

**Annual State Convention Meeting
Salmon, Idaho
November 15, 2008**

State Chairman Raenette Didier opened the meeting at 0830. Bill Clementz welcomed the group to Salmon and introduced the state officers and committee chairs. The pledge of allegiance was led by Val Johnson.

Each chapter had a couple minutes (or more) to tell a homily, humor or horror story, which were quite entertaining. All chapters were present except Eagle Rock.

Bill Wood – Forest Supervisor for the Salmon-Challis National Forest spoke to the group, emphasizing trails and budget (or lack thereof) on the forest within and outside of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

Roll call was completed by the secretary.

Raenette introduced the new BCHI website and John Burns helped run us through the site. Raenette would like to have new pictures put on the website on the introduction page and she suggested whoever hosts the convention each year put pictures of their chapter's activities on the main page. Salmon River BCH will add theirs this year.

Foundation: Jack Lamb gave a review of the Foundation meeting. BCHA is trying to become a 501 (c)3 corporation, and that will dictate how we continue to do business with our Foundation. Jack gave the financial balances. The Lighthouse grant for the 4 northern chapters will be renewed by March (\$500 for each chapter to be used for trailhead improvements). Some chapters still do not have a representative at the Foundation meetings and they really need one. Remember you cannot serve on the foundation if you are a director for BCHI as that would be a conflict. There was discussion about exactly what started the Foundation, if it was a motion by BCHI or what. It was because (Eagle Rock) had a \$10,000 grant offered to them to build a trail around Idaho Falls, but there was no way to receive it and give them a tax write-off.

Calendar sales and Life Flight. Phil Ryan discussed the calendars and how well they sell themselves. There has been a commitment by the chapters to sell 1600 of the 2000, which will give us a profit of \$12,000 to the state. The 400 left can be taken by chapters with no obligation to sell – if they sell then it will be all profit, otherwise turn them in at the outdoor show.

Life Flight was used twice this year by our members. Both worked well so that individuals did not have to pay. Some chapters use this opportunity for coverage as incentive for membership. By January 15, give an alphabetical list of those who want the coverage to Phil Ryan and the \$5.50 sent in to him. Make sure you have addresses, phone numbers and emails correct.

After lunch, we had Joey Malloy – young cowboy poet and he was great.

Recruiting powerpoint: The directors meeting in July reviewed a powerpoint that Montana BCH used as a recruiting tool. They offered that any state could make one like it and pattern

it off of theirs. John Burns volunteered to put one together and showed it to the group. Anyone with comments needs to get them to your director for the March meeting and see how we want to add or change the video for recruiting purposes.

Steve Didier talked about the “spot messenger”, which is satellite based and works off of Google Earth and email. There are ok – track – help – 911 buttons. If you are on a trip, you can pre-write a message, hit the help button and send it to whomever you set it up with. If someone is injured, you can hit the 911 button and it will go to the closest center to your location. The cost is \$150 for the unit and another \$100 for the yearly subscription. Steve’s only caveat is you need a clear view of the sky and you must leave it on for about 20 minutes when you hit the ok button. Chapters can purchase them– North Central bought two.

National Report: Steve discussed the trail lawsuit – this actually brought us a better relationship with the Forest Service. The meeting at Wilderness Gateway wouldn’t have happened without the lawsuit. As a result of this lawsuit, the deputy chief was at a national trail conference and said they would fix their reporting procedures and their reporting system so this would not happen again. Joel Holtrop will also attend the national board meeting. The interim rule was finally published and it included virtually everything we asked for in order to see that the trail system did not change for stock use. Trail tread width, clearing height and width, full bench in wilderness construction – all was included. You can find info on the BCHA website and the link to the Forest Service interim rule website. On the BCHA website under the chairman link, you can find a white paper with good information on the subject as well as the letter from BCHA to the FS. There is no need to send in more comments that repeat his letter – if you have specific concerns that are separate from what is written here, feel free to write those. Also – any time there is a proposed change to trail management use, there will be a public process that we can be involved in. So – we must stay engaged with our local districts. Question asked about cost for us to do the lawsuit. Estimate is \$73,000 over the past 5-6 years. Thanks to Dennis Daily and Steve who really helped keep this thing going.

Business: At yesterday’s board of directors meeting, no proposals from the chapters had been brought forward to be voted on. However, five issues arose in the discussion and Raenette wanted to share those with the delegates.

- 1) Pistol Creek: 3 main trails enter the Frank from the east side, the Pistol Creek trail had 3 land slides blocking it, one large bridge was washed out and the creek crossing was very dangerous. Joe Williams was in the area and was told they were not going to replace that bridge, although the land slides were fixed enough to get through. Numerous phone calls were made up the line (as the process should go) to the state and national level to find out what was going to happen. BCHI will draft a letter of support to the FS to rebuild the bridge, fix the trail, and offer our support.
- 2) Bright Angel Trail: October issue of Western Mule Magazine said that the Bright Angel Trail would be closed to stock use and all use would be put on the Kaibab trail which is difficult for stock and dangerous. After contact with the National Park Service, they said they will close the Kaibab Trail for 2 years while they reconstruct and reroute it...then close Bright Angel for 2 years while they reconstruct it. BCHI will write a letter of support for the reconstruction and continued support of stock in the canyon, then ask to be kept on the list of interested parties when they do any public process.

- 3) Clearwater NF: A BCH member was told by the Lochsa packer that he had to reduce the number of mules in his string by 4. BCHI will address a letter to the Forest Supervisor discussing the history of stock use on the Clearwater and that we would help in whatever manner possible to maintain their stock program.
- 4) National Animal Identification System – BCHI will draft a letter to the Idaho Horse Council asking them to withdraw any appearance of support for its implementation with regard to equines. This will depend on what happened at the horse council meeting this same weekend as it sounds like they may be withdrawing their support already.
- 5) Sawtooth BCH & Blaine County: The county is trying to segregate users into separate areas. Bernie (public lands liaison) will work with Jo Heiss to understand the issue and work with them.

Outdoor Show: BCH members can enter an open Dutch oven show on Sunday.

Moving the convention changes their schedule some – Friday will still be the directors meeting. This is a good venue to partner with other agencies and non-profit organizations, such as Cowboy Church, Boy Scouts, FS, IFG and Washington G&F. A trail class challenge will be put on by Lewis Clark Saddle Club. Dog Show folks are still interested. Colt starting will change so the trainers get their animals 30 days before and then be judged at the show. They are trying for silhouette shooting and a side saddle demonstration. They want to work on LNT still, especially for some other user groups. Photo display, chapter display, bucket raffle will still be going on. Every chapter agreed to take on aspects of the show. Rod needs a contact person from each chapter with name and email address so he has the ability to check and ask questions. The bucket raffle asked for only 2 nice items and be a \$50 total value each, and a \$50 for a live auction item. We will make better money on fewer, nicer quality items. Dinner will be a Dutch oven dinner for \$15/person. This was done to help get more people there for the live auction. The other thing needed for each chapter is to get help from chapters on different demos in the arenas. (They are 45 minutes each.) They need help from chapters to round up more vendors...Mark and Karen do the lions share getting vendors and they could use more help.

Next Convention:

High Desert out of Twin Falls offered to host next November's convention. Susan Lehman said the second weekend would be best – Nov. 13-14. This was accepted by the group.

Cary Schwarz – saddle maker and artisan gave a nice demonstration to the group.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Sherri Lionberger