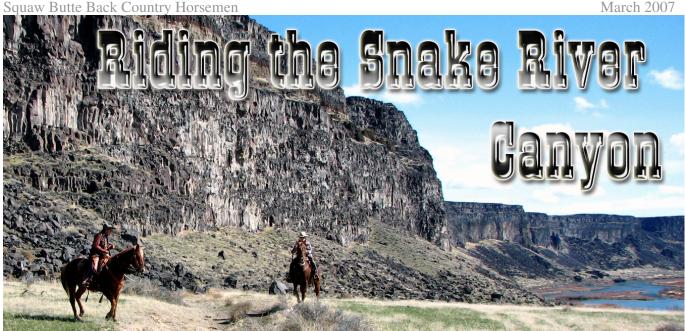


Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen

Meet the 1st Thursday of every month at La Costa Restaurant in Emmett, ID

For information about joining contact Ellen Knapp, 208.388.7278 or president@sbbchidaho.org





by Robbin Schindele

The morning of March 10 was full of promise. The air was crisp, the sky was blue and the horses were eager to be caught. They too seemed to be looking forward to our first spring ride. As I led my horse out of the paddock the mules came over and held their necks over the rail waiting for their halters, but they wouldn't be going this time, just Sally's and my saddle horses.

We were hitching a ride with Phil Ryan as our trailer was full of wet, cattle mucked straw. I had housed a mama cow and her calf in there for 10 days during the early, and nasty, spring storms. As usual Phil was ten minutes early and arrived just as I walked out with the second horse. Sally had all our tack in her car. She was driving separately because she was on call and might have to go into Boise. So Phil and I loaded the horses, told Sally to follow us and headed for the Birds of Prev National Conservation Area on the Snake River.

Our destination and trailhead was Celebration Park. Celebration Park was established as Idaho's only archaeological park in 1989. It is located on the Snake River at the western boundary of the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. This area was a wintering ground for Paiute Indians along the Snake River. Travelers worldwide have come to enjoy the high desert flora, scenic land features, and unique Indian art dating to 12,000 years ago.

This is a favorite spring ride because the canyon floor and walls are primarily made of black lava. If there's sunshine those rocks heat up fast and make temperatures in the canyon 5-10 degrees warmer than the surrounding country.

When we got to the parking area it was chock-a-block with rigs, seemed like we weren't going to be the only riders there. As we started looking around a lot of familiar faces appeared. About half the people there were from Squaw Butte, the rest were from Treasure Valley BCHI. The TV group were

mostly all towing animals and in chatting we found out they were going to pack out a bunch of old tires left by a rancher who has a grazing allotment on the canyon floor. As our people continued to arrive the packers set out in ones and two for the tire stash.

About 10:30 everyone in our group was aboard and we headed out. From the parking spot (big enough for maybe 40 rigs) you travel down a road through the park proper passing a few official camping spots with trash cans and picnic tables. Through a gate, keeps the cattle where they belong, and then follow the road along the bank of the Snake River. About a quarter mile beyond the gate the road is blocked by a permanent Park Service steel and cement gate and the trails begin. The area beyond is all non-motorized so while you do see a few hikers traffic is mostly people on horseback.

The floor of the canyon is littered with meandering trails on the west side. They split and join, split again, so if you do come into the company

Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen of strangers you can soon go your separate ways again.

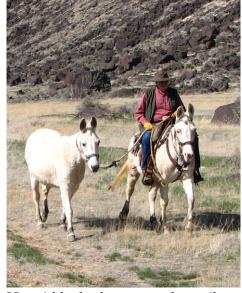
About two miles along there are two mostly dried up lakes. Called Halvorsen Lakes it would take a pretty wet spring for them to fill up again. The shallow water that is in them is pretty alkaline and horses don't show much interest in it. A bit farther there is a small spring fed creek that has sweet water. It is the only place in the canyon to water stock as there are very few places stock can access the river.



About a mile past the lakes we came upon the Treasure Valley folks. Bunched up and mostly on the ground tying tires to their pack animals we bid them good morning and good job and continued on our way. True to its purpose the air

above provided many opportunities to watch hawks and peregrine falcons glide the thermals on the edge of the sheer rock wall to our left. Their cries varied but all contained that echo of wildness raptors voice so well.

Lunch time was taken at a set of old cattle corrals. It provided a place to tie the horses while we sat on the warm rocks chatting and eating what we had. All the horses were sweaty under their winter hair and stood contented along the old wood posts and rails. Walking back to my horse for my canteen I noticed the end horses all looking back the way we had come. Taking a monocular from my saddlebags I could see a person aboard a white mule, leading another, coming our way. "That would probably be Ralph Truax." said Phil Ryan. It was. He explained his tardiness arriving at the trailhead had a very complicated cause that could be describe in three words. "I got lost."



He said he had eaten on the trail and we were all finished so we started to climb back on and were soon traveling. A little beyond the corrals the trail splits. The left fork continues down the canyon for miles, the right is a trail that follows the river bank back to Celebration Park. We took the right.

It was a very, very pleasant ride. It's flat mostly sand trail and the ride back was full of talk about horses, the country, our summer plans. Nothing much happened, really just a fine day in the saddle with good company in another of Idaho's varied and wild places.

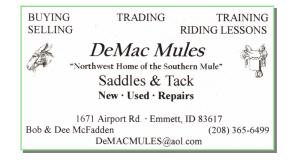














By Ellen Knapp

What is minimal impact and why should we care about it?

Does it really matter if we cut switch backs? Does it really matter if we wash our dishes in the river or lake? Does it really matter if we build a table at our campsite? Does it really matter if we stuff our TP under a rock? Does it really matter if we clean out our horse trailer at the trailhead parking lot?

We have about 1.2 million visitors to our own Idaho Sawtooths annually. We have over 300 million visitors to our National Parks annually. We have over 1 billion visitors to our National Forests annually. Even if only 1 percent of the visitors cut switchbacks, washed dishes in the rivers and lakes and left their TP under rocks, it would be very obvious to the rest of us visitors.

I bet many of us love to feel that sense of being the first person to lay eyes on a beautiful valley or lake. While we know we probably aren't *really* the first one to experience the beauty, we do like to fantasize that we are. However, that feeling can be quickly dashed once we spot someone's pop can or sandwich wrapper or, worse yet, their TP stuffed under a rock.

Because visitations to our national lands have dramatically increased since the seventy's we now need to talk about how to visit these areas with the least amount of impact and evidence of our being there so that each of us can get that sense of 'being the first'.

So just what is The Back Country? Does it start once you pass the "Entering Wilderness" sign? Or does it start once you pass the "Entering Boise National Forest" sign? The back country is not that limiting; it is really just outside your door. It is the Eagle Foothills. It is the Gem Cycle Park. It is 'The Owyhees'. And it is the designated wildness areas.

Practicing minimal impact is not simply a recipe for visiting the back country. It is an attitude. It is a way of life. It is what you do when no one is watching. And it is for all of us users of the back country – hikers, back packers, hunters, horsemen, ATVers, skiers, river runners; to list just a few of us recreators.

Minimal impact is not an all or nothing concept. There are varying degrees. We all need to find out what will work for each of us; what we can live with; what we will automatically do when no one is watching. The goal of minimal impact is to employ methods to minimize the evidence of our passing so that others that follow can have that same feeling of 'being the first'. And in some cases, though increasingly rarely, we are fortunate enough to be the only ones that follow.

There are seven basic principles to cover when discussing methods to minimize the impact and evidence of our passing in the back country. 99.9% of our back country experience can be covered by these seven basic principles. They are:

- 1. Plan Ahead And Prepare
- 2. Travel And Camp On Durable Surfaces
- 3. Dispose Of Waste Properly
- 4. Leave What You Find
- 5. Minimize Campfire Impact
- 6. Respect Wildlife
- 7. Be Considerate Of Other Visitors

At the Back Country Skills Day I will provide tips for how to make each principle doable and realistic. Then each of us can find the right balance; what we can each live with; what will work for each of us.

PONDERINGS FROM THE PREZ' SADDLE



It has come to my attention, through discussions and emails with current and new members, that SBBCH has not clearly articulated its mission.

We have folks believing that all that is wanted are members that can wield a chainsaw and pull a pack animal. Wielding a chainsaw or pulling a pack animal is only PART of what we are about. Here is our mission from our constitution.

The purpose of the Squaw Butte Chapter is:

- 1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness,
- 2) to work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock 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 use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage,
- 5) to foster and encourage the growth of BCHA.

Note that only #2 and #3 imply that wielding chainsaws and pulling a pack animal may be needed. We are much more than

chainsaws and pack animals. Education and outreach are a big part of our purpose as well. The annual spring Back Country Skills Day and the annual fall Gem/Boise 4-H Horse Program fund raiser Treasure Hunt Ride demonstrate this. In between, we promote our chapter, BCHI and BCHA via our dedication to working our booths at both the Horse Affair and the Horse Expo. We also pick up garbage on our 2 mile stretch of highway both in the spring and the fall. The signage, designating that stretch as "ours" promotes SBBCH though our community service outreach of Adopt a Highway.

So why do folks want to join our organization? Can we help each potential new member see themselves in our chapter? Can we help them see their contribution to our chapter? Can we help them see that it is beyond chainsaws and pack animals? Can we help them see themselves in the greater aspect of our purpose? We need to strive to do just that. Or we will continue to lose our new members due to a lack of shared purpose, inspiration and vision.

While we are promoting the pilot of mentors to help our new members be included in our organization, I realized that there are other, simple, more subtle actions that all of us may take. I had one of those 'Ah Ha' moments the Thursday evening of our meeting. Unfortunately, it was many HOURS after our meeting. I realized I need to introduce myself and the officers to any guests and new members. DUH! Another thing that each of us can do is to TALK with each of our guests and new members. We should make a point to get to know their name, their story, their interest or expectation and help to make them feel included in our organization. I know that I personally do not do this. I am pulled in many and various directions at each meeting and I have not spent the time with each guest and new member to help them feel welcome. I will make a point of doing so in the future.

Another 'Ah Ha' I had was that while we have folks that want to help at the Horse Affair and Horse Expo promoting our organization and our chapter, we don't provide them with talking points. If they are enthusiastic new members or have not had attended all the events of the past year personally, they may have difficulty describing the various activities in which we participate. I have taken the action item to prepare an outline to help all our booth workers promote SBBCH, BCHI and BCHA. It will be available for use at the Horse Expo.

Of course, trail maintenance is a part of our organizational purpose. Yet again, I have had another 'DUH' moment when talking with our members regarding trail "work" weekends. Somehow, a rugged, woodsman image has been portrayed or received. We have not adequately explained WHAT we do when we have a 'work weekend'. So let me explain. We are not roughing it. We camp at the trail head. For example, Charles and I have a camper with a toilet, a shower, and a real bed, not to mention the stove and fridge. We attendees all sit around the fire in the morning and share breakfast. Rob, last year, cooked pancakes or eggs and hash browns. Others would do Dutch oven breakfast stuff or cook eggs in their respective campers. I wash dishes because, I have a camper and it makes it easy, but most importantly, because I greatly appreciate anyone who cooks for me! Then in the evening, we again sit around the fire and have a potluck. Work on the trail depends upon what needs to be done. Often it's lopping off overhanging branches and encroaching shrubs. This year, there will more deadfall due to the fires. Folks are needed to hold other's horses while those certified use the chain saws. On some trails, because of the amount of dead fall, the chain saw person walks and someone else leads their horse. We stop for lunch and a rest. Many times we have more attendees than we have work, so folks come for the ride and the company. We try to return to camp about 4 PM. to relax, munch and socialize before it is time to start the potluck preparation. While we are there to do work, we don't kill ourselves.

While we schedule a weekend, one does not have to participate for the entire weekend. Attend as your schedule allows. Folks don't need to feel pressured to spend their entire precious weekend with SBBCH. Some folks will spend Friday night and leave Saturday after we return to camp. I have driven up to the trail work location for the day. I arrive right after breakfast Saturday, participate in the trail project, and then return home that evening in time for dinner.

We want folks to feel comfortable to attend for the ride, the camaraderie and the food without any negative categorization regarding 'they did or did not do...'. We SAY we want folks to attend for the food and company, now we really need to walk that walk. Those folks, while not directly wielding a chainsaw or pulling a pack animal have other passionate reasons for their participation in SBBCH. We need to acknowledge, support, and reward the contributions they make in promoting our organization. These contributions are just as valuable and just as needed to help sustain move our organization forward.

Well, I can see that I have been just a bit long winded on this subject.

I am always open to comments and suggestions on how we can improve our chapter. Do not hesitate to contact me via email (president@sbbchidaho.org or spirithorse@gotvi.net), phone: 398-7279 or in person. Your comments just may provide fodder for my next month's ponderings.





February 24 a few hardy riders set out from Spirithorse Ranch to ride on Little Butte. The day was damp, very windy and threatening worse. I wasn't there, bad February weather on my place guarantees new calves to be tended to. I was told that those riders who stayed low didn't suffer as badly as those who braved the heights. The ride lasted from about

10:00 to 12:00 AM.

But as is always the case with this annual event, the best part of the day was the eating after the ride. Charles an Ellen were kind enough to open their house for the feast so people could be warm. The only ones stuck outside were those preparing Dutch oven ditches. Despite the nasty weather a good time, and full belly was had by all.











SBBCH Monthly Meeting-Thursday, April 05, 2007-La Costa Restaurant, Emmett ID
SBBCH Run Ride - Hard Trigger-Saturday, April 07, 2007-Owyhee's
BCHI Convention & Backcountry Outdoor Show-Friday, April 13, 2007-Lewiston Fair Grounds
IDAHO HORSE EXPO-Friday, April 20, 2007-Nampa Horse Center

For directions and specifics on all Squaw Butte activities please visit:

http://www.SBBCHIDAHO.org



Our participation the Boise Horse Affair trade show was quite successful. In our two days at the show we talked to over a hundred people about BCHI, sold quite a few Convention raffle tickets, got some commitments to come to our March 24 pack clinic and have gained two new member families. While participation in these kind of events is sometimes questioned it has been beneficial to SBBCH every year we have participated.

Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen – Chartered 3/92 02/01/2007 Regular Meeting Minutes

| Name | Present |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Adams, Rob & Linda | Rob |
| Argo, Doug & Teri | |
| Berggren, Leon & Margaret | |
| Beyer, Patricia & Tracy | X |
| Boeder, Jess | |
| Brewer, Vernon & Anita | |
| Burak, Nadine | |
| Burdine, Russell | |
| Bush, John & Jackie | John |
| Buthman, Tony & Tami | Tami |
| Carpenter, Vern | X |
| Conger, Bill & Marybeth | X |
| Creamer, Kelley | |
| Dann, Tony & Diane | |
| Davis, Justin | |
| Dineen, David & Tracy | |

| Edwards, Harold & Renee | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Farnese, Karen & Gary | | |
| Fry, Lida | | |
| Gaskell, Lou Ann | | |
| Gress, Rose | | |
| Gudmundsen, Bob | | |
| Guinn, Lettie | | |
| Harding, Bruce | | |
| Hezeltine, Alex & Sherrie | | |
| Holcroft, Steve | | |
| Holt, William & Chris | X | |
| Howard, Bob | | |
| Howard, Robert & Donna | Χ | |
| Leonard, Steve & Tonya | | |
| Lox, Charles & Ellen Knapp | Χ | |
| Lyons, Barney & Judy Hudson | | |
| MacDonald, Terry & Gail | | |

| Nichols, Jil & Michael Bryant | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Nielsen, Dolores | X |
| Richards, Tom | |
| Rindlisbach, Claudia & Fry, Martin | |
| Ryan, Phil & Kay | Х |
| Schantz, Shannon | |
| Schindele, Robbin & Sally | X |
| Seal, Nate & Ruth | |
| Seel, Jon | |
| Selkirk, William | |
| Stroeder, Joanna | X |
| Thielges, Jim | |
| Truax, Ralph & Sharon | |
| West, Bob & Alasya | |
| Young, Gene & Cheryl | |

2007 SBBCH Officers and Board of Directors:

<u>President</u>: Ellen Knapp, <u>Vice President</u>: Sally Schindele, <u>Treasurer</u>: Charles Lox, <u>Secretary</u>: Kay Ryan

Past President: Bob Howard, Sr.

State Directors (2): Joanna Stroeder (2), Robbin Schindele (1), <u>Alternate State Director</u>: Leon Berggren Foundation Director: Margaret Berggren, <u>Alternate Foundation Director</u>: Bill Conger
 Regular meeting brought to order at 7:01 P.M. by President Ellen Knapp

Pledge of Allegiance

Ellen requested a moment of silence from everyone in memory of the five children killed in a car accident earlier this week.

<u>Introduction and Welcome to Guests</u>: Jim & Kristy Hickey, Cassie Nielsen, Linda & Dan Phillips, Mike Becker, Tammy & Chandra Burke

Introduction and Welcome to New Members: None

Gem/Boise County Rodeo Queen & Princess: Chandra Burke, Queen and Cassie Nielsen, Princess introduced themselves, gave personal background information, how and when they achieved their respective titles, and what events they have participated in since. They said they have been invited to participate in the California Rodeo Salinas in July as representatives of Gem/Boise County and Idaho. They asked SBBCH for funds to help pay for their plane tickets; lodging and food have been covered. Ellen said she would bring the request before the board.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Robbin Schindele moved to accept the February minutes as distributed in the March newsletter. Marybeth Conger seconded the motion which passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance: \$2,968.94 Deposits: +\$2,324.00

Expenditures: <u>-\$ 405.40</u>

Ending Balance: \$4,887.54

Charles Lox detailed the deposits and expenditures and was asked by Joanna Stroeder if the

Cabela's raffle money was posted separately from the State raffle money. Charles said it was. Phil Ryan thanked Joanna for always stepping forward with various prizes for our events. Joanna moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Bob Howard, Sr. seconded the motion and it passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Public Liaison Report:</u> Leon Berggren was absent. John Bush said he received information that BLM has changed some regulations at Wilson Creek and that he would give the information to Ellen. Phil said he received the same information and that basically everything BLM said was going to restricted from horse use has now been withdrawn so there are now no restrictions in that area.

State Directors Report: Neither Joanna nor Robbin had anything to report.

Education & Foundation Reports: Margaret Berggren was absent due to knee surgery.

Work Projects and Rides Report: Rob Adams reported on the success of the Dutch Oven BBQ & Fun Ride, good food with lots of prancing and dancing horses. He reported that our website was viewed 697 times in January and 592 times in February. He reviewed the schedule for the next few months. Rob said he learned from Brad Tuininga of the Wilderness Alliance that he has six volunteer groups waiting in the wings for the Forest Service to make their funding decisions. He said he has discussed National Trail Days with Jim Ciardelli and that there are at least four trails in the Peace Creek area in need of lots of work because of fire damage. Rob said he is also looking at a Hells Canyon project to haul in timbers but has nothing firm yet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Horse Affairs Update: Rob said that over 125 Pack Clinic information sheets were passed out. A number of raffle tickets were sold and that the posters that Robbin made was very eye catching and really drew people in.

<u>Calling Committee Update:</u> Sally Schindele said she has the call tree in place. Ellen said she will send emails to the committee members to remind them of upcoming events so they can put out a call.

Back Country Skills Clinic Update: Rob handed out the clinic sessions sheets. Rob outlined the schedule for our guests. Melissa Smith has had to drop out but he has confirmed participation by all the other presenters. Set-up will be the day before the clinic and Rob has sent an email outlining the schedule. Sally will coordinate the food which will be Sloppy Joes. Ellen said the paper goods stock needs to be replenished. Rob said to plan on 100 people. Sally asked for volunteers to help. Discussion followed on the best way to keep the food warm. Last year was an electrical circuit nightmare. Phil suggested using large pots and propane stoves in lieu of crock pots.

<u>State Convention Update:</u> Phil explained the convention, outdoor show, prizes and events for our guests. He briefly went over the status of work and asked that committee chairs meet with him after the meeting. Robbin showed his drawing of the chapter display lazy susan and explained how it will work with the posters. The cost of the susan is \$21 and the other materials will be about \$30. Some welding will need to be done. Discussion followed. Robbin was asked how he was keeping the posters from getting scratched. He said he had them in foam sheets. Rob said he would get some picture boxes from U-Haul so they can be stored.

NEW BUSINESS

<u>New Member Mentorship:</u> Ellen suggested a pilot mentorship program for this year to see if it will help to involve and keep new members by using our longer-term members as mentors to our new people. She went through a list of reasons why people have dropped (cliques, don't pack, ride in another style, never camped with horses, can't afford a weekend) and listed a number of suggestions (call and chat, socialize at events, introduce to other members, answer questions, offer

to haul horses). Robbin said that instead of "letting" new members join us, we need to "invite" them to participate. John suggested that some women may feel alienated and that perhaps a women's committee be set up to get feedback from their perspective. Bob said that we need to ask our new members if they want a mentor because some may not. He said some people may have the knowledge of how to pack but may not have had the experience of leading pack animals. Ellen said she was open to all suggestions. Discussion followed.

<u>Membership List:</u> Ellen reminded everyone that the membership list will be updated this Saturday. Those who have not paid their dues will be dropped from the roll. This is necessary in order to get the information submitted to the State and National organizations so that people will get their State and National newsletters.

Boise State Radio Spring Pledge Drive – Challenge Grant: Robbin explained that several members have offered their individual financial support in the name of SBBCH to back a Challenge Grant during BSU Radio's Spring Pledge Drive. He explained that money is put up as an incentive to get a specified number of new and renewing members to join during the drive. If the specified number is not met, the grant fails but if the number is met, the grant has to be paid. \$350 of a \$500 Challenge Grant has been committed. Robbin asked members interested in supporting the grant to let him know. He also asked the Chapter for its financial support if he is unable to get the remaining \$150. Ellen said this would have to be brought up before the board. Robbin said the principle advantage is that at breaks through a two-hour period, a SBBCH member can talk about what BCH does. The pledge drive is April 11 – 18. Discussion followed and it was decided that we would wait until next meeting to see if enough additional money is committed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

<u>Door Prize:</u> Guest Mike Becker and member Tami Buthman were winners of the two rawhide dog chew bones donated by Pet Corral. Charles Lox won the baseball cap donated by Cabela's.

The meeting was adjourned at 834 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Ryan, Secretary, SBBCH



AS SPONSORS OF THE 2007 STATE CONVENTION WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Volunteers are needed to help with all activities in Lewiston April 13 & 14. Please call Kay Ran at 398-8993 or Robbin Schindele at 365-1789 or email conventionteam@sbbchidaho.org for more information or to volunteer.



Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen P.O. Box 293, Emmett, ID 83617

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|-------------|---------|---------|
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| RegT: 30-46 | \$64.95 | \$54.95 |
| XL: 48—54 | \$69.95 | \$59.95 |
| XLT: 48—54 | \$74.95 | \$64.95 |
| XXL: 56—62 | \$79.95 | \$74.95 |

