

**State Board Meeting - Salmon, Idaho**  
**November 14, 2008**

Raenette Didier, Chairman, opened the meeting at 0830 and everyone introduced themselves. Secretary Sherri Lionberger held roll call – all chapters were present except Eagle Rock and North Idaho. Minutes were read and approved as corrected.

Robin had developed the poster of the bicycle “predator” to have displayed at bike shops. He needs to get it finished and to the bike shops. Raenette asked him to forward a copy to her and Phil as they had not seen it.

**Treasurer’s report:** Gretel Kleint gave the treasurer’s report. There was a question regarding the \$50 contribution to the Great Western Trail – Raenette went on the website and it appeared to be defunct. She contacted Barbara and Norm Smith and they indicated they were trying to get it up and running again. If nothing more is known about what our money goes to, we will not contribute further. We should send checks directly to an organization that we are supporting, and not to a member to take it in. Gretel handed out the dues sheet for the chapter treasurer for payment to BCHI in January. Bills to be submitted: Raenette for a plaque and repayment of gas to Val Johnson for bringing stock to a national meeting at Wilderness Gateway. Marybeth Conger for reproducing the education brochure for chapters. Motion to pay the bills made by Terry Steiner and seconded by Bernie Lionberger. Motion passed.

**Calendar sales:** Phil Ryan said we have only 400 left to sell. If we don’t sell those, our profit is \$12,000; selling all gives a profit of \$20,000. Thanks to Bernie Lionberger for all of the pictures. If we do it again, people want to know where the pictures are from. Drawings start the end of January and grand prize is on Dec. 25. Winners will be on the state website and in Broomtales. Drawing will be videotaped. It was also suggested the photographer be named. Anita said the Heartland BCH created a poster and is selling them as a raffle with a free calendar! Raenette asked to go around the room and see how chapters are doing. Most all were doing pretty well. By January 15, Phil needs to have all the money collected to pay for the 1<sup>st</sup> drawing. The money needs to be sent to the address on the calendar (Squaw Butte) and they will send it on to Gretel. Raenette thanked Bernie and Phil for their efforts with the calendars. Question was asked if the remaining calendars be given out to chapters that are willing to take them without being committed to pay for them (such as consignment). After discussion, it was agreed to give extra calendars out now to chapters that want them and any extra that are not sold could be brought to the Outdoor Show and board meeting as well as any money sold after Jan 15. Val moved that we authorized chapters to take extra calendars – seconded by Gary Towle. Motion passed.

**Life flight renewal** – Phil Ryan. Testimonial from Val regarding the life flight experience - his bill would have been \$18,000 and he paid \$5.50. Robin Schindele said the bill was \$12,000 for Sally and he never paid anything. Last year BCHI purchased a block of 400 and sold 399 of them. St. Al’s is not taking any new group organization at this \$5.50 rate. By January 15, Phil needs an alphabetical list from those chapters who went under the state group of those people who have joined, and send the check in to Phil. If more people want membership, we can get a larger block, but it goes by increments of 100. Make sure the addresses, emails and telephones are accurate. Those chapters that already had their own

block of 100 – you are self sufficient and you need to work with life flight on your own. Squaw Butte added the \$5.50 to their dues, which was a big draw when folks joined. People should be members to benefit from this. It was asked that Kay send out the spreadsheet so we fill the form out and it will be easier for her. Val motioned that in order to participate in the life flight, you should be a member (family if they are enrolling children/grandchildren). Robin seconded and the motion passed.

**Chapter Proposals/Issues:** We do not have any proposals or issues to bring to the convention tomorrow, which is unfortunate. Raenette asked to discuss any issues that may be going on around the state. Two were discussed that are not in the state – Bright Angel trail in Grand Canyon was brought to our attention by Terry Steiner and forwarded through the channels. Steve Didier said this was looked at by the National Level (bumped back to the Arizona BCH) – it looked like the Park Service was going to preclude stock use on Bright Angel and push it to a trail that was very dangerous. Arizona BCH found out that the Park Service was going to close the trail while doing some reconstruction on Bright Angel, but it is not clear what will occur in the long term yet. It was bumped up to Rick Potts who is at the top level in the park service, and he did not see any issue as he did not see the trail being permanently close to use by the outfitter or other. Raenette thought that as a board, we might put a general proposal together to put to the Park Service regarding our support for reconstructing the trail and we want to see continued stock use on Bright Angel trail. There is a letter from the Park Service talking about future planning and NEPA – we need to stay involved in this. Terry said they will close the Kaibab trail first for 2 years to reconstruct it and then close Bright Angel and reconstruct it. General discussion was to write the proposal in support of what they are doing and keep us involved. Rod Parks gave the secretary the letter from the park superintendent to the Western Mule Magazine responding to their article.

Another local issue that illustrates how our system works – Joe Williams was doing a packing project on Pistol Creek bridge which was in very bad shape. He was told by a FS person the bridge would not be rebuilt and the creek crossing was very dangerous. Joe called Phil, who called Raenette and Val who was familiar with the trail. (Raenette apologized for not sending info on to Bernie so he got missed as the public liaison.) Pistol Creek is part of the Boise but administered by the Salmon Challis, so finding who was responsible was difficult. Phil talked to someone who said they were not replacing the bridge. Val met with the forest trails coordinator and they said it needed much more engineering work and they just hired an engineer who could do the job. It isn't certain when it will be completed.

Val noted that although it is a little off the specific issue of Pistol Creek bridge, but the trails in the Frank Church are horrible and getting worse, so we do have issues in Idaho just keeping our trails open. Raenette noted these are good discussions that we need to keep up front with all of us. The wilderness act that said the FS trails would be maintained annually did not guarantee the budget necessary. Steve discussed from a national perspective there is an organization starting that are looking at funding of trail maintenance. The effort has a chance of succeeding, but hard to tell how much...one of the big targets is the money going to fires. If they can force congress to deal with funding the fire fighting, it would free up money to go to other functions including trails and recreation. Raenette asked if this is another issue that needs to be brought to the convention tomorrow and see if we should draft a letter to the Salmon Challis and say we are watching/waiting for this bridge to get reconstructed.

Discussion from group is yes – we need to stay involved, state that we would help where we could – perhaps work for grants, and let them know it is important to us.

High Desert – Bonnie Stacey brought up a trail they have been working on that was successful – Porcupine Springs. They designed a loop for horse use that has 8 camp sites (double sites) and the BCH put up corrals, highlines, water bunks. It is now a reservable loop under the FS system, which is a problem in that anyone can call and reserve one site, the rest is closed to anyone else. The BCH discussed this with the FS – the District Ranger found that there was another loop available that needed to be built – already planned out, but they had no budget to do it. If BCH wanted to take it on, they were given the go ahead to do it. They are looking for funding and donations to help them complete it. High Desert put a lot of work into the existing loop and had no idea that it was going to be put on a reserve system. Is this an issue that BCHI would like to get involved with? Could there be a compromise and only some of them be reserved?

Raenette noted the Clearwater Forest was going to cut down on the number of stock – if that happens, the stock program could be on its way out. Don McPherson talked to Jim West (packer) and was told he had to cut back 4 mules from their string on the Lochsa. Don was told it was too expensive, yet they just put in concrete bunks and have it set up well. Val thinks this is an attitude as there is little knowledge and priority on stock. Steve noted that when he was traveling around training the harness program for Ninemile, wherever there was a loss of stock, there was a loss on the trail program. We need to send a letter to the Clearwater and try to waylay losing the stock if we can. It was discussed that the letter could go to region 1 office as well. Jo Heiss noted that she has been successful in getting mules into the Ninemile program. Also, the trail program manager at Ketchum is a horse person and she is using some of the stock out of Ninemile.

Phil Ryan noted that he has a meeting coming up with Walt Minnick and will discuss trails and the horse slaughter...we should be meeting with our local folks on this.

**State insurance:** We have 20 events under the premium that we sign up for. Twin Rivers has their Kids Kamp event for the last 5 years. This is an overnight event and the insurance company will not cover it. Raenette looked into it and it would require a separate policy that would cost \$1600. Is this a Twin Rivers problem or a state problem? Marybeth felt that not having the youth camp is unacceptable. Recommended action; this same issue came up in Washington and they found a better policy that met their needs. If agreed, Bill Conger agreed to research it. This will be on the March board meeting agenda. Mark Bogar will see who the Pony Club uses as they had coverage and pass that info along to Bill. Robin suggested using foundation money if needed to fund the extra insurance.

**Further Issues:** Even though we did not get these proposals out to chapters ahead of time, the bylaws allow us to conduct state business at the board except fiscal or bylaw. If a chapter is bringing forth issues, we can bring it to convention tomorrow. Anita VanGrunsvan from Heartland brought up the NAIS at July meeting and would like a stand of opposition. Ken Nunguesser talked to Whit Whitham about the Idaho Horse Council support – they want horses done on a voluntary basis. The Idaho Horse Council is meeting today in Pocatello today so we don't know the outcome. Aside from the chip, you need to report any time you

move your animal outside of your pasture, which would be a nightmare. Roll call by chapter was conducted to determine how many chapters were for or opposed to the NAIS. Overwhelming response was no. Anita will draft a letter asking the Idaho Horse Council withdraw their support of NAIS.

Sawtooth BCH - Jo Heiss said Blaine County asked the BLM to come up with a travel management plan and asked them to put certain user groups in separate areas to avoid conflict and separate use. (The FS has tried to emphasize all trails for all user groups and educate trail etiquette. Horses can use motorcycle trails, but you have to know you will run into other users.) Jo is worried about the overall concept – hikers could say they don't want horses in their hiking area and complain enough to make it happen. There has been a comment period and she doesn't feel she has gotten very far with the BLM. Currently you can go on other user's trails, but when there gets to be so much use, it reverts to only the primary user. Steve noted that BLM has a multi-use mandate – try countering with that instead of going area by area, look at individual trails and look at suitable use. He also asked who is putting dollars into the local community? Horse users put a lot of dollars into the community whereas motorcycles and bicycles don't stay long, don't spend dollars. Bonnie Davis of California wrote a good study on equine dollars into the community. Linda Serduik is a contact in Wyoming where they did a study as well. Jo would also like a letter from BCHI regarding this matter to both the county and the BLM. Val thinks it should be routed through the public lands liaison at BCHI to figure out. Exclusive use is not where we need to go, but it may need better research from them and work with Jo.

Steve said there is a move on to look at changing the BLM's mission from multiple use to conservation only...just came up in the last few days and he will keep on top of that. We will add this one to the discussion at convention tomorrow.

**Election of New Secretary:** Dorothy Bailey from the Selkirk Valley chapter has expressed interest – she is currently the secretary/treasurer of their chapter. She is computer literate, and Terry highly recommends her. Terry moved that the chairman appoint Dorothy Bailey to the secretary – Phil seconded. Motion passed.

**Ways and Means:** Mark Bogar. Sponsor ads in Broomtales are still just Bonnie Shields and those from the Outdoor Show. For the Outdoor Show, the biggest expense is advertising. There are a number of non-profits that are supporting the show and pay for booth space. The Lewis Clark Saddle club has offered to put on a trail challenge at the Show. They are talking about having the bicycles run the course the second day and lead two packhorses! They may have a horse run through the trail challenge with two pack animals. The dogs want to be part of it again, which is a great spectator item. They are also trying to set up a silhouette shooting competition and side saddle demonstration. Budweiser will meet with them next week, but don't know what their support will be. TVBCH will do the packing demo. Terry said they had been active in the equine safety and Selkirk could do one of those presentations. Rod said they cut \$5 off of the dinner price because it would be easier to sell the tickets at \$15.00. Karen found a vendor that would do a Dutch oven prime rib dinner for \$15 so it would be a wash. We weren't looking to make money on the dinner but to bring folks in to the live auction. Karen might talk about having the local chapters do the dinner instead of catering. There will be a beer garden, the sheriffs posse will police that drinks stay in the beer garden.

The colt starting might be changed to have the 30 days ahead and just do a show of what they have accomplished.

**Broomtales report:** Marilyn Rousher - no report but kudos on a nice job. The print quality on the pictures could be improved – Robin thinks the print quality of the whole paper could be improved and he obtained quotes from other printers – two in Emmet and two in. The paper quality and print quality/resolution is much better. The cost would still be within our budget. Printing would be \$312 per each of 3 issues. The other costs are sorting, labeling and mailing: \$105 for a company to put labels on and estimated \$165 to mail. Robin would like to see one of the pdf files that Marilyn sends to Burley. Marilyn liked this because Burley doesn't always check the quality to see that it is printed appropriately. If Marilyn thinks this would work, and it is within the budget allocated, she has the authority to change.

**Foundation report:** Mitch Christensen gave the financial report in the various accounts. They need better representation at the meeting; only 8 of 15 chapters were present so they barely had a quorum. Some chapters do not even have one assigned, so state directors need to bring this back to their chapters. The foundation will look at the issue of the National 501 (c)3 effort, the pros and cons, and report back at next state board meeting.

**National Director report:** Val and Steve. 1) met with the FS this fall on the trail classification and the result of the lawsuit. They backed off on the significant issues and there is a response due by middle of December. BCHA did a good job for all of us on this. Rod said Mike Reedy sent a letter on their concerns to the directors and he forwarded it on to all state directors – let him know if you aren't getting it. Mike said none of us need to make more comment on this unless we had something to add. 2) The National 501 (c) 3 – the director of development needed to have this designation in order to earn the money she was tasked with. The IRS has our application but we don't have a final ruling yet – we anticipate getting it. 3) Expansion – Al Sammons from Wyoming has been busy. Kentucky is applying and there is a conference call next Monday to admit them as a state. There are inquiries from Wisconsin and Michigan as well. They have a new printer for the BCHA newsletter.

**Public Lands Report** – Bernie Lionberger. Most items have already been covered. He would like a contact with each chapter's public lands rep – he will send a message out after the first of the year and new officers so he can connect with them. Steve noted that sometimes people think they are the only ones with an issue until you have someone you report to like Bernie and then he can see that some things might be a state or national issue.

**Trail/Rec Council** – Phil Ryan – no meetings since the July board meeting.

**Sportsman's Caucus** – he has been to several meetings – they represent 22,000 people in Idaho and since July they have met with the governor twice for a hour each on access issues. State representatives are at the meetings – they are held in Boise, but have video conference to north and east Idaho. He feels the \$200 per year to join is well worth it. Cabelas has asked Squaw Butte to do a packing clinic at their store every month – Marybeth and Bill are doing it next weekend.

**Horse Council and Board** – Don McPherson – they did vote to approve the animal identification system but it is not mandatory for horses. Our membership on the Horse

Council has decreased over the years – we pay \$500 per year and we have 6 votes for that council. Don and Steve have both been presidents, but currently only Don and Lorraine are active members north of the Salmon – Barb and Norm Smith are active south. Raenette thinks we need to get more membership into this organization. If the state would pay members to go to the meetings, would anyone be interested? Lorraine noted their convention is the same time as this weekend convention. Their quarterly meetings are generally on Saturdays. There is no one on the horse board now either.

**Education report:** Marybeth Conger. About 3 years ago she developed an education brochure in booklet form and each chapter got a copy. She has updated it to a manual and has 100+ page copy for each chapter. It is also on the website so people can print whatever chapters might find useful. She listed a number of the topics covered, which was extensive, but she felt it was missing youth activities. If you have something, please send it on to her and Dale Schrempp. Jerry Ledbetter asked her to mail him a hard copy and will take it to the next BCHA education meeting.

**Director assignments for 2009 show:** Nothing changed from the assignments from July. Ken asked how many tables were done at last year's convention – they are doing the table decorations. 26 would cover the 8 people per table and room for 200. Cache Peak, North Idaho, and Sawtooth were not at the July meeting – they said they would help with the table raffle.

Tomorrow at convention we need to decide where the next annual convention will be for 2009. We agreed that we would travel the state again. High Desert asked to host it in Twin Falls. They need to let us know which weekend they want to go with – the first or 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend.

Raenette asked how many chapters set up email trees that were suggested by T. Allen Hoover. All but one did have something set up – very good response.

**March BOD meeting:** Agenda items will include the following: State Insurance for Kids Kamp. Status of NAIS and how the horse council meeting went – Anita will call Connie Bowcott to follow up. Blaine County and BLM travel plan - Jo will try to have information either through Bernie or an alternative as she will not be at March meeting. North Central will report on Lochsa pack string info update. BCH delegates to the Idaho Horse Council. Nomination committee needs to be set up for the March meeting for a new chair and vice chair. Gretel has volunteered to stay on. Val's position as National Director is also up. Nominations cannot be done until after chapters elect their officers. Robin Shindele and Sherri Lionberger will take on the nominations.

Robin motioned to adjourn – seconded by Gene Bruce.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary, Sherri Lionberger