

Back Country Horsemen Of Idaho



2007 Annual Report

YEAR END REPORT OF HAPPENINGS AT BOISE BCH

The 2007 year started out with more stability over the prior year. Participation on the early rides was greater than in years past, but the fire season put a damper on later rides and trail work. The Wilson Creek, Prairie, and Grandjean rides were well attended with each ride having about 12 riders each. The rides and trail work planned for June, July, and August were a bust as a result of the numerous fires in the Lowman and Idaho City Ranger Districts. There was a safety concern and many closures during this period. Minor trail work was done on the trails near Silver Creek Plunge and the Crooked River area. We were able to get into the Grandjean area in September to get some trail clearing done. All the major projects planned for the summer of 2007 were canceled by fires.

We experimented with a social ride in October to the Blue Canoe restaurant for lunch. We met at Celebration Park for a ride across the Snake River and found our way to the restaurant. We installed a high-line for the horses and proceeded to have an enjoyable lunch and a nice ride back to the trail head. The 10 riders decide that it was a repeat for 2008 except that we would need to find a longer route through the desert and get a little more time in the saddle.

Boise BCH saw a moderate increase in membership for 2007 of about 20%. We did see a lot of interest generated at the Horse Affair in February but no new memberships were generated. The same held true for the Horse Expo in Nampa. Our greatest inducement for gaining new members has been from attendance on rides and interest generated by our listing in the local paper in the Outdoor section. We will continue to make a showing at the two large horse shows just to keep our name out there and make our presence known.

Eagle Rock Back Country Horsemen 2007

We managed to have several events this year, not as many as hoped for but enough to have some fun. The club started the year off strong and on track. We had some weak points in the middle but managed to get through them and still have some rides and work parties, and most important some fun. We finished the year weaker than we started it, but stronger than our weakest point. So we are gladly moving forward into the New Year looking forward to some new leadership and new ideas.

We started 2007 with some fun rides. We were able to get out and back in the saddles again very early in the season for our part of the state. We started off on March 17th with a ride to Market Lake. After that we headed out to Sage Junction on April 22. This was a very fun day. Almost a girls' day out. Only one guy showed for this ride, Lane McVey. Brave man though, he kept up with the girls all day. We had so much fun we rode farther than planned before breaking for lunch. Then got rained on and we all were still having such a good time we turned a ½ days ride into a full day. After this some of the group's members went out and rode the Big Southern Butte, on May 7th. These rides were for all of those members who just can't wait to get back outside and back in the saddle again.



Lane & Splash



Riders horses at lunch

For those riders who like to wait until the weather is a little more predictable, we held a spring tune up and potluck on May 19th. Connie Bowcutt was gracious enough to allow us use of her facilities. She had plenty of space and obstacles set up to keep everyone busy. We had everything from the car wash to bridges. Who can forget the llamas also, they were fun! Some people rode, some worked with their horses on the ground, and some just came to watch everyone else or just for the great food. Some just sat and listened in a trance as some of the real old and true cowboys and girls told their stories. All we heard from the children was laughter and amazement as they would accomplish something new with their horse. We all know that great feeling. We had a Great Day!

The fun day was the start to the summer fun. Then it was off to Stoddard Creek with Mel Daniel for a day ride or a luxury camping trip. They camped at the trail head with modern commodities such as motor homes what a great way to go camping. All of this fun and excitement went through the first weekend in June. Then it was off to Big Elk Creek on June 30th. Due to the road construction and other issues, this ride didn't have the turn out that it has had in the past. LaRene Smith was unable to help Vern lead the ride this year, so Mitch Christensen said he was up to the challenge. In the past they have had a turn out of 30 or so. This year just 2. Vern and Mitch said they had a good talk on the trail from horses to politics and everything in the middle. They rode to the first stop on the ride and set up the lounge chairs and had a good day. At the trail head at the end of the day, back in their chairs and still enjoying the beauty of life.

After all of these fun rides, it was off to work we go. We decided that we needed to get the work done on Tie Canyon, our adopted trail. We did not have as big of turn out as we wanted, but we had enough to split into 2 groups. The first group that walked and rode stayed near the start of the trail to build 2 bog bridges. This was a much diversified group, men and women from ages of 5 to 69. The second group rode out to clear the rest of the trail. There was a lot of clearing to be done too, since this trail was almost abandoned. This group was diversified also since we had horses and mules. The second group also had the fun pleasure of working with two of our oldest members Vern and LaRene Smith. When you have all of these great people to work with, it just doesn't seem like work. More like a fun learning experience. The best part of the day was the end when we rode back to the trail head to find some of the bridge builders had stayed and BBQ us dinner. So we ate and had stories around a BBQ instead of a camp fire, just as good though. After this it was time to complete some grant work that had been promised. So the morning of August 4th we headed to Sheep Creek. The Forest Service moved some of the trail and needed work on the new switch backs. There was only a turn out of about 6, since this is a more difficult trail and there was only manual labor involved. That was okay though; all that came were happy and willing, and determined to get all of the work done. At the end of the day there was another nice BBQ. If the other members knew how much fun there is after the work more would probably show up. Successfully completing all of the trail work scheduled for summer, Hurray!



Lane cutting out a tree

Lane cutting and Joe helping clear the way

Since the work was done, it was time for fun. Mitch Christensen hosted the summer picnic on August 15th. There was a nice turn out and plenty of food and fun. It was great, the kids got to run and play all over their back yard. All of the kids slept well that night!

Well it was the end of the season and the end of the year so we decided to party it to a close at the Christmas party. Connie & Mike Bowcutt hosted this. We had a terrific gift exchange and a good contest for the elections. It was a nice note to end on.

With the year 2007 over we are grateful for all of the good times and fun. We are happy most of the year's difficulties are behind us and looking forward to doing better in 2008. We kept the same president, Joe Brinkmann. Phebe Pelot, and Bob Deeter will be finishing their terms as Board members through the year of 2008. We have new board members of Lane McVey, Mike Adams, and Dave Erickson. A new Secretary Velora McVey. The treasure position was filled by Patti Cantral. So with a lot of new names in the leadership hopefully there will be fewer problems with old problems and lots of new ideas and thoughts. Hello 2008!!

HEARTLAND BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN YEAR END REPORT 2007

The February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The first meeting of the year was held at the Becker home in New Meadows in March. It was a potluck. We had an update on the PNF's Travel Plan. We sold raffle tickets and made posters for the Outdoor Show. Next, we lined up 4 proposed trail rides. Also, we selected 5 favorite trails for the Trail Booklet. Next, we discussed the Director's Meeting.

April was a potluck meeting at the Rittersbacher's. Pres. Al Becker was recovering from medical problems. Anita V. gave us a report on the Convention. The potluck breakfast ride and the Mud Creek rides were switched due to high river water. Discussed having an X-Treme Trail Ride at the Becker Arena as a fund raiser. Discussed supporting Rodeo Bible Camp with a scholarship and a buckle.

May was an ice cream social/meeting at the Robert's. The State Director's Mtg. was reported on. The Mud Creek ride was rained out. Due to lack of funds, a scholarship was given only to Rodeo Bible Camp. Still having discussion on the X-Treme Trail Ride. The breakfast ride would be June 23. A committee was formed to peruse the PNF new Travel Mgt. Plan.

June found us at the breakfast potluck ride at Marti Eich's. The X-Treme Trail Ride was postponed due to Al Becker's recuperation. Anita would contact Al about the comment period on the PNF Travel Mgmt. Plan. Council Mt. ride postponed to July. The Goose Creek/Lake Trail Ride was tabled until Aug. It seemed that if the rides didn't encounter bad weather, they encountered local fires. Activated the telephone tree for messages for the group.

The August dessert meeting was at Pat Marzocchi's. The Convention/Outdoor Show was discussed as was the X-Treme Trail Ride and the PNF Travel Plan. For the travel plan, "Opened Unless Closed" has been changed to "Closed Unless Opened". Trail maintenance ride was changed to Sept. 19.

The September potluck meeting was at VanGrunsven's. No update on the PNF's plan, and the X-Treme Trail Ride would occur in the Spring. A committee was formed. Also, the Director's Mtg. was discussed

The October dessert meeting was at the Dowdy's. Weather, again, prohibited the trail ride. The X-Treme T. Ride was updated and the delegates were going to the Director's Mtg.

The December Christmas Party/Meeting was at VanGrunsvens. The Director's Mtg. was discussed. The X-Treme Trail Ride's name was changed to the Mountain Trail Challenge. The committee is working. The traveling trophy was given to the Becker's. Also, we had election of officers.

High Desert Back Country Horsemen...2007

JANUARY Annual chili feed and auction kick-off for the year for members and the public. This is our main money making project for the year and we always have fun treasures at the auction and also have members in a band who entertain. We always pick up a few new members there.

MARCH Fish fry and pleasure ride at Niagra Springs in the Snake River Canyon which is warm for an early ride.

APRIL Day ride in the desert near King Hill. 17 riders gathered a lot of "sheds"; the horses were really fresh but no wrecks. 14 members gathered garbage, old cars, tires and dead animals on the north rim of the Snake River Canyon in the area that will soon be North Rim Park. This is a combined effort of all user groups – ATV's bikers, hikers and horsemen. This will be a multi-use park and we attend all the meetings and participate in the planning process.

MAY Day ride at Cottonwood Canyon in the South Hills with 17 riders.

JUNE National Trails Day work project on Rimview Trail with 16 workers. We got clear through the 9-mile trail that day. Overnighter at Father & Sons Campground in the South Hills. We had 14 attend and had to clear a lot of trail to get through, and need to do more.

JULY We had an overnighter at Prairie Lake in the Sawtooths. 6 members had a great time. We rode Miner and Prairie Lakes on Saturday. No campfires allowed so we sat around the smudge-pots and pretended. After Perry's famous garbage eggs on Sunday morning, we rode to Mill Lake then headed home. We had a trail class playday at a local arena, practiced in the morning and competition for prizes in the afternoon.

SEPTEMBER Day ride at Castle Rock State Park; this included a park service guide and Dutch oven supper. A new trail addition is in the mill and they asked for our input and help.

OCTOBER Two members accompanied our local FS recreation specialist to scout out a possible loop trail off of Rimview to increase usage. We found a do-able route and our FS rep already has it approved with our District Manager which is exciting. A 5-point bull elk stood and stared at us broadside in the sunlight as we came back down the trail. That made the whole day!

DECEMBER Christmas Party at the Stacy's. There were 42 attending who devoured a great meal of ham and turkey. Food, drinks and story-telling were plentiful and we enjoyed a new traveling gift exchange.

Back Country Horsemen of North Central Idaho 2007 – The Year in Review

Each passing year brings new challenges and achievements to BCH of NCI. The chapter continues to focus energy in three areas: Education, Service Projects and "Having Fun".

"Having Fun" simply happens when sharing a worthwhile mission with interested/interesting people; therefore, from education issues, work projects, to the Christmas Awards Potluck, we have fun!

Education: A chapter goal is to be engaged and informed about agencies plans and other activities that affect our interests. We strive to take our message to other groups. Several members play key roles in providing information – Phil Foster represents us well as Public Lands Liaison. Dennis Dailey continued to work for BCH issues in a broader field and Don

McPherson continues to be an all-around good-will ambassador for our cause. Local officers provide leadership and focus.

- Our chapter provides training for federal agencies in Horsemanship/safety and handling.
- We provide an educational display at “Art in the Park” associated with Grangeville Border Days on July 4.
- Don represented our interests as he served on a Resource Advisory Committee of federal legislation. A result has been improved access to area wildernesses and monies to fund projects that enhance our use of the back country.
- We continue our association with the Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area in addressing concerns of weeds in the backcountry.
- We continued our “trailhead stewardship” during hunting season to assist and educate forest users in low impact camping methods.
- Members were instrumental in advancing knowledge and interest in horses through a local 4-H club.
- Our chapter organized and sponsored the International Dutch Oven Cook-off at the Outdoor Show in Lewiston.

Projects: As many as eighteen members participated in the following projects:

- Trail maintenance on Johns Creek Loop Trail
- Addressing weed concerns on Selway River trailheads and trails
- Clearing Down River Trail on Lochsa River
- A member volunteered to assist the Northern Region Pack Train on several projects and put together a video on project highlights
- Educational display during Grangeville Border Days
- Pack support for Smokejumpers and other agency projects
- Individuals opened Meadow Creek Station and provided needed trail maintenance

BCH of NCI continues to grow in membership and accomplishments thanks to our dedicated members who give tirelessly of their time and talents. Members are fortunate to be covered by Life Flight. Our monthly meetings are well-attended. A chapter draws strength from its various members in many ways. Whether you can count on someone to make all the meetings and work projects; place a water bar just right; prepare a culinary dish for the potluck; throw a great pack (with or without rocks); speak eloquently on an issue; drive a nail straight; write a polished letter or simply support our cause through a membership fee, it's necessary to have them all for a strong chapter.

North Idaho Backcountry Horsemen Activities for 2007

As for our year end chapter report, we started out with a few members doing much trail clearing. We helped PRVBCH with their poker ride, we put on 2 fund raiser rides and have been working on our trail head, improving the parking area and trails. We are in the process of working with other trail users in the area as well.

Panhandle Back Country Horsemen Annual Report for 2007

A very successful year for PBCH began with a “Packing for Average Folks” presentation at the January meeting. It emphasized planning and simple techniques to accomplish a pack trip using an actual trip as the basis of the show. We had a room full of people anxious to learn the possibilities of undertaking an actual horse pack trip.

A fun ride in late march was followed by our first trail clearing of Marie Cr Trail (our adopted trail), as well as clearing the Heyburn State Park equine trail in preparation for our annual poker ride.

Next was participation in the annual BCHI convention and Outdoor Show. Our chapter sponsored the "Buck-O-Matic" packing competition. A couple of really accomplished packers, a father and son team, won the competition.

The first of May saw us put on the poker ride once again. It takes a lot of effort and this year we didn't do well financially, but made a small profit.

Memorial Day took us to Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area to pull a bunch of barbed wire and do some trail work. For years we have been working at Craig Mtn for Idaho Fish and Game improving the conditions for horsemen.

A June fun ride was followed by a tremendous turn out for our 4th of July trail project on the St Joe Ranger District. Well over 30 miles of trail was cleared as well as a few smaller projects. Another fun ride at Heyburn State Park was followed by PBCH hosting the July BCHI board meeting in Coeur d'Alene.

Wind storms forced a few more clearings of the Marie Cr Trail and in early August, a fun ride took place at Clearwater Crossing in western Montana.

September brought two work efforts including installing hitch rails at Marie Cr Trailhead, and clearing the Timber Cr Trail on the St Joe Ranger District. These two efforts brought to a conclusion work projects for 2007. That was followed by our final fun ride at the end of the first week of October.

Members spent around eight hours attending Forest Service Travel Management Planning sessions, with more scheduled for 2008.

December brought our annual Christmas party, raffle and gift exchange, where over 55 members enjoyed a great time.

Salmon River Backcountry Horsemen Year End Report - 2007

The year started out well, we had our elections in January and we have the same slate of officers, except for Karen Reed- Treasurer.

John Burns again applied for and received a grant from the Idaho Horse Board for the joint BCH- Forest Service training clinic which will be held in April.

February found us planning our rides for the summer, the first of which would be the Easter ride in April.

In March we were all gripped with spring fever and talking about our joint work projects with the forest service, we had high hopes.

April 8th found us all on our way to Buster and Marge's house for our annual Easter service. It was a nice day with a large crowd and the horses seemed to enjoy the ride as much as we did. We had a moving service with a great Cowboy Preacher. Several members attended the Convention in Lewiston and came home and gave us rave reviews. Marcella and Celeste also gave us a preview of the "Trail Challenge" they were putting on.

John Burns and many Backcountry Horsemen volunteers put on the Training Clinic in Nampa and it was a great success. Most of the participants knew nothing about horses and by the end of the week long session were riding, packing and leading animals through an obstacle course. Quite impressive.

Also we participated in the Salmon Select Mule sale with packing demonstrations which were very well attended. We also had a great highway cleanup project that was well attended.

In May we were really riding in earnest and people were getting their horses into condition even though it was still a bit chilly on some of the rides.

June found us working up the Waggonhammer drainage for National Trails Day. Richard Smith and Bill Clementz did a great amount of pre-work for the work project and the event was very well attended and everyone left feeling like we had accomplished a great deal. In June we also did a well attended work project up 4th of July Creek on the Continental Divide Trail making a better parking area and connector trail. It was great fun and good weather. Also Marcella Hendricks and Celeste Bingham organized a Trail Challenge with other club members for club members and it was a fantastic day. Great obstacles, great attendance and great fun. It was a very exhausting project for Marcella and Celeste. We all appreciated their hard work.

July brought the Parade in Leadore which some members attended. There was a great ride to Bannock Pass led by Jim Evans and another work project led by Dan Maiyo up Hayden Creek. Everyone really enjoyed that and worked hard too. Shirley Decora led her ride in the Pahsimeroi and that was a great event and the group also managed to get some trail work done along the way.

In early August Richard Smith led a work project clearing the Sheep Creek Trail. Five hardworking men did all the work on that project and did a great job. After that project everything came to a screeching halt because the smoke rolled in from the fires on the forest and it just wasn't healthy to take the horses out in that smoke and expect them to work. Some people did go out locally in small groups but none of the planned club rides took place except for the Jan Latham Memorial ride led by Celeste Bingham up Williams Creek, they snuck that one in on a fairly clear day. The end of August found everyone working at the Lemhi County Fair as a fund raiser and that was a productive weekend.

September was still pretty smoke filled so individuals did short rides but nothing big and no work projects.

September found us back in the Library Basement for meetings and slide shows and discussing work projects for 2008, hopeful that it would not be as smoke filled as 2007. We also started making plans for holding the state convention here in Salmon in early November of 2008

November brought Thanksgiving with our usual great feast and December brought our great Christmas Party with the usual huge attendance. All in all it was a good year. We have some work projects to get back to hopefully before the fires start in the summer ahead.

Sawtooth Back Country Horsemen Year in Review 2007

The Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen keeps our equestrian heritage alive in the Wood River Valley community. We cooperated with the Forest Service on their Management Plans, help plan maintenance and promote the rerouting of old trails, work with the BLM on their New Management Plan for Blaine County as well as Blaine County Commissioners. The Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen members have written letters to our congressmen and promoted the "Right to Ride" Bill. The SBH partners with the Bigwood Backcountry Trails, an organization

created for all recreation user groups. SBCH supports keeping all trails open to all the users groups as possible.

1. Support letters were sent to the SNRA supporting the three grants from the Idaho Parks and Recreation. The first grant, funded the (Off-road Vehicle Fund) OTMV, targeted the Casino Trail into the White Clouds and creation of a larger parking and camping area. The second grant is from the Recreation Trails Program, which addressed the Walker Lake Trails into the eastern side of the White Clouds – especially emphasizing improvement of the Quicksand Area. The third grant from RTP was for the Sand Mountain Pass in the Sawtooth Wilderness between Taxiway Lake and Edna Lake.

2. The SBCH worked with the Ketchum Ranger District in obtaining three grants from the ORV fund and Recreational Road and Bridge Account (RRB). These grants allowed the Forest Service to reroute some trails, build some trails and maintain some existing trails. The SBH cooperated with Forest Service on the new trails to be built and trails to be maintained in 2007. Response to our requests were worked upon until all Forest Service personnel got pulled to help handle the Castle Rock Fire which started right before Labor Day.

3. The Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen gave input into the New BLM Recreation Plan for Blaine County and made sure that equestrians were included in this plan. The County Commissioners requested John Kurtz of the BLM to initiate a Recreation Plan for Blaine County. The Plan is suppose to be a role model for future BLM plans in other parts of the country. This is an all inclusive recreation plan, but does divide the country into areas that are more conducive for Motorized travel, Mountain Biking, Equestrians, & Hiking. Trails will be maintained for those specific uses. Horseback riders are allowed in all areas, but need to be aware of the other uses designated for those specific areas. One aspect of their plan was to keep motorized travel from cross cutting our lands and stick to designated roads, etc. This plan was created in conjunction with the Forest Service Travel Plan.

4. Partnered with the Bigwood Backcountry Trails stressing the importance of horseback riders to be included in the multi-recreation user group. The group consists of mountain bikers, motorcyclists, & hikers, all working together to promote good will, maintain the trails and address any management plans by the BLM and Forest Service, legislation plans, etc.

Selkirk Valley BCH Year End Chapter Report

2007 was a very busy year for our chapter with a full slate of both work and social functions. We work closely with both the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint ranger districts. Our membership ranges from Athol to the Canadian border so we have worked from Farragut State Park to Canada and in both the Cabinet and Selkirk mountains.

While the snow line was still low in the mountains we cleared 5 to 7 miles of trails for both bicycle and equestrian use at Farragut. It really bothered a couple of our logger members to see 30 to 36 inch in diameter timber being cut into 4 foot sections so they could be rolled off the trail.

Our first social ride and May meeting was held at the Naples sandhills. There are separate riding areas for motorized and equestrian use, but they use a common trailhead. The ride was fine, but the meeting was tough because of the unmuffled ORVs. We decided not to try that again.

As soon as the snow was off, trail clearing began for the Sandpoint Ranger District. By Memorial Day weekend both the Wiley Knob and Hemlock trails were cleared to the top. Signs were placed on both the Goat and Keno Mountain trails for the Bonners Ferry district.

Our National Trail Day project had us repairing stream fords on the Hemlock trail that had blown out in a 300 year flood event in November of 2006. The uppermost ford had to have 200 feet of trail completely rerouted because of a 20 foot deep ditch at the original crossing.

Our Panhandle National Forests RAC committee funded \$8500 for work on the upper part of the 483 trail just below Grouse Mountain. The chapter provided pack support for the trail crew. We carried 18 loads of camp supplies and tools. The rock drill and blasting mat were quite a load. The trail now is passable clear to the 20 Mile Creek/Boulder Meadows trail system in the Bonners Ferry ranger district.

In 2008 we expect more activity on the Idaho/Montana divide trail north of the Kootenai River to the Canadian border and in the Snow Creek drainage of the Selkirks. We have written a letter of support for a trails grant from the state recreational trails fund, and pledged ongoing work support for restoration and improvement of trails in the Trestle Creek/Lightning Creek area of the "Cabinets."

Check out our chapter's link on the state's website. It has some great photos of our last year activities thanks to Paul and Nancy Gullickson.

Squaw Butte Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho Summary of activities for 2007

The year 2007 was very busy for the Squaw Butte chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho.

The chapter had two major goals for the year. One goal was to increase our outreach efforts to the public and to other horse and back country user oriented organizations in Southwestern Idaho. A major emphasis was placed on doing more activities with the youth groups in our area, most notably the local 4-H chapters. Squaw Butte also increased participation in statewide BCHI activities by hosting the BCHI Convention in Lewiston. The second major goal was to work with the Boise National Forest team out of Emmett, Idaho restoring trails damaged by fires the last couple of seasons.

Our goals were fulfilled in a number of ways. The chapter continued to support the efforts of the Idaho Recreation Council. This council is made up of a majority of the outdoor recreation organizations in the state, both motorized and non-motorized. Their goal is to protect the public's rights to use public lands and to assist in fostering cooperation between recreation groups. We also joined the Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Counsel. This group has over 20,000 members and their goals are closely aligned with Back Country Horsemen of America.

In February, chapter members manned the BCHI booth at the Horse Affair, located at the Western Idaho State Fair grounds in Boise, and held a fun ride and BBQ that was open to the public.

In March the chapter held its fifth annual "Backcountry Skills Day" at the Circle-G River Ranch in Emmett. This is a full day of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on sessions covering a wide range of skills. The BLM and Forest Service held sessions on the Wild Horse Program and on recreational opportunities in the Boise National Forest, respectively. Additional sessions included wilderness medical care (human and stock), Leave No Trace techniques, packing

skills, meal planning and Dutch oven cooking, great places to ride and camping with horses. Dr. David Hayes presented "Inside Your Horse's Mind", a program on how to safely work around a horse while you are on the ground with him. It was very well received and we hope to have him back for the 2008 Clinic.

The chapter also held a ride in the Birds of Prey area of the Snake River Canyon that was very well attended.

In April SBBCH hosted the BCHI convention in Lewiston, that included running a very successful raffle and auction which helped fill the State and chapter coffers. Breakfast and a tasty dinner were available to all who attended the convention. Members of other chapters commented on our efforts, and all had a great time. Members of the Squaw Butte chapter also presented sessions at the Outdoor Show in Lewiston held in conjunction with the 2007 BCHI convention.

At the end of April, chapter members manned the BCHI booth at the Horse Expo held by the Idaho Horse Council at the Nampa Horse Center. Chapter members also provided a challenge grant to KBSU, our local PBS station, and manned the phones during their spring funds drive. Robbin Schindele and Rob Adams talked about BCHI during the breaks while asking radio listeners to pledge to the station.

Chapter members, working with the Salmon River Chapter and the Forest Service, took part in a five day Back Country Skills clinic for Forest Service Personnel. This clinic was held at the Nampa Horse Center and was a huge success getting very positive reviews from all who attended. Squaw Butte provided experienced packers, like Bob Howard Sr., and a lot of the training material used at the clinic.

May activities were aimed at getting stock and riders in shape for the season. These included a wild horse survey ride in the 4-Mile wild horse area north of Emmett; a moonlight ride, open to the public, east of Emmett beyond the Gem Cycle Park; and a horse camping trip to Cuddy Mountain over the Memorial Day weekend.

June 7 was National Trails Day. One team from Squaw Butte took a "B" level sawyer class from the Emmett Ranger District. Having this training greatly increased what work we can do in fire damaged areas. Another group worked on the Peace Creek trail with local rangers. This trail was damaged by the 2006 fires and is very popular so getting it back into shape was a high priority of the district.

Squaw Butte spent a weekend at Bull Trout Lake working on the popular Kirkham Ridge and Gates Creek trails. Both trails passed through burn areas from many different fire years. Older burn areas often have lots of down fall that needs to be cleared.

July found us working with Francis White back in the Peace Creek area. For the last couple of years Francis has been rehabbing the Devil's Slide trail that joins the Peace Creek trail at the Tranquil Basin saddle. This trail needed extensive work, including removal of downfall from old burns, posting signs and cutting out brush. The team spent two full days, but the trail was again ready for use.

Our second trail project in the Lowman District was cancelled due to a major fire burning in the area. Instead we surveyed the Bucks Lake Basin trail system. This is a little used trail system in the Payette National Forest.

In August we spent two weekends on West Mountain doing work on four of the most scenic local trails.

In September the chapter hosted the 3rd Annual Gem/Boise Country 4-H Treasure Hunt Ride east of the Gem Cycle Park in Emmett. This event is popular with local riders and the Gem/Boise 4-H Horse Program receives all proceeds from this ride. It has also been a very successful recruiting event for SBBCH. Later in the month members were again on West Mountain doing a survey of the south end of West Mountain trail.

October events included the Regan Peak fun ride and subsequent BBQ and the Packers Play Day, a fun skills event in the arena, sponsored by Squaw Butte and held at the Circle G River Ranch in Emmett. This arena day includes a number of gymkhana events and a trail obstacle course. This year was well attended and all had a great time.

November events included a public trail ride along the Snake River and our adopt a highway clean up of a section of Highway 52.

December activities were the annual Christmas party and the start of the planning for the 2008 season which will be as busy and productive as the 2007 year was.

Twin Rivers BCH Year 2007 in Review

It was another very busy year for our chapter, with a wide assortment of agencies that we worked with. We started the year out, in February, with a fun ride to get everyone motivated, our annual Chili Ride. We installed the hitchrails and highline poles that we built last year at camping areas along the Tucannon River for Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife in March.

By the end of April, we were all celebrating, as the Backcountry and Outdoor Show was behind us. Next, several members laid out a trail class course and judged the event for the Asotin County Fair. To finish off the month, we had our annual gathering at Billy Creek Ranch, owned by Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game. Lots of fun rides and a little work consisting of treadwork on the trail that parallels the Snake River upstream from Disneyland, and repairing the hitchrail by the barn.

This was our third year doing a mule packing and rope making demonstration for the Clarkston and Asotin Schools Fifth Grade Rendezvous. The fascination the students have with the mules always make this a very rewarding experience.

Another trail class for 4-H groups was set up and judged at the NezPerce County Fairgrounds in May.

June was a very busy month, with our first trail-clearing project on Feather Creek for the Clearwater N. F. There had been a very bad windstorm, and we had a major project clearing this five-mile loop trail. We packed a Boy Scout Troop up the North Fork of Asotin Creek for three days again this year to pull noxious weeds. You could really see a big difference after the work from last year. The weeds were so much less, that they were able to brush about three miles of trail. LNT ethics were taught and practiced around camp. Kids Kamp was next on the agenda. This was our fourth year, and again it was a huge success. Twenty-five youths between the ages of 12 and 17 participated this year, a full house. We had one horse wreck that climaxed with a broken limb on the tree and the rider. A little refresher on First Aid, and search and rescue helping to transport the injured youth to medical aid, and all was back in order. The camp is five days long, and each youth is responsible for taking care of his animal. The camp was held at a ranch owned by Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Several classes were given for all. LNT Campfires, preparations for a trip, proper hoof cares for stock, and compass

use. Games are incorporated in almost all the training so the youths can practice what they have learned and have fun too. For the work, we cleared a couple of miles of trail. The youths were very impressed as we rode through our accomplishments and wanted to do more.

In July, we finished a RAC signing project that was started in 2004 for the NezPerce N. F. in the Rapid River Drainage. The temperatures were extreme, but we were able to complete the project with only one animal getting stressed, and all of us glad we were working to higher elevations where it was only in the 90-degree range. We moved our Poker Ride to private property near Anatone. The thinking was a new location and the chance of having better weather than on the Fordyce Trail. Well, it was a big success for the weather, no rain or threatening rain, but we were pushing the century mark in temperature, so the turnout was disappointing.

In August we rode the perimeter of the Elk Fence between Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Umatilla N.F. and private property to do minor repairs and report major damage to the game department. Much of the fence has burned in the last two years, so we did not have as many miles to check this year.

We had a fun ride on Craig Mountain in October. Our destination being Frye Point, to see the herd of Elk we had seen a couple weeks earlier. The herd of 300 ended up being only about a dozen this trip, but we still had a great time and fantastic weather.

November, we did a work project for Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game on a new piece of property they purchased, Redbird Canyon, which accesses the Snake River. This is a low elevation place to ride close to Lewiston. The project was rolling up old wire and pulling fence posts to make the area safer to use. The end of the month was a fun ride on Fordyce Trail in the Asotin Creek drainage and a chili feed. It was a mere 17 degrees at the trailhead, so the riders did not complete the whole loop ride, but they enjoyed the chili and campfire tremendously.

We finished the year with our annual meeting, election of new officers, and dinner at the Lewiston Eagles lodge. Gifts were again collected and given to toys for tots.