

February 2014



Greetings all,

Today is sunny but it may not last so enjoy it while you can! The horses and mule are taking full advantage of it, turning their bodies to get the most heat and with the melting ice and snow, are able to nibble on those short pieces of grass.

January has been a busy month behind the scenes. The annual Board of Directors meeting was held on January 19<sup>th</sup> and the officers and various committee chairs attended. In addition to working up the estimated budget, membership recruitment, website updates, status of the 2014 calendar and activities, and proposed bylaws and standing rules changes were discussed. Be sure to attend the February meeting to hear all the details.

Three grant application requests were received requesting letters of support. The first request is to complete enhancements and improvements to recreation sites in the Pole Creek area. Bill Holt also sent a letter of support as this is an area that he frequents. There was a short response time on this one, with all letters due no later than January 17<sup>th</sup>.

The second one is to maintain about 300 miles of motorized trails on the North Zone of the Boise National Forest where safety concerns are to be addressed and resource damage mitigated. Squaw Butte committed 40 man hours to this project and Rob is working on dates and locations.

The third request is a 2015 project to open and repair about 50 miles of the Idaho Centennial Trail in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Squaw Butte committed about 100 man hours of pack support only for this. There are lots of logistics yet to be worked out including dates and locations.

The pack clinic dates are now firm so mark your calendars for May 3-4. Phil reserved the Emmett Fairgrounds for Saturday and he has had conversations with Gail Duke, Gem/Boise 4-H about the agenda. She is to give him some potential attendance numbers in the near future but suggested there could be as many as 40 kids. He has also received a commitment from veterinarian Dr. Stephen Hardy for that morning session and has been getting ideas from his committee.

The chapter display for the convention will consist of the three panel display that the Chicks created a few years back since it conforms to the size restrictions. Each panel will cover a topic: advocacy, boots-on-the-ground, and education. Help and ideas are welcome.

Marybeth has been working diligently on the proposed changes to the bylaws. Linda will present these for the first reading at the February meeting. The second reading and voting will take place at the March meeting.

Squaw Butte chapter is proposing two resolutions for consideration at the BCHI meetings in March. The drafts will be read at the February meeting so we need everyone there to hear the wording and suggest changes or additions. Resolutions must be sent to the State Secretary no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> in order for her to get them out to the general membership for consideration. This is extremely important and we will determine in March how our chapter plans to vote on them.

In celebration of the year of the horse, did you know that a 19<sup>th</sup> century horse named "Old Billy" is said to have lived 62 years? Nearly as old as me!

Kay Ryan, President