate.

While this increase in the value of our national effort is certainly admirable, my interaction with the volunteer hours coordinators in the state organizations leads me to believe we are still underreporting the true value of our volunteer service on public lands.

We all realize that it will take volunteers to aid the agencies in the effort to reduce the trail maintenance backlog in the public domain. BCHA members are more than willing to volunteer their time, resources, and energy to the maintenance of the trails in the National Parks, the National Forests, the BLM public lands, and Wilderness Areas we hold dear.

However, they seem to be less interested in taking the time to report the full extent of their efforts. In many of

the reports I have received for the past year I see where only basic work hours were reported. I am sure that along with the hours working on a trail project there were other associated expenses and time that were not reported, such as:

- The travel time and mileage getting to the trail head and back home
- The skilled labor time of the a sawyer required on almost every trail project
- The equipment hours using a chainsaw that probably belonged to a member
- The pack and saddle stock used on the project (report stock days)
- The skilled labor of the member who packed in the supplies or equipment for the project
- The stock hauling mileage put on a members rig getting stock to the trailhead

The Volunteer Hours committee has posted a useful Excel workbook for reporting and detailed guidelines for volunteer hours reporting which can be downloaded from the BCHA website <http://www.backcountryhorse.com/get-involved/volunteering/hours>.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the reporting of volunteer service on public lands (Larry Zauberis, [lczaub@gmail.com](mailto:lczaub@gmail.com), 970-247-3231).

## Back Country Horsemen of America Legacy Award

By Rod Parks

The Legacy Award was developed to honor BCHA men and women who have volunteered and worked hard over many years to further the BCHA mission. It is meant to recognize service over an extended period of time – not a single instance. Neither was it to be an award that is presented annually. There are individuals that BCHA should recognize as members who have significantly contributed to accomplishing the objectives set out in the BCHA mission and preserving our equine heritage.

BCH of Montana felt they had such a person and presented a nomination to the Volunteer Hours Committee of BCHA. The committee is honored to present the BCHA Legacy Award to Arnold "Smoke" Elser of Montana.

Smoke arrived in Montana from Ohio in 1955, and after graduating from the University of Montana with a Bachelor's degree in Range Management and Secondary Education, he started his life's work in the outdoors.

Elser has taught horse and mule packing at the University of Montana since 1964 and more than 3,000 students have taken his courses. In 1980 Smoke began teaching packing clinics through the USFS Nine Mile Wild lands Training Center. His students have included Navy Seals, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state game wardens, FBI agents, as well as the U.S. Border Patrol.

He has been a wilderness Outfitter and Guide for over 45 years. During this time he has practiced the art of "Light on the Land" equine use. As a certified NOLS "Master of Leave no Trace" instructor he has set the standard for private, public and Government Agencies. Smoke is a member emeritus of the advisory board for the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of

Montana, and has co-authored the well-known and used book "Packing in on Horses and Mules".

Mr. Elser has had a hand in forming Back Country Horsemen and as Ken Ausk noted, "After forming BCHA in the winter of 1973, we had a van load of guys from Missoula join us at a summer meeting to find out more about what we were doing. He had seen an article about us in the newspaper, organized some friends and had hauled them up to Columbia Falls. He did this frequently whenever there was a meeting about Wilderness, land management, or anything related to conservation, and responsible use of horses on public lands. He had a genuine love of horses as well as a genuine Wilderness ethic and realized horsemen had no one representing them on usage of public lands."

These meetings eventually resulted in the formation of the Missoula BCH and the inclusion of the Salmon Idaho BCH, with the Bitter Root Chapter in 1979, culminating in BCHA. Later Washington and California joined.

Smoke has been the lead Liaison between the Region 1 USFS and Montana BCH, and is well known to the many USFS personnel that went onto Washington DC as the Chief and their Directors.

It is fitting that with all the history of support and participation in Back Country Horsemen, that Smoke Elser receives a Back Country Horsemen of America Legacy Award.

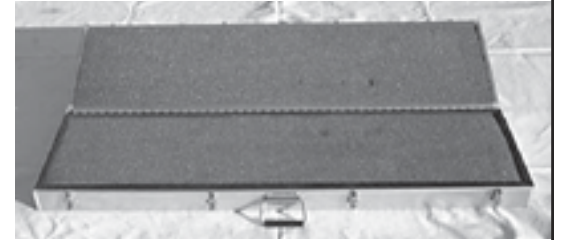


## Bear Country Containers

SIBBG (CA) approved and IGBC certified bear resistant aluminum PACK PANNIERS



Durable, airline approved GUN CASES



Our products are made with an all aluminum body and all stainless steel hardware and corner ends are doubled, welded and gusseted for greater durability.

Various models of panniers and gun cases are available. See website for details: [www.BearCountryContainers.com](http://www.BearCountryContainers.com)  
Contact us by email at: [cowboyup257@gmail.com](mailto:cowboyup257@gmail.com)

Call 406.763.4364  
Box 38, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

Made in Montana  
by Jerry Kawasaki

Your source for the best camping gear, horse and mule packing equipment and riding gear.

Shop online anytime for horse and mule packing equipment, camping supplies, tack and so much more.

We are your full service packing supply store. We don't just sell packing supplies, we stand behind every product we sell—and we use them!

We build all pack saddles in house.

406.752.4437  
[www.trailheadsupply.com](http://www.trailheadsupply.com)

### Back Country Store

The Back Country Store has apparel, guidebooks, CDs, trailer decals, bumper stickers, and more.

Visit us on the BCHA web site, go to the products section for our new Virtual Store.

[www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com)

## BCHA Officers, Chairs and Staff

**Chairman**  
Jim McGarvey  
2408 Owens Gin Rd  
Calhoun GA 30701  
706-669-1015  
chairman@  
backcountryhorse.com

**Vice Chair**  
Donald Saner  
PO Box 515  
Wilson WY 83014  
307-733-1356  
Sanerent@centurylink.net

**Past Chairman**  
Mike McGlenn  
1992 Harmony Rd  
Bellingham WA 98226  
360-739-2619  
FAX 360-966-2263  
mike@mikemcglenn.com

**Treasurer and Expansion**  
Freddy Dunn  
1485 W 5650 North  
St. George UT 84770  
435-862-6181  
freddydunn@gmail.com

**Acting Executive Director**  
Jim McGarvey

**Executive Secretary**  
Peg Greiwe  
PO Box 1367  
Graham WA 98338  
888-893-5161  
Fax: 360-832-1564  
peg@backcountryhorse.com

**Advisor for Public Lands Recreation**  
Randy Rasmussen  
37326 Soap Creek Rd  
Corvallis OR 97330  
541-602-0713 mobile  
quietrecreation@gmail.com

**Education**  
Pete Kriger  
28797 Live Oak Canyon Rd  
Redlands CA 92373  
909-910-4619  
pkrigerjr@yahoo.com

**Education Foundation**  
Mylon Filkins DVM  
Foundation@backcountryhorse.com

**Media and Marketing**  
Robbin Schindele  
4600 W. South Slope Road  
Emmett SD 83617  
media@backcountryhorse.com  
208-365-1789

**Public Lands**  
Jim Allen  
PO Box 806  
Custer SD 57730  
publiclands@backcountryhorse.com  
605-673-2173

**Public Lands**  
Oscar Simpson  
3320 12th Street NW  
Albuquerque NM 87107  
publiclands@backcountryhorse.com  
505-345-0117

**Public Liaison and Advocacy Partners**  
Alan T. Hill  
PO Box 492260  
Redding CA 96049-2260  
530-221-4354  
Fax 530-221-9267  
athill2011@gmail.com

**Volunteer Hours Chair**  
Larry Zauberis  
11374 Highway 550  
Durango CO 81303  
970-759-5629  
lzaub@gmail.com

**Web Master**  
Marty Duvall  
[web@backcountryhorse.com](http://web@backcountryhorse.com)

# Tales of the Trails

## February: Winter on Life's Trail

By Gene W. Wood, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources, Clemson University

January 2014 was one of the coldest on record in the Piedmont and foothills of the Carolinas and northern Georgia. Uncharacteristically low temperatures in the single digits and teens alternated with cold rains and then, acting in concert, the two forces provided snow and ice. There were also dry days: some very cold, others seasonal, some with sun, some without its radiant comfort. February holds little promise for a major change in riding conditions.

Stubbornly clinging leaves of the beech are already prematurely bleached from their rich bronze color. The deep green of the understory holly punctuates the dull grays and browns of hardwoods and tall pines. Here and there at old home sites along the trail, red berries of nandina bravely try to bring some cheer to otherwise drab settings.

Rides with good friends, even on cold, wet trails, have the warmth of friendship. But even in the company of riding companions, as well as when my horse and I are alone, my mind slips away to old friends dealing with the severe winter of their lives. One is a woman of my age and nationally legendary in flat-shod Tennessee Walking Horse circles. A life spent breeding, raising, training and showing horses is culminating with a body bent and racked with pain. The cold, wet weather exacerbates her physical pain. The mental anguish of seeing what should be done, needs to be done, once was done effectively and efficiently, but now gets done as time, ability, and help will allow has to be devastating to such a woman that can no longer even ride.

In such a winter, the cold is colder, the winds more harsh, the clouds and rains drearier. Memories of foals romping in the warm spring sun bring fewer smiles than longings for what can never be again. Pictures of finished horses are no longer aspirations for a potential future, but only images from the past. Morning chores are followed by refuge in the house, followed by trips to one doctor or another, followed by evening chores, followed by the night and wondering – alone. Such winters are not followed by springs of optimism.

For another friend, Ohio's snows, which he so much enjoyed in the past, are this year seen from his hospital bed.

## Big Sky, Big Water, and Big Mountains

By Doug West

This time of year I spend my time watching the snow recede up the Wasatch Mountains. Before too long the desert heat will push me back into the high country. As much as I love Utah's southwest deserts, I can't wait to start riding the big sky country again. As a young man, my heroes were 19th century fictional mountain men Dick Summers, Jim Deakins, and Boone Caudill introduced to me by A. B. Guthrie in his 1940's novel *The Big Sky*. They arrived in the west during the early 19th century traveling up the Missouri River on a keelboat. While waiting for the grass to turn green, I spend my time reliving their adventures as they ride through what is now Wyoming and Montana. Fortunately for me, I usually get to visit some of their special places riding a

They will be his last. He has been an outdoorsman for every season; the best woodsman I have ever known. Our friendship goes back to 1963 when we started graduate school together in Penn State's School of Forest Resources.

His adventures have taken him and his backpack through southwestern deserts, the Montana Rockies, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and down rivers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maine and South Carolina. He taught me about snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and canoeing. I taught him about bird dogs and horses.

My friend has now passed into the infinite sweep of the arms of God. We have been a part of each other in true friendship for more than half of a century. God willing, when I follow him to where we are both windwalkers, we will ride on the winds together with those easy smiles that acknowledge the pleasure of each other's company.

My winter riding is averaging about a ride each week on my two younger horses. One Saturday in January, my semi-retired 29-year old TWH, Gus, nearly walked two young quarter horses into the ground. Of course, he paid the price in soreness the next few days. He astounded my friends and me. To this point, he has been the best trail horse I have ever owned, although not the horse-love of my life. That was my quarter horse, Snoopy (1972-1997).

On one of his good days, my 30-year old TWH Blue is probably still good for about a two-hour ride. His arthritis comes and goes. He now walks instead of runs to the barn for breakfast and supper. He still loves to eat even though one incisor is gone.

A few years ago I started to joke that you were getting old when you were buying horses that likely would outlive you. I have two such horses. I purchased my now 10-year old TWH Danny when he was five and barely green broke. My horsewoman friend who I described earlier guided me to him. He was out of one of her bloodlines on his dam's side. He was black and beautiful, 15.1 hands, and well put together. Most importantly, given the paucity of his training at that age, he was quiet and had a soft eye. Today, he is the quietest trail horse I have ever owned. A friend recently comment-

ed how, when asked to move, "Danny just drops that head and steps out." He is such a comfort when I just want to ride through the forest and think in the presence of a horse. These days much of that thinking is about my friends in the winter of their lives.

My 6-year old TWH Rio was a yearling when I bought him from the friend who had guided me to Danny. He had a different name at the time and was later renamed for the location of a couple of rides with special memories. My friend paid me one of the highest compliments of my life when she told me that she wanted me to have this horse. Now five years later when she occasionally mentions that she is glad that I have him, I am at once humbled and with a swelling heart that someone of such knowledge, experience and renown would say such a thing to me.

Rio was a big colt when I bought him, but I never expected him to reach 16 hands. I get up on rocks, logs, banks and anything else I can find that will elevate legs no longer limber enough to reach the stirrup from flat ground. He is quiet and well mannered. He drops his head into the halter or to take the bit. He stands quietly to be saddled or mounted. When arriving home and I drive up to the fence, he typically stops whatever he is doing, walks to the fence to greet and be greeted and to sense my breath in his left nostril – not the right, the left.

Claims that life is short, often unfair, and happens when you are making other plans are all obvious once you have traveled a long way on life's trail. The horses and dogs of my life, their lives intertwined with mine, are a measure of the time I have spent on the land I love so much; their growth, learning and old age have paralleled my own odyssey.

These are the horses that will see me to my last ride. I owe them and the friends who have shared them with me more than I can ever pay in any currency.

\*\*\*\*\*

Acknowledgement: I want to thank my good friend, Ginny Grulke, Lexington, KY, for her valuable editing of this essay.

create a strong connection with the past. You can almost sense the presence of Dick, Jim, and Boone when you ride up Pacific Creek to Two Ocean Pass. Watch closely as you cross the Continental Divide and you can almost see the three of them riding their small Indian ponies out in front as you start down Atlantic Creek. The one thing that definitely has not changed is the absence of people. On a weeklong pack trip, we rode for days without seeing another human other than ghosts from the past if you are a romantic like me.

Even though I regularly dream about Big Sky Country, my real home is on the Colorado Plateau. What passes for a river in Canyon Country probably won't be found on the map in the Teton

[continued next column]

# OUTFITTERS SUPPLY, INC

## Essential Gear for the Trail

### TrailMAX™ Bear Proof Pack Panniers

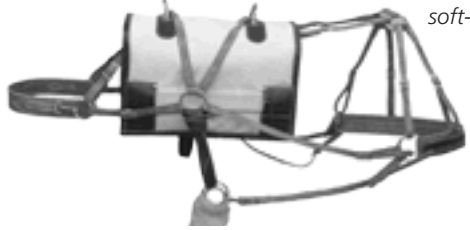
- Easy to use, economical panniers are ideal for packing average-sized loads
- Contoured sides fit properly on horse or mule without pressure points
- Meets all USFS & IGBC requirements for bear-resistant storage containers
- All rigging straps and top pack attachment dees included for use on a Decker or Sawbuck pack saddle

We offer a wide selection of soft-sided panniers as well!



### Outfitters Supply Pack Saddles

Built for a lifetime of hard use; handcrafted in Montana of Hermann Oak Old World Harness leather with rolled breeching and breastcollar, and stainless steel arches. Two Decker tree styles, two half-breed styles and Sawbuck pack saddles available.



### TrailMAX™ Saddlebags

Outfitters Supply has become the leader in equestrian saddlebag design and manufacturing. Why? Because we have used, repaired and sold saddlebags for over 25 years.

We design our saddlebags to ensure that they (1) do not shift or slap the horse, (2) easily store lightweight gear for any length ride, (3) would last just as long as our desire to ride down the trail. Quality and functionality have always been our top priorities.



Also available: Cooler Inserts for our Original Saddlebags, Junior Saddlebags and Original Pommel Bags!

### Premium leather hobbles, scabbards and tack, proudly made in the USA



Highline Kits, Swivels, Tree Savers, Picket Kits, Picket Pins, Hobbles, and Portable Electric Fence Kits



TrailMAX™ Scabbards

TrailMAX™ Saddle Panniers

We also proudly carry quality gear from:



Contact Us for a FREE Catalog & Dealer List

**1-888-467-2256**

**www.OutfittersSupply.com**

7373 US Highway 2 East, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

# Tales of the Trails

Valley. The same big water that A.B. Guthrie's protagonists faced is still there. Even today, crossing the Yellowstone River on a horse is an adventure. My heart was pounding when Dottie waded into what was supposed to be a shallow ford. My companions Bill and Rich were off just a bit and the water washed over the backs of their horses in places. The packhorse Blue decided he wasn't interested and broke loose and returned to the near bank causing all the riders to cross twice. I suspect that Dick, Jim, and Boone had their problems with Yellowstone Country's big water as well.

The horses and equipment have changed some over the years, but not the views. I doubt that our 19th century travelers had ever seen a Walking

Horse, but they probably used something similar to the sawbuck packsaddle to haul all their goods. I like to believe that my three heroes probably stopped to admire Mariposa Lake and all the green grass for their horses. Hopefully all the beautiful wildflowers helped to brighten their mood like they do for our weary, contemporary wilderness travelers.

## Compete. Have fun. (Or both.) Try Endurance!

25-50-100 mile rides on beautiful trails  
All equine breeds • Mileage awards programs

Interested? Call for free info packet

American Endurance Ride Conference  
**www.aerc.org • 866-271-2372**

# Letters to BCHA

## Dean A. Hoistad of Missoula wrote about Jim and Cindy McGarvey's visit to Montana in April, 2014:

It has been exactly one week since I drove you and Cindy back to your hotel. A lot has happened since then. I know I've had a lot of fun getting to meet you both and some others, and I've learned a ton. I hope you guys got home safely and without problems, and that you have a bunch of good memories from your trip to the north. You ought to come back this summer and ride into the Wall. I think Mack and Connie have some openings in their August trip and that would be a good time to escape the heat and humidity.

I can't believe it took all week to get a news story out of our local paper but they finally printed something today and here it is (<http://bit.ly/missoulian>). They didn't use our photo but most of the press release material that Sarah and others put together from the nomination is included in this article, along with some very nice comments from Smoke. It was a really great job by everyone on your end and I can't thank you all enough.

I'm glad you were able to get a full contribution from the Montana board and I hope the new movie expense is all paid for now. Please don't place any stock in my uninformed opinions and comments; the members on your board and others are much more qualified and better jurors than myself. The new logo is beautiful and based on that I'm confident Robbin and the others on your end have the video well in hand too.

Thanks again for coming. This was my first convention, but according to Smoke it was the "best one ever!"

## Eldon Reyer, Park Ranger Retired wrote about Randy Rasmussen's article:

Thanks for the article Good News from Yellowstone NP. Yellowstone is a big part of my National Park Service career. I started as a mule packer in 1957 and spent four months through the back country with a string of seven mules. The next summer I was the back country horse patrol ranger in the Gallatin area (the year of the earthquake). I courted a lovely postal clerk at Mammoth who was also the daughter of Superintendent Lon Garrison. We married that December and started our Park Ranger career in 13 parks, office of Legislation in Washington, and then Associate Regional Director of the Southwest Region in Santa Fe, NM where I retired in 1989. I became a member of BCH Santa Fe Chapter and have stayed active getting into the Pecos Wilderness at least once a week during the summer. This will be my 81st year but I can still keep up with the best of the riders. To know that BCHA is working with Yellowstone is a good feeling and makes me proud to be a Park Ranger. I am looking forward to more news from your desk. Thanks so much for keeping us informed.

## Mike Glenn offers this resource:

There are so many myths about horse poop that it is refreshing to see something factual in print. For your information and use as you see fit: <https://elcr.org/the-scoop-on-poop/>

## From Keith Abraham, Outdoor Ethics Advocate:

Hello, my name is Keith Abraham and I work with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). I thought that I would let you know about an upcoming Leave No Trace (LNT) Master Educator course being held in Moab this September.

There are actually 5 sub-courses and we are offering a course on pack/riding stock that will be taught by the Utah LNT State Advocate Craig Allen, a horseman you may already know.

This course is open to registered members of the BSA and at \$325 it is hard to find a course that costs less. This course won't involve any actual riding, but there will be several horses there for instructional purposes. A link is provided below for further information, as is a short description of the course.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone and everyone that could benefit from this type of training.

**Pack/Riding Stock LNT-ME Course:** This course is designed to teach participants the principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) as it applies to the use of horses and mules in the backcountry and front country. Students learn "hands-on" teaching methods and techniques for teaching outdoor ethics to diverse audiences. Graduates are expected to share the knowledge gained in this course with others, in a "train-the-trainer" format. All material and information presented is based on the latest wildland recreation research. The course is taught by Craig Allen, Leave No Trace Master Educator and the Utah State LNT Advocate. He is assisted by other Master Level Instructors.

<http://www.utahscouts.org/event/leave-no-trace-master-educator-course/1491135>

Keith Abraham  
Outdoor Ethics Advocate  
BSA - Utah National Parks Council  
801-971-8060

# The Catch Pen

## Los Padres Unit BCH CA

### 4th Annual Warhorse Day – May 4, 2014

The 4th Annual Warhorse Day was hosted by Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse and sponsored by the Los Padres Unit BCH of California at the Marina Equestrian Center in Marina, CA. It was a fun filled event – free to the public and attended by over 500 people. This included many of the Marina City Council members and Mayor Bruce Delgado was on hand to accept a photo of the newly re-roofed and painted buildings of the former Army Station Veterinary Hospital. Twelve of these buildings were built during WWII and the surgery, colic buildings, and barns are the only ones that remain standing in the United States today. Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse have applied for the buildings to be on the National Historic Registrar of Historic Places and recently this action was approved at State level now pending National recognition!

Also on hand to celebrate and participate was the Defense Language Institute Choir, Boy Scout Troop 187, the US Calvary Association of Historical Living Historians, 1st California Hussar Regiment, California Historical Artillery Society (CHAS), Reb Monaco Historical Blacksmith, Marina Youth Arts, Art Montgomery with his WWII Cavalry exhibit, Half Track Tank and WWII jeeps with ham radios, Central Coast CERT team providing BBQ, and Capt. Robert Hainline, and DVM. U.S. Veterinary Corps out of Lemoore, CA. Local newspapers, TV, and radio coverage was on hand as well.

Prior to the event, we organized a bike ride with the Monterey Bay Off Road Cycling Association (MORCA) and a horseback ride with Monterey Bay Equestrians. These activities highlighted the message of multi-purpose trail systems usage coming from the hub of the Marina Equestrian Center.

After our opening ceremonies, there was much to see and do including the Army horse intro and vet check by Fred Klink, US Cavalry Association, a bike/equine safety class conducted by Lisa Dreas with the bike club assisting,



CHAS providing living history with their six-hitch team pulling a cannon, films of Fort Ord then and now, and a drill done by the Hussars. We included a petting zoo and coloring tables for the youngsters and the biggest hit seemed to be the huge half-track tank!

Each year we continue to improve the quality of this event. The Los Padres Unit of BCH of California provides insurance coverage so that we can bring this history to our community. I am seeking to establish a unit here on the Central Coast. Until I am successful, I will continue to represent BCHC as best I can locally by partnering with horse groups to keep our name up front and visible to our county.

Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse is now a 501(c)3 and we hope to have a huge press release once the recognition of the buildings of the Marina Equestrian Center get stamped for approval for the National Registrar of Historic Places is confirmed. I plan to hold a fundraising Barn Dance and perhaps some concerts as we continue to develop plans to utilize this park as intended by National Parks, as a multi-purpose park with horse components. If there is interest in a catered/camp ride on the Central Coast – contact me and I'll plan it!!!

Stay tuned for more events!!

For pictures of the event – please see <https://www.facebook.com/FortOrdWarHorse?ref=hl>  
<http://fortordwarhorse.org>

Submitted by Lisa Deas

## NCBCH Assists USFS Pack String at Lion Gulch Restoration Project

The Northern Colorado BCH assisted the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) near Estes Park on May 3, 2014. The area we concentrated on is Lion Gulch within the Roosevelt National Forest. Lion Gulch is located in steep, wooded, and rugged mountains with two waterways flowing through it. The main waterway is the Little Thompson River that ran heavy and fast during the mid-September floods of 2013. This area of the Front Range received 20+ inches of rain in three days, causing small creeks to become raging rivers that damaged the terrain and everything in their paths including the trail system and bridges along the Lion Gulch Trail.

Glenn and Alice Ryan, with the USFS Specialty Pack String, arrived at Lion Gulch early morning on May 3rd and were met by a number of volunteers from NCBCH and Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV). We helped Glenn get the five mules and two horses unloaded from the trailer. Glenn gave instructions on each of the mules and their particular patterns of behavior and how they would be lined up on the trip. Mules have a pecking order, as do most equines, and they get upset if that gets out of order.

Glenn took great care in preparing the tack and mule team for the trip. Each timber was weighed and mated to another that was within a few pounds to keep a balanced load. Even though I've been packing for years, I never packed timbers before and it was a learning experience for me. Glenn and Alice gave instructions on how to load and secure the timbers to each mule. The load consisted of 6 x 6 treated timbers that needed to be transported to the location of a bridge construction site. The timbers varied in weight from 54 - 117 pounds each.

The pack-in trip wasn't long, but it was difficult and covered an area that was scoured clean by floodwaters. The river channel moved 60 feet to the



Jay and Nancy McDonald check the load before heading out

south and the footbridge was gone. This was once a beautiful little valley with a grassy meadow and a trail leading into the gulch and up the mountain to Homestead Meadows. The valley now looks like a gravel pit with fast moving water, debris from bridges, large boulders, and a couple hundred feet of US Highway 36 guardrail that was washed into the river bottom. Many spots along US Highway 36 were washed out and closed, preventing travel to and from Estes Park for weeks.

The members of NCBCH were helpful with the livestock, as we all have experience with horses and mules, and Glenn took advantage of our expertise. Two of our members had the opportunity to ride wrangler at the rear of the pack string, watching for mishaps before they happened on the winding trail and through two river crossings en route to the drop location. The work was completed in one day and those timbers are waiting for a crew to start construction of the first bridge across Lion Gulch Creek. This was the start of many trips to Lion Gulch for volunteers who will work on trail restoration in an attempt to get it open late this year or early in 2015. Glenn and Alice Ryan were great to work with and are a credit to their agency. We were proud to be part of this continuing project. Members of NCBCH who helped with this part of the project are Al Ohms, Jay McDonald and Nancy McDonald.

Submitted by NCBCH President Al Ohms

## Northern CO BCH attend Boulder County Horse Fair

The Northern Colorado BCH chapter participated in the annual horse fair in Longmont, sponsored by BCHA on April 13, 2014. The Boulder County horse group is very active and uses the horse fair as a membership drive and invites vendors and other horse groups to participate in the annual event. The event was well attended even though the weather brought a wind-driven snowstorm, typical for Colorado in the spring.

NCBCH set up a booth with our banner, slide show, brochures, trail tools, and other items for display. Many folks stopped by and asked questions about our local group and BCHA. This opened the door for us to explain what we do and why we need members to join our cause of keeping trails open for stock use around the country. Those folks who stopped by to talk were impressed with the goals and mission statement of BCHA.

Two of our members Al Ohms

and JoAnne Wortman – who camp with horses in the summer and fall – presented a seminar for 29 attendees called Camping with Horses 101. Information was presented on three types of horse camping: the improved horse campground set up, dispersed camping (wherever you can take your truck and trailer), and back country camping (packing in your gear and supplies to a remote area or wilderness area). Visuals included a slide show and many pieces of camping equipment.

Other members who enjoy camping and packing in the mountains set up a horse camp with high-lined horse and mule, a tent, a fire pit, a timber saddle rack, and other camping utensils they use on the trail. Thanks to Dan and MaryAnne Swenson for donating their time and equipment for this display. They didn't have it quite as easy as those of us inside the building with warmth and shelter. Dan and MaryAnne endured the wet, cold spring storm, wind

and toughed it out for several hours while folks kept coming out to see their campsite.

We also had help from Jay McDonald, Nancy McDonald, and Sandy Chapin working the booth in the afternoon and helping to take it down and pack up at closing time.

It's quite a bit of work to prepare for these shows and get set up but well worth the effort to educate the public and show off what we do to keep the trails open and safe for stock and public use. Thanks to the members who helped with this horse fair and thanks to Boulder County



Jay and Nancy McDonald and Al Ohms at the NCBCH booth at Boulder County Horse Fair.

Horsemen's Association for inviting us. It was a successful event for NCBCH.

Submitted by NCBCH President Al Ohms