

# Can-Do People, The Collective Mind, And Paying it Forward

## Can-Do People

You all know them. They're the people that get things done, that look at a task and say, "Yes, we can do that". They're the people that take on projects that nobody else wants to tackle, because they are willing to put some thought and energy into it and 'get 'er done'. Can-do people are the God-send of organizations. They make things happen.

Can't-do people are the ones who's first response is "no, it can't be done", "I don't know how to do it", "it doesn't fit in with how I've always done things", "I don't have time". Can't-do people are the killers of momentum, the rapists of ideas, the wet-blankets thrown on projects, the scourge of organizations, because not only do they slow down progress, they can bring a project to a grinding halt.

If you belong to the Squaw Butte Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, you know several Can-Do people. They are the driving force of our organization, the people that make us great, and the people that keep us going down the trail, so to speak. They look at a pile of tools and a load of lumber and without another thought, start loading that mess on a mule, confident that we can get it down the trail. They ride up to a solid wall of downed trees across a trail, break out the chain saws and clippers, and make a tunnel through the maze. They ride up to a swampy marsh on a trail, groan, get off their horse, which could easily ride through the bog and skirt it, start in and don't quit until there is a beautiful dry trail where the marsh used to be. Can-Do people are the ones that say, "No, I don't want to do that project again this year, I just want to rest" and before they know it, are right in the middle of putting it together again. Can-Do people go to sleep at night with a problem on their minds and wake up in the morning with a solution in their head.

## The Collective Mind

The Collective Mind is not just one mind; it is several minds all working in conjunction with one another. The collective mind may not, and probably

doesn't, in fact, know all the other minds in the collective. The Collective Mind is like Universal Knowledge that puts ideas into the universe, which are picked up and carried further by the next mind.

The Collective Mind is at work when someone says, "Hey, that's a good idea", or "Wow, why didn't I think of that?", "I wish I'd have thought of that." With the Collective Mind, not everybody has to think of everything. One mind comes up with a thought or an idea, puts it out there, and the next mind takes it and runs with it, adds to it, and comes up with another great idea. Collective mind keeps everybody from having to re-invent the wheel every time. Collective Mind pools knowledge and propels ideas forward. It makes good ideas better, and better ideas great. Don't be afraid to throw out those ideas you think of, no matter how little you think they are; that little idea may just be the catalyst that Collective Mind needs for a kick-start.

## Paying It Forward

Paying it Forward is people helping people. Its people being willing to come to the aid of someone in need and helping that person accomplish something they may not be able to do alone.

In life, we all come up against things that seem insurmountable when you face it alone, but with some help and somebody by your side, it suddenly doesn't loom as large, and it miraculously becomes doable. Sometimes you need moral encouragement, sometimes you need someone to lend a helping hand. Paying It Forward is people willing to lend that helping hand or give that moral encouragement to help someone out. It is bringing your brawn and expertise and applying it to that seemingly insurmountable obstacle and accomplishing something magnificent. To several people working together, it may not seem like anything, but to the one facing the obstacle, it is nothing short of a miracle to see it overcome.

Paying It Forward is meant to be an ongoing endeavor; someone who benefits from being helped, in turn helps someone else in need. We don't all have the same skills, knowledge and abilities, nor do we all have the same needs. There are always ways in which we can help someone else, we just need to be mindful of those needs, and be willing to lend that helping hand. And, and this may be the hardest part, to ask for help when we need it.

Each of these things separately --Can-Do People, The Collective Mind, and Paying it Forward--- are remarkable and commendable. But when you find these phenomena in a group of many different people with many different abilities and backgrounds, that group becomes unstoppable. And that is what we have in Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen.

As we wind down this year of 2012, commend yourselves on jobs well done and bask in the knowledge that, together, we “got ‘er done”. As we move into 2013 and again round the corner in the trail and see that solid wall of downed timber and the horse-eating bog in front of us, know that we again need to rise to the occasion, become those Can-Do People, combine our Collective Minds, and, yes, Pay it Forward to get ‘er done again. Together, we can do it. Together we are unstoppable.