



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

November 2023

Why Wilderness and the Back Country Horsemen By Betty Applebaker and Kara & Ed Contreras

If you were not at our January General HDTR Meeting, you missed out on an excellent presentation from Betty Applebaker on the U.S. history and importance of wild spaces and Back Country Horsemen. Below are her lecture notes and link to accompanying slideshow. As John Muir put it: "thousands of tired, nerve shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

The westward expansion of our country was seen as the conquering and subduing of a seemingly

limitless land. Early nineteenth century writers and artists protested and defended the virtues of wilderness and their loss. In 1872, Yellowstone National Park was established as the first national park in the United States and the first ever in the world, to preserve the natural values and for the enjoyment of the public. In 1897, the National Forest System was established. Years later after much controversy, the National Wilderness Preservation System was established on Sept 3, 1964. It was created in the words of the Wilderness Act, to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

Wilderness is comprised of a little more than four percent of all land in the US. More than half is in Alaska; one third is in the 11 westernmost states. Very few wilderness areas are located in the east and six states have none.

No matter how a person views wilderness, wildlands have natural and ecological values critical to the planet's well-being. We may think recreational values are most important to us which is an anthropocentric or user's viewpoint. But if we look at the whole picture there are many more values.

- Biological Diversity. Wilderness supports an array of plants and animals that is an integral part of the interconnected web of life on which human survival also depends.
- Wildlife Habitat. Wilderness is critical habitat for many species of wildlife, including some threatened with extinction.
- Watershed Protection. Wilderness provides clean water upon which others depend on.



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

The Purposes of Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

To <u>PERPETUATE</u> the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness.

To <u>WORK</u> to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To <u>ASSIST</u> the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.

To <u>EDUCATE</u>, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To <u>FOSTER</u> and encourage the formation of new BCHO chapter organizations.

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

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Joy Senger, columbiagorge@bcho.org

East Cascades Chapter

Meets: Monthly on the second Monday, Abby's Legendary Pizza 1938 S Hwy 97, Redmond, OR 97756

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Rhonda Marquis, eastcascades@bcho.com

Emerald Empire Chapter

Meets: the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Emerald People's Utility District, 33733 Seavey Loop Rd., Eugene, OR 97405 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | *Please confirm meeting with contact.*Contact: Melanie Kate-Mason, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Country Wilderness Packers

Meets: Held by conference call as needed **Please confirm meeting with contact.** Contact: Mat Wooley, hcwp@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

Meets: The 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Waffle Hut,

106 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

6:30pm | Please Confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Betty Applebaker, hdtr@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

Meets: Monthly on the second Monday, Foots Creek Chapel, 913

Foots Creek Rd, Gold Hill, OR 97525

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Penelope Wright, sourdough@bcho.org

Steens Chapter

Meets: Held as needed, please confirm meeting and work party dates with contact.

Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: SteensBCH@gmail.com

Territorial Riders Chapter

Meets: The 2nd Tuesday of every month at Beavercreek Fire Dept., 22310 South Beavercreek Rd., Beavercreek, OR 97004

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Please confirm meeting with contact.

Contact: Dan Dahlke, territorialriders@bcho.org

West Cascades Chapter

Meets: The 1st Wednesday of each month at Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

Dinner at 6:00p.m. Meeting at 7:00p.m.

Please confirm meeting with contact.

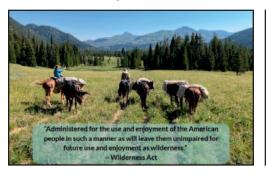
Contact: Arden Corey, westcascades-pres@bcho.org

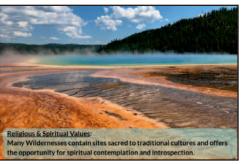
- Air Quality. Wilderness helps improve the quality of the air through the filtering action of its undisturbed vegetation.
- Medical Research. Wild plant and animal species are the bases for many drugs. There is reason to believe wild species contain undiscovered medical and scientific benefits.
- Scientific Research and Education. Wilderness allows the study of undisturbed, or relatively undisturbed, naturally functioning ecosystems.
- Cultural Resources. Artifacts and structures protected within wildernesses tell a valuable story about the human relationship with wildlands.
- Solitude. Wilderness serves as a haven from industrialized society.
- Religious and Spiritual Values. Many wildernesses contain sites sacred to traditional cultures and offers the opportunity for spiritual contemplation and introspection.
- Symbolic Value. For many people, wilderness represents the purest reference for values that U.S. citizens revere: freedom, endurance, and strength.

The Wilderness Act mandates that the wildernesses be "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Congress set forth policy guidelines but day to day details were left to the managing agencies where principles, policies, regulations and operating guidelines were established.

The four agencies that manage wilderness are the: U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The following are guidance principles and help with understanding management objectives, although the agencies did not all have the same interpretation:

- Attain the highest level of purity in wilderness within legal constraints.
- Manage wilderness as a distinct resource with inseparable parts.
- Allow natural processes to operate freely within wilderness.
- · Preserve air and water quality.
- Provide for human use while preserving the wilderness character.
- Preserve outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation experience in each wilderness.
- Control and reduce the adverse impacts of human use in wilderness through education or minimum regulation.
- Favor wilderness-dependent activities when managing wilderness use.
- Accomplish necessary wilderness management work with the "minimum tool".
- Establish specific management objectives, developed in concert with the public, in a management plan for each wilderness.
- Harmonize wilderness and adjacent land management activities.
- Manage wilderness with interdisciplinary scientific skills.
- Manage special exceptions provided by wilderness legislation with minimum impact of the wilderness resource.

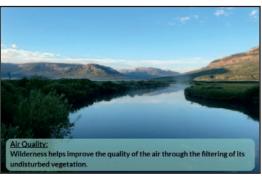


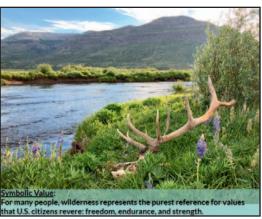












Continuation of cover story from page 3







Before the Wilderness Preservation System was established, Primitive Areas had been designated and were seeing large outfitter stock parties. The Sierra Club was heavily involved in these trips. Meadows were being negatively impacted and stock use was becoming an issue. Horsemen were concerned they might get legislated out of wilderness.

Back Country Horsemen were organized four elk hunters in a camp in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana decided that an organization needed to be formed to work with horsemen using the back country and with the agencies managing back country horse use. It was recognized that assistance rather than criticism would lend more credibility with the agency and horsemen needed to learn how to have less impact on the landscape. The result of that discussion was the organization of the Back Country Horsemen in Montana's Flathead Valley in January of 1973.

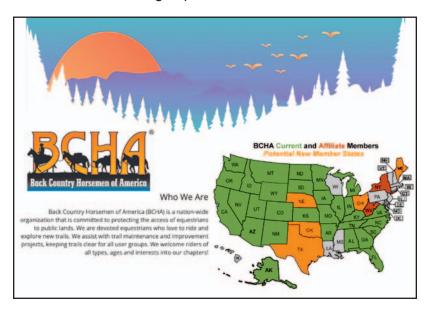
The growth of the Back Country Horsemen organization continued with the formation of additional chapters in Montana in 1979, and one from Salmon, Idaho. Horsemen in Washington developed an informal liaison with this group in 1981 and a California organization known as the High Sierra Stock Users merged with these other three groups in 1985, becoming known as the Back Country Horsemen of America in 1986. A mission statement was adopted.

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

BCH members have used their specialized knowledge of stock and the backcountry to bring about changes and modifications of restrictive management. BCH has participated in many agency meetings involving land use planning and regulations, and has become a strong voice for continued, responsible horse use. This approach has assured us valid consideration regarding management decisions and given us the support of other conservation groups.





Continuation from page 4

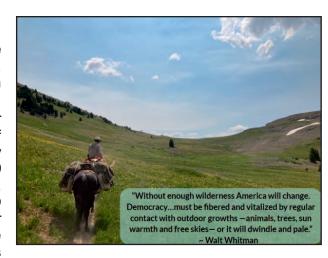
Since that time there has been steady growth. Today there are active organizations in 31 states, about 200 Chapters with 13,000 members. Thousands of volunteer hours, worth millions of dollars have been contributed to meet the BCH Purposes.

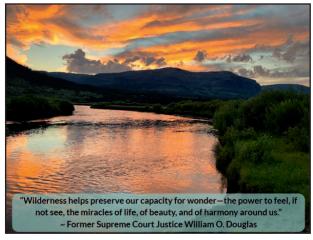
In May of 1996, a group of affiliate members of BCHA and other interested horsemen met in Hood River, Oregon with the purpose of forming a State BCH organization. In April 1997, the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon was accepted by BCHA. Today there are 9 active chapters in Burns, Hood River, Bend, Klamath Falls, Salem, Eugene, and Oregon City, Medford and a Packer's Chapter. BCHO has contributed thousands of dollars-worth of volunteer labor for the agencies and is considered a valuable partner. As a service organization, our focus is to help maintain continued wilderness access for horsemen.

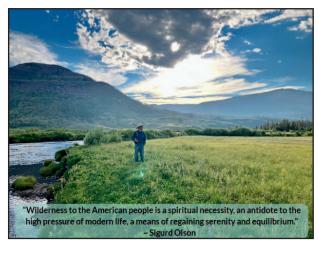
Nineteenth century writers said it well. Walt Whitman once said, "Without enough wilderness America will change. Democracy...must be fibered and vitalized by regular contact with outdoor growths—animals, trees, sun warmth and free skies—or it will dwindle and pale." Sigurd Olson said, "Wilderness to the American people is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium."

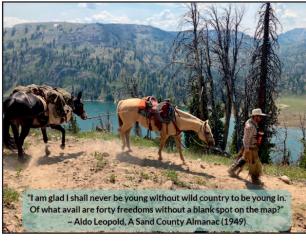
Former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas stated that wilderness helped preserve our "capacity for wonder—the power to feel, if not see, the miracles of life, of beauty, and of harmony around us."

Research Source: "Keeping it Wild, I Citizens' guide to Wilderness Management" By The Wilderness Society & USDA Forest Service









Guidebooks!



www.nwhorsetrails.com

WHO KNEW SAW CERTIFICATION COULD BE SUCH FUN?

Submitted by Jean Clancey, EEBCHO

Four members of Emerald Empire BCHO had a great time getting saw-certified this year. Members of our chapter took advantage of several options for recertifications that were offered this spring. Our particular group of hearties signed up for PCTA-sponsored training at Allingham FS station on the Metolius River.

We had all done lots of trail clearing with our chapter in years past, and each of us had some experience. But we agreed, as did our chapter all together, that expert training would help us all be safer, savvier sawyers and leaders.

The first day was in-class training. Lots of information about crosscut saws — how they work, how to maintain them. Also repeated throughout the day were the letters OHLEC: Objective, Hazards, Lean (Bind), Emergency Escape, and Cut.

We put the classroom training to work the next day when our EEBCHO group of 4 joined evaluator Ed Willson on a drive to Round Lake in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. It was very hot in the stick forest remains from the B and B Fire of 2024. The first several logs we organized around with our OHLEC guidelines resulted in successful cuts and removal. What accomplished sawyers we were!

About 2:30pm, however, we came to a great big, hard-as-a-rock 30" log across the trail. By now it was very hot, no shade anywhere, and a a touch of reaction to the heat was setting in among us. Our evaluator encouraged us to press on. He told us to analyze how we would proceed with the cuts while he began clearing out all the brush that crowded the log. His extra-sharp, extra strong 6' crosscut could do the job, no question. We agreed to take a break, get a snack, and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

Ed liked our analysis of the job and plan for the cut. With that bit of encouragement we started in. Amazing with crosscut saws, a little starting cut soon becomes a real cut which becomes a kerf large enough for wedges and finally the log yields to the saw and gives way. Ed had timed us, 25 minutes! And that was just the first cut.

As we began to double-buck through the second cut, we were flagging. Would a little singing help? We started off with some ditties like "I Love the Mountains", "You Are My Sunshine", and soon we were throwing out all kinds of songs. The saw was flying! How about "Proud Mary"? By this time Ed had taken a hand on the saw. He belted out the lyrics of "Proud Mary" in a magnificent baritone voice. Before we knew it, the job was done.

What a feeling. So much fun, so much accomplished. Thanks to Bonnie Simoa, Kim Zemek, and Rachel Herrick, who are all now certified A Sawyers. And to Jean Clancey, who managed to retain her B Sawyer status. We are a team, and ready this year to go out on our horses to clear wilderness trails as well-trained volunteers.







HELPING OTHERS, SEE YOU SUMMIT

Submitted by Sonya Margerum

Horses pack.

Folks ride.

Youth walk.

Others guide.

Broken Top summit holds us all.

Dreams move higher, reachable by some.

It is the day Backcountry Horsemen helped pack-in youth living with cancer achieve their goals.

Marking time spent.

Earning the pleasure of days spent in the backcountry.

Experiencing beauty. pleasure.

Sights and sounds.

Touch and tastes

Being up close and personal with horses for the first time.

...priceless...



PCT, SUMMER, FRIENDS

Submitted by Sonya Margerum

Surprise! No bugs.

Early morning.

Panniers are packed and cold.

Horses are fueled and ready, standing strong.

Steps are made towards the Trail Head.

Tracking is on and receiving satellite location.

Dogs are guiding our way.

Scenery is magnificent!

Hoping for a dream day.

Uh-oh! Burn area, trees down, difficult go arounds.

Again and again...

Horses jump, navigate, step over, push through.

Not easy to find trail.

Too many trees down.

Wait! Are we still on the PCT?

Yes (the PCT west of Crater Lake is TERRIBLE!).

Slow travel takes too much time between water sources.

Horses are unable to get through the trail.

Very sad.

Trip needed to be aborted.

SAD SAD SAD.

Totally appreciate the trails that are kept clear.



Cate Bendock, BCHO Sourdough Chapter September 26, 2023

As our 2023 horse camping time starts to wind down for the season, it is time for reflection to assure our access and continuance of enjoying our horse camps. And, to advocate for new ones too. To do so as BCH members nationwide, we are promoting and living our mission statement as members. Here are several ways you can help to assure your access. Plan now and get ready for the 2024 season of enjoyable horse camping.

Many equestrians show up at a designated Horse Camp and find spaces occupied by non-equestrians. Some of those equestrians even have a reservation for the site. Having just hauled stock in a trailer with a fuel guzzling vehicle to the location are now faced with a confrontation with the non-equestrian, and very often few alternatives for another Horse Camp close by. Many ask, why can't a Ranger or Camp Ground Host do something about this? They can, to a point. They can advocate for the equestrian, but often there is not a Ranger or law enforcement there and the equestrian is left to their own to mitigate the situation. But, on Federal Lands there is not a CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) that enables a Ranger to write a ticket to enforce the use of the Horse Camp for equestrians. If the non-equestrian refuses to move, the Ranger or law enforcement has no recourse.

Many of our members will remember a study done January/ February 2020 by BCHA, BCHO, and OET (Oregon Equestrian Trails) "to determine to what extend non-



equestrians are occupying Horse Camping sites, and it's effects on equestrians wishing to utilize these Horse Camping sites." Survey-Results.pdf (bcho.org). According to the survey, question #6, 93.3% of respondents have observed non-equestrians occupying Horse Camping Site. Taking time to review these results will help you to acquire information and data to think about, share, and provide active participation to increase your enjoyment of horse camping experiences. Don't hesitate to share these survey results with other

equestrians. Also, contact your State Representatives and Congressmen and women and encourage them to support legislation for a CFR will help. As we all know the wheels of government can turn slowly, but to not do anything only stops what progress we can make.

Additionally, BCHA has provided all BCH members, nationwide, an incident report form to fill out and send to BCHA and your local and state organizations. Microsoft Word - Horse Camp Incident Report Form v3 (bcha.org). I highly encourage you to download this form and put several copies in your horse trailer. Doing so will give you quick access to it, allow you the opportunity to help all equestrians (anyone can fill this out and report an incident, not just BCH members), and help BCHA and your State BCH organization to lobby and advocate nationwide to keep our Horse Camps open to us, and possibly get congress to address this issue. Additionally, if you have this form with you, and encourage all equestrians using Horse Camps to utilize it, the data will encompass more users and empower more equestrians.

If you choose to file the report it is recommended that you take a picture or two and include it with your report. The phrase "A picture speaks a thousand words." is in this case true and helpful. I also share the completed form with the local Ranger and law enforcement agency. Doing so helps them recognize the need for consistent oversight of the facility. Support them through constructive and helpful information on the Horse Camping experiences you encounter, positive and negative.

Check out this page on the BCHA website to see what our national organization is doing for us on Public Lands. Public Lands | Back Country Horsemen of America (bcha.org). Two headlines there will address this article: If You Depend on Developed Horse Camps on Public Lands, BCHA Needs Your Help! and We Protect Our Public Lands.

As a national organization of dedicated equestrians, who utilize and enjoy our public lands, we can make a difference if we participate with the tools available to us. The results of the survey and the incident reporting form are two tools in our 'tool collection' that may provide a 'cleared trail to the Horse Camps' that we love.

See You at the Summit

Submitted by Dan Dahlke

See You At The Summit is a program developed by a Portland nurse to provide teenagers with cancer the opportunity to experience the outdoors while dealing with their cancer. Many of the kids are actively receiving treatment during this time. This program requires dozens of volunteers to include doctors, nurses and specialists to ensure the kids are doing ok during this time. Other volunteers provide logistical support.

It is an 8 day program where kids get to hike and swim and camp in the outdoors in central Oregon with other kids with cancer. The first days of hiking is to prepare them for the last big hike – up to No Name Lake near Broken Top and an overnight camp.

The program organizer came to us to provide pack support for the No Name Camp. This included tents, food and sleeping bags for the kids and support staff.

Members of the Territorial Riders and Emerald Empire Chapters of BCHO volunteered to provide the pack support. These members included Darlyne Wells, Emily Elias, Briana Kemp, Sonya Margerum, Bonnie Simoa and Dan Dahlke.

On July 18th, 6 riders and 9 horses met at Todd Lake Horse Camp in the early morning to receive the items to be packed. Once the items for pack were received, they were divided up and packed for each of the pack horses.



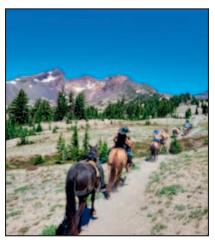
Pack team ready to head out to the summit



Once everything was packed, we started out from Todd Lake Horse Camp on the Met-Win trail.

We traveled a little over 5 miles to get to the 380 junction and took the road over to the trail to get to the Broken Top Trailhead.

Once we got to the Broken Top Trailhead, we headed up the final trail to get us to the No Name Lake area destination. We needed and received special permission from the Forest Service to take horses on this trail as it is has a fragile ecosystem.





Heading up the final trail to our destination

Crossed a snow on our way up

We made our way to the site, which was about ¼ mile away from No Name Lake. After unpacking the supplies, we had lunch overlooking the area. At this time we had not sited the kids and staff.



A view from the campsite area

Following lunch, we packed up our gear for the return trip. On our way down, we met up with the kids and staff as they were ascending. After chatting with the kids and staff for a while and letting the kids pet the horses and take pictures, we finished out descent back to Todd Lake Horse camp, getting back around 6 PM. In all, the round trip was about 17.5 miles with an 1800 ft elevation gain to the summit camp area.

As the pictures show, it was a beautiful day for the pack ride and a very successful pack trip. We have already been asked to support next year's trip.

Go Slow and Reduce the Complexity

Casey Hufstader: 5th Generation Packer, describes how he pack-strings his mare and mules into Wilderness areas
By Sonya Margerum Emerald Empire Chapter President

Imagine wanting to pack into the backcountry and not knowing who, what, when, where, why and how to allow it to happen. After attending Casey Hufstader's Pack String Clinic, supported by his son Cody, Matt and Becky Hope, Micki Juado, Sonya Margeru, Renne Mann and I am more confident in my abilities and choices. Here are some of my notes from Hufstader that day.

Note: there are many ways to pack equines in the backcountry. The following is how Hufstader does it (June 3, 2023).

Know before you go: permit, seasonal closures, and forest/wilderness policies are available and are all on you to know before you go.

May through November, traveling all over the country, in Hufstader's experience, safety needs to be your top priority. A big part of safety is choosing your pack-string order. Observe your herd's behavior at home. In order of dominance, look for the individuals that get along with all, most, some, few and occasionally with others in the herd. Keep practicing this order as you lead them: from the field, into your training, standing at the trailer, being packed, walking down the trail, being tied to the highline, hobbled for grazing and being fed grain. Be prepared to change this order if necessary, but sparingly, as you may create a bigger challenge for yourself down the trail. Keep data on who (animals) packed when and where. Provided a description on terrain, energy mental/physical spent, the overall health of the animal, so all the herd are well rested between trips.

Mules will naturally follow their lead mare. The mare's saddle: must fit well, be comfortable for you both, be durable, and checked regularly. Two places to start looking for a good saddle, Wade Saddles and Fred Hook Saddles. Also, attached to/carried on the saddle: breast collar and breeching, big strips for snow boots, butt of firearm at shoulder, wool coat, rain slicker, map, radio to check-in with dispatch, GPS inReach, solar charger/cords, glow sticks, gloves/ stocking hat, Banamine (flunixin) for colic and inflammation, Bute (Phenylbutazone) for pain and swelling, vet wrap, electrolytes, hobbles, saw.



Go slow and reduce the complexity.

Mule Pack String

The pack saddle fit, comfort and secure placement is extremely important for the success

of the trip. Girth, breast collar and breeching all need to work together to stabilize the pack saddle. Remember to cinch up your girths and always check for girth sores. Equines lose Water weight, which makes them smaller and therefore loosens cinches.

Pack panniers, weigh panniers. Place mantee, lash cinch, top pack and panniers behind their pack mule so all transportable items are accounted for. Consider bringing an extra mule for lighter weight distribution. Then finally load each mule, starting with the leader.

A huge amount of gratitude to Casey Hufstader for a well thought out educational day!

Just a Little Food for Thought

For any of us who spend time in the saddle away from home here are some things to think about. I just watched a short video from a trainer that I follow. He talked about an incident that occurred on a group trail ride. This has nothing to do with horse training or first aid itself. A lady on the ride had a medical event occur while she was riding. It was not a horse accident. No one knew what was wrong with her and she was not able to communicate. It resulted in a back country rescue and a helicopter ride. The lady had come to the ride alone. She is not married and has no children. No one knew anything about her medical status. There was quite a process of going through her purse and

trailer to find anything useful. Since it was a multiple day stay, she had an "am/pm" pill dispenser, but no one knew what they were or were for.

The takeaway was this -

Have contact information and pertinent medical information posted in your trailer for people to find or even in your saddle bags. Where are the keys to your truck? Or a spare set-in order for someone else to move your rig? Remember that 9-1-1 works on a cell phone even where there is no cell service.

We all hope that a ride goes without an emergency involved and most of the time they do but plan to help yourself and your riding companions just in case.

Elijah Bristow ADA Ramp Built with the Help of OET, BCHO and Local Equestrian families

Submitted by Dani Wright of McKenzie Feed and Pet, Springfield Oregon and Becky Hope Emerald Chapter BCHO











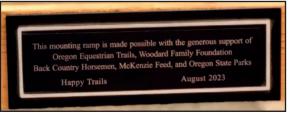


Grants were requested from both OET and BCHO Grant processes to rebuild a frequently used and rapidly falling apart ADA Ramp. This ramp was originally put together with reused material, and older pressure treated wood. Built 15 years ago. This ramp is used by persons who have lost use or strength of their legs, developmentally disabled, recovering from surgeries, teaching inexperienced riders and stock to stand still while mounting. The rotting wood is letting go and allowing sloughing of rock material out of corners making it unsafe to use. You will see in pictures that some of the corners have been reinforced with metal. Those corners have caused injuries to horses and are still not working to hold back the rock. Wheel chairs and people with walkers, and canes finding it too hard to get up the ramp. This new ramp will be rebuilt using mostly concrete and professionally engineered to ADA standards geared to last much longer and do away with any sharp corners. The Emerald Chapter of BCHO provided volunteer effort and hours to remove the existing ramp. We provided through committee meetings oversight to the development of the plans and building the new ramp working in conjunction with OET, local recreationalists, and Bristow State Park leadership.

We want to reach out and say thanks to the many amazing people and organizations that stepped up to help rebuild the Equine ADA Ramp. We started with a ramp that repairs were not holding together at Elijah Bristow State Park, see attachments, before Winter of 2022. The Woodard Family Foundation put the first monies forward to start the fundraising efforts. The project to replace the failing Equine ADA Ramp began. Meetings with State Park officials including Sean Stewart, Steve Hancock, Leif Wisdahl, and John Mullen began.

Ideas and possibilities were explored with several companies offering bids. OET (Leslye Wing, president, Eugene Chapter and members) followed with funds Matching McKenzie Feed and Pet supplies donation, other funds from private individuals that support independence for handicapped riders, OPRC and BCHO Emerald started adding up. OET (Della Webb, grant writer) and BCHO (Becky Hope) using state grant funds added to the fund. Elijah Bristow, Oregon State Parks matched the remainder.

Bids were accepted by the new State Park rules. The main project of building the ADA ramp was started June of 2023 and completed in July of 23. The addition of an assist step will be completed by Elijah Bristow Rangers and Oregon State Parks no later the august 1, 2023. Special Thanks to Della Webb, Annie Moser, Candee Brennan and the gentleman that comes down from Salem to use the Ramp (He says is the best in the valley) and so many others that use the ramp at different levels to mount and dismount from their equine partners.







CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

Resources, Business Directory, Events Calendar, & More!





Our Mission
Strengthening,
Representing, and
Advocating
for the Equine Lifestyle
Across Oregon!



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What a Day on the Corrals

Submitted by Betty

With a perfect day at Fourmile Lake Campground, High Desert Trail Riders BCH Chapter finally were able to start on the equestrian corral reconstruction project. It took two years for the dead trees to be removed from the campground and there is still a lot to be cleaned up and burned next spring. Sourdough Chapter and High Desert joined together to replace the rotten wooden corrals in the equestrian sites. The ground clearing had not been completed before the concessionaire's crew was done for the season, but we were able to get three two-stall corrals erected. Next spring after the clearing and debris burning, we will get two more two-stall corrals put in and Sourdough will get two four-stall corrals constructed.

Our corrals are constructed using recycled geothermal well pipe which is heavy and natural looking. Ron Stewart, our design engineer who likes to create things, came up with this design which adapts to the lay of the land and can have rails easily replaced if they get damaged. There are a gazillion pieces that an earlier work party helped cut and grind off sharp edges. Flanges are welded to the posts and rails and then bolted

together. Ron bends the pipe for the gate sections and created dandy spring latches for them.

A huge stump took a lot of time to remove that was in the new corral footprint. The old corrals were 2-10' x 10' and the new ones are 2-12' x 12'. Twenty people showed up to help which started with ground leveling, packing pieces to the sites and then assembling. When the sand goes in next spring they will look and function fantastically. It was a fun day with a great crew. Thanks to all who helped including our District Ranger and Recreation Staff who like to work and get dirty with the rest of us!















TBM SADDLES <u>Trail saddles for the 21st century</u>

TBM Saddles is the result of years of hard work in the saddle and tack industry. Although we provide saddles for all disciplines, our focus is on trail riders and packers. Our famous Working Trail Saddle is made to handle the toughest work, yet only averaging 25lbs in weight. This saddle is a hybrid pleasure saddle and a working saddle you can depend on to get the job done.

Contact tbmsaddles@gmail.com for more details





Territorial Riders Enjoy a BBQ Together!

On August 5, 2023, TRBCHO members enjoyed a BBQ get together to celebrate its membership. It was a very nice afternoon under the breezy covered area that has generally been used for serving meals when we've hosted Prize Rides at the Horning Seed Orchard in Colton. This day however, was reserved for our members!

The morning started out with an organized ride led by our Chapter Pres., Dan Dalhke! About ten riders followed Dan on about a one hour trail ride. Everyone had a great ride. They all returned to cold sodas and water while Dan switched to Chef! Dan is awesome! The riders were joined by others



that came to enjoy the member BBQ. There were even a few new members that joined us! How cool is that!? A perfect way to meet us old farts and make new friends!

On behalf of the TRBCHO Board, I want to thank those that arrived early to help set up the food area, it takes a community! And I want to make a shout out to our Sara Lagasse for getting our TRBCHO Trailer there! We wish we'd gotten some picnicky pictures...but I can assure you we had an awesome time! A big thank you to Neila Whitney for shopping with me for all the fixin's on Friday morning! Neila and I always have fun shopping for the food together!

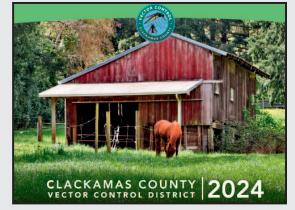
It was a great social day, thank you to those that participated! Rebecca Duren, Treasurer

PS, Thanks to Tim Lagasse and Dan Dalhke for clearing the trail the weekend prior!

Clackamas County Vector Control

As summer comes to an end, think about fall yard cleanup. Residents can do these things to help with mosquitoes:

 Eliminate standing water. The first 3 stages of a mosquitoes' life require water. Eliminate the water and they can't reproduce in your yard. The tough part is that only a bottle cap full of water is enough water for mosquitoes to breed in. Make sure your normal yard items like sandboxes, wagons, plastics toys, plant saucers, dog bowls, gutters, and the areas under your downspouts aren't providing the mosquitoes with a breeding ground.



- Getting rid of unneeded vegetation such as tall grass around shrubs and bushes will eliminate the plant nectar found under leaves and on vegetation that mosquitoes like to hide in. You can get rid of their hiding spots by keeping your yard mowed and tidy.
- Remove grass debris clippings, piles of leaves, stacked branches, and other types of unneeded debris that
 attract mosquitoes and their breeding habits. Keep firewood stacked off the ground so there is good air flow
 between the wood to prevent mosquitoes.

Here at CCVCD, we are committed to controlling flying vectors (mosquitoes and flies) in Clackamas County and have developed a program to tackle this issue. We offer free property inspections, mosquito fish for ponds and pools, and educational presentations to help you protect yourself from mosquitoes.

To learn more visit fightthebites.com where you can request services, watch educational videos, and stay alert with their news and updates. Or simply call (503) 655-8394 between the hours of 6:30 AM and 5 PM, Monday-Thursday. Feel free to stop by our offfice where you can pick a copy of our 2024 calendar. Don't' forget to like us on Facebook too!

Grants!

A reminder that grant funds are available. Not only for funds for projects, but also the Applebaker Education grant funds are available. Presently there are only three members on the grant committee. It would be nice to have

at least two more. It doesn't take much time and meetings to review a grant are done by phone.

Please consider joining.

If you have a question, feel free to contact me. Duane Miller, 541-619-0693 or Dr-Miller@msn.com

New Bridge on the Historic Barlow Road

Submitted by Joy Senger

Age finally took it's toll on the bridge over Barlow Creek on the Barlow Road #3530. The bridge had been closed to vehicular traffic for a few years because of it's condition, but foot, bike and equines could still get across it. Then, a couple of winters ago it finally caved in. This effectively closed the upper section of the Barlow Road between Barlow Pass Hwy 35 east of Mt Hood and USFS Rd 43 near White River. Tree damage along the creek prevented getting around the bridge.

Prior to the catastrophic failure, former BCHO member Gail Schiel had been in contact with the Barlow Ranger district urging that it be replaced to ensure access. The district was able to secure a grant and work began early this year. The new bridge has an iron beam structure to ensure longevity with a wooden deck and low pole edge rails to somewhat preserve it's historic appearance.

We local riders are thrilled to once again be able to access the entire upper portion. Now the FS has closed the White River bridge a couple of miles to the east in order to replace it. The section of the Barlow Road east of that bridge has been closed since the White River fire in 2020. Hopefully, upon completion the entire route will be accessible.

BCHO was not directly involved in this process, but our local district partners did listen to the input from chapter members when it was discussed at meetings. The location is a popular one for all users and the FS really worked to get this project done in good time.

I can't prove that we were the first riders to cross the new bridge, but I'd like to think we were. Just like the pioneers.









Timothy Lake 2023

Timothy Lake is the largest body of water in the Mount Hood National Forest. The campgrounds around Timothy Lake provide over 260 designated campsites, making it the third largest camping area in the state. They have added another campsite this year as well, to further enhance the ability to people to enjoy a camping experience at the lake.

There is approximately 12 miles of hiking/riding trails around the lake and the Pacific Crest Trail heads in both directions from Clackamas Lake and Joe Graham Horse Camps providing even more riding opportunities for equestrians.

The TRBCHO has worked at Timothy Lake since 2014 and serves as the caretaker for the stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail in the area from the trailhead for Little Crater Lake to Joe Graham Horse Camp. Individual members act as caretakers for neighboring sections of the Pacific Crest Trail. Each May, we plan for a 5-day log out, allowing members to contribute what they can, depending on their time.



Members Dennis and Rae Ann taking a welldeserved break from clearing trail



One of the trail signs in the Timothy Lake area

Territorial Riders works with various groups including Portland General Electric, Pacific Crest Trail Association and the Forest Service to clear trails around Timothy Lake.

We participate in the adopt-a-trail program with Portland General Electric, adopting 4 sections of trails around the lake, including the PCT trail along the lake. PGE

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has signs set up at the trails we adopted to let users know who is caring for those trails.

Territorial Riders sets up a base camp at Clackamas Horse Camp, allowing us to ride in multiple directions from the camp. We also can haul to other sites when needed to get closer to some of the trails we work on.

This year, the weather was more cooperative and provided some good days to clear trails. Snow on the trail and roads was less than last year, allowing us to get access to all trails.

We also had a good number of great volunteers to help over the weekend, allowing us to have as many as three crews working at one time. This allowed us to clear around 20 miles of trail during that 5 day logout. The biggest challenge was a tree around 150 feet tall that was down along the trail. It was about 3 feet in diameter with numerous branches, providing a challenge to those that worked on it.

This year, the log count from around Timothy Lake was around 240. Volunteer hours was 239 hours, including recon time for the project. There was 19 stock days committed to the log out as well.

Once the Lake area was done, we headed south along the PCT to clear more trail. During that time, we can along a large log which provided a technical challenge. Two of us had 20 inch saws. The trunk was about 45 inches in diameter. We took out the log in small sections to eventually clear the trail.

In addition to the 5 days set aside for clearing, volunteers went in several more days to continue clearing on the PCT south of Clackamas Horse Camp. These efforts resulted in the PCT cleared down to the Breitenbush trailhead.

In all, the chapter cleared about 40 miles of trail this year.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time to make trails safe for riding and hiking.



Julie with her young horse, first time on the trail



Tim standing next to a tree across the PCT trail



Dan standing in the trunk line after the first section was removed

McGivering in the Wilderness

Submitted by Kara Contreras, HDTR

Is that a flag? Is that a saddle bronc? Nope, that's a ripped pannier and fishing gear a flyin'!

If any hiker or fly fisherman had been passing by, they sure would have gotten a show! The only thing we needed was Brenn Hill as background music:

"Watched my mule and my saddle and my day bags and my gun Buckin' ass over tea-kettle down into the afternoon sun She was bent and she was twisted she was bruised up in the back We were half-an-hour scoutin' round the meadow for broken tack."

~ lyrics by Brenn Hill, modified by Kara Contreras for our Chancy Mule

That song was MADE for this wilderness rodeo. It was day #7 of our two week Montana pack trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It started off a relaxing "layover day" - Ed and I had packed up our sack lunches, camp chairs, and fishing gear for a lazy day streamside just a few miles up river from our camp at Big Prairie along the Southfork of the Flathead River. Our destination for the day was a large oxbow upstream - a very popular place for outfitters and fly fisherman, nicknamed "Smoke Elser's Camp".



Smoke Elser's Camp

As we dropped off the trail into the large meadow of the oxbow, we were surprised to find there was no one else there. One camp was set up, but no one home. We happened to know the travelers, and later saw them on the river while fishing. Leo Rosenthal, Ed's friend and biologist for Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, was in the Bob for several days completing a population study catching and tagging westslope cutthroat. Small world in big country!

It was a perfect day. The sun was hot, but the river was cold. There was a fish bite on almost every cast. Even with my crazy, wand-waving fly fishing habits I was able to land a couple colorful cutthroats. Lunch time had long past and we knew we needed to get back to let our critters graze and help with dinner chores.

The lull of a lazy river day was quickly shattered just two minutes in the saddle, headed out the same exact trail we had come in on. The culprit was a fallen tree with a large exposed root ball. Our Chancy Mule rounded the obstacle, but a small root snagged the belt buckle of the right pannier as she passed by. The pannier gently pulled on her side as she continued walking forward. I imagine it was the same feeling thousands of brush limbs had presented Chancy in the past...walking forward was a natural

decision. But unfortunately, this wasn't a wimpy willow or shrub branch. This small snag was a dried root with some brute strength. The root didn't budge, and the pannier buckle didn't budge, and Chancy continued in the opposite direction. The seam by the buckle couldn't handle the tug-of-war and quickly RRRRRipped.

The sound of the tearing canvas spooked Chancy. She leapt forward, increasing the tension, amplifying the ripping sound effect, and now the entire side panel of the pannier was peeling back, dropping item by item on Chancy's hooves. In two shakes of a rattler's tail, she took one more leap and RRRRRIIIIIPPPPP - the entire bag was exposed, now fanning out like a regal flag on a rodeo queen's wall run...only this flag was fanning Chancy onward for a higher and higher score! Everytime she landed, the hard canvas hit her squarely in the rump and up she went again! Around and around the meadow she ran. Though we got guite a show, our horses were more interested in eating than any of the ruckus.

After a half hour of finding all our picnic junk and tack, we had decided to stuff all our belongings into the one remaining pannier and tie it like a pumpkin on top of the pack saddle. This rodeo only lasted one minute in the saddle before the Humpty Dumpty package came sliding off and into the meadow again. On take number three, we decided to get more creative and used an extra rope we had found abandoned at our picnic site earlier. We off-loaded as much as we could from the solo pannier onto our own saddle bags, then reinforced the pumpkin load. It miraculously made the two mile ride back to camp.

At camp, Steve Hilbert had an emergency leather sewing kit that was key to patching



Diamond Hitch



Fishing the Flathead



Pumpkin Pannier



Westslope Cutthroat, Lemon Herb Couscous & Rehydrated Broccoli

the large seam back together. Ed was able to reinforce the back of the stitching with a random strip of leather and a rivet set he had brought along "just in case". The sewing party lasted well past bedtime with head lamps for the win.

During our morning pack up, we decided not to use the regular Box hitch, but rather a Diamond hitch. We considered a Basket hitch to help lift the bottom of our sorry panniers and relieve as much weight from the hand sewn sections as possible. We ended up using the Diamond

> hitch instead, as it both lifts the panniers from the bottom and helps secure the top bag a bit more (as ours was now holding a few more items than originally intended).

> The moral of the story is: add rivets, a leather sewing kit and leather pieces to your emergency bag, along with the knowledge of a couple alternative hitches and some creativity! Instead of a panicking moment, it became a problem solving session and a good laugh later. Though the Box hitch is standard for our group - I gained an appreciation for knowing other hitches and knots for the unforeseen Mule Moments every adventure brings!



Ed & Chancy with stitched panniers



Big Prairie, Bob Marshall Wilderness

October					
Date	Time	Chapter Cal.	Event Title	Location	Description
Oct 21	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Public Equestrian Events	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013	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.
Novemb	er				
Nov 2-5		Public Equestrian Events	Oregon Trail Summit 2023	Coos Bay, OR	
Nov 2	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHO President Call		BCHO President Call
Nov 17	06:00PM - 07:00PM	Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	2023 Willamette Volunteer Appreciation Event	Gratitude Brewing, 540 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401	
Decemb	er				
Dec 7	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHO President Call		BCHO President Call
Dec 9	02:00PM - 05:00PM	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Columbia Gorge Christmas party		Christmas dinner & Diff exchange
Dec 12	07:00PM - 09:00PM	Territorial Riders BCH Chapter	Territorial Riders BCHO Year End Dinner	The Wild Hare Saloon OC, 1656 S Beavercreek Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045	Contact Dan, territorialriders@bcho.org, For December we will celibate the end of year with a dinner at the Wild Hair in Oregon City. We will start at 6:30. Please come and enjoy membership friendship and order from the menu. We will discuss a couple of business items, but it will be very short.
January					
Jan 4	07:00PM - 08:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHO President Call		BCHO President Call
Jan 19-22		Public Equestrian Events	PNER Conference	Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Airport, 7900 NE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97220	This is an excellent trade show for anyone interested in Endurance riding or just checking out horse stuff!!
March					
Mar 16	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Public Equestrian Events	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013	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.
Mar 22-25		Public Equestrian Events	NWHF Northwest Horse Fair & Expo	Linn County Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany, OR 97322	
April					
Apr 3-7		BCHO State Calendar	Country Marketplace (High Desert Stampede PRCA Rodeo	3800 SW Airport Wy, Redmond, OR 97756	Country Market Place 3800 Airport Way Redmond OR. April 5 1p,-7pm April 6 9am-7pm
May					
May 17-20		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Cyrus or Allen Creek Camp		
June					
Jun 21-24		BCHO State Calendar	State Ride-Silver Creek Marsh		
Jun 28-1		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Robinson Lake-Deer Butte Project		
July					
Jul 12-15		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	PCT North Diamond Peak		
August					
Aug 2-5		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Waldo 100		

If you don't see your chapter's planned events please consider adding them to your chapter's online calendar, it is ease. Please refer to the instructions in the online document "Adding & Editing events on the Online Calendar for your Chapter Help" found on the BCHO Member & chapter Resource webpage, https://www.bcho.org/resources-forms/member-resources/

Why Should I Get Involved with BCHO

Submitted by Past President BCHO,
Duane Miller

How many of us explore why we would get involved with an organization like BCHO? For equestrians, is it to have social events with other equestrians? Is it to be involved to see the mission of BCHO succeed? Is it to be around others with knowledge to learn? Is it to have the ability to learn more about our forests and wilderness, and how to protect them? How to keep our resources available for the future generation? I know these are all reasons my wife and I joined this organization. To be a part of a group of great people with common goals as equestrians. To try and ensure we continue to have access to areas we all love to recreate in.

At the last board meeting it was brought to the board's attention that members are disgruntled about topics they feel the board is not addressing. As past State President I would attest that trying to meet everyone's needs and requests is a big and time-consuming task. As I looked around the meeting room I realized those in attendance were the same people I see at every board meeting. Some of these people are filling more than one position to try and meet all of these needs. So, I will challenge every member to consider challenging yourself and consider stepping into one of these positions, either at the chapter level or at the state level., to help decide the direction the organization needs to go in. It is easy to question the decisions made, but it is helpful to be present and involved in making those decisions.

Having new faces, new input, new ideas, is healthy for the organization at all levels. I can say having been a state director, board member and state president has been a rewarding, educational learning experience.

Presently the Vice President Nominee position is open. It is a great opportunity for someone to step forward and learn more about the organization and be involved in the decision making and future of BCHO.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Membership Reminder

Fellow Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

It is that time again to renew our annual memberships. September 1st marked the date when renewal began for the 2023 year! Please note, BCHO now encourages members to either join BCHO or renew your membership online at https://www.bcho.org/membership-form/. A Single Membership will be \$35, and a Family Membership will be \$45 for 2024. Still a bargain though for everything Back Country Horsemen does to keep riding accessible to our members!

If you would still like to join or renew for 2023, your 2024 membership will be retroactive for 2023 too! Membership in a BCHO Chapter helps keep you in touch with folks who are doing rides and projects in your area. In addition, please know that we at the BCHO State level have plans for ongoing education, projects and opportunities to get together that make membership in BCHO so rewarding. Also asking that you take a moment and make what we want to do possible by considering making a Tax-Deductible donation through the Website.

WWW.BCHO.ORG

If you find it easier, you can also still join or submit your renewal through your local chapter as well. Also, chapter specific dues will not be collected during the online registration process. If your local chapter has any chapter specific dues, that amount will still need to be paid to your local chapter in addition to dues paid online to BCHO

Thank You, Tim Lagasse, BCHO Membership Coordinator

--

Tim Lagasse, BCHO Membership Coordinator PO Box 488 Colton, OR 97017 membership@bcho.org, 503-314-7712(C)



Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc. Membership Application

Yes! I would like to help preserve Horsemen's rights to use stock on public lands.

	BCHO Membership Dues			
	Single \$35	-		
(Print Name)	Family \$45	-		
	Patron \$100	_		
(Address)	Benefactor \$250	-		
	Sustaining \$500			
(City) (State) (ZIP)	The membership dues collected here are paid to the state and national organizations. Please select the Chapter nearest to you. Note: Some Chapters have additional dues, please pay them directly. See Map of Chapters, www.bcho.org/chapters/.			
(Telephone) (E-Mail)	Columbia Gorge, Hood River	Steens, South East Oregon		
	East Cascades, Bend	Sourdough, South West Oregon		
NewRenewal (Please check)	Emerald Empire, Eugene	Territorial Riders, Oregon City		
	High Country Wilderness Packers	West Cascade BCH, Salem		
	Chapter	Member At Large		
	High Desert Trail Riders, Klamath Falls area			
Our newsletter the Highline, will be emailed t				
Tim Lagasse, PO Bo				
Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that use is involved, which can cause injuries to be that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Incomembers cannot know the condition of trail trail rides or other Back Country Horsemen Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., its office for damages which might occur to me, my me	norses, riders and spectators, and conses, riders and spectators, and considers, office of the experience of riders or of Oregon functions, I do here cers, directors and members from	nd also recognizing rs, directors and /or horses taking part in by release Back		
Signed	Date			
5igned				
	Date			
*Must be signed by all chapter members 18	Date			

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/

BCHO Highline C/O Sara Lagasse PO Box 488 Colton, OR 97017 (503) 504-9248

