



The Highline

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

June 2019



Baker Beach Pre-Solve Cleanup

March 9, 2019

What a beautiful sunny/sunburn day for our 19th annual Baker Beach cleanup!

Smaller crew this year, 7 riders and 3 hikers picked up maybe 100 to 200 pounds of trash. For some reason there has not been very much trash on Baker Beach this year. We found a tire, filled several Solve bags with bottles, a couple of light bulbs, rope and miscellaneous pieces of plastic. The riders spent most time picking up in the area that had the dune bulldozed 7 or so years ago to provide a nesting area for the Snowy Plovers. And we saw lots of Plovers. They are hard to count but we suspect between 15 & 20. This was a huge number as we usually only see 6 or 8. When we began these cleanups, the Plovers were wintering at Baker Beach but would go someplace else to nest. Now there are lots of them and they are nesting on our local coastline.

As we were finishing, a State Parks staffer came up the beach on his Gater. We loaded him up with some large pieces of plastic, pallets and other awkward items. Then we stuffed the Gater inside and out with filled Solve bags. Finally,

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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 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 Pleasant Ridge Community Center, 7067 West Canal Blvd, Redmond

Potluck 6:00 - General Meeting 6:30 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Dennis Flaherty, eastcascades@bcho.org

Emerald Empire Chapter

Meets: the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Utility District building, 33733 Seavey Lp Road, Eugene, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Jean Clancy, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of each month at Waffle Hut, 106 Main St., Klamath Falls at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Betty Applebaker, hdtr@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

Meets: 3rd Thursday of the month at Community Bible Church, Room 202, 500 N. 10th Street, Central Point, OR at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Cate Bendock, 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 Beavercreek Fire Department, 22310 S Beavercreek Rd. Beavercreek, Or. 97004

at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Tim Lagasse, territorialriders@bcho.org

High Country Wilderness Packers

Meets: Held by conference call every other month

Contact: Mat Wooley, hcwp@bcho.org

Continuation of cover story

Emily Elias' little haflinger pack horse got a FULL load of filled bags and a tire. And other folks carried out bags on their horses. I do not have the weight of the trash this year, but I think it had to be close to 200 pounds.

We knew there was not as much trash on the beach this year, so the Forest Service, which was still feeling the effects of "the closure", arranged to have the State Parks assist us. The USFS also arranged to bulldoze open the sand "road" from the parking lot to assure safe passage over the dunes.

As we were leaving around 11:30, we watched as the tide was coming in fast. You could tell it was going to be higher than the previous tide as it was already lapping at the earlier high tide line. We had also received a notice from the USFS to watch for sneaker waves from 1-4pm. We had NO excitement, which was a very good thing. Some of the horses had never been on the sand or beach before, and all was cool.

Again I want to thank Cindy Burns, Wildlife Biologist from the USFS, for her support notifying Oregon State Parks and getting the "road" pushed through. And thanks to SOLVE for supplying the bags all these 19 years. Our chapter enjoys this annual event in which we combine community service with fun riding and always a delicious potluck.

BJ Keele



MK, Briana and Sonya carrying a full load of trash from the beach including a tire



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President's Letter

Submitted by: Duane Miller, BCHO President

It was another great event in Klamath Falls at the Trail & recreation Expo. Plenty of demonstrations and activities taking place. The Mounted Shooting was a big attraction. Dinner was marvelous and the auction and talent show was entertaining. The High Desert Trail Riders surprised us with a \$3000.00 check for the Grant Fund. Thank you once again!

1. The board meeting was a long one, but the board moved through it quickly. Item that were decided were:
2. A primary logo and a secondary logo were approved.
3. An anti- discrimination and harassment policy was put in place
4. BCHO liability releases were approved. These were graciously shared for us to use by the Oregon Equestrian Trails after having a lawyer draw them up. Thank you OET for your generosity!
5. We have a new Volunteer Publicity Chair, Joan Flaherty from the East Cascades Chapter. Thank you Joan for volunteering for this position. Joan could use help from anyone interested in publicizing BCHO all over the state and letting people know who we are, what we do, and that we are a public service organization, and that you don't have to have stock animals to be a member, and we are a 501c3 non-profit that can use donation to build and maintain trails in the forest and wilderness projects to keep trails open to all the public.
6. Jamie Kaptein has volunteered to be our new volunteer historian. Thank you, Jamie for stepping up and getting involved.

I would like to remind everyone that people stepping up and being involved, helps to make an organization like ours even better that it already is. Many hands make jobs easier to complete. I know everyone give a lot of time to make our organization stand out. At the national level Back Country Horsemen provided:

91,214 basic skill hours
43,391 skilled hours
10,008 recon hours
1,057,113 vehicle miles
66,815 stock hours
956 stock days
322,175 total hours
\$12,170,827.54 in contributed value to our forests
That is definitely something to be proud of!

It is time to make sure all contact information, phone and email, for each chapter and the state organization are up to date. Also information for chapter meetings, date, time and location. Send this to Becky Hope, membership coordinator, and she will make sure it gets to the High Line editor and the website manager. Becky's email is: 6fhope@gmail.com . If you haven't already done this, please do it ASAP!

Starting at the next board meeting we will try and do one hour committee breakout sessions to hopefully have more one on one face to face communications between committee members. Hopefully this will keep down the number of phone conferences needed. I would like to thank the officers, committee chairs and committee members for the time that they put in to keep this organization moving forward. Thanks to all the members, your efforts are where the rubber meets the road on trails and forest projects, your contributions of time, equipment and animals are always remembered.

Finally it is that time of year with spring upon us and summer coming, to be in the forest. Please remember to track all your hours, miles, skill levels, travel time, stock usage and days and all the items we need to track to show our partners how much effort is put in by volunteers. Everyone wear your safety gear, do your safety talks, be aware of your surroundings around and above you, and always have a plan of accomplishing your tasks safely.

Always have the spirit of VOLUNTEERISM with you!

Did you know this about Farm Well?

Submitted by: Linda Thomas, East Cascades Chapter

Farm Well Campground is in the Fremont NF, on the north/east side of Hager Mt. The campground is about 20 acres. There are four nice corrals and unlimited areas where you can highline and a pond for stock water. The NRT 60 trail goes through the campground.

Here is the 'did you know': Around the perimeter of the campground is a fence. The fence that goes around the campground is to keep the range cattle out of the campground. The cattle are turned out on summer range May 1st, so the goal is to get up to the campground before May 1st and survey the fence and make repairs. Usually the main problem is trees that have come down and broken the fence. There are gates on each end of the campground where the trail goes through and it is very important to 'close the gate' behind you, just like you would do at home with your own gates, this keeps the cattle from walking through the open gate.

One year the cattle got into the campground and it was a total mess. The meadows were totally eaten down, cow poop everywhere, it was nasty, not a place you would want to camp or spend anytime enjoying yourself.

Now you know the 'did you know this about Farm Well'.



National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) Workshop

The Old Mill District in Bend, OR | October 23-26, 2019

Howdy Y'all

There's something happening in our neck of the woods this October. It's real significant so I want to let you know what it is and that BCHO is going to play a pivotal part in it.

The NWSA is about ten years old. Their mission is to "develop a growing network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship for America's enduring resource of wilderness." Their board of directors is a cross section of wilderness steward groups across the country, from the Appalachian Trail to the PCT and it includes a representative from BCHA. This is an annual affair and the last one was in Gunnison, Colorado and drew 150 people from stewardship groups across the country. This is the first time it has been held in Oregon.

Their lead staff member approached BCHO at the March agency partnership meeting in Bend to make us aware of the October workshop and invited BCHO to participate. The NWSA is planning to hold the workshop at two hotel conference facilities in the Old Mill District shopping center; one hotel on each side of the Deschutes River. The East Cascades chapter reviewed the NWSA plans and because this workshop is going to be in our house we just couldn't let the opportunity slip away. We needed a plan of action, as the deadline for submitting something in writing was just two weeks away. But submit we did!

The timing of the workshop could not be better; there is tremendous pressure on central Oregon's wilderness as a result of impacts from overuse including human waste, user trails, trash and poor camping practices. We need to counter the negative perceptions that the public and agencies in our Oregon community have towards equestrians in the wilderness. We can distinguish ourselves from the problem by being the solution.

The 2019 workshop theme is The Path from Recreationist to Steward; Engaging Wilderness Users to Help Care for the Places They Cherish. Our proposal is titled, The Evolving Role of Equestrians and Their Livestock in the Quality of the Wilderness Experience. It's no secret to us that we have picked up a lot of work that the agencies have let go over the last 20 years. We intend to educate other stewards as well as the agencies on the value we add and how we conduct ourselves in the wilderness.

To do this, we will be included in their opening night poster session. Over the following two days we will present four topics describing the good we do and our code of conduct:

Packing of crews and ourselves into the wilderness,

Clearing of wilderness trails using primitive tools,

Dutch oven cooking to feed crews and ourselves in the wilderness and

A session combining Leave no Trace and the care and feeding of our stock in the wilderness.

Each of these four 90 minute "campfire talks" will be held outdoors on a greenbelt next to the bridge connecting the two conference facilities. We will be in the flow. Here are two shots of the site; looking east toward the Hilton on the hill and then looking west toward the Hampton Inn. Picture a "camp" here.



We'll have an event tent to accommodate speakers and slide shows which will be followed by demonstrations outside. We plan to use live animals, cut logs and serve Dutch oven food.

Since this is happening in the middle of a trendy shopping center and city park, we have tremendous exposure to the general public as well. We have been encouraged to take advantage and to run demonstrations as long as there is interest. We also intend to use this opportunity to recruit new members, with emphasis on connecting with youth. We cannot let our packing legacy fade away.

The BCHO board supports the proposal and the next steps are to form a committee consisting of a cross section of BCHO folks to plan, organize and present our story. The HDTR Expo was a great place for me to network and to see, again, the quality of folks that we have for an affair like this. A real special thanks to the people that agreed early on to help out, including Pat Marquis. Without everyone's support we would not be in this position to present BCHO, BCHA and the equestrian community in this national forum.

Stay tuned as we move forward and engage our membership in this outstanding opportunity.

Yours Truly,

Dennis Flaherty, ECBCHO



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Leaving a Legacy

Submitted by: Bert Morris, BCHO Fundraising and Grants Committee Chair

The Five Principles of Back Country Horsemen of Oregon covers a wide array of subjects for us all to consider. I know that if you just listen in on the conversations of many chapter or state board meetings, you might get the impression that we're concerned about public lands and clearing trails. While that in itself is a very large task worthy of all of our efforts, the Founders of BCHA were wise in their thoughts that it would take more than that to make our organization successful and to grow. Thus, the Five Principles.

Much of the work in all areas of the principles involves our time, and the sweat of our brow. But much of the progress that could be had, also involves financial resources. While hard work may help clear the trail, it won't buy the bridge decking. Hours of your time sitting in meetings with land management agencies may make some progress. However, it won't pay for the fuel to drive all around our state or buy a plane ticket to attend a meeting around the country. Time and effort by the LNT Trainer may get the instruction course completed for an LNT class, it won't pay for supplies, travel, or promotion of that helps ensure a quality event that fills with interested students. To get new BCHO chapters started will certainly require a lot of time and effort by BCHO officers and nearby chapter members. However, it won't help pay for the travel, promotion, or supplies at a promotion event in areas around the state.

Much of what is lacking in many of our game plans to make progress in all areas of the Five Principles, is the financial resources to help make those plans a reality. With the recent establishment of the BCHO Fund Raising and Grants committee, BCHO now has a transparent and accountable process to receive the generous tax-deductible donations from all entities both inside and outside of BCHO. Please consider doing what you can to make a financial contribution, along with the time and effort that you already contribute. You can make a one-time donation, or sign up for an ongoing monthly contribution. If you would consider making BCHO part of your estate plan, contact the chair of the committee or the BCHO president and we can talk to you about how to make BCHO part of your legacy.

Please remember, it is important what we do here and now in all areas of the Five Principles, and also what we leave behind for those that follow us.

BCHO Fundraising and Grants Committee

Chair – Bert Morris – 541-968-5525 - morrmules@gmail.com

Member - Ruth Miller - ECBCHO

Member – Marty Devall - TRBCHO

Member – Kelly Behr – HDTRBCHO

Member - Vivian Ang - WCBCHO

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What chapter did THAT?

Great ideas from the Chapters

As the new Publicity person, I've had a chance to talk to many of your chapter heads about what's going on in your neck of the woods. WOW! The variety of projects you guys work on! Education. Service. Fellowship. Creative expansion and outreach. Safety. And, of course, keeping trails open for all. In the spirit of sharing best practices, take a look at the following. Go ahead and steal an idea. Give a call. Maybe someone in that chapter will talk to you about how they pulled it off.

Match the chapter to the event.

What chapter...

- 1) Puts on trail rides with BBQs?
- 2) Advertises their public events on Craigslist?
- 3) Welcomes ride-alongs on their "Pack In Support" projects ?
- 4) Always feeds their work party participants?
- 5) Rides in the dark of night on lonely roads to protect runners in the Cascades Lakes Relay?
- 6) Puts on a trail ride/ lunch/ pack clinic where participants get to lead a pack animal in an arena?
- 7) Partners with a nearby chapter to do a pack clinic?
- 8) Worked with BLM to put a first class round pen in a horse camp?
- 9) Put on a Saw Safety Training Workshop?
- 10) Knows why you might really appreciate a round pen in your horse camp?
- 11) Has members spread all over Oregon and meets by conference call?
- 12) Packs in water and first aid for a running event?
- 13) Put on an "Intro to Horse Soccer" clinic to desensitize horses?
- 14) Held special meetings monthly for a year to put together a Major Event?
- 15) Writes up general information on trails in their area?
- 16) Has a membership so spread out that they meet in 2 different locations on alternating months?
- 17) Has experience with a camp-format program to take kids on pack trips?
- 18) Put on a 3 day camp-out to work on trail skills?
- 19) Says "If you can't make it to one of our meetings, come ride with us."?
- 20) Says "Anyone is welcome on a work party. If you don't want to work you can hold horses."?
- 21) Puts on trail ride /camp-out/cook-out/potluck events?
- 22) Will help host a National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance workshop in October?
- 23) Clears the Nye Trail with its 2,200 ft elevation gain and 17 switch backs?
- 24) Packs in support for a joint mountain bike and equestrian trail project?(EE)
- 25) Would like more members and more participation ?

1) several chapters 2) West Cascades 3) High Desert Trail Riders 4) Sourdough 5) East Cascades 6) Sorry, I can't remember.
7) Sourdough 8) Steens 9) Territorial Riders 10) I bet you all do. 11) High Cascades Wilderness Packers 12) Emerald Empire 13) Sourdough 14) High Desert Trail Riders 15) High Desert Trail Riders 16) Columbia Gorge 17) Sourdough 18) High Desert Trail Riders 19) several different chapters 20) High Desert Trail riders 21) lots of chapters 22) East Cascades 23) Steens 24) Emerald Empire 25) just about all of them

ANSWERS

Recommended Reads

Submitted by: Becky Hope



Fellow Packers and Wilderness Riders, I want introduce to a real a story telling packer with stories based in Washington and Oregon Wilderness's from a packers point of view.

Meet Susie Drougas, Author. She has written stories from a point of view member of the Back Country Horsemen and many of us riders and packers. Her first book can be also listened on [www. Audible.com](http://www.Audible.com) as an audiobook. You won't regret giving her a read... Really understand what is means to be a BCH person. Contributed by Becky Hope



Join Dusty and Mike in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of Eastern Oregon. Contemporary Western Adventure, Action and Suspense, high in the Mountains of Washington State. The Ride Begins! Available on Available on www.audible.com

The Adventure Continues in Book 2 at Chinook Pass.

Back to the Pasayten Wilderness for High Hunt Book 3.

Join Dusty and Mike in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of Eastern Oregon, Book 4.



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Improving Gibson Prairie Horse Camp

Submitted by: Joy Senger

In 2018 the Columbia Gorge chapter was awarded a Recreational Trails Project (RTP) Grant for trailhead improvements at the Gibson Prairie Horse Camp in the Mt Hood National Forest. This camp has been maintained by the Columbia Gorge chapter since it was built in 2002 which has allowed it to be kept fee and reservation free. The Surveyor's Ridge trail (#688) is across the road to the west and there are trails to the east of camp that were built by chapter members with the blessing of the Hood River Ranger District in years past.

A major issue with the camp was limited parking space other than at each of the three campsites. That meant that day riders could be taking up space for campers or a full camp leaving no room for day riders. The grant allowed us to improve the entrance road to accommodate today's larger trailers and overflow parking as well as site improvements at each campsite. Parking spots were leveled and gravel was added to the corrals.

Four new fire rings were purchased to replace the rings of stacked rocks. They will be set in place with rebar and concrete in 2019.

The Forest Service allowed us access to a rock pit and 80 ton of pit run rock was hauled in for the base and 20 ton of gravel for the road, parking surfaces and corrals.

Eight chapter members logged 96 hours of work time for the project to date, not counting the hours spent by Ken Hansen writing the grant request. Our thanks to Ken, the RTP committee, the USFS Barlow/Hood River Ranger Districts and Beam Excavating of Hood River for all of the help and opportunity to improve a very special place and access to the wonderful trails on Surveyor's Ridge.



Update: Central Cascades Wilderness Strategies

Submitted by: Randy Rasmussen, BCHA Director for Public Lands & Recreation

The Deschutes and Willamette national forests approved on May 10th the final plan and EA for the Central Cascades Wilderness Strategies. It affects access to and management of three wilderness areas that span the Cascades—the Three Sisters, Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Washington wilderness areas. Dropped from the final decision were any significant changes to public access within the Diamond Peak and Waldo Lake wilderness areas.

Rationale for the Decision

The Forest Service states in their decision that the purpose and need of the Wilderness Strategies are “to manage visitor use to reduce recreation-related impacts and to protect and enhance wilderness character.” Specifically, the decision cites “recent sharp increases in the number of visitors to some of these areas is putting pressure on resources, and causing crowding and degradation of natural conditions.”

The problem is, visitation by horsemen and women to these wilderness areas has been on the decline for decades. We are not contributing to the current wilderness degradation in any way that scientists who have been studying the problem would consider significant. Moreover, the Forest Service decision acknowledges that use via pack and saddle stock to these wilderness areas is no more than 1 to 3 percent of all overnight visitation.

What this Means for Horsemen

Beginning next spring, the Forest Service plans to institute a seasonal Limited Entry Permit System (LEPS) affecting all overnight access to the three wilderness areas (essentially, late May through late September). Overnight group quotas will be established from all 79 wilderness trailheads. In order to receive a permit, group leaders will have to go online and complete against all other users for a given entry date.

The Forest Service claims that some permits will be reserved and issued the day prior to, or the day of, desired entry. But how many horsemen are willing to pack up their animals, supplies and trailer long distances to a trailhead merely with the hope of receiving an entry permit?

Day use visitors also will be required to have a permit if they access the three wilderness areas via 19 of the 79 official trailheads. So even spontaneous day rides via these 19 portals will require early planning. Clearly, however, horsemen will simply choose among the other 60 available trailheads. Problem solved? No, the Forest Service made clear they might choose to expand the number of trailheads affected by the quotas/LEPS if resource conditions did not improve.

While the permit requirement will not apply to official BCHO work parties, it nonetheless will affect our members who wish to plan a wilderness visit, whether on foot or via horseback or mule.

Yet, by lumping us in with uses that are sharply increasing, our use will be further limited by forcing us to compete with others via the LEPS. Do the math: If overnight use via pack and saddle stock is no more than 1 to 3 percent of current overnight wilderness visitation, does that mean equestrians seeking a permit under the quota system will be competing against at least 97 to 99 other users for that same permit? The odds don't look good. Yet the forest supervisors have told us again and again that we'd have just as good a chance as anyone else applying for a permit.

Next Steps

BCHA and BCHO are currently exploring options to continue fighting this decision. Despite making our concerns about this pending inequity well known via our public scoping comments (going back to June 2017), with our formal comments on the draft EA (May 2018), via one-on-one meetings with the forest supervisors, in the pre-decisional objections filed by BCHO and BCHA (Dec. 2018), and during the objections resolution meeting (Feb. 2019), we remain very concerned about this precedent-setting and inequitable decision. Rumor has it that the Mt. Hood National Forest might soon embark on a similar project. Legal action remains an option. Yet doing so often has many drawbacks and unforeseen consequences. Entering into litigation should not be taken lightly.

At press time for The Highline, representatives from BCHA and BCHO were expected to meet with Congressman Greg Walden and the Deschutes National Forest Supervisor at the end of May. To date, both Forest Supervisors have been reluctant to grant exemptions for any user group to the Limited Entry Permit System. This, despite the fact that their own Forest Plans lay out a hierarchy for making decisions about wilderness use—which they have ignored to date, despite our repeatedly bringing this to their attention.

For example, standards and guidelines for wilderness management found in the current Willamette National Forest Plan directs the agency accordingly: “Highest priority in general wilderness management shall be awarded those uses which are most dependent upon the Wilderness environment, cannot be reasonably accommodated elsewhere, and least affect Wilderness environment” (Willamette National Forest Plan, MA-1-01).

In this case, users of pack and saddle stock fit neatly among each of the three criterion. Yet we're not being granted any priority, let alone highest priority. Something is very amiss and we can't let this decision rest.

First Badger Creek Trail Work Party of 2019

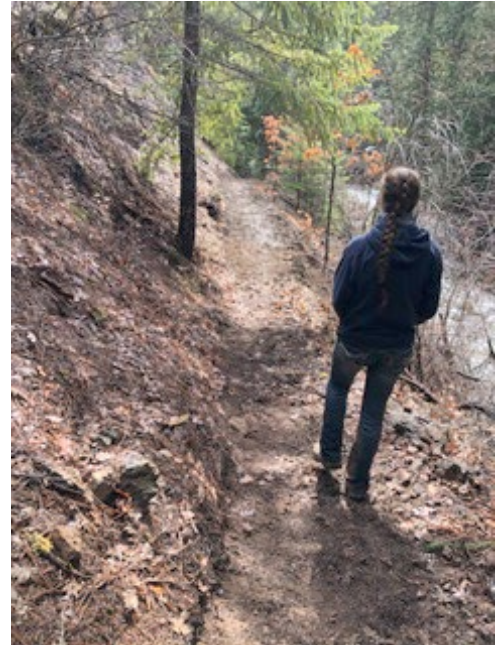
Submitted by: Joy Senger

The Badger Creek Trail #479 trailhead is on FS Road 2710 at Bonney Crossing. It travels 12.7 miles in the Badger Creek Wilderness of the Mt Hood National Forest and ends at Badger Lake. The Columbia Gorge chapter has devoted hundreds of hours over several years to help clear and maintain the trail. This year our first efforts were limited to the first half mile. Beyond that was a stretch of ice yet to clear. That was fine because we had our hands full in that half mile. There were no trees to clear, but a rock fall and some much needed tread work to widen some very narrow areas (that, quite frankly, unnerve this member!) were in order.

There was another first this year - help from three granddaughters who were willing and eager to help and learn!

In the week following we had a day or two of record rainfall for this area. It was a full month before I could get back up to see how things held up. I am pleased to say that the trail dried out and looks marvelous. We met a few hikers on their way out. All had made it through the lake reporting trees down and snow still on the trail further in. We made good use of Stop, Speak, Smile. All of the hikers were courteous and engaging and maintained control of their dogs.

The next work begins three miles in. Stay tuned.



Chapter Togetherness

Compiled by HDTRBCH members

Members of the High Desert Trail Riders BCH and Sourdough BCH from Medford came together for a fun and educational day on Saturday May 18 at Cross Creek Ranch near Round Lake. Ron Stewart and Brenda Cordonnier hosted the event where 30 people attended for the ride, picnic and pack training opportunities.

It was planned to be a warm and sunny day however plans change. It was cold with wind and showers. As the guests arrived, they were met with warm smiles, hot coffee, home made cinnamon rolls and banana bread. Some sat around the roaring campfire outside while others gathered around the table and fireplace inside. Lunch was planned after the trail riders returned.

Ron led the ride up to a small pond with a beautiful view of Mt. Shasta. The weather was cold, and the wind was blowing, but the animals seemed to enjoy themselves. There were six that braved the elements. The bitterbrush was in bloom along the trail and it smelled so nice. On the way back we scared up an elk. That was pretty cool. It was a good ride and lots of fun.

Before and after we ate our wonderful picnic meal, we engaged in a pack training refresher. Members of the Sourdough and High Desert Trail Riders gathered around Betty Applebaker as she taught the box, basket and barrel hitches with help from Ron Stewart. We are so blessed to have Betty, who was a Forest Service packer and teacher for most of her working career. Our lady knows her stuff! Thank you, Betty for your excellent teaching and patience with us greenhorns.

The guests enjoyed appetizers while the coals and Dutch Ovens were ready to bake. Brenda slow cooked a large pork loin roast over night for pulled pork sliders and hoagies along with barbecued Italian sausage brats to be served with the wonderful Dutch Oven dish by Jim Collins and other potluck offerings. As always, lots of food! Lunch ended with a yummy carrot cake and a Dutch Oven amaretto pudding. Smiles and full tummies were in abundance!



Sharing good food with old friends and new friends makes for a perfect day no matter if the weather isn't!

Thank you, Ron and Brenda for hosting the fun day.

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at 541-591-0967 or email:
stockdogmama@yahoo.com

East Cascades Chapter Update

Submitted by: Joan Flaherty

East Cascades Chapter is up and running!

We had a booth again this year at the Central Oregon Sportsman's Show. Many visitors were attracted by loops of BCH promotional videos, situated at the front of our booth, and stayed around to visit or talk. We picked up several new members there and have been happy to welcome them to our chapter meetings! Other trail user groups were participating in the show. It was a great opportunity for networking.

Duane Miller headed up the chapter's first official work party this year. They cleared the 11 mile long Giddy Up Go Trail in the Ochoco National Forest, removing a total of 7 downed trees. The trail is composed of 2 loops that originate from the Dry Creek Horse Camp. A very pretty area.

Our chapter maintains approximately 35 miles of the Metolious - Windigo National Recreation Trail. This is a very scenic and historic trail, approximately 125 miles long, that roughly parallels the PCT, but at a lower elevation. Work parties will be going out all season to fulfill this long-standing commitment. This year we will be addressing a concern beyond the usual log-out and brushing.

The Met- Win passes through a large, wide boggy patch in the Corral Swamp area. The trail just disappears into the mud. It's deep and squishy for most of the riding season, real tricky for equines. ECBCH and the Forest Service will hike in to do an on-site assessment in late June and develop a plan for building a durable and sustainable tread surface through the bog. Work will take place in late August when the area is in drier and more workable condition. We're anxious to try out our newly purchased gravel bags!! "



"Where ever you go, I will follow." Tool-laden Tillie freely follows Lane Thomas, logging out a section of the Met-Win by the shore of Lava Lake last year.



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ECBCHO is part of the Hooves and Wheels group, an equestrian/cyclist/hiker group that is working to ease conflicts between stock and other users on front-country trails in the Deschutes National Forest. An educational video suggests helpful ways trail users might communicate for mutual safety. (This video has been viewed more than 600,000 times on Facebook). "Share the Trail" signage and a colorful brochure graphically illustrate right-of-way protocols for horses, bikers and horses.

These educational efforts are making an incredible difference in the enjoyment of our local trails. Greetings, courtesy and smiles are beginning to replace the fear, apprehension, confusion, dangerous behaviors and anger that too frequently characterized meetings between different trail users. If these programs aren't in place in your area, you might want to look into them! Think how often we use front-country trails to access the wilderness!!"

Steens Chapter Update

Submitted by Joan Flaherty, BCHO Publicity

Today I telephoned John O Connor , President of the Steens Chapter of BCHO. I wanted to know what was going on in his chapter and what it was like over there.

John thinks his chapter's area is one of the very best places to ride in south central Oregon. "A dry and sunny climate, desert-like (but with trees!), un-crowded trails, varied scenery and LOTS of colorful history." What an exciting destination for curious trail riders!

For 25 years the chapter has routinely maintained trails in the Steens Mountains area and the Strawberry Wilderness. To name a few: Wild Horse Trail, River Trail, Mud Trail, Wet Blanket Trail and the Nye Trail with its 2,200ft elevation gain and 17 switch backs!!! Whew!!!

Already, this year, they have cleared and a big chunk of the Malheur River Trail. Work will soon begin on the Strawberry Wilderness trails.

The chapter's pet project has been developing the South Steens Horse Camp and Trailhead. This was one of BLM's very first recreational undertakings. The Steens chapter started assisting BLM with this project in 1992. Today this outstanding camp boasts 10 corrals, stock water, toilets, a round-pen (!!) AND.. trails with signage!! Camp plans for this year include more corrals, more trails, more signage.

This season, the Steens chapter will also work with BLM on the new North Steens Equestrian Area. The chapter members will clear brush, prep the camp area and advise on campsite layout. To get involved: contact John O'Connor --541-678-3502 or steens@bcho.org

My husband has wanted to visit the Steens for years now. This could be the year for that. And I know exactly where we'd camp.



A Steens chapter rider in the Catlow Rim area. The area is open with grassy re-growth after rehab following the brush fires of 2015.



Submitted photos
Top, from left: John Eresman (BCH), Gary Cox and John Britt (BLM), Jim Bishop (BCH), Mandy DeCroo (BLM), John O'Connor (BCH), and Katy Bartzokis (BLM). Not pictured, Julie Weikel (BCH). Bottom: Weed mat laid, first load of gravel delivered and spread, posts cemented in, panels mounted, butterfly clamps installed and welded.



Laurie O'Connor with grandson JJ, in training for the next generation of BCHO leaders.

The Horse Lied About Bandersnatch!

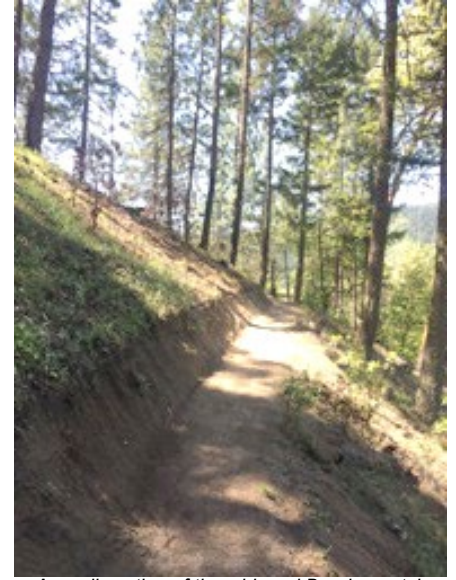
Submitted by: Cate Bendock, Sourdough Chapter

On May 4, 2019 at 9 AM nine hardy BCHO Sourdough members ascended on Lithia Park in Ashland, OR to work at widening the Bandersnatch Trail. This beautiful, rugged, and often steep park is the jewel of the Ashland area. It is also a very well used multi-user trails park. Bandersnatch is mostly an equine/hiker (runner) trail only. One short (LOL) section of it has to be shared with bicycles too. That section was very narrow along a steep hillside and needed to be widened to a minimum of two feet. Three feet was preferred.

Joy Trevey-Lowell and Terry Canavello act as our Lands Representative and Project Trail Coordinators. They do an excellent job and set us up to widen this trail. They took their horses out there to do the reconnaissance the week before May 4. "It'll be a great job, only a short hike in and not too long of an area to widen." Right.



Rita smooths the grade.



A small section of the widened Bandersnatch Trail

As Terry said later, "The horse lied." It was only 1.2 miles in, but was up and down mostly steep terrain, on a warm to hot day, carrying heavy tools, our much-needed water and energy bars, all done by the lowly bipedal creatures – us!

Being the hardy types, and smart, we tackled the job with much enthusiasm. Terry kept us on task and healthy working in the heat. She was aware of the dangers of over heating and dehydrating when super focused on the job at hand. Terry would shout out, "Ok, everybody stop, take a water break, eat an energy bar, rest for 5 – 10." We were all thankful for her focus on safety.

After 3.5 hours of toiling, cutting away the bank, tossing the dirt clear of the trail on the downslope side, smoothing, and packing the new, wider trail, we were done. The 'short section' was the length of a football field. Yikes! We were a well-balanced team and all took turns with different tools to keep us from over doing any one job.

The trail was very busy on that beautiful day and everyone was friendly and thanked us for the job we were doing. One of the best parts to this whole team thing was Adam Lowell. He is the son of Tom and Joy and he stayed at the parking area



Terry Canavello digs in.



Joy, Terry, Lorena, Cate, & Penelope take a photo op break.

acting as BCHO Sourdough ambassador and lunch custodian. He handed out our Chapter and 3S Sharing Trails Safely brochures. Adam also made sure that he had all the fixings out and ready for us to dive into a delicious lunch. As we sat around under the canopy, sipping our water and sodas and munching away, Terry spoke up and said, "Well, I guess the horse lied. I'm sure he said it was just a short, easy way in and just a small section of trail." We all had a good laugh at that and vowed to at least bring a pack animal on our next trail work party to carry the tools, waters, and lots of snacks! And Adam, Sourdough Chapter Ambassador.

Safety on Multiuse Trails With 3S

Submitted by: Cate Bendock, Sourdough Chapter



Cate Bendock of BCHO Sourdough Chapter presents 3S Sharing Trails Safely at the Trails and Recreation Expo in Klamath Falls on May 4, 2019. Cindi Boehner and Linda Reiff of HDTR were the 'trail riders'.

It's that time of year when all types of trail users are hitting the trails on our public lands. Most equine owners know that the days of just meeting a hiker now and then are long gone. Today's trail riding for horse and mule riders often includes encounters with off road vehicles (ORV or ATV), bicyclist, runners, and hikers. Sometimes all of these types of trail users in one ride!

Back in 2013 I was a member of the Peninsula Chapter, BCHW, on the Olympic Peninsula. Being an active chapter member, I was often on the trails either working on them or riding them. The most common comments I heard from equine riders was, "They just kept on coming at me. Didn't stop, didn't stand still, and didn't even say Hi." It finally dawned on me that most people not only didn't understand equines, they were also lacking in basic trail etiquette. As a retired teacher I could see that my teaching days needed to be dusted off and lessons begun again. What better

organization than BCH to spearhead a Sharing Trails Safely program? And since it needed to be simple 3S – Stop, Stand, and Speak Sharing Trails Safely began.

This simple program helps all trail user groups to be on the trails with each other and enjoy them. The moniker, Stop, Stand, and Speak is easy to remember and share. The program teaches non-equine trail users the basics of equine behavior, what the horse perceives, and that it is a 900 pound plus fright-flight animal with its own brain! I often tell other user groups to remember that they only have one brain and behavior to deal with, their own. Horse and mule riders have two brains to deal with and three behaviors (theirs, the equine and the other trail user). These basics help all other trail users gain a perspective they may not have had.

The program can be presented several ways depending of the user group, the venue and time constraints. The HDTR's Trails and Recreation Expo in Klamath Falls on May 4, 2019 provided a great opportunity to do a 'live' presentation. This included riders, an ATV, a bicyclist, a hiker with a full-sized pack, and a hiker with a dog. A 'forest' (sheets) divide the equines from the other trail users. One would think that those equines already know the other users are on the other side, but the only sense they can rely on for this situation is sound. In an arena with lots of sounds they don't realize I what is on the other side. The audience has the opportunity to see the equines full reaction when another trail user comes around the (blind) corner. The presentation demonstrates only safe encounters. The other trail user always Stops, stands still, and speaks (3S) to the riders. They also wait for the riders to give them instructions. The HDTR's and Sourdough actors and actresses did a stellar demonstration. The audience participated too with input of their own experiences and a fun game at the end.

Other types of presentation of 3S Sharing Trails Safely are a 'static' display with Power Point slide show, a full regalia of pack horse and mules encountering trail users, and a handout and talk informational class. All classes are fun and can be tailored to a specific group or cover all trail user types. And, not to be left out, equine users have a special set of classes just for them, including the 3S basics for Equine owners, a desensitizing clinic, and training classes for your Chapter to become presenters too. There is no charge for presentations to BCH members or Chapters.

If you or your Chapter is interested in learning more about this program, or would like for me to come and present for you, please contact me at 541-761-1849. Sharing trails safely and enjoying the ride is as simple as 3S – Stop, Stand, and Speak!



Sourdough Chapter members David Browne, Terry Canavella, and Carol Crawford played the parts of ATV rider, bicyclist, and hiker to demonstrate 3S – Stop, Stand, and Speak at the Trails and Recreation Expo in Klamath Falls May 4, 2019.

West Cascade Bowerman Trail Log Out

Submitted by: Jennifer Paulson

The team sawed out 400 logs and picked up and moved another 200.

(This accomplishment was done in 2018 but due to an accident I was not up to writing or submitting.)

Last year we talked about clearing the Bowerman Trail. Terry Fosback a member of West Cascade and Mid Valley OET started stirring up interest about getting this trail cleared. He did research on cost, possibility of hiring youth groups and got people really interested in this. The hiring of youth groups was not a possibility because of the log types and training needed. Terry kept this trail on the table at each meeting of West Cascade and OET.

Mid-Valley OET helped us financially and with packing. BCHA gave us a grant. With these fund's members of West Cascade and of Hot Shot Saw Team decided to make it happen. Eric Dahl had young men who worked on his tree farm and some other friends agree to come and work with West Cascade.

The Bowerman Trail – Had been closed for 3-4 years because of trees falling from B & B Complex fire in 2003. These logs have rotted at roots and are falling over. The log its self is not rotted. The forest fire sears the log and seals it. The wood is very hard, so not easy to saw. House siding and fences are being seared now this way to preserve the wood.

Four hundred logs were cut out with cross cut saws and 200 manually moved out of the way. This was a lot of hard work and determination of all who were involved. Keeping this trail clear will need continuing clearing.

The Bowerman trail now clear opens loop around Marion Lake, connects to Minto Pass Trail that goes to Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Now this opens up travel from Duffy Lake TH or Santiam Lake to Santiam Junction to loop around and go over Three Fingered Jack on PCT and ride through Eight lakes Basin. Or ride from East side of mountain to Duffy or Santiam lakes.

So hiking, riding, and hunting are opened up again in this area.

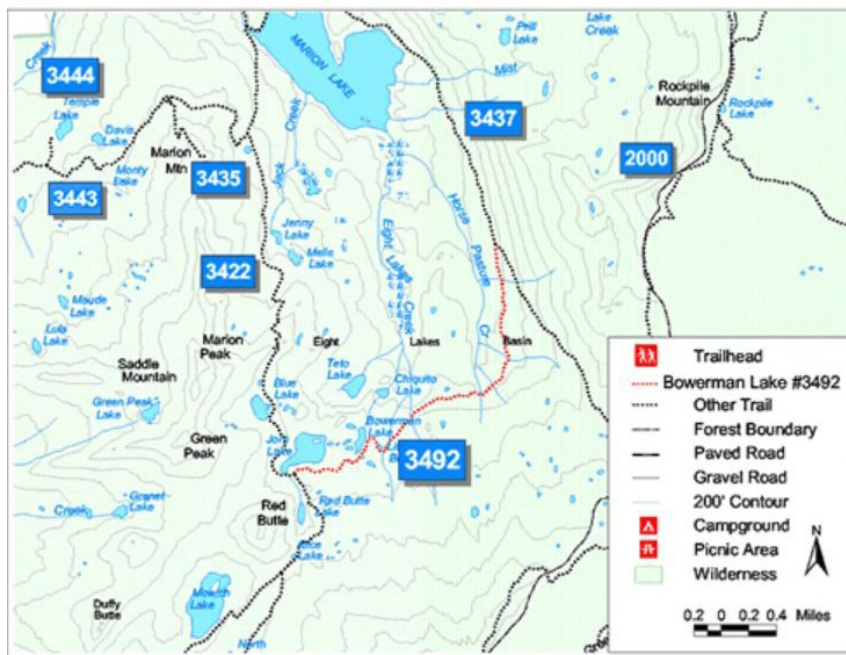
The work was all done in two work parties. The end of August to Labor Day and then finished up September 20,21 and 22 by 1 pm on Saturday.

The number of people working could not be more than 12 at a time. Twelve heartbeats are all that are allowed in one area of Wilderness at a time. Some people stayed a couple of days and others replaced them. Many hiked in carrying their gear. Pack animals carried a lot of things.

The crew was fed well and supplies and any tools needed were purchased. BCHO and OET Packers brought supplies in daily and removed any garbage.

The forest service estimated 600 logs down and that it would take a few years to clear. We got it done.

At the November West Cascade BCH meeting we celebrated this accomplishment at business meeting. Meals were bought for young men who came and helped. Memberships were also given to them for 2019. This was an awesome thing for us to do with help of OET, BCHA and West Cascade and the Hot Shot Team.





Events Calendar

Event Start	Event End	Event Hours PST	Event Title	Event Description	Event Location	BCHO Calendar Name
6/15/19	6/17/19		Williamson River ride and camp Jim Collins 541-591-9428	Be ready to ride each day at 10:00 am. From Kia-Mo-Ya Casino, travel N on Hwy 97 to first right after Collier Park Day area. Follow gravel road, left at the Y, for 2 miles to intersection. Stay straight, for another quarter mile or so to camp area. Look at the map link. Linda's notes: overnight campout at Williamson River. Jim Collins is in charge of this ride. Everyone will meet at 10:00 at the end of the road past Collier day use area that has a sign that says Williamson Campground, Collier Campground. Go down that road a couple of miles past Williamson Campground and the next road to the right that has a bridge, to the next road to the right. HDTBCH signs will be up. Meat will be provided Saturday night and may be steaks, chicken, or hamburgers. Bring potluck items to add to this. You are responsible for your own breakfast and lunches.	https://goo.gl/maps/2E33NrJ6sT2	Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/15/19	6/16/19		ECBCHO trail clearing of the 6 lakes trail	Come join the East Cascades chapter of BCHO in this effort to log out and maintain tread on the 6 Lakes trail that takes you from the Cascade Lakes Highway to the Pacific Crest Trail in the 3 Sisters Wilderness. Dennis Flaherty will lead this effort and can be reached for information and time to meet. Contact Dennis at 541-312-8402.	Participants will meet at the 6 Lakes trail head. Time to be determined.	East Cascades BCH Chapter
6/21/19	6/24/19		Columbia Gorge/Senger Campout & rides	Neil & Joy Senger's Wamic, OR 541-544-2023		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter
6/21/19	6/24/19		Emerald Chapter and Mtn. Bikes/Bunch Grass Eugene to Crest trail	trail work and Pack support for Joint Mtn Bike and equestrian trail project on the Eugene to crest trail. info call 541-337-3138	Middle Fork Ranger Station - Willamette National Forest, 46375 OR-58, Westfir, OR 97492, USA	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
6/22/19	6/23/19	08:00PM - 05:00AM	Rye Spur trail clearing, Ron Stewart 541-892-0547	Bring your own food and beverages, gloves, small hand tools are sometimes helpful. Trail clearing ride at Rye Spur trail. Even though this is a work party anyone is welcome to join us. We always need people to hold horses while trees are being removed or brush cut. Bring your own lunch. We meet at 8 o'clock at Big Meadow snowpark on 140.		Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/24/19	6/29/19		FS Pack Support In/Out Ron Stewart 541-892-0547	Location and time TBA. Pack in on Monday, out on Friday. Ride-alongs are welcome, contact Ron for more information.		Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/27/19	6/30/19		Emerald Empire BCHO/Eugene OET Whitefish	Joint Campout and trail project at Whitefish campground near Crescent Lk	Whitefish camp Oregon	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
6/29/19	6/30/19		Columbia Gorge/ride (tba)			Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter
6/29/19	6/30/19		Corral Project Ron Stewart 541-892-0547	TBA	Foumille Lake, Oregon 97601, USA	Hight Desert Trail Riders
6/29/19	7/1/19		ECBCHO trail clearing of the Met-Win	These dates have been set aside to complete our Volunteer efforts on the Metolius-Windigo trail, should we not finish in our earlier efforts. An inventory will be taken and an assessment of the work will be made prior to these dates. Dennis Flaherty shall lead this effort and can be reached by telephone at 541-312-8402.	The actual time and location will be announced at a future date once we know what needs to be completed on this popular trail.	East Cascades BCH Chapter
7/3/19	7/3/19	06:00PM - 08:00PM	Emerald Empire Chapter BCHO Ride/potluck	info Becky Hope 541-337-3138	Elijah Bristow State Park, Dexter, OR 97431, USA	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
7/4/19	7/4/19	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
7/12/19	7/15/19		Emerald Empire PCT Willamette Pass Logout	For additional info call Becky Hope 541-337-3138	Pengra Pass, Oregon, USA	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
7/13/19	7/14/19		Sourdough - Trail Work	Sourdough Chapter hosted lunch at 1pm	TBD	Sourdough BCH Chapter
7/13/19	7/14/19		Fish packing, Blue Lake Ron Stewart 541-892-0547	TBA	Blue Lake, Oregon, USA	Hight Desert Trail Riders
7/13/19	7/14/19		ECBCHO trail clearing of the Met-Win	Come join our crew to clear any remaining portions needing work on the Metolius-Windigo trail. Dennis Flaherty will be leading this effort. Contact Dennis at 541-312-8402.	Time and place for this effort will be announced at a later date.	East Cascades BCH Chapter
7/20/19	7/22/19		Bybee Horse Camp Recon, Ron Stewart 541-892-0547			Hight Desert Trail Riders
7/22/19	7/27/19		FS Pack Support In/Out Ron Stewart 541-892-0547	Location and time TBA. Pack in on Monday, out on Friday. Ride-alongs are welcome, contact Ron for more information.		Hight Desert Trail Riders
7/26/19	7/29/19		Emerald Empire BCHO Robinson Lk/Tenas Lk Logout	info call Jean Clancey 541-484-0927	Robinson Lake Trailhead, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413, USA	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
7/27/19	7/29/19		Sourdough - Invitational Trail Ride	Co hosts - Rogue Riders	Lilly Glen County Campground, Ashland, OR 97520, USA	Sourdough BCH Chapter
8/1/19	8/1/19	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO President Call	Dial 712-451-1093 to join the monthly presidents call, a recorded voice will ask then for a Access Code, enter 736109 pound sign.		BCHO State Calendar
8/2/19	8/4/19		ECBCHO Night Ride to support the Cascade Lakes Relay	The East Cascades Chapter members of BCHO ride in the dark of night in support of the Cascade Lakes Relay, with riders spaced every few miles along the route of Forest Road 18. Our effort is appreciated by the runners and walkers as we keep the route safe for their efforts. We have done this for many years as a fund raising event for the chapter and a community service to Central Oregon. Contact Jack Nielson at 541-678-2848.	Meet and ride along Forest Road 18 in the Deschutes National Forest and BLM	East Cascades BCH Chapter
8/3/19	8/4/19		Lily Glen ride & camp Linda Reifel 541-883-3291	 You need to make a reservation, and sites fill fast...http://jacksoncountyor.org/parks/Camping/Howard-Prairie-Resort/Reservations <p style="margin: 0in -23.4pt 0pt -27pt; text-align: justify; text-indent: 27pt; -ms-text-justify: inter-ideograph;">. There is a fee for overnight camping but I don't think we will need to make reservations as there is no big event going on that weekend. Bring your own food. There is water available for the horses but it has to be pumped so you might want to bring your own containers of water and avoid the muscle work.</p>	Lily Glen Horse Camp	Hight Desert Trail Riders
8/4/19	8/10/19	02:00PM - 03:00PM	Pack support six lakes Obsidians N. Waldo area	Ron Robinson	Winchester Trail Head/Salmon Creek Rd Oakridge OR	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
8/9/19	8/13/19		ECBCHO camp out and ride at Quinn Meadow Horse Camp	Pat Marquis, ECBCHO Vice President has organized this joint gathering of BCHO folks and OET members who have helped in the Steel Corral construction over the past 3 years at Quinn Meadow Horse Camp. This is a celebratory gathering to bring folks together for 4 days of camp out and riding the many trails surrounding this picturesque camp ground. Contact Pat at 541-815-9398.	Quinn Meadow Horse Camp, Bend, OR 97701, USA	East Cascades BCH Chapter
8/10/19	8/11/19		ECBCHO trail clearing of the Many Lakes Trail	Members, Lane and Linda Thomas, lead our efforts in keeping this trail open and clear to the Pacific Crest Trail. Contact Lane at 541-419-5565.	Many Lakes Trail Head off the Cascade Lakes Highway	East Cascades BCH Chapter
8/10/19	8/10/19	10:00AM - 03:00PM	Poker Ride Jackie Olden 541-545-6628	Langell Valley		Hight Desert Trail Riders
8/16/19	8/18/19		Where's Waldo Run Pack Water/First Aid Support		Waldo Lake, Oregon, USA	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
8/17/19	8/18/19		Sourdough - Trail Ride, Cookout	Share your favorite tip for horse care	TBD	Sourdough BCH Chapter
8/19/19	8/24/19		FS Pack Support In/Out Ron Stewart 541-892-0547	Location and time TBA. Pack in on Monday, out on Friday. Ride-alongs are welcome, contact Ron for more information.		Hight Desert Trail Riders
8/19/19	8/24/19		Emerald Empire BCHO Pack in Fish and Wildlife Mink Lake	info call Becky Hope 541-337-3138	Six Lake Trail Head Cascade Lake Hwy	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter
8/26/19	8/29/19		ECBCHO trail construction at Corral Swamp on the Met-Win trail	Members of the East Cascades Chapter shall meet at the trail head and travel into Corral Swamp to complete efforts begun in 2017 to provide a safe travel way through a swampy area of the trail. The exact nature of the work is still to be determined at an inventory ride this spring. Stay tuned. Dennis Flaherty shall lead this effort. Contact Dennis at 541-312-8402.	Time and place of the crew gathering to be determined.	East Cascades BCH Chapter

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Select Chapter and add additional Chapter dues, as determined
by individual Chapters, see below.

See Map of Chapters, www.bcho.org/chapters/.

___ Columbia Gorge, Hood River \$10

___ Steens, South East Oregon \$10

___ East Cascades, Bend

___ Sourdough, South West Oregon \$5

___ Emerald Empire, Eugene \$5

___ Territorial Riders, Oregon City \$5

___ High Country Wilderness Packers

___ West Cascade BCH, Salem \$5

Chapter

___ Member At Large

___ High Desert Trail Riders,

Klamath Falls area

Total Enclosed: _____

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For questions email membership@bcho.org

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Signed_____Date_____

Signed_____Date_____

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

Some Dues maybe deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.
Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

BCHO website: bcho.org/membership/

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