



The Highline

Handing Down the Reins

Submitted by: Dan Applebaker

As we get older and begin to sense our mortality, most of us begin to consider how we can hand down our knowledge and skills to the next generation. We often find that is not an easy task. Often the younger generation does not have the same mindset, desires, interests, or concerns that we have developed. We ponder when is the right time to step back and “hand down the reins” to become an advisor while the next generation takes over the decisions and the accomplishments.

The High Desert Trail Riders Chapter has selected “Handing Down the Reins” for the theme for the 29th annual Horse Packing & Wilderness Skills Clinic in 2016. We are working through the myriad of thought provoking questions that arise from that seemingly simple statement. What does that statement mean relative to the educational effort of the Clinic and how can we present programs relevant to that theme?

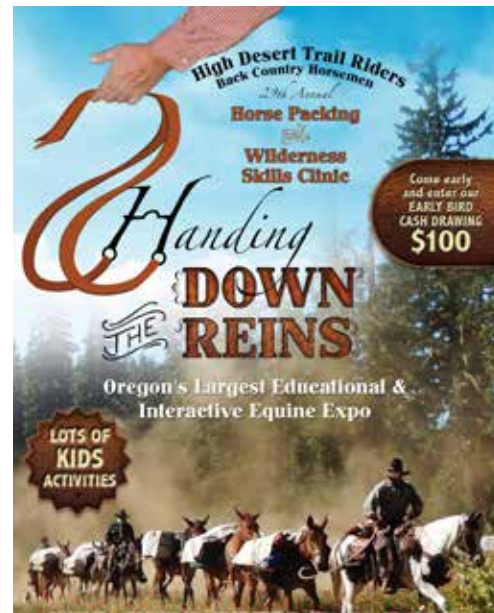
Most of us would likely associate “Handing down the Reins” to passing the reins of a green colt to a son or daughter to start, knowing that we have handed down the necessary education of how to turn that colt in to a well-trained horse. Would we then have the confidence and the patience that we could step back and let our next generation train that colt in the manner that they choose - and as we have hopefully taught them? The great Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux Sitting Bull once said, “Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children”. But, the idea of “Handing Down the Reins” can go much further with education than just “hand them down” to our children. Does it not also include how we maintain our

lives, our backcountry, our Back Country Horsemen organization, as well as our Horse Packing & Wilderness Skills Clinic?

Does it also mean to instill the desire to learn the traditional use of horses and mules in the back country? Can it be the learning of the traditional use of pack stock and gear as well as learning state of the art methods of camping to protect our backcountry/wilderness resource, while enjoying the wild lands of our nation? I’m reminded of our Back Country Horsemen of Oregon bumper sticker stating, “The Wilderness is My Second Home”. We understand that many equestrians that have not visited our Wilderness Areas, even on day rides or especially on overnight or longer trips, may harbor some fear of that experience. Can those of us that are knowledgeable, experienced and comfortable in Wilderness hand down these assets to those that are not experienced and may be uncomfortable in a wilderness setting? These things we have always tried to hand down at the Horse Packing & Wilderness Skills Clinic.

There are so many questions. The Wilderness Preservation System was established by the passing of the Wilderness Act in 1964, along with other Wilderness Areas established individually and under State Wilderness Acts passed since that time. That all happened in the generation that currently makes up most of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon’s membership, and especially those members stepping up to administer, manage and guide the organization.

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Please feel free to contact our officers or staff if you need any assistance or have a question pertaining to BCHO.

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.

Come to a meeting and make a difference...

Columbia Gorge Chapter

Meets: The 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr Hood River OR 97031
Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Please confirm meeting with contact.
Contact: Joy Senger at columbiagorge@bcho.org

East Cascades Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Monday of every month at the Black Bear Diner, 1465 NE 3rd St., Bend OR meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Buck Davis, eastcascades@bcho.com

Emerald Empire Chapter

Meets: the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Utility District building, 33733 Seavey Lp Road, Eugene, OR 97405 at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Emily Elias, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at More Than Mongolian Grill, 4470 S 6th St, Klamath Falls at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Jim Icenbice, jimicenbice@retiredhorseman@gmail.com

North Umpqua Chapter

Meets: The 3rd Thursday of the month at the Douglas County Courthouse, 1020 Oakley Road, Roseburg, OR 97471 in Room #317 at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Janet Miller, northumpqua@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

Meets: The third Saturday of the month at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 150 Lewis Court, Cave Junction.
6:00 p.m. in the winter and at 7:00 p.m. in the summer
Contact: Dick Butler, sourdough@bcho.org

Steens Chapter

Meets: As needed! Please confirm meeting schedule and work party dates through SteensBCH@gmail.com or call John O'Connor 541-678-3502

West Cascades Chapter

Meets: The 1st Wednesday of each month at Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market Street NE, Salem, OR. Dinner time is at 6:00 p.m. meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Jennifer Paulson, westcascades-pres@bcho.org

Territorial Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Beaver Creek Fire Department, 22310 S Beaver Creek Rd. Beaver Creek, Or. 97004 at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Tim Lagasse, territorialriders@bcho.org

Wilderness Packer Chapter

Meets: Held by conference call every other month
Contact: Mat Wooley, Wctimberfalling@aol.com

Cover Story Continued...

If we can hand down the ability to visit, experience, and enjoy our great Wilderness resource; can we also pass down appreciation of wilderness to the degree necessary to support and to work to preserve our values of wilderness (as well as our equestrian access) for the benefit and enjoyment of all? Is our willingness to support and work to preserve our Wilderness and backcountry access not the main reason the Back Country Horsemen volunteer so many hours of maintenance work? Is not that volunteer work done to build credibility with the managing agencies and the public by showing that, "horsemen really do care"?

Does handing down this ability include educating and turning over our Wilderness System to only our youth? What about including the 20 to 40 year old age group in that effort to hand down the reins, or to include even more of our old timer generation?

Can our generation hand down the ability to recognize the many threats (apparent and hidden) to Wilderness as a part of handing down the responsibility of sustaining the Wilderness System we have created? Will our generation have the ability to hand down the knowledge and leadership needed to sustain appropriate levels of recreational saddle and pack stock use in our Wilderness areas? We better, or we may very well lose the ability to access it with our stock. If we are not vigilant in the arena of Public Lands we may yet lose a lot of access during our generation. Without the ability to access our Wilderness Areas we lose much of the experience and enjoyment so necessary to maintain support for the Wilderness System.

These are some of the questions the High Desert Trail Riders Chapter will be working through in the planning of the 29th Clinic. I think we may find that we have been doing a pretty dang good job of "Handing Down the Reins" already. How many thousands of people have passed through the Clinic in the last 28 years and left with more knowledge of the things mentioned here? There is always more that can be taught, more that can be experienced, and more that can be learned.

Winston Churchill said it well, "No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle". Hopefully we can add, "riding the many trails in our Wilderness Areas and backcountry" and hand down those reins to the ones that will follow our lead.

We welcome you to come to Klamath Falls on May 6, 7 and 8th and see how we did.

2016 Winter Convention

March 4-6 at the Prineville Fairgrounds

Board Meeting starts at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4 for all members interested.

Saturday's general meeting, 9 AM to 5 PM, is filled with guest speakers.

Sunday is set aside for re-certification for chain saw and crosscut instructors.

Stafford Inn has graciously provided reduced room rates and a meeting room for the board meeting on Friday. There is a small problem, with other events going on that weekend, only twenty rooms are available.

The reduced rate is on a first come basis. When calling Stafford Inn (541-447-7100) ask for BCHO meeting room rates.

Dinner on Saturday will be at the fairgrounds provided by Bad Boys Barbeque.

We need to know how many will be attending the dinner. Please reserve your dinners with Laurie at sawbuck3h@aol.com.

President's Letter

Submitted by: Jerry Bentz, President of BCHO

Greeting from the soggy Willamette Valley. We are sure well on our way to making up for last year's dry winter. I think drought is probably over. The good news is that maybe we won't have as many wild lands fires this year. This is the time of year where I start planning for spring and summer. I get the maps out and start thinking about where I would like to go and what I would like to do. I also like to find time to get a little work done on all my gear. So far I have gotten a couple saddles oiled up and a few of my trail tools sharpened. Day after tomorrow it will be spring and I want to be ready to go.

BCHO continues to be very busy on the Public lands front. Dan Applebaker and myself went to BCHW's Public Lands Day in December. The purpose for us going was to strengthen our relationship with BCHW. I know most of you know that we have been working with our friends in Washington on public lands issues. Both states are benefiting from our working together as a united front when we approach the Forest Service. I want to thank Dave Price for continuing to push along the Minimum Requirement Analysis that he filed in the Wineha-Tucannon Wilderness in North East Oregon. I have been told by one of the folks at Region 6 that we should have some kind of an idea what is going to happen with the MRA by the middle of February. We hope to have several other MRA's ready to file by spring. There are a lot of public hearings happening on travel management plans and Forest plans this Winter. You need to be there. It's hard to stop the beast once it has escaped. I am sorry that it is this way but we have to fight for what is legally ours. We need to share with the other user groups but we don't have to give up what is ours. Stay vigilant or YOU WILL LOSE.

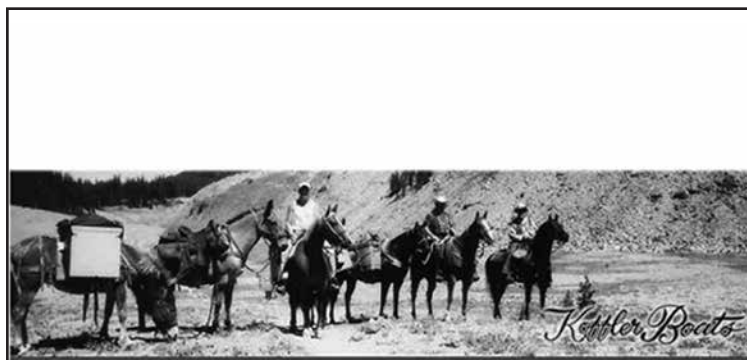
Winter Convention is just around the corner. March 4th – 6th. The Hufstader's have been working at getting all of the logistical stuff done so that we can once again have a great Winter Convention. There is a block of rooms set aside at the Stafford Inn in Prineville. Saturdays general meeting and banquet will be at the Crook County Fair Grounds in Prineville. We decided to go back to the fairground for a couple of reasons. First was economics. The convention hotels wanted to just about double our room rates and we knew that would not work for most of us including me. We also wanted to try having a cross cut saw contest between the chapters, something we could do at the fairgrounds but not at the fancy meeting rooms. The banquet will be a catered barbeque dinner. We also will be honoring our volunteers with several awards. I have ask Jeff Mast the head of trails for Region 6 and Lisa Machnik the head of wilderness for Region 6 to speak to us about where the Forest Service is headed and what their plan is to fix the trail maintenance problems. This should be quite interesting. I told them to leave the whipped cream at home because we want to get the meat and potatoes of what their plan is. The Friday Board meeting will be held at the Stafford Inn in the meeting room. The board meeting will start at noon. Eat before you get there. I would like to encourage everyone to attend the board meeting. Everyone is welcome. It's the best way for you to find out what all is going on at the state level. Sunday we will try to have a no host breakfast meeting to plot out a course for our future. I would like to especially discuss ideas

for expansion and membership growth. After the breakfast we are going to have a couple of quick meetings. One meeting will be for all of our saw certification instructors. It's time to renew the instructor certifications. All of our chapter certifiers will need to be there. If you don't attend the meeting you will have to arrange to meet with Bert or myself or we will not be able to accept any of the folks you certify. It's part of our agreement with the Forest Service. We will have another meeting about applying for grants using BCHO's 501-c3. This is becoming a big topic as we adjust to our new tax exempt status. I would really like to see all of the chapter chairs and treasures attend this meeting. Please plan on attending all or part of the convention this year. You won't regret it, I promise. I look forward to seeing you there.

Last I want to thank everyone for all of the work they have done this past year. What we do is important not only to us but to our kids and grandkids. BCHO is much more than just a saddle club, we are a service organization that has a good time while we work together. You should all be proud of the work you are doing not only in trail maintenance but also in the education and outreach you all do. I am proud to call you my friends and fellow Back Country Horsemen.

See you all at the Winter Convention,

Jerry



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Territorial Riders New Year's Day Ride

Submitted by: Melissa Farrier, Territorial Riders BCH

A new year is a chance to start over, forget previous year's grievances against whomever, and begin with a fresh slate. Whoa, I just dated myself there, I doubt anyone under 20 years old has a clue what that is in reference to, slate, rock? What???? But I digress, legend has it that if you start off with a ride on New Year's Day, you will have good, plentiful rides the entire following year. I agree to a point, though for some reason I have rarely ever made it an entire year without somehow parting ways with my saddle at least once. I am proud to say, I made it through the entire year of 2015, without falling off my horse! I'm sure I'll never forget my last fall of 2014, pre-riding the route for the annual Territorial Riders New Year's ride, with the Jerry x 2. There I was, wearing my warm, toasty, and freshly dry cleaned white down jacket, happily enjoying my training ride, on a rehab project. The horse I was riding had really itchy feet, but was doing awesome on the trail, I was sure a very long, and grueling climb in the Elwood Mud would cure him. Soon we came upon a log that needed some chainsaw attention, the Jerry's assured me I could stay aboard the good ship lollipop, as they would soon have it cleared. I did, and regretted it, as I didn't stay atop for long. Mister Itchy Feet, decided he'd had enough standing around and with a mighty half rear and a buck, he loosened me at last, and high-tailed it back the way we'd come. Benz offered to come with me to track down the evil son of Beelzebub, and as we were hiking up the long, muddy hill we had just come down, I told him if he had his gun on him, and that horse ran away from us, he was to shoot him on sight. Sadly, Jerry didn't have his gun that day. We caught up to him shortly and went about our way...as we were riding along, Benz behind me, says, "Melissa if you wanted a brown camouflage coat, you know they come that way already, right?" Grrrr.



This year's Territorials Riders NY day ride, was a smashing success, I am very happy to say! Of the 14 riders on the trail, not one person parted ways with their trusty steed, so it will truly be an amazing year of riding for our chapter. We offered a shorter, low land loop for the greenies and the wimps, of which I am proud to say I was the leader of, yes, that's me, head wimp! And we loved every minute we had in the sun, as it was a might chilly in the shade, barely above freezing. The high country riders came in about an hour and half after our short ride, looking like they'd just robbed a bank, muffled as they were, from the cold. They encountered snow, and decidedly longer treks in the shade than us lowland slackers. At their halfway rest stop, it was said to be so cold, that they had to knock the icicles off their beer to crack off the cap! Just the sight of those chilly bottles, made one lovely young girl visiting from the sunny south, break out into shuddering shivers of horror. I do believe she'd have rather seen a Saint Bernard come by with a barrel full of brandy to warm her up!

Lunch time, after the ride, was a potluck feast of roast bbq half chickens on the outdoor grill, courtesy of Gary Sischo, at Schmeltzer's Elk Camp, with more delectable delights joining in like spicy pulled pork, pumpkin everything desserts, and salads of many kinds! Some of us ladies even enjoyed a little nip of a rare, ginger spiced Southern Comfort, which put the warmth back into our cheeks, and brought us back to life. It was the best New Year ride, ever! Yeah, I'll say that next year too...if I make it the whole year without falling off....and the rain holds off! I hope you all enjoyed rides of your own and are busily planning your calendars to be filled with great rides, even better work parties, and staying topside!



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A Glorious Start to a New Year!

Submitted by: Betty Jean Keele | Photos by: Deedee Tretter

Who would have thought January 1st on the Oregon coast could be so beautiful! Five of us from Eugene rode for 3 days on our wonderful Tennessee Walkers in the sun and wind at Baker Beach. The variety of trails allowed us to ride on the beach at low tide and still have fun on the dune trails at high tide. There is even an area where we can "get lost" if we wish. But of course it's really hard to be totally lost with Hwy 101 on the east and the ocean on our west. We also got to see four bald eagles, white egrets, one little snowy plover, and lots of LBB's.

I have to thank the folks from Eugene Emerald Empire and High Country Wilderness Packers chapters of BCHO for their ongoing support in cleaning the trails. It's a really tough job to brush out the gorse. We leave a day of clipping looking like we have the measles from the thorns.

You are all invited to join Emerald Empire March 12th for another day of total fun by participating in the annual Pre-Solve beach cleanup followed by a great potluck.

Thanks folks, Deedee Tretter, Candee Brennan, Katie Gidley, and Rich Heil for the New Year's fun.



Upcoming Events

March 4 - 6

Winter Convention in Prineville

This annual convention includes the BCHO board meeting, general meeting with guest speakers, catered dinner and re-certification for chain saw and crosscut instruction.

March 18 - 21

Northwest Horse Fair & Expo (Stop by the BCHO booth)

An annual tradition for horse owners and horse lovers in the Northwest, the Northwest Horse Fair & Expo combines to the highest degree, first rate education, entertainment and shopping. It's three days of fun the entire family can enjoy.

May 6 - 8

Packing Clinic in Klamath Falls

Large educational and interactive equine expo. Seminars, vendors, wine-beer-cheese tasting, concert, BBQ dinner & auction, mule auction.

June 11 - 12

Leave No Trace at Sisters Cow Camp

Once again BCHO will hold the Leave No Trace Training event at Sisters Cow Camp Horse Camp

July 21 - 24

State Ride at Allen Creek at Ochoco

Come for a great ride and good food with other BCHO members.

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East Cascades Chapter Update

Submitted by: Linda Hanson, East Cascades BCHO

The East Cascade chapter has been under the weather like a lot of the state...early snow, extended cold....Lane and Linda Thomas had about two feet of snow in Spring River, by Sunriver, and no power for two days. They were glad to have wood heat, propane stove, and jugs of drinking water in the horse trailer!!

Still, in November some of us joined a ride hosted by BCH and OET members Don and Jerry Jimmerson, from Sisters to Cold Springs camp ground and back. This is a nice ride through tall pines, that starts on the edge of Sisters not far from the FS office.



In November we took advantage of a nice clear day and several members met east of Bend and rode to a horseshoe shaped crack in the ground, a pretty spot for a hot dog roast. The Jimmersons who put us all to shame with their dedication, Lee and Peggy Fischer, Lane and Linda Thomas who lead most work parties and myself showed up to share in the ride and lunch.





Scott Essex, VP, and his wife, and Pres. Buck Davis and his wife.

We had our annual "Pig-Out Potluck" Christmas Party and about 30 people showed up. We ate plenty, moved the tables for a gift exchange, and once again, manure forks were a hit, along with a beautiful headstall, and horse head and horse butt wall plaques with hooks!



We just could not skip our New Years gathering, although we had to change the name from ride to cook out! Some members, especially south of Bend, were still uncovering horse trailers and watching their animal walk in belly deep snow. Two members, Buck Davis and Scott Essex brought and rode their mules for a couple hours while others started a fire and warmed up a dutch oven full of chili, and roasted hot dogs. Scott mixed up some potatoes au gratin in his dutch oven after his ride, and we ate pasta salad, corn bread and chocolate besides. It was in the teens with a nice cool breeze, but the sun was out!



Three Days Training

Submitted by: Jim Forsman, Columbia Gorge Chapter

I got myself into a small jam when I sold my saddle horse in early May 2006.

In the winter of '05 I promised John that my wife and I would pack in a camp and tools for him and a half dozen trail maintenance volunteers. The plan was to pack the camp about 5 miles into the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness on Monday, 26 June 2006 and return on Wednesday and pack it out.

We had two pack mules so it wouldn't be a big production. We had packed in John's camp in 2004 and he promised to bring less gear this time. Fine. We could do this.

Now it is May and I am short one animal. Sue asks what I am going to do about the volunteer camp. "Not a problem" I say, "if I can't find another mule, I will walk and lead them." She scoffs and says, "The shape you are in it will take us all day to get there." Ouch! (Cowboys don't like to walk anyway). I had been riding my Mollie mule, Katie, for some time. She was to replace my mount Smokey.

On May 29th, I learned of a Mollie mule for sale in Eastern Oregon. I called and was interested. I understood Norm to say she had been packed on time in the Hells Canyon area of the Snake River. She is 11 years old, black and 14 hands. Perfect, we went to look at her the next day.

Norm took us to a mountain pasture to see the Mollie. He had about a dozen horses and mules in the pasture. They were all friendly as long as we had a sack of treats.

While we were looking the animals over Norm was trying to talk us into taking a John mule too. He is a full brother to the Mollie we were looking at. Norm said he would make us a great deal for the two. I am a sucker for a deal.

Well ... this John mule looks a little peculiar; as though he was put together by a committee. His head is about 3 feet long. He was 16 hands, skinny with big bones showing, black with white chest, gray butt and big hooves. He was 4 years old. If you looked side wise at him and squinted your eyes, the deal didn't seem too bad. Sue thought he was adorable.

I told Norm that I didn't bring cash for two mules. "Not a problem, send me the difference when you get home." Norm had to rope the John to catch him. Sue and I looked at each other. Oh Oh

My work kept me away from home two weeks a month. I had to go to work the day after we brought home the mules. On the way home we renamed them Patsy and Jackson. Patsy's name morphed into Fatsy Patsy.

I returned home on 15 June. A few days later I started working with Patsy. She wouldn't let me put the saddle on her. I put her in a round pen and sacked her out and then saddled her. Patsy's hooves were long and she wouldn't stand for a trim. Sue solved the problem by rubbing the inside of Patsy's ears.

Wednesday, 2nd day of training, we saddled Patsy and the others and then loaded 80 lbs. of fertilizer into her panniers. We rode up the road to the neighbor's drive. They had five llamas, and we thought it would be good to introduce Patsy to them. She thought that was a poor idea so we gave it up. We went for a ride in the woods near our house. Patsy ponied well, so we tailed her up the Snickers.

Thursday we put the pack boxes on Snickers and tailed up Patsy with the fertilizer. Patsy soon got used to the boxes, so we rode back to the llamas.

She still wouldn't visit them. We went back to the woods for another lesson. Patsy's training was done.

Sunday afternoon we loaded up and drove to the trailhead. Monday, John and crew arrived about 10:30. They pointed to the gear and said, "Can you load it up and go out ahead of us?" A woman unloaded two goats, dropped a big duffle near us and headed back to attend her goats. John said, "By the way, I told Kathie she could come along with her goats. Do you mind?" I said, "Ok if she keeps them away from our animals." Kathie and her goats are another story. She ended up with a dislocated shoulder.

We loaded as much gear on the mules as we could. Kathie's duffle went into the top pack on Patsy. I mentioned earlier that Patsy's name morphed into Fatsy Patsy. Saddling Patsy was like trying to saddle a sea lion. She was round and roley polley.

We got 50 yards from the trail head and had to stop and readjust the load on Patsy. She wouldn't accept Snickers behind her, so Snickers and the boxes were in the middle.

A half mile further on the East side of Whatum Lake there are springs running from the hill side. There are about twenty cuts through the trail and lined with rocks. It is an easy four to six inch



step across each one. Katie and Snickers easily stepped across. However, Patsy was afraid, so she jumped over each one and crashed into Snickers causing her to stumble into Katie with the boxes.

It didn't take long to realize this train was headed for a wreck. Sue was shouting for me to go slow over the trail cuts. Snickers must have decided to flee from that maniac on her tail. She bolted left of Katie and Patsy went right. The box hit Katie, Snickers went down on front knees and couldn't get up. Both boxes were on her left side. Patsy was wrapped around the right side of Katie and the break-away cord did not. Katie was stopped with all this commotion and looking straight into a tree trunk. Sue bailed off Sunny and released the safety latch. Patsy staggered free and raced back to Sunny for security. Sunny saw that maniac coming at him and turned tail and ran. Sue and I watched this in dismay, said a few appropriate words and turned our attention to Snickers. The poor Mollie was still down and gear scattered all around.

The crew jumped to the side when they saw Sunny and Patsy charging down the trail. One of the crew named, Tom, stayed in the trail waving his arms and Sunny and Patsy stopped.

We cleared the boxes and got Snickers up. Sue went after Sunny & Patsy. I checked and saw that no animals were hurt. I decided to leave some gear and make a second trip. We were half a mile into this gind and still had four to go!

With some help from the crew we got the herd repacked. We stopped a few times to adjust Patsy's pack. Sunny got scared and ripped out a live twelve feet tree. Sue managed to catch him on his way by! Our second trip for the remaining gear was uneventful. We arrived at our trailhead camp at 9 pm. We high lined the herd, took a bath and went to bed. That day was the hottest day on record and the mosquitoes were horrible.

On Tuesday we rode South on the Pacific Crest Trail and helped Dave & Barb Adams clear trail. Patsy and Snickers tagged along.

At 8:30 Wednesday, we arrived at crew camp and packed up the gear. We stopped twice to adjust Patsy's pack. On the return to the trailhead Patsy stepped over the trail cuts. The whole herd behaved flawlessly and we were proud of them.

When we got home, we called Norm for clarification on Patsy's training. Patsy had not packed anywhere. She had a pack saddle on once. She had not worked a day in her 11 years. Both mules had been somewhat imprinted when foals by Norm's grandchildren.

Wow! I guess that made Patsy a fast study.

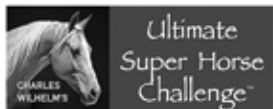
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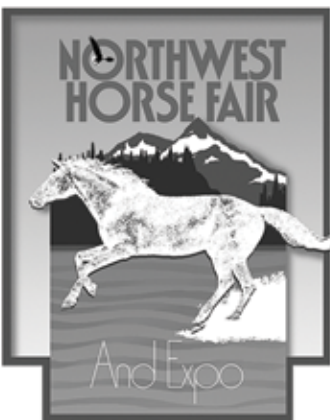
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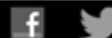
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History of BCHO



The first efforts to create a Back Country Horsemen state organization in Oregon were made by Flathead BCH members Roland Cheek and Jack Watts, in 1977, in Enterprise. However, nothing permanent occurred until 1989 when Idaho's Don McPherson was successful in helping to organize the High Desert Trail Riders chapter in Klamath Falls and again in 1991 when he helped start the Blue Mountain chapter in La Grande. Then, in 1994 the Tiller BCH was formed in Tiller, Oregon.

On May 4, 1996, the High Desert Trail Riders were successful in pulling together nine horsemen from the Oregon Coast Horse Association, High Desert Trail Riders BCH, Blue Mountain BCH and 10 interested folks from the Hood River area. With an assist from Randy Darling, BCHA president and BCH of Washington's Al Pitts, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon had its first organizational meeting in Hood River. Howard

Bailey of La Grande, Fred Jette of Hood River, Dan Applebaker of Klamath Falls, and Becky Clark of Florence agreed to serve as interim officers to get the organization off the ground. By the time of the second meeting in Bend on November 23rd, 1996, Oregon had added the Coos BCH and Columbia Gorge BCH. The Tiller group and the Oregon Coast Horse Association chose not to pursue membership. A donation of \$1,000 from the HDTRBCH kept the BCHO afloat that first year.

In May of 1996 a group of affiliate members of Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) and other interested horsemen met in Hood River, Oregon with the purpose of forming an Oregon State Organization of Back Country Horsemen. Application was made to BCHA and in April 1997 Back Country Horsemen of Oregon (BCHO), with four member chapters. The BCHO was accepted into the BCHA at the National Board Meeting held in Plain, Washington, on April 25, 1997. Since then, we now total 10 BCHO chapters: Columbia Gorge, Coos, East Cascades, Emerald Empire, High Desert Trail Riders, North Umpqua, Sourdough, Steens, West Cascade, and most recently Territorial Riders. BCHO State membership has grown from 129 memberships in 1997 to 350 family/single memberships in 2012. Since that date Back Country Horsemen of Oregon has grown to ten chapters and overall the Back Country Horsemen of America has grown to more than 16,000 members nationwide.

That first year, the fledgling Back Country Horsemen of Oregon organization racked up 3,620 man-hours, 168 days of stock use and 11,296 miles of stock hauling on volunteer projects on public land. Keeping the backcountry trails open for stock users, improving trailheads and stock-oriented campgrounds continues to be the emphasis in addition to education of recreational stock users through LNT training sessions and the annual three-day packing clinic sponsored by the HDTRBCH in Klamath Falls. Evidence of this is the fact that volunteer time has grown to 9,080 man-hours with 56,472 miles driven and 828 stock-days donated in 2011.

The continued commitment of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon to its parent organization is shown by the Coos chapter sponsoring the 2003 BCHA National Board Meeting in Coos Bay, Oregon.

For more information on BCHO and how you can help please visit www.bcho.org

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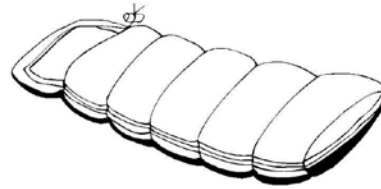
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Leave No Trace Principles for Horsemen

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Make your plans for where you are going, for food and personal needs. Make sure you think about hazards and unexpected situations you or your animals might encounter so you can be prepared. Prepare for any weather conditions. Thunderstorms can cause fires in the summer, so know an alternate way out. Weather can turn from being very hot to snow quickly, carry a jacket and raincoat. Do you know how to get emergency help from where you are if someone has a serious accident? Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected to be back. Leave a note in your vehicle of what trails you will be on. When we are not prepared, we end up making choices that create unnecessary impact.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

If you're riding on trails, stay on the trail and don't make it wider or cut switchbacks. If you ride off the trail and go straight downhill you will cause erosion. Erosion is the process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action of water, glaciers, winds, waves or other natural agents (aka your horse). Over time this causes the hillside to degrade and look unnatural or worse cause mud slides. That's why you don't want to cut switchbacks in steep country.

You create the least impact when you camp in an existing campsite and don't make the area any larger. If you camp and travel in remote areas or off-trail, spread your use out. Don't ride in a line when going cross-country. That creates a trail. Spread out. It takes a lot more work to camp with horses in a remote area and not create impact.

Dispose of Waste Properly

We have all heard of "If you pack it in, pack it out." This includes cigarette butts, candy wrappers and pop or beer cans. Don't leave anything in a fire pit.

Human waste is another issue. Always bury your waste unless you pack it out. Besides being disgusting to see waste on top of the ground, it carries germs that the flies spread. Place human waste in small cat hole 6-8 inches deep 200 feet or more away from water. If you have little kids or a group, erect a latrine. This is one hole everyone uses. The concentrated volume takes less time to decompose.

Leave What You Find

Avoid damaging live trees and plants. Don't pound nails into trees or chop on them. Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts there.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires are a favorite thing for many people but they can create change in certain circumstances. You should make conscious decisions when it comes to having a fire. Is there enough firewood in the area to have a fire and not totally deplete

all the wood that is around? Do you really need a fire? Sometimes during the summer you really don't need one.

Fires definitely do leave a trace, if you choose to have a fire, the best place to have one is in an existing fire ring, build a small mound fire or pit fire without rocks and burn all the firewood. Don't leave half burned logs behind.

Respect Wildlife

Avoid disturbing wildlife, especially during nesting or calving seasons. Remember we are in their territory and we are the visitors. Take as many pictures as you like just don't touch. This includes not feeding wildlife and securing food properly so bears don't get into it.

Minimize Horse Impact

This one is really important to us. The main areas we influence include the camp area, trails, grazing area and the water. The goal here is when you leave the next hiker or camper should see little to no evidence that you were there.

Be Considerate of Other User Groups

As members of Back Country Horsemen we are examples of horsemen with good behavior and skills. It is part of our mission to teach other users how to recreate with their horses and not create impact.

Avoiding conflict is important. We all have different values. Remember that what bothers you a lot may not bother someone else. Visualize for a minute what it would be like if you were a hiker walking up a trail a foot wide and ran into a steaming large pile of fragrant horse waste with flies buzzing around it. You have to break your stride to get around it and you see that monument as disgusting as if it were human waste. That is where many hikers are coming from. We need to be sensitive to that and try to be courteous when hikers are not happy with us. In high use areas and if it's safe stop and kick it off the trail.

Highlines

Most of us are already familiar with highlines. It is a rope tied to tree saver straps between two trees that we tie our horses to. These should be out of the main camp area. Train your horses and get them use to being tied up for hours and hours at home. The animals that paw need to be hobbled and have their needs taken care of which may include bug spray or food and water.

The two most important things regarding highlines are to pick a durable location to put up your highline such as on dirt or a rocky area, and naturalizing the area before you leave. That means kicking your horse manure apart, filling in any pawed areas and sprinkling pine needles or twigs back over the area. Lots of horsemen forget to do this and it gives us a bad name.

Trail Etiquette

When riding trails, stay on the trail and don't make it wider by riding side by side. Do your best to have your horse walk through the water or snow as the trail dictates. Perhaps a little test run at home can set you up for success on your trail ride.

If you ride off the trail and go straight downhill you will cause erosion. Over time this causes the hillside to degrade and look unnatural or worse cause mud slides. That's why you don't want to cut switchbacks in steep country.

If you stop for very long, it's best to tie up off the trail so others can get by. If you are on the trail and encounter a hiker, respectfully ask them to step off on the downhill side of the trail 6-8 feet if they can. Your horse will be more comfortable passing them instead of them passing you. Talking to the hiker while passing them will help your horse relax. Ask them "how's the hike" or "Have you seen any down logs today." Make sure that you "thank" the hiker. Keep in mind that backpacks change a person's shape and it scares a lot of horses. Try to be courteous to others even if they are rude to you. Continuing a rude interaction just makes it worse and gives us a bad name.

Grazing

Horses need to graze at least an hour to an hour and a half morning and night. We need to be careful not to overgraze an area. The rule of thumb is to leave at least 3 to 4 inches of grass. Remember they are accustomed to grazing off and on all day when they are on pasture, so giving them a break of grass along the trail is not a bad idea. Grain is a great tool if you are in the mountains, in getting them to know where camp is.

There are different ways to contain grazing stock. You can hobble them and let them loose if they know they are going to get grain when they get done. When they start to get full they start to wander as they eat. Tie them up at this point and grin them or they may leave.

You can picket one by a foot on a rope but you can overgraze an area quickly doing this. A picket pin needs to be moved frequently. Your horse must be trained at home first to do this or he may spook and injure his back pastern if the rope gets tight and he fights it. Don't picket close to water either or you may pollute it.

You can also make an electric fence pasture to keep them in. Of course they need to be used to an electric fence first or they may jump out and leave. This pasture needs to be large enough to

not overgraze as well and not be close to water. Before leaving a grazing area, it is considerate of horsemen to kick your horse waste. In doing this we are preserving the scenery for the next camper or hiker.

Water

The best place to water is on the trail in a stream crossing where it is hard or rocky. Otherwise try to use a place without banks that break down in the water. If you have to water in a lake, just get their head in and don't ride in unless they have already relieved themselves. If you can, let your horse relax first away from the water. He will probably relieve himself and then you can go water without mishap. With a pack string, when one goes they all think it is a good idea and join in. A backpacker may be reluctant to use the water.

Conclusion

The fourth mission statement of the Back Country Horsemen organization is to educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage and leave no trace principles.

We must prepare our members and then educate other equestrians or we may lose our riding opportunities. Leave No Trace is not just in the backcountry or Wilderness. It is everywhere in our daily lives. It is an attitude about life and how you conduct yourself.

For more information you on LNT please visit <http://bcho.org> or <https://lnt.org>

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The Dutch Oven Kitchen

Mile High Stew

Ingredients:

1-1/2LBS of hamburger
 2Qts sliced potatoes, put in cold water until ready to use
 1Qt. diced carrots
 1-1/2C chopped onions
 Salt and pepper
 1-1/2LBS linked sausage, cooked and cut into 4 pieces each
 1-1/2 LBs grated sharp cheese
 Use 15 charcoals under and 10 on top of the oven

What to do:

Brown the hamburger in a 12 or 14 inch Dutch oven.
 Add the lightly drained potatoes, carrots, onions, salt and pepper.
 Mix and cover, cooking until vegetables are done.
 Add sausage and grated cheese (do not stir at this point),
 Cover until the sausage is heated and the cheese is melted.



Simple Beer Bread

Ingredients:

3 C self-rising flour
 1 Can of warm beer (what a good use for warm beer)
 3 Tbsp sugar

What to do:

Mix all ingredients and place in a greased Dutch oven.
 Bake over hot coals about 1 hour.
 Place a few hot coals on lid to brown the top of the bread.



Cherry Chocolate Fudge Cake

Ingredients:

2 (21 oz.) cans cherry pie filling
 1 (1 lb 2.25 oz.) pkg chocolate fudge cake
 And any need ingredients to make fudge cake.

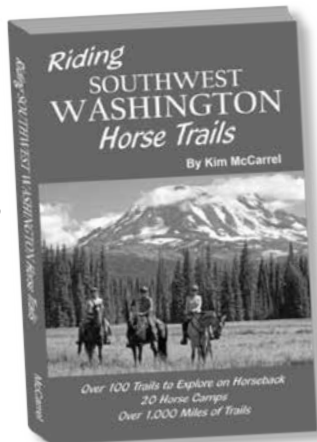
What to do:

Pour pie filling in to bottom of a large (12 inch) Dutch oven.
 Mix up the cake mix according to package directions and gently pour over the cherries.
 Cover and cook about 45-60 minutes –test with toothpick, do not over cook on the bottom.

If you have a good Dutch oven dish that you would like to share please send it to editor@bcho.org and you could see it in the next Highline

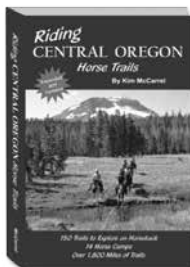
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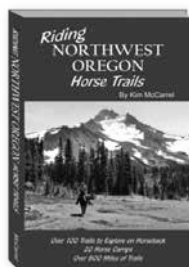


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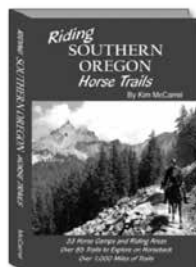
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Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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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.