



BROOMTALES



Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc. Newsletter
Fall 2021



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View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE

—Chris Reed, BCHI Chairman

As our year comes to an end, we need to start looking towards next year. As we're looking at next year's projects, we need to start planning and thinking of how we can educate the public on who we are and what we do. Because it's the easiest way to get more members. Which means more funds for the chapters. And more help for all the projects.

I would encourage each chapter to try to figure out a way in their area to train the general public, not just the horse world, but everybody, on who the Backcountry Horseman of Idaho are and why we are so important to our state and our country. As an organization, we offer a great public service that benefits everyone that goes out and uses the trails in our great state.

Thank you for everything you do; keep up the good work!

"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." Betty Reese



2022 BCHI State Convention

Hosted by Cache Peak - March 18 & 19
Best Western Plus Burley Inn & Convention Center
800 N Overland Ave in Burley, Idaho 83318

For the Convention:

- A registration packet will be placed on the BCHI website, and all chapters will be sent one packet
- Chapters may donate an auction item to Cache Peak; however, Cache Peak is not requesting chapter donations
- Cache Peak has arranged with motels for rooms at reduced prices:
Budget Motel \$59 (800)760-7718 Best Western Plus \$89 (208)678-3501

Contacts: Cari Chandler 208-312-5849 & MaryAnn Shaff 208-431-2278

**Save
the
Date**



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO



MISSION STATEMENT

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

To work to ensure that public land remains open to recreational stock-use.

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

To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of these resources by horsemen and the general public.

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

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc.

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Salmon, Idaho 83467

For more information about Back Country Horsemen of Idaho state chapters, visit us on the web at:

www.bchi.org

Broomtales is the membership newsletter of the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc., a non-profit service organization, and is published three times a year—Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Front Cover—After a day of clearing the Porter Creek Trail, Project Leader Doug Jones leads the crew out; here, he's followed by members Bill Murphy and Bill Bell.

Back Cover—Bill Bell's mules drink in Elk Creek, Bear Valley, which they crossed on their way back to camp after a day of clearing on the Porter Creek Trail.

Education Report

—Lisa Deas, Education Chairman

Hello from your New Education Chair! I hope you have all had a fun and safe summer. I found myself up in New Meadows for the State Board meeting. It was great to put names to faces! What did I learn? Well first, I have much to be thankful for to Marybeth Conger. It is going to take BIG BOOTS to even begin to scratch the surface of all the projects she and Karen have successfully completed.

What does the future hold for the Education side of the house? My first step was to setup a Facebook page for the State. We have reached over two hundred folks in the first 24 hours. Social media is a love/hate relationship. I love how many people I can reach with our organization but sometimes I hate having to monitor the pages I administer for compliance, spammers, fake accounts, advertisers, etc. But work is work!!

I want to share a story about social media. In 2015, I experienced my first wildfire. My ex, my oldest son and my grandkids lost everything. Jeeps, trucks, all household items, saddles—luckily our horses and mules that were set loose, returned unharmed. I setup a GoFundMe to help pay for expenses. Through social media I raised over \$10,000 in four days! So personally, I have found gratitude and success on social media. Let us make this work to our advantage as well. **Outreach, new members, retention, and education should be our focus.**

I plan to contact all the Education chairs and gauge each chapter's educational needs or wants. I am reaching out to large equestrian groups on Facebook and am considering the software Constant Contact as an e-news blast to deliver weekly updates on Who We Are and What We Do. I created a "recruitment" poster and some old-fashioned flyers to post on local bulletin boards, and I am ready to work on any projects and publications chapters might need.

How can I help your chapter? I am listening carefully and ready to help!

Thank you to each volunteer, whether you are a sawyer, an LNT trainer, trail riders, serving on boards or there to help, I thank you. You are appreciated and valuable to our organization. There is plenty of room at our table. Take a seat and ride with us!

Lisa can be reached at: 831-402-7482 or muledaze@yahoo.com



**Cache Peak is
changing things up!**

**Get On Those
Displays, Partner!**



Chapter Display Themes for 2022 Convention

Contest Categories— History of Chapter—1st place wins \$250 & Traveling Trophy
Memorial to Members Passed—1st place wins \$125
New Trails/Projects of 2021—1st place wins \$125

Chapters, let Nancy Ady, 208-260-1452, know which category your chapter is entering, and if you need electricity, by Feb. 28, 2022.

Each chapter will have a 3.5' x 6' table.

The 2021-2022 BCHI Officers

The photo below was taken at the March 2021 Board of Directors' Meeting. From left to right: Debbie Samovar, Secretary; Joe Brinkman, Alternative National Director; Aline Brinkman, Vice-Chair; Chris Reed, Chairman; Pat Bogar, National Director; Kay Ryan, Treasurer; and Rod Parks, Past Chair. We are all grateful to those who volunteer for BCHI positions. They keep our wheels turning.



At the March BOD Meeting

The 2021 Board Meetings

In March, our first Board of Directors' meeting was hosted by Treasure Valley BCH in Caldwell at the U of I Education Building. At this time, our new Chairman and Vice-Chair were elected and immediately took office. In September, Heartland BCH hosted the second and last board meeting of the year in New Meadows at the Community Center.

A hearty "Thank you" is extended to the TVBCH and HBCB chapters for welcoming BCHI members from around the state and providing comfortable accommodations for these important meetings.



September BOD Meeting

Are You Leaving No Trace? Using weed-free hay, and the consequences for not



Sonya Allen, TVBCH, meets Oprah and Ebby after they've dined on certified hay.

—by AJ Millington, with information from invasivespecies.idaho.gov and Jade Sumsion, USFS Law Enforcement Officer & Patrol Captain

“Forage used on Idaho USFS and BLM lands MUST be certified as noxious weed-free. A person cannot possess any non-certified forage, straw, or mulch on Idaho USFS and BLM lands. Baled or compressed hay and forage (hay) cubes are considered forage. Possessing non-certified forage, straw, or mulch on these Idaho public lands is subject to penalty.”

The consequences of using non-certified hay: Citations issued AND invasive species that overwhelm habitats. As to the second, we should all know by now that noxious invasive plants quickly spread, pushing out native species that are the natural forage for the native fauna—Think cheat grass!

I asked Jade Sumsion, who patrols the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth ranger districts, if he and his crew find people using non-certified hay. Yes, he answered; he issues “3-5 monetary citations a year”, and he can cite persons with fines of up to \$5,000. Jade believes in what he is doing, as “Idaho spends millions to irradiate noxious plant species every year.” Jade told me that he once discovered a rider “recycling” weed-free baling twine and stickers—Whoa Nelly! I wonder how much that fine was.

So, what qualifies as certified noxious weed-free? The following products meet the Idaho USFS and BLM NWFF&S requirements: “State Certified Noxious Weed Free Hay, Cubes, and Straw. Pelletized feed meets the Idaho USFS requirements and is not required to be certified because the pelletizing process (heat) destroys seed viability. Furthermore, the ISDA recommends *pre-feeding* your animals State Certified Noxious Weed-Free Forage (hay or cubes) or pellets 48 hours (3 days) prior to entering public lands. It is also suggested before leaving home, to thoroughly brush down your stock’s coats and clean hooves to remove potential seeds.”

A Chapter Provides Certified Hay for Its Members on Projects

—Having recently learned that Squaw Butte buys certified weed-free hay for its members’ use, I asked Rob Adams to tell me more about it:

“Certified hay is used on all Squaw Butte BCH projects that involve camping. If it is a day project, we don’t provide hay. No chapter member is ever charged for hay, but we do encourage every member on a project to have a bag of pellets in their trailer as insurance and to supplement the chapter certified hay. We only get alfalfa hay, so if a member wants to feed certified weed-free grass hay, they have to provide their own.

First, we determine how many stock are coming to an event using our reservation system (members sign up online for every event/project). If more hay than what I can carry on my trailer hay rack (5) is needed, I make arrangements for another member to pick up more. If I am not going on a project, again I make arrangements with whomever is leading the project to pick up hay. The hay has been stored for the last 10 years in both Phil Ryan’s and my barns.

Dan Walton from Emmett is a long-time supporter of BCHI and gives us a deal on his certified hay. He also provides hay to many of the outfitters and the USFS. Unused hay gets returned for a future project; open bales tend to go home in someone’s trailer. We have been doing this for at least the last 15 years.

I am not sure who first had the idea, but it has been a great success. Forty (40) bales seem to be the sweet spot for our chapter; we had three left over from last year (the 2021 season) plus the 40 purchased this year; so, we are ready for next year. Both Phil and I had extra space in the barn to keep it under cover and in good shape.”

Tom Zahradnicek, Squaw Butte, joined Treasure Valley for a project in Bear Valley this summer. He brought along the inside drum from a washing machine. It made a very neat, contained firepit (picture below), one that could be grilled on, and it made for an easy clean-out.



Leaving No Trace—Campfire Essentials

—A few fundamentals about using campfires in the backcountry

“Stoves have become essential equipment for minimum-impact camping. They are fast, flexible and eliminate firewood availability as a concern in campsite selection. Stoves leave no trace and operate in almost any weather condition.” However, if you must start a fire, consider this:

A true Leave No Trace fire shows no evidence of having been constructed: If a fire ring was built, scatter rocks, **naturalize the area before leaving**, or use a well-placed existing fire ring; do not build another. **Using a mound fire or pan fire is best.**

Gather wood over a wide area away from camp. Leave dead trees, whether standing or fallen, as they provide habitat for species and nutrients for the soil. Use only branches the size of your wrist or smaller. **Don’t bring wood from another area; source firewood locally.**

Use water, not dirt, to extinguish fires. Burn all wood to white ash, thoroughly soak with water, grind small coals to ash, and **scatter the remains over a large area away from camp.**

Information from Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

Bridge Repair in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

—Twin Rivers BCH, article by Rod Parks

On Sept. 19th through the 21st, six members of Twin Rivers BCH and one member of BCH of North Central Idaho met at Pittsburg Landing on the Snake River and loaded our gear and lumber, for the bridge repair, onto a Forest Service boat and headed up to Bernard Creek to set up camp in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Bernard Creek is on Snake River National Recreation Trail #102. We spent the morning of the 19th getting our gear up to the campsite and setting up camp; it began raining just as we started hauling our gear. Later, as we ate lunch, a rainbow provided a scenic view down river.

Prior to the bridge assembly, it was decided that we should cut the lumber on the river bank for easier hauling up the bank to the worksite. Four members worked on cutting the lumber and hauling it to the work site while the other three made fast work of stripping the bridge to the stringers. A long day, but rewarding. The next day we started rebuilding the bridge and finished hauling the last of the boards up from the river. We were like little beavers working away and had the bridge completed by five that evening. Upriver from the bridge, a short distance, is the McGaffee Cabin; constructed around 1905, it is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

On the last day, we tore down camp and hauled our gear and tools to the river bank. While we waited for the boat to pick us up, we saw some big horn sheep! Other wildlife that visited us at camp included a doe and fawn, a flock of turkeys, and a bald eagle. With the boats arrival, we loaded our gear and headed back to Pittsburg Landing and the drive home. Those that made the project have some great memories and had a great time. The pictures, below l-r, show the progression of the bridge repair.

Melina and Ardel



Lorelei, Melina, Don, Matt, Ardel & Rod



Matt, Don and Melina



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Two Trips to Clear the Burned-out Porter Creek Trail

—Treasure Valley BCH, information from Doug Jones & Alice Millington

Due to the large volume of downed trees left by multiple fires in the area, TVBCH planned two separate project dates to clear the Porter Creek Trail in Bear Valley in the Frank Church Wilderness, where it meets the spur trail up to Bernard Lake. (To find Bear Valley, take FS Road 579 off Hwy 21, approx. 25 miles from Stanley, ID.)

With a crew of 11, our first trip, June 23-27, was focused on clearing the trail sufficiently enough that it was identifiable and would allow safe passage for both equine users and hikers to access Bernard Lake. This required us to leave several downed trees that could be easily crossed over by users. However, due to the amount of work, we were only able to clear to within an estimated quarter- to one-half-mile of the Bernard Lake Trail. We would finish on our second trip.

During the second trip, we focused on clearing those trees we had left on the ground during the first trip, then move on to the remaining, uncleared section of the trail leading up to the Barnard Lake Trail as time allowed. During this trip we encountered the Montana Conservation Corps ("MCC") who were rebuilding tread, as well as clearing trail. Because the trail had not been cleared in several years, the tread was almost unidentifiable in the open meadows; it had filled in with native grasses. The MCC did a fantastic job rebuilding the tread and subsequently moved beyond the sections that were easily passable, where we had left downed trees, and were working on new sections of the trail in the same area we had been. The MCC was aware we were returning to finish clearing those sections.

Total trail cleared between both trips was estimated to be between 7 ½ and 8 ½ miles, completed in 6 days of actual clearing. We are optimistic that the MCC finished the last half-mile to a mile to Bernard Lake as TVBCH was unable to do so in the time allotted. The chapter tries to visit Bear Valley every year, and we will return in 2022 to keep this trail open.

Participants enjoyed a relaxing ride with beautiful scenery the six days we rode to the stretch of trail to be cleared. The challenges were short lived: 2 or 3 small boggy trail crossings. The only mishap: a rider's horse stepped into a small bog crossing and went down with his rider, who were both fine, just wet, after the incident. We circled up to talk very evening, and enjoyed potluck dinners on both trips, which made for long, fun evenings with good conversations, great food, and Dutch-oven desserts.



Above: Ron Doupe and Doug Jones

Steve Sanderson Bill Bell



Jim Smolinski Doug Jones



Patty Pennington



Cheryl Bice

A Pack Trip Reorganized: Riding in the beautiful Panhandle NF

—Palouse BCH, story by Obsidian Van Zant

We had planned a 3-day pack trip for August 6th-8th. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing fire danger, this was cancelled. Some of us were very disappointed and decided to see if some aspect of the trip and preparation could be salvaged. It was decided that we would go camping at Big Creek CC Horse Camp along the Saint Joe River in the Panhandle National Forest.

We spent two days riding beautiful trails through the forest, mountains, and along the river. The first day, we rode almost 16 ½ miles round trip to a hunting cabin nestled deep in the mountains where we had lunch before returning to camp. On the second day, we had a relatively short trail ride of 6 ¾ miles. While we had packed equipment to clear trails, fortunately the equipment was not needed this time. In the end, it was just a beautiful ride through the forest. The train consisted of 6 mules and 4 horses. The members on the ride were Chris Reed, Dave Coleman, Dan Budvarsen, Jerry Blaine Reese and me.



Obsidian



Jerry



Dave



Chris



Dan

The Prairie Creek Ride: We camped, rode, and cleared trail—Perfect!

—Cache Peak BCH, story by Mary Ann Shaff

On July, 20, Mary Ann Shaff, Susan Branch, and Karen Ambrose met in Shoshone, Idaho, to travel to the Prairie Creek Trailhead to scout out some camping areas. Prairie Creek is in the Sawtooth National Forest and in the Ketchum Ranger District, north Ketchum. As we drove up the Prairie Creek Road, we were disappointed to find that some of the old camp sites we had used had been bulldozed and huge rocks placed so that there was no access to the sites. We did find an area which we thought would be suitable for about 6-7 horse trailers. On August 5th, the three of us, along with Susan's husband Les, returned to secure the camp site for Cache Peak members who would begin arriving on Friday the 6th.

On Friday afternoon, after about 2 hours of rain, we saddled up and rode to find the old trail to the 4-H camp, a fun ride. After about an hour of searching, we found it, then returned to camp for dinner and bed. While we were out riding, more Cache Peak members had arrived and set up camp.

Early Saturday morning, we headed up to the Prairie Creek trail head about a mile from our camp. Eight riders: Susan, Les, Mary Ann, Karen, Jim Pierce, Holly Imbach, Larry Gulick, and Kent Jensen signed in and headed up the trail. Nancy McAfee caught up with us about halfway to Prairie Lake. It was an enjoyable ten-mile round trip ride, and due to the rain, there was no dust. Yay! After we passed the new trail to Mill Lake and the trail up to Minor Lake we headed on to beautiful Prairie Lake.

We knew that a group had cleaned the trail in July so expected no work. That was not to be as we shortly encountered a large tree across the trail. Jim, Les, Larry, and Kent quickly went to work to clear it off the trail. Larry secured the remaining tree trunk and pulled it off the trail with his horse. I am sure the bikers coming behind us appreciated it.



Above: Jim Pierce and Larry Gulick



Les and Sue

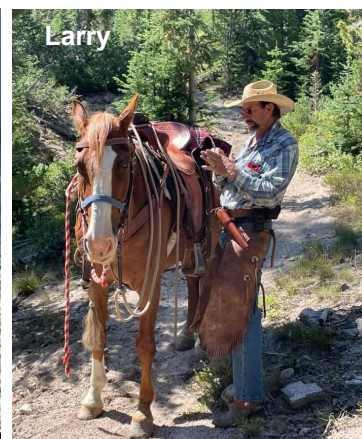


Holly

Nancy



Karen and Mary Ann



Larry

When the work is done, the leader has a tough trip through paradise

—Salmon BCH, story by Celeste Bingham

Salmon River BCH cleared Wagonhammer this year before the smoke filled the valley all summer and the temperature skyrocketed with record heat. But when the smoke cleared, and the temperature was once again in the 80s, or less, members also cleared Carl Gulch, 2.5 miles of uphill trail, of 16 logs and lots of brush; Thunder Mountain, a historic trail, which had huge trees down and required several days to clear; Moccasin Trail, another trail requiring over 200 trees be cut out over 3 miles—an addition one-mile was cleared during the Mud Lick fire by fire fighters. In addition, Moose Creek Trail (the old Stock trail) was cleared of over 150 trees before the same crew tackled the B Light Trail for a second time, going back to clear a large tree that proved too big for the chain saw—over an hour, Chris French and Dana Tucker managed to cut up and move it out.

As we were riding back from clearing the B Light Trail, our last trail clearing, Dana Tucker, Heidi Tucker, and myself were leading our stock off the hill as Chris French rode up ahead on a mare that had been perfect all day...except, now, suddenly, when she looked at a rock, ducked her head and threw Chris off in a tremendous buck. He landed on a rock. When we caught up to him, one boot was off, along with his hat, he was bleeding from his forehead and in pain somewhere in the shoulder area - he thought. Dana, a former fire fighter, quickly assessed Chris's condition. Chris thought he could walk, but soon decided riding down to the trucks was a better option...we could tell he was in a lot of pain, but he just said to "keep going". Chris was taken to the ER, then to Idaho Falls, and is now recovering at home from surgery to repair damage from a broken C7. Chris is a cattle rancher, the Salmon River BCH President, and one tough individual. He plans to be back in the saddle soon, attending to his ranching chores.



Heidi Tucker and Karen French on Moccasin Trail.

A “Great Team Effort”—partnering with Teton Basin Ranger District

—Teton Valley BCH, story by Lacy Garton

On August 7, Teton Valley BCH teamed up with the Forest Service (FS) personnel of the Teton Basin Ranger District to clear Grizzly Creek Trail in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. At a secluded trail head north of Teton Valley, Idaho, the BCH crew prepared for the overnight pack trip. There were two objectives for this service project: to clear trail and to assist the FS crew that was already high up in the mountains—the BCH crew would be picking up all the equipment for the crew and packing it down trail to set up a new camp for easier trail access.

The morning started with an extensive packing tutorial and instruction on packing all five mules that would be used to haul equipment and camping gear. Knowledge was shared on the sawbuck and decker pack saddles, using different types of panniers, the importance of weight distribution, and of course, the importance of knot-tying both on the pack animals and on how to tie the pack animals together. Teton Valley BCH President, Melissa Pangraze led this informative demonstration.

The day was clear with blue skies and sunshine. The group rode about 3 miles into Fire Hole Meadow, where camp would be set up. A few riders continued up Grizzly Creek to scout and determine where the trail clearing would begin the next day. A few others went to meet the FS crew and other volunteers, to retrieve all the FS equipment and move it to the new camp.

The following day, the BCH crew enjoyed a day of clearing trails, eating huckleberries, and working side-by-side with the FS crew. It was a great team effort and an accomplishment of doing what we love... spending time with our horses and mules while clearing trails and packing in our beautiful back country for all to enjoy! Thank you to our BCH crew and volunteers: Melissa Pangraze, Chris Runyan, Caeden Greene, Ralph Mossman and Mary Mullaney!



Melissa Pangraze leading the pack string.



Packing Special Cargo—stocking lakes with cutthroat trout

—information from Tim Palmer, Eagle Rock BCH member



Idaho Fish & Game reported that “Thousands of fingerling trout have recently made their way into high mountain lakes on horseback thanks to the help of the Eagle Rock Back Country Horsemen.”

In September, members Jim White and Tim Palmer stocked three high mountain lakes in the Pioneer Mountains of South Central, ID. The trip was 13 miles long, and they climbed 3,000 ft to reach all of the lakes. The Pioneers are Idaho’s 2nd tallest range with Standhope Peak at 11,863 ft.

Tim said that the fish planted were Westslope Cutthroat. Their fish bags each contained around 500 fingerlings and 2 bags are put inside a large garbage sack placed in each canvas pannier. Then ice is dumped in to keep them cold. They each had two pack animals and weights were about 100lbs per animal. Once they got to the lakes, there were no trees to tie to, so they tied to rocks and hobbled their stock.

Tim said that it was a great experience, “I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help with this.” A nice pack trip with a great mission.



Packing-in the Montana Conservation Corps

—Squaw Butte BCH, story by Rob Adams

In Mid-July, Adam Larson, PNF Trails Supervisor, contacted Squaw Butte BCH and asked if we would consider doing a drop camp for an Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) crew working on the Twenty-Mile Creek Trail near upper Payette Lake, north of McCall. The pack-in date, August 3rd; pack-out date, August 24th. “Yes”, we said. The MCC crew of six would be working from this base camp for two weeks, so we would pack quite a bit of food, plus 90-pounds of hand tools, a chainsaw, and support gear.

Phil Ryan and I met the MCC Leads, Eve Hickey and Dylan Barker, and the rest of the crew at the Twenty-Mile trail head Tuesday morning at 07:30. The five pack stock were saddled, and once the gear was unloaded from their truck, a briefing on load-building was followed by the MCC crew helping build and hang loads. The biggest challenge to packing was the large pile of hand tools, including sledgehammers, picks, Pulaski’s and a rock bar they would need. The tools were distributed between two canvas manties that, once lashed up, weighed in at 46 and 47 pounds and were basket-hitched to one of my pack horses.

By 08:30, everything was loaded and Phil and I were heading down the trail for a ride just over 6 miles to a meadow that was the crew’s planned camp site. We made good time, averaging a bit over 3 mph, arriving by 10:30, had the stock unloaded, and were heading back to the trail head by 11:00. The gear was left at a good site, a great camp with dry, level ground for their tents, easy access to water, and two nice pools for a dip after a hard day of trail work.

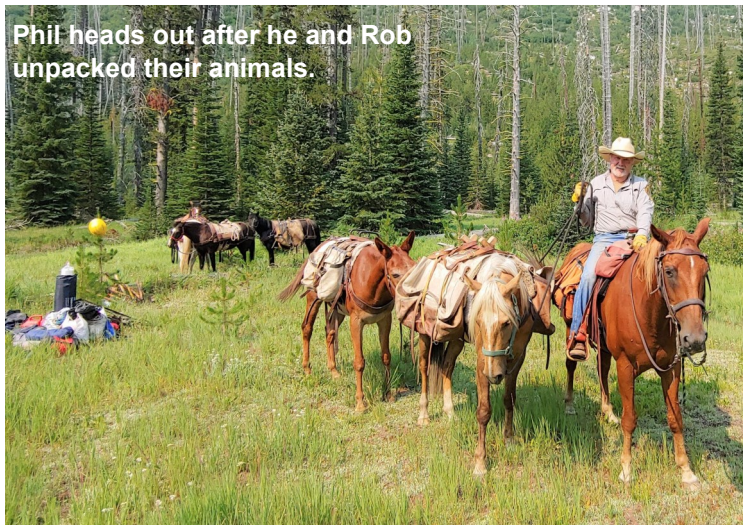


Rob's pack animals, loaded for the trip in .



The MCC crew listens while packing instructions are given.

Phil heads out after he and Rob unpacked their animals.



On Monday, August 9th, Phil, Dan Waugh, and I met at the Twenty-Mile Creek TH and were in the saddle by 07:40, heading in to do the pack-out. The temp was in the 50's, and our stock felt like they were on Meth! It took a while to get the jog out of them, but we made good time and reached the MCC camp by 09:25. We unloaded the empty bags and the MCC crew jumped into action, building loads and weighing them. By 10:00 the loads were built, hung, and we were heading back. In a meadow, a short distance from their camp, the stock alerted us, and Dan said, “Rob, look there is a cow moose to your left.” He was right—not 50 feet from the trail was a cow slowly walking away from us in the willows. We looked for a calf, but didn't spot one. A short distance further we met some dirt bikers who let us pass with their engines shut down. By noon we were back at the trailers and unloading. By 13:00, stock had been loaded and we headed home.

The MCC crew were a great group, doing excellent trail work with the energy of youth, who enjoyed learning a bit about packing and thanked us for packing the load for them.

Cleaning a Gelding's Sheath—A Must Do

Duke is my new trail horse—a gelding, nine, stout, quirky, personable, and so far, safe on the trails. So, on one of our first trail rides together, I was perplexed when he suddenly stopped walking, then walked, then stopped again...we did finish the ride, but why did he need to stop? I thought, perhaps, that he needed to urinate, but could not. Soon after the ride, I started connecting the dots...

In the two months I'd had Duke at my place, I'd never seen him pee; there were splatters of dried urine on his back legs; and I'd never seen him “let down”, drop—the latter two, possible signs of smegma build-up and a “bean”. Couple these with the fact that his care had been neglected in the past led me to make a vet appointment.

A few days later, Keith Ruble, DVM, did a thorough job of sheath-cleaning. And, you should have seen the smegma that came out of Duke's sheath; Keith removed large flakes and deposits of black, sticky smegma stuck to Duke's penis, clearly the reason he would, or could, not drop. Oh, and the smell!—at least I could stand back. Keith got a good-sized bean out of the tip of Duke's penis; now, Duke pees in a healthy stream, not a spray. So, was this the reason he stopped on the trail? Pretty sure. Now, he pees when he has the urge (I see him) and he is able to drop. Problem solved, it seems.

Though a build-up of smegma is normal in geldings' sheaths, sometimes it creates problems, as in Duke's case. Every horse is different; it's important to be in tune with your horse's behavior. Do they camp out, but don't pee immediately; do they spray when urinating; are they able to pee when stressed (normal for them & us)? My vets have always suggested a yearly sheath cleaning. Go online; there is a lot of information on the subject, with some warnings about, as well as the benefits of, cleaning.



Duke is owned by AJ Millington



Sharing the trail with mountain bikes, how do we do it?



With the dramatic increased use of multi-user trails by mountain bikers in recent years, issues between hikers and bikers and equestrians and bikers have risen exponentially—just Google the topic to see a multitude of articles about the very vocal responses by hikers and stock users towards cyclists, and vice-versa... and the forums held and studies done to try and solve problems created by the increased presence of mountain bikers. What creates the conflicts? In part, the perception that mountain bikes are more damaging to trails and the speed at which cyclists travel. Can multi-use trails be problem-free? Probably not. But, according to many, closing trails to a user group is not sustainable. Read the following article to see what equestrian groups in and around the Treasure Valley did to address this problem.

Sign of the Times—A coalition increases safety and harmony among trail users

—Article by Boise BCH members Ann Potcher and Jill Mohn



The Wilson Creek Travel Management Area, located 40 miles south of Boise, is composed of 28,800 acres within the 261,000-acre Owyhee Front with a substantial non-motorized single-track recreation multi-user trail network, and a network of roads for off-road vehicle enthusiasts.

With the large increase of population in the Treasure Valley—Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, and surrounding cities—use of these trails has increased substantially, and so have concerns about trail maintenance, erosion, safety, and adequate parking.

In the Spring of 2021, the Idaho Horse Council's Trails and Urban Spaces Committee approached local Back Country Horsemen chapters and other horse organizations in the Treasure Valley seeking liaisons to represent the horse community's interests and concerns about various local trail systems. It was through this work that the liaison of the Wilson Creek TMA saw a need for a possible coalition because of conflicts over use: Historically, Wilson Creek had been primarily used by equestrians. Now,

we were seeing a dramatic increase in use by cyclists, and with that, gripes and conflicts grew between stock riders and cyclists. Therefore, it was obvious that a coalition should be formed to increase understanding on both sides, and address trail issues.

The Owyhee BLM Field Office was already working with a mountain bike group on sign installation projects and erosion control in the area and welcomed the collaboration between the user groups and encouraged the group in their effort to stem any future conflicts between users. Boise Back Country Horsemen contacted Treasure Valley and Squaw Butte about being a part of the coalition, and the chapters were on board. The Southwest Idaho Trail & Distance Riders also joined the coalition.

The initial meeting of the coalition was held in March of 2021. Today, a substantial effort is being made by the coalition to educate users about trail etiquette and safety concerns on the multi-use trails, in parking areas, and in rangeland practices. Moving forward, the coalition allows for the different user groups to state their concerns and work together to solve problems.

To date, work done by the coalition: "Wilson Creek Trail Coalition" Facebook page for all users; etiquette, "blind corner", and trail number signs installed by equestrians and cyclists; trail improvements/maintenance projects completed by cyclists; a Trail Ambassador Program established; and, on National Public Lands Day, a booth was set up at Wilson Creek, where volunteers worked on projects, handed out T-shirts and water to all visitors.



Above: Cheryl Bice and Mark Nebeker (TVBCH) installed trail etiquette signs.

Below: Dan Safford (BBCH) installed signs on blind corners.



They Were Riders On Remarkable Horses

—Recollections by Josette Beaumont, Treasure Valley BCH

My Grandmother was a pianist and taught piano in central Utah during the late 1920s into the 30s. At the time, her family lived at an old mine milling camp. She had to ride her horse many days a week, up to as much as 30-miles a day, to teach piano. Many times her pay was a turkey, a chicken, or whatever people had during the depression.

When she was very young, sometimes my mother would follow along on a pony with my grandmother to a lesson. My grandmother's horse, Maude, a bay Standardbred/Thoroughbred cross mare, was the horse that could do any job that needed done for anyone. She even took my 17-year old Mom, Cecil, to the "Days of 47" queen contest in Ogden, Utah, picture on left. Maude had two foals after she was 20. Pictured at right: My mom and my sister Daisy on Steeldust, a horse caught when he was about nine, off the Arizona-Utah strip in the 40s,



most likely a descendent of army remount horses turned loose when the army quit using horses. Steeldust lived to be 40.

In loving memory...

Jim Edward Mateer 1958—2021

In August, Priest River Valley BCH lost one of their own... "Jim wore so many different shoes that it will be hard to fill the void his passing has created." Jim served as President, VP, technology expert and webmaster. Outgoing, gregarious, and talented, his energy and smile will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his loving wife, Ida, his partner of 25 years. Jim wanted everyone to know that he is now "on to the next big thing."



Sherman-Campbell Funeral Services, Priest River

Val Baker Johnson 1941—2021

In November, the BCH organization lost a member who worked for years to grow the BCH organization. Val's extreme love of the backcountry and his mules were part of his DNA. In 1978, Val was instrumental in joining three Montana state chapters of Back Country Horsemen with the newly formed Salmon River Back Country Horsemen, the first in Idaho. Val, and friends, Dave Couch and Richard Smith, were the visionaries for the future Back Country Horseman of America. Val is survived by Sara, his loving wife and partner for 54 years. Happy trails, Val. Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home, Twin Falls



Back Country Horsemen of Idaho FOUNDATION



The Foundation can help you:

In March, the Foundation holds its annual meeting. Directors should submit a Reimbursement Grant form & receipt for tools and miscellany at that time. Find the form at BCHI.org.

You can help the Foundation:

Please make online purchases using AmazonSmile. Last year, purchases made through AmazonSmile netted the Foundation \$422.00 in four donations. This year, we have received \$182.00 in two donations. The holiday season is approaching...Please join us:



Chairman Tim Palmer

Sign up on AmazonSmile and make

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Foundation, Inc.
your charity of choice.

Call Alice or Tim with any questions:
208-475-4107 or 208-604-2736

Chapters are reminded to...

- Turn their public event choices and form into Corey L. Dwinell at coreysfarmers@gmail.com
- Send their Chapter Report and Project Hours Report to Aline Brinkmann at horsnrnd1@gmail.com
- Refile with the Secretary of State to maintain Active status by completing their Annual Report

Slim's Recipe for Selling Calendars

- 1 high-traffic store
- 2 BCHI friends
- 1 table & chairs
- 1 Photo display
- Greetings to taste
- Dash of confidence!

Using the recipe, Barb Baker & Alice Millington sold calendars at Albertson's in McCall, ID.



Congratulations!

2021 Calendar Raffle Winners

\$3,000 "Grand Prize" Winner:
Nancy Fox — Pocatello ID

\$500 Gift Card Winners:

Tony Karniss — Chehalis, WA
Shirley DeCora — Salmon, ID
Michael Pollman — Lenore, ID
Mark Ramsey — Sandpoint, ID
Palouse BCHI
Zach Nordstrom — Boise, ID
Charlie Nash — Melba, ID
Panhandle BCHI
Zina Webster — Lewiston, ID
Kelly Wilkerson — Emmett, ID
Buck Ott — Craigmont, ID



- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation -

Between June 2020 and June 2021,
the purchase of Idaho Trails Supporter
stickers raised \$18,000
for non-motorized trails

- Annual minimum donation \$10
- Funds go to priority projects identified by partner groups and the public
- IDPR works with partners to ensure projects are completed with an emphasis on signage & trail clearing

Go to <https://parksand recreation.idaho.gov>
then click on Support Idaho Trails to purchase

⇒ If your chapter is interested in partnering with IDPR on a trail project, contact Tom Helmer, who heads the program: tom.helmer@idpr.idaho.gov

ADVERTISE IN BROOMTALES Alice Millington (208) 475-4107 millington0606@gmail.com

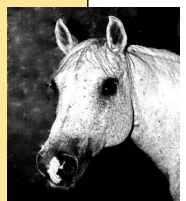
Alice may bend the rules a bit, but generally the following applies:

FREE Member Classified Ads - Equine/Back Country-related only - No Business/Service Ads

FREE Chapter Event Announcements

Business Card-Size Advertisements—Member \$25 Non-member \$50 - Larger ads can be accommodated

BCHI and the Broomtales editor are not responsible for the content of any ad or the condition or temperament of any merchandise.





BCH of Idaho, Inc.
Debbie Samovar, Secretary
9176 E Soaring Hawk Lane
Saint Maries, ID 83861
secretarybchi@gmail.com



One Packer's Odyssey—from FS Animal Packer to BCHI Member

—Recently, I had the good fortune to ride along with Jeff Halligan, expert packer and a member of Heartland BCHI, on one of his “working” rides on Brundage Mountain. What follows is a little history about his ongoing adventure, in his words. AJ Millington

“I joined the Heartland BCH chapter in the spring of 2021 after originally being introduced to them back in the mid-90s on a trail workday party on Council Mountain in the Payette National Forest. At that time, I was the trail lead for the West Zone of the Payette after spending several years working as the Krassel District Animal Packer, based out of the Chamberlin Work Center in the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness. Those days, in the late 80s and early 90s, working out of Chamberlin, I took my pack sting on an average of over 1500 miles a summer working in support of trail crews, fire lookouts, wilderness and fire crews, and made many dump runs picking up trash that was left in the backcountry from previous activities. I spent 18 years

Below: Jeff packing into the Stonebraker Ranch.



working for the Forest Service packing mules, clearing trails, and running the ever increasingly underfunded trails program. These provided many challenges, frustrations and opportunities.

When I left the FS to pursue a small business opportunity—which kept me yearning for the backcountry—I was able to take some time to do some contract trail clearing and packing, but the passion to be working in the woods was too much: We sold the small business, my wife went back to work with the FS, and I got a job working as a contract inspector for large trail projects on the Clearwater National Forest for 3 years. This was great: spending 6 months each summer living in a wall tent and packing mules and chasing contractors all over the Clearwater NF backcountry. At this same time, my wife was working on (helping to create) a non-profit that turned into a career for me for almost 8 years...The non-profit is the Idaho Trails Association.

The Idaho Trails Association works to clear non-motorized trails throughout Idaho, recruit and train volunteers, then get those volunteers into the backcountry. Being the Executive Director of ITA was a great job for me; my passion for trails and my passion for packing mules in the mountains was being fulfilled. As ITA grew, so did the need for more pack support and the recruiting of volunteers. I reached out to the Squaw Butte chapter and received a lot of help during those growing years. (We could use the FS packers in areas where they had one, but those are getting few and far between.) ITA became an important partner with the land managers and continues to be one. I retired as Executive Director in December of 2020. I felt now would be the time to join a BCH chapter and help them become an active partner in the management of our public lands. I'm excited to be on board and looking forward to meeting and working with folks across the state.”



Above: Jeff with his go-to horse, Dusty, a Morgan.