



SQUAW BUTTE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

PO Box 293, Emmett, ID 83617

April, 2007

HARDTRIGGER CANYON

STATE CONVENTION REPORT BSR CHALLENGE, HORSE EXPO & MORE

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, 208.398.7279 or president@sbbchidaho.org



by Robbin Schindele

Our annual spring ride in the Owyhees wasn't a lot of things it usually is. It wasn't windy, it wasn't cold, it wasn't dry and it wasn't hot. It was a very pleasant spring day. It had a bright warm sun in a sky blowing just enough occasional cloud and cool to remind you it was still spring. The other thing the ride wasn't was lonely, with seventeen riders and twenty-one animals we made up quite a crew.

We were fortunate to have a guest, Ann Martin, I believe her name was, that lives down Marsing way and rides the Owyhees a couple times a week. Since I am always at the back end, *slow horse*, I think she was near the head or leading most of the ride. She was also full of useful information about the area telling me about places and features of the land I have never seen, even sharing information about how to get to a blind canyon with a spring waterfall at its head.

By consensus it was decided to go to Hard Trigger Canyon. That

meant after the usual flat beginning, Wilson Creek was already dry, we had the big climb. I don't know how long it is up the hill to the west, or how high it climbs. What I do know is it is steep, narrow, and hard, very hard, you would probably roll a long, fast ways if you went down. Most of animals breathing revealed the effects of their winter leisure.



Phil Ryan's crew

Halfway up this challenge to man and beast the mule I was leading decided to stop and have a bite to eat. Pancho is so determined and I am so surprised that by the time he whoas, and I stretch as far backwards as I can, I am no longer leading the mule. Ahead I have to get my wife to stop because Pancho doesn't want his buddy to walk away. Behind the stopped mule is Phil Ryan and he's leading two animals, behind him I know was Rob Adams, maybe more. No body really wanted to stop here, behind me the animals start to crowd the narrow trail as they stopped. Looking me in the eye, bunch grass sticking from both sides of his face, the mule didn't seem to care.

Getting off my horse on the uphill side I was two feet taller than his back. Skittering into the trail tread and holding the very end of Pancho's lead rope in one hand I just can't reach the mule. Looking back and forth I realize the worst is I'm going to have to walk up the hill leading the mule, following my own horse. I let go of Pancho's lead

rope. Hell! Now I'm on the same steep trail and I don't have control of either animal, quick thinker me. I could hear Phil saying something. I don't know what or to whom but it didn't sound like he was cursing me, at least not very loud. I walked the few steps to the mule, took up the lead rope, tugged it twice, and started back up. I knew Pancho would only go up the trail until he spotted a bunch of grass he liked and I'd catch him and get on or he'd run into Sally and stop and eat there. As it was, he was right where I left him. I took two or three steps up the side of the hill and mounted. You know, it is a very weird feeling to get down onto your horse.

At the top everyone stopped and rested. There was a lot of laughter, loud talk like after doing something special, the horses and mules rested. We started off across the plateau. Its is different up here somehow, it's flatter than the valley floor, around you some hills crest above you but not as many as from below, it's more open feeling. The wind is light today, breezy at most, not fierce and relentless as it sometimes is.

We wound our way across in a loose string, some meandering off the trail to follow a different but parallel path through the sage brush, some chatting in small groups or a line. That's one of the things I like about this ride. The cows have made trails here for decades you can move your animal onto a trail that is less defined but still a trail through the brush. Those trails are sometimes things too, when they fade away it's good for you and your animal to work together deciding how to easiest

move through the obstacles to find it, or another.



Ann Martin

When we got to the edge of the high flat we chose a trail I haven't ridden to the next creek bottom. Instead of side-hilling in long sweeping switchbacks it simply went to the bottom. I believe it did have a couple turns in it, they were not sweeping but they did slow the skid down a little. Every body made it down without incident. The next part of the trail is on the extensive road system through this area to accommodate the ranchers running stock here. It's a creek bottom so you're again surrounded by the volcanic hills and cliffs. Again there are parallel cow trails to make the ride interesting for animal and rider. Singly or in small bunches the group strung out again.

Soon we come to a small creek, this one flowing water, a fence and a gate on the road. As I cross through the gate I see the opening into Hard Trigger Canyon. It is why we came. We came to ride one-half to three-fourths of a mile rift through rock walls. There is a four-six foot wide creek running back and forth across

its bottom and only a slit of sky shows between the sides. If a ride needs a destination this is a good one. When the Owyhees are unpleasant, windy, hot, or both, it is a place of refuge. The cool of the water and the damp earth, the shade from the sun and protection from wind can all be welcome some days.

As we bunch up at the gate three four-wheelers ride out of the canyon. They're 500 yards away. They see us, stop their machines and get off. They wait. By now Pancho is in the lead, slow he is but, I believe as the other horses tire he just goes on at the same speed and eventually we lead. Also, sometimes he likes to lead so at every bunch up he steps out ahead of a few more horses. Ann Martin rides up to me, we ride together towards the canyon entrance, chatting. We come to the four-wheelers, pulled off the trail their riders talking to us from 50 feet. "We thought we'd stay a ways off." And "We stopped not to spook your stock." We thanked them and lazily walked between the silent machines and their courteous riders. The horses walk apace, heads down, strolling.

Then we were in the canyon. There was green grass, moss, willows, the sound of horses walking in ankle deep water, clatter of horse shoe on rock. It was a good feeling to be in such a pleasant place. The canyon widened to about three hundred feet and I heard the clarion call, "Lunch!" I looked for bushes tall enough to tie the animals to. There were none so tying them high was not an option. So look for a short bush with abundant forage around

Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen

it so they will be inclined to stand in one place. I found two sagebrush that were short, the forage wasn't abundant, but they would do.

People started dismounting, rummaging in their saddle bags. A woman I don't know took a collapsible bowl and some grain out of her saddle bags. She stood by her horse munching a sandwich as her horse ate his grain. Phil came up said he was going on. He had plans for later and wanted to get back. "See ya later" and he was gone up the canyon. The rest of us rested in a temperature that made the sun's warmth welcome, the cliff wall's shade pleasant. Everyone ate and drank what they had, smoked or found sufficient hiding places to do anything private they needed to do. I don't think anyone napped but if I'd known I had a good half-hour on the ground I might have. It was one of those tough kind of rides, one of those grueling wilderness experience kinds you always hear about.



Mike Becker & Sally at lunch

Then the sounds changed, people started talking to their animals rather than each other, they were moving again, I look around and down the line someone was in the

saddle. Everyone saw it, or maybe saw another person adjust their cincha, but everybody was moving, settling their business aground and getting aboard. I think it's always the most impatient person that gets us going after lunch, the person eager to move on is always the first in the saddle. Once there is one, it is like a signal and we all do it. Soon we are all aboard.

The canyon is gone too soon and the vista broadens. The air gets palpably drier. The trail swings to the East and we are in wide country, only a large hill protecting our right when the trail comes to a fork. North by north east it goes lower into the desert, flat wide. South it goes up the hill we have been riding along. I'm for up, others down. Eventually someone strikes off down. We all do that too.

When we could see something we knew, forty miles down the Snake River valley, we ran into a fence. A running north and south fence, we turned south. We rode along that fence for a few miles and I want to tell you that it was about the best fence I have ever seen. It was almost worth the extra time in the saddle to see that fence. It was straight as an arrow, up and down hills and gullies, the strands always tight and precisely the same width apart. It had those twisted wire vertical things at exactly half-way between the perfectly vertical t-posts and in one spot, where it had to leap a narrow gully, the builder had woven rocks into the bottom two strands to keep the wire the

correct distance from the ground. Like I said, it was a good fence. I'd like to shake the hand of the man that built that fence.



Justin Davis & Joanna Stroeder

Eventually we came to a gate and looking west realized we were where we should have been a while back. Other than a few cows and a few wild horses not much happened during the mile or two back to the trailers except for another mule incident. Again it was a narrow, steep bit of trail, not so long as the first but as steep. Again, about half-way up, the mule stops. But me being the thinkinest animal in the bunch (I believe I have seen a mule think through a problem but I'm a match for them) I was ready. When I felt that lead rope start to slide I just dallied up. Pancho felt the pull, lowered his shoulders and pointed his toes. After dragging that mule ten or fifteen feet he started walking again. I like that mule, he's sensible and he thought a lot of that fence too.



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Our German Correspondent



By Shannon Shantz

Editor's Note: As many of you know SBBCH member Shannon Shantz is doing military service in Germany. She writes occasionally and I like to share her letter with all our members.

These last few months have gone by very fast and I can't believe it is already Palm Sunday. When I first arrived, I was afraid I would have too much time on my hands and be bored. Instead, there doesn't seem to be enough time. Work remains the same with increases and decreases. I try not to watch the news too much to predict the flow of patients.

Since I last wrote, I have been several places. In January, I went to Rome for a weekend, looking for some sun. January is a great time to go as the weather is good and there are no crowds. I could walk in anywhere without a wait. In February, I took a USO tour overnight to Venice and Florence. Venice is easily seen

in a day but Florence doesn't even begin to scratch the surface. There are so many museums and cathedrals with art and history. I'll have to go back another time for several days. That trip was by overnight bus. Though the buses are luxury buses, I'm not sure how anyone can ride in them for more than an hour or two at a time. There is no leg room and no way to stretch. I can't envision a two week bus tour at any rate.

In March, a few of us went to London and stayed at the officers club for NATO troops. It was very cheap by London standards and well located. Definitely nothing fancy but clean and the price was right. London was the most expensive city I have ever visited. There was nothing free, and with the exchange rate, the prices were double what you would expect

to pay in the US. Nevertheless, since I won't be going back for some time, the experience was worth it. We walked all over, at least 10 miles the first day. The rest of the time we took the Tube. At every station, the overhead announcement was "mind the gap" which became our watch phrase while there. There is a small gap between the train car and the platform, just large enough to get a foot caught in and have a major problem. Since we were in London on St Patrick's Day, we went to the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace with the Irish Guard. All the guardsmen were wearing shamrocks which are a low growing mossy type plant. Not at all what I thought shamrocks were. From there we ate at an Irish pub but not corned beef and cabbage.

Since then I have been staying

closer to base and planning my next weekend. The semi annual Physical Fitness Test is coming up in two weeks, so I have been hitting the gym regularly. Last weekend, I went on a day trip with the outpatient sponsored by the chaplains. It was a Rheine river cruise and wine tasting. Many of them said they were able to talk about Iraq and

their experiences without thinking about Iraq constantly and were able to relax for the first time in a long time. They are incredible bunch of people and I pray for them as they return to Iraq .

The weather has gotten so nice suddenly, that I'm ready to find a bike and ride. I am still waiting for horse riding lessons.

We thought we had it all set up and the trainer announced she is moving here stable so we are on hold again. Oh well, a few more weeks and it should be dryer anyway.

That's all for now,
Schuss

PONDERINGS FROM THE PREZ' SADDLE

The president's Mom got hurt and her mare had a foal and she said she didn't know what to write about so she'll be back next month.



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CHALLENGE

Sadie Babbits News Director at BSR

Well, we accomplished our goal for Boise State Radio. Our \$500.00 pledge grant was met. We paid our \$500.00 and BSR gives us at least part of the credit for raising \$32,680.00 during our two hours on the radio.

Thank you pledge contributors; the Schindeles, Ryans, Adams, MB Conger Kelley Creamer and SBBCH.

Thanks too to the phone volunteers; Sally Schindele, Kay Ryan and Linda Philips.



Phil Ryan was elected state vice-chairman. Kay Ryan is an administrative genius. Everything went fine. The rest of us just had a good time and here's the pictures to prove it.



Sally served a fine breakfast both days

Marybeth gets some kudos from the chairman



Sally and Kelley prepare their presentation



MB & SHerrie Lionberger on women & packing



Joanna checks out the auction items



New charman and vice-chairman



Raffle sales to the public were brisk



Not winning the speed packing event



Gambling for bucket raffle tickets



Dinner!



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Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen – Chartered 3/92**04/05/2007 Regular Meeting Minutes**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>
Adams, Rob & Linda	Rob
Argo, Doug & Teri	
Becker, Mike	X
Bendorf, Rick & Jennifer	
Berggren, Leon & Margaret	
Beyer, Tracy & Trisha	X
Brewer, Vernon & Anita	
Bryant, Mildred	X
Burak, Nadine	
Bush, John & Jackie	John
Buthman, Tony & Tami	X
Carpenter, Vern	
Carroll, Phil	
Conger, Bill & Marybeth	Bill
Creamer & Christensen, Kelley & Trudy	
Davis, Justin	
Farnese, Karen	
Fry & Marks, Adam & Debra	

Gaskell, Lou Ann	
Gress, Rose	
Gudmundsen, Bob	
Hamilton, Ken & Linda	X
Harding, Bruce	
Hezeltine, Alex & Sherrie	X
Hickey, Jim & Kristy	
Holt, Bill & Chris	Bill
Howard, Bob	X
Howard, Robert & Donna	X
Joyner, Jeffrey	
Kaae, Gary & Cathy	Cathy
King, George	X
Kondeff, Brian & Terri	
Kriete, Mark	
Lane, Mark	
Lemon & Beebe, Jake & Rose	
Leonard, Steve & Tonya	
Lox & Knapp, Charles & Ellen	X
Lyons, Barney	

MacDonald, Terry & Gail	
Mallea & Collins, Ken & Nancy	
Murrell, Edward	
Nielsen, Dolores	X
Phillips, Dan & Linda	X
Pitzer, David & Patricia	
Ryan, Phil & Kay	X
Safford, Dan	
Schantz, Shannon	
Schindele, Robbin & Sally	X
Seel, Jon	
Selkirk, William	
Stroeder, Joanna	X
Thielges, Jim	
Truax, Ralph & Sharon	
Webb, Travis & Erika	
West, Bob & Alasya	
Young, Gene & Cheryl	

2007 SBBCH Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Ellen Knapp, **Vice President:** Sally Schindele, **Treasurer:** Charles Lox, **Secretary:** Kay Ryan

Past President: Bob Howard, Sr.

State Directors (2): Joanna Stroeder (2), Robbin Schindele (1), **Alternate State Director:** Leon Berggren

Foundation Director: Margaret Berggren, **Alternate Foundation Director:** Bill Conger

Regular meeting brought to order at 7:05 P.M. by President Ellen Knapp

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction and Welcome to Guests: None

Introduction and Welcome to New Members: Ken & Linda Hamilton, Dan & Linda Phillips, Mildred Bryant, Cathy Kaae, George King

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Bob Howard, Sr. moved to accept the March minutes as distributed in the April newsletter. Phil Ryan seconded the motion which passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance: \$4,887.54

Deposits: +\$5,115.00

Expenditures: - \$1,611.52

Ending Balance: \$8,391.02

Charles Lox detailed the deposits and expenditures including the receipts and expenses related to the convention. He also had the figures from the Packing Skills Clinic. He said we have 14 new members/families. Delores Nielsen moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Robbin Schindele seconded the motion and it passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Liaison Report: Leon Berggren was absent.

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

Education & Foundation Reports: Margaret Berggren was absent.

Work Projects and Rides Report: Rob Adams reported on the Back Country Skills Clinic (see under unfinished business below). Rob said he learned through the Horse Council that the Salmon River Chapter received a grant to present three pack clinics around the state to train Forest Service personnel in the art of packing. He said he has shared the printed materials from our clinic with them and Robbin and Bob, Sr. have volunteered to help with the training to be held in Nampa on April 30. Rob reviewed the various activities for the rest of April and all of May. He was asked if a chainsaw training class is being scheduled. He said there will be some training in late May or early June but isn't sure exactly what it will cover or when. Phil explained why training is necessary, even for those who already know how to use a chainsaw and he also explained what takes place at a work party.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

New Member Mentorship: Ellen said she is still working on this idea and will have more later.

Back Country Skills Clinic Results: Rob said he scheduled too many things but that the hands-on worked well. Dr. Hayes was great and the food was good. He says he already has ideas on how to make it even better next year. He said Ellen suggested bringing in a packed horse at the very beginning and setting up a camp just to show what one can take on a single horse for a weekend. Ellen complemented Rob on doing a good job of delegating. Mike Becker said it was a fantastic clinic and that everything was great. Ellen said thank you letters were sent to all the presenters: Dr. Hayes, Bob McFadden, Lettie Guinn, Larry Hayhurst, Thomas Clifford of the FS, Joan Howard of BLM, and the Gem County Historical Society.

State Convention Update: Phil said that while we are 99% ready for the convention with just a few details yet to be worked out, we first have to select someone to attend the Foundation meeting since neither Margaret nor Bill Conger will be able to go. Sally Schindele volunteered to attend. Phil then described the convention and outdoor show for the new members. He outlined the various events on each day. Kay Ryan explained about the raffle tickets. Phil encouraged the new members to attend. Ellen mentioned that she and Sally as well as Marybeth Conger will be giving presentations at the Outdoor Show.

Boise State Radio Spring Pledge Drive – Challenge Grant: Robbin outlined the BSU Radio Pledge Drive and said that he has pledges to cover \$400 of the \$500 challenge grant. He said this was a great outreach opportunity to be held on April 16 from 4 PM to 6 PM. He reminded everyone that we have to pay only if the challenge is met. If the pledge is paid, individuals can show what they contribute as a charitable deduction on their taxes. Robbin moved that if we don't get enough pledges to meet the \$500 and the challenge is met, that the Chapter pay the difference of \$100 or less. Rob seconded the motion which passed with one dissenting vote. Robbin said he and Rob will be the ones to talk on the radio. He said he needs three people to answer phones. Sally, Kay, and Linda Phillips volunteered.

Rodeo Funding Request: Ellen briefly explained the request and said that the board re-read the BCH purpose in order to make a decision. The board found that the request is not in line with our mission so the Chapter would not be able to provide any funding but she encouraged individuals to contribute if they so desired.

NEW BUSINESS

Horse Expo: Sally said our Chapter is responsible for the booth on Saturday, April 21, but that she doesn't have a lot of information yet. She will let everyone know more as soon as she knows anything. In the meantime, she has a list of volunteers but needs more. She circulated a sign-up list. Joanna said that Cabela's gives away only about \$500 total per month in merchandise and

that we were very lucky to get what we did for the Horse Affairs as many other organizations also ask. She doesn't think it will be possible to get anything for this event.

Saturday Ride: Rob said everyone should be ready to ride at 10 AM. Phil gave brief directions to the area. Ellen said that Erika Webb would like a ride with someone who's attending. Robbin said he would send her an email.

Recognition of Lettie Guinn: Ellen explained that Lettie has not renewed her membership for this year but she has continued to support our Chapter through the use of her facility free of charge both in the spring and fall. She asked the membership for recognition suggestions such as a complimentary membership or free advertising in the newsletter. Discussion followed. Robbin moved that we give Lettie a complimentary membership. Joanna seconded the motion which passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Notices: Tony Buthman said that tomorrow and Saturday, the Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association is having the First Annual Outdoor and Adventure Expo and Auction at Expo Idaho (fairgrounds) for those interested. Joanna said she has one more first-aid kit for sale. She also said that Back Country Horsemen received public recognition, endorsement, support and a huge thank you from several well-known horse trainers during the Horse Affairs. Rob mentioned that he circulated information via email about the Idaho Trail Clinic and Challenge in May for those interested. He thought it was to be in Weiser (but is actually in Wilder). Trish Beyer said that she was told that Back Country Horsemen built the sand arena just south of town and that some posts and a gate need to be replaced or repaired. She asked that the repairs be brought before the Chapter. Phil said that he thought it was the Gem County Posse the built the arena but that he would check into it and get back with her.

Door Prize: Rob said he had a prize but left it at home. No one had time to pick up the door prize from Pet Corral.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Ryan, Secretary, SBBCH



STATE RAFFLE WINNERS

Phil and Marybeth present the state raffle second prize to Chuck Hite of Weiser.

Other prize winners included first prize winner Paul Kleint from Donnelly, Idaho. The third prize winner was from Jerome and the fourth prize winner was from Dalton Gardens. While the organization had hoped to sell at least 3,000 tickets, only 2,100 tickets were sold netting chapters and the state a total of \$8,459.00. All prizes were donated



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XL: 48–54	\$214.95	\$194.95
XLT: 48–54	\$220.95	\$200.95
XXL: 56–62	\$229.95	\$209.95

Stanley Vest

One of Our Most Popular Vest Styles

Warm and versatile indoors and out, our Stanley Vest provides warmth without bulk. Wear it alone over a shirt or as an added layer under a coat. The classic notched collar looks good from morning through evening. The waist length design allows complete freedom of movement. Made of 21 oz. wool featuring two pocket styles: 2 upper utility pockets plus 2 hand warmer pockets OR two upper and two lower slit pockets.

Available unlined or fully lined for comfort and ease of wear.

Dry clean only.

Made in Idaho, USA.

Colors: Charcoal Grey, Dark Grey, Medium Grey, Navy Blue, Oxford Blue, Brown, Camel, Oatmeal, Plum.

Unisex Sizing.



	LINED	UNLINED
Reg: 30–46	\$59.95	\$49.95
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