



The Highline

State Ride 2017 Mann Camp in the Ochoco's

Submitted by: Duane Miller
ECBCH State Director

The Back Country Horseman of Oregon met at the Mann camp in the Ochoco Mountains July 21-23. Mann Camp is 26 miles east of Prineville provided a beautiful camping area with many trails to ride in, outstanding pine trees and open meadows. The ride was blessed with great weather all three days riders were there.

The ride had 29 riders saddled on Saturday morning for the group picture taken by Sarah Ditter. Thankfully all the animals were mellow and lined up with little disturbance and stood quiet for the several pictures to be taken.

Don and Gerry Jimerson arrived on Tuesday July 18, to get in an early ride activity. Jerry put in her 11-20 mile rides each day. Amazing for a lady of her age!

BCHO President Jerry Bentz participated. His mule provided entertainment in the camp, kicking at her hay sack hanging

from the high line!

Jana VanAmburg was there sleeping in Buck and Nancy Davis's new wall tent. Buck and Duane Miller put up the tent. Duane warned her that the ship knots might not hold, but fortunately they did. No screaming or cursing at Duane in the middle of the night kept the camp peaceful.

Saturday brought rides lead by Gerry Jimerson and Charley Engel. Each group covering over 11 miles for the day. That evening a potluck meal with dutch oven cooking was held. Due to fire restrictions in place, dutch oven cooks had to be creative for the heat. Scott Essex provided a great chili; Kelly Mingus provided a fantastic chocolate s'mores dessert for the chocolate lovers. No one walked away hungry.

Participation from the other chapters was thin, but those that made it had a great time!

Thanks to ECBCH President, Buck Davis, Lee and Peggie Fischer, and the rest

of the chapter members for the effort in making this event happen. Lee and Peggie not only trailered their animals up there, but also pulled the large gooseneck trailer with weed free hay and 500 gallons of water for the participants. (We believe the water containers donated from Bend distilling for transporting vodka, may have had enough residues to keep the animals calm during the group picture!!!)

East Cascades Chapter will host the State Ride in July 21, 2018 at Mann Camp. All chapters are encouraged to come have a great time!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



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

PURPOSES of BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of OREGON

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

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

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

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

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

Come to a meeting and make a difference...

Columbia Gorge Chapter

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

East Cascades Chapter

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

Emerald Empire Chapter

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

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at Elmers 3030 South 6th Klamath Falls, OR at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Betty Applebaker, hdmtr@bcho.org

North Umpqua Chapter

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

Sourdough Chapter

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

Steens Chapter

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

West Cascades Chapter

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

Territorial Riders Chapter

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

Wilderness Packer Chapter

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

President's Letter

Greetings.

Happy Fall, one of my favorite times of the year. The hot weather is gone and the cool crisp mornings are here. Those of us who are hunters are anxious to get out in the woods and look for that big buck or bull, most of us just have a great time in the woods. I was lucky enough to spend a few days in the Eagle caps the first weekend in October. I didn't draw a deer tag this year so Jerry Schmeltzer and myself decided we needed to go on a quick pack trip. We had a great time and we both felt a better for having been in the wilderness for a few days. The last morning, we were there we woke up to snow. Fall is here and Winter is just around the corner.



I hope everyone had a good summer. I know are chapters were busy with work projects most of the summer. I also understand that several of the planned work parties had to be canceled due to the fires. What a nasty fire year. Many of you lost your favorite places to fires. I am truly sorry for you. I watched the Whitewater fire very closely. The fire burned within just a few miles of The Bull of the Woods wilderness area, one of my favorite places. I also am the care taker for the piece of the Pacific Crest Trail that starts at Brietenbush Lake and goes north. I was luck and the Whitewater fire stayed just south of both areas. I have long believed that one of the reasons we have had catastrophic fires lately is the lack of forest management. Not the only reason but a big one. Dan Applebaker has written an article for this newsletter about fires and forest management. I encourage everyone of you to read the article, and do so with an open mind. Also in this newsletter Dave Price has written an article about House Resolution 2936 which is the Resilient Federal Forest Act of 2017. This bill is before congress now. There is also a bill in congress to change the way fighting forest fires is funded. Currently fires are funded through the forest service so, every time we have a bad fire season we lose a portion of our recreation funding which includes trail maintenance. BCHO supports both bills. I believe that both bills are supported by the principles of BCHO. I also would like to take a minute and applaud all the work our public lands committee has been doing. Thank You. Again, please take time to read both articles.

This year's Winter Convention will be at the Sisters Rodeo Grounds again. It will be February 16-18. Friday is the board meeting and everyone is welcome. Saturday is the general meeting and banquet. This year we want to celebrate your accomplishments. I believe every one of our members and chapters has a great deal to be proud of. We will take care of a few business items first thing in the morning and then the rest of the day will be about you, our members. Saturday night we are going to do once again a Dutch oven potluck. Last year's dinner was great, if you weren't there you missed a great meal. Of course, we are going to give out a few awards and have a great presentation after dinner. Casey Hufstader is going to put on a presentation about his trip to Germany and Switzerland to teach packing skills to the military. He promised lots of pictures. There will be camping on the Rodeo Grounds and I understand the cabins at the KOA next door are available to rent. We're going to have several fun activities including once again, the cross cut saw competition. If you have not been to Winter Convention I encourage you to consider attending this year. Winter Convention is for all our members not just board and leadership folks.

In closing I want to again thank all of you for the work you do, you should all be proud of your accomplishments. Take some time to reflect on that as you sit around the fire this winter. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. I will see you in February at Winter Convention.

The View from Here

Comments on the Burning of our Forests

Submitted by: Dan Applebaker

We are hearing a continuous outpouring of reasons for the increase in the number and intensity of wildfires in our western states. These opinions often place blame individually on either climate change or the long-term lack of forest management. As a retired dirt-under-the-fingernails professional forester, with enough university training and years of industrial forest management experience lasting long enough to observe the results of our practices, I will add my comments to the many experienced professionals addressing the positive values of forest management. I will also mention the threat of continued wildfires on federal land inside and outside designated wilderness to our equestrian recreation and access to the backcountry.



The reason that wildfires, especially the large mega fires, are becoming more prevalent are primarily two-fold and are resulting from both climate change and long-term failure to manage our federal forests with fire resilience as an objective. Global climatic change (warming) affects forest ecosystems by altering fire regimes causing increased occurrence of insect infestations, drought caused tree mortality and drying existing fuel loads. The results are a higher percentage of fire starts from lightning, along with larger, hotter and more rapidly spreading wildfires.

The long-term lack of adequate forest management on federal forest lands has resulted in heavy fuel loads created by thick overstocked forests from brush, thick stagnated trees in the understory, and reduced overall forest health due to stress from competitive overstocked conditions. Coupled with the warming temperatures we are experiencing; more severe fire seasons can be expected.

We have created this situation with no easy, fast, or inexpensive solution to either problem. We can expect increased numbers, intensity and size of wildfires into the future. Only modest improvement will happen without immediate, large scale and well thought out response from Congress and our forest managing Agencies. We are seeing an increase in public awareness and bills are being considered that hopefully represent a start in that direction with some positive Congressional activity. On September 27th the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a full committee hearing entitled, "Hearing on Forest Management to Mitigate Wildfires: Legislative

Solutions." On that same date the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on Exploring Solutions to Reduce Risks of Catastrophic Wildfire and Improve Resiliency of National Forests. Hopefully such interest will be a start to the long road to recovery, although we are not holding our breath. We will have to wait and see.

Two difficult challenges facing Congress, and the Agencies, are to: 1. transfer fire suppression costs into federal disaster funding rather than expecting those costs to be paid from necessary Agency resource management budgets and restoring resource management funding to historic and adequate levels. And 2. Fix the Agencies budget allocation process so a higher percentage of dollars come out of the bottom of the budget funnel to do necessary management activities on the ground, such as recovering our national forests to healthy and resilient conditions, and maintaining access into our backcountry and wilderness.

Our warming climate is a global situation that is not likely to be improved to any great degree by manipulation or Congressional action. On the other hand, effective forest management on federal lands can be implemented to reduce fuel loads and thereby reduce the destructive effects and acreage burned by wildfire. Such management can reduce fire intensity, slow spread, maximize suppression efficiency, speed recovery, and reduce potential climatic warming caused by wildfire smoke. Two actions will have to happen very soon to allow the Agencies to make that management successful.

One is Congress will have to affect changes in the litigation and legislation that presently hamstring the Agencies

from practicing the management they are capable of successfully performing. Two is the Agencies must use the help of Congress to get back to managing forests to produce healthy, resilient forests that are less apt to burn. That management can be accomplished with the will of the American people, the Agencies rethinking their policies on forest management, and action by Congress. Many of us think that the Congressional action necessary to seriously address our current wildfire situation will not happen soon.

Wildfire cannot be eliminated but it can be minimized to a more acceptable level. It will however, take decades to complete enough on-the-ground management practices to effectively reduce fuel loads and improve fire suppression opportunities on the thousands of acres of forest lands that are presently in unacceptable high-risk condition. That doesn't mean we shouldn't get an aggressive start now. The lack of effective forest management practices that fail to at least reduce the millions of dollars of resource value lost also increases the pressure to transfer federal lands to the states for management.

I must add a couple comments here. First, not all fire is detrimental to forest ecosystems or forest health. Careful fire management can be successfully planned into forest ecosystem management. Management practices can be designed to minimize large, hot and destructive mega wildfires; that may mean using prescribed fire as a management practice. Consideration of fire in designated wilderness where natural processes are allowed to continue, also creates very special challenging decision making whether wildfires are allowed to burn or are to be controlled. Second, forest management is occasionally defined by some to be only logging. Removing trees in some manner is often a necessary option in forest management decisions, along with tree planting, control of competing vegetation, consideration for wildlife habitat, stream protection, and many other activities. Forests and forest ecosystems can be managed for the enhancement of any desired condition determined to be appropriate for a forested area. Even wilderness management can be considered forest management.

What does all this mean to the Back Country Horsemen? There is a very real concern within the organization that the Agencies will not react quickly or effective enough to complete rehabilitation and restoration of fire damaged historical access to our wilderness and backcountry areas. We are seeing roads, trailheads and trails damaged by wildfire. We hope the Agencies will restore the access

damaged by fire before erosion or other fire caused damage makes the rehabilitation excessively expensive. Whether the reason for failing to accomplish effective timing of restoration is lack of funding, manpower or benign neglect; we know that volunteers, although working their hearts out to preserve access, will not get it all done.

Again, it will take immediate action by the Agencies to restore access that has, and will likely continue, to be lost. We certainly want to see trails restored after fire and not decommissioned or left unmaintained because current budget allocations do not allow for maintenance. Agency budgets, budget allocations, and legislation may change for the better. Volunteer efforts to help the Agencies do their work are substantially increasing. Will Congress and the Agencies step up to the plate to not only restore damage that has occurred this summer, and affect long-term management to restore our forests to healthy and resilient conditions to bring overall forest health into conditions that minimize future damage? Will the public and Congress understand that the Agencies are unable to practice even minimal management activities because of constant and often misplaced litigation and legislation? Who knows?

As I stated earlier, in the best case we can expect increased numbers, intensity and size of wildfires into the future. So..., if we are not satisfied with that current forest fire situation, what can we do to change it now? Perhaps very little, it may seem a futile undertaking, but we must try. There is an opportunity now with this summer's wildfires raising the outpouring of public concern about the risk of wildfires to structures and property, the weeks of heavy smoke, and the lack of necessary forest management. Contact your Congressional representatives now and often. Tell them what you think.



Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017

Submitted by: Dave Price

It's been quite a summer, that was dominated by large fires in Oregon and other parts of the west. At last count Oregon lost 640,000 acres of our forest lands. The cost in fiscal year 2017 was over 2 billion dollars, and the meter is still running with the fires in California.

While it's not the largest fire year in the history of Oregon, it is perhaps the most significant and drew wide national attention. As with all large fire years the cry to do "something" is louder this time. Will we actually do something this time? Or will the Cry for Action disappear with time as in the past.

The solution to this issue is very complicated and certainly not easy to fix. There is a bill in Congress that will take a big step in the "Fix It" direction. It is HR 2936, the "Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017" The more common reference is simply the Forest Health bill.

The best summary of this bill is by the American Forest Council and can be found online. If your interested in the opposition view on this, that can be found in several places online. I would encourage you to read both, it won't take long. The bill is aimed at the NEPA process necessary to do any action on our forests. This has been a huge stumbling block in the past and has contributed to the situation we have today.

I will try and give you a few of the high lights of the bill.

First, the entire bill and its proposed action are tied to Approved Forest plans, if the Plan doesn't allow the proposed action then the process stops there. This is important to understand as a rough estimate of the Forest Lands that are open to some sort of forest management for Oregon is roughly 1/3rd and the remaining 2/3rd are restricted or prohibited for forest management action. That includes wilderness, roadless and other similar allocations. However, one must concentrate on the 1/3rd as a positive and understand that we will still have big fires in the future from those restricted lands.

It will change the use of Categorical Exclusions, (CE). CE's are part of NEPA and have been used for many years, they are kind of an express method of going through the process. They have been used under Agency restrictions in a self limiting way. It was for example, a CE could be used for a salvage activity of 250 acres or less, the act would change that to 10000 acres, or in some circumstances up to 30000 acres. Understand that this does not mean that the NEPA process is not done, it is, and is still documented, and still has a public input process, it is not done in a vacuum. The appeal process is limited under a CE. Another thing in the act that deals with

this is to restrict the use of the "Equal Justice Act" That is found in section 311 of the act.

The act streamlines the "Consultation Process" for endangered species and the Antiquities act. This has been a real time consuming process in the past and change was badly needed. This is found in section 122 and 123 of the act.

It changes the 25% of Forest receipts to the Counties to include Stewardship contracts which have become very popular with the agency, as it has been a handy tool to navigate the system and still get something done and it is in wide use today. information on this is found in title V of the act. The Stewardship program is a topic for another day, should you want to know more about this program.

Along the same line is help to O&C Counties, found in Section 913 of the act. It directs that 500000 acres be managed under the O&C act and the sustained yield plan. In case you didn't know O&C counties receive 75% of the revenues as opposed to 25% for other federal lands.so It's a big deal for the O&C counties.

Last, but not least is found in Title X of the act, which allows the President to declare major wildfires as a natural disaster! I guess if you can't skin a cat one way try something else. This Fire funding issue has been killing the Forest Service for years and this would make a huge difference.

In closing, while this bill does not have an immediate nor direct effect on BCHO it does have many indirect and positive impacts for us. If you can fix or help the budget process it means more maintenance of our Trails, roads, Trailheads. and many more things that have been in serious neglect for years. Title X is but one example that would make a big budget difference. The budget process is another topic for another day, and requires a great deal of explanation to understand the budget beast.

This Bill has strong opposition from the Environmental Lobbyist group and you can read their thoughts on the subject on the previous referenced material. They are well funded and organized, and as expected, they strongly oppose this bill.

If this bill is to become a reality it needs the VISIBLE support of each and every one of us. Don't let this opportunity slip by us. Make your views known to all our officials -- local, state and on up the line. Don't be bashful, it will pay off! It's our chance to be part of the solution.

Special Trails

Submitted by: Rich Heils

Thank You....

I'm not sure if that constitutes an actual paragraph, or for that matter a complete sentence? It does however, succinctly capture the essence of my story. "Thank you" BCHO members who first introduced me to it, inspired me to experience it by horseback, fostered me to contribute time and energy to keep it cleared and safely passable, and to enjoy swimming in it's adjacent lakes over these past 10+ years.

Yes, I'm sure you have one of your own. Your "Special Trail". Perhaps it's in a park near by, in one of our abundant public lands not too far away, or better yet in the precious backcountry. Long or short, forested or open plains, it's your place to get away and connect with nature. Mine happens to be located in a Wildness area not far from home. Fortunate, for this week I needed some time away, a place to think, be inspired and to work off some pent up energy. Of late, more of my trail time is done by foot verse horseback. So out came the backpack, 3 days of rations and the dog to share the trail with. At the last minute a couple of buds decided to join me for their first foray along this wooded jewel.

For me, this backcountry trail is a place where time slows down, breathing becomes easier (except on the inclines) and I become smaller in the bigger scheme of things. Life's complete cycle is all around ya. A young sapling emerges within a tiny footprint of a larger mature forest, sprouting from the skin of a fallen giant. Perhaps it's a condensed tale of our own existence, so simply told.

You escape the August heat in a matter of moments as the forest canopy swallows you up. Silence is abundant as your sense of being small and alive grows. Trail sections wrap through mature forest stands complete with an open understory that vividly displays post flowered bear grass, trillium and bunchberries among expansive evergreen trees of varying girths & heights. Despite the severe forests fires burning strongly in the area this trail system is being spared, at least for now. Fortuitous light winds create an oasis like space void of the choking smoke and eye irritation. The unaware chipmunk or Canada Jay play or chip seemingly oblivious of that fact.

My deeper reason for refuge is to attempt to come to terms with the loss of a loved one. Ahh, a perfect respite jaunt to experience life in a deep and meaningful way.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank you! Jean, Betty Jean, Becky, Matt, and All of you who tirelessly champion efforts to keep these special places open and maintained for forks to experience, grow and to help us come to terms with some of life's more taxing challenges.



Gale Mills (center) & Terry Colvin (left). The dog Kousa is having fun.



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Big Foot

Submitted by: Lona Phipps

Memorial Weekend was our first trip of the summer season to Gearhart Mountain, located outside Bly Oregon. Steve Jewell dodged the pot holes and craters on the paved road to Deming Creek trailhead, my own personal favorite camp site and horse trail. The Campbell reservoir had a few campers and fishing boats on the public side.

Once at camp, we unloaded the horses, tying them to the side of the trailer. The horses and trailer were in plain sight of any one coming into the trailhead parking area. Unhooking the truck, Steve backed up to unload and set up camp. Our camp is tucked under the big pines and behind manzanita brush, you could just see the hood of my truck if you looked quickly.

There are these two big pines we like to set our sleeping bags under, and my son, Jay chose a brush cove to set up his tent. I laid out a saddle pad for Snuggs, an Old English Bulldog, to sit on, as she was parked on the entry flap of Jay's tent. Princess cannot sit on pine needles.

Deming Creek's original trailhead use to be three miles farther up the road which runs alongside the creek until it reached the wilderness boundary. Deming Creek boasts bullhead trout, winds through the canyon, emptying into Campbell reservoir, and dumping out the other side. There is a makeshift wood plank bridge crossing the creek at the original trailhead site. Years ago, the forest service took out the road, falling trees, digging trenches and placing boulders in the path to protect the creek bank. The road is now overgrown with brush, and difficult to travel in places even for a good bushwhacking horse. A trail was created on the south side of the old road, paralleling the old road, returning to cross the road, going through a stand of pines coming back near the creek, only to go back across, up the mountain and stay high above the old road, until you reach a flat, this is about 2 miles. The last mile diverts from the old road, straight up for about 15-20 feet, leveling onto the trail and edges into the forest, until you can reach the wood plank bridge. I don't know how old the bridge is, it was there before 1993. The makeshift bridge crosses Deming Creek leading into the Gearhart Wilderness.

Steve and I saddled up the mares with Max, our German Sheppard Border Collie mix, leading the way. The princess does not hike. Even for late morning it wasn't hot or buggy, we used Swat on the horses faces, chest and back between their legs. There is a spot where the wild strawberries grow, near a ridge rock. The rock looks sheared off and stands 50 feet or more high, there is brush growing, lush green grass and a lone pine. Across the creek is an out cropping of rock, it looks like it was pushed up from the ground, with caves and rock formations upon rock formations. It is a very beautiful spot with aspens and the sound of the running creek. Late in the summer it will still be cool and green.



Past the rock formations and climbing back up the trail, we encounter our first rocky slabs in the trail. I heard a sound up the canyon, but across the creek. A low muffled noise, undistinguishable, unable to mind set it to a familiar animal sound. Asking Steve if he heard it as well, he said no, and stated Max was trailing behind Montana, so it wasn't Max. Normally Max would be out in front, beside and investigating how to get to the creek to swim. Moving forward, Dakota was hesitant a few times, ears forward, but we kept moving. I "whooped" and nothing, not even an echo. Max moved out and down to the old road. I can see him through the pines and brush. Steve and I notice elk prints, see where a bear scratched the earth and forestry boot prints. Again, I heard a sound up in the distance, stopping Dakota, Steve said he didn't hear anything. I waited. Dakota's ears pointed forward. Max returned trailing behind Montana. To break the silence, and teasing Steve, I "whooped." A long low "whoop" answered. I froze! Steve said "I heard that!" It was up the creek, and sounds travel over water and in a canyon distorting the distance. We never heard brush crashing, or limbs snapping. We waited, I "whooped" and yakked a few more times . . . nothing. Dakota relaxed, Max lead out and we continued without another sound.

I just encountered Big Foot.

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A Perfect Summer Ride

Submitted by: Ruth Kosmalski

Last year I bought a horse trailer to expand my riding horizons. Since then I've been enjoying finding all the wonderful riding opportunities in my area. It's been a great experience for me, my horse and all my horse friends because I've gotten them to go for new adventures with me.

In July a group of us hauled to Gibson Prairie for a day ride. We were very fortunate to have Ken Hansen join us. Ken was instrumental in designing and building this trail network and lead us on a wonderful ride. As we were riding, Ken would stop to point out special places, alternative routes and gave a history of how Gibson Prairie was developed.

Though this area is used and loved by many groups including hikers, mountain bikers, hunters, and equestrians, Gibson Prairie was conceived to be a special place for horse riding and camping. Ken told us that it was important to him and his friends that would be a welcoming, no fee camp devoted to equestrian use. It is a lovely small campground with small campsite and nice horse pens.

The ride took us through forests with towering trees, meadows brightly colored with wild flowers and views of Mt Hood. It was a perfect summer day. I hope to get back soon to ride more of the trails.



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Clearing the Way With Pack Support and Good Food For Each Working Day

By Brenda Cordonnier, HDTRBCH

The High Desert Trail Riders Back Country Horsemen of Klamath Falls, Or. spend long, cold and often very “snowy” winters awaiting Spring. We anticipate warm weather and wide open trails where we are able to trail ride again or pack into our favorite lake, mountain peak or grassy meadow bonding with our stock, friends and family members.

That’s what we dream. Reality, however, is that those trails are usually blocked by fallen trees, branches, rocks and even washed out terrain. I am shocked that so many adventurers have no idea how the trails are just magically clear! Do they really think the debris miraculously falls on either side of the trail? That’s why we need to educate and use signage giving credit to groups clearing the trails, and joining efforts with other groups and agencies to insure that our designated trails remain open for recreational use for stock and adventurers. Kind of sounds like our “Mission Statement” doesn’t it?

For several years now our chapter has offered pack support for the much needed trail work being accomplished by groups and government agencies. Our Work Party Chairman, Jim Icenbice, Public Lands Chairman, Carole Hopkins, and knowledgeable members like Dan Applebaker, meet regularly with our local Fremont/Winema Recreational Administrator, Anthony Benedetti, to discuss joint work efforts. Anthony is an answer to our trail clearing prayers! We’ve adopted Anthony and his beautiful wife into our Back Country family.

Why do we offer pack support? It is because of our love of the recreational mountains and what we can accomplish by working together to take care of them. It is also, I’m sad to say, because we are getting older. It is much easier to carry the crews loads than to do the long hikes and hard work they do. We have found that pack support contributes to the morale, more mileage cleared and most importantly, lightening their loads and packs.

The crews have also commented that the good food at the beginning and ending of the day is motivation for their hard work! “We feed them...and they will come...and work hard”! We have been feeding our work crews for years and it is time to spread the food around, We have a great “Pack Kitchen” complete with everything but the cast iron sink.

The pack support does not interfere with our regularly planned work projects, fish packing at Blue Lake in the Gearharts or the Fourmile Lake trails, to name a couple.

This year we have packed Anthony’s group known as the “Wrecking Crew” into Harriet Lake from the Varney Creek Trailhead on a Monday. Of course, I took them brownies and ice cold drinks. Dan and Betty and Ron and I packed them in, unloaded and had a lovely lunch by the lake, We



have let our members know that they are welcome to accompany us anytime trail riding along with us. Marie Enman, a member, along with a friend rode with us often. Liz Warren, one of our newer members helped Ron and I pack them out on Friday. A short time later we packed a crew into Margarite Lake. Ron and I passed their camping spot and had to turn around. My huge pack mule, Snake, was loose and when we turned off the trail, he flew by us with those huge “Wrecking Crew” metal panniers like a bullet heading for the trailer clanking and banging along the way.

Finally he realized we weren’t behind him, he turned back with his head held low, and sadly walked into their campsite. When we packed them out, one of our members and past Trail Chairman, Ken Clegg rode along. Pack support and trail rides...everyone wins!

During the winter months Dan and Betty hold pack training workshops and we plan a “graduation” pack trip. This year we packed into Yamsey Mountain. We had 10 members who packed and one member, Dave Van Scoyoc, took the opportunity for a day ride and came to visit and have Mexican dinner with us. Dan and Betty took care of the education and Ron and I packed in the Kitchen and I cooked. The packers included, Dan and Betty, Ron and I, Dan and Debbie Price with their very young and new mule, Gladys..

Aka (Glad Ass), Victoria Trees, Ann Hickman, Joni Kelly and Liz Warren. Everyone learned a lot, had a blast, and most importantly, no one was hurt...and the animals stayed with us!

In August, the day of the eclipse, our packers, the Fremont/Winema, the PCTA,

Volunteers and the Rogue River/Siskiyou crews all met at the Seven Mile Trail head to load up, watch the eclipse and pack into Ranger Springs Horse Camp. We had 8 pack animals. The packers were Jim Icenbice, Ron and I,

Dan and Betty Applebaker and Dan and Debbie Price. The camp wasn't too far in and we unloaded and set up camp while the crews went straight to work! What a great group of young and "Olders" working together clearing the way in the Sky Lakes Wilderness Area. These crew members instilled faith that our future goals will be met! The volunteers were Jerry Enman, a basin farmer "Superman volunteer" and Klamath Trail Alliance member, Linda Krawczyk of Grant's Pass, a member of the PCTA, and I don't think she would mind me mentioning that she is 59 years old and both of them keeping up with the "youngsters"! Kindra De Arman, Alex Brachman, from Atlanta, Georgia, Calvin Hodge, Cloe Ammons, Whitney Roper, and the newest member of the crew, Marie Enman of Klamath Falls and also a member of our chapter and Jerry's daughter.

The focus of the work was the PCT and the seldom cleared feeder trails. The Blanket

Fire did have an impact. Jim, Ron and I stayed at the base camp. I cooked and they support packed cold filtered spring water up the trails to the crews. We were up at 5:30 in the morning with coffee and lunch supplies for the crew members. Breakfast was served at 6:30 and they were off to work. Dinner was served at 6:30 PM and our numbers varied between 17 and 23. I vacationed in between!

The second night we had a storm and lightning struck a tree very close behind our camp. We Didn't smell smoke as the wind was blowing toward it and were alerted by a helicopter circling around us. They waved and we waved back! All was well until the chopper hovered close behind camp and repelled 4 firefighter "male models" and their gear down! Jim and Ron grabbed tools and joined them. They packed cubbies of water back and forth for them. They joined us for dinner for a few nights.

After 4 days we moved the camp to Grass Lake. It took two trips and my runaway riding mule, Jake, to get the deed done! He joined up with the others and just tagged along. We set camp up in time to serve hamburgers, veggies, salad and peanut butter pie

for dinner. These guys were so easy to please! Alex, Kindra and Walker began pooling their summer sausage, crackers and served Appetizers making dinner a real social event!



The huckleberries were huge and I made them fresh syrup and jam for breakfast

Ron and Jim packed out the fire fighter that rappelled in back at Ranger Springs on Saturday. They were so grateful and said they would sound our praises! Dan and Betty and Debbie rode in with their mules and we packed everyone at Grass Lake out on Sunday. I would like to add that Anthony and the crew members always had their pack panniers loaded and balanced for us. They were so helpful and some of them even learned how to tie the loads on! They said they could really get into this mule thing!

Anthony stated that there is lots more to do but he was delighted at the amount of work that was done. "This was an amazing trip" he said, noting the trail clearing effort of about 11 or 12 miles on the PCT and 6 or more miles on the feeder trails. He stated, "This was a part of an on going effort for the Sustainable Trails Initiative, a multi-year campaign to create a sustainable trail network that protects forest habitats while enhancing recreational habitats". Making it happen was possible by the efforts of groups like the High Desert Trail Riders Back Country Horsemen, the PCTA and funding by the County Resource Advisory Council.

Our chapter was proud to be a part of this and are looking forward this winter to making more plans for pack support and "flat iron steaks, pork chops, steak fries, baked potatoes, fresh salad, corn on the cob, spaghetti, garlic bread, yummy desserts and breakfasts! Remember, feed them and they will work!





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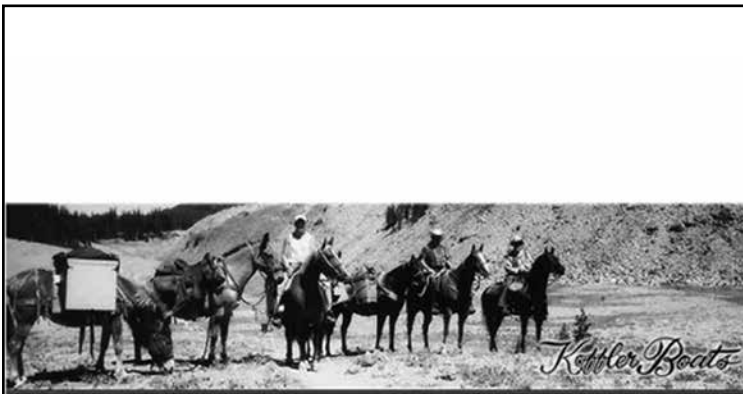
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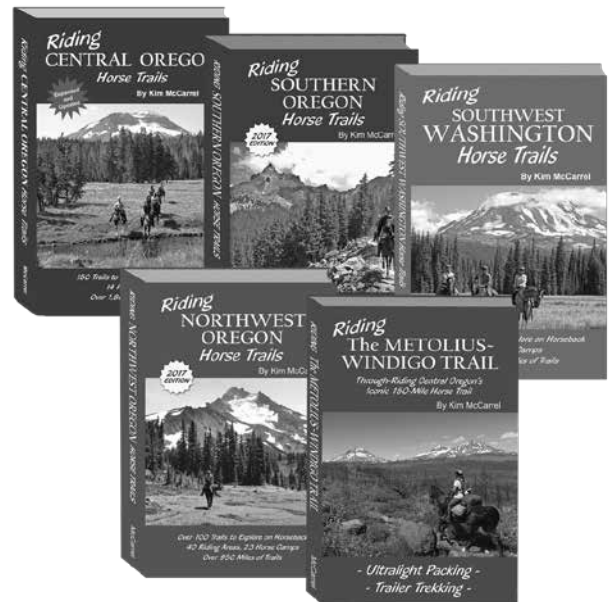
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File Code: 1620
Date: September 1, 2017

Jennifer Paulson
President
Backcountry Horseman of Oregon
West Cascade Chapter
3585 Bernard Ave NE
Albany, OR 97322

Dear Jennifer and Members of the BCHO West Cascade Chapter,

The Great American Eclipse was a momentous event that inspired people from around the world to come together and witness something special. It was important to us, the Willamette National Forest, to welcome visitors and provide a safe, fun viewing experience. Protecting the resource while allowing for that experience was critical, and that is where you came in.

Your assistance with providing sanitation options in the MT. Jefferson Wilderness that promoted Leave No Trace practices were significant and very much appreciated. Your assistance in packing the supplies in, and especially your support with the "Excrement Express" and getting the full buckets out, was the critical link in making the project a success.

The partnership between the US Forest Service and the Backcountry Horseman has been, and will continue to be, key to ongoing management efforts in the Willamette National Forest. Should you have any questions regarding partnership or volunteering, please contact Jennifer Sorensen, Partnership Coordinator for the Willamette National Forest, at jennifersorensen@fs.fed.us or 541-225-6388. Again, our heartfelt thanks for your recent contributions.

Sincerely,

TRACY BECK
Forest Supervisor

cc: Jennifer Sorensen



Photos from the Great American Eclipse Event at Mt. Jefferson



My First Horse Camping with BCH Emerald Empire

Submitted by: Akirah Middleton

My name is Akirah, I am 12 years old and my mom and I joined the Emerald Empire Chapter at the spring Equine Skills Weekend held at Mt Pisgah in Eugene. I was really excited to learn new information about horse camping. My pony's name is Dusty, but he isn't quite ready for me to ride him in a big group so I was able to use a fun pony named Karmen for the weekend.

The first thing we did was put up high lines for the horses and got them settled in. I am still learning how to tie all the knots, but we got help. Then we put up our own tents. We had plans to go on a trail ride so we got saddled up and rode around the arena to warm her up for the trail ride. Then we went on the trail ride.

Since it was later in the day we didn't go all the way to the top of the mountain, but made a fun loop on trails 1 and 4 (for those of you that know Mt Pisgah trails.) On our way we saw a cloud that looked like a twenty-seven and the sun set was so beautiful. Once we came back to camp we unsaddled the horses and gave them water and put them on the high line.

We went over to the campfire and everybody was talking around the campfire. For dinner we had spaghetti, mashed potatoes, salad, grapes, and bread. Then my friends and I went to the tents and told scary stories. We ended up laughing a lot and were told to be quiet so we quietly finished our stories and went to bed.

Saturday morning I woke up and got dressed then went over to the campfire and for breakfast. Someone had made French toast with maple syrup. I topped that off with Watermelon and pastries. Then we had presentations for the most of the day and I learned a lot of new information.

The first session was about Leave No Trace. I learned that wherever you go you have to leave it the way you found it and not leave a mess. Even on trails you leave the flowers alone even if they are really pretty. A BCHO member did a demonstration on how to build a fire and what to

use. While that was going on they passed around a homemade fire starter and I got to keep one. There was also an activity that you had three camps set up and one was for packing, one for trailer camping, and one for camping in the woods. We had to find things similar in each camp and ribbon one thing to another it was so cool at the end it looked like a spider web it was so much fun. Also clean up after yourself because it wouldn't be nice if you found garbage at your favorite spot.



The second presentation was Nutrition and I learned that there is pelleted food you can get for the horses instead of having to carry hay while you are packing horses. Some of the pellet food I know is Haystack special blend and Beet pulp. Also I learned that flour can help with a horse having diarrhea.

The third presentation was First Aid for horses and the vet told about the vaccinations for an adult horse. She also did a demonstration on how to wrap a horse's leg. How you do it is you take the cotton wrap and wrap it right below the knee then as you wrap down you have to make sure there are no creases. Once you get little above the hoof and wrap up once then see if you made a triangle at the bottom then you keep wrapping up to where you started and then you rip the cotton. Then you grab the vet wrap and leave a little of cotton showing at the top then you wrap just like you did with the cotton but also leave some space at the bottom then go back up and then tear the end. Also I learned that if a horse is having a case of colic walk the horse and give it Banamine.

After that we went on a trail ride and went to the top of Pisgah then we realized that we lost a horse boot so two people went back the way we had come to look for it while we started down the other way. Finally they called that they had found it so we hobbled our horses at trail #4 to wait for them. Then one of the horse hobbles unclipped and that horse started running then the other horses took off in their hobbles after that horse. It scared me and I was shaking. We finally got them to calm down and the other two from our group returned and we rode back to camp.



We took care of the horses and had dinner. For dinner I had chili, bread, and grapes. My friend and I did a demonstration taught by a BCHO member on how to not leave any waste. We had panty hose and food and water from washing dishes we had it in a bucket and poured it into the panty hose. Then I had to go away from everyone and swing it around like a lasso to get the water out and I had fun doing it.

Later I interviewed people around the campfire, there was one thing in common: they all learned something this weekend!

Sunday morning we packed a little and went to the campfire and I had eggs, pastries, and hash browns. Then we packed up completely. Us girls hopped on the horses bareback and searched for missing hobbles in the tall grass, which we never did find. Then said our goodbyes and headed home. I had so much fun and I learned a lot of information on horse camping and packing that I didn't know before.

I am looking forward to next year when I can ride my own pony Dusty and learn more about horse camping.



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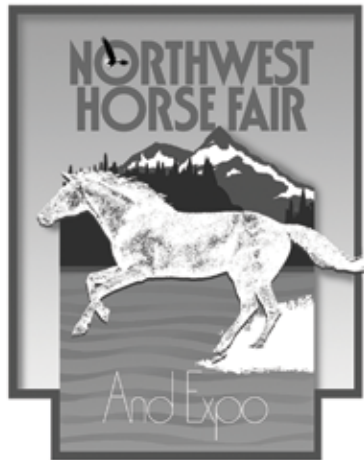
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Teton Wilderness is Great Horse Country!

Submitted by: Betty Applebaker



Correne Cleland with a Yellowstone cutthroat trout

If you like to pack and camp with your animals and see beautiful country, check out the Teton Wilderness in Wyoming. It is just south of the Yellowstone National Park boundary, east of Teton National Park. This area is great for horses with lots of feed. The high country usually has bear grass or brush and feed for the stock is an issue, but this area has lots of good grass and the trails are gentle for the most part even though you are on the Continental Divide. The vistas are impressive with long meadows and peaks in the distance.

We had the opportunity to take a pack trip there in early August again with eight Back Country Horsemen. Wyoming had a tremendous winter last year and the snow took longer to melt out than usual. The runoff must have been something because the beaver dams were all washed out. The wildflowers were absolutely spectacular in their peak bloom, but then that is coming from a flower freak! We were not able to ride the route we had planned due to snow still on the Continental Divide and some trails were still not logged out.

We camped in the Yellowstone valley at Bridger Lake right on the Park boundary, which is 28 miles from Turpin Trailhead and day rode the area from there. The trail up the Thorofare valley was accessible so we rode that direction but the upper Yellowstone was not open. Without our trail loop opportunity, it turned into a fishing trip primarily. If you know where to fish there, it can be fantastic. Everyone was pulling in 18" cutthroat trout and boy are they good eating.



Jim Icenbice, Dick Strohkirch, Dan Applebaker and Jim Forsman with the catch for dinner

It was quiet and peaceful on the river. I love to hear the sandhill cranes and geese especially in the early morning. Trumpeter swans and ducks were on the lake too. We usually here wolves at daybreak across the valley but there weren't any there this time. There weren't the beaver numbers that we've seen either. The grizzly bears were there but we never saw them, just tracks in the trail up the Thorofare. We've had them go by camp before but they never bothered us.

We had some difficulties but nothing we couldn't handle. Nobody got hurt, we had great camaraderie and a good time. We've taken several trips to the Teton with different routes. If you want to try it, we'll be glad to give you some help and GPS points.

Met-Win from Lemish Lake to Todd Creek Horse Camp

By Linda Thomas,
East Cascades Chapter BCHO

ECBCHO clears a section of the Metolius-Windigo horse trail every year. The area we work on covers about 35 miles, from Todd Creek Horse Camp south through Many Lakes. There are three different sections that are in the Three Sisters Wilderness area so there is a mixture of cross cut and chain saw. East Cascades Chapter maintains the Todd Creek Horse Camp to keep the camp 'fee free', so you just need a Forest Pass parking permit.

We watch the snow melt each spring and when the time is right we cut open two different forest service roads to get into the trailhead where we usually start because the snow is gone there first.

Part of our section of trail skirts the east side of Lava Lake and when clearing that section of trail, the fishermen sure appreciate it and yell 'Thank you' from their boats, because when the fishermen are fishing from the shore they use that section of trail.

Lucky Lake trailhead is on the Met-Win trail, which is about a mile and a half to Lucky Lake, which is in the Three Sisters Wilderness. Over the years we have seen a large increase of use on this trail since it is a short walk up to the lake.

One time we were working and noticed behind us here were a couple of bicycle people. We went back and visited with them and told them we would move so they could get past us but they would have to be lifting their bicycles over the downed logs that were ahead of us. They said that was fine and they would just turn around. That day when we rode back to the truck, there was an envelope on the windshield with a note and a ten-dollar bill, the note said, "Thanks for clearing the trails, the bicycle people". That was a fun surprise.

In the Many Lakes section of the Met-Win, there are many lakes. It is a wilderness section, and out comes the cross cut saws. About in the middle is a real nice place to have lunch and take a swim at one of the many lakes. Also, there are several great spots to pick huckleberries along the way. Might as well have some great fun and memories.



Williamson River Camp/Ride

Submitted by: (Lona Phipps-Jewell)

I finally got an opportunity to go on this much talked about awesome ride with Jim Collins as the host. Most know that Jim and I have been friends for over 15 years and we have a unique history where our paths crossed as children; living in the same house, playing in the same creek. .

I digress; we are talking about this splendid ride. Let me tell you the truth about the Williamson River Camp/Ride hosted by our favorite mule man Jim Collins.

I am sure you heard about the views. The majestic sight from Happy Camp, overlooking the valley far below. Clear skies, vast blue ocean of sky, only interrupted by the sight of Pelican Butte, Mt. Thielsen, and an occasional soaring vulture. It has been a year since Jim has taken a group up the 90 degree one mile climb to Happy Camp. The switch back trail is covered with pine needles the first quarter of the ascending assault on the mountain covering the start of the trail. My mare loves a challenge, as she pounded straight up the mountain, stepping over blowdowns, in search of the trail. It levels off and Jim led us (about 12 or so riders) on a clearly marked trail. The last section of the trail is a vertical ascent, as horse hooves mined the terrain.

After a quiet moment to allow the horses to catch their wind, humans needing snacks, a drink, a few photo ops ...with Jim Collins, remember the host, and Brenda Sparks describing the view, encouraging riders to come closer to the edge to enjoy the scenic view. I noticed tires piled up under a tree. I

exclaimed "there's a road up to this spot?" The host, remember him, ignored me. He ain't hard of hearing when it comes to hearing me, he just plain ignores me.

Switching direction from the incredible breathtaking view, the ride went quite casually following an old road with a few spur cut-offs to get the group to the next scenic view. It was pleasant, under the pines, with the smell of dirt and



needles wafting up, it was comfortable weather. We were treated to the sight of one lone deer bounding through the forest. The dust was kept down by the nonchalant stroll of the horses; not even a deer fly, horse fly or no-see-um to spoil the trek.

Ol' wrangler Jim and I had a discussion about this ride in camp on Friday night. He concluded the rant stating I could stay in camp in the kitchen! Not to disappoint my husband (Steve Jewell) or my pal (Beck Schriek) I pulled up my big girl drawers and honored Jim with my presence. Making this perfectly clear, my horse is sure footed, smart as a whip, Mustang tough, and an attitude to go with it, she doesn't waste precious steps to get to the same place.

Once again I digress; Mr. Collins diverted off a perfectly good road to angle the group to what Mr. Collins thought was another Very Important Scenic Travel Advantage (VISTA). I attempted to stay on the nice road, and wait for the group to join back up where I was comfortably sitting horseback. As the riders overlooked our camp from atop the sheer rock cliff, which people (and I use the term loosely) propel off, enjoying the sight of the Williamson River, the lush green valley, I stayed firmly on the road. What's his name, the one hosting the ride, informed me I could come along or figure my own way back to camp.

Well, I went along. The trail group shadowed Jim as the trail treacherously kept to the edge of the cliff; inches from peril. At some points, there wasn't a shrub between the miniscule trail and open sky. The cliff is a sheared rock formation jutting up to the sky from the depths of the earth's center. The only life up there are five vultures, soaring, waiting for the next free meal. While ol' Jim Collins was

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leading the group on this beautiful view of the top side of those vultures and one lone eagle, my pal Beck took the opportunity for photo ops. My little Mustang, being no one's fool, took the curve right out of the trail. Side stepping the riders to keep from bunching up and treading every inch, she simply moved in and made her own path, straight behind Mr. Host.

We reached a point in the "aw" factor and zig-zagged up the hill through bitterbrush and manzanita. My mare loves this as she can get her belly scratched at the same time as ascending from the Perils of Pauline cliff. She took a few zags out of the zig as well. Safely on the back road, the band of horse and riders began heading back, clearly following the same path along the cliff. I made a statement, and was totally ignored. If it weren't for the chuckle from the lead rider, I would never have known Mr. Trail Blazer had heard me.

My pal Ken Clegg rode up beside me and ask what was for dinner. My response was Jim Collins is getting one bean and a partial lettuce leaf. In case you are wondering what the menu was: grilled pork loin marinated in apple cider with secret spices, ranch beans, grilled zucchini, mixed greens with cherry tomatoes and baby carrots, and fruit/vegetable salad. Liz Warren donated two potato salads and Deb Price made two scrumptious apple pies.

On this casual ride, back on the dirt road, we encountered a pick-up truck coming in. Moving into the sage and pines, I knew the driver of the truck. I asked Jim how did "uncle" get up here . . .again the laughter expounded from the leader of the pack. He gave some long, drawn out directions on locating the road. Something about highway, trains, planes and parachutes.

We didn't go back to Happy Camp, but we descended the way we came up. My horse recognized the T-post marking the trail.

To one of my best friends, who I would never swap out for even one of his grandchildren (Dalton or Cole), I truly love and respect you; I would ride with you anywhere and take your jesting in the good nature intended. You have taken me over many hurdles, especially that time I was thrown so bad I had a fear of mounting a horse. A fear of height on horseback was never on my bucket list; Thank You Jim Collins for the glorious ride and the exciting weekend. Only for you would I cook.

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Events Calendar

Event Start	Event End	Event Hours PST	Event Title	Event Description	Event Location
10/21/2017	10/21/2017	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	The Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. It is held twice each year at the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center in Canby, on the third Saturday of March and October. The sale includes new and used tack as well as other horse-related items. Parking 5\$, admission is \$1 per person.	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013, USA
10/27/2017	10/28/2017		Oregon Trail Summit Bend OR		Bend OR
11/4/2017	11/6/2017		Baker Beach ride and camp out		Baker Beach Trailhead, Baker Beach Rd, Florence, OR 97439, USA
11/11/2017	11/11/2017	10:00AM - 03:00PM	Play in the Rain Day	Looking for something fun to do with your family on a rainy Saturday in November? Visit Mount Pisgah Arboretum for our community's 6th annual Play in the Rain Day. This fun, all-ages family event happens in November each year. Discover how fun, easy, and rewarding it is to spend time outdoors in nature—in ALL kinds of weather. Play in the Rain Day will happen rain or shine, so dress for the weather. FREE!	Mount Pisgah Arboretum, 34901 Frank Parrish Rd, Eugene, OR 97405, USA
12/16/2017	12/17/2017		Columbia Gorge Christmas Party TBA		
3/17/2018	3/17/2018	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	The Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. It is held twice each year at the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center in Canby, on the third Saturday of March and October. The sale includes new and used tack as well as other horse-related items. Parking \$5, admission is \$1 per person.	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013, USA

Online Membership Application Now Available

We have gone live with the new online membership application giving visitors to our web site the opportunity to fill out a membership web form and immediately pay with a credit card or other online method. An automatic email notice is sent to the BCHO membership coordinator and to the Chapter President when someone completes the new membership process.

As stated at the last BCHO Board Meeting this is not intended to replace of how each chapter currently collects memberships. The BCHO Board encourages chapters to still process membership at chapter meetings in the normal way. The online method was implemented to offer those individuals visiting our web site or not able to attend chapter meetings a way to become a BCHO member.



You can access the membership application at <https://www.bcho.org/membership-form> or from menus or buttons on these pages, <https://www.bcho.org/membership/> or <https://www.bcho.org>.

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- East Cascades, Bend \$5 Sourdough, Cave Junction
- Emerald Empire, Eugene \$5 West Cascade BCH, Salem \$5
- High Desert Trail Riders, Territorial Riders, Oregon City \$5
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Chapter, State wide group

Total Enclosed: _____

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

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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

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

Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

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