

# The Highline

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

November 2013

## Summer Fun with Teens in the Wilderness

Submitted by: Emily Elias, Emerald Empire Chapter

Our first stop this summer was at Sisters Cow Camp for the LNT Training. Our teachers this time were Jerry Bentz and George Johnson. Jerry had to hightail it to his daughter's graduation from high school so we didn't see him so much, but George took over and did a great job making our learning fun, diverse and interesting, even for the kids! We had 10 students, 4 of which were 13 and under. The format for this course had a nice balance of learning, socializing, riding and naturally, eating! I just heard today that this camp was the most fun they had all summer, even over the wilderness trip they took later, although the chair sessions could have been shorter, according to several of the students.

LNT is a very common sense course which mostly brings to the forefront for us stock users how much more we need to pay attention to where and how we are using the wilderness. The more we can bring the youth and all stock users into the LNT awareness the better our part as stewards of the wilderness will be accomplished. As you read on, the kids knew when



Satysha, Althea, Trina, Lindsay, Rosie At Diamond Peak

they were doing it right and when they weren't, and I did too, but sometimes we take experience over correctness, as long as we are safe. So get ready for our 2014 LNT Trainings possibly at Fish Lake Remount Station. Become a Friend of Fish Lake and support what is happening there. We are looking for more youth to sponsor as a state organization as well as each chapter next year. Please be in touch with Phil Hufstader from Emerald Empire for more information.

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Our second trip was to the Diamond Peak wilderness to practice what we learned at Sisters and to finish logging out Emerald Empire's section of the PCT. The trip was fabulous, our only complaint being the mosquitoes. A PCT thru hiker passed us while we were off our horses getting another log off the trail and his only comment after thanking us was "gosh lots of bugs here in Oregon." We had one lapse in our LNT principles, which you will read about in the kids' comments, but I am pretty confident the lake will heal and probably within a day or two you would have had to look carefully to see where we were camped. I was very happy with the care the students took in making sure we had left the area with as little impact as possible.

I want to thank the kids for being such wonderful horsewomen on these trips. They took super care of their animals throughout both trips. They also were one of the best trail crews I have worked with. We were very proud of our long day on the PCT. We cleared trails all day and there was not one complaint (except for that one tree in the sun that had lots of cutting to do!)

We were rewarded on the way back up the Yoran Lake trail as we were passing Karen Lake a bald eagle flew from its perch at one end of the lake, circled by us checking us out, and wheeled back around to the far end of the lake. There is nothing more wonderful than a flyby by one of our most majestic birds in the wilderness. The morning as we were leaving, packing, and getting it all together, we were harassed by a Raven. He sat up there in the snag for more than an hour yelling at us not to forget anything and make sure we left it as clean as possible. Well, maybe he was actually telling us to leave him a little snack, which naturally we didn't!

One other fun event that I enjoyed was our Moonlight ride. We couldn't wait till midnight, but the moon was nearly full and the trails sort of bright, being that the angle of the moon was still creating lots of shadows. We all got on bareback and rode a half mile or so to the spot in the PCT where there is a wonderful view of Diamond Peak. It was a spectacular view in the moonlight. When I first suggested it, I didn't think the girls would take me up on it, but that was pretty much all we talked about over dinner and I didn't think I could back out. So the moon was up and we were going. I was sure glad I was on a horse, because I could hardly see when the trees got thick and the moon blocked. Next time I have to ride in the dark I will have lots more confidence in my horse and I think the kids will too!



Here are some recaps in the kids own words:

### Satyhsa Whitworth

*I learned and got to experience so much this summer. The first camping trip we went on was at Sisters Cow Camp in Sisters. On that trip we all learned about LNT (leave no trace) which really helped me think of how the slightest thing can affect so much in nature. For instance, dropping an orange peel out of your window of your car can attract animals to the road which makes it more likely that they will get hit by a car.*

*On our second camping trip we went to Diamond Peak Wilderness. On this trip we packed all the things we would need for camping on our horses. We did have a pack horse too which carried the tent, food, cooking tools, etc. When we arrived where we decided to camp our goal was to high line the horses and get our tents ready. When it became around 5:30ish we fed the horses and ate dinner ourselves. At about 10 or later we went to bed. The next day we cleared logs, trees, and branches etc. on the section of trail that the Emerald Empire Chapter has adopted as part of the PCT volunteer crew. When we got back to camp we went into the water with the horses to cool them off, although that didn't go too well.....the horses ended up pawing, pooping, and rolling in the water. That was definitely not a good idea, we had just learned about LNT (leave no trace) so we should have been more careful.*

*This summer was filled with learning, fun, and excitement! I will definitely not forget this summer!!! Thank you so much Emily and the Back Country Horsemen of Emerald Empire for making this an unforgettable summer!!!*



## Rosie Bianchi

*On June 14 2013, we woke up at 5:30 a.m. and met at Emily Elias's house at 6:00 a.m. Emily is our riding instructor and also a member of the BCH. We loaded up the horses and all our gear and left on our way to Sisters Cow Camp. Once there we learned about the plan ahead and prepare principals of LNT (leave no trace).*

*We learned many things, had many meetings, went on rides, and for the most part had lots of fun. We would like to thank the Hufstader Family and the BCH chapter for sponsoring us so that we could have such a great experience, learning new skills that would help us on our bigger camping trip later in the summer.*

*Some weeks later we went on a 3 night 4 day trip to Diamond Peak. After packing into a lake called Lil's Lake we set up camp. We unpacked our horses, put high lines up and set up tents. The next morning we got up bright and early and set off to clear trails for the day. We worked our way back to where we had parked, clearing logs and branches out of the trail. On our way back we swam at Midnight Lake. When we got back to camp we did some camp chores, cared for our horses, went swimming, this time with our horses. This was not exactly LNT because the horses messed up the shore line and one or two of them pooped in the water which was funny but gross. The next day was our open trail riding day so we went up the trail to explore. We went up to the top of the peak, then we went looking for a lake called Divide Lake and eventually found it. It was definitely one of the coldest lakes we swam in on this trip but it was still fun. One of our goals was to go swimming in every lake but we did not quite succeed. We did however see a lot of the lakes. We got back to camp and went swimming one last time before packing up camp. The next morning we woke up, finished packing camp and headed back to the trucks. We arrived, loaded up our*

*gear and horses and headed home. We would like to thank everyone who helped make our trip possible so that we could have such a great time and experience.*

## Althea Tyler

*Here are some things I learned and will always remember about this summer. The first trip we went on was the Cow Camp in Sisters and we talked a lot about leave no trace and how we can help people who don't know about LNT learn about cleaning up after camping with horses. I learned things that really helped me during the summer.*

*On our second camping trip we went to the Diamond Peak Wilderness area, we packed all the things that we needed on our riding horses and we also had one pack horse that carried our food that would have to last us four days and three nights. We tied our high lines and put up our tents and made sure everything was in place before we made dinner and fed the horses. The next day we went on some trails that had logs that we cut because we adopted that trail on the PCT to clean. After working for the day we took the horses swimming so we could cool them off but that was a mistake that we knew we were making but we did it anyway. It was not considered "LNT" because the horses pawed and made the water all muddy and made big holes in the clay. They also pawed water plants and some even pooped in the water but it was definitely worth the damage for how much fun we had!*

*I rode a lot this summer but I learned so much from my real life experiences and that has made all the difference. I hope to have even more fun trips like this in the years and LNT will always be used so that other people besides me can enjoy this beautiful world that we live in!!! Thank you Emily and BCHOEE so much for making this summer very memorable and fun!!!*

## In conclusion...

*Well folks, there you have it. A summer accomplished and with lots of memories made. Not only memories but experiences learned that one can only get while camping in the backcountry with our wonderful animals.*

*Again thanks so much to the Emerald Empire Chapter and the Hufstader family for sponsoring these kids this year. As you can see they learned so much and every experience they have like this builds their foundation for the future caretakers of the wilderness. Get your youth out and let's have some fun!*



# Furbearer Trappers Regs and Cougar Encounter Advice

Submitted by: Jean Clancey, Emerald Empire Chapter

Concern about encountering traps and snares near trails prompted Emerald Empire Chapter to invite a speaker on the subject to a meeting last spring. Reports that riders had spotted traps in the Waldo area near Charlton Lake raised concerns for the safety of ourselves, our stock, and our dogs.

Kevin Rowell, Trails Coordinator for the Middle Fork Willamette Ranger District, presented the chapter a list of the furbearer trapping regs that apply in Oregon. They are summarized as follows:

1. On state and federal lands, except when authorized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, no traps may be set on land:

- within 50 feet of any public trail
- within 300 feet of any trailhead that is designated and maintained as such by the public land management agency and is accessible to vehicular traffic, or
- within 300 feet of any public campground or picnic area designated as such by the public land management agency on the most current official map of the agency.

2. It is unlawful to disturb or remove traps or snares of any licensed trapper while that person is trapping on public lands or on other land by landowner's permission.

3. All traps or snares set or used for the taking of furbearing or unprotected mammals shall be inspected at least every 48 hours and all trapped animals removed.

4. Any person setting a trap for predatory animals, as defined in ORS 610.002, must check the traps as follows:

- For killing traps or snares, at least once every 30 days and remove all animals.
- For restraining traps and snares, at least once every 76 hours and remove all animals.

**Kevin also address questions about what to do if you encounter a cougar.**

**If you are threatened:**

- Do not run
- Try to make yourself look bigger - raise your arms over your head, open your coat wide
- Back away slowly keeping eye contact
- Pick up a child without bending over
- Raise your voice and speak with command.

**If you are attacked:**

- FIGHT!
- Use anything you can get your hands on to hit the cat with. It will try to get your head and your neck in its mouth.

Thank you to Kevin Rowell for direct answers to our questions. We need to stay informed.





# It Pays To Double Check, Some Times

Submitted by: Gary Sischo, Territorial Riders BCHO  
Oregon Equestrian Trails

The story began when I got a call from the P.C.T.A. trail coordinator for the part of the trail in northern Oregon and southern Washington. She asked if I was able to pack supplies and tools for a volunteer trail crew. I checked my calendar and I was free the date of the pack-in. So I agreed to help support Jim Forsman, the other packer.

My wife (Peggy) told me that the trail is in terrible condition. I asked her how she knew this? We had never ridden on this section of the P.C.T. She said that she had heard it from Becky Wolf. I said I think Becky was talking about a different part of the trail, and it was ten years earlier that Becky had ridden the trail.

Ten days before the date of the pack-in, I got a call from Jim informing me that the trail that the P.C.T.A. trail crew leader thought was the shortest route to the crew camp site was (as he had heard) very treacherous! Jim said that he and his wife Susan were going to look at the trail the Sunday before the pack-in. I said that I would like to go along, so we set a time to meet at Timberline Lodge. Apparently Jim had called Dave Adams, who is very familiar with the area to ask about the trail condition. Dave took it upon himself to go check out the trail, as he had heard that the trail was not good for horse travel. Dave reported to Jim and me that he rode out the trail a short distance but he turned around as he saw the trail was unsafe for horses and especially leading pack stock. Peggy was very nice and didn't even tell me "I said so" about the trail conditions.

Dave said that he would go and help clear the alternate trail the Saturday before the date of the pack-in. He said that he might get some help and could I find help as well? I called Guy, a friend of mine, and asked if he could come and bring one of his sons. On the day of the trail clearing Guy couldn't

go but both of his sons were free to help. One son is in his late forties and the other is in his mid fifties (great help). Dave got a friend and his wife to come along and Dave's wife Barb. That made five men and two women for the trail clearing. The trail is in the Mount Hood wilderness which means all tree removal is done with a cross cut saw. The section of trail to clear was six miles long. We rode about a mile and a half



before we came to the first log. Then it was about a mile or half a mile between logs. At the second log, as Dave started removing the bark from the log, a large nest of yellow jackets came boiling up out of the ground. We stopped the work and let the bees settle down and we were able to saw the log as quietly as possible. No one got stung by the

bees. In all we removed twenty logs. That took four hours. With five men all of the trees were able to be removed with only one cut. The mule I was riding was stung five times as I was the last one in line!

The day of the pack-in, the P.C.T.A. crew leaders came with all the tools and supplies for the volunteer trail crew. The packing was done with the help of the crew leaders. We set out with the only concern being bees (mid August). We encountered no bees on the trail. The pack-in took two hours and fifteen minutes all up hill 1500 feet to 4000 feet. The trip back took just one hour and forty five minutes, all down hill.

There is a lesson to be learned from this story. When you plan a trip get good information. If you are taking pack stock and the trail sounds questionable for horse travel, go check it out for yourself!

Stay on the top side and have a safe trip.

GarySischo  
muddyflatmules@aol.com

# A Note from the BCHO President

I hope everyone has had a great summer. I was fortunate to be able to spend most every weekend in the mountains either clearing trail, packing or just having a good time. Two events really come to mind as I reflect over the summer. First was the State Ride. We had a great time in the Ochoco's this year. It's always great to get together with a bunch of friends and just have a good time. Because of the State Ride the BCHO board has decided to take on the Allen Creek Horse Camp as a project. Becky Wolf is heading up the repairs to the camp. OET, who has been a good partner on several of our projects in the past, has given us a grant to help get started with rebuilding the corrals. Next year's State Ride will once again be at Allen Creek. I hope everyone makes plans now to attend. The second event that really sticks out for me was the Learn To Pack trip for the folks who had taken the Leave No Trace class that we offer in June every year. We packed into Santiam Lake and had a great time. I think there is an article about the trip in the paper so I won't go into a lot of detail but it was a great time for everyone involved.

Next I would like to encourage all members to attend this year's Winter Convention. This year we are meeting at Eagle Crest which is located between Sisters and Redmond in Central Oregon. The date for the general meeting is March 8th. We will start the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and finish the day with a banquet Saturday evening. Carole Hopkins has negotiated a room rate that is comparable to what we have had in the past and it's a great place to spend the weekend with friends. I hope you all plan to attend. We are planning on having several speakers that should be interesting for everyone. There will be awards given out at the dinner and a lot of time to just visit with each other and get caught up. If you have never been to Winter Convention this would be a good one to attend.

Last month the BCHO board had the fall board meeting in Veneta. The board realizes that for BCHO to be effective we need to grow and do a better job of getting our mission out to the rest of the equine community and the rest of the "QUIET" recreation users. Back in 2002 the board put together a "Vision Statement" for BCHO. The current board voted to reaffirm that vision statement. As the winter season progresses I hope to share my thoughts as to how we are going to carry out that vision. One of the ways we can do that is to work more with youth groups. I have always been a little reluctant to work with youth because of the liability issues. If we work with groups such as the Boy Scouts or 4H they have insurance already which helps eliminate that issue. Give it some thought; it's really nice to have young help when we are doing projects.

The last thing I would like to share with you is our concerns with some organizations in the mountain bike community. BCHO has been told that IMBA would like to have mountain bikes allowed on the three National Scenic Trails in the United States. They are The Pacific Crest Trail, Continental Divide Trail, and The Appalachian Trail. IMBA has also stated that they would like to be allowed in the wilderness areas. In another western state, some members of the horse community made some statements that were taken out of context and used to discredit them by a fringe group of IMBA. We are asking that no one speak at one of IMBA's gatherings as a representative of BCHO. I know this sounds harsh and like we don't want to work with the bikers. That is not the case and in fact I encourage you to work with the mountain bikers on local, mutually beneficial projects but at the same time we need to be cautious with what we say. IMBA has a lot of money and the ability to influence Congress. I know that we are all independent thinking horse people that think we know what is best. Please, if you care about your children and grandchildren being able to safely use the wilderness areas without being run over by a mountain bike, be careful what you say about this topic in public settings.

I hope to see you all in March at Winter Convention.

Jerry Bentz

# BCHO Vision Statement

March 2, 2002 Meeting

A Vision Statement by BCHO was developed as written below.

## BCHO Goals

1. BCHO reaffirms the original five-point mission statement of BCHA and recognizes that we can't be all thing to all people. Our focus on wilderness and public land mission is narrow and must remain so for our organization to meet the goals and mission established at the time of formation.
2. Membership growth goal shall be 10% per year for the next five years. Retention of current members must continue to be a priority of the state and local chapters.
3. BCHO needs to increase its media exposure and continue to improve its image.
4. BCHO should be proactive in public lands issues.
5. BCHO is the authority on low impact stock use in wilderness and on public lands and should become full partners with the public agencies in volunteer and educational efforts concerning their use.
6. BCHO will encourage Chapters to promote youth participation.
7. Increased Annual Convention participation growth goal will be 20% per year for the next five years.

## BCHO Objectives

1. Place ads or articles about Back Country Horsemen in magazines such as Cascade Horseman to raise awareness and encourage membership.
2. Actively seek interested people who may want to start new chapters in locations without them.
3. Encourage more participation at local and state level through projects and activities.
4. Provide educational opportunities to increase knowledge through LNT training sessions, leadership training and Public Lands effectiveness training.

We reaffirm the BCHO Vision statement  
That was presented March 2, 2002 on this  
Date: September 21, 2013

Name	Pos.	Chapter
Jerry Bunt	Pres BCHO	West Cascades
Don Applebaker	"Past"	HDTR
Carole A. Hopkins	VP BCHO	HDTR
Emily Elias	VP BCHO EE	Emerald Empire
BJ Keele	Pres	" "
Lucie Wood	Membership	Sourdough
MARTY DEVAL	WEB	TR BCHO
Jeff Luecke	member	TR BCHO
Kimberly Algebr	President	TR BCHO
Sara Sagasse	Member	TR BCHO
Jeanne Hanson	member	TR BCHO
Ly. Hefner	Art. & D. L.	EE BCHO
Lona Phillips	Member HDTR BCHO	" "
Chris Worden	HDTR BCHA State Director	" "
Kenna Hayes	EC BCHO - P/L	filling in for State Dir
Michelle Morn	WC BCHA	State dir
Phil Hufstader	EE	" "
Laura Hufstader	EE	" "
Joy Seeger	Col George	" "



# Quilt Raffle Winner



We are pleased to announce that the drawing for the Western Quilt Raffle was held on September 11, 2013 and Alexis Atchinson is our winner! She loves the quilt as you can see in the picture.

We are sorry if you did not win but we did raise \$715.00 to benefit BCHO and our programs to keep trails and the backcountry always open to equestrians.

The western rag quilt measures 66 inches by 74 inches and was hand made by Joy Senger from our Columbia Gorge Chapter.

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# EEBCHO Enjoys Birthday Campout

Emerald Empire Chapter did it's best to celebrate the 40th anniversary of BCHA, along with the 13th anniversary of our own chapter. Fourteen members got together in September for riding, camping, trail work and a grand potluck at Harralson Horse Camp near Waldo Lake.

Some rode cross country and had to saw and claw their way through down timber to get back to camp (after 7:00pm)!

Some got into "bees."

Some went swimming in cold, beautiful Bobby Lake and Waldo Lake.

Some went for wagon rides with a mini-team driven by CJ Croce and Troy Hansey.

Some offered stories around the fire ring and kept folks guessing.

ALL had a good time, ate amazing amounts of food, enjoyed riding in perfect weather, and

ALL received a commemorative BCHO bandana made up specially for the occasion.

Emerald Empire Chapter says,

**"Happy Birthday, Back Country Horsemen of America!"**



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# Don't Ask Me...Ask My Clients!

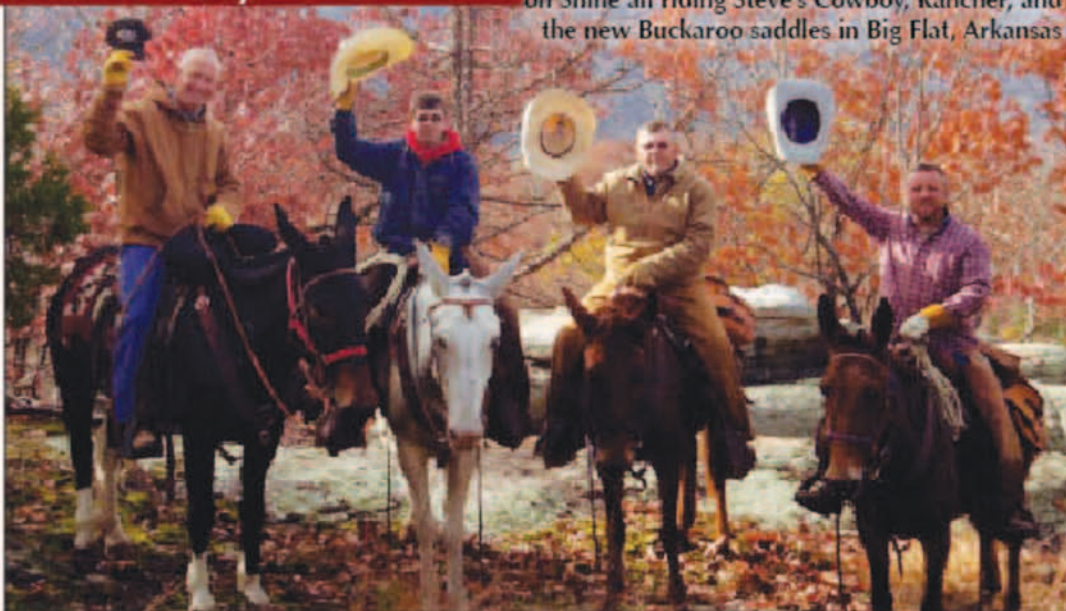
Mule and donkey folks...

You have seen my ads and read my articles, and I have said to you, "Ask the mules and donkeys and the riders about the QUALITY of my saddles."

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."*

We have Steve Edwards saddles - the only saddle with a lifetime guarantee and will fit every mule and donkey. Lots of folks call their saddle a "mule saddle" but my question is how many mules was this saddle on and worked before you decided it was a "mule saddle." I do not ride a saddle designed by a company. These saddles are what we use every day on the ranch. Since 1981, we started with a pack saddle then advanced to a saddle to go to work in.



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# The Teton Wilderness 2013

Submitted by: Dan Applebaker

I never fail to appreciate being a backcountry horseman, and a Back Country Horseman. The difference is being a horseman that rides/packs in the backcountry, as compared to one which is that, but also a member of the Back Country Horsemen organization working to preserve our heritage and right to use our stock in the backcountry.



Through repeated pack trips in the wilderness areas of Montana and Wyoming over the past several years I have also come to appreciate another great value of Back Country Horsemen membership – that of the contacts with very knowledgeable and super helpful Backcountry Horsemen members in other states. I have yet to meet a member of our organization that was not overwhelmingly helpful in providing information to help us plan extended pack trips into new wilderness areas that we had not visited before. Such information on trail conditions, camp sites, points of interest, grazing opportunities, and other information is absolutely invaluable in planning trips into new country.

In our recent thirteen day pack trip in the great Teton Wilderness in Wyoming, contacts with Back Country Horsemen and old friends were invaluable in planning a very successful trip. We have to thank Don and Karen Saner (Don is the current BCHA Treasurer), Al Sammons (Past BCHA President), and Barry Reiswig (Past BCHA Public Lands Chairman and retired manager of the National Elk Refuge near Jackson) for their great help. All are residents of Wyoming. We also thank Rick Taylor from the Black Rock Ranger Station of the Bridger-Teton National Forest who I had met over 30 years ago on a pack trip in our Sky Lakes Wilderness with the Forest Service. Rick provided important details with maps, trail conditions, locations of camp sites and bear boxes. We also must thank Val Geissler, an old friend I told cowboy poetry with (also 30 years ago) for his insight into grizzly bear management, cutthroat trout fishing, and the Teton Wilderness. Val and his wife, after working for years for outfitters in the Wilderness, are now Forest Service volunteers at the Hawks Rest Cabin in the 21-mile long Yellowstone Meadows along the great Yellowstone River before it enters Yellowstone National Park. This area is said to be the most remote place in the contiguous United States.



Six of us made the Teton Trip with 15 head of stock. They were Don and Joan Howard, Brenda Cordonnier, Diane Eek, myself and my wife Betty - Backcountry Horsemen all. It was a great experience to camp in the same places and pull our pack strings over the trails used by the legendary mountain men John Coulter, Jim Bridger and Osbourne Russell in the early 1800's.

I'm blessed with the opportunity to spend all the time I can in our wilderness areas and backcountry. From mid-August to mid-November I will spend 50 out of 90 days sleeping under canvas in such places, yet I'm ever thankful for the preservation of such great areas of such high wilderness value as the Teton Wilderness. There are over 2000 square miles in the Teton and adjacent Washakie Wilderness areas, not counting the adjacent back country in the south end of Yellowstone Park.

So, I'm ever thankful to be a backcountry horseman AND a Back Country Horsemen. I salute the farsightedness of the founding members of BCHA in Montana, as well as those in Idaho, Washington, and California for getting the Back Country Horsemen of America started into the great organization it has become. What a great and necessary organization to help protect our historic and current use of saddle and pack stock in such unbelievably beautiful backcountry as we have to enjoy and protect in this country.

And by the way, if you have not read Roland Cheek's books (a founding member of BCHA in Montana), you should.



*“What a great and necessary organization to help protect our historic and current use of saddle and pack stock in such unbelievably beautiful backcountry as we have to enjoy and protect in this country.”*





# 2013 Leave No Trace Pack Trip

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

The first BCHO sponsored advanced "Leave No Trace" pack-in class was completed in August of 2013. Twenty students participated in beginner level LNT class held at Sisters Cow Camp on the Deschutes National Forest over the past two summers. Out of those twenty students that took the beginner class, eight advanced on to the "Minimum Impact with Stock" pack into the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. The six students and seven instructors and cooks spent three days packed into a small lake Northwest of Three Finger Jack. In order to minimize any impact on trails, meadows, and the small lake, a dispersion plan was implemented by the lead instructors. Half of the students and instructors went in from one trailhead and the other half went into the wilderness from a different trailhead thirty miles away, thus reducing impact on the trail from several animals.

Once the students and instructors arrived at the camp area, they were divided into small three person campsite parties. The camp sites were scattered over  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles apart to reduce any impact from the students or stock while grazing. For three days students practiced their LNT Minimum Impact skills, tying loads on pack mules, first aid and some even tried their hand at fishing. The eight instructor packers volunteered their time and animals all to make it a fantastic experience for the students. Each student was given the opportunity to pack different mules and have actual hands on experience to go along with taking care of their own riding stock.



The plan for future LNT pack-in classes are well on their way for the summer of 2014. If any of the chapters have potential students that are really interested, please have them contact Jerry Bentz to get their name on the list. Also a youth LNT class is planned for 2104, and we have the potential opportunity to have that class at the old Fish Lake Remount Station.

It is important that BCHO chapters recognize the six new instructors that passed the LNT Minimum Impact with stock class, so with every chapter's support we thank Ron S, Marty D, Tim L, Rhonda (wheel gun) P, Windy S, and Melanie K-M.

Also special thanks for the instructors and cooks that volunteered their time and animals to help make this a successful adventure. Casey & Jolene H, Jerry S & Jerry B, Tom T, Gary S, and the head cook Laurie.



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# Sourdough Chapter Update

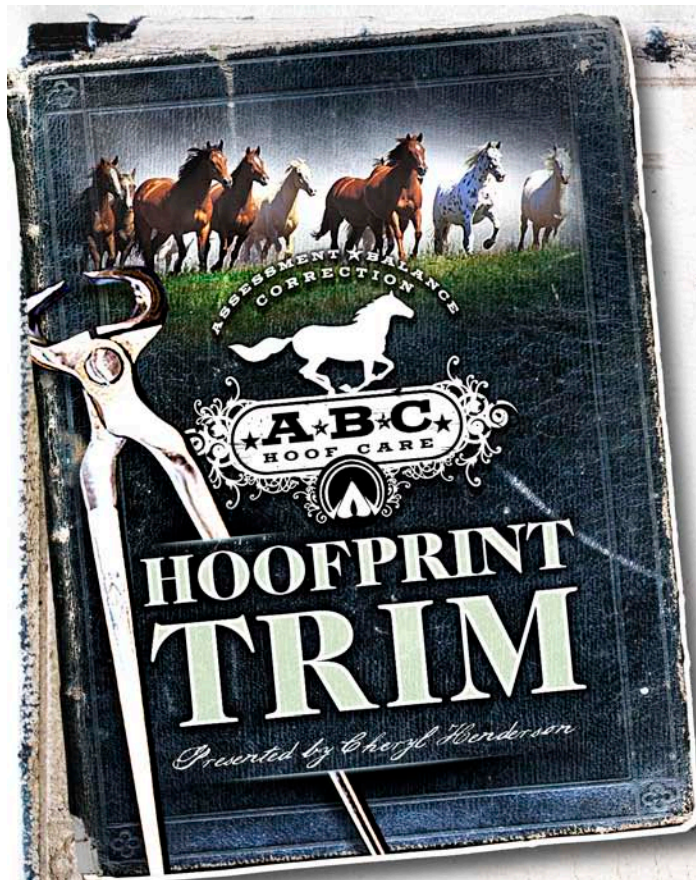
Again forest fires put the kibosh on work at Sam Brown Horse Camp. The Labrador Fire was in the vicinity and fire crews were stationed at the camp. The only work party held was in the spring, the fall work party and camp out had to be cancelled. The chapter is planning to continue with this project and has signed an MOU to this effect.

The chapter held the annual Poker Ride and Outdoor Education Day on September 28th. Riders followed a marked trail in the West Fork Park Trail System. Along the trail educational Leave No Trace signs were placed. A display was also set up at the trail head. The chapter was very thankful that the rain held off. There was a lot of wind and many things could not be left out or they went sailing away. Even with the wind, riders were served lunch and the raffle was held. During lunch Leave No Trace Director, Carol Crawford, gave a talk and asked questions about the signs along the trail. It was rewarding to hear the answers and know that the riders had taken time to study the information. A questionnaire was passed out and the consensus was that it had been a great ride and fun had by all. This ride is put on to promote Back Country Horsemen, The West Fork Trail System and to educate the public. Each year a different theme for education is used.



Sourdough Chapter Members Terri Sullivan and Susie Wood look on as Candy Harvey lets her horse choose a card for her poker hand.

Sad to say Picasso did not fill a winning hand.



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# Are U getting the Highline Newsletter?

***If you are not getting the Highline newsletter, it can only be because of a few problems. So let's fix it for you!***

A few people have identified the fact they are not getting the newsletter, but rather than calling and finding out why, they just keep on muttering along. The Highline committee has been tracking any complaints that have surfaced to the committee and have identified the key points stopping members from receiving the newsletter.

## ***Problems***

The primary problem stems back to the chapter level. Now before someone gets up in arms, let me explain. When a new member pays his or her dues to the chapter, they expect the newsletter to start coming in the mail. That may not happen. Why you ask, well until the chapter sends in the application to Susie Woods with the money, there is no record of that new member. The newsletter mailing list is updated when Susie receives the BCHO memberships, not off a chapter's list of who attended their chapter meetings.

## ***So for example...***

If a new member is signed up after February 15, and the chapter hangs on to the application and membership registration, then they bring it to the March State board meeting to hand it over to Susie Woods to be recorded, they will not get the spring Highline edition. The spring Highline goes out in the mail February 15, the summer edition June 15 and the fall goes out October 15. If any new members are signed up after those mailing dates, and the application hasn't reached Susie, a Highline won't be mailed out until the next edition is printed.

One chapter turned in 31 new members at the fall Board meeting and then turned around and asked why the new members hadn't received their Spring and summer newsletters. It was a simple answer: Until they handed Susie the memberships that morning, they weren't BCHO members, thus no newsletter.



## ***What about members that have been BCHO members each year?***

You should be getting a newsletter anyway. The Highline committee wants the old members to keep getting the newsletter even if you are not a current member. If you are not, it stems back to the chapter level again. Is your mailing address correct? Have you moved since the last time you paid for a membership?

The committee has run down every lead on why a member is not getting their copy, and every time it has found one of the above situations to be fact. If any of the chapter treasurers want extra copies sent to their chapter, give a call to Laurie Hufstader and arrange for more to be sent, just cover the mailing cost.

So the best way to handle this issue is for the chapter treasurer to send in the paid membership applications, along with the money, to Susie Woods as soon as they get it. Susie posts the newly paid membership as soon as she gets it and a BCHO mailing list is developed and checked against the last Highline mailing list every issue by the BCHO State Treasurer. If a member still doesn't get a copy, contact Laurie at e-mail [Sawbuck3h@aol.com](mailto:Sawbuck3h@aol.com) and she will check the mailing list and make the correction.

This photo was shot at last year's Horse Packing and Wilderness Skills Clinic. What a great example of the cooperation that makes the Packing Clinic, and the entire Back Country Horsemen Organization, so successful. We are all able to work together in a friendly, respectful and successful campaign to keep our backcountry trails open for recreation saddle and pack stock. This photo only represents a small portion of the networking and partnerships happening to successfully meet all of our objectives – to be able to continue to use our stock on public lands.

From the left is Mike Bryan who is a retired commercial outfitter and a packer in northern California, Bill Roberts who is a longtime Forest Service Packer on the Klamath National Forest, Fred Way who was the Fremont/Winema National Forest Supervisor and who has now transferred to recreation in the Forest Service's Region 6 Office in Portland, and Dan Applebaker who is a longtime member of the Back Country Horsemen.



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

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



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# Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc. Membership Application

Yes! I would like to help preserve Horsemen's rights to use stock on public lands.

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(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone) (E-Mail)

## BCHO Membership Dues

Single \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Not tax deductible

\*Additional Chapter dues may be  
determined by individual Chapters

## Optional Memberships

Sustaining \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

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MAIL your application to Susie Wood, PO Box 362, O'Brien, Oregon 97534

541-596-2488 [jswood@frontiernet.net](mailto:jswood@frontiernet.net)

Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders and spectators, and also recognizing that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., including its chapters, officers, directors and /or members cannot know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other Back Country Horsemen of Oregon functions, I do hereby release Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., its officers, directors and members from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

New\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_ (Please check)

BCHO website [www.bcho.org/chapterlocations.htm](http://www.bcho.org/chapterlocations.htm)

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