

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho

Squaw Butte Chapter

2015 Review



The 2015 elected leader were voted in to office at the December 2014 meeting and working with the various committees (projects, education, public lands and public outreach) started planning the activities and projects that made 2015 a busy and successful year.

At the January leadership meeting, a budget was set, and policies and issues were discussed. Our primary goal for 2015 was to do more public facing events. To that end we opened up our "fun" ride so that non-members could attend. We encouraged members to bring riding friends, so that they could get to know us and hopefully join the chapter in the future. We also manned booths at the "Sportsman Show" and "Horse Expo". Our "Back Country Skill Clinic" was also open to all riders and was held in the Emmett public arena, providing easier access and great visibility. Lastly we held our annual yard sale, which seem to be popular with the public and a good fund raiser for the chapter.

Our first ride of the year was held in February at "**Celebration Park**" between the cliffs and the Snake River.



Almost Perfect Day



Janine & Linda in the Lead



Blue & Jack



Janine & Linda



This is a popular winter ride, as the weather is often good as it was this day and members are ready to get riding again. The horses are fat and sassy from a couple of months off.

Our March ride was at the “**Succor Creek BLM Management Area**” and was another almost perfect day with an excellent turn out of members and guest. After a scenic ride the group held a pot-luck BBQ.





In April the **Back Country Horsemen State convention** was held in McCall, hosted by the Heartland chapter. They did an excellent job and all who attended had a great time.



Our first member training event was also held in April. The Bogus Basin Ski Patrol held a **wilderness first aid refresher class** for Squaw Butte members at their bottom of the mountain office. It was very hands on and each member took turns being a victims and the provider of aid. The class was so much fun and every one had a great time improving our first aid skills.



The spring weather continued to be fair this year, and May was no exception. Our **Back Country Skills Clinic** found a new location, the public arena near the fairgrounds in Emmett. The morning Safe Trails Clinic was well attended and both horse and rider enjoyed working through the various challenges.



This clinic continued into the afternoon as well as a packing session.



The USFS also held a one day **sawyer refresher course** for members who had successfully completed the two day Sawyer course in the past. It was a cool gray day, which is perfect for an activity like running a chain saw.





discussing the plan



setting up a safe cutting zone



The end of May was wet, with a full ten day of rain as a number of fronts pass through the area. On the last weekend of the month, six members drove for four to five hours on "Mud Flat Road" to the **new North Fork Wilderness** in the Owyhee's to pack out old fencing wire. This is a project we had started the year before.



Truck with car wash in it future



Saturday Morning





The “Last” event in May was our **yard sale**. We are amazed each year what sells and that we have families that come every year, some bringing stuff to us to sell as well as buying. It is becoming as much a public outreach event as a fund raiser.



Chick, Janine, Rob, Robbin, Marybeth, Bill & Nancy



Kay sorting items



Phil testing a chair



Treasure hunters



Charles making a sale

June started the trail maintenance season and our **National trails day** event was held at Boundary Creek trail on Cuddy Mountain in the Payette

national forest. It sort of set the tone for this year, a number of BIG trees needed to be removed from the trails.



I wish I had brought the BIG saw



20 inch bars are to short



Laurie starts cutting a wedge



Rob working on the second cut



You could have built a house with



The Idaho Department of Ag and the USFS ask if BCHI would be willing to spend a day talking to a **delegation from Korea** that wanted to know about multiuse trails and especially horse use of said trails. Phil Ryan and Rob Adams spent the day with six members of the delegation and their Idaho hosts. Recreational horseback riding is new to Korea and is becoming very popular. We took the group to Peace Creek and Boiling Springs trail heads and showed them various aspects of trail construction and maintenance.



Wilson Corral Survey & Trail Project - Phil Ryan, John Hidy and I spent the day surveying the bottom 1/2 mile of the Wilson Corral trail on West Mountain, looking for a better trail path that didn't take stock belly deep in bog or rock hopping down the creek. After a couple of hours of hiking the hill sides we found a route that resolves both issues.



John crossing the first bog area



Phil & John



don't lose a shoe



under that tree in into the creek



rock hopping



great trail, isn't it john

Re-routed trail that goes above the creek



Starting from the east end



Slope is about 15 degrees



than flattens out



two switch back reunited with the

The end of June and early July was HOT, in the 100's and two events were rescheduled to cooler times.

Squaw Creek Trail - Eight members of Squaw Butte spent a cool and clear Saturday riding the West Mountain North Trail (TR-131). We removed eighteen downed trees and a large quantity of brush from the first five miles of trail. A number of members rode Poison Creek Trail (TR-133) on Sunday.



The first August project was held at **Kennally Creek trail head**, Payette National Forest. Nine members of the chapter spend a great weekend riding, eating and clearing fifteen down trees.



Bitter Creek Trail – June had been cancelled due to extreme heat. This weekend was in the mid 70's with an overcast sky. The riders in June would have encountered a lot of large downfall. On this day, I only stopped a few time for a bit of brushing. A motor cycle group had done an excellent job cutting out the downfall. This is a very pretty trail up a river canyon, with some amazing rock formation.



East Pine Creek - In June Laurie and I started this project, but got distracted by a secondary trail and didn't complete the trail that I had committed to with the Payette Nation Forest trail rangers. On Saturday, Laurie and two friends Jones & Dusty, join me for a day of trail maintenance on East Pine Creek Trail.





Boiling Springs – Our last trail project was more fun ride that work project. Four members spent Saturday riding the middle fork trail. This trail is more in the river than on dry ground. This popular trail passes a number of hot springs and is popular with riders and with hikers who have a route along the side of the canyon wall. Seven trees were removed by Shelly and Janine who wanted to use skills gained at the Sawyer training in May.



The last event of the year was a fun ride in the BLM management area Succor Creek. There is a very nice loop ride just past the ranch cattle guard to the east. A power line crosses this area, thus the ride is known as the **Power Line Loop**. Ten members and three other rides had a great three hour ride exploring canyons and rock formations.

