

SQUAW BUTTE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

PO Box 293, Emmett, ID 83617

March, 2006

A person wearing a white cowboy hat and a light-colored long-sleeved shirt is riding a dark brown horse through a shallow stream in a forest. The water is clear, and the surrounding trees are dense and green. The scene is captured from a side profile, showing the rider looking down at the horse.

MARCH EVENTS
THE BACK COUNTRY TRAVELER

Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen

Meet the 1st Thursday of every month at La Costa Restaurant in Emmett, ID

For information about joining contact Bob Howard, 208.279.5011 or robertnchristy@msn.com



What: Snake River Fun Ride

Date: March 11

Time: Plan to Ride about 10:00 AM

Where: Celebration Park on the Snake River

Activity: Fun Ride along the Snake River and in the canyon that makes up part of Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

There are many Official and "cow path" trails on the canyon floor. Mosts of them are sand with occasional rocky stretches. I've made it through on unshod horses twice but if your animal has tender feet shoes are probably a wise idea. The two times I was there there were gnats in the air so some fly spray will be good.



Directions: About an hour's drive from Emmett. Coming from the East: (Eagle or Emmett) go to Star and turn South on Star Road. (Star Road becomes Robinson once you pass Fairview). Just stay on this until the road swings to the west and you come to a stop sign at Can-Ada Road. Turn south again 'til the next Stop sign. Turn East, the road jogs South again in a few hundred yards. Stay on Can-Ada about 4 miles and you'll see a sign on the right for Celebration Park. There will be a SBBCH sign there as well.

Coming from the West: (new Plymouth, Weiser, etc.) Get on the Inter-state heading East. Exit at the Garrity exit in Nampa. Go north to the First light and turn onto East Franklin Road. Go about a mile to the junction with Robinson, turn south and follow the directions above.

Contact: robbinschindele@yahoo.com or Robbin Schindele 208.365.1789 or Ellen Knapp 398-7279 or spirithorse@gotvi.net

March 25 is our pack clinic at Circle G River ranch. It runs all day 10:00-4:00.
Come to learn or come to help out.

See details on page 6

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear SBBCH Members,

I would like to thank Dr. David Hayes for a very informative and entertaining presentation. His knowledge and humor was very refreshing.

I would also like to thank all the members who attended our last meeting. It is very gratifying to see everybody that turned out. Also a great big welcome to our new members and visitor's.

We had to table a number of items due to the length of our meeting, so we will have to address these matters at the next meeting.

In March I would like to say a big Happy Birthday to Robbin Schindele and Bob Howard Jr.

Be thinking about how you can help on trail projects this summer.

See you all on the trail,

Bob



By Ellen Knapp

So you and your horse want to go somewhere. A day ride, a weekend of riding from the trail head or a multi day pack trip, all have one thing in common. You need to Plan and Prepare. Driving to a trailhead is different from driving to the local arena. Riding from the trailhead is different from riding at the local arena. What should you have in your trailer? What should you have in your saddle bags? In this month's installment, I'll talk about

what is needed for a day ride from a trailhead.

First off, I need to PLAN where we are going for the day ride. I need to find a trail route on a map. I need to make sure the horses can travel the route I have selected from the map. How do I do this if I have never been there? I call the Ranger District for the area, I go on the Internet and look up road and trail conditions for the route, I read books that describe trails. If it is early in the season I need to be aware of fast moving creeks due to snow melt. We may not be able to cross. I

also need to make sure that horses are permitted where I plan to go. Is the ride during our spring rainy season? While we may get the trailer into the trailhead, we may not be able to get it out. Also, if there are more riders in the group than just me, I need to consider their experience as well as their horses' experience. I need to plan a route that is doable by the least experienced rider and/or horse. When I PREPARE my trailer for a day ride, I think about what my horse and I need for an entire day. What do I need to drive to the trailhead, what do I need at the

trailhead, what do I need on the trail, what do I need when I return to the trailer, and what do I need for the drive home.

Before I leave for the trail head, I need to make sure my trailer tires are full, not just partially full. I need to make sure my truck has enough gas and that my truck is in good working order. I have a bag in my truck with tools. I make sure the trailer brakes and all my trailer lights are working.

I encourage you to have a Trailer Aid or Jiffy Jack for changing tandem trailer tires. Also make sure you have a lug wrench that will fit your trailer tire lug nuts. A few 6x6 sections of wood for added height when using a lift jack will facilitate the installation of the full spare tire. Don't forget a 6x6 or piece of log to keep the trailer from rolling when jacking it up. And, most of all, make sure you have a spare tire and your spare tire is inflated. Of course, one spare won't help much when you have multiple flats. At that point, all you can do is get a tow, drive carefully back to town, or send someone back to town to buy tires.

For a day ride, I feed my horse at home in the morning before I load him. Once I get to the trail head, I need (obviously) my saddle and its parts: saddle pad/blanket, front and rear cinches, breast collar, crupper; my headstall and reins, and various saddle bags. If I haven't already, I fly spray my horse. I also cover myself with sunscreen and fly spray.

Also in my trailer I have duct tape (a 1001 uses), a blanket for my horse, should I need him to stay warm while he dries out on the

way home, a chair for sitting and socializing at the trailhead after the ride, a larger first aid kit including a first aid book, a compact leaf rake, a compact manure picker and large trash bags. These last three will be used when I talk about manure etiquette at the trail head. I carry an extra cinch, saddle pad, reins, and breast collar in my trailer, just in case I find something not repairable when saddling.

Inexperienced horses and sometimes even experienced horses won't drink 'foreign' water on the trail. What can you do? I bring water from home. It is as simple as filling a few 5 gallon plastic jugs. Granted, it may be an inconvenience, but I have personally have had a few horses become very dehydrated on a Saturday ride due to their lack of experience. Over time, horses can become 'experienced' and learn to drink the 'foreign' water.

In my various saddle bags I include water, lunch, maps, a copy of my insurance card, sunglasses, phone (knowing I may be out of range), a GPS or compass, a small first aid kit including a whistle, hoof pick, knife, pliers, wire cutter, folding compact saw, easy boot (fitted for the horse I am riding), baling twine (for all kinds of fixes), and a jacket and gloves for the weather. Those skilled in replacing a loose or lost shoe, and I am not one of them, bring a small shoeing kit. Of course, I need to remember to bring or wear the hat, boots, coat, and gloves I plan to ride in. And I need to have either the halter and lead rope or hobbles to contain my horse while I have lunch or do trail work.

I always use a breast collar with my horse. It helps to keep the saddle in place. It keeps it from sliding backwards or from turning. Cruppers are a good idea if your horse has less pronounced withers. It helps keep the saddle from sliding up on the horse's neck as well as from turning. Many folks use rear cinches. A rear cinch helps keep the saddle from tipping forward.

At the trailhead, I try to park away from the hikers to minimize any hiker/horse/car interactions. Plus, with trailers, we need more room to park and don't want to get parked in nor do we want to park others in. Now, let's talk about manure. It is a fact of life that hikers don't like manure; they step in it, their dogs eat it or their dogs roll in it. It is also a fact of life that horses produce manure, wherever and whenever. And we riders are used to manure. Both hikers and riders need to share the trailheads and the trails. We can be considerate of all the other users of the trailhead by being aware of our manure. We don't need to rake the manure out of our trailers onto the ground when we get to the trailhead. That is unsightly for all users, including fellow horsemen, of the trailhead. We do have options. We can leave it in the trailer and take it home, we can rake it into plastic garbage bags and take those home or deposit those in a trash can, or, for a little used trail head, we can disperse, in bushes and evergreens, the manure well away from the public area of the trailhead. I do the same with the deposits my horse makes while tied to the trailer; disperse it or put it in a plastic garbage bag. It

not only helps our image as horsemen in the public's eye which goes a long way to preserving our equestrian access to places, but it is common sense in preserving what we have for our own future use and for others' future use.

Before hitting the trail, if there is a sign in sheet, I make sure to register. We want to record all use of our trails by horsemen, to help maintain and preserve our access to them.

Once I return to the trail head, I want to make sure my horse has water. I offer him a bucket of the home water I have brought. I may unsaddle him and brush him if the drive home is 'long'. If he has his long winter hair and is wet I

will blanket him. He should be dry by the time I arrive home and turn him out. I will certainly check his feet for stones and loose shoes. If he has been on the trail all day AND drinking well I may offer some hay, before loading him, to keep his gut moving for the drive home. I offer the hay in a hay bag tied to the trailer side. I don't like hay nets. I can't seem tie them up high enough to prevent a horse from getting its foot caught. I don't want to give my horse hay if he hasn't drunk all day and especially if he is somewhat dehydrated. That can lead to colic. To tell how dehydrated he is, pinch an inch of skin on his neck, let go and see how long it takes to snap back and un wrinkle. If he is hydrated I will only get to say the

'one' of 'one onethousand'. If I can count to 'two onethousand', he is pretty dehydrated.

I like to wait until I am ready to leave before I load my horse. Tied to the side of the trailer, he can move about some and stretch out to pee at his convenience. Once loaded, I don't tie my horse. I have a slant load trailer, with partition gates. I remove the lead rope and let my horse stand in his slot. I know this is personal preference and experience. I'll leave the choice to tie or not to each of you.

Next month I'll talk about planning and preparing for an overnight at the trailhead or on the trail.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I just wanted to apologize for the lateness of the newsletter this month. One of my 2006 New years resolutions was to try and get the newsletter to you all before our monthly meeting. I usually get it done the third week of the month, last week I my schedule went awry. My cows started to calve on me retty rapid fire and some problems too. Should be done in a week or so and gs will be back in order.

Robbin





The following lists the Pack Clinic sessions and volunteers for each, at the SBBCH Pack Clinic. Anyone with a conflict or wishing to volunteer for a session should contact Rob Adams.

REGISTRATION DESK

Helpers: Charles Lox, ?? **Materials:** Membership Forms, Liability forms, receipt book, Clinic schedules, new member packets

LUNCH TEAM

Helpers: ?? **Materials:** Dutch over Class results, Pork BBQ, Chili, buns, chips, soda, water, ice tea,

BACKCOUNTRY MEDICINE - HUMAN. A discussion on what to do if confronted by injury while in the backcountry.

Presenters: Sally Schindele M.D., Kelley Creamer **Materials:** Handouts

BACKCOUNTRY MEDICINE – STOCK. Items covered will include symptom and suggestions on what to do until you can get your stock to a vet.

Presenters: JoAnna Stroeder **Materials:** Handouts

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BOISE NATIONAL FOREST. This session will be lead by members of the Emmett Ranger District

Presenters: Jim & TJ **Materials:** Handouts

PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES – A discussion on issues that are of major importance in protecting your right to use and ride on public lands in Idaho.

Presenters: Harold Edwards **Materials:** Handouts

STOCK HOOF HEALTH. This session will cover how to evaluate the health of your horse or mules feet.

Presenters: Melissa Smith, Julie Womack, Jill Bailey **Materials:** Handouts

WHERE TO GO – A session of some places within reasonable driving distance of Boise that provide great trail riding and camping opportunities.

Presenters: ?? Phil Ryan **Materials:** Handouts

MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPING. This session will cover camping at trailheads and in the backcountry. Following these simple common sense guild lines will increase your enjoyment of the backcountry and preserve it for the future

Presenters: Ellen Knapp **Materials:** Handouts, Sample Campsite (list item to talk about)

STOCK CONTAINMENT WHILE ON PUBLIC LANDS. This session will discuss a number of ways that you can contain your stock while at a trailhead and in the backcountry that are safe for them and easy on the land. A must if you want to do more then day ride.

Presenters: ?? **Materials:** Handouts

USEFUL KNOTS – This session will cover a number of very useful knots that are very handy if you're traveling in the backcountry. Do you really know the best way to tie your horse? Can you tie a bowline or clove hitch? Learn how...

Presenters: John Bush **Materials:** Handouts

EQUIPMENT - Suggested equipment that will make your trail riding and backcountry camping experience more enjoyable and safer.

Presenters: Bill Conger **Materials:** Handouts? Equipment, saddles, boxes, saddle bags, etc

FUNDAMENTALS OF PACKING EQUIPMENT. Learn the parts and basic functions of a packsaddle. How to fit and care for it for a lifetime of use in the backcountry

Presenters: Rob, Robbin, Bob, Bill, Tom **Materials:** Stock, Pack Saddle, Pad, Ropes, Bags, Boxes, Tarps

PACKING SKILLS – BOXES AND BAGS. Learn some simple ways to secure loads on to your pack stock. This session will cover loading boxes, bags and securing top packs. Hitches covered with include the basket and Decker diamond.

Presenters: Rob, Robbin, Bob, Bill, Tom **Materials:** Stock, Pack Saddle, Pad, Ropes, Bags, Boxes, Tarps, e set of Boxes and bags (per horse), 2- lbs load (for box / bag), 1 built top pack

PACKING SKILLS – Cargoing This session will cover using Manties and securing loads to your stock. Skills learned in the session will allow you to pack a range of items from bails of hay to an elk.

Presenters: Rob, Robbin, Bob, Bill, Tom, ?? **Materials:** Stock, Pack Saddle, Pad, Ropes, Tarp, Built (under 40 lb)loads for securing to stock

LOAD BUILDING – Learn the correct way to pack boxes and bags. How to build a top packs. This session will cover the things you need to know to build safe loads that your stock can carry all day over any trail you feel like riding.

Presenters: Bob, Bill, Tom, ?? **Materials:** Boxes & Bags (and a bunch of stuff to put in them), scales

LOAD BUILDING – Learn the correct way to mantie a load. This session will cover the skills know as Cargoing. This session is a must for anyone who might want to pack out game or pack in anything that doesn't fit well in a bag.

Presenters: Bob, Bill, Tom, ?? **Materials:** Tarps & Ropes (and a bunch of stuff to put in them), scales

LOAD BUILDING - Cargoing large or odd shaped items. This session will be lead by Bob Howard Sr. who has packed thousands of miles in the Idaho backcountry over the last 60 years.

Presenters: Bob Sr., Tom **Materials:** Tarps & Ropes (and a bunch of unusual stuff to put in them), scales

BACKCOUNTRY COOKING – Meal planning and pre trip preparation. Want to save money, weight and eat better. Do not buy prepackaged freeze-dried meals that are expensive and taste like salty sawdust. Learn how you can easily put together great meals that are easy to prepare, are almost as light and cost a lot less. Marybeth Conger, author of "Easy Dehydrated Gourmet Meals" will lead this session.

Presenters: Marybeth, Donna **Materials:** ??

BACKCOUNTRY COOKING – DUTCH OVEN COOKING. Learn how to make savory meals. This session will cover the fundamentals of Dutch oven cooking. A number of recipes will be prepared during the sessions and will be sampled at lunch.

Presenters: Paul Loree **Materials:** Dutch Ovens, Food to cook, charcoal

?? Marks indicate we have no volunteers for that session yet. So if you can please volunteer by contact sbbch@starband.net or Rob Adams 208-584-3780

Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen – Chartered 3/92
02/02/2006 Regular Meeting
Minutes

Name	Present
Adams, Rob & Linda	X
Argo, Doug & Teri	
Berggren, Leon & Margaret	X
Burak, Nadine	
Bush, John & Jackie	John
Carlock, Deborah	
Carpenter, Vern	X
Conger, Bill & Marybeth	X
Crawford, Bob	
Crawford, Danielle & Fred Navarro	
Creamer, Kelley	
Dann, Tony & Diane	X
Davis, Justin	X
Edwards, Harold & Renee	X
Erickson, John	
Ewell, Jason	

Findling, Ken & Cheryl	
Fine, Larry	
Forrester, John	
Fry, Martin	
Gaskell, Lou Ann	
Goslin, John	
Guinn, Lettie	
Harding, Bob & Bill	X
Hezeltine, Alex & Sherrie	
Howard, Bob	X
Howard, Robert & Donna	X
Johnson, David	
Kroush, Debbie	
Lox, Charles & Ellen Knapp	X
Lyons, Barney & Judy Hudson	Barney
MacDonald, Terry & Gail	Terry
McClendon, Mike & Cathy	

Nielsen, Dolores	X
Prindel, Sharon	
Richards, Tom	X
Rindlisbach, Claudia	
Ryan, Phil & Kay	X
Schantz, Shannon	
Schindele, Robbin & Sally	X
Schiro, Anthony & Susan	
Schmidt, Sam	
Selkirk, William	
Sharp, Ron	
Smith, Lisa	
Stroeder, JoAnna	X
Taipale, Robbie	
Thielges, Jim	
Waters, Randy	
Young, Gene	

2006 SBBCH Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Robert Howard, Sr., Vice President: Rob Adams, Treasurer: Charles Lox, Secretary: Kay Ryan
 John Bush—Past President
 State Directors (2): Phil Ryan, Bob Howard, Jr.
 Alternate State Director: Leon Berggren
 Foundation Director: Sally Schindele
 Alternate Foundation Director: Margaret Berggren

Regular meeting brought to order at 6:58 P.M. by President Robert Howard, Sr.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction and Welcome to Guests: Kay Burdine, David Hayes, DVM, Steve Holcroft, Ralph & Sharon Truax

Introduction and Welcome to New Members: No new members

DAVID HAYES, DVM

Dr. David Hayes of the Equine Hospital and Lameness Center asked the group to provide topics for him to discuss. He gave his background and then asked if anyone could give a definition of 4H. He says that in the horse world, he believes that 4H stands for horses, humans, humble, and hurt. Mixing horses and humans will result in being humble and eventually hurt. He then moved on to the topics from the audience: West Nile Virus, colic, founder, laminitis, water and thrush, seedy toe and pigeon fever. He said everyone should have their horses vaccinated for West Nile, that there are three vaccines now, to chose one vaccine and stick with it. Colic is primarily caused when horses return to eating green grass and that green grass also encourages founder. He said to add green grass gradually to the diet to avoid colic. To treat thrush, the hoof should be kept clean, dry if possible, with lots of air getting to the area. Bleach can be used if the wound is not open. Seedy toe involves a thickening of the white line. He said pigeon fever is not in this area but can be found on the west coast.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

Robbin Schindele moved to accept the minutes of the January meeting as published in the February newsletter. Bill Conger seconded the motion which passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance: \$ 184.71 (corrected due to calculation error)
Deposits: +\$ 740.00

Expenditures: - \$.00
Ending Balance: \$ 924.71

Robbin said he has some bills to submit. Ellen Knapp moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Robbin Schindele and was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Liaison Report:

- Harold Edwards reported that on February 9th there will be a meeting to learn more about Idaho's Wilderness areas in an effort to recommend which should remain roadless. The meeting will be held at the Idaho Historical Museum from 6 to 8. He believes members should make their opinions known as individuals rather than as members of BCH. Trail Trotters is to be held June 3rd so we need to put that in the calendar.

State Directors Report:

- Phil Ryan requested that members remember to sell their raffle tickets and to turn in the money and stubs to him.

Education & 501(C)3 Report:

- Sally said she had nothing to report.

Work Projects and Rides Report:

- Rob Adams talked about upcoming events, including the following:
 - 2/4 Idaho Recreation Council - Sally & Robbin, Harold, Phil, and Marybeth will attend.
 - 2/17 Horse Affair – no schedule yet but the following volunteered: Phil, Robbin, Sally, Charles, Ellen, Margaret, Dolores, Bob Sr., Harold and Rob. The space is a double booth and there will be the plastic horse.
 - 2/25 Dutch oven & BBS – hosted at Spirit Horse Ranch.
 - 3/11 Birds of Prey ride – Robbin volunteered to lead the group as Rob will be recovering from eye surgery.
 - 3/25 Leave No Tracks – Circle G River Ranch. Ellen will be meeting with a 4H group next week to promote the program. Marybeth and Donna will oversee the Dutch oven cooking.

The Wilderness Alliance will be tackling the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness trails. They want BCH groups to handle the moving of food and equipment. Rob also mentioned that there are two grants available from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and they would like a letters of commitment. John moved that Kay should draft these letters. Phil seconded the motion which passed. Harold said we will probably need to commit to a certain number of hours.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Reports to State Organization: Kay asked if individuals will be sending in their reports or if she should collect the information to be sent. It was decided that she should send the information.

Grants, Personal Services Contracts, Etc.: Bob reported that he met with the Forest Service who said they are looking into grant money but that they want to pay us through a personal services contract once one is set up. He said they are willing to pay for repairs and tuning of our chainsaws and for any training we take.

Board of Directors Meeting: Copies of the minutes were provided and the only item to be discussed was the budget as the general membership should approve the budget. No copies were available so the budget was tabled until next meeting. Robbin was thanked for getting the newsletter out in time.

Fund Raising Project Ideas: Bob said he checked on the possibility of us selling the U-DIG-IT tool. The manufacturers said we could do that but that we couldn't undersell any of the retail sellers. The wholesale price of the tool is \$10.95 but no one knows what the retail price is. Only REI in the local area sells the item. Phil said that a gun raffle seems to make pretty good money. He said he can get guns at 10% over cost, two guns for around \$500 to \$600. If we sell 300 tickets at \$10.00 each, we could make enough to keep afloat for at least a year. Terry said that most people would not buy a raffle ticket for \$10.00. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Notices:

There were no notices.

Door Prizes:

- Bob Howard, Sr. was the lucky winner of a 50# bag of horse feed donated by Pet Corral.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Ryan, Secretary, SBBCH



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