

February 2016

Happy February Fellow Members!

It seems the January thaw has come and gone since there are big, wet flakes of snow coming down outside my window as I write this. In January we had our leadership meeting and got the ball rolling for the year. There are some exciting plans for public events that are new activities for us and should help us attract more non-members and give them a chance to hear our story.

With the emphasis we have placed on growing our chapter I have started on a couple expansion efforts. The first was something that has worked for us, and other BCHI chapters, in the past. I had 500 paper placemats printed and will give them away to area restaurants. You can see what they look like here <http://www.bchi.org/Images/wanted-posters/placemat-14chaps.pdf> . So far they're being used at the Blue Ribbon Café here in Emmett and the Triangle Dinner House in Sweet. Charles Chick is going to distribute some in Horseshoe Bend. If any of you have an idea where they might do some good. I'll have them at the **February 4** meeting or just send me an email with the café name and location and I'll drop by and see if they'd like to use them.

I've also started to reach out to other equine related organizations in the Boise area. I'm trying to get on their meeting agendas as a speaker so I can get a chance to spread the BCHI/A message to people who are interested in trail riding and might want to join. I'll keep you updated on that.

Another very important event is happening on **February 11**. It's a public event sponsored by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation titled; "Seeking Solutions: Funding Non-Motorized Trail Recreation in Idaho." It is scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Andrus Center for Public Policy, 301 South Capitol Boulevard in Boise. If you're going to attend you need to call 208.514.2551 to claim a seat. I would like to encourage any of you who can, to attend. So far I know Bill Holt and I are going. I spoke to them last Friday and the house is filling up fast so please call as soon as you can. More info here: <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/seeking-solutions-funding-non-motorized-trail-recreation-idaho>

February 21 kicks off our riding season with a public event at Celebration Park on the Snake River. It's a flat, easy ride through the sagebrush and is usually a pleasant ride. The temperature is often a little warmer there since the black walls of the wide canyon heat up on sunny days. Since it is a public event bring your non-member friends and let them get to know us. Maybe they'll join and ride with us again once we get up into the hills later in the year.

If I don't see you at the meeting, I'll see you on the trail.

Robbin