

# SQUAW BUTTE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

PO Box 293, Emmett, ID 83617

November, 2007

## SNAKE RIVER RIDE

## BCHI BOD REPORT & 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](mailto:president@sbbchidaho.org)



by Rob Adams

The Snake River Birds of prey area is a great fall ride. On November 3, 2007 a hardy crew of members and guests rode the trail on the south side of the river. The day started out brisk, but the sun soon warmed the air and swarms of non-biting, but very annoying bugs that kept the group moving. Highlights of the ride are the bridge crossing and riding along the base of some cliffs. The trail to the pumping station east of the bridge is in excellent condition, after that it becomes a series of game and stock trails.

As with most fun rides, the 10:00 o'clock "in the saddle" time came and went as trailers dribbled into the parking area. By 10:30 all stock were saddled and while we know others might be coming it was time to move. Ellen led the group out of the parking lot and into a very interesting rock garden. It is so much fun picking your

way through these boulders, I think I could have a great time and never be more than ½ mile from the trailer. It is also a great learning area for your horse to learn how to solve problems. The bridge is an old railway bridge that is only for foot and horse traffic now. Most rode across but a few led their horses.



Kelley Creamer

I stayed in the parking lot with Willow and Musteña waiting to see if Sally & Erika would show up. At 10:50 I left to catch up with the group. After crossing the bridge the team turned east and rode on a well maintained trail along the river and below some great rock faces. There were ducks and other water birds in and along the river, and hawks could be seen over the cliffs. The weather was cool, but the sun was warming things up quickly so heavy jackets were being removed as the morning ride progressed.

The trail became less well defined after the pumping station, turning into a series of stock and game trails. They continued along the river and often climbed up the side of hills and gullies. At one point about half the group was on one side of a gully while the rest indicated that they were not comfortable with the trail and were ready to turn inland or back. My half headed south

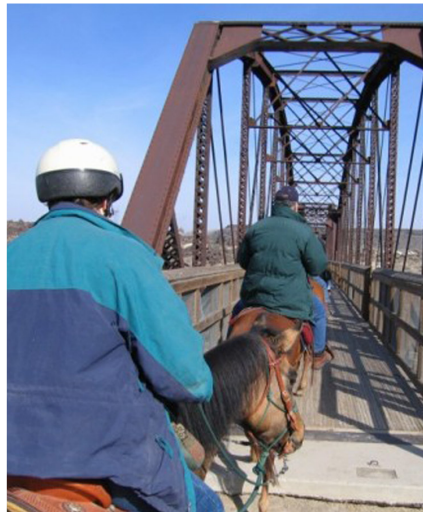
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### Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen

and climbed to the top of the bench for some good views. We then turned west and bushwhacked along the top of the bench until stopped by a fence. We followed the fence back to the river and met up with the other riders who had chosen a different route.

The sun was quite warm now, and the bugs had come out. They annoyed both the horses and riders, so we kept moving. At the pumping station we ran into Sally and Erika. They had arrived shortly after I had left the parking lot. They had run into Kelley Creamer who had told them where we had gone. Kelley had left the group early as he wanted to get back to the

homestead in time to watch the BSU / Idaho game.



Crossing the bridge

We all needed a stretch, so we stopped in some large boulders for lunch. It was a short stop as the bugs, while not biting, were swarming around and landing

on the sandwiches, which didn't improve their flavor.

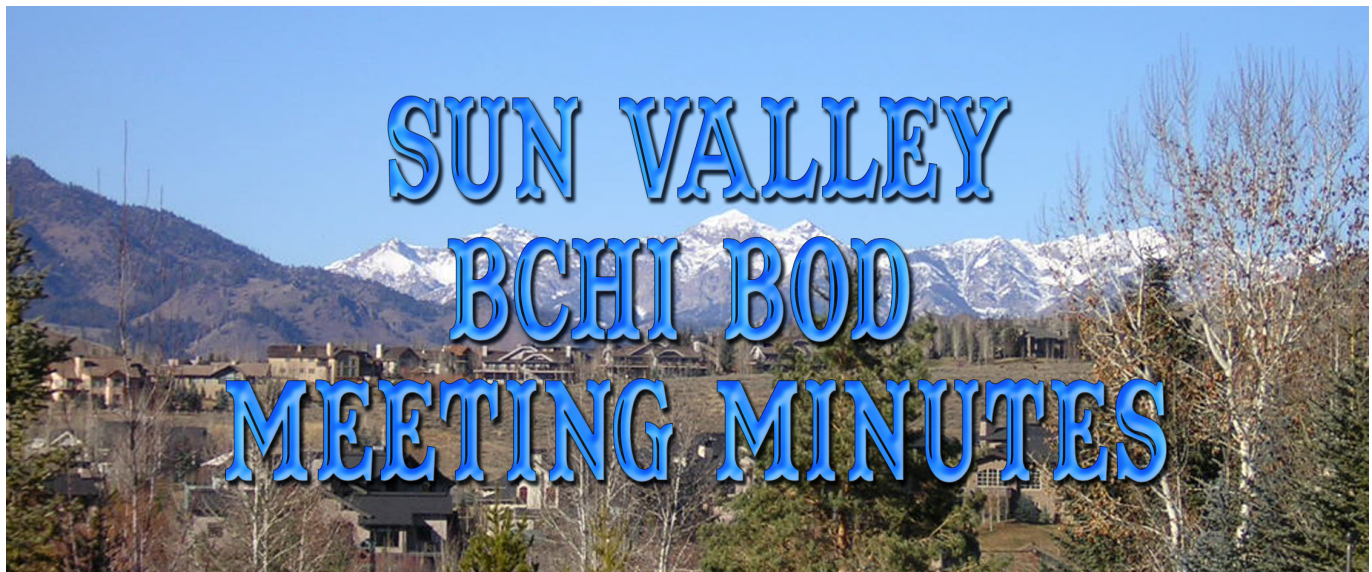
The rest of the ride was uneventful. After stopping on the bridge for photo opportunities, we were soon through the rock garden and back at the parking lot. Good bye's were said and soon all were loaded up and heading home. This area is a great, spring, fall and winter riding area, which should be kept in mind where cabin fever or that need to get in the saddle drives you off your couch.



The Snake River Canyon

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### **BCHI State Board of Directors Meeting**

Nov. 3, 2007 - Ketchum, Idaho

Raenette Didier, BCHI Chairman, opened the meeting at 0830. Raenette read the purpose of BCHI to start the meeting. Roll call was done by the Secretary. All chapters were present except North Idaho. Minutes were read from the July meeting and approved as corrected. (High Desert is doing the table decorations and Steve noted that standing committee chairs at National are not voting members.)

Treasurer's report was presented by Gretel Kleint (see handout). Raenette noted that we considered using the education funds to promote the Mules, Mountains and Memories program. This would be a good way to spend these dollars if the program gets going. Sharon will assist Gretel on the 07-08 budget to be presented at the next meeting. Gretel handed out the dues reminder to the chapters for 2008 which are calculated by your membership list as of the end of December. If dues are not paid, you will not have voting rights at the April meeting, and national dues must be paid by March.

The Sawtooth chapter invited a local FS woman, Renee Catherin, to give a Forest Service Status of Trails report. Renee started in 4H with horses and was taken under the wing by women who got her interested in trail riding...so it is good to plant those seeds with youngsters. She talked about the need for partnerships to keep trails going in the public sector as well as educate users on trail ethics and use, and restrictions that are designed to protect resources. A challenge was thrown out to the group to work with your land management agencies one on one to help point out where the problems are on the ground. Use pictures, explain it, proposed some solution, work with other user groups. Be proactive to keep from being regulated. This would help your local agencies.

Chris Leman, lead for the Big Wood Backcountry Trails Organization also gave a short discussion. His organization is a conglomerate of all users in a loose knit group. It helped him to have long time stock users educate him on the history of use on the trails. Their goal is to improve dirt trail opportunities for all users in the valley. Their email is [goodtrails@gmail.com](mailto:goodtrails@gmail.com) and their web is [bwbt.org](http://bwbt.org)

It was asked if horse manure is a concern at the front ½ mile of trail. There are some comments, but they try to educate people not to offload manure at the trailhead. It has been discussed that if you have a large group taking off, have the last person walk the first half mile and kick it off the trail. They are a very proactive group who looks for solutions, develops potential signs, etc.

#### **2008 Convention & Convention Assignments – Mark Bogar**

Last year's motto was Partnership – the Key to Access. Parks and Rec was at the show last year for the first time and they are trying to get more user groups together with more education for everyone at the show. The colt

training was very successful, but it drew away from the main building activities. To expand the show, we should come up with ideas to increase attendance and spend money. Robbin Schindele has talked with the international mountain biking association and will ask if they want to be involved in the show. Mark has talked with the local bicycling groups, but no luck getting them involved. Another potential contact is Chris Leman who just spoke with us. Reports from chapters: SB - food chair all is set up. Live Auction is set up. ER - state raffle is ready with the tickets. Grand prize is 7 day lodging anywhere from Australia to Alaska at a 5 star resort – you get yourself there. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a gift basket of Melaleuca products, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a Marlin 22 long rifle and 4<sup>th</sup> prize is a gift basket of Idahoan Potato Products. Twin Rivers has the drum for the tickets. ER would like one check from each chapter at the end instead of all the money and checks. They will do the 10% back to each chapter, 50% to the state and the rest to Eagle Rock. Registration – PRV and NI: they will have to mail them out and put it on the website. Table raffle – PBCH, SR, CP – just a matter of man power. North Central has the table and dice. They need only 4 items per chapter and please make them nice. Robbin will send the photo contest form they used last year to Bernie to get out. The hardware is available at the fair building, but would like to set it up better for viewing. Mark will look into who does the Asotin fair photo judging and let Bernie know. Remember that Phil Ryan is the logistics person for getting tables and whatever you need for setup; get your requests to him. Selling the dinner and live auction tickets was handled last year at registration. Question asked if we want to open the photo contest to the public. No. Decorations – CP and HD are forming the committee and waiting for the theme. Convention gift – Heartland was waiting for the theme and wondered about the expense of doing it. Decision was made to do away with this and use their chapter as manpower. Door prize – Selkirk has a start with items. Chapter displays – Boise hasn't started anything yet, but need to let them know if you need electricity. They may look into outside judging. We had talked about having a BCH booth -Raenette will follow up with TV and Sawtooth. If we sell BCHA items, we will need to order a supply early.

When we come up with a theme, Bonnie Shields will do the artwork for the program. Two themes were brought by Squaw Butte; Trails 4 one Trails 4 all, and Trails through Time (out of the Past, into the Future). Leaving a Legacy was suggested by PBCH. Vote during lunch went to Trails 4 One, Trails 4 All.

### **Discussion & Decision on 2009 Convention**

Raenette outlined some of the pros and cons of having the outdoor show and convention together in Lewiston, vs. separated as we did historically. BCHI has its powers in the convention group, not in the board. Terry moved that we propose to change the constitution articles 6 and 7 that will say the board of directors and officers will assume office at the beginning of the new calendar year. Motion seconded by Robbin Schindele. (This would go to the delegates to be voted on.) Motion passed. Raenette asked for input from the chapters:

PBCH - keep the show as is and move the convention to Nov. CP, SR and SB – separate show and convention to move around the state, TR feels they are biased about the outdoor show, PRV and Boise - keep it as is, TV wants convention moved around, Heartland had no discussion, HD asked to eliminate convention and use bylaws, Selkirk doesn't care either way, ER – had a split vote, and Sawtooth likes the idea of moving the convention around the state.

Raenette asked for a proposal for a bylaw change; we could put together two proposals for either leaving it in Lewiston or moving it around. A question was asked if we need to list a date when we want the convention. Steve noted that things are changing so fast on the National level that we cannot afford to go for 19 months without a convention. (This means an April 08 convention and then a Nov. 08 convention instead of waiting until Nov of 09.) Salmon would offer to host the Nov. 08 convention. Val moved that we recommend to the annual convention next April that in order to move the convention around we would change to a Nov. convention in 2008 associated with our fall board meeting. Terry seconded. (It was asked that there be a pro and con sheet for folks to discuss with their chapters.) Motioned carried with 3 nay votes.

Sawtooth member Forrest Hymas spent a minute talking about the Horse Board and the solicitation of grants. He is the executive director for the board. Grants can be used for education, research and promotion of the industry. You must have grant applications in by December 1. If you need an application, call at 788-7111 or contact him at hymas@cox.net.

### **National Directors Report – Val Johnson & Bernie Lionberger**

Val has been concentrating on working with Mike Reedy on getting the director of economic development and they have interviewed 3 candidates. The position would be located wherever the person is hired lives. They are from Indiana, southern Cal and Washington. There is no salary set. The three candidates are still interested after understanding the financial situation. Mike is back in DC working with partnerships trying to keep BCH in the front line. It is difficult without adequate funding to send Mike where we need him.

### **Broomtales Report – Marilyn Rousher**

Nothing to report, but please submit articles for the next newsletter. She already goes to the chapter newsletters and websites to find info. Send her project specific articles and photos, or personal rides to a new place. Marilyn said she would write something for the national newsletter, but asked what to write about? She could send the article on Dennis Dailey's contributions to BCHI and BCHA. Personal interest stories are great as well. A question was asked about an article in BCHA newsletter on our outdoor show. People plan vacations around activities, so it would be good to put it in there. Next deadline will be Feb. 15. Raenette and Sherri need to send out a reminder the first of the year for articles for the newsletter.

Raenette wondered if BCHI was interested in a going away gift for Dennis and Liz Dailey – Val moved that we make a donation to the legal fund thanking them for all their efforts from the state of Idaho for \$200. Seconded by Robbin. Motion passed.

### **Sportsmans Caucus (Right to Ride) - Robbin Schindele**

We became affiliated with them last year and they have 20,000 members in the state. Their meeting is today and Phil Ryan drafted a memo to give to them regarding the Right to Ride and the need to support this bill. It asks for their support and to communicate it to their members. Robbin has also been working with a legislative effort on Right to Ride at the state level. Robbin will discuss with our governor a memorandum on the federal right to ride as well as the state issue. Robbin will need to keep in touch with Bernie on what is going on to set the stage...if we get support to move on something, it will get out to directors and contacts would be made. Val noted that a joint resolution on the right to ride would need to be drafted and go to various senators and get co-sponsors.

### **Ways & Means Report – Mark Bogar**

The things we have worked on to make money for the state are the outdoor show/convention and the proposed calendar. Robbin spoke on the calendar idea. Per Idaho state lottery rules, we can only give out 1 prize per month. Debbie Samovar has been looking into it and we could tie in with the Washington calendar for printing and the graphic art work...would save us about \$2000. Robbin reviewed the costs of printing, design fee, and selling for \$12 each with no payouts. If we have prizes – it sells for \$20. If you don't have the prizes, we earn nearly as much at \$12. \$6200 for printing and \$1200 for the artwork/design gives a net profit of \$17,000 (if you sell 2000 calendars). It was noted that if you win something, the BCH name gets out there very well, in addition to our name getting out on the calendars. A handout of information on this would be helpful for our delegates. Val moved that we adopt Phil's proposal to bring to the delegates for a calendar for 2009 and continue on the premise of prizes. Robbin seconded. Motion passed.

### **Public Lands Report – Bernie Lionberger**

TV - Ken Nungesser asked to bring up a topic because of the tremendous growth in their area. There is a large increase in 4-wheel use and even with rules to keep ATV's on designated routes, there is a lot of illegal use. There are tracks in that country from wagon trains, so you know these tracks aren't going to go away any time soon. Plus, there is also lots of trash. There is a gentleman starting an education program in the schools to get to the kids.

He also wants to start a volunteer program to pick up trash. Ken said this gentleman is looking at donations for a fundraiser to help the program. It was suggested that he work with the Blue Ribbon Coalition as well since they have the bucks and folks to help. This is definitely an emerging issue in the state of Idaho – and things that we need to know about - keep Bernie posted.

We also talked last meeting about the need for a southern rep to help Bernie with public lands. Raenette got a volunteer from the Boise area that belongs to TV – he could not attend this meeting, but several folks will meet with him tomorrow. He ran for office locally, has a web site, but all we care about are his affiliation with horse interests. His name is T. Allen Hoover. He indicated he would need a business card that says he is a legislative liaison for the BCHI...he would be working under Bernie and we would set some ground rules for him.

Historic and Traditional Use Act is the new name for Right to Ride. It hasn't been introduced yet, but likely next week by Crapo. Cantwell supports it, but won't sign on to it. Bernie went to a local meeting on the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. It is about preserving lands between Wyoming and Alaska to use only for recreation and restoration activities. It has 122 sponsors, but none from the areas that are affected by it. There is a proposal that you can get government loans if you are in a horse business and suffer a loss during a fire or flood or other natural disaster.

Steve also discussed the historic and traditional use act. Last year we did a re-write to try and get it out of committee. BCHA asked what the problem was in getting it through from the staffers back in DC and included those suggestions in the re-write. American Horse Council has thrown their weight behind the re-write. They have now been working through Maria Cantwell's staffer- they have some reservations on the bill because it directs the secretaries of ag and interior with what they can do (she has particularly strong concerns with park service). She is the most influential member on the natural resource committee and has said she won't support it, but won't oppose it. Maria Cantwell was the only Senator to write and ask the FS why there is a push to change the trail classification from 3 classes to 5 classes. The interim rule was supposed to be published last summer and there was a proposed meeting on the ground (Clearwater) to discuss the meaning on the ground of this proposal. They were having a difficult time connecting between WO and us. BCH of WA paid the bill to have Mike Reedy go back to DC and meet. FS was stonewalling on the conference call and they asked Maria Cantwell to intercede on our behalf. She wrote to Mark Rey and Gail Kimball and said have the conference call, meet next summer or there will be a full committee review on this. There is a date set in mid-June to mid-July to accomplish this.

So where does this leave the memorandum that Robbin was discussing? The board needs to decide if Robbin should go forward on his work with the state supporting the enactment of the federal bill. BCHI should pursue getting a memorandum, tasking Robbin to lead the charge. Barbara so moved and Terry seconded. Motion passed.

A few years ago BCHA joined with Tennessee BCH regarding off trail equestrian use. We won that lawsuit. Steve met with the current chief then and he made a promise to look at equestrian use on a site specific basis. The chief ruled against the Forest, and that forest now has a good working relationship with the horse users. The Chattahoochie / Ocone NF is going forward with the same "no off trail equestrian use" on their forest and are saying they have resource reasons, and are considering their whole forest as a "site". If they go forward with this, there will likely be another lawsuit. If they don't convince the RF and Forest Sup to change, there will be a lawsuit and BCHA would be co-appellants with the BCH of Georgia. BCH of Oregon has donated to their cause as well.

### **Miscellaneous**

Terry explained that cost share agreements were advocated for the FS instead of volunteer, but in order to get paid you have to get a Dunn and Bradstreet number and CCR #. 1-866-705-5711 to get a chapter CCR. You have to renew it every year. 820510506 is our tax number. [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov) to register on the internet. there are 3 activity codes to fill out for the kind of work we do – 0851 is the code for SIC, NAICS is 115310 and PSC is FO18 They are automatic deposits.

Raenette brought up the Idaho Parks and Recreational grant program – she was called to be on the committee as a non-motorized user for the motorized user group grant application. It constitutes one meeting per year and may mean traveling to sites where user groups want you to visit the sites where they are applying for grants. Raenette will attend the Idaho Horse Council meeting at Worley.

Lifeflight Program - Robbin talked with reps from St. Lukes and St. Al's life flight. They are in Boise, but they have partnership in all of Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, part of Nevada, part of Calif and a small part of Montana. People should check their individual insurance policies as some have coverage already. TV will ask to see if they can expand from their 100 members for \$500 that they got – Ken will talk with Robbin and keep him updated.

Gene motioned that this be pursued at the state level – seconded by Phil Foster. Motion passed.

Steve noted we need to make sure local chapters know about the right to ride info and the potential lawsuit in the southeast. BCHI.org website has a link to all of the legislative parties. Keep up on your issues via the BCHA newsletter.

Further clarification on state raffle – each chapter will get 250 tickets – same cost of \$5 each or 5 for \$20. They also put in a chapter summary sheet for total sales as needed. You must book the vacation in 2008, but you don't need to use it that year – can be used in 2009 or 2010. Your chapter summary sheet is required to get the 10% back.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Lionberger  
Secretary



**Rob, Willow & Mesteña**





**SBBCH Monthly Meeting**-Thursday, 7:00 PM December 06, 2007-La Costa Restaurant, Emmett ID

Chapter leadership elections. Attend and vote for our chapter's leadership team. This is the right time to bring up items you want the chapter to consider for 2008. Planning for 2008 is starting, we need ideas for rides, camping trip, trails to work on and activities that you "a BCHI member" want to do or see us doing. If you have an idea for 2008 send it to [projects@sbbchidaho.org](mailto:projects@sbbchidaho.org) / [president@sbbchidaho.org](mailto:president@sbbchidaho.org)

**SBBCH Christmas Potluck**- Saturday December 8. 6:30 PM – 10:00

Bring a dish to pass (including serving spoon) and your favorite beverage. SBBCH will provide the meat, pop, paper products, and utensils. Bring a White Elephant for each person attending. The White elephant should be under \$10. The intention of a White Elephant gift is that it is not new, but is 'recycled'. Something you got as a gift or purchased but don't want, something in good shape that you have never used or something gently used.

**Please RSVP to Ellen (398-7279) / [spirithorse@clearwire.net](mailto:spirithorse@clearwire.net)** if you ARE attending or ARE NOT attending by Friday November 30.

**Directions:** 2790 East Black Canyon Highway. From downtown Emmett, go North on Washington to Black Canyon Highway. Turn East (right). Go about 3 miles, drop down off the bench. We are on the North (left) side of the highway. You've gone too far if you get to Plaza Road or Black Canyon Dam. Look for the SBBCH signs.

Happy Holidays