



The Highline

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

Spring 2015

Territorial Riders Chapter Grows in Many Ways

Submitted by: Tim Lagasse, tim.lagasse@emi-worldwide.com

Cover photo by: Barb Adams



One thing I've come to realize is that equestrians are for the most part a fiercely independent lot. If you ask twenty different equestrians the same question you will get twenty different answers, all of which are correct of course. As different as we may sometimes be, the members of Territorial Riders Chapter and I assume the members of the other BCHO chapters around the state all share a common love of riding the back country and a love for our equine companions. Back Country Horsemen brings us all together for a common purpose and that purpose has helped the Territorial Riders Chapter grow in many ways during 2014.

The year 2014 was another great year for membership growth for Territorial Riders Chapter. We started the year with 22 single and 19 family memberships, and we ended the year with 36 single and 26 family memberships. That's a year over year growth of 14 single memberships and 7 family memberships, and that number doesn't even include new Territorial Riders Associate members who pay their BCH dues to other chapters.

A lot of the credit for these membership numbers goes to Molly Schmeltzer, our Membership Committee Chairperson (and sole member). Molly has done an incredible job at making sure we retain members year over year, and the Chapter really appreciates her efforts. Territorial Riders members also do an excellent job of talking to other equestrians we meet wherever we go, whether it is on or off the trail, and we always try to have a TRBCHO brochure with us to hand out to give them more information about who we are and what we do. Of course, the brochure also has a membership application in it, and we actually signed people up on the spot last year.

During the 2014 year the Territorial Riders Chapter showed great growth in our efforts to help other BCH Chapters and other equine organizations perform volunteer trail work and educate the public about the BCH mission. Our chapter membership and individual members teamed up with at least three other equestrian groups to perform both volunteer trail work and to provide education to the public on

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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: Pat Marquis, 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 Sizzler Restaurant, 2506 S. 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Carole Hopkins, Lodgelady60@hotmail.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: The 3rd Wednesday of every month at El Toreo Restaurant, 239 N Broadway, Burns, OR Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Leon Pielstick leonandsusan@centurytel.net

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 Beavercreek Fire Department, 22310 S Beavercreek Rd. Beavercreek, 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...

equestrian involvement with LNT, trail work, and packing. Our Chapter even had a booth at the Region 6 Get Outdoors Day celebration at Fort Vancouver where we had the only LNT exhibit at the event because the people from LNT were a no-show. The Get Outdoors Day event provided an opportunity for us to show many non-equestrians and their children, who may end up as future Back Country Horsemen, the good we do on the trails. We even met the Region 6 Regional Forester Kent Connaughton who was extremely appreciative of all the volunteer efforts Back Country Horsemen have provided in the various areas he has been assigned. We teamed up with North Valley Oregon Equestrian Trails at our local McIver State Park on State Parks Day to demonstrate the various ways both groups perform trail work, packing, recreational riding, and camping with horses. Emily Elias from the Emerald Empire Chapter volunteered to help us with this event as well and provided an excellent high-lining and packing display too. We helped Mt. Hood OET chapter perform work on the #501 trail into the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, and some of us who had been there for the first time were amazed by the incredible scenery along this trail that follows Eagle Creek up into the Wilderness. We look forward to continuing our efforts to get the BCH Mission out to other equestrians and the general public during the new year.

Territorial Riders added additional volunteer areas to our list during 2014. Our Chapter adopted Riley Horse Camp along with the Sandy River, Cast Creek, Cast Lake, and Horseshoe Ridge trails, which added approximately 20 miles to our trail volunteer mileage. Riley Horse Camp and the surrounding trails offer everything from beginner trails that are flat and wide to the challenging, steep trails with remarkable vistas that the Mt. Hood National Forest and Mt Hood Wilderness are known for. We are very excited to add Riley Horse Camp to our volunteer efforts, and look forward to having a Chapter campout and potluck there this year.

Territorial Riders has also achieved great growth with our primary agency partner, the U.S. Forest Service. Last year, along with the help of Barb and Dave Adams of Mt. Hood OET, and Curtiss Smith of the Trail Keepers of Oregon, we helped convince the Forest Service to put in a new trail to connect a new parking area to an existing trail. While the trail is only a half mile long, and this trail was supposed to have been built when the new parking area was installed in 2012, it is still a new trail that was put in with the help of the Forest Service during times of declining budgets. The Forest Service found funds to have a mini-excavator break



the trail for us and the volunteers did the rest. I believe this half mile trail and the willingness of the Forest Service to find a way to make this happen is a direct result in the growth of our relationship with the Forest Service. I also believe our willingness to volunteer our time and effort to make trails accessible is being noticed by the Forest Service, and we will see rewards for our efforts in the future. Locally, our Forest Service Wilderness and Trails representative, McKenzie Jensen, has been a great asset and ally to our chapter in our volunteer efforts. She has also organized efforts to bring many of the volunteer trail organizations together to discuss how we can help each other and the Forest Service maintain more trails more efficiently. We look forward to continuing to work with McKenzie and the Forest Service to preserve our access to the trails in the Mt. Hood National Forest during the coming year.

During 2014 we also learned that we needed growth in our back country skills. In November we started a six part back country skills training educational series to begin our monthly chapter meetings. The classes are essentially primers that cover topics such as basic preparation for a backcountry ride, first aid, map and compass skills, survival basics, hobbling and high-lining, and things to know about overnight camping on the trail. We are very excited about these short primer sessions and intend to hold more in depth training sessions for those who are interested in learning more throughout the course of the year.

Last year Territorial Riders had many social rides and potlucks too. We started 2015 off right with a good, albeit a bit cold, ride on New Years Day, and a second Chapter ride on January 3rd where we actually built a fire during lunch to warm the fingers and toes. I look forward to the coming year with Territorial Riders BCHO. We have a new Vice President, Madelyn Hendrickson, who has some great ideas on how to get our recruitment message out to some potential new trail volunteers, and she is already starting to make a difference in our volunteer efforts. We are poised to continue our growth and volunteer efforts throughout an exciting new year!

A Letter from the President

Submitted by: Jerry Bentz

Greetings,

I hope everyone is wintering over well. Winter is the time of year when we look forward to spring by planning and training for the upcoming adventures. It's also time for Winter Convention. I encourage every member of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon to attend. Winter Convention is not just for the leadership but every member of BCHO. Winter Convention is a great way to find out what's going on around the state plus it's a lot of FUN. This year's convention is at the Shilo Inn in Bend. We have a full weekend planned. Friday the board meeting starts at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held in one of the meeting rooms at the Shilo. We will have some kind of signage up so everyone will know which room the meeting is in. All members of BCHO are always invited to any of the board meetings not just the board. If you are attending the convention please come a little early and sit in on the board meeting. Saturday's general meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be in the same room as the board meeting. This year's meeting will be themed "Getting Back To Basics". We hope to talk about the mission of Back Country Horsemen and how BCHO hopes to carry out the mission. Allan Hill, Public Lands Liaison for BCHA and Executive Board member will be our keynote speaker this year. Allan is going to be putting on a multi-media presentation about the work and packing being done in California's Sierra Mountains. Allan is also going to be speaking at the Banquet about the mission of Back Country Horsemen. Kelly Behr from the High Desert Trail Riders will be another of our speakers. Bill Neel is going to speak on "Mules The Other Equine". I don't think Bill is a member but obviously is a smart man. Maybe we can hand him an application and get him to join. Along with our speakers we are going to be treated to the chapter reports. It's always interesting to hear what the other chapters are up to. We also will be going over the budget and electing new officers. This year the President, two Vice President as well as one National Director position will be up for election. If you have any interest in any of these positions please let me know. The banquet sounds like it should be a tasty treat. We have a choice of steak, fish or chicken. There will also be a no host bar as well as social hour before the dinner. We will be handing out some awards and as I mentioned Allan Hill will be speaking. Any of you who don't know Allan will be impressed. Allan has done a lot over the years to further the mission of the Back Country Horsemen. Allan has set and talked with a lot of our members of Congress in Washington D.C. while he has represented BCHA as our Public Lands Liaison. Sunday morning we will probably get together and have a no host breakfast and talk about the future of BCHO. We also, after breakfast, will be having a meeting to hand out the bicycle guidelines that the bike committee has been working on since last Fall. The committee will share with everyone the process they went through to create the document. The committee has put many hours into this document. This meeting will not be a time for anyone to share their concerns about the document as you will have just received it and not had ample time to go over it. We want everyone to take it home and read it and then attend our board meeting in Klamath



Falls May 1st where we will be discussing it. This will give you a good excuse to attend the Wilderness Skills Clinic put on that same weekend by our Klamath Falls Chapter The High Desert Trail Riders.

This is also the time of year where many we attend many of the shows and clinics around. BCHO will once again have booths at the Portland Sportsman Show, Central Oregon Sportsman Show as well as the Albany Horse Expo. Many public meetings and planning meetings are held by the public agencies that we deal with. I would encourage everyone to attend those meetings held in your area. It's always interesting to hear what the agencies have to say. If we, as horsemen, don't speak up and tell them our concerns and praises they won't have any idea what we are thinking. Part of being a good Back Country Horseman is promoting and defending equestrian access to public lands. That is why it is very important to have a presence at public meetings. Winter is also a great time to update your first aid cards and saw certifications. I want to give a shout out to the Columbia Gorge chapter who have been cooking all of the meals for the Trail Skills College in Cascade Locks for several years now. What a great way to promote Back Country Horsemen to the folks that volunteer and do trail maintenance.

In closing I would like to encourage you to take advantage of what's left of our short off season. Go to a few meetings, trainings, clinics and public meetings. Learn, practice, enjoy and tell them how you feel. It will make you an even better Back Country Horsemen. Take heart, summer is just around the corner.

I hope to see you all at Winter Convention.

- Jerry



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From the Editors

A Note from Shelly

Hello! My name is Shelly Williams. This newsletter is written by you and designed by me! I take the articles, photos and advertisements and lay them out in a way that makes sense and hopefully looks nice. I also take time to edit the newsletter along with Sara and communicate with the print shop to get the newsletter printed and mailed. I live in Eugene with my husband and two young boys. I work part time for my church and also enjoy taking on a few graphic design jobs here and there. I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

Shelly Williams
Newsletter Designer

A Note from Sara

A huge "Thank You" to Shelly for all her expertise, time and hard work that she puts in to making The Highline what it is today. We could not do it without her. Shelly has the editing skill and software know how to format our Highline articles and advertisements in places that conserve the most space yet is eye pleasing to the reader. This is not an easy task. BCHO members, we will need to discuss and vote on Shelly's well-deserved pay increase so that it's permanent going forward. We will have discussions and voting at the Winter Convention in February. Please make sure that you come.

Thank you,
Sara Lagasse
Newsletter Editor

PS - It's never too early to send in your article for the next Highline.
Please send your ideas and articles to Shelly and I at editor@bcho.org



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Big Meadows Horse Camp Clean Up and Maintenance

Submitted by: Jennifer Paulson, Photos by: Michelle Morin

West Cascade BCHO started maintaining Big Meadows Horse Camp as one of their yearly volunteer projects several years ago. A few key members, make plans with the forest service each year and have a set weekend in June that the chapter goes in and cleans up and repairs the horse camp. The Detroit Forest Service helps by providing gravel, posts, poles and other materials.

This was my first year attending this event and could not believe the before and after of the horse camp. I thought, how can a few people fix this place up? Not only were members working on the horse camp, half of them went off and cleared a 9.4 miles trail for horse use.

The whole thing started on a very rainy morning where we met with the leaders for this activity.



We split up into groups with half going out clearing trail and the other half staying in camp. The ones that stayed in camp cleaned stalls, hauled gravel, shoveled gravel, knocked out old rotted or broken corral poles and posts and then replaced with new poles and bolts. Downed trees, limbs, and old poles were cut up for firewood in campsites. Many potholes were filled with gravel and area around the pump that had new cement pad needed a huge amount of gravel banked around it.



Poles being knocked out and then replaced with new ones.



Gravel being shoveled and wheeled to stalls

This trail goes by a snow park and it has a hitching rail by the restrooms. The trail then follows part of the Maxwell Butte trail and goes up a mountain to Mountain View Snow Shelter. Then back to Quinn Meadow. The trail is 9.4 miles long.

On the second day we had a potluck at dinner time. The Park Rangers came with a cake for the West Cascade BCHO, thanking us for our work and commitment for taking care of horse camp for years. They also gave passes to the volunteers that helped and some other awards. I was told that this was the first time that has ever happened and it meant a lot to the people who had been maintaining the camp for years.



A cake from the Park Rangers thanking us for our work and commitment

The hours logged for the event were:
269 basic work, 59 skilled, and 28 recon

It rained about all the time we were there, but we were warm to hot from our work. In the evening there was always a campfire somewhere, a good story, laughter, and friendship.

I am looking forward to the Big Meadows work party the last weekend in June in 2015. Come join us.



On way to Snow Shelter is a beautiful view of the mountains and Bear Grass in open area.



This is a map of the new trail that was cleared.



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High Country Wilderness Packers Chapter

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

Let me introduce the newest chapter to BCHO. HCWP chapter was formed by several young packers at a trailhead in early August of 2014.

At that first meeting at the trailhead, Casey Hufstader met with, and convinced, several young packers with their families that a new chapter was in the works and he had been working on the format for over a year. The concept was to form a chapter of Packers and Out-riders from the packing community that was using the wilderness across the state and currently were not affiliated with any other BCHO chapter. The goal was to try and bring the younger generation with their families into a new chapter at large and adhere and concentrate their volunteer efforts only on wilderness projects.

A second meeting was set up and the chapter by-laws were established and officers elected. At BCHO's fall September meeting held at Sisters Cow Camp, the by-laws were submitted and approved by the BCHO board. The new chapter was off and running. By the end of 2014, eleven new members had been contacted, and the chapter was ready to launch into a full fledged BCHO chapter starting in 2015. From August until December 2014, several projects were worked on and completed for USFS and ODF&W, all this to get the chapter name out there.

The chapter will follow the five main purposes of BCHO plus add one additional one, that of education of youth. The chapter President, Mat Wooley, and his founding members have structured the chapters around two primary positions, packers and out-riders. The packers come to the chapter with their own string and equipment and the KSA's to go along with the position. The out-riders position is set up for riders with packing experience in the Wilderness, to help on any project and assist the packers. Any new packers, or out-riders, that don't have packing experience, and want to get the KSA's needed, will be mentored by several of the chapter membership to help them get the needed experience.

The chapter has conference call meetings once every other month, and they will hold additional meetings planned around work projects in the summer. Membership so far is spread across the state and several inquiries are pouring in from the NE portion of the State. If the chapter takes off like it is showing, they will probably break the chapter into three regions with one set of officers. It's great to see all the younger generation jumping on board with their families, and with the primary focus of only working in and on Wilderness projects, it could put more volunteers on the ground for trail maintenance.

Casey Hufstader has been in contact with several other states that are forming the same type of chapters and therefore getting



back to the original mission statement and purposes set up by the founding fathers. I'm hoping in the next five years the chapter can produce many volunteer hours in trail maintenance in wilderness areas across the state.

Officers of BCHO High Country Wilderness Packers

Pres:	Mat Wooley 541-285-7681
Vice Pres:	Jeff Dickerson
Sec:	Ronni Wooley
Treas:	Laurie Hufstader
SD:	Mat Wooley
PL:	Casey Hufstader 541-914-3724



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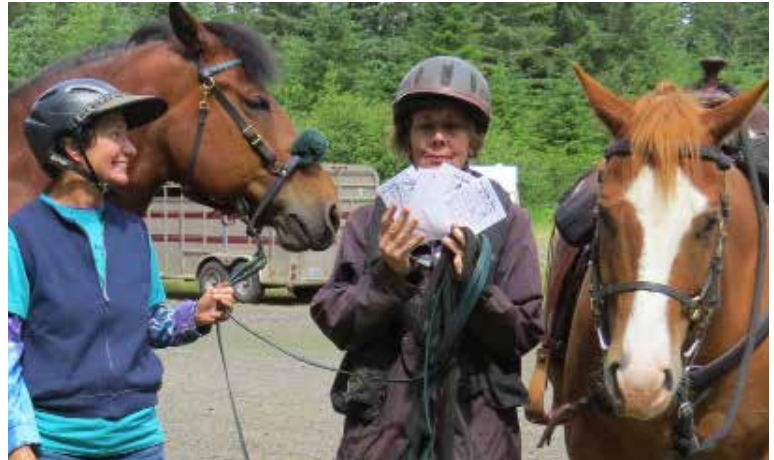
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West Cascade BCHO Now Have Seven New Habits Established in 2014

Submitted by Jennifer Paulson – President, Photos by: Michelle Morin

West Cascade BCHO now have seven habits established 2014. We wanted to make business meetings educational, interesting, more organized but had slipped into a habit of just socializing and not doing much at meetings. Always wanting to do something different but not changing. Then Synergy happened.

1. So now at each meeting we have a guest speaker, or someone with in our Chapter that can educate us on something they know well. This was not a new to BCHO but to West Cascade it has been.
2. We have an AGENDA for each meeting and this is sent out prior to meeting.
3. Minutes are taken and sent out after each meeting and usually within a week. Except for a PC breakdown and then it was later.
4. We use our social time (6 – 7) prior to meeting at 7 to make some plans or complete projects. Such as our yearly ride calendar.
5. We communicate more frequently and remind each other of projects or things that need to get done. We now realize that new members need this information and directions that has been second nature to experienced members.
6. We went way out of our comfort zone for a fundraiser, the West Cascade BCHO Silver Falls Poker Ride. It had a late start but we had help and wonderful advice from other Chapters. And some very good support from some businesses to get us started



Poker Players at WCBCHO Silver Falls Poker Ride on June 21, 2014. Our next Poker Ride will be June 20, 2015.

since we had no money. Then we had our first poker ride, and it was awesome. We found that we could do something great if we pulled together. We also found out that we (the members) are our greatest resource.

7. The large success of the poker ride really synergized the whole chapter. Plans and excitement for Poker Ride 2015 are already in the makings.

Synergize is the habit of creative cooperation. It is teamwork, open-mindedness, and the adventure of finding new solutions to old problems. But it doesn't just happen on its own. It's a process, and through that process, people bring all their personal experience and expertise to the table.



Introducing - The Columbia Gorge Chapter

Submitted by: Joy Senger

This chapter was formally created in 1996. Eleven people of the original chapter are still on our membership list. We are spread far and wide, from Corbett to Ukiah, Prineville and Canby as well as the Hood River/The Dalles area. We also have five members in Washington state. We average 35-40 members annually. Our meetings are generally held the third Wednesday of the month at the Hood River Saddle Club, but we have begun holding some in The Dalles to allow for the South Wasco County members (like the president) to travel a bit less.

In 2005 we adopted the Cyrus Springs Horse Camp on the Crooked River National Grasslands. We perform a yearly camp clean up in an agreement with the Grasslands to keep the camp fee free. In 2012 we adopted the Gibson Prairie Horse Camp in the Hood River Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest. We have and are making campground improvements and building trails out of camp. Our other main project has been the maintenance of the Badger Lake Trail #479 in the Badger Lake Wilderness, Barlow Ranger District of the Mt. Hood NF. It is a beautiful 11.5 mile trail from the Bonney Crossing Campground to Badger Lake. Bonney Crossing CG has two four-horse corrals for camping. We have one other horse camp, Knebal Springs, in our area that we have also helped maintain.

Working with our two ranger districts we have helped on other trail projects as needed. Two of our members, Jim and Sue Forsman have done a considerable amount of packing for the Pacific Crest Trail Association moving gear for trail crews. The Forsman's mules have also packed their fair share of gravel for many trail projects. And Forest Rhinehart keeps trails in the Desolation area of the Umatilla NF cleared practically single-handedly.

For the past 4 years we have been cooking breakfast and dinners for the PCTA's Trail Skills College held in Cascade Locks. It has been a challenge figuring out the right combination of electrical components to keep multiple roasters plugged in to keep food hot, but I think we finally have it! And then there's that wonderful April rain, but we have a good crew that comes back every year to feed 150 people.

Y'all are welcome at our campfire anytime.



Sue Forsman, Katie, Jim Forsman, Gail Schiel, Fred Jette (back), Mary Jette, Barb Smith, Ken Hansen, Neil & Joy Senger, and Pam & Joe Bates (in front).

East Cascades BCHO Christmas Potluck

Submitted by: Linda Hanson, hansonl@aol.com

East Cascades chapter of BCH met for our annual Christmas potluck in December at our guest house. There were about 30 people that pretty-well filled the place, but it was a good place to meet since it is all one big room. One member cooked a turkey and another a ham and the rest of us brought the trimmings. We had a feast, followed by the usual gift exchange with "stealing". The ever popular manure fork was stolen the maximum number of times, and new friends brought homemade knife holsters with slots for saddle strings that were very popular.

The next day several of us went for a ride in the Grasslands, between Prineville and Madras, starting at Scales Corral on Laurel Lane (about 12 miles south of Madras, then to the west on Laurel Lane for about 1.5 miles). We rode to Cyrus Horse camp and then north toward Madras and Haystack Res. The ground was slightly soft, but there were dirt roads that were more packed and better footing. It is generally a good winter riding area, with little snow that does not last long.

Should anyone want to contact me, I live riding distance (a 2 hour ride) from Cyrus Horse Camp, and would be glad to help you or answer questions. The guest house is available also, and there is room for a couple of horses if you'd rather not camp.



Members of the East Cascades BCH gathered around the table for a Christmas potluck.



Ruth Miller enjoying the scenery on a ride in the Grasslands with her husband Duane in the back.

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A Little Mule Nobody Wanted - Jasper's Story Continued

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader
High Country Wilderness Packers

The first time I ever met Jasper was on a foggy rainy night in November. Several of us had drawn late season elk tags over East, and had a very late start because of the rain in the valley. We had been driving nine hours in the dark, foggy, rainy, snowy conditions when we pulled into the trailhead, behind me three more forty-foot trailers loaded with our hunters and the rest of the mules. As I dropped down into the circle trailhead, my lights played out across the trees off to the north, I saw a small white mule cross-tied between two trees a long ways from the rest of the stock highlined. My first thought was that mule must be a hand full because he's been exiled to the back forty. We didn't even take time to tie up for the night, we just started unloading and slapping hulls on all the stock. Two hours before daylight we had fourteen head loaded and started down the trail. I was pulling drag with two of our oldest mules in tow. As I broke the second-to-the-last switchback just under where that old white mule was tied, he cut loose with a blood curdling vocal mule talk, a call only his mother could love. The hair on the back of my neck just stood on end and my oldest mule Clyde returned the call in the same loud obnoxious scream. It was snowing and cold, but all of a sudden I warmed to that sound as we dropped off into the fog of the canyon. Four days later Casey was heading up a side canyon trail to check to see if we could use the trail to pack out elk meat from two bulls we had killed the day before. He came across an old packer, his friend, and the guy's new wife, leading two big mules. In the back of the string was this scrawny white mule dragging behind. He wasn't happy at all and was kicking out at anything close to him. Casey stopped and talked to them and found out the white mule was brought to the mountains for a one-way trip. It seems this little mule had a problem at his last owners and had tried to kill a newborn horse colt. The mare and the white mule had been together for a couple of years when all of a sudden the mule's life changed when the mare foaled. The mule's first reaction was to eliminate the new colt, and then everything would go back to normal. Wrong. A death sentence had just been handed down by the packer's wife. So the mule was sent to the mountains to be taken on top of the ridge the last part of elk season and shot for bear bait. Casey asked the guy when he planned on executing the sentence and was told that the next day would be his last.

That night we woke up about midnight with all our mules raising hell on the picket line. Casey and I jumped up and grabbed flashlights and side arms and headed out at a run to see if a bear or cat was after the stock. Wrong. Standing at our hay pile was ten to fifteen horses and mules, all loose, trying to tear the manties apart to get to the alfalfa. Casey yelled over that he had caught the bell mare and that the stock belonged to the old timer up the creek. I was standing with my light off scratching Clyde's neck, when something cool nuzzled my neck. I yelled **** and jumped straight in the air and turned with the hammer pulled back on my 45. There I'm standing in my long johns, snow boots, stocking cap, a pistol and flashlight in my hands, and this white ghost was standing there smiling at me, yes, I said

smiling. I should have just shot him for smiling at me for the way I was dressed. I went back in and slipped on pants and grabbed a lead rope and took off on the trail Casey had headed. When we finally got the stock back to the other camp, and roused them all out of bed to take care of their stock, the lady came over to me and asked how we had caught the white mule they called Tippy. I told her I didn't have to catch him, he walked up to me and rubbed my shoulder and wanted his head scratched. Her face turned blank and said something like that was wrong, that mule hated people. As we were walking back to camp in the dark, Casey and I discussed maybe that mule needed to be with mule people. We turned around and in the dark went back to the camp, and they were still up retying all their stock back onto highlines. We basically said to hold off on shooting the white mule, we would be back the next evening to offer a price for him. The next night we headed to their camp with a bottle of snow snake medicine. The first thing out of the old packer's mouth was that white mule was worth a lot of money. Casey and I at the same time called BS, and reminded him that if his wife found out that he hadn't carried out her execution order, it might go hard on him. Common sense prevailed, and we left the camp with the white mule at a very reasonable price, so reasonable that we had to promise never to talk to his wife. Three days later we were breaking camp when the camp above us came by with mule loads heading out. The one guy's wife stopped and yelled at the rest of her party that they need to take notice. You see, the little fourteen hand white mule was standing there with a load on, tied to the string, and he wasn't fussing at all. All we heard was cussing as they headed down the trail with the lady laughing about their mule training capabilities. After they were gone, I had Casey go over and take off the hobbles that they failed to see in the deep snow, or the mule halter on the be-nice chain.



All the way home I kept sweating, what was Laurie going to say when we pulled up with more mules than when we left. You see, she had already told me that the next mule that I brought home without her permission was going to be called Divorce. As I unloaded the mule my grandson came out and wanted to hold the mule. At first I was a little concerned until the mule started nuzzling Cody and you could tell it was a perfect match. Cody asked, what's the mule's name, and I told him it was Tippy. About that time Laurie came out around the barn and Cody yelled, "Look grandma! Grandpa brought home a mule called Titty." Right then and there I changed that mule's name to Poncho. You could tell the mule didn't trust people, but really wanted to belong to something. We started the mule back at basic mule 101, starting slow and trying to identify the past trainer's screw ups. It became obvious right off someone along the way had tried to use horse training methods on this mule. We changed to mule tactics and happened to mention along the way that if he didn't play along we would take him bear hunting. That worked, he's one heck of a mule. He rides and packs, allows Cody to ride him everywhere, and puts up with this old man. You walk up to him and say foot and he will raise whatever leg you are interested working with. You turn him loose at his picket line in the mountains and he will go out and graze, fill his belly, then return to his spot on the highline and wait for someone to hook him back up. You see Jasper/Poncho has found a home for life.

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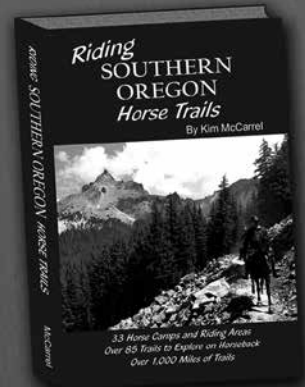
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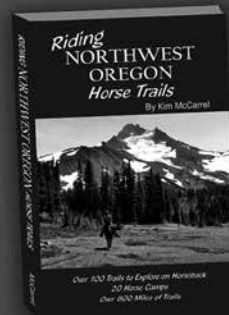
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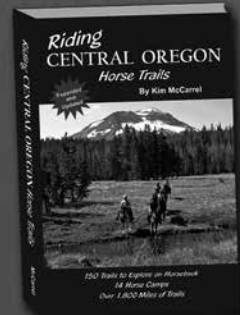


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Cody's Corner

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

Hi, my name is Cody and I just turned 11 ¼ and if you have been following my adventures, you know I have a lot of fun for my age. Well, its 2015 and we had a great holiday. Riding & hunting and breaking new mules on the beach. Whoa let me back up, did I tell you about my Dad taking me duck hunting while on the back of a mule during Christmas break? Grandpa said this is a classic. You see the three of us headed over to the beach in the freezing rain so Dad could ride a new mule colt. Grandpa and I went along so we could duck hunt out along the back dunes three miles from the trailhead. It was about 17 degrees out when we saddled up and the wind was blowing hard out of the west. I had grandpa's

old 20 GA. pump and grandpa was packing his old goose gitter 12, Dad was along just for the ride on that colt. Well, we were gone for about an hour and had traveled about two miles when grandpa spotted several ducks in a side eddie of a pond tucked back in the shore pines. Grandpa got this bright idea that he would hold onto the stock and Dad and I would sneak up and put a hurt on the ducks. Well right there Dad said he should have told grandpa to go fly a kite, which I thought was strange because we were duck hunting not down there to fly any darn kites. It seems Dad says any time grandpa comes up with what he calls a Senile old coot idea, we should just turn around and run. But that didn't happen, Dad stepped down off that sidewinden new mule that he was riding and handed both of our lead ropes to grandpa. I pulled the old 20 out and loaded her with fours and headed over to the edge of the pond about thirty yards away, right then things got real cowboy in a hurry. We snuck up, but the ducks took to the air

and flew off to the north. Dad and I turned and started back to the stock when grandpa yelled they are coming back around and they are into the wind. I turned and brought the old 20 up and cut loose with three rounds as they passed over, and as luck or skill would have it, I knocked down a big old drake. About then grandpa started yelling, the mules were all running in circles around him and Dad kept yelling at me to finish off the duck on the water. Grandpa yelling at me not to shoot, and Dad's yelling at me to pull the trigger, because by this time grandpa was way over the dunes riding like the bat out of He double LL to catch the other animals. Well ,I finished the duck off ,and finally that mean old coot came riding up with the two AWOL animals in tow. Dad is laying in the sand laughing his legs off, and grandpa is frowning until he gets a twinkle in his eyes and says, "Now who is going to swim out and get the duck?" Dad stopped in his tracks and says he hadn't thought about that when he took me down to the pond, he figured I would miss. So now we have what us mule people call a stand off. Dad said it was grandpa's idea, he should swim out, grandpa said that would be senior abuse and he sure wasn't

going to let his grandson swim in this cold weather, so that left Dad. Finally Dad stripped down to his tidy whiteies and started to wade out until he actually had to swim after the duck that was being pushed out by the wind to the other side. Heck of a swim, 17 to 18 degrees and the wind blowing, Dad finally grabbed the duck and returned to the shore at the far end of the pond. We grabbed his clothes and the stock and rode around to the far side to retrieve the duck and Dad. Just before we got there, grandpa pulled up and rooted around in his saddle bags grumbling something about this being a Kodak moment. Dad was standing there in his BVD's holding the duck as we rode up and turn to face us as grandpa took a picture. You should have seen Dad, he was red from head to toe. Grandpa said it was the algae in the pond, and Dad couldn't answer he was shaking so bad from the cold. We pulled a saddle blanket off and Dad dried off and got

dressed and we headed back to the trail head. Dad was talking under his breath about another fine mess the old coot had got us into, and me sitting back on my mule trying to remember if I had seen an old coot in the flock as they came over. Things went ok for couple of days until Dad come home one night from work and was looking to find Grandpa, he was talking about strangling the old coot. It seems some one had posted Dad's picture holding the duck on facebook, and one of the comments that someone had posted said "Nice retrieve, ugly dog". Now grandpa claimes it couldn't have been him, he doesn't have his face on any bo, and he don't think its on the post office wall anymore . Grandpa said it was probaly because they wanted to take him duck hunting again. So you see the new year has just started and grandma has put both grandpa and my Dad in opposite corners of the barn. I guess its because grandpa wants to get the duck stuffed if he could find



an old maniquin that looks like Dad to hold it up. Until next time, keep your powder dry, take a real dog with you duck hunting, and never go duck hunting with mules.

PS: Did I mention I killed a nice buck and that quiet little gal from my last adventure has been calling me? I wonder if her Dad knows...

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National Director's Report

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

BCHA January 2015 Update

* BCHA is interviewing two candidates to fill Ken Ausk's Executive Committee seat. They sent an e-mail invite to all the national directors and state CEO's for non-director applicants and received two applications. Both names will be forwarded to the EC second week of February for a vote. There will be another election at the NBM for that position as Ken's term will have expired.

* BCHA may have expansion opportunities in NY, PA, and MI (MI to full state status) for 2015.

* BCHA will have e-opened the BCHA "Country Store" on the website with apparel with the BCHA logo. The store will expand the products after trial run.

* BCHA has begun discussion with the "Buffalo Soldiers" organization for a joint effort. The Buffalo Soldiers work to keep the remembrance of the black cavalry of the late 19th and early 20th century thru re-enactments, civic parades and etc. But another important mission is helping and guiding inner-city youths thru experiences in the outdoors. The Buffalo Soldiers have 23 chapters, of which 1/3 are mounted. We are working with their NC unit and the NC BCH to develop a template on how to work together with our packing units, and their people, to get their kids into the National Forests to work on trails. We are coordinating with the USFS in Region 8. I think this project has legs.

* BCHA is working with The Wilderness Society to reintroduce The National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act in the 114th Congress.

Note:

BCHA filed for and received a grant of \$25,000 dollars to be put towards Randy Rasmussen's salary. With this additional funding, it was possible to extend Randy's contract to an additional three years. Note: the grant will provide the same amount each additional year toward Randy's salary, for up to three years.

BCHA has set up a BCHA Facebook site for members to send in their Bio's and have the nation make comments back, so far (BCHO's), Cody Hufstader's Bio with pictures had 9000 hits and 35,000 shares with comments coming from several other countries on how more youth should be posted.

BCHO National Level

* Oregon has requested, and been promised funding, for purchasing six game cameras from the BCHA National legal fund to place cameras in the Wilderness this next summer to capture images of Mtn. Bike violators that continue to use several Wilderness trails.

* Casey H. and Jerry B. left Dec. 4 to Vegas to represent BCHO at the RMEF winter camp-out. They worked the BCHA booth along with two delegates from California. The end results, several members at large signed up to be part of BCHA. Casey and Jerry both said this was possibly the best opportunity at an expansion event they have ever been to.

* Phil is working with BCHA to form a "Wall of BCHA Heroes" strategy to recognize past and present outstanding BCH individuals that need recognition for their great efforts. Candidates would be submitted from all states.

* Both National Directors are working on chainsaw/crosscut field data to be used for a presentation at the National Board meeting in April, 2015.

* Phil has met with a ND from Idaho and discussed the Chainsaw resolution, and is seeking a spot on their spring board meeting agenda to put on a presentation.

* BCHO's ND have negotiated a deal with BCHA to use their conference call line once every other month. BCHO membership will be able call into the hotline at a pre-arranged date and ask the BCHO Board any questions, or express their concerns. There is zero cost to BCHO.

State Level

* The two ND and the State President have a meeting set up with BCH Washington to discuss Mtn. Bike issues, BCHO's Chainsaw resolution, Upcoming R-6 BCHO/BCHW Regional Forester meeting, setting up BCHA regional public lands committee meetings, and how the two states can communicate better on like issues.

* Mtn. Bike committee is continuing to work on the new Mtn. Bike Guidelines. They are in the next process of putting it into a useable book form for each chapter. The plan is to hand out the final version at the Winter Convention, February, 2015.

* A conference call was set up for the final voting portion of the Constitutional change on filing for 501c3 status. Only BCHO Board members and state reps from each chapter were on this call. The vote on the Constitutional change adheres to the BCHO policy manual that was voted on at the last state board meeting in Sept., 2014, and required a fifteen day notice to get the final vote

from voting officers on the IRS 501c3 application for BCHO. Note: The vote was 100% for the change. Every one can thank Jerry B., Marty D., and Laurie H. for pushing this thing through to the end, it will make a big difference for BCHO future.

* Winter Convention site has been selected and a contract has been signed. We were able to get great rates for great rooms. The Winter Convention will be held at the Shilo Inn, Bend, Oregon. The dates are Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Please try to attend, everyone is welcome. Keep an eye out for Winter Convention Alerts!

* 2015 winter convention theme this year is "Going Back to the Basics". Several outstanding speakers have committed to fill the agenda with presentations on one of each of the BCHA founding principles.

* A new chapter has been formed and they have spent a lot of effort opening trails in the wilderness. And at this time all their members have never been part of a BCHO chapter, so we welcome them on board. Side Bar: most of that chapter is made up of families under 36 years old. The chapter name is High Country Wilderness Packers.

In closing, a lot of projects are on the plate, if you want to be part of an open committee contact Jerry Bentz.



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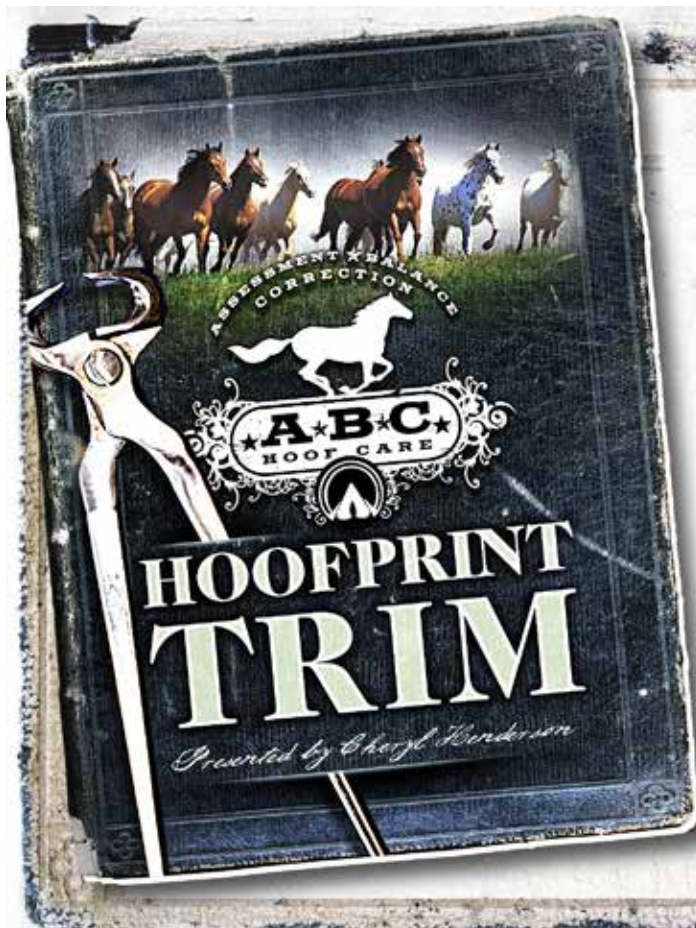
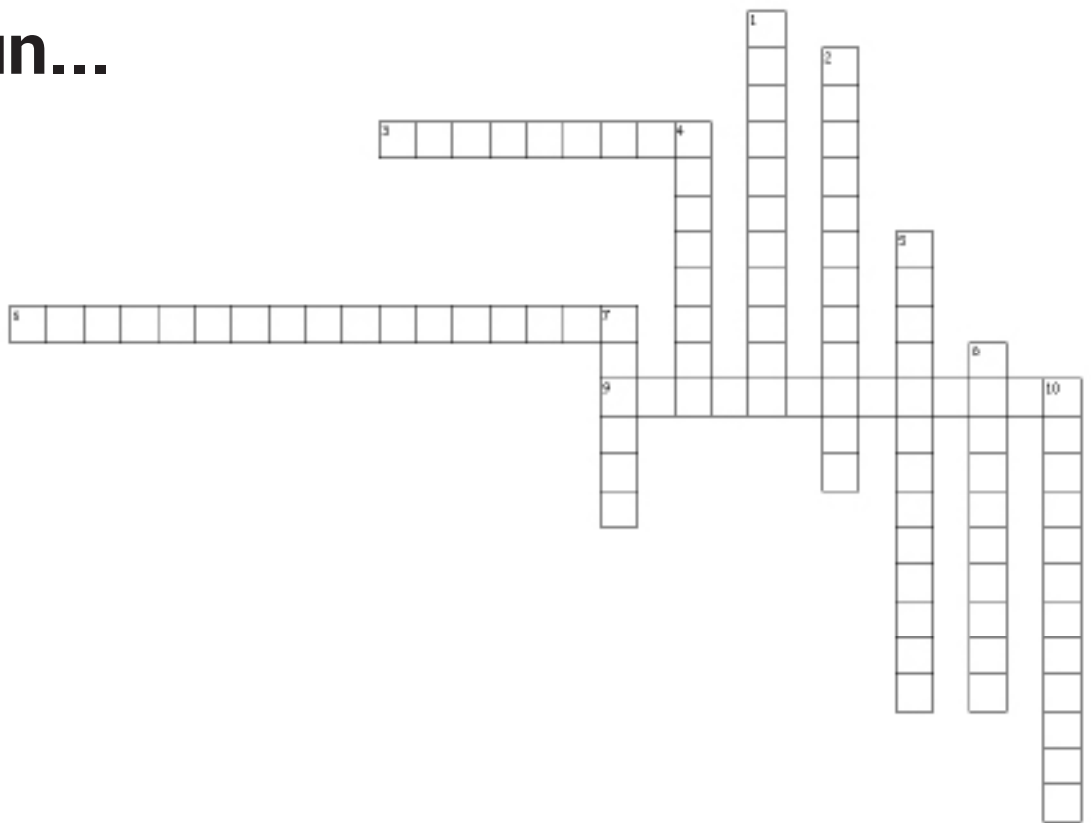
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