



# The Highline

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

Summer 2015

## Horse Packing & Wilderness Skills Clinic

Submitted by: Kelly Behr, High Desert Trail Riders

Our High Desert Trail Riders “Rock”... one more year in the books for our annual Horse Packing and Wilderness Skills Clinic. I hazily write this over my first cup of coffee, watching the sun rise and listening to little chirps of birds thinking of how I love and miss my mornings in the woods, with my camp fire keeping the coffee hot and romancing the idea of starting breakfast. Then reality kicks in... EGADS, I better get ready for another day at the Clinic, only to realize that the clinic ended yesterday! Yes, I think I shall pour another cup of coffee.

This year’s theme was “History Through The Eye Of The Equine” reminding and educating the public of the historical importance of the equine and of their significance on getting us to where we are today. Todd Kepple, Manager of the Klamath County Museum in Klamath Falls, shared a pictorial presentation in regards to how the horses, mules and oxen provided the power for early-day industry in our upper Klamath Basin. Our local museum holds a collection of thousands of historic images from the region that was used in this presentation. Coming from a 25-year resident, Todd has hiked to virtually every corner of Klamath County and has volunteered in trail maintenance on the Pacific Crest Trail and OC&E Woods Line Trail. Not only was our history of the Klamath Basin presented but several other speakers covered the history of the prominence of the mule, particularly the ability to deliver goods from the west coast into Yreka and other places long before roads were developed.



Besides the historical information from Todd’s presentation, we also had over 50 other seminars on Saturday and Sunday: packing hitches and manti packing, choosing riding & packing equipment, equine health taught by veterinarians, dutch oven cooking, GPS devices, hoof care and many more to mention. Also, special this year, we added a driving competition in our outdoor arena with the Southern Oregon Horse and Carriage Club. Attempting to provide education for all types of horseman, mule packers, backpackers, fisherman, hunters and not to leave out the shoppers. So, not only could you learn from the best in the industry you could also shop from nearly 90 vendors. A wonderful group of vendors came in from Idaho, Washington, Nevada and not to mention our local vendors. This event is always geared around finding something for everybody.

Tamara Applebaker did a wonderful job on our “Kids Corral”, offering mules rides,

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## **BCHO State Officers**

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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 More Than Mongolian Grill, 4470 S 6th St, Klamath Falls 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 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...

leather stamping, coloring, roping and the kids also got to dress up in pioneer clothing and pose for a picture ...and not to mention the most exciting for the children were the stick horses! The kids were handed a booklet of some facts and questions that needed to be completed in order to receive their stick horse. They then went on to decorate their horses and participate in the most exciting part for them the "Stick Horse Parade", where they rode their horses with pride through the event center for all to see...nothing but smiles and giggles followed.

Special this year was a Friday night concert by the wonderful Dave Stamey with special guest Tom Sweringen. Starting off with cowboy poetry and finishing with the delightful songs sung from Dave Stamey everybody was standing and cheering not wanting it to end.

Saturday night not only presents the raffle items donated from our vendors, tickets for your choice of the Wall Of Guns, the drawing for a saddle donated by Three Bells Mules it also was accompanied with a wonderfully barbequed dinner. Then for toppers the much anticipated "Mule Auction" began. Many of our attendees come to learn from the best in the business and also win the bidding wars over the carefully selected mules that are in the auction.

This is our one big event each year for fund raising, monies that are used for a variety of things from new equipment in our trail clearing challenges to sending our BCH members to the national level of BCHA. Keeping up to date with new legislation and rules from the government is of most importance to fully understanding the needs and wishes of others organizations that want to share the wilderness trails we love.

So why does High Desert Trail Riders "Rock?" Because without the countless and tiring hours of volunteerism from our members of this chapter, none of this would happen. A year in the planning; then five days of working together for the greater of the cause and acknowledgement that educating is priority, it's truly one time each year where everyone has to work together as a team. Jumping in to complete anything that needs done is what this chapter does so well. Are there some testy times? Of course, but with the foundation already sealed in our members minds, compromises are always made and our event finishes once again on a lovely positive note.



Roger and Francis Yazzie receive HDTR jackets at a special award ceremony at the March general meeting, for their continued efforts to support our projects, even though they themselves don't ride or own horses!



Practice making a Gordon Walker Hitch



Tamara Applebaker and friends helping in the Kid's Corral.

# President's Letter

Submitted by: Jerry Bentz

It's been a great winter for riding and trail clearing. A lot of us already have our summer projects well underway or completed. If we don't have a wet summer I am afraid that it could be a bad year for fire danger. With that thought in the back of her head, our state ride chairperson Becky Wolf wisely chose the Far Well Horse Camp as the site for this year's State Ride. The dates for the State ride are July 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Farm Well is in the Silverlake area located in South Central Oregon. There are a lot of riding opportunities in the area and if there are fires this year we should be in a safe area so the party will be able to go on. Last year, if you remember, we had to cancel the ride at the last minute because there were fires all around Allen Creek. This year the High Desert Trail Riders will be hosting our Saturday night potluck. I believe they are providing the evening's meat and the rest of the meal will be potluck. We will have a jar to collect for the cost of the meat. (By the way I really like berry pie.) I want to thank High Desert Trail Riders for hosting the dinner and Becky Wolf for heading up the ride. If anyone has any questions please contact Becky wolfdan@molalla.net.

I want to also thank the High Desert Trail Riders for another great Pack Clinic. If you have never been to the Pack Clinic in Klamath Falls you have really missed out on a great event. I would encourage everyone to make it a priority to attend next year. There are many educational events as well as great opportunities to get to know your fellow Back Country Horsemen. The other event I would encourage everyone to put on their calendar for the coming year is Winter Convention. This year the convention will be March 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. We have not set the location yet but it will be somewhere in Central Oregon. We already have the Trail Meister lined up as one of our speakers. Also the Region 5 packers are planning on being there to do a presentation on trail maintenance as well as share their many experiences. We have a couple of other great speakers in the works. Please plan to attend.

The last thing I want to talk about is the Five Principles of the Back Country Horsemen Of America.

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

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

To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen

and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

The five principles listed above are what the Back Country horsemen are all about. I believe that it is very important that we keep that fact in the back of our mind at all times. BCHA was started by four packers sitting around a camp fire in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana. Our four founders realized that we, as horsemen, needed to band together to form a united voice against the public agencies and to a certain degree, the other user groups to keep and maintain equestrian access to public lands. The founders also realized that the equine community was not doing a good job of educating our folks of proper Leave No Trace principles when using our public lands. BCHA and BCHO believes that following our principles is the key to our success, both with the growth of our organizations and the fact that we have been able to have influence in the decisions made by the public agencies. It is important that we as Back Country Horsemen remain vigilant in respect to maintaining our access to public lands. We are continually having to keep after the agencies to not shut us out. We also have to figure out how we can share our access with the other user groups without limiting our access. All Americans have a right to our public lands including us. We also need to continue to educate equestrians in low impact use of horses in the back country. It is sometimes easy to become distracted by other things and lose sight of our principles, it is very important that we do not. If we stand together as one we can continue to accomplish great things. We have a great product to sell. Please encourage all of your horse (mule) friends and neighbors to join us. It's an old cliché but "United We Stand Divided We Fall".

Keep up the good work,

Jerry

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# BCHO State Ride and Camp Out Coming up

Submitted by: Becky Wolf 503-829-2694, wolfdan@molalla.net

**Don't Miss Out!**



I hope you are looking forward to the state ride this July 24, 25 and 26 at . It is located just 12 miles south of the town of Silver Lake on County Rd. 4-12, which is just a little east of the Silver Lake Ranger Station. Six miles from the beginning of RD 4-12 you will turn left on Rd 2916 and continue another 6 miles to the camp. It is all fenced and has two stock water ponds, four horse corrals and almost unlimited places to high line or set up portable corrals or electric fences. It is very beautiful and many sites have picnic tables and fire pits. There is a restroom at the camp. The Fremont National Recreation Trail #160 goes through the camp area to Hagar Mtn to the North and Fremont Point to the south. There is also lots of cross country riding and many old roads, with several TH that are an easy distance to trailer to.

High Desert Trail Riders has offered to provide the meat entree for Saturday night potluck. (I think I heard steaks.) They would like a head count by July 17, so please contact Lona Phipps with how many are in your party. Her contact is dogcry33@hotmail.com. She would also like to know what you are bringing to the potluck. There is also the Cowboy Dinner Tree on the road out to the camp. I am hoping that all those that want to go to that will make their reservations for Thursday or Friday night and save Saturday night to dine at camp. I am working on having breakfast provided on Sunday morning. So I also will need to know how many to plan for.

Hope to see all of you for another great state ride and campout!

## A Reminder about the State Work Party

Submitted by: Becky Wolf

BCHO work party at Allen Creek Horse Camp in the Ochocos will be June 17 -19, Hope all have put it on their calendars for 2015. We will be installing five more metal panel corrals at Allen Creek. Five were finished last year with grant money from Oregon Equestrian Trails and we will add five more with this year with a lot of help from our BCHO volunteers. We will also be getting the camp ready for the camping season and probably doing some perimeter fence repair to keep the cattle out. Please come and bring your horse and use the corrals we finished last year and then we can all ride as soon as the work is done. Also bring your PPE for work safety and whatever food and water you might need. Horse water is available in Allen Creek. Any questions you can contact Becky Wolf at 503-829-2694 or wolfdan@molalla.net.

Thank you and hope to see all there.

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# Horse Owners Love Your Neighbor

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707-544-0472, m\_murphy@sonic.net, MichaelMurphyHomesandland.com

Love your neighbor sounds good but when one has a neighbor who complains to Sonoma County PRMD (Permit & Resource Management Department), Fish & Wildlife, or Regional Water Quality it is sometimes hard to think "Love". The complaining citizen now knows how to get the different agencies' attention. I'm sure you have heard these before: too much dust, too many flies, smells, and manure issues. As soon as there is any complaint about sediment or manure getting into a waterway or creek, a red light is set off and the complaint is investigated.

Sometimes there is no problem and the horse facility is doing everything possible, but the neighbor knows the environmental buzzwords, "Manure into Creek", "Smells, Dust, Flies", etc. Some facilities are so caught up in the daily schedules of feeding, cleaning, training, and exercising that they overlook simple solutions. For example, a 1,000 sq. foot roof generates 600 gallons of water. This water needs to be directed away from manure areas. Keep clean water clean. The solution: gutters and down spouts directing water to grassy areas to perk down, not flow over manure or through paddocks without vegetation.

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS WINTER? Remember it is easier to love your neighbor when he or she is not complaining about your facility. Consider these simple tasks: 1. Store rock to be used as needed. 2. Rock all gates, water troughs, and heavy use areas. 3. Plant and mulch bare pastures, and remove the horses from hillsides and wet pastures. 4. Check all gutters and down spouts, repairing any breaks and leaks. 5. Keep horses out of creeks and off banks. 6. Cover manure storage and compost. 7. Monitor fields making sure no manure or water running through manure is entering creeks or drainage.

As far as the local county government is concerned, when the General Plan was updated horses were placed in the Agriculture Element. The PRMD, however, still has concerns whether they are agriculture or not. The Federal Department of Agriculture states that a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agriculture products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 census. Only owned horses contribute to the farm definition. Horses that are not owned will be included in published totals when a place otherwise qualifies as a farm. Horses contribute to the farm definition when they are on places that are reported by respondent as being of one acre or more of land in farms. But try and apply for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) grants through the National Resource Conservation Service and they will tell you horses are not part of agriculture. For all other agriculture producers cows (more horses are now in county), vineyards, nursery, etc. are eligible to receive up to \$400,000 in grants to improve the environment with creeks, banks, erosion and sediment control receiving high priorities.

At the latest meeting of the Farm Bureau's Animal Resource Committee the representative from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service stated that the New Farm Bill has changed this. After talking with the service personally, they said as of now

the Federal Agency is only dealing with the carrying capacity of the land with the horses.

The horse industry has come along way in the thirty-five years I have been involved. The General Plan now has an update to the Agriculture Element recognizing horses as part of agriculture. The Santa Rosa Junior College completed the Warren Dutton AG Pavilion with a 20 horse barn, two arenas, and culinary and winery areas. SRJC has a State certified Equine Education Program.

The latest economic report stated that there are more than 26,000 horses in the county with an economic impact of \$613 million annually for Sonoma County businesses, supporting over 7,700 jobs, and providing over \$11 million in annual local tax revenues for Sonoma County governments from direct spending on equine ownership totaling \$464 million. There are ripple effects on Sonoma County that add to the equine industry's local economic footprint.

There are new parks throughout the county, as well as a Turf Track at the Fairgrounds. All these accomplishments and programs speak well for the future of the horse industry. We expect more progress towards getting horses recognized as part of Agriculture. As a participating horse owner each one of you can respect your neighbor, be good stewards of the land, and protect the creeks and waterways.

## About the author

Currently Michael Murphy is a Realtor and an Equine Environmental Management Consultant. For five or six years he taught a course at SRJC titled "Horse Keeping – A Guide to Land Management for Clean Water". He is a member of the FB Animal Resource Committee representing the equine since 1990. Later he became an Associate Director of the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District for several years. In 1992 he was the Founding President of the Horse Council, remaining president for twelve (12) additional years. In 2000 he was the President of Sonoma County Fair followed by becoming a National Director of Back Country Horsemen of America representing California for eleven (11) years. For the past twenty (20) years Michael has done volunteer service patrolling state and local parks on horseback with the Mounted Assistance Unit.

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# Baker Beach Pre-Solve Cleanup

Submitted by: Betty Jean Keele, Emerald Empire Chapter BCHO



Emerald Empires sponsored the annual Pre-Solve Beach Cleanup March 14<sup>th</sup>. I nominate it as the WORST weather in the 14 years Emerald Empire has sponsored the cleanup! Heavy, heavy horizontal rain (1.5") with a ferocious south wind that was thankfully NOT cold. We still had 14 folks riding horses, two folks from OET walking, Cindy Burns from ODFW and her son, Shawn, and Crystal from USFS. We picked up 623 pounds of trash versus the 300 pounds we picked up last year.

The Beach Cleanup is scheduled for the first weekend before the 15<sup>th</sup> of March so we can clean the nesting areas for the little threatened Western Snowy Plover before the official nesting period begins. And even in the terrible weather, the ODFW folks saw a male and a female Plover while loading our bags of trash and pulling out a rope in the re-habitation area.

As for the event comments: Emily Elias, our president officially declared at our last Emerald Empire meeting that everyone's rain gear FAILED. Becky Hope's rain gear failed when she was sitting on her horse while holding 3 other horses. As we all know, horses only stand quietly with their hind quarters to the wind. This means Becky's face was in the horizontal rain and wind. Seems the rain hitting her face, ran on down her neck and all points south. For me, my brand new Carhartt pants kept me dry except where I had some sort of junction failure between my slicker on the top and the back of the rain pants below.

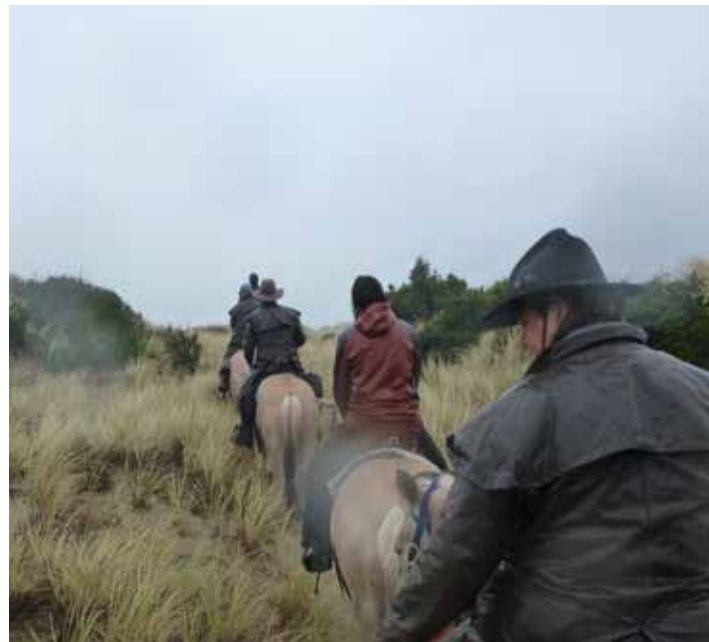
After three hours, we were all wet, riders, walkers, horses and dogs. Nineteen of us met at the warm dry beach house near Baker Beach where we warmed up, dried off and ate a great potluck lunch. After an hour we had to open windows to see if we could dissipate some of the steam. Universal

drenching, warmth, good food, great friends, all made for a really wonderful potluck. After the potluck, some of the groups usually take a ride, but this year even the hardest of us declined.

It was a great unique day! Thanks to all of you that participate to make this a fun event. Thanks to Solve for providing supplies, and sign up support. Thanks to the USDA Forest Service for providing pickups to haul our bags of trash, to Cindy Burns and Crystal of the Oregon US Fish and Wildlife Service for their cheerful helpful support. Thanks to Emerald Empire chapter of Back Country Horsemen and friends for their continued support even in the worst of weather.







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# TRBCHO & OET Move Corrals at Riley Horse Camp

Submitted by: Tim Lagasse

The first official work party of the year for Territorial Riders Chapter happened in late April. There was much humor and frustration that led up to our first work party this year though. The initial date for the work party was in late March. How we ended up performing the work in late April instead of in March is an interesting story in itself. In fact, our whole reason for performing this work party is an interesting story.

The origins of this work party occurred way back in the year 2001 or so. Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) partnered with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to install corrals at Riley Horse Camp. Riley Horse Camp is in the Mt Hood National Forest and is located near Zigzag, Oregon on the southwest side of Mt Hood near Ramona Falls. The USFS hired a contractor to dig the post holes for the corrals, and provided the corral materials. OET provided the labor to install the corrals and everyone was happy.

Fast forward thirteen years to 2014. The State Well Inspector decides it's time for a well inspection at Riley so the State Well inspector and a representative from the USFS take a trip to Riley. When they arrive they note that somebody has their horses at the well and they are watering the horses at the well. Since sources of manure are not supposed to be within 100 feet of a well in Oregon, the State Well Inspector decided to take a closer look at the campground. Turns out, two of the four-stall corrals had been placed too close to one of the campground wells when they were installed. The corral in site four was 80 feet from the well and the corral in site five was only 55 feet from the well. While these distance were convenient for transporting water, the corrals that had been OK for the last thirteen years all of the sudden became a problem.

Last year after Territorial Riders adopter Riley Horse Camp and the surrounding trails, the USFS let us know about the issue with

the corrals in sites four and five, and that the corrals needed to be moved. The news took us a bit by surprise, but we took it in stride and went to work finding new locations in the two sites to move the existing corrals to. New locations were staked out late last fall and it was decided we would move the corrals in the early spring.

During the winter there was a bunch of discussion between Territorials Riders Chapter and the USFS regarding funding for additional corrals, and the potential of improving parking in various sites in the campground. The USFS representative raised the possibility of obtaining some funding for an additional corral. To aid in getting more corrals into the campground Territorial Riders Chapter members also voted to match USFS funding for corrals up to \$2,500, which would have allowed us to install two new corrals as well.

Turns out the funding on the USFS side has been a bit delayed, so after discussion we determined our first chapter work party of the year would be moving the two existing corrals in sites four and five, and making the improvements to the parking. So, in January we set a date of the weekend of March 21-22 to do the work.

Everything had been progressing just fine, the weather was forecast to be 70°F and sunny too. Then on the Wednesday, three days before our scheduled work party, I got a call from our USFS contact informing us our work party would need to be postponed at least 30 days. Turns out there's a federal agency called the National Marine Fisheries Service that needs to be notified 30 days in advance when you are going to disturb the ground in a protected salmon habitat area. Who knew? I know I didn't, and my USFS contact didn't know either. It would have been a violation of federal law to work in the campground that



weekend. With nothing further we could do, we postponed our work party until the weekend of April 25-26.

The morning of April 25th arrives, and Sara and I left the house in the cold rain to take the Territorial Riders Chapter trailer up to Riley along with an assortment tools. As we got closer to the campground we started seeing some snow in the rain. We setup a quick-shade for the tools, parked the trailer and started pulling out the awning on the side of the trailer when it changed to all snow. Pretty soon, there was snow stuck on the ground. Sara and I just looked at each other with the expressions of “you’ve got to be kidding, right”, and finished setting up the cook stove to make much needed hot coffee.

Fortunately, twenty people from Territorial Riders BCHO, Mt Hood OET, and NVOET braved the rain and snow Saturday to move corrals. Three people brought equipment. Jerry Schmeltzer and Gary Sischo brought tractors, and Dave Adams brought his excavator (which turned out to be invaluable). We also had our new Clackamas District Recreation and Wilderness Forest Service representative, Tom Tresick, there with us.

After our safety tailgate session we set about the business of moving corrals. Fortunately, about an hour or so after we started the rain stopped. We had enough people to have a group working on each corral and enough equipment to share. We also had additional people working on removing some old tie stalls that were no longer viable due to the metal thieves that stole the metal rails.

One of our members had vivid memories of digging post holes with a tractor auger up there years ago when the original tie stalls were put into the sand flow that the campground sit on. So with confidence we set the auger hole and started digging holes. I’m guessing we made it down about six inches or so when the auger decided to move a few feet off center. Another drilled hole attempt, another no go with the auger. That sequence repeated itself for almost every hole we tried to drill in both campsites. Turns out we were drilling into a sand field littered with small to medium size volcanic boulders that form the base where the Sandy River flows off Mt Hood. Fortunately Dave and his excavator were there; otherwise we would still be digging post holes by hand a month later. As the day ended on Saturday, we

were well behind where we thought we would be, but we still had Sunday.

Sunday morning greeted us was a beautiful sunny day. Seventeen people from the three organization, and our Mt Hood West Side FS representative, Aaron Pedersen, came out to finish the job on Sunday. We finished digging holes, thanks to Dave’s excavator, and the tractors moved corral sections into place throughout the morning and early afternoon. The holes to fill in around the posts were a bit on the big side, but at least we had holes thanks to Dave.

Sara Lagasse, Deloris Devall, Molly Schmeltzer, Peg Sischo and Gemma fixed us an awesome lunch Sunday. We had half pound, fresh, beef burgers courtesy of a donation Madelyn Hendrickson obtained from Wimsatt’s Custom Slaughtering with all the fixings fresh off the grill.

By the end of the day on Sunday we had completed the corral move in the two stalls, and we improved parking in a number of the campsites as well. Turns out the National Marine Fisheries Service allowed us to do more parking improvements than we had originally believed was possible, so it worked out for the best.

Territorial Riders is also gearing up for our annual Poker Trail Ride Fundraiser which helps us receive the funding to donate money to projects like corrals at Riley Horse Camp. This year’s Poker Ride will be at Horning Seed Orchard in Colton Oregon on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Once again we will have a short two hour ride or a long four hour ride to choose from. Top prize is \$100 cash, and we will be serving an excellent pulled pork lunch complete with baked beans, fresh salads, and our famous homemade root beer that can also be combined with ice cream for that root beer float. Come join us at 27004 S. Scheckley Road, Colton OR 97017 on July 12th to help us fund future trail and campground projects. Riders out at 9 - 11 a.m. Entry is \$15 per person, which includes lunch, and poker hands are \$5 each or 5 hands for \$20. There is plenty of parking at this BLM facility for large rigs, and the trails provide an excellent opportunity to see some beautiful views. If you have any questions, please call Joanne Hanson at 503-545-5549. Hope to see you there!



# An Update from the East Cascades BCH

Submitted by: Linda Hanson, East Cascades BCH

The East Cascades chapter of BCH has been busy. In March we had a booth at the Sportsman's Show at the Deschutes County fairgrounds. The show was March 5-8, and we had a booth staffed by members for the entire time. Next to us was the Leave No Trace "booth" which was a tent with displays, staffed by Vicki Wolfe and George Johnson. There was a "Leave No Trace" class each day that was well received. Many visitors to the show stopped at both booths, and we had one new family join our chapter as a result.



A special thanks to all the volunteers who manned the booth, and to Jack Neilson and Scott Essex for setting up and taking down the booth. There was some discussion, after listening to elk bugle calls all day, of recording a mule bray to play back next year!



Also in March, Lane and Linda Thomas led a ride in the Badlands east of Bend, complete with lunch stop for hotdogs. This is a sandy area with old juniper trees and rock outcroppings, good for riding in the winter since the sandy soil drains any rain quickly.

On April 4, Jack and Margie Nielson hosted the chapter's annual antler ride. This ride is south of Lapine near Hole in the Ground, an area rich with deer. Nine people came, and we saw several herds of deer. The footing was excellent, sandy ground between big pines and lava outcroppings. Riders fanned out in search of shed antlers. Some riders got as far as Hole in the Ground, caused by hot lava meeting water. Julie Blume had her hands full on a green horse out for its first group ride, and she still managed to find a shed antler, and a broken hunter's arrow! Scott Essex who is an avid hunter, rode out, came back, was too early for lunch and rode out again and found two shed horns. Jack served up a buffet lunch of chili, cornbread, and apple cobbler desert.





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# From the State Director's Desk

By: Lona Phipps (Originally published in the *High Desert Trail Dust* Newsletter)

Can we talk? This leads to the suggestion we are going to be intimate in discussion. I really hope we will be, because I want to know exactly why you joined...I joined in 2003 when I was laid off from the Klamath County Fairgrounds. While I was employed it was a conflict of interest as I prepared the agreement for the Pack Clinic. For a few years I helped with the work projects; renting port potties, writing letters and making contacts for panels and other equipment needs. I started attending Board meetings but became employed on a swing shift which ended my involvement with the Board for a few years. I went on work projects but I never worked...my horse would never stand for a chain saw or cutting limbs over his head. During those days we didn't have a kitchen truck. We used an elk tent and a wonderful couple prepared all our meals. I went on the work projects to haul the kitchen equipment, mark roads, trail ride and be an all-around go-fer.

I left for a few years, moved to Idaho and joined a Back Country Horseman chapter. It wasn't the same. They didn't have work projects or the pack clinic. They didn't have trail rides. After three years, returning to Klamath Falls I saw Betty and Dan Applebaker in Big R purchasing a gift item for the End of the Year meeting. I was hooked again.

I went to a Board meeting to request a work project to rebuild the Deming Creek Trail head corrals. I attempted to lead a trail ride but we were snowed out. Most of you know Chris Worden rail-roaded me into being the secretary and that same person hood-winked me into accepting the position of state director. I'm the Auction/Raffle chairperson by default because Cheryl Dryer was moving away. Jim Icenbice partner shipped with Ian Nelson with the Pacific Coast Trail Association, they needed a cook, and there I was. I had volunteered two years as a cook for the Blue Lake Fish Packing; my grandchildren helped me one year. We now have the infamous kitchen truck to ease our load.

Do you have a favorite trail you like to ride or a trail you want to explore? Bring it to the Board, we will let you trail boss it.

So... I am asking "what would it take for you to volunteer?" Why did you join? If you only want to be a part of the Pack Clinic, then do I have a chair position for you. Come talk to me about my chair... I love it, it's rewarding, takes me

a few months of shopping with the Chapter's money, log in what the Vendor Chair collects, tag and sit back. Come talk to me, I will help you and I won't quit on you. May be a different position interests you?

Do you fancy yourself a host/hostess at your family gatherings? Do you like to b-b-que, create luscious dinners for the family holidays? Why not experiment on your fellow members. The kitchen truck awaits you. Which event would you like to try your hand at? We have the perfect event in July, the State Ride, come talk to me... I will set you up and help you for that one day one meal dinner.

I am inviting you to challenge yourself and ask yourself why you joined, and then get involved.

Lona



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# BCHA 2015 National Meeting

Submitted by: Phil Hufstader

The National BCHA Board Meeting was held in Sacramento, California in April 2015. The meeting started on Wednesday and went through late Saturday night. Eight people from Oregon were present. Jerry Bentz and Dan Applebaker presented a program to the BCHA board on Trail Maintenance in the Wilderness. It was great to have that many people from five separate Oregon chapters present.

NOTE: All the below notes can be expanded on by the State Pres. upon request.

(Note: The below items are not in any order of priority.)

Two new states have been added to BCHA and one new affiliate (Mississippi, Michigan new states) (Saratoga, New York brought in as an affiliate.) That means we now have 29 states and three affiliates.

\* BCHA will have a booth at Cowboy Christmas in Vegas. This event will be held over a ten day period during the month of Dec., 2015. BCHA will have a packing booth set up representing BCHA, Dennis Serpa from BCH CA is the chair. Casey Hufstader of HCWP Chapter is a Co- chair for the event. Casey will be looking for volunteers to help with the booth and can be contacted by e-mail.

\* BCHA has a signed MOU with National Park Service and a copy is available from your chapter, state director ,or on BCHA web site.

\* BCHA is in the process of finalizing the BLM MOU, it should be out in 2015.

\* Challenges to overcome with NPS: Strategic Alliance with the National Park Service.

NOTE: As of Dec., 2015, all dude rides will be stopped in Yosemite National Park. The rides started in 1906 and has been a mainstay for the public since then. NPS has stepped in and stopped the rides and basically claimed it's not what they want to see in the parks anymore. BCHA fought this right to the end unsuccessfully. All private equine use will be restricted to certain trails, and not be allowed to graze in the park. The NPS has determined that the public views pack and saddle stock as a visual detriment, especially above 5000 feet, to the pristine values of the high country. So at the end of 2015, the majority of stock use will come to an end. As you are aware Crater Lake National Park restricts all equine use to the PCT only.

\* National Legislation System Trails Stewardship Act: (H.R. 845)

- Primarily the use of volunteer help by the USFS, the bill is broken down into four separate parts:

1. Pay for workman's comp insurance at the National Level rather than at the district level.

2. Use of agency fire crews to do trail maintenance.

3. Prioritize all trails to see which trails need to be opened first.

4. Allow Guides & Packers & Outfitters to do trail maintenance in Lieu of dollars charged to the G & P & O. (Note: # 4 will be on a five year trial only to make sure that minimum trail maintenance standards are followed, if they aren't the agency can stop this portion.) Note: as of April 22, a Senate companion trail bill was introduced and as of yet a number hasn't been assigned. When the number gets assigned Randy will send out an e-mail.

\* USFS Region 5 Pack String has been budgeted for another three years in Calif. While the USFS pack strings in Idaho have had their budgets totally cut by the region. As of this article, zero dollars are available in the recreation budget, so the future is bleak for the trails in Idaho getting any Agency support.

\* Program presented by Dr. Rob Atwill, D.V.M., PH.D. School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calif., Davis on Science and Research on Pack stock and Waterborne Pathogens: Misperception and Realities. This study was one of the best I have ever sat through as a BCHO member, and I felt it would be better presented as a Highline article in the future. NOTE: For a copy of the study you can find it on the UC Davis web site.

\* The National Board voted to get a \$ 30,000 line of credit using a BCHA CD as collateral, the money will be used to order merchandise for the BCHA Country store. At the National meeting the store brought in \$6,460 worth of sales. The concept would be to use the line of credit to bolster the Country Store inventory, then provide on-line sales and direct sales at major meetings. All the new items have the new BCHA logo. Money's collected would go right back to pay off the line of credit and bolster the store inventory.

\* Transfer of Federal Lands to the States was the hottest topic at the National Board meeting. For years this issue has been only a rumor in congress but has raised its ugly head in the last week.

A committee has been established in Washington D.C. to look into any options to give away the public lands to the states, and allow the states to have the option to get rid of the land as they see fit. The committee is called Lands Action Group, and was started by the five states that want to transfer public lands as soon as possible. (Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Tennessee, and Arizona) Note: the largest mineral interest in the public lands are located in those five states. This week the state of Texas introduced a Bill HR. 1931, to have 1/3 of their public lands, which are mostly BLM managed, transferred to the State of Texas for the sole purpose of selling off to the private sector or other countries. The problem with this is the land that has been identified are all ones with oil and mineral leases. All public access would be transferred to the private sector.



The BCHA Board unanimously voted on a resolution opposing the Sale or Transfer of Public Lands by any means except FLTRA, PL 106-248. This issue is probably the biggest issue to face BCHA organization in years, without the public lands we don't exist. Example of the lands that have already been transferred, access has either been denied completely or a hefty fee to trespass has been added. The Resolution to oppose the Transfer or Sale of Federal Public Lands Managed by the United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture, will be handed out at BCHO board meeting in K-Falls Oregon.

\* BCHO was well represented at the BCHA NB Meeting (8 members present). Dan Applebaker and Jerry Bentz put on a presentation on High Desert's Saw Resolution. This presentation was only to inform the National Board of what BCH Oregon and Washington are doing in Region 6 with the Chain Saw Resolution. The resolution started out in Sept, 2013 and was voted on by the BCHO board in 2014 and accepted. After reviewing our action plan, Dennis Dailey, the past BCHA Wilderness expert, decided it would gain credibility if we had a crosscut versus a chainsaw study. The HCWP chapter with Casey Hufstader and Mat Wooley prepared an excellent field test. The study was conducted along miles of trails on the west slopes of the Cascades, and both Chainsaws and crosscut saws were used side by side. Each cut was timed and videoed; each tree diameter was measured to the nearest 1/8 of an inch. The cutters were followed the entire day to record the safety and the fatigue factors. Once the study was completed it was turned over to Dan to run the final analysis and put together the final comprehensive study. Dan not only finished the study prior to the NB meeting, but also developed "A Guide for Back Country Horseman" for submitting a Request to the Forest Service for an "Appropriate Analysis of Maintenance Methods including Use of Motorized Equipment in the Wilderness Areas." Dan Applebaker is Oregon's coordinator and all request for copies can be made by e-mail through Dan. Also all field requests will go through Dan to maintain consistency in the state with Region 6. I know you will find it hard to believe but the study showed that a chainsaw cuts 7.6 times faster than a cross cut saw, and that is with only one cutter compared to two on a crosscut.

\* BCHA basic labor cost went up from \$22.55 in 2014 to \$ 23.07 for 2015 Skilled labor is 11/2 times that of basic labor. 2014 - total of 14.5 million dollars (Actual \$14,419,615 of volunteer time) which brings the total up to \$ 115 million reported to the USFS. Total hours for 2014 was 417,134 and that is up 50,000 from 2013. The biggest error on reporting by BCHA volunteers is not charging for stock use and trail miles. Each mile that you ride to open just one log should be charged at \$100 dollars a day no matter how far you rode that day. BCHA has 11,000 memberships across the states which is down from 13,000 in 2010.

High impact fee plus State Tax being charged in several states. Several states have determined that horses do not fall under livestock ruling, thus they are starting to charge a high impact fee for their use of the trails and a State tax for the manure they produce that can enter the waters of the state. California has a bill in the house requiring the state to also charge for a permit by the landowner of a stable to have a manure plan in place prior to renting stalls, the permit is a one-time \$1500 application fee with a yearly fee of \$ 300 to \$500 depending on the state.

\* Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park has finished its final wilderness plan and all public input from the equestrian

community was ignored. It looks like on June 15, 2015, that all stock travel will be limited to a few trails without the opportunity to stop in any meadows for any reason. The trails picked for stock use are away from the main areas and the riders will be required to travel through without stopping, the only recourse for the pack and saddle community is with a lawsuit to get back what was an rite of passage for all these years.

\* The new BCHA officers for 2015-2016 are Chair: Don Saner from WY. Vice Chair: Tom Thomas from NC, Treas: Freddy Dunn, UT. The new Executive Director for two years on a volunteer basis will be the past chair, Jim McGarvey.



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3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

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