

# BROOMTALES

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, Inc. Newsletter  
Spring 2022



Invitation from Cache Peak BCHI to the  
**2022 BCHI BOD Meeting & Convention - BCHI Foundation Meeting**

*- Look inside for these articles -*

Education: Leave No Trace

Packing Chainsaws, Cross-cut Saws, and Hand Saws into the Backcountry

BCHI Members Experience the Arizona Desert - Ouch!

BCH-NCI Gives to the Foundation, Pack Clinic To-Do List, and more...





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## View from the CHAIRMAN'S SADDLE

First off, let me welcome you to 2022. As we plan for our projects and goals for 2022, let's not forget to make a check of everything that we need. First and most importantly, YOU!

Second, remember we need to make sure our equine friends are ready for anything we might have planned for them. We need to make sure all of our tack and tools are in good working order. If we take a little time this spring, before we get busy, it will help us stay safe and productive throughout this year's projects.

I cannot express, enough, how honored I am to be part of such a great group of people. Everything this organization accomplishes is something for all of us to be completely proud of.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR  
GOAL TO BE PROUD OF YOURSELF.  
BE PROUD OF EVERY STEP YOU TAKE IN  
REACHING THAT GOAL.

Chris Reed  
BCHI Chairman



## Show Up!

If you love riding your stock and you believe in the mission of the Back Country Horsemen, *Show Up!*



Plans, meetings, projects and events only work for us if we *Show Up*. So, Show Up for events and projects. Become involved and make a *thoughtful* contribution to provide help and support. "Grab the bull by the horns" and learn: *Show up* for the state organization or your chapter by volunteering for a position—become the expert at gathering and sending information; become the expert in recording volunteer hours; become the expert at tracking and recording financial information; become the expert at using a saw; become the expert at putting on a clinic, etc. Feelings of accomplishment naturally cause more engagement and higher motivation...and it feels good to know something about something!

*"80% of success is just showing up."* Woody Allen



## 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.**  
P.O. Box 513  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

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

**[www.bchi.org](http://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**—Members of Cache Peak BCH up at the Pioneer Cabin, near Hailey, ID, where they had finished doing some long-needed clean up and repair work. **Back Cover**—Cache Peak President Mark Ottman at the headwaters of Goose Creek near Oakley, ID.

### Why We Teach Leave No Trace (LNT)

As outdoor enthusiasts, BCH members are keenly tuned into our precious public lands. We are the stewards and safekeepers of our most beloved natural resources. So why the need for Leave No Trace? I do not want to “sing to the choir”; my experience with BCH is that members are fully informed, perform due diligence, educate, and show by example the Leave No Trace ethics. Then why do we spend the time and money to teach LNT? Idaho is being flooded with many, many other transplants. Most of these people are fleeing states that do not align with the lifestyle and policies that Idaho has to offer. A majority of the newcomers to Idaho are what I refer to as “**front country folks**.” Many are from large cities with little to no knowledge of how to care for the great outdoors—You can tell by the amount of garbage, toilet paper, unattended fire pits, illegal trails, rude behavior, lack of trail etiquette... **THESE** are the folks who need Leave No Trace training.



**For these reasons, I teach Leave No Trace. Let us take a moment to review the Seven Principles:**



- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

I am sure each and every one of you have had, or know of, an experience or accident that resulted in “Lessons Learned.” None of us are immune from a trail slipping beneath us, or a startled horse, to confronting an ATV that whipped out of nowhere, and a million other issues we encounter on the trail, but can we minimize our risk? **YES** we can. Should we make ourselves available to others that could use our knowledge and skillset? **YES** we should.

**Consider a 5-minute mini LNT session** at your monthly meetings just in case a new member or interested potential member is in attendance. Start at the beginning with the first of the principles, **Plan and Prepare**. Planning and preparing for any of our trail rides will:

—**Help ensure the safety of groups and individuals.** *Call ahead and/or check the website for that specific Ranger District and know if trails are open, their condition, and if weather is good. (Overnight camping was banned at Kennally Creek CG the summer of 2020 because of bears in the campground; however, campers showed up and left food on tables, exacerbating the problem.)*

—**Prepare you to Leave No Trace and minimizes resource damage.** *Learn about a fire ban or scarce firewood in the area. (Last year, a TVBCH member camped in two places where people had girdled pine trees by using them for hatchet throwing practice. She could only think that it must have been uneducated newcomers to camping in the mountains.)*

—**Contribute to accomplishing trip goals safely and enjoyable.** *Do you know how to keep your food out of the reach of wildlife? (Sadly, in 2021 a family out hiking was not prepared, for extreme heat and died in the Sierra Nevada's for lack of hydration.)*

—**Increase self-confidence and opportunities for learning more about nature.** *Do you know the difference between a coyote's tracks from that of a wolf's? Know where drinking the water from a natural source will hurt you, and where it won't.*

*If you need more information about LNT, I can help. Do you have a group that might be interested in a Train the Trainer Course? If so, please reach out to me and I can organize and conduct training.*

**In summary, why do we teach Leave No Trace? Because it is the right thing to do, and it may even save a life.**

### The Back Country Horsemen of North Central Idaho Chapter Passes on a Generous Monetary Grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

—A Letter to Foundation President Tim Palmer:

In the summer of 2021, the Back Country Horseman of North Central Idaho completed several weed spraying projects on the Nez Perce/Clearwater National Forests. Our chapter members sprayed weeds on three different occasions in the Selway and Lochsa River drainages. We used 18 different individuals and spent 137 man-hours with a combination of backpack, ATV, UTV and horse mounted sprayers, spraying 445 gallons of mixed herbicide, and spot spraying noxious weeds. Our chapter members have done this project for several years now and will continue to do so going forward.

By completing this project, we fulfilled an agreement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and will be receiving a \$3,000 grant. So that our chapter does not incur a taxable event, we asked the RMEF to send our check to the BCHI Foundation.

At our chapter meeting last night, our members voted to contribute the entire \$3,000 to the Foundation. We would like to see this money given to chapters who request funding for weed spraying activities (chemicals, horse spraying/ATV/ backpack sprayer equipment, etc.) We earned this money spraying weeds and we'd like to see it used by other chapters spraying weeds on public lands in their local areas.

Should you have any questions regarding this donation from the BCH-NCI (and RMEF) to the BCHI Foundation, please feel free to contact me or Linda Cooper, our Foundation board member.

Tod Brown, BCH-NCI Treasurer





# Cache Peak's Invitation to the 2022 BCHI BOD Meeting & Convention

"Third Time's the Charm" By Karen Ambrose, CPBCH

Cache Peak's members are hard at work planning for the 2022 BCHI Board of Director's Meeting and State Convention to be held on March 18-19. The theme for this year's convention is "Open Trails, Our Future, Our Legacy."

The BCHI Board of Director's Meeting will be held on March 18 at 8:00 am in the Pomerelle Room, and the Foundation meeting will be held on March 18 at 8:00 am in the Cassia Room in the Burley Convention Center at the Best Western Plus Hotel. Each chapter should have 2 state directors at the BOD Meeting and a Foundation director at the Foundation meeting.



Cache Peak President, Mark Ottman



Burley Best Western

The business portion of the Convention will be held Saturday, March 19 at 8:30 am in the Pomerelle and Cassia rooms. Chairman Chris Reed reminds us that all members and non-members may attend, however "only eight delegates from each chapter may vote." On Saturday afternoon, we invite members to be entertained and educated by our speakers; Charlie Liesen, renowned leather braider from Buhl, Idaho; Juan Juarez, a local agronomist from Rupert; leatherman Rick Ramsey from Heyburn; and Cheryl Bice, an Air-St. Luke's flight nurse. Cheryl will give a presentation on back country safety and 1st aid.

We hope to have an Air-St. Luke's helicopter available to look at, weather permitting, and Cache Peak will be selling raffle tickets for a helicopter ride at \$5.00 each, 1-2 tickets will be drawn for a ride around the area—buy a few and maybe you can be flying over Cache Peak or the City of Rocks.

On Saturday evening, the "No Host" bar will open at 5:00 pm, followed by a buffet dinner at 6:00 pm with lemon chicken and brisket. It is our 30th year anniversary, so plan on a special treat to celebrate many years of being a part of the BCHI. Cowboy Poet Doug Ward will be our pre-dinner entertainment and a youth group of fiddlers and cloggers will entertain us during dinner.

Following dinner there will be a lively "Live Auction" during which our auctioneer will be taking bids on a variety of great auction items which will be displayed during the convention. Be sure to pick out what you want and outbid each other to win. A Silent Auction, with lots of awesome items, will also be taking place during the Convention. Check out what will be available—many items are thanks to Treasure Valley BCH. You will have three options to pay for your auction items: cash, check, or Swipe Simple. A 3% transaction fee will be added to your total if you use Swipe Simple.



Rock arch, City of Rocks

**Chapter Displays**—There are three categories to choose from, each chapter can enter in only one:

- History of Chapter—\$250 and traveling trophy
- Memorial to Members who have Passed - \$125
- New Trails/Projects of 2021- \$125

## Photo Contest Categories—

- Animals: Horses, Wildlife, Dogs, etc. (no people in photos)
- Scenery with horses: Mountains, Lakes, Streams, etc. (no people)
- People on horses: Friends, Kids, Family, etc.
- Back Country Horsemen at Work: On projects, fundraisers, etc.

There are prizes for each category in the photo contest, and one overall People's Choice Winner—The Photo Contest Rules can be found at [bchi.org](http://bchi.org) in convention information or on Cache Peak's web page at <https://cachepeak.weebly.com>.

**Come, Join Us!** Cache Peak members invite you to join them at the 2022 Convention. Connect with old friends, and make new ones. Learn, laugh, eat good food, drink, bid, sit back and have grand time...Remember, **'Third Time's the Charm!'**

*Thank you for your commitment, Cache Peak. We'll be there!*

## 2022 BCHI BOD Meeting and Convention

Burley Best Western Plus Inn & Convention Center

800 N Overland Avenue Burley, Idaho 83318

### Board of Director's & Foundation Meetings

Friday, March 18th, 8:00am

### BCHI Convention

Saturday, March 19th, 8:30am



Information & forms: [go to bchi.org](http://bchi.org) and click on 2022 Convention



Cache Peak members



## Pack Station

### Packing saws can prove a challenge...

...we want them secure, the animal safe, and easy access. For every member who packs a saw, there is a slightly different packing method and all with good reason. On the following pages, four packers will describe how they pack chainsaws and/or crosscut saws. And, we'll learn about good handsaws to use in the back country. (All of the photos are wonderful and worth seeing; however, not all show the saws well; pay attention to descriptions.)



**Rob Adams, Squaw Butte BCH, states that his chainsaw carriers** (pictured at left) are 3<sup>rd</sup> generation. He designed his first set after observing a saw being carried on an ATV in a holder. "I ordered a couple of the ATV mounts from Amazon and mounted them on a 1/2-inch piece of plywood. I cut a 4x4 piece of wood the same length as the top of the carrier, then cut it lengthwise to form a triangle and attach that across the top of the carrier to fit against the side of the stock as a spacer to help the carrier hang correctly. The carrier is attached to the decker saddle with adjustable length straps with pack hooks. There is also a snap at the bottom that is connected to a ring on the cinch. (The women of the chapter appreciate the ease of use.) On the offside, a pack box or bag carries tools, fuel, and an AED. We carry hard hats in the blue bags behind the saws.

The crosscut (picture, top right) is carried on top of a decker on a board that is secured to the saddle in a way that keeps it out of the way, but secure and easy to mount and remove if needed. This carrier is mostly used on pack trips into the wilderness.



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## Jeff Halligan, Heartland BCH and on the Advisory Board for the Idaho Trails Association

### On packing his crosscut saws:

I pack crosscuts according to what is going on: if we are moving tools and gear a long way and don't plan on needing quick access, I pack it one way, and if we are clearing trails as we go, I pack it another. So one thing about crosscuts, they don't make them like they used to. Almost all of the saws I work with are old vintage high-end saws, made before 1950. The steel in these saws allows them to bend over packs and straighten out again, whereas newer saws bend and stay bent.

As we prepare the loads, I'll find a load that is usually a mantle load that will sit high, planned for the lead mule, or a calm mule that is close to the front. The saw needs to be in a heavy guard (I use a piece of 2-inch rubber-lined fire hose from a fire department)—I see a lot of lightweight fire hose being used, but the saw teeth can push through these. I use leather straps and buckles to secure the hose to the saw. For a long haul I'll have the saw without the handles on, rolled up into a mantle, then I'll place this load centered over the loads on the mule. When I secure the mantle loads with a Basket Hitch, there is usually a tail of unused sling rope. I use this sling rope tail to tie what some folks call a Christianson Hitch, which is a high and low wrap (Clove Hitch) around the saw about a third of the way from the center (top) of the saw, then tied off on the cinch ring. This keeps the saw secure on the saddle and doesn't allow it to bounce around. Make sure the ends of the saw are wrapped well and covered so nothing is exposed—this is the dangerous part of hauling saws.

If I am packing and sawing my way in, I use the heavy sheath made out of 4-inch rubber lined firehose that has leather straps and buckles to keep the sheath on tight with good coverage. I'll leave the handles on and use a small piece of ¼ in manila rope to tie off to the handles and to the cinch ring. You want these to hold the saw tight to the loads. I then take another piece of ¼ inch rope and loop it around the center (top) of the saw and to the arches to keep the top from moving forward or back, as just securing it to the handles will not keep it from moving, pictured above right. ***Anytime I have a crosscut in the string, I have it on a calm mule at the front of the string. That way I can have some control if things go wrong.***

### On packing his chainsaws:

When I first started packing chainsaws on mules for trail work with the Forest Service, someone had built a carrier that mounted on the arches of the decker saddle. The saw attached to it with a couple of nylon straps, with fastex buckles to secure it in place. When the saw was attached to this mount, the bar faced to the rear and was sticking out quite high in the air. When attaching the saw, I was working high over the back of the mule and in the face of the tagging mules; I found this to be cumbersome when removing the saw twenty to thirty times a day. Plus the saw would bounce and wobble around on its mount.

I talked with an old fire fighter, who also spent a lot of time packing and doing trail work, and he showed me plywood saw boxes the district had. These were pretty worn out and the wood was soaked with bar oil, gas and had been chewed up with the saw dogs and chain teeth. I took the measurements from these boxes and built another set. I liked them as the saw mounted inside the box on one side and the fuel and bar oil dolmar and tools can be on the other side to balance the load—picture on right. As I burned through my fuel supply, I would transfer items from the saw side to the fuel side as it got lighter. Also, I attached Alforjas hooks to hang the boxes but still barrel hitch them on—Picture, on right, shows the chainsaw and gear boxes, pre-alforja hooks, with boxes just hanging from straps.



(**CHAINSAWS** continued on top of page 7)

23rd Annual

## Salmon Select **Mule** Sale

Lemhi Co. Fairgrounds, Salmon, ID

**Selling 60 Quality Mules**

**Friday, April 8, 2021**

Preview: 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

Mule Race at 3:00 PM

**Mule Sale - 5:00 PM**



49th Annual

## Salmon Select **Horse** Sale

Lemhi Co. Fairgrounds, Salmon, ID

**Selling 90 Quality Head**

**Saturday, April 9, 2021**

Preview: Friday 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

& Saturday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

**Horse Sale - 2:00 PM**



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The nice thing about the boxes is that all chainsaws fit. If I'm going into Ponderosa, Doug fir, Spruce country where the trees are expected to be huge, I'll throw in the Husky 2100 with the 36-inch bar. Going into Lodgepole, or higher elevations where the trees should be smaller, I'll take the Stihl 261C. The difference in weight is about 8 pounds, but the balance is set by the amount of fuel I load. The one slight downside of this set up is the bar sticks out of the back on the box and the tagging mules can get their lead rope around it—that may cause some issues. The bar is always placed in its scabbard, and the scabbard tied on with a short rope, which keeps the scabbard from coming off while going down the trail. The advantage of these boxes is ease of access to the saw, tools, and PPE; It's easy to take the gear out and put it back in. As the fuel side gets lighter you can move things from the saw side to the fuel side to balance. The picture on left shows the bar sticking out of the box. This is a 20-inch bar; a 36-inch bar sticks out another 16 inches and gets lead ropes tangled up on it.



### **Treasure Valley Saws are Bagged for Clearing Trail**

TVBCH purchased a good pair of big and tough canvas bags (photo on right). When the chapter clears trail in the wilderness, members bend the sheath-covered crosscut saws into the bags on either side of the pack animal, handles sticking out. (The handles of each saw are tightened prior to packing.) Each saw's handles are tied together with twine to hold them in a bow shape and keep the handles sticking out of the bag. A leather strap attached to the middle, and outside, of each bag is buckled over the top of the pack saddle, keeping bags closed. Handsaws, helmets, and wedges are also carried in the bags.

### **Melanie Vining, Executive Director of the Idaho Trails Association and experienced packer** **On packing crosscut saws:**

"If I think I will need the saw on the trail, I bend it over pack boxes, handles attached. Bending it isn't ideal if it can be carried another way, like flat on top of hard panniers/boxes, but packing longer saws flat can make it hard to keep the corners from snagging or being a hazard, plus the handles have to be detached, which makes one more step before it's ready to grab and use."

For bending a saw over boxes, one can tuck the handles under the manty ropes round the hard boxes, then use short lengths of cord or rope looped around each handle to tie off to the manty and sling ropes. You can then run a piece of thin rope or cord from the front ring on the Decker to tie around the middle of the saw, mid-point between the boxes and the apex of the curve the saw makes. This helps the saw to not slide back over the load. Of course, have the teeth facing backwards and a good sheath.

For traveling with a handle-less saw lying flat on panniers, slide it diagonally under lash ropes or even the straps holding pannier lid or flap closed, then secure it. This works well. Jeff (Halligan) may cringe at this "hack" but we use short river straps to secure each end to the straps or lash rope it is slid under—easy to tighten and loosen. Again, a good sheath is key since the saw can get jostled and a loose sheath will expose teeth or even the sharp metal corner of a saw. Pictures of crosscut saws with handles bent over manty loads and pack boxes.





**Dan Waugh—among other equine-related volunteer positions, Dan is Project Coordinator for SBCH and Owner-Operator of Valkyrie Equine (Saddlery). He talks about the best hand saws:**



Handsaws are something that many of us bring into the woods. If you are like me and venture deep in the wilderness for fun, the need likely will arise where a hand saw goes from a nicety to a necessity. Likely, if you are reading this, you know the benefit of chainsaws and even crosscuts. But what about hand saws? Are they all created equal? From my experience, the answer is *certainly not*; the old saying of "you get what you pay for" most definitely applies. Chances are that a higher quality saw will cut more efficiently—meaning deeper and faster. Surprisingly, there is a lot of science in saw blades. Angles, type of steel, and factory sharpness all come into consideration. So what do I carry and why?

First, I'll start with what I would consider a decent entry level saw. In my opinion, by no means the best, but the Fanno saw works for equestrians and usually comes with a scabbard. It is likely seen strapped under fenders of saddles more often than other common saws. Typically offered by most tack shops, the Fanno #24 comes with a curved 22.5" cutting blade with a self-cleaning tooth design. (There is also a #20 with a shorter 20" cutting blade.) The blade design works well for cutting in most positions and will cut small to medium logs. They cut effectively, but will likely leave you wanting more. A quick search will find this saw available with a MSRP around \$115-\$135, depending on model. The second saw steps you into a different level of quality for about the same price as the Fanno.

The name Silky is synonymous with cutting tools in the tree pruning industry for good reason; they are incredibly sharp, use Japanese steel, and are engineered to do one thing and do it well, cut! I own two Silky saws. The first saw is the Sugoi 420 XL which features a 16.5" curved blade, which is the shortest saw I will carry. For such a short saw, it's incredibly effective and powerful. It has a stouter blade than the Fanno, with deeper and sharper teeth. One great thing about Silky saws is that they sell sharpening files designed for the teeth on specific saws, great to keep your saw in tip top condition.

Outfitters, wranglers, guides, and others who make a living in the back country will likely ever give one recommendation for a hand saw: the Katanaboy, my other Silky. The Katanaboy is a folding saw with two available blade lengths. The Katanaboy 500mm has a 19.7" cutting blade, and the Katanaboy 650 comes in with a 25.6" blade that will cut even large logs. At first



glance, I was skeptical of the efficiency and safety of a folding saw. But the way in which the blade locks together really makes it a solid unit. (One word of caution: care needed when releasing the blade; read the instructions!). When opened, this Katanaboy is 1.47 meters in length. Yes, 4.8 feet.—more than enough for a two-handed operation that Silky claims is a "Man-powered chain saw." This Katanaboy truly is the folding saw of choice for trail building experts. In my experience, the Katanaboy is second to only a high quality crosscut and, of course, a chainsaw. But, it sits at the top of any serious enthusiast's list in terms of hand saws to carry into the wilderness.



**Picture, top, left:** Top to bottom tools are Katanaboy 650, Sumoi 420XL, and Fanno #24. **Picture, above left:** Dan, who breeds Cobs and Welsh ponies, has saddled Prince, a coming 4-year old Welsh Cob gelding, mounted with Dan's Silky under the near-side fender. **Picture, above, right:** A picture of Dan's folding Silky Katanaboy with scabbards he made, which will also hold a file and a wedge.

## In Praise of the Electric Chainsaw—handle with care and get to cuttin'

—Comments by Karen Kimball, PBCH, & AJ Millington, TVBCH

**From Karen:** Our chapter won a \$500 gift certificate this past fall. We had been talking about getting an electric chainsaw—some of our older members, who clear trail, find it difficult to start up gas chainsaws, my husband being one. So with the \$500 winnings, we purchased a Stihl MSA 200C. The chapter finished it off with two batteries and a charger. We checked with a couple of members who use electric chainsaws when clearing trails and they said that the Stihl was the best one to get.



**This from Alice:** I also had trouble starting and keeping my gas-fueled saw going, do my husband purchased me a Makita electric saw last fall. The new saw came with two batteries and a charger—the batteries will work with other Makita tools we have, as well. After receiving it, I immediately went out and cut several large limbs off a Ponderosa Pine. It is so light and easy to handle that clearing trail and firewood cutting.

**A word of caution:** Although electric saws are light weight and feel and sound more like a toy, handling one is serious business as they have more torc than a gas-driven saw—touching them to chainsaw chaps can cut though the chaps, whereas the chaps will stop the bar of a gas-driven saw.



# One Chapter's Curriculum for a May 28th Pack Clinic

—Information from Melissa Pangraze, Teton Valley BCH

As we head towards springtime, and saddles get dusted off, in Teton Valley—after a very long 6-month winter, we look enthusiastically towards what fun clinics we can put on and participate in as a horse community. Every other year, Teton Valley BCH offers a one-day pack clinic, which is put on at a local horse adoption nonprofit facility called Hapi Trails, Inc ([hapitrails.org](http://hapitrails.org)). The instructors include Forest Service animal packer (me) Melissa Pangraze, as well as horse packing company owners Deb and Kevin Little from Dry Ridge Outfitters, llc. Our next horse packing clinic is scheduled for May 28, 2022. This clinic is open to our local chapter members as well as other BCHI chapter members. **To sign up, email [melissa.pangraze@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.pangraze@gmail.com).**

## The pack clinic curriculum includes the following:

### EQUIPMENT

- Saddles (Decker vs sawbuck) and Panniers (over the saddle, hard-sided, soft-sided & coolers)
- How to pack & balance loads
- Halter and pad options for packing

### MANAGEMENT OF HERD

- Appropriate pack animals to use and how to condition them *prior* to a pack trip
- Overnight restraint options—highline, side hobbles, front hobbles, picket, portable electric fence

### CAMPING

- Grass vs pellet feeding
- Management of herd (no runaways)
- Water access
- Low impact camping “best practices”

### SADDLE & HITCHES

- Demo fitting a saddle
- Demo throwing various hitches

### HANDS-ON

- Several pack animals available for practice with a variety of pannier types
- Instructors coaching different hitches
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## To Shoe or Not To Shoe...Let's try something new!

By Alice Millington, TVBCH, **Comments?** [millington0606@gmail.com](mailto:millington0606@gmail.com)

Just a few years back, traditional shoeing came under fire for being detrimental to the health of a horse's hooves. Hooves were designed to expand as they contact the ground, then contract when lifted, which keeps them healthy. Wearing a steel shoe does not allow for this. And, we all know that a healthy hoof is critical for a horse's mobility and existence—No Hoof, No Horse. What to do? In this corner we had traditional horseshoers, and in this corner we had the new barefoot educators/trimmers. But, it shouldn't be a competition between the shod and the unshod; it's what's best for the horse.

As for my steed, I know that he will probably never develop a “Mustang roll” and thick hoof; he is standing in moist ground almost half a year, the other half he needs protection against the rocks and granite scree that fill many of the trails in Valley County.

I've thought about going to boots; however, I find it daunting to think about trying to find just the right set...the set that fits like a glove, won't come off, and are easy to fasten/unfasten. Now, I am headed in another direction: Enter Golden Wings Horseshoes.

**Testing the product:** Have you noticed the ads for Golden Wings Horseshoes? (Look at the strategically-placed ad to the left.) I found these shoes advertised in Western



Horsemen, and I was impressed with the message—They are a synthetic horseshoe designed to “preserve the integrity of the entire structure of the horse from the hoof to spine with a new innovative lightweight *flexible horseshoe* that provides traction and *sole protection*”. And, they are tough. So, I'm going to try them on my horse, The Duke, this year.

The first step is contacting a shoer who will take this on. If I get past that first hurdle, I'll let you know how it worked out for me. If any of you have used these shoes, I'd appreciate an email.





# Evil Cholla, Beautiful Saguaro, Petroglyphs, & Mountains...

Arizona—A popular destination with BCH members with its colorful trails and interesting sites

## Story by Karen and Dana Bailey, Heartland BCH—

We winter in a very small town called Aguila, AZ. We do have a bit of flat riding from our site, but mountains, washes and hills are only a short distance away. We are surrounded by BLM land. The town of Wickenburg, which is known as the “Roping Capital of the World” is but 25-miles from us; it is a fun active western town. (The Baileys have met other BCH riders from Idaho: Lois and Bill Murphy, Treasure Valley, are also staying in Aguila.)

Riding in Arizona is slightly different than riding in the Northwest—the birds fly UP from the ground and most shrubs poke, rip, and stab. The wild burrows and cows may be cute, but can be very territorial, and, Oh, did I mention the cholla plant – pure evil, but the Saguaro, that is a true beauty. And believe it or not, you can get disorientated easily if you are not paying attention to landmarks or using GPS; so being prepared is very important.

You can experience riding flat 2-track roads to steep hillsides with outstanding views. If riding through pine forests is more your cup of tea, then head north to Prescott; it has the largest pine forest in the US and some amazing rock formations. Many trails in Arizona are embedded in history: you can ride the same area where Wyatt Earp chased the notorious Cowboys outside Tombstone, or to an old gold mining town where they found gold the size of potatoes in Stanton. How about visiting a stage coach massacre site, old rock corrals, or finding petroglyphs or holes in the sandstone washes where the Native Americans ground their mesquite beans? This is what excites us about riding in Arizona, plus 60+ degree weather in January isn't too bad.

## Story by Chip Lawrence, Selkirk BCH—

All of us have faced winters where we just wanted to be someplace else. Sometimes, it's the gray days, the cold, and snow, while other times it is just a strong desire to be on horseback. In our particular case, my wife favored the former issues, and I related to that last one. We chose to take a trip to Arizona, taking our stock along.

For those of us travelling from north Idaho, this meant a few horse motels or stays with friends along the way south. I started doing some research on places to stay and where to ride. When I spoke with boarding stables and horse motels, I always mentioned being a BCH member. To my very pleasant surprise, several of them said “we are too!” and offered phone numbers of people to call and ride with in their chapters.

Riding in new terrain is always best done with a “local.” I went to the East Valley BCH Chapter (Apache Junction, AZ) monthly meeting and joined (a well spent \$20). Arizona only has three BCH chapters and many of their members are snowbirds. I was introduced to two women, sitting at my table, who were from Cranbrook BC, “neighbors” to us here in Sandpoint. By joining the chapter and signing their liability waiver, I was all set to ride on a “trail recon”, a ride out to inspect and report conditions on the major

trails their chapter is responsible for with either USFS or BLM. My horse and I learned some desert trail facts really quickly on these rides....

It is difficult to accomplish “no trace” in the dry desert-terrain. The Chapter sets a limit of 10 riders on any ride. In addition to normal riding gear, every rider carries water, a metal comb, and a pair of pliers. The reason for this became eminently clear: every plant out here in central Arizona may be regarded as “a pointy or pokey thing.” From the beautiful tall Saguaro cactus, low lying barrel cactus, Teddy Bear Cholla and Agave, everything has needles of the long sharp and nasty kind. Of note were the Jumping Cholla cactus that have a tendency to leap onto a passing rider or animal just by the wind created from their near passage. The Arizonans call the metal combs “Cholla combs” and the pliers are used to remove hitchhiking Jumping Cholla. Riding gloves are definitely not sufficient protection.

The work for this chapter is also far different from dealing with the blowdowns we experience in Idaho. They spend their efforts handling washout caused erosion, moving encroaching cactus, cutting back desert trees that overgrow the trail (and steal your hat or scalp!) as well as reporting trail damage due to unauthorized users. Despite the “pointy thing” hazard, the country is beautiful and a very worthwhile experience. Beautiful rock formations, brightly colored earth patterns, native American petroglyphs as well as Spanish ones, are often trailside. When traveling, I highly recommend you contact the local BCH chapter and ride with them if you have the opportunity.



Photo above: Karen and Dana Bailey ride in Arizona.  
Photo below: Bill Murphy rides in Old Tombstone.



The Superstition Mountains as seen through Beamer's ears...Chip's horse.





## For Your Information...



### BCHI Foundation Grants in 2021

***So far, total grants awarded in the Fiscal Year ending February 28, 2022, are \$1,206.00—***

- At the March 2021 annual meeting, Teton Valley received grants totaling \$406.00 for a helmet and saw.
- Cache Peak has received grants totaling \$800.00 from grant monies received by the Foundation, earmarked for Cache Peak.

Chapters may request reimbursements for tools and materials used on 2021 projects by turning in a Foundation Grant Application and receipt/s at the 2022 Annual Foundation meeting on March 18th.

### Got Calendar Pictures?

*Debbie Samovar is looking for great photos:*  
Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall

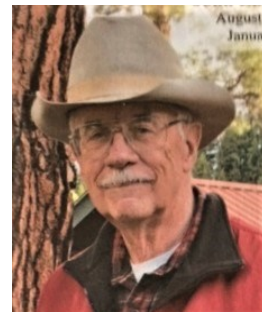
Please send them ASAP via email to:

**[secretarybchi@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybchi@gmail.com)**

## We Remember...

**John Edward Burns** August 1939—January 2022

John had many years with USFS and retired as Salmon USFS Supervisor in 1994. He served two terms as Fish and Game Commissioner. In 2000, John brought 14 mules to Salmon, thus the mules became a part of annual Salmon Select Sales. An avid member of Salmon River BCH for 30 years, he was behind many packing & training clinics.



### Calendar *Criteria* for Photos

- Pictures must be of BCHI members, and taken by A BCHI member or *for* BCHI
- Pictures can be taken in any state; however, the cover photo will be selected from pictures taken of Idaho
- Pictures must have at least one horse and/or mule to be chosen for one of the 13 large calendar pictures



### For Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Certification, Contact an Instructor, below:

- All BCHI members operating Chainsaw and/or Crosscut Saw for federal agencies are required to be Certified Sawyers.
- All members of BCHI who are interested in being trained as Certified Sawyers for federal agencies, contact an instructor in your region.
- All certified sawyer cards are good for three years from the date of issue, so there will be continuing education.
- Also, all BCHI members who are interested in sawyer certification must have their current First Aid/CPR Training prior to hands-on training.

#### Region 4 Chainsaw

Rob Adams	Squaw Butte	Moosely.Adams@gmail.com	208-781-0548
Charles Chick	Squaw Butte	cchick.cc@gmail.com	208-870-6289
Mark Ottman	Cache Peak	bchidahocp@gmail.com	208-731-5885

#### Region 4 Crosscut

Mark Ottman	Cache Peak	bchidahocp@gmail.com	208-731-5885
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#### Region 1 Chainsaw

Joe Robinson	North Central	rockinranchjk@gmail.com	208-926-4562
Todd Brown	North Central	idahopoleguy@gmail.com	208-451-3161
Jerry Lane	Twin Rivers	lane4089@msn.com	509-552-3567

#### Region 1 Crosscut

Joe Robinson	North Central	rockinranchjk@gmail.com	208-926-4562
Todd Brown	North Central	idahopoleguy@gmail.com	208-451-3161
Jerry Lane	Twin Rivers	lane4089@msn.com	509-552-3567



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## YeeHaw! After a Two-Year Hiatus 4-H Horsin' Around Camp is Back

—by Mary Ann Shaff and Karen Ambrose, Cache Peak BCH



After a two-year hiatus because of COVID, the 4-H Horsin' Around Camp was once again held on January 28/29 at the McGregor Center, Minidoka County Fairgrounds. An overnight horseless horse camp for youth ages 8-18, there were 20 registered youths and 9 counselors. On Friday night they held horse games, a horse bowl, and a movie. On Saturday morning, there was a scavenger hunt, roping, a craft, and classes and Cache Peak Back Country Horsemen were invited to give a class from 1 pm-3 pm—members Mary Ann Shaff and Karen Ambrose put on saddle cleaning and horse safety demonstrations.

Mary Ann showed her saddle to the group, pointing out the parts of the saddle and what they were for. She had different stirrups on her saddle, which the kids hadn't seen before, so she explained that they were special knee relief stirrups. She told them about how important it is to keep your saddle clean and sweat free so the leather does not crack or wear. She then demonstrated how to clean a saddle with leather cleaner, finishing it off with saddle conditioner.

After the indoor demonstration, it was time to venture outside on the very cold 22°, but sunny, day. Mary Ann's horse, Velvet, was used for the talk about horse safety, which Karen gave. She began the demonstration by asking the group to use soft voices and slow movements around the horse as not to startle or scare her. She shared about how talking to a horse is important so that they are aware of where you are, and talked about the location of their eyes, what they can and cannot see. Karen also walked to the back of Velvet talking and touching her all the time and showed how Velvet turned her head each time to see where Karen was. And, Karen showed the kids how far a horse can kick with its back feet, explaining that if you are close to a horse, it will not gather much energy in a kick. Karen showed the group how to hold a lead rope in a figure 8, not a loop, so that if your horse takes off, the rope won't wrap around your hand and drag you, then showed the kids how to safely lead a horse. Mary Ann demonstrated saddling and bridling a horse, pointing out that her saddle and pad were made for a high-withered horse. Karen talked about saddle fit and size for both rider and horse. Mary Ann also showed the kids how to tie on a rope halter. For these 4-Hers, who love horses, and for instructors Karen and Mary Ann, it was an especially fun day. **Picture, above:** Mary Ann talks about cleaning the saddle, while Karen and kids look on.