

# **Back Country Horsemen of Idaho**



**2008 Annual Report**

## **BOISE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN YEAR END REPORT 2008**

Boise Back Country Horsemen had an outstanding year in 2008. We had plenty of fun filled rides and saw a lot of the Idaho back country. Each month we would journey to a different Idaho location. We may have started going a little too high too soon. We ran into snow or were snowed on for the first couple of rides. However, even snow can't stop the dedicated riders of BBCH.

One of our most eventful rides was the ride at Gran Jean into Elk Lake. We packed in and stayed overnight. The scenery along the way was breath taking. After we arrived, a couple of our riders had a great time taking their horses for a swim in the lake. Everyone enjoyed our time around the campfire with tales of by-gone horse adventures. At this time we also learned about "Leave No Trace." We took extra care to do just that. However, part of the trail was blocked by dead fall. We are looking at helping to clear the trail as a possible project for 2009.

Our volunteer work involved looking for any noxious weeds in the burn area of Red Mountain. We rode up to Cat Lake. Our job was to take water samples back to the Boise County Weed Control. They were interested in finding out if there were any noxious weed seeds in the water. Happily, it was later reported that there were not.

We are looking forward to another exciting year. We have scheduled new rides and are looking forward to exploring new areas or revisiting some favorite spots.

## **EAGLE ROCK BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN 2008 REPORT**

We had a good year, no accidents and some fun! We started in May with our annual Spring Fling Horse Tune Up. Connie Bowcutt opens her trail horse course up for us all to get our horses out and tuned up. There were several fun adventures there for all of us including a teeter totter, car wash and several other extreme cowboy race styled obstacles. We had a good turn out of both young and old with existing members and some new faces. From there our chapter went on to help Mel Daniels clear the way for his ride at Stoddard Creek. We had a lot of fun trying to clear the trail while there was still some snow on it. Needless to say we did not get much work done that day, but we all had a nice ride anyway. This was good thing since the weather was awful on the main ride day. Then it was off to our adopted trail Tie Canyon. The club cleared the lower trail and had a nice cookout after the work party. Then it was off to the Big Elk led by Vern and LaRene Smith. We all had fun clearing the way one weekend and then a lot of fun with the cookout the next. For our upcoming year we are planning several more rides and adventures.

## HEARTLAND BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN YEAR END REPORT 2008

The first meeting of the year was a potluck held January 22 at the Rittersbacher's home in Council. Life Flight memberships were paid from a compiled list. The proposed Mountain Trail challenge matters were delegated to the MTC Committee. BCH Raffle tickets were available from Linda Hemminger. At the up-coming Director's meeting a vote would be taken as to whether or not to split the Convention/Outdoor show into two meetings at different times of the year or keep them together as is. HBCH's votes were:  
2 to split, 6 to stay together and 3 abstaining.

The February meeting was cancelled for the MTC Committee would be meeting to formulate plans. March found us at Linda Davenport's home in Council. The MTC Committee Report was the most time consuming with details of events. The up-coming Director's meeting was on the agenda as well. Rides for HBCH were a topic. The first ride would be a potluck breakfast ride at VansGrunsvens in the Council area at 9 AM on April 26. Also discussed, was the Payette National Forest Travel Plan. Al, Anita, and Paul were the HBCH representatives in this matter. April meeting was the Breakfast ride with a short meeting between breakfast and the ride. The MTC was discussed as well as the BCHI Website. May was a breakfast ride with a short meeting before. The website, work party at Becker's White Tail Arena where the MTC would be held, and MTC were on the agenda.

June found us at Jan Whitney's home in near McCall. Since the MTC was held June 14, the results were in. Dave would tabulate them for future events. HBCH and White Tail Arena agreed to sponsor a buckle for the Adam's County Rodeo. On Aug. 17, HBCH would have a concession stand for the Pony Club at White Tail Arena. Rides to be, July 19, Arling Trail and Aug 1 & 2 overnigher out of Deseret Trail Head. Director's Meeting was discussed.

We met at the New Meadow's Library in July. To our surprise, the Adam's County Fair was dedicated to HBCH this year. Website was discussed as was the Director's Meeting. The Concession Stand Committee is in gear. Harvey's lost horses were a big concern. Desert delicacies were on for our August Meeting. The stalwart crew on the Deseret Trail Maintenance Ride reported, Harvey's horses were returned, the crew on the Concession Stand reported, the Arling Trail Ride would be either Sept. 13 or 27, and a lively auction selling goodies from the Concession Stand ended the meeting.

A potluck/meeting was held at the Revaul home near Tamarack in September. Arling Trail Ride was discussed as was the Website, NAIS Committee Report, and the Convention. Another potluck was on board for October at Jan Whitney's home. Calendars, Convention, Website, and Christmas Party were discussed. No November meeting. Christmas Party/potluck at VanGrunsvens is one of the highlights of the year especially the White Elephant Exchange which is full of mirth and hilarity. Items reported on were the Calendar Sales, Director's Mtg., Election of Officers and next meeting which will be in February.

## HIGH DESERT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ANNUAL REPORT 2008

2008 was a year of growth and high level activity for the High Desert Chapter. As usual, January brought about our annual chili feed and fund raiser to get our year started out right. We decided that we would need to find a different location next year, since we had the old hall in Filer bursting at the seams. Spring found us planning our yearly work projects and overnights, and one highlight was the formation of a new partnership with the National Park Service, as we chose to work with Castle Rock State Park in Almo helping to build a new trail loop there on National Trails Day in June. We were represented at the Back Country Horsemen Board of Directors meeting and outdoor show in Lewiston in April, and those who attended enjoyed hearing the latest on issues and reuniting with friends from other Chapters.

Our first club fun ride was in April at Indian Springs, a good spring ride because it is not too high. We had a fabulous turnout, which boded well for the hope of many workers when the time came later. Many of us showed up to work in partnership with the BLM and the off-roaders association for the annual clean up of the North Rim. May was too early to clean trail up high, since there was still snow in the hills, but proved to be fine weather for a second fun ride in the lower elevations. We got busy in June, tackling the new loop at Castle Rock State Park in Almo on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fork and Walstrom Hollow in the South Hills on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Because so many workers turned out, we divided up and went tackled the loop from different directions, meeting in the middle for lunch, actually completing the entire loop!

July brought the Board of Directors meeting in Nampa, and High Desert was represented there, and then an overnigher at Father and Sons Campground later in the month, which included not only trail cleaning, but lots of eating later at camp. In August, High Desert had another overnigher at Prairie Lake, heading north this time instead of south. In September we accepted an invitation from our sister chapter up north, the Sawtooth BCH, to attend an overnigher and ride, and we enjoyed getting to know many more people from that area. Again we were well represented at the convention in Salmon in November, and our very own Kathy Kerley was surprised to learn that she being noted and honored as the BCH Chapter hero!! (No one else was surprised – you ARE our hero, Kathy.)

We were able to resolve some potential conflict over the Porcupine Springs horse loop, as we worked with our regional Forest Service ranger, and are looking forward to partnering even more in the coming year with the Forest Service, planning and hopefully building another loop in the South Hills, and more horse facilities in the Porcupine Springs campground.

Our Chapter continues to grow with new, active members who demonstrate a dedication to the mission of the Back Country Horsemen.

## **BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO 2008 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

The chapter started out the new year by purchasing 100 memberships in the new statewide Lifelight program. We definitely saw an increase in our membership due to this offer.

The chapter's Project Coordinator, Roger Inghram, presented opportunities for work projects at the March meeting. Projects that were selected were:

May 3 - Clearing the John Creek Loop, Nez Perce NF

June 7 - National Trail's Day, clearing the Fish Creek and Sherman Creek Trails, Clearwater NF. This event was again held at the Wilderness Gateway Campground, followed by a big steak feed.

June 14 & 28 – Weed spraying on the Selway River, Nez Perce NF. The chapter has many years invested in this on-going project. It is very rewarding to see the results of our efforts over the years.

For the first time this year weeds were also sprayed on the Lochsa District of the Clearwater NF.

June 18 – 4-H Packing demonstration & Dutch Oven cooking demonstration.

July 20 – National Smokejumper Association pack support. This has become an annual request.

August - The chapter scheduled an overnight recreational pack trip, but it was cancelled.

The chapter is determined to schedule this event again in 2009. We feel it will be a great opportunity to do some LNT training with our own members, as well as packing & cooking skills.

The chapter's Public Lands Liaison, Phil Foster, keeps us abreast of requests for comment from the Nez Perce & Clearwater National Forests. He also reports on the Schedule of Proposed Actions that the forests mail out & does a great job keeping us current on proposed actions that affect us. Don McPherson continues to do good work as our "Good Will Ambassador". Don again won the chapter's traveling silver bell for bringing in the most new members in 2008.

During May we had several members attend a Chainsaw re-certification class. Several members cut out & cleared the trail into Meadow Creek Cabin off the Selway River North Central Idaho during the first week of May. Our annual early-spring fun ride at the Carr Ranch was held on May 25th. In our area we don't have many options for an early spring ride, so we greatly appreciate the Carr's hospitality.

Roger Inghram worked with the Northern Region Pack Train again this year. Providing pack support on some of their projects & capturing many miles of the Pack Train on video. Roger also hosted the stewardship program for the Clearwater NF at Elk Summit this Fall.

The handheld King radio that the chapter purchased many years ago is now outdated & cannot be used with the new narrow band frequencies many agencies are using. It was decided that rather than a VHF radio, which does have minimum coverage in some parts of the backcountry, that we would purchase one of the new emergency locators & chose the brand "Spot". The chapter purchased two locators & they are also available to members going on individual trips. One is at the home of a member in the valley, & one at the home of a member in Grangeville, they can be checked out as needed. October – Jim Renshaw filled a request for a re-supply run on the Moose Creek RD for a group from the Montana Youth Home. BCH of America Trail Classification & Standards ride was hosted at Wilderness Gateway. North Central Idaho BCH prepared meals & provided some stock support. Not only did we meet people from many outdoor organizations, people from the Washington Office of the Forest Service, but also our National Chairman, Mike Reedy & Vice Chairman, Terry Morrison.

## **NORTH IDAHO BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN ----- 2008 IN REVIEW**

In June of last year we helped the PRVBCH with their poker ride. This year we will again help them. We also volunteered at the Bonner County Expo with the Extreme Trail Race and this year we will be sponsoring a Defensive Horsemanship Clinic, a Packing Clinic, a knot tying demo and a Dutch oven demonstration along with helping with the Extreme Trail Race.

In July a few members helped a photographer pack into a wilderness fire lookout. We did a few trail rides and cleaned up our Wiley Knob trail head.

August found a number of members heading to the Clearwater Trailhead in Montana for a week of trail clearing, riding, Dutch oven cooking and a chance meeting with Smoke Elser, as he was giving an advanced Packing clinic.

In September, we had our 3rd annual Dinner Ride Fundraiser. We had a great turn out and are gearing up for this year's as I write this report.

In October, seven members rode to Fault Lake for three days of riding, and trail maintenance. This was followed with an October Fest dinner. It was hot and waiting for us as we returned and boy, that was GREAT!!!!!! We plan on heading out there again this next fall to finish trail clearing.

We enjoyed a Christmas Party with Priest River Valley BCH, always nice to be with this group.

## PANHANDLE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN----2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

The year got off to a great start with the annual convention and Outdoor Show in Lewiston. Our chapter sponsored the photo contest and helped with the bucket raffle. Our next planned event was chainsaw training (so our members can do volunteer saw work on National Forest lands), but 4 feet of snow caused a cancellation.



Luckily, our annual April “Tune-up” clinic was held at an indoor stable, so snow was not a huge issue. This event brings in one of our local veterinarians to provide health checks, Coggins and shots for our equine partners. Then our planned events came to a sudden halt. The winter of 2007-08 didn’t know when to quit and snow was 4 feet deep on our late spring and early summer trails.

We managed to hold the chainsaw training in early May, but our opportunities to use the training were still limited. Memorial Day weekend still saw too much snow to get into the forest, but by early June we were able to schedule a trail clearing day on Marie Creek, which is our adopted trail. We also held a second chainsaw class to catch a few more folks.

Our normal 4<sup>th</sup> of July outing up the St. Joe was the next cancellation due to road problems from the heavy winter snows. Being flexible, our president decided to trail boss a fun ride just outside of Coeur d’Alene on a cross-country ski trail system on 4<sup>th</sup> of July pass. It was obvious by the large turn-out that folks were ready to get their animals out of the barnyard and on the trail.

Our chapter had purchased two new horseback weed sprayers through a grant from the Idaho Department of Parks and Rec. After a training session in a pasture, several folks helped spray our adopted Marie Creek Trail. There has been tremendous success reducing the infestation of weeds along this 10 mile trail.

By August, we were able to reschedule a work project to clear trails up on the St. Joe. We had two hikers join as on this outing – they had been members of a Forest Service focus group for access management on the St. Joe and wanted to help clear the trails they love to hike. It made for a very successful venture, especially since one of them was “hell-on-wheels” with a chainsaw.



Our big fundraiser was the chapter was a First Annual Trail Challenge. It was a lot of time and energy spent planning this new event, but the end result was a very successful day with cooperative weather to boot. It was a nice change from our poker ride events of the past and we hope to continue with it in the coming year.

Our last trail ride was the Linscott Steak ride. The weather was slightly less cooperative, with rain and fog, but a number of hardy souls took the ride so they could enjoy the wonderful bar-b-que steaks at the end. We next had 7 members attend the BCHI convention in Salmon, where the Salmon River BCH was also celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> year. Last, but not least, was our annual Christmas party with dinner, entertainment, and this year an auction. All in all it was a very successful year, despite a somewhat slow start.

### **PRIEST RIVER VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Priest River Valley chapter had a very successful year in 2008. Chapter members were busy with volunteer trail projects throughout the summer on the Forest Service Priest Lake and Newport Ranger Districts. Trail maintenance started on Memorial Day Weekend when we teamed up with members from the North Idaho Saddle Mule Club and the Selkirk Idaho and Northeast Washington BCH chapters to begin logging out and repairing lowland trails. Other trail projects continued throughout the summer and included packing in gear for a Montana Conservation Corp trail crew and repairing two water systems on the PeeWee Creek Trail. The PRV Chapter adopted the PeeWee Creek trail system many years ago and annually completes most of the needed maintenance. The value of our reported volunteer work in 2008 was \$13,414 and we accomplished over 35 miles of trail maintenance.

During the spring several members attended Defensive Horsemanship and Chainsaw Certification classes put on by the Forest Service. In June we held our annual fundraising event, the PeeWee Poker Ride, which had 81 participants. We also tried a new venue the following day, a competitive trail ride that was enjoyed by the riders and judges alike. During the year we also purchased a cargo trailer to transport and store chapter equipment – a relief for those with garages getting a little crowded. Our year ended with a very festive Christmas Dinner and gift exchange.

## **SALMON RIVER BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN---2008 YEAR END REPORT**

Salmon River Back Country Horsemen has had quite a year. We started out in March with an early Easter with our usual ride to the home of Buster and Marge Light, long time club members, where we had our Easter Service and breakfast. April saw several members attend the State Convention and Rendezvous in Lewiston and then it was on to the usual packing demonstration at the Salmon Mule Sale which is always fun and starts the year off on a good note. April 28-May 2, a great many of us participated in the joint week long USFS-SRBCH Saddle and Pack Stock Training course, here at the Lemhi County Fairgrounds.

We had 25 forest service students and 15 trainers and a multitude of horses and mules. It was a great success and we are very sorry that the forest service won't be able to participate again next year. To put on that week long session takes a lot of support from the club besides the trainers. So many members provided food and made themselves available for whatever was needed. The end of April also saw our first club ride, a lovely ride in the foothills with fantastic views and good weather which was enjoyed by all. May saw the Wagonhammer Creek loop ride on the Lewis and Clark trail which included a work project getting the trail in good shape. That lasted two days and was the first work project of the summer. Also in May was the Spring Ride viewing the wildflowers up Spring Creek. We had our usual great turnout for our Highway Cleanup project. That is almost a social event. There was also a work project on the Warm Springs to Meadow Creek trail.

June National Trails Day was cancelled due to really bad weather but we hope for better next year. There was also a Thunder Mountain Historic Trail work project and ride which was very productive. The end of June also saw the Twelve Mile Creek trail project which was enjoyed by all. July saw the Salmon and Leadore parades with some of the club members participating. From there we went on to a work project on Birch Creek which had good turnout and one of our members, JoAnn Carroll had a huge horse sale which was on TV so we all kept up with that.

August saw the Frank Hall Creek Wildcat Creek work project and then it was time for the Lemhi County Fair with club members manning the gates for the Rodeo. That is a money making project which is also fun. September saw the Jan Latham Memorial ride which is a bitter sweet ride. Jan was a member who died of Lymphoma and is greatly missed. Next, club members helped with the Salmon Marathon, making sure runners were safe at the cross roads and giving the runners a thrill with all the horses.

November was a very busy month which was devoted to the BCHI State Convention, held here in Salmon. Our club did ourselves proud hosting 100 BCHI members from around the state and really pitching in to make the event a success and give everyone a warm welcome. November also saw our second highway cleanup which is always needed after hunting season. We also had our usual Thanksgiving celebration which was a good end to the busy month. December was quieter with just our annual Christmas Party which is always fun and a good end to the year. All in all it was a busy and productive year for our club

## **SAWTOOTH BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

Last year, our chapter gave eighteen BCHI calendars to local equine providers/gathering places of outdoorsmen asking that they hang them in their "offices/space" with the goal of educating them and the public about the goals of the BCHA And generating more SBCH members/advocates.

Several of our members attended the Wood River Trails meetings last year, along with USFS, BLM, SNRA and other government agency representatives to represent our group's interest and to educate and collaborate. Several of us attended the trail management meetings and local housing development planning meetings to ensure that existing trails be preserved, new recreational trails be designed with equine users in addition to others, and for parking to be designed with trailers in mind.

And we joined our Sawtooth Rangers friends on their overnight events and weekend trail rides led by Bill, aka Stick, Flagherty (also a SBCH board member).

## **SELKIRK VALLEY BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

February-First meeting regarding the Trail Creek trailhead/parking rehab improvements with the USFS District office in Bonners Ferry. March- Debbie Prater, Trail Book Committee Chairman and Merle Olsen collaborated with Pat Hart, Bonners Ferry USFS and Mary Ann Hamilton, Sandpoint USFS and they were very generous in providing USFS trail maps for our chapter members. One of our members developed a Medical Emergency Wallet Card for chapter members

April- Purchased 100 Lifelight memberships (125 total for our chapter)

May- Work party on the Danford Trail System- Bonners Ferry. First ride of the year and work party: Snyder Guard Station, campout/ ride over Memorial Day weekend (20+) members participated.

June- Chapter members voted on a motion-started sending email minutes of our monthly meetings- savings of approx \$370.00/year. Two of our members presented a LNT program for a group of children at the Priest Lake Sports Club Free Fishing Day for Kids. Twelve members attended the Equine Safety class at the Sandpoint USFS Ranger Station presented by the USFS and Dale Schremmp, Recreation Manager USFS Priest Lake and Marilyn Moyle, DVM. Second meeting regarding the Trail Creek trailhead/parking rehab improvements with the USFS Bonners Ferry. Wylie Knob Trail -two groups of four members each cleared windfalls during the month. Keno Mountain ride and work party-eighteen members cleaned windfalls.



Keno Mountain work party- fifteen chapter members removed windfalls, (chainsaw work) and cleared brush on the trail and reattached trail sign, two pack animals. Fantastic sunny day working in the snow!!!

July- Our chapter rode on the Wylie Knob Trail and Hidden Lake Day rides



July-Bald Eagle Mountain –three round trips - six members packed in and packed out tools and water to Bald Eagle Mountain, Bonners Ferry District for a Girl Scout trail project.

August-Two Mouth Lakes overnight camping and ride, Trail 268- nine riders and three pack animals several new members had the opportunity to learn placing equine stock on high lines, picket hobbling, lashing and balancing loads on pack animals. We encountered several equine/hiker educational opportunities on the trail meeting with members of the Idaho Conservation League on their hike.

David Thompson District Boy Scout Jamboree Boundary Creek, Boundary County  
Four hour Education presentation on packing mules and horses. 50 boy scouts attended the program. The volunteer instructors were: Paul Gullickson, Bud Bailey, Steve Larkin, Merle Olsen, Robert Howell and Patrice Berryessa. They demonstrated saddle fitting for both decker and sawbuck saddles, demonstrated loading manties and panniers on both a horse and a mule. The Boys Scout Council will be giving the SVBCH chapter a DVD of the packing demonstration. Trail Creek Work Party -four members cleared Trail 53 to the junction of Trail 483 during a two day work detail. Trout Lake, Big Fisher Lake and Pyramid Lake day rides during the Labor Day weekend.

Our chapter organized an Equine First Aid kit in a cante bag that can be carried by one of the riders on our trail rides. Another larger first aid kit is available that will be stored in a horse trailer that contains additional items and restock items for the cante bag kit. The veterinary prescription supplies in both kits were donated or purchased from Dr. Marilyn Moyle and Dr. Marie Meschke, two of our local veterinarians. October- Two day rides: Fall Colors ride on Canuck Pass/Buckhorn Mountain and Fall Colors Samuels ride. November-SVBCH embroidered logo patch- setup fee was approved

Trail Creek Trail 53 Rehabilitation Report: Bud Bailey has met on several occasions with Steve Petsch, Bonners Ferry, USFS regarding the rehabilitation project for the Trail Creek trailhead and the trail relocation from the trailhead to the creek crossing. Details include: in the spring of 2009, our chapter will provide track hoe and tractor work to dismantle the old log landing and restack the debris for burning. The proposed USFS grant - USFS will provide the materials for our chapter to construct a 16' x 64", 4 stall corral area, highlines and hitching posts and gravel for a designated graveled parking area. We will be using well casing for the corral posts, highline and hitching posts. Our chapter will grade the gravel in the parking area. The USFS will relocate the trail and creek crossing to our recommendations. Bud and Merle Olsen have written and obtained letters of support for this project from local businesses. Bud submitted the letters of support and the bill of materials to the Bonners Ferry USFS in early December. The Lighthouse grant covers mileage and supplies.

## **SQUAW BUTTE BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2008**

The Squaw Butte chapter's 2008 year, started out on a very sad note, with the passing of past president and good friend Robert Howard Sr. Bob was a master packer and shared his year of experience mentoring to all who had the privilege to ride with him. He was also an exceptional Dutch oven cook, whose tasty additions to our event pot luck meals will be missed. The chapter had a number of goals that were started in 2007 that we continued to pursue in 2008. A major emphasis was placed on continued and expanded outreach to the federal agencies, other outdoor groups, and the public. We accomplished this goal in a number of ways. We developed working relationships with the Payette and Cascade Ranger District as well as continued our long term relationship with the Emmett rangers. These relationships provided Squaw Butte with some very interesting projects to work on as well as gave us a voice on trail management issue these districts administer. We also manned informational booths at horse events, hosted events for the public, and partnered with another trail user group for National Trails Day.

January: January was our planning month. The 2008 chapter leadership team met to wrap up the previous year, audit the books, and plan the upcoming season. Contact was made with all the local ranger districts to see for what projects they were interested in soliciting volunteer help. These projects were worked into the upcoming year's schedule.

February: February was our warm-up month. The chapter along with the other two chapters in southwestern Idaho took turns manning a BCHI information booth at the "Horse Affair" held at the Boise fairgrounds. This was an opportunity to visit with the public about the organization and to advertise the upcoming "Back Country Skills Clinic". We also held our first ride of the season at Celebration Park along the Snake River. This area is likely to be snow free and it is a fun place to ride horses, which are often full of vim and vigor after a couple of months off.

March: By March we were 'back in the saddle' hosting rides and clinics and attending training. The Emmett Ranger District hosted a "First Aid Certification class" which was free to BCHI members. A first aid card is required before taking the Forest Service sawyer classes and having trained members make us all safer in the back country.

The "Little Butte Ride and Dutch Oven Cook Off Potluck" has become an annual tradition with the Squaw Butte Chapter. Combining riding and food it provides a social setting for riders and non-riding family members. The last weekend of the month was our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Back Country Skills Clinic". This year 85 members and guest participated in a full day of lecture and hand-on presentations. Each year the number of attendees grows and the presentations become more varied. Highlights this year included: What to bring and what to leave behind; Buying, selling, and transporting stock; and One Step Horsemanship. Marybeth and Bill Conger led the presentation and discussion on "what to bring and what to leave behind" on a pack trip. Larry Hayhurst, the state brand inspector, talked about buying, selling and transporting stock in Idaho. Larry answered a lot of questions and sparked a lively discussion.

Dr. David Hayes, Idaho state veterinarian and a very popular speaker at past clinics, kept his audience riveted to their rather cold wooden seats with his "One Step Horsemanship", insight into how horses think and how to safely work around them. He was assisted by two up and coming young horses 'Laci' and 'Payette'. The hands-on Dutch oven and meal planning classes were also well attended and the results of the Dutch oven class were enjoyed at the lunch break. Always popular and very well attended was the hands-on Packing classes. Both beginner and more advanced packing techniques were demonstrated and attempted by all who were interested or just wanted to give it a try.

April: Squaw Butte sent a delegation to Lewiston to the spring Backcountry Outdoor Show & BCHI Convention. This event was a great time. Squaw Butte was the hosting chapter in 2007. In 2008 others had to do the work, while our members just got to enjoy themselves. The Idaho Horse Expo was held in April at the Nampa Horse Center. It is sponsored by the Idaho Horse Council and was another great opportunity to let the public know about BCHI and how to become involved. We also held our third ride of the year in the Hard Trigger area of the Owyhee Mountains. May: We gathered for our annual clean up and pick up of our adopted two mile stretch of Highway 52 along the Black Canyon Reservoir. The chapter also held a ride on the Weiser River Trail. This ride was well attended and is a great spring tune up for your horse. The Emmett Ranger District hosted a Sawyer A/B training class. The classroom portion of this training was held at the ranger district office. The hands-on portion was postponed until June due to a tragic accident in Sweet, which prevented the members taking the training to drive to the area designated for the training. The chapter ended the month with a yard sale.

This sale turned out to be a very successful fund raiser and help members get rid of a lot of stuff taking up space in their barns and tack rooms. Sadly in the middle of May, a treasured member of Squaw Butte, Dr. Sally Schindele passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Sally will be missed by all who had the honor to know her.

June: Once June arrived we were ready to take on the weekend work projects that we had scheduled and planned back in January. National Trails Day was an interesting multi-day project. On Friday, Phil Ryan and Terry MacDonald, working with a crew from the Emmett Ranger District, packed in explosives to remove four dangerous sections on the Peace Creek Trail. Other members joined the project Friday night. On Saturday, members of a local mountain bike club joined Squaw Butte members in doing major tread work on the trail. A number of water bars were added and in the areas that were blasted, a large amount of rock was removed and a new trail bed was build. It was very satisfying to work together to make a popular trail safer for both stock and mountain bikes. After the work was completed the two groups held a steak BBQ and had a very lively and informative discussion about how each group viewed and used the local trails on public lands. Combined projects like this get groups working together, not fighting each other for control of the trails. The month's final event was a multi-day work project at Wapati Meadows Ranch in Yellow Pine, Idaho. This project entailed work on both public and private lands and involved trail rehabilitation in some of the burn areas of the 2007 Yellow Pine fires.

July: The highlight of July was a multi-day pack trip into the Frank Church Wilderness. The Corduroy Meadows area of the Frank is an excellent area to do a long weekend pack trip. The trip was arranged around the idea of a common kitchen and common meals. Pack stock was provided so those members without pack stock could experience packing in. Members were responsible for their personal equipment, taking care of their stock and sharing chores around camp. It was a huge success, with all who attended having a great time. Because July had an early evening full moon, a ride was held to take advantage of the evening. For the last few years, members of the chapter have met around 9 PM east of Emmett and taken a moonlight ride through the foot hills. It has been a fun and a very unique experience for most riders. The chapter also did some down fall removal on the Lighting Ridge trail in Garden Valley. This is a spectacular trail, but has very limited trailer parking.

August: Projects in August were in areas that still had snow in July. The chapter worked a number of trails on West Mountain, north of Ola and on Hitt Mountain southwest of Cambridge. Trail projects for 2008 had excellent member turnout. This made the work go faster, allowed us to complete a lot more miles of trail and made for some really great potluck dinners after the work was finished. September: We finished up the last of the work projects with a return to Wilson Corral on West Mountain to complete work on two trails. Again member turnout was excellent, the weather perfect and the riding scenic. The chapter also held a fun ride in the Diamond Basin area near Silver City in the Owyhee's.

October: With the coming of October our work season ended. As the hunters entered the high country, we moved our actives to Circle G River Ranch for the 3rd annual "Packers Play Day". This open-to-the-public event is a great way to improve your horsemanship while having a great time playing on your horse. Turnout was around 60 riders and 30 spectators. The Gem-Boise County 4-H Horse Program members catered the lunch as a fund raiser. Kids and adults who have attended the event in the past say that they really look forward to our play day because it is so much fun.

November: November brought a winding down of our activities. We gathered for the annual fall clean up and pick up of our adopted 2 mile stretch of Highway 52 along the Black Canyon Reservoir. As snow comes to the high country our rides move to the desert and a ride was held in the Owyhee's. Cabela's asked us to provide a day of packing demonstrations and informational presentations at their Boise store. The day was a success and they have asked us to return again for 2009. The BCHI calendars were delivered and members were encouraged to sell them to friends, family and to consider giving them as Christmas gifts. The chapter started receiving 2009 memberships. December: We finished off the year with the elections of the 2009 leadership team and the annual Christmas party pot luck and White Elephant gift exchange.

## TREASURE VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Education - Our chapter volunteered in the Horse Expo booth & participated in a Packing demo & presented a Packing Clinic and provided an education section on weed free hay as well as two packing practices for the expo and two trail reviews of BLM trails in Wilson Creek Drainage.

During the year our chapter's trail work activities involved working on the Bear Valley Bridge repair for a two day project. We also worked on the Queens River trail clearing for a five day work party and covered a 30 mile span of trails and another project was the French Creek Trail Clearing as a four day work party that covered 20 miles of trails.

## TWIN RIVERS BCH 2008 ROUNDUP OF EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

We had another exciting year with a large variety of activities. We started the year off with a Fun Ride on January on the newly purchased Redbird Property by Idaho Fish & Game. Jim & Karen Kimble boated over with a fantastic meal that was waiting for us when we arrived at the Snake River.



### **Redbird Beach**

February, we had our annual Chili Ride at the Kuther Ranch, riding private property. Lots of deer and beautiful scenery topped off the ride. In March, a few of us packed into Redbird again and cleared the trail upriver from the beach with the hopes of making a loop trail in the future. Our annual week of work and play at Billy Creek Ranch was cancelled this year, as the snow was too deep to make it over the top of the mountain and make it down to the Snake River.

In April, things really started picking up. Mark Bogar came up with a new idea for a fun ride. We helped a local rancher move his cattle from winter pasture to spring pasture. Cows don't like to go up a steep hillside when they are tired, but there were enough of us, we finally got the job done! All the work that Karen Parks and Mark Bogar put in resulted in another successful Back Country and Outdoor Show with the BCHI Convention and Directors Meeting happening at the same time. This is our largest annual fundraiser for the year. Clearing the trail for our annual Poker ride turned into a failure, as the snow was up to the horses' bellies on Fordyce Trail and we needed a new place quick! We were able to move the ride down to Headsgate County Park and after given permission from some very considerate landowners we still had our ride on the scheduled date.

The route was scouted out from the seat of our pants and flagged as the ride was all in open country and no established trail. We had a great turn out and riders seemed to like the new route. What do we do now for next year?



### **Asotin Creek Poker Ride**

The end of April, we setup a Trail Class Course for the 4-H groups at the Asotin County Fair and did all the judging. This was lots of fun for BCH members as well as the riders.

The local schools, Clarkston & Asotin, host a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Rendezvous, in May, and we did a mule packing skit with LNT in mind and also made rope with the kids getting free samples. Redbird Canyon saw us again in May riding down and removing old barbwire fencing for two days along the trail in the worst areas that were hazardous to stock. At the end of May, we were finally able to complete the clearing of the Feather Creek Trail in the Palouse District of the Clearwater NF. This was rescheduled twice due to heavy snow in the area.

National Trails Days, we cleared the North Fork of Asotin Creek Trail and also worked on the North Pinkham Trail. There has been little maintenance on this trail and several switchbacks had been lost to down trees. We were able to repair several of these places and get back to the original tread. We had another fun ride in the Anatone area on private and public land over the route of last year's Poker Ride. Logging had gone on since last year's ride, and we got lost a few times, but oh were the wild flowers beautiful!! The Maloney Creek Fire of 2001 and the Chimney Complex Fire of 2007 burned some line shack cabins on the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area managed by Idaho Fish & Game. We volunteered to finish the Frenchy Creek Cabin that was started in 2003 and offered all the labor to rebuild the Dough Creek Cabin if they would buy the materials. The month of June was consumed with these projects by a few of us. We are very proud of our accomplishments with no labor charges to Idaho Fish & Game. Both cabins now have outhouses, water troughs, hitchrails and beautiful views. The cabins are open to the public on first come first serve basis and are completely stocked with basic supplies. Our chapter has adopted the Dough Creek Cabin and is responsible for its upkeep. We donated over \$5500 in equipment use and 660 hours of labor to complete these two cabins. These cabins are located in areas closed to motorize users to reduce wildlife disturbances.

In July, we had our annual Kid's Kamp at the Pony Club near Deary, ID. This was a new location and the facilities are above fantastic. Lots of training for the kids with their stock, and rides every day. The Latah County Search and Rescue explained what they do in a search situation and then had the kids help them with a mock search on horseback. This was a highlight for them!

Finally, the snow had melted enough that we were able to get in some high country in August. We went to the Corral Creek Trailhead in the Nez Perce NF and did some repair work on the fencing around the camping area that was built to keep cattle out of the campground. We also scouted out the Mill Creek Trail for possibly opening it back up for a loop ride opportunity.

In September we had a fun ride from Madden Corrals to Frye Point in the Craig Mountains and were blessed with some wonderful views, great weather and a herd of about three hundred elk at 250 yards. At the end of September we rode an area of the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness in the Umatilla NF to look over a proposed project of removing and packing out old barb wire fencing that is a hazard to stock and wildlife.



### **Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness**

November Chapter Meeting was our annual Pizza Feast. Any one that had a stock incident: buck off, lost animal, etc. is supposed to buy pizza for the chapter meeting. It is always fun to remind the members of their entertaining mishaps. November, several of us attended the BCHI Convention in Salmon helping them celebrate their thirty year anniversary. We seem to like Pizza and Chili, as this was our second annual Gate Closing Chili Ride on the Fordyce Trail November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife closes the road gate at midnight November 30<sup>th</sup> and remains closed until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

December, we had our annual Christmas Party and again collected Toys for Tots. We are looking forward to a busy 2009!!

