

The Highline

A tri-annual newsletter of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

Winter 2013 Edition

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Winter Convention

March 8-9, 2013

Crook County Fairgrounds, Prineville

Y'all come!

It's going to be a great weekend of meeting and greeting, good food, important issues discussed and decided, and some very interesting speakers.

It takes place this year in Prineville at the Crook County Fairgrounds. BCHO Board Meeting is Friday, March 5, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday the BCHO General Meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., also at the fairgrounds.

Friday's agenda includes reports from State Officers; the status of saw certification for BCH trainers; trail classification issues; State Ride plans; and several topics relating to packing including the LNT pack trip and LNT Train the Trainer plans. General membership is welcome to attend.

See inside on page 2 for reminders to chapter directors from Chairman Jerry Bentz.



Dan and Joyce Fouts lead out at State Ride 2012

PURPOSES of BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of OREGON

To **PERPETUATE** the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.

To **WORK** to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To **ASSIST** the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To **EDUCATE**, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the back country resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

TO **FOSTER** and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

(Continuation of "Winter Convention" from page 1)

The following are reminders to chapter directors from Chairman Jerry Bentz:

1. Come prepared to vote on the proposed \$5.00 increase in dues to National. This increase has been under discussion for a full year, but if there are still questions, please contact Phil or Casey Hufstader, National BCHA reps.
2. Chapter reps come with a current list of all your paid members.
3. Each chapter is asked to bring raffle items and a center piece for the dinner on Saturday night. There will be a silent auction for the center pieces so bring something you can part with.
4. Each chapter is asked to elect or choose a "Volunteer of the Year" from their chapter. There are no specific criteria for this award, as every chapter is a little different. BCHO would like to honor your choices with an award at the Saturday night dinner.
5. A head count is needed for the dinner caterer. Please RSVP by March 1 to Jerry Bentz by email at mulepacker@canby.com or by phone at 971-645-3593.

Saturday a full day is planned, and all BCHO members are encouraged to attend. There will be chapter reports, a vote on the budget, and the election of new officers. Three excellent speakers will give talks on current issues. These include Randy Rasmussen, Wilderness Advisor for BCHA; Anna Laxauge, Regional Representative for the International Mountain Bikers' Association (IMBA); and Richard Grace with Friends of Fish Lake. Lunch will be prepared by Territorial Riders. We will all be asked to pitch in to cover expenses. That should be around \$5.00. Dinner is being catered by Bad Boys BBQ. The meal will cost \$20.00 per person and includes dessert and beverages (alcohol not allowed). We should get a really good meal for the money. Saturday night there will be awards to hand out, and Jennifer Trip from the Pacific Crest Trail Association is going to present a slide show about the trail and some of the work that has been going on.

Finally, we contacted two Prineville motels where we have stayed in the past and asked about rates. We got the best rate from the Stafford Inn. The rate is

\$72.00 per night plus tax. The phone number at the Stafford Inn is 541-447-7100. The rate is for either a single king or two queen beds. If you prefer the Best Western motel, their rate was just a few dollars more.

If anyone has any questions, please get ahold of us. We are looking forward to having a great time at this year's BCHO Winter Convention.

Thanks, Mike (Letsch) and Jerry (Bentz)

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Website Update

By: Del Orchard

A recent change has taken place with the BCHO web page. Probably you have noted some small differences already. Del Orchard has transferred the responsibility of management of the web page to Marty DeVall. He is an active member of Territorial Riders Chapter of BCHO.

This transfer will cause a couple of upgrades to the web page. Marty's efforts are volunteer, as mine were. More importantly, Marty has much more knowledge, experience and skills with web page management. Thus, Gail Metcalf's expertise is no longer needed.

I have included in this announcement Marty's biography so that those who do not yet know him can become acquainted.

Meet Martin (Marty) DeVall

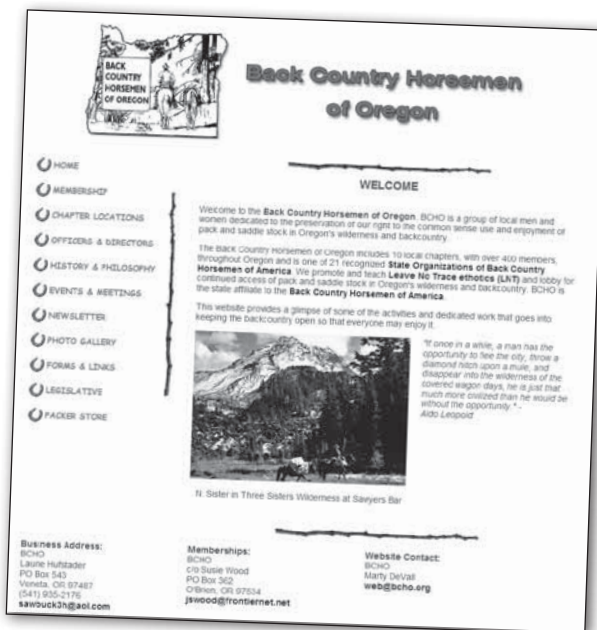


I was born in Portland, OR and currently live in Oregon City. I've been an avid outdoor person since a very young age and have been a member of the Oregon Equestrian Trails North Valley Chapter since 2000 and most recently joined the new Territorial Riders Chapter of BCHO. I do not claim to be an equine expert, having only owned 1 horse now for 17

years, I leave that expertise to my wife. I have volunteered on many work projects with OET as a member, our annual PCT trail clearing and ongoing work at McIver State park and between 2008 & 2010 I managed the volunteer construction project to build 30 corrals in 11 camp sites at Clackamas Lake Campground. I have also been managing the Oregon Equestrian Trails web site and domain for the past 4 1/2 years.

I have worked in the Computer Industry since the early 1970's for, Tektronix Inc., Network Computing Systems, Inc. and ThinPATH Systems, Inc., and have held many positions over the years, to name a few, Support Engineer, Systems Engineer, Sales Engineer and Systems Manager. I am currently semi-retired working from home for ThinPATH Systems Inc., as a consultant.

I am eager to begin managing the BCHO web site and look forward to hearing suggestions and improvements from anyone. Please send comments or suggestions to bcho@pacssi.com. I would like to see a better integration of the bcho.org web site with some of the current BCHO Chapters web sites and move to a more modern look this coming year.



www.bcho.org

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Equestrians and Emerald BCHO Challenges BLM EA for Bias toward Mountain Bikers

By Jean Clancey and Becky Hope, EEBCHO

For many years equestrians and mountain bike enthusiasts in Lane County, Oregon, have worked cooperatively to maintain trails and promote mutual trail etiquette and safety. But that positive working relationship is currently being tested as local horse people, Emerald Empire BCHO, and Eugene Chapter of OET have challenged claims by bicycle groups to their exclusive use of the area known as Carpenter Bypass.

We urge equestrian trail riders to pay attention to how this issue is unfolding in Lane County. Conflict with other user groups is not new, but it is intensifying and fast becoming a major flash point in our efforts to keep trails open to stock users.

Carpenter Bypass, or Why Pass as the area is being called, lies in the western Oregon coastal forests southeast of Eugene OR. It is a network of trails on BLM land and private timberlands used for many years by local horse people and ATV riders, and more recently by mountain bikers. The bicyclists, especially the group known as Disciples of Dirt, (chapter of International Mtn Bikers Assn. IMBA), have built a large amount of trails and created a destination “playground” for an ever-growing number fellow bikers enthusiasts.

To a large extent, the BLM has cooperated with the bicycle user group, though Alan Corbin, Field Manager, admitted that the trail development taking place was illegal and in violation of environmental regulations. In 2012 an Environmental Assessment (EA) was drafted, produced using the resources from IMBA, mainly by members of the bicycle community. A public meeting to review the EA was announced without attempt to contact equestrians, catching local equestrians off-guard. It was at this point that the fact that horses were being intentionally excluded from the process and from the area became evident. The draft EA, a biased document, concluded that horse use was wholly unsuited to the Carpenter Bypass.

Randy Rasmussen, BCHA Advisor for Wilderness and Recreation, was advised of the situation. His review of the draft EA and discussions with BLM managers about the process to date included the following points:

1. Unlike mountain bike users, members of the local equestrian community were not consulted by the BLM on methods used in the EA analyses to determine suitability of trails for equestrian use.

2. The EA analysis is flawed because it exerts a much higher level of scrutiny on equestrian trails as opposed to mountain bike trails, particularly with regard to potential impacts on soils in the area.

3. The EA analysis relies on opinions and data provided by mountain bike enthusiasts. These persons shared

extensive time in the field with BLM personnel, while no such courtesy was extended to equestrian users. Neither local horse users nor leaders of the two local equestrian groups (BCH and OET) were provided with similar access to BLM personnel.

4. The EA relies primarily on federal trail guidelines published by the Federal Highway Administration. Although these are merely guidelines, the BLM planning team applied a level of scrutiny to horse use on trails that exceeded those found in the general federal guidelines. This is another example of bias that renders the EA analysis highly flawed as it maximizes suitability of mountain bike use and minimizes equestrian use.

5. The EA is flawed because it does not include an alternative in which horse use is allowed on a larger portion of the trail system, and it does not consider restrictions on horse use in the wet season. Equestrian use during the dry season is a valid alternative that should have been addressed.

6. Finally, the EA is misleading when it states that “there is no established partnership with equestrian users for trail maintenance.” Members of BCH and OET were never contacted by the BLM to determine our ability or level of commitment to assist in maintenance of portions of the Carpenter Bypass system.

During the comment period a major letter writing campaign ensued. It became evident that more time was needed. It was asked for and granted by BLM on the draft EA. Many more comments by local equestrians were submitted.



EEBCHO is committed to seeing this process through to a just and fair conclusion that respects the rights of all trail users to suitable use of our public lands. What follows is an outline of events that have led to our current position with regard to the BLM, the EA, and communication with our local mountain bike groups.

October 13, 2012, members of EEBCHO sponsored a horse-mountain bike interaction event at Elijah Bristow State Park. 5 local mounted equestrians and 5 members of Disciples of Dirt (DOD) practiced how to safely meet on the trail.

November 28, 2012, three members of DOD, two members of BCHO and one National BCHA representative met for an extended discussion on working together with regards to the Carpenter Bypass area.

December 5, 2012, three BCH members, including one BCHA representative, met with Alan Corbin (BLM Field Manager), Wade Judy (BLM Recreation Manager) and two other BLM staffers to discuss what equestrians' vision for the Carpenter Bypass would be and what we would require in a revised EA. It was agreed we would work with DOD on horse trail locations and work to reach and MOU with them on how to avoid user conflict. We asserted that no fewer than 8 trail miles should be available to horse use.

December 22, 2012, local BCH members and one DOD representative met and walked the existing trails together. We reviewed location of trails and options for shared use where safety issues could be addressed. Suggestions included building bypasses around jumps and speed chutes. We discussed the feasibility of sharing an outside outer loop trail that now exists and is not a high speed segment. The beginnings of trails could have short sections of parallel trail for horses, since most horses poop the first ¼ mile out, thus eliminating a common bicyclist complaint. Signage was deemed helpful to show trail steepness and difficulty as well as expectations of both user groups.

It was evident at the end of an otherwise productive meeting, however, that DOD preferred horses not use their established trails but stay to lesser-used trails on the other side of the main road and build new loops solely for horse use.

January 6, 2013, seven local equestrians and members of both BCH and OET met in Lorane to lay out a plan to move forward working with members of the mountain bikers at Carpenter Bypass. We learned that locals have been riding area trails for as long as 40 years and often no longer feel safe riding there. We agreed to work together in the effort to ensure fair and safe shared access to trails. Leaders in the Lorane horse community will take on identifying trails where it is possible to share safely with mountain bikes and those where it is not safe. They will look at the outside loop option.

EEBCHO meeting on January 9, 2012, members voted to utilize moneys from our chapter's legal fund to offset the accruing costs of this ongoing effort.

In February, 2013, members of Emerald Empire BCH will join DOD for two weekends of trail work on shared trails in the Hardesty Mountain/Goodman Creek area. This work project follows on many such events over past years, and we hope to maintain our positive working relationship for mutual benefit in years to come.

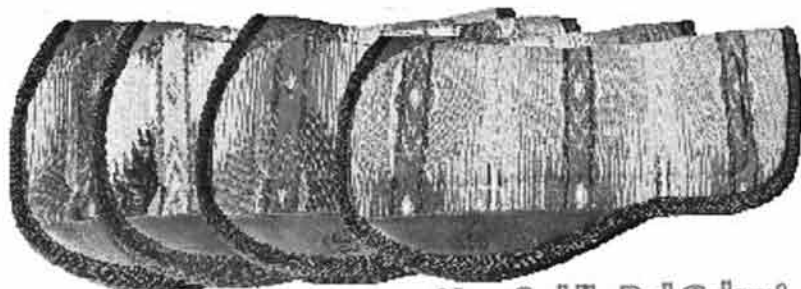
As this article is being written, response from the mountain biking community has not been positive. They are increasingly unhappy with our efforts to maintain access to what they perceive as their turf and to the delay in the BLM approval process we have caused. But our horse community sees this as an important precedent. We should not be written out of an area of historical use by a flawed EA and an aggressive user group. We have the legal and moral high ground in this conflict of interest. We will continue to keep BCHO and BCHA advised as this process unfolds.



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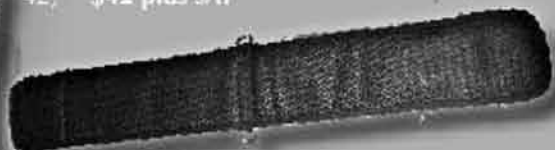
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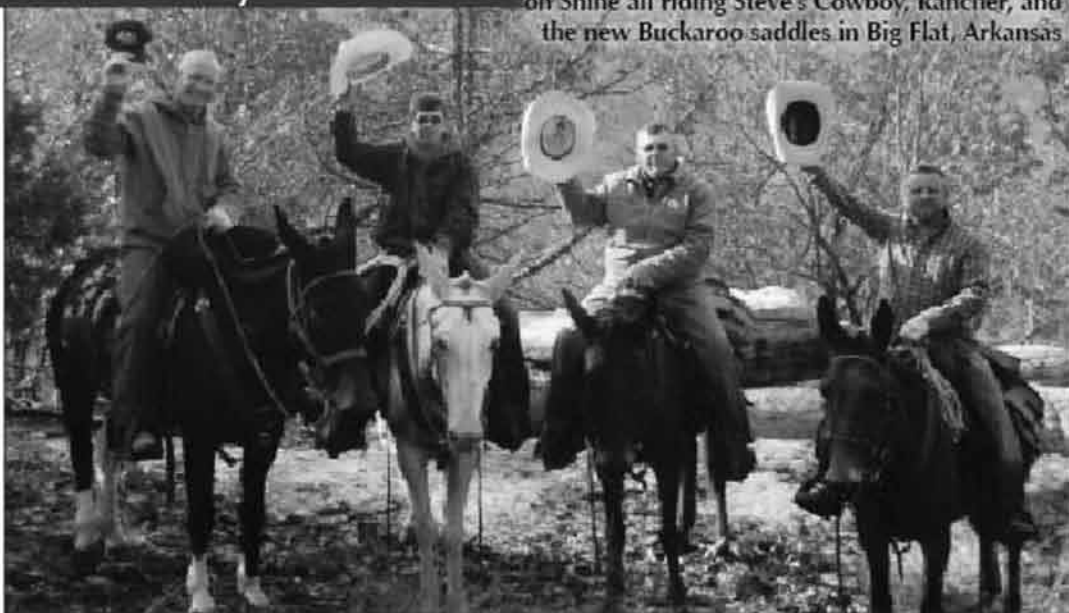
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A lot of you want to know if my tack can do any tough job? Well, here is Jimmy and some of his friends. They will tell you they have different size mules and they are all different size riders. The only thing they have in common is they ride with my saddles and tack. Yes, my saddles can even take a mule rolling off a mountain! I have copied the email that Jimmy Stewart sent:

"On October 6, 2012, my cousin Mickey Williams and I were riding on Tall Peak Trail, in Shady Lakes, Ark. I was on my six year old molly, Pearl, and he was on his john mule Henry. I was riding my Cowboy saddle and on this day we were climbing the mountain. Pearl began to lose her footing in some loose rocks and mud as it had started raining. As I could feel her falling, I heard Jimmy Williams say in my head, "Get off on the high side." I never really thought about that phrase much, as it had been said to me so many times by Jimmy, Mickey and Ken Wilson. It would appear that their guidance took hold though. Pearl went one way and I went the other. Once I was able to roll over after hitting the ground, I watched her bounce and roll off several rocks and trees before I lost sight of her. I was sure we would find her dead, but she ended up bruised, battered, cut and bleeding from a large cut

Jimmy Stewart on Pearl, Jake Williams on Big Mama, Jimmy Williams on Spur and Ken Wilson on Shine all riding Steve's Cowboy, Rancher, and the new Buckaroo saddles in Big Flat, Arkansas



on her head, directly between the ears. Even more amazing was that her saddle was still intact. I believed it would be destroyed when I found it. The best estimate on the fall was between 200 and 250 feet down. This is truly a testament to the quality product you make."

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Ringling in the New Year in The Northwest

**By: Melissa Farrier, Joanne Hanson, and
Stacey Livermore, Territorial Riders BCHO**

Generally, the vision that comes to mind when a person thinks of riding their horse or mule down the trail is of the sun shining, birds singing, leather creaking, and warm pine breezes giving us a sense of peace and contentment known only to a person sitting in a saddle. The reality, if you live in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, where our Territorial Riders chapter is based, is that you will be hearing the plop, slurp sound of your horse traveling through mud bogs, the chattering of your teeth, and the swooshy crinkly noise your waterproof overcoat makes. A damp, cold drizzle caresses what skin it can find uncovered, and occasionally your companion is rolling their eye back at you, as if to say, "Are you out of your tree????!! I could be home, dry, eating hay, not slogging up to my belly in mud with you!"

Our annual New Year's ride and barbecue potluck was all that and more! Twelve hardy souls came out to ride that foggy, cold day, and for nearly four hours, we scooted up long, slippery hills and then sat and slid down the other side. Many horses appeared to be almost cartoonish, as they worked hard to get up a hill, their feet slipping in place as they worked to get traction enough to get up to the top. A few boggy areas were to be found, with mud up to the hocks on some shorter horses (mine), but due to the hard work of the trail crew volunteers, we did not get the indignity of being slapped in the face with a wet fir branch, I tell you, they made our trail so nicely cleared, it would have made a picturesque trail in a state park. And would you believe, we had one brave young'un, not even old enough to call herself a kindergartner, made the whole ride on her own? Now that's a tough rider in training! I promised my little mustang, Sprite, a liniment rubdown when we got home that evening. It was a hard ride for a little horse who was pretty much in mothballs for the winter, and way out of shape, but make it she did, to the end, despite stopping



twice and saying, "no more!" (If you own a mule or mustang, you know what I mean....they are all about looking out for #1, no matter what you tell them to do!)

At the end of the ride, where we began at the home of Molly and Jerry Schmeltzer, we were greeted with a little something to warm us up instantly – hot toddy's, mimosa's and a good sized selection of various medicinal spirits. The potluck spread was to die for, and Jerry cooked up some fab beef tenderloins out on his open fire pit. This is no ordinary fire pit either. They have a luxury gazebo, most folks put a hot tub in their gazebo, not the Schmeltzer's, they are far too practical for that. Their grand gazebo has a fire pit built up to about 3 feet off the ground, complete with an adjustable, swing-out, grill, and bench seating all around it for 10 cozy folks. It was the most popular place at the end of the ride, as we all toasted our tootsies and thawed out, late in to the evening.

The beginning of a new year is also a great time to reflect on last year. Territorial Riders Chapter had a good year. We would like to mention a few things that were done: we Adopted the Bull of the Woods Wilderness near the end of the summer and performed three work parties clearing approximately 12 miles of challenging trail not just for equestrians but all users of the wilderness, we assisted at Milo McIver State park with the "Training Stations", put on a Poker Ride at the Horning Tree Seed Orchard and cleared fence lines and performed other chores for using the property, cleared the Pacific Crest Trail from Clackamas Lake Campground to the Little Crater Lake junction while making new friends during the campout and bringing the young ones along, had a Potluck at a private park in Beavercreek just for fun, and a campout at Big Meadow - working together on meals for fun.

Territorial Riders BCHO is looking forward to an exciting new year in 2013. We have already planned more work and more fun. We are planning to get more of our members First Aid and Saw certified so we can perform



Beef tenderloin prepared on an open firepit

even more volunteer work this year, while reaching out to the state and federal groups. For more information about our chapter and events you can look us up on our new Facebook page by searching for Back Country Horsemen of Oregon – Territorial Riders Chapter, or visit our website at <http://www.bcho.org/trbcho.com>. We hope you all found a way to get out and start your New Year off on the right foot, whether it was stepping in ice, snow, mud, or sand, good luck to having a productive new year! We'd like to close with a poem written by one of our fellow members, Stacy Livermore.

Winter Riding

By Stacy Livermore

*Winter riding is the best,
With frozen clouds of horses' breath,
And silent snowflakes drifting down,
The crunch of hooves is the only sound.
My pony knows just where to stop
Where last fall's apples have surely dropped,
But when the branches are finally bare
He doesn't tarry long right there.
His steps are light, his back is strong,
Though days are short and nights are long.
And when the sun breaks through the woods
We stop and bask in all that's good.
Winter riding is the best,
With frozen clouds of horses' breath.*



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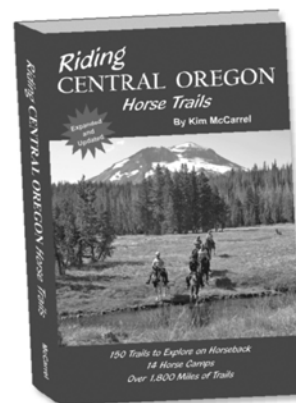


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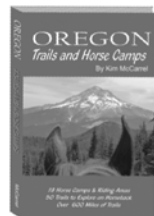
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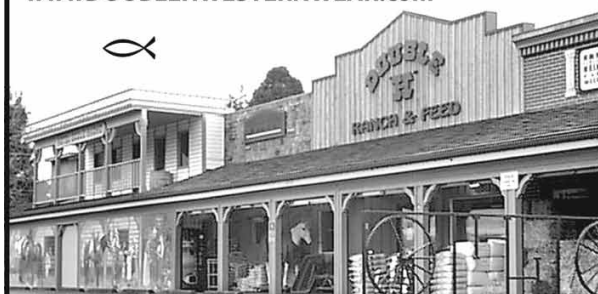


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Looking ahead - State Ride 2013

By: Joy Senger/BCHO Secretary

State Ride

July 26 - 28, 2013

Western Ochocos

Plan now to attend this fine event in Central Oregon's beautiful Ochoco Mountains! If you missed last year, you have another chance to ride this magnificent country. If you attended last year, then you know how special this place is and how much fun it is spending time with this wonderful group of folks that make up the chapters of Oregon's Back Country Horsemen.



Dr. Don Howard DVM Gives Chiropractic Adjustments at State Ride



Saturday night's potluck is being organized by the Territorial Rider's chapter. The West Cascades chapter will be providing a breakfast on Sunday morning. Weed free hay will be provided again and, depending on the location, manure will be hauled out as last year. More details should be available for the Winter Convention membership meeting.

Please note, the Fall edition of The Highline published the wrong dates for the State Ride 2013. The correct weekend for this event is July 26 - 28, 2013.



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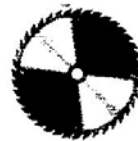
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Quilt Raffle

By: Joy Senger/BCHO Secretary

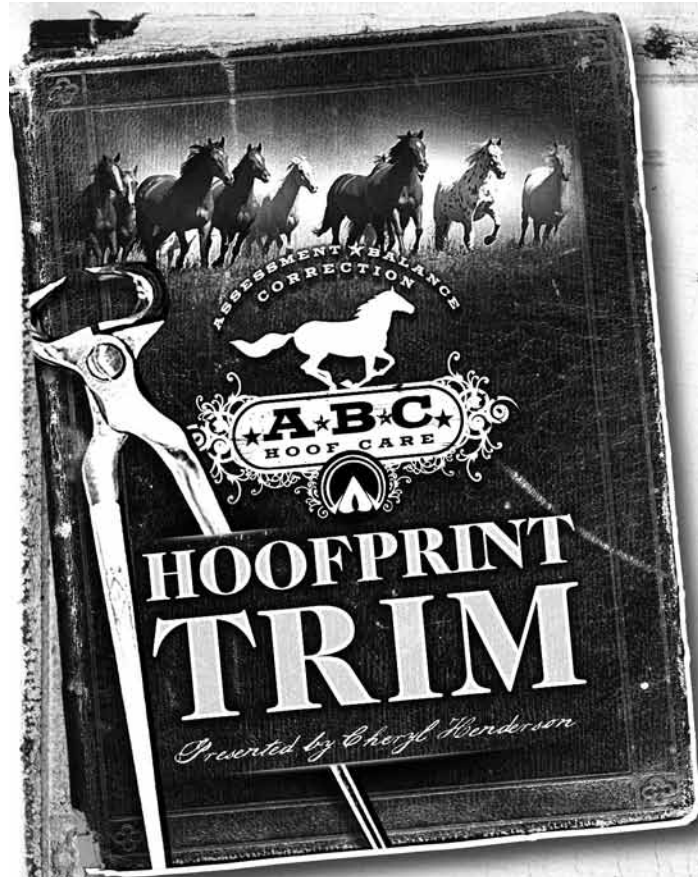
The raffle quilt is here! Tickets will be available for each chapter to sell. I also have a poster for each chapter to use as advertisement. I will get them out before or at the March Winter Convention Meeting. The first 'showing' and ticket sales will be at the Portland Sportsmen's Show. It will travel to the Albany Expo and the Packing Clinic at Klamath Falls. If you have an event where you would like the quilt to be displayed just let me know and I will get it to you.



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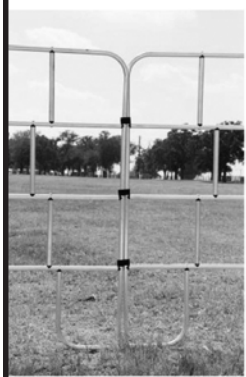
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Signed _____ Date _____

*Must be signed by all chapter members 18 years and older.

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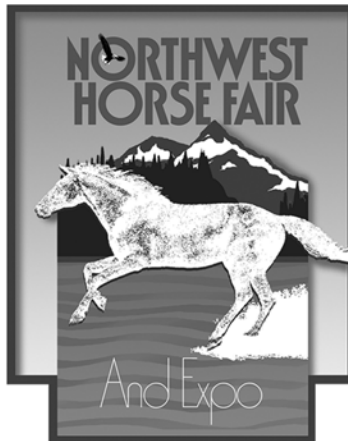
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