

SQUAW BUTTE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

PO Box 293, Emmett, ID 83617

April, 2006

2006 PACK CLINIC

GETTING READY TO RIDE APRIL 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



Bill Conger and Sierra Sindahl pack a load at the SBBCH Pack Clinic.

2006 Pack Clinic

By Phil & Kay Ryan

If the future of the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho rests in educating the young as to the pleasures of seeing America from the back of a horse, then the Squaw Butte Chapter of the BCHI is getting the job done.

At the March 25th Fourth Annual Pack Clinic, entitled "Leave Only Tracks," Bill Conger gave a big helping hand to a very tiny young girl in tying down a load on a very patient mustang. The audience was awed and inspired by the young girl's pure joy at being able to get hands-on experience packing a horse, something she will remember for the rest of her life and so will we.

Thanks go to Lettie Guinn of the Circle G River Ranch for once again hosting the Squaw Butte Chapter's annual event in Emmett, Idaho. The Chapter

charged adults \$50.00 for participating in the clinic. The fee included lunch and a one-year membership to the Chapter, State, and National organizations. Individual 4H members were charged \$10.00 per child.



Kelly Creamer and Sally Schindele on Backcountry Medicine

Over 51 attendees took part in hands-on activities from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. The SBBCH members registered new members, distributed hand-outs,

prepared lunch and presented classes including Back Country Medicine (human); Minimum Impact Camping; Fundamentals of Packing Equipment; Load Building with Manties, Boxes and Bags; Meal Planning and Preparation; Back Country Stock Medicine; Stock on Public Lands; Dutch Oven Cooking; Knot Tying; Where to Go Riding - Day Rides, Overnight and Pack-in Trips; and Advanced Packing Skills.



Ralph Truax fires up a Dutch

The Emmett Ranger District of the Boise National Forest gave a class on Recreation in the Boise National Forest and a Bureau of Land Management representative provided literature and discussion on the Wild Horse and Burro adoption program.



Melissa Smith presented a video and discussion on Stock Hoof Health.




Even though the weather was a typical spring day in Idaho, thunder, lightning, rain, and wind, the event went well. Thank goodness for the indoor arena. Lunch of Sloppy Joes and shredded pork sandwiches topped off with Dutch oven peach cobbler warmed up everyone for the afternoon classes.

The future of the Back Country Horsemen in Southwestern Idaho is pointed in the right direction - educating adults and particularly the youth of our community in the knowledge and pleasure of riding and packing in the wild back country of Idaho.

MORE CLINIC PHOTOS



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear SBBCH Members,

I am sitting here writing this in a very heavy rainstorm. I guess it is no difference anywhere else. Sure gets tiresome. Although I am glad I'm not in Texas.

The fun ride on the Snake had to be cancelled due to the weather forecast, twice.

I would like to thank everybody who took no part in the "Leave Only Tracks" pack clinic at the Cricle G River Ranch. Also, a big thanks to Lettie for the use of the facilities. Without her this event would be much more difficult to arrange.

I have Bridgett Leach, a certified equine muscle therapist, speaking at our April meeting. It should be interesting.

We now have a calling committee, Vern Carpenter, Tony and Diane Dann and Joanna Stroeder. This is probably a thankless chore so let me say I appreciate them taking the time to do it.

Happy Birthday to Judy Hudson in April.

Hope to see as many of you as can make it to the upcoming Rendezvous at the Lewiston Fairgrounds April 7-9. Should be interesting and fun.

See you on the trail

Bob

STATE RENDEZVOUS

What: State BOD Meeting, Back Country Rendezvous & Outdoor Show

Date: April 7, 8 & 9

Time: Friday 3PM-7PM, Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 9AM-3PM

Where: Nez Perce County Fairgrounds Lewiston, ID

Activity: Vendors include: artists, outdoor equipment, RVs, tack, fencing, jewelry, animal nutrition, craftsmen, and more. Demo's will include packing clinics, horse camping classes, Dutch oven, nutrition, kids archery, women recreational packing, and more. Education on leave no trace, wilderness, weed education, routine and emergency care for yourself and stock. Forest Service and other government organizations will be in attendance. Barry Cox will be doing round pen handling. Dave Rustebakke, DVM will be in the round pen doing behavior horse handling.

Dutch Oven Dinner will be including in the registration fee for the convention. For the rest of us and public, cost will be \$20. There will be a no host bar from 5-10pm. Dinner at 6pm, Live Auction starts approximately 7pm.



By Ellen Knapp

This month, I'm going to address the planning and preparation considerations when camping overnight with your stock, either at the trail head or in the back country. Pack stock groups must be even more conscientious about Minimizing Impact, since the animals tend to produce greater impact than backpackers and llama packers. The foot of a horse or mule generates about 1500 pounds per square inch. Horseshoes intensify this pressure and the shearing effect on soil and vegetation. The goal is to minimize the number of stock I need to take. Using lightweight and compact gear will help reduce the number of stock needed, as will proper planning and preparation ahead of time.

What do I consider when planning?

- I determine the purpose of the outing. Is it a fun ride, fishing, hunting, trail

maintenance, or something else?

- I need to determine where I am going, when I am going, and how long I will stay.
- If I am planning for a group I need to consider the level of ages and experience – both rider and stock- of the group and then plan to the LOWEST level. That helps ensure a safe and fun time for all.
- I have to consider the potential weather conditions. I have encountered snow storms in the mountains in August.
- I get out my maps and go over the routes and potential camping areas as well as determine alternative routes and campsites.
- I have to gain knowledge of the area by either doing Web searches or talking with the agency responsible for the area I plan to visit. I need to know, at a minimum, if stock is permitted where I plan to go, if grazing is permitted, what other restrictions there

might be – like campfires or group size, do I have to consider bears, how heavily is the area used?

- I need to check for trail conditions and whether stock is allowed. Some areas are closed to pack animals due to overuse or because the environments are fragile.
- I plan the meals focusing on dried and dehydrated foods to reduce the weight of the food. An excellent source of easily dehydrated food recipes is [Easy Dehydrated Gourmet Meals](#) by Marybeth Conger and Reba Hendrix. I repackage food into reusable containers or plastic bags. This reduces the amount of I have to deal with in the backcountry. Carefully planned meals also reduce waste from leftovers and minimize the amount of extra food carried.
- I make an equipment list. I use lightweight gear, like the backpackers do, such as compact stoves and nylon tents and sleeping gear, to

reduce the number of horses required.

- I also decide how I will contain my stock for overnight and for feeding/grazing.

Once I have planned where and when I am going I need to prepare for the trip. What are some things I do when preparing for a trip?

- First and foremost I get myself and my stock in shape. I take only experienced stock. The trip is NOT the place to train my inexperienced riding or packing animal.
- I make sure the worming and vaccinations are up-to-date to help minimize any health issues.
- I practice at home the containment methods I plan to use. At the backcountry camp is not the time to find out my horse goes ballistic in hobbles.
- I fit any new gear on my stock and try out my panniers and practice the hitches.
- I get new shoes on my stock. I've had too many 'OK-looking' shoes come off when on the trail. I don't

take a shoeing kit because I don't know how to replace a shoe. If you take a kit, make sure you know how to use it. I use Easyboots instead. But I make sure I have Easyboots fitted for each animal – both front and rear hooves. If you take Easyboots, make sure you have fitted them properly.

- I begin feeding my stock the food they will be eating on the trip 3 days before leaving. I am careful to introduce the new food slowly, so as not to cause colic. And I want to make sure they will eat it. We all have to use weed free hay at both the trail head and in the backcountry. Feeding 3 days prior to leaving ensures all the weed seeds have been passed out of the horse's digestive tract..
- I make sure everything has all its parts, works, and is in good repair. Setting up camp is not the time to discover that I have left the tent poles home. In the dark is not the time to discover I have no clue how to get my new stove to work.

- I make sure I know how to use my GPS or my compass. Even if I know the trails well, I always bring a map in case I have to take an unplanned route.
- I prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. I carry a folding saw for trail clearing. I make sure my first aid kit is complete and that I know how to use everything in it. I include a card listing normal human and equine vital signs.
- Finally I get all my gear together that I plan to pack and weigh it. Does it match with the number of stock I plan to take? Hopefully, I have planned well enough that it does.

Good planning and preparation greatly increases my chance of having a great and safe experience in the backcountry. It also helps me reduce the number of stock I take so I can spend more time enjoying my experience rather than tending to stock. Next month I'll take about stock containment methods for use at the trail head and in the backcountry.

OTHER APRIL EVENTS

15SBBCH Fun Ride – Hard Trigger Canyon in the Owyhee's, shoes not necessary. Look for complete directions to the ride site on our NEW WEB SITE. <http://www.sbbchidaho.org>

21-23...Horse Expo (Caldwell rodeo grounds) Volunteers will be needed to take a shift one day of this 3 day event. More details at the meeting.



CARING FOR YOUR GEAR

This is the time of year when everyone is eager to get in the saddle. But before we do it's important that our tack, both riding and packing be as good as they can be before a season of hard use. And while I believe everyone knows this I'm going to include for those who might not. This is a job I like to do (unlike many) the only things you need besides what's below is a comfortable chair and a sunny afternoon.

Consistent care of saddles and tack will extend the life of all leather items. It is advisable to buy the best quality leather care products available. The phrase "kill with kindness" also applies to leather care. Although leather needs frequent cleaning and conditioning, it is also possible to over condition leather, which can be harmful. Leather needs to be cleaned well and sufficiently conditioned without overdoing it. ****Oil and heavy conditioners should be used sparingly.****

LEATHER CARE PRODUCTS

Initial Oiling: Neatsfoot oil compound. Also use if equipment becomes rain soaked to replace oil. Note: Use Neatsfoot Oil Compound if you want leather to darken or pure neatsfoot oil if you do not want it to darken as much.

Regular Leather Maintenance:

- Glycerine Soap: Belvoir, Leather New, Tattersal.
- Conditioners: Akene, Leather Therapy, Lexol, Hydrophane, Flexilan
- Restoring Older Equipment: Leather Therapy Restorer and Conditioner

MAINTENANCE CARE OF LEATHER

You can equate the care of leather goods to the care of your own skin – it too must be kept clean, soft and moisturized. We suggest the following care for your leather equipment:

After each use, leather equipment should be wiped off with a damp sponge, especially the underside, to remove sweat and dirt build-up.

Depending on how often you ride, you should, on a regular basis, clean and lubricate your saddle and bridle.

Cleaning is a Four-Step Process:

- Soap: Use a tack sponge and glycerine saddle soap (or for those who do not like the residue left by glycerine, then Castile or Ivory soap may be used). Work up a foam lather that will surround the dirt on your equipment and loosen it from the surface.
- Rinse: Clean the dirt and soap away using the same sponge (cleaned thoroughly in fresh water). Make sure all soap is removed.
- Dry: Let saddle air dry for a few minutes, or towel it to get the excess water off.
- Finish: Choose a fresh, clean sponge for the finishing work as it is difficult to fully clean the dirt off of a used sponge. Pick up a bit of the glycerine saddle soap on the sponge (if it foams you have left too much water in the sponge) and apply it to the leather in small circular motions. You could also use a small amount of conditioner along with the glycerine soap on your sponge.

Now oil your gear as described above and you're ready to ride.

Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen – Chartered 3/92
03/02/2006 Regular Meeting
Minutes

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Present</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Adams, Rob & Linda | X |
| Argo, Doug & Teri | |
| Berggren, Leon & Margaret | X |
| Burak, Nadine | |
| Burdine, Russell | |
| Bush, John & Jackie | John |
| Carpenter, Vern | X |
| Conger, Bill & Marybeth | |
| Dann, Tony & Diane | |
| Edwards, Harold & Renee | X |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Gaskell, Lou Ann | |
| Guinn, Lettie | |
| Harding, Bob | |
| Hezeltine, Alex & Sherrie | |
| Howard, Bob | X |
| Howard, Robert & Donna | X |
| Knapp, Ellen & Charles Lox | X |
| Lyons, Barney & Judy Hudson | |
| MacDonald, Terry & Gail | Terry |
| Nielsen, Dolores | X |
| Richards, Tom | X |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Ryan, Phil & Kay | Kay |
| Schantz, Shannon | X |
| Schindele, Robbin & Sally | X |
| Selkirk, William | |
| Stroeder, JoAnna | X |
| Thielges, Jim | |
| Truax, Ralph & Sharon | |
| West, Bob & Alasya | |
| Young, Gene & Cheryl | |

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 6:59 P.M. by President Robert Howard, Sr.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction and Welcome to Guests: Judy Carpenter, Jake Lemon, Dan & Julie Tackitt

Introduction and Welcome to New Members: Steve Holcroft

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Robbin Schindele moved to accept the minutes of the February meeting as published in the February newsletter. Bob Howard, Jr. seconded the motion which passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$ 924.61 |
| Deposits: | +\$ 270.00 |
| Expenditures: | - \$ 128.00 |
| Ending Balance: | \$ 1,066.61 |

Robbin moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by JoAnna Stroeder and was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Liaison Report: Harold Edwards reported on the proposal by the Bush Administration to sell public lands to pay for education. This directly affects Idaho as there are 176 scattered parcels in Idaho. We have 30 days to comment on the proposal. He also reported on the sale of lands in the Eagle Foothills, a favorite place for riding. Developers are interested in this land. Harold also talked about the Payette Forest Travel Management Plan, a plan that will control ATV use in the Payette National Forest. He said comment forms are available, and, a Stock Use Management Plan is to be developed in April by the Forest Service. All these issues are likely to affect those who ride horses.

State Directors Report: Bob Howard, Jr. said he had nothing to report.

Education & Foundation Reports: Sally Schindele said she had nothing to report.

Work Projects and Rides Report: Robbin discussed the upcoming ride at Celebration Park since he is in charge of it. Rob mentioned that the Coalition for Recreational Trails has sent a nomination form to recognize outstanding trail projects if anyone wants to submit a nomination. He also went through the packing clinic schedule and called for volunteers. He asked that if anyone has handouts that need to be reproduced to give them to Charles or himself so that we can be ready. He says that he has received a lot of calls and thinks we may have up to 75 people attend. He thinks we should plan for 100. The Dutch Oven person bailed out at the last minute so he is hoping someone will step forward on that. Lunch may need to be really simple. He says he will put out some information on that. Joanna said she has 12 first aid kits for horses available for purchase. She worked with several veterinarians to improve the kits from last year and to cover any liability issues. Terry MacDonald handed out some information on a ride sponsored by Idaho Mounted Orienteering to be held April 1, 2006. Sally reported on her attendance at the Idaho Recreation Council meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget: Charles Lox pointed out that under “BCH Logo Items” there is an estimated annual income of \$600.00 and an estimated annual expense of \$800.00. These items are the hats and magnetic signs. If we don’t have any more made up, the expense line goes away. The income line is dependent on how many of these we sell. Robbin moved that we accept the 2006 budget. Ellen Knapp seconded the motion which passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Donations Possible: JoAnna said that she has set up SBBCH as an organization to receive donations from Country Supply. She said that 5% of an individual’s order placed at www.countrysupply.com can be directed to SBBCH. There is free shipping on orders over \$40. Ellen suggested the information be put in the newsletter.

Raffle Item: JoAnna said that she has been working with Sportsman’s Warehouse to get something to raffle. She thinks it may be a wall tent or a camp stove but will keep us informed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Notices:

- Bob said we received a thank you from the 4-H kids who attended the training at Ellen’s. Dolores said they all did well.
- Bob passed around a plaque that was given to us for our work in 2005.
- Bob said we received some information from an individual in the area who performs equine massage. He said he will try to get the person to come as a speaker at a future meeting.

Birthday Celebration: Pieces of birthday cake were passed out to everyone by Donna Howard in celebration of Bob, Jr.’s birthday.

Door Prizes: Two door prizes were offered. Ellen won the high line swivel donated by Outfitters Supply and John Bush won the 50# bag of alfalfa cubes donated by Pet Corral.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Ryan, Secretary, SBBCH



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