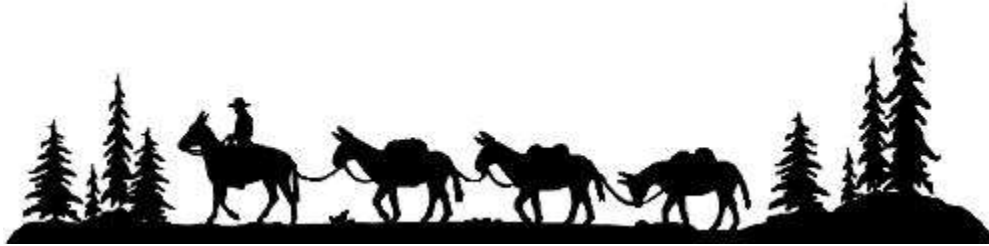


Farewell to Dennis Dailey

Thank you from Dennis Dailey, retired Wilderness Advisor, BCHA with permission to reprint.



August 2, 2012

Dear Friends,

I received my new pair of chinks (see attached picture) and tried them out on a day ride last weekend up under Lander Peak in the Wyoming Range. As Liz and I rode along under a clear blue Wyoming sky, I thought of the words in the frontispiece of my “Home in Wyoming” CD: “My heart is filled with the song of the wind in the Aspens, and my life is rich with memories of the good friends I’ve met along life’s long trail.” No one but a horseman (or woman) can appreciate the feeling of a good horse between one’s knees, the smell of horse sweat and leather in the high mountain air, and the companionship of a like-minded friend or loved one with whom to share it. I had the chinks tooled with ‘BCHA 2012’ as a reminder of our board meeting in Eugene and the special people who gave them to me. When they are not in use, they have a prominent home hanging on the wall of my office.

The ‘Legacy Award’ you gave me hangs on an adjacent wall. I am still at a loss to be able to express how much that honor means to me! Although we’re very different in many ways and spread out geographically from one coast to the other, we share a common bond – a commitment to a pursuit that contributes in a major way to our quality of life. To be recognized by my friends for my contribution in helping to preserve that opportunity chokes me up as much now as it did when I received it last April.

Thank you all for that recognition, and for the opportunity to be a part of a very special endeavor.

Sincerely,



Message from Chair, Mike McGlenn.

Dennis Dailey officially retired from the BCHA as our Wilderness Advisor at the National Board meeting in Oregon this past April. No one can deny the value that Dennis brought to BCHA and fortunately for us Dennis is still actively involved with the BCHA. Chairman, Mike McGlenn set out to find a trustworthy replacement for Dennis and with the task completed we now welcome Randy Rasmussen who comes to use with the much experience and enthusiasm.

Message from Peg Greiwe, Executive Secretary

BCHA wants to set up an email alert system and to do it; we need the emails of our members. When you send in your mailing list updates, please include the email addresses. We will not give this list out. We will only use it for BCHA.

If you have any concerns about BCHA's use of this information, please feel free to contact Chairman Mike McGlenn (360-739-2619), Executive Director Rick McLean (704-677-6749), Vice Chair Yvette Rollins (812-797-4540) or myself (1-888-893-5161). We will be happy to talk with you.

Thank you for all you do! We are an impressive group with all the volunteer trail work!

Letter from Rick McLean, Executive Director, BCHA
June 6, 2012

This rainy morning in North Carolina is a good time to be inside, working on Back Country Horsemen of America projects. The rain gives me time to think about how proud I am to be part of such a wonderful organization and have the opportunity to meet BCHA members. In the short time I have been your Executive Director, everyone I have met has impressed me with their dedication to the Mission of BCHA. We all share the same passion

for horses, mules, and back country trails. The enthusiasm of the members I meet motivates me to work harder for BCHA.

Under the guidance and direction of the Officers and Executive Committee, my daily work for BCHA focuses on three areas: First, and of primary importance, is our legislative work. As a relative newcomer, my role in the successful effort to get Congressional approval of legislation to restore access to commercial pack stock to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks was small and insignificant. This is, however, exactly the type of legislative issues I will be working on with our members, Chairman, Vice Chairwoman, board members, staff, and BCHA partners in the future. Over the next several weeks, I will continue the preparation for my first trip to Washington, DC representing BCHA. I will be joining our partners at The Wilderness Society for the Great Outdoors America Week. While in Washington, we will be visiting key contacts in Congress, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the American Horse Council, and others. One of our goals for this visit is to further our discussions with the public land agencies about uniform rules and certification for the use of crosscut and chainsaws on public lands.

The second area of work is sponsorships and advertising. With the help of our members, I have begun the lengthy process of nurturing old relationships, and establishing new long term, mutually beneficial relationships with sponsors and advertisers interested in BCHA. Our leadership, members, and staff have worked very successfully on this in the past, and as your Executive Director, I hope to build on past efforts and expand opportunities for BCHA. If BCHA is to grow and prosper, we need funding to pay for the business expenses of our organization.

The third area I am working on is growing BCHA membership. To accomplish our Mission of “perpetuating the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America’s back country and wilderness areas” we need members. When we go to Congress, or a public land agency, the more voices (members) we have, the more strength we have. The most effective way to grow our membership is for everyone to share the fun and fellowship of BCHA membership with our friends who ride horses. I believe there are many riders who want to become BCHA members. They just don’t know about us yet. To keep BCHA strong into the future, we must recruit new members and teach them about BCHA.

I look forward to working with you as we build the future of BCHA.

Happy Trails! Rick McLean, Executive Director