

# SQUAW BUTTE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

PO Box 293, Emmett, ID 83617

May, 2006

## HARD LUCK AT HARD TRIGGER

## BCHI CONVENTION REPORT

BACK COUNTRY TRAVELER  
& EVENTS FOR MAY

*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, 208.276.5011 or robertnchristy@msn.com*





**SBBCH members ride in the Owyhee Mountains.**

By Robbin Schindele

The chapter ride in the Owyhees on April 15 was a very pleasant ride. Five members and one guest showed at the trailhead about 9:30 AM. The day was forecast for 40% chance of rain. Luckily the predicted widely scattered showers scattered away from us the entire day. There was the wind of course, gusting to 35 MPH as is common for the area. So for us it was a mostly sunny, very windy day. So rather than ride over the hills to Hard Trigger Canyon we stuck to the bottom land and rode only the hillsides that put them between us and the wind.

The nice thing about riding there is that you can just wander, turning from trail to cow path or just meander through the sage brush. So that's what we did often crossing a small creek, stopping at the springs to water the horses. Since this is a ride we do nearly every spring it had a comfortable familiarity to it. But as with every ride there were

differences. For one there was more green than I have ever seen there. The heavy winter and spring rains had brought on a lushness I have never seen in that desert country. Another was the large number of cattle taking advantage of it. They were everywhere and created a spontaneous training situation for those horses unaccustomed to bovine company.

The fun thing about riding cow paths is that they don't necessarily go anywhere. So often you end up in a corner or a hole leaving you and your mount to find your own way out, a good opportunity for a little "watching where your feet are" training.

About one o'clock we found ourselves winding down a steep, rocky, cow path next to a water course. It was "kinda technical," as they say, with slippery, rocky step downs and narrow footing. We got to a place where the trail eased and the arroyo was joined by another dry wash. We were out

of the wind, the clouds had parted, so we tied up for lunch. A pleasant half hour followed with only a couple incidents of horses tied low tying themselves up some more. Then we hit the trail for home.

Another good thing about riding that country is it's relatively easy to find your way home. So as we rode out of our hole we spotted some familiar landmarks and headed for them. Coming around the hills we entered the flat North of the trailer parking and started South. There out on the flat, in sight of the trailers and the Owyhee Cattle Company feedlot to the east we encountered our third surprise, 3 bands of wild horses.

No normally we do see these Owyhee mustangs but they are off a mile or more moving over a ridge or down into a valley well away from us, but not that day. They were grazing out in the open less than ¼ mile away. Watching us to be sure, but not running away. There were

some very pretty horses in those bands, many looking more like quarter horses than mustangs. A mare and foal moved around the bunch putting the other horses between her baby and us.

Back at the trailers everyone was holding their hats as we loaded up and said our goodbyes, another pleasant SBBCH ride, in good company and interesting country.

So where's the hard luck you ask? I'm getting to that.

The following Monday I was back at Hard Trigger, this time with my wife Sally. She had been on call on Saturday and unable to ride with the group. But like most of us this time of year, eager to get back in the saddle and see some country without houses and roads.

Another day same wind but fewer clouds. I was towing a pack mule and Sally was riding her saddle mule Waco.

Sally had never ridden there and I was excited to show here a new kind of country as we usually are up in the trees. Riding in the desert in the Spring is fun and this part of the Owyhees have some dramatic rock formations and spectacular views of the Snake River valley. So we set off, again staying in the bottom lands and arroyos to avoid the wind.

The critters were doing well and we covered eight or ten miles of places I knew and then headed up a wash I didn't know. After about an hour it dribbled away and we found ourselves with

steep canyon wall in all directions but the one we'd come from. So, turn back and follow our own tracks out, which we did. Almost back to where we started down the wash, we split off South on another cow path.

By now it was about time to head back and I didn't really know where we were so we took off East across the sage brush. There is a dirt road heading North/South just over the ridge from the parking area and I knew when we cut that road getting back was easy.

What wasn't easy was convincing Sally off which way to go when we did cut the road. She said South I said North. So South we rode for awhile until I could show her we were riding deeper into the canyon country with no break to the east. The again we were following our own tracks.

About a mile up the trail we came to stream and what looked like the same crossing we'd made coming out. We crossed and started up a rise, we topped and started down when I heard Sally's mule charging from behind.

She and the mule came by me at a dead run down hill. The mule was twisting and kicking. All I could do from my stopped, and surprised, horse was holler "Turn 'im!" as I saw her start to tip. Once more I saw him kick and twist and Sally hit the ground hard. The mule didn't stop until he got to the bottom of the slope.

I rode to her, freed my mule and dismounted tying my horse to a sage bush. "My arm is broken." Sally said from her twisted crumpled position in the trail. She held up her arm and I pulled back the sleeve of her jacket. Her wrist was bent back over her forearm and the puncture wounds showed bone had come through the skin then receded again. Yep, definitely broken. "And I can't seem to move my right leg." It was twisted under her and she was trying to lay back but had no pushing power in the leg. I moved the leg out from under her and gently laid her back against the bank of the deeply rutted trail.

I reached for my cell phone, no signal. Taking my canteen and first aid kit from my saddle I took them to her. "I'm going to have to ride for help." I said feeling a little helpless myself at the moment. "Are you gonna be OK?"

"Is there Ibuprofen in that kit?" I ripped open a couple paper packets of aspirin. Taking it with her good hand she said, "Yeah I'll be fine." Again I tried making her as comfortable as possible, then mounted and grabbed my GPS from a saddle bag. I marked the spot we were at in the GPS, rode over and grabbed the lead rope trailing over the pack mules back. The saddle mule had wandered back to us and was standing about 50 feet away munching the spring grass. I figured he would just follow us out and he did for a way.

But kept stepping on his lead rope and Sally's horn bag had slipped down the reins and was flopping in his face. I rode up, grabbed the lead rope and held him next to me as I tied the lead rope from the pack mule to the saddle britchin. Then leading the saddle mule we took off down the trail at a long trot.

In about ¾ mile we topped a ridge and I could see the Snake River valley spread out below me. I tried the cell again.

Bingo! Soon I was talking to Owyhee County 911 and giving the lat/long coordinates to the dispatcher. No, they couldn't drive to her, yes, send the helicopter. She told me a deputy sheriff was headed to the trail head with EMTs right behind him and she would dispatch the helicopter.

By the time I got to the trailhead the deputy was there. As I tied the mules to the trailer two EMT crews showed up. They all talked and the deputy came over and told me he would carry the EMTs in his pickup as far as they could go. I should ride ahead and lead them.

I was on edge and trotting down the trail, stopping often to let the truck catch up. Soon we came to a steep wash and they stopped and piled out of the

truck, stretcher and bags in hand, slower going yet, with me having a hard time holding my horse back, both of us anxious for our own reasons. Soon we topped a small hill and just as I could see her laying in the trail ahead the Life Flight helicopter swooped over us. I could see she had used her wild rag to fashion a sling for her broken arm and she was waving at the chopper with the other, tough woman.

The EMTs now topped the hill and I could here them chatter behind me as they saw her. The helicopter circled again and disappeared below the rise ahead. Soon we were all there. The six Owyhee EMTs were joined by two more from the chopper and the deputy, the pilot and me, a horseback, stood by as they went to work. As they carried her over the hilltop, bandaged, strapped to a board and a little woozy with a bit more than Ibuprofen aboard Sally said "Take care of the stock before you come to the hospital."

So one more time I was following my own tracks, for the third time this time. I did as she asked, took the stock home, fed them and headed for Boise. The ER doc called me en route

and asked permission to relocate her hip and set her arm. OK. Later as he showed me her Xrays his words weren't comforting. "She kinda turned her wrist to mush." But the next day the surgeon said "She should have 100% use of her arm in six weeks, with no limitations."

She's on the mend now, 2 weeks later, walking a mile a day and she has started driving again. Two days ago she was working horses in the round pen. I told this story not to just report the news but to emphasize that we all need to BE PREPARED when we ride the back country.

There's no doubt Sally would have been rescued without the cell phone and GPS but I had them and used them and she was in hospital faster without the threat of infection another couple of hours might have brought on. Ibuprofen is certainly not the pain killer of choice for broken limbs but we had it and used it and it did cut the pain some, like the water helped fight the heat and shock of laying alone in the trail. So check your saddle bags and carry all that *junk* that you hope never to use because when you need it. You can't do without it.

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## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

*Dear SBBCH Members,*

*I'm sorry to say, after the above especially, our President Bob Howard has been under the weather most of this last month. The good news is he's on the mend too. He told me last Sunday a week he'd even been back in the saddle, going on a four hour ride with a neighbor.*

*I also heard the docs have diagnosed his problems and that he'll be as good as ever soon. **GOOD LUCK BOB!***

*Robbin*



*This is the first of a two part article on Back country Stock Handling*

*By Ellen Knapp, – Master Leave No Trace Trainer, specializing in Stock Use*

**A**s I said last time, we stock folks must be even more conscientious about Minimizing Impact, since our animals tend to produce greater impact than backpackers and llama packers. This month, I'm going to address stock considerations at the trail head, on the trail and in the backcountry. Last month I talked about the need to pay special attention to planning where we will be going with our animals. Once there we need to pay special attention to our

camp location and our confining of our animals.

### **At the Trail Head**

We all have seen the large piles of dried manure in the parking area of the trailhead. Many folks rake the manure out of their trailers once they unload their stock. There are good reasons for doing this. One very valid reason is decreasing the number of flies that will breed in your trailer and subsequently bug your stock once you put them back in. However, this practice gives us stock users a bad image. While we may be immune to manure, other trailhead users aren't. And, really, seeing piles of manure from trailers at

trailheads is just unsightly for ALL of us trailhead users.

Instead of simply raking the manure onto the ground, if the trail head is heavily used, bag the manure in garbage bags. Toss the garbage bags in the dumpster – if there is one – or take them home and dispose of them with your trash. If the trail head is less used and there are brushy areas where folks do not camp or walk, broadly disperse the manure in this area. This way it is not seen and encountered by other users, it dries quickly, and doesn't result in flies. Both of these methods require planning and extra work. I carry an apple picker

with a short handle in my tack room and garbage bags as well.

### Travel On The Trail

Now let's talk about on the trail, whether a day ride or traveling to our camp. It goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway) we need to stay on the established trail. We want to ride over 'durable' surfaces. A durable surface is rock, dirt, sand. If we are traveling cross country, we want to all concentrate our travel on those durable surfaces. But what about grassy, flowery areas and meadows?

If there is a trail, of course, stay on it. If not, we don't want to create one or even give the impression of one that others may wish to follow. We want to all riders to branch out, disperse the use and not follow one another. If we follow each other, we will create a trail. A good idea, if there are pack strings is to untie the string and let each rider lead a pack animal or two. That will really reduce the chance of creating a trail across the unused area.

### Rest Breaks On The Trail

When we stock users want to stop on the trail, we need to choose a site off the trail so others don't have to go around us. We need to make sure the site is large enough for all of our

stock and that it is not in a bad location - like halfway up a steep hill. Ideally, we want the location to be a durable surface - rock or sand.

We can tie to trees for short periods, like for lunch. Make sure the tree is not dead. Not a good idea to tie to anything dead. An ideal diameter is 8". Wrap the lead rope around the trunk twice before tying the knot. This will prevent most of the damage the rope can do to the bark. I like to tie high and short so as not even provide a chance for 'grazing'. I have found that my horses will try find all the favorite nibblins and will wind themselves around the tree in search of the treasured greenery.

An alternative is to hobble your stock to allow for grazing while you lunch. We need to watch that our stock is well mannered and doesn't paw around the tree. If our stock acts up, we need to deal with them. Pawing around and pulling on trees can result in tree death. When we are ready to hit the trail, it is a good idea to kick apart any manure piles left by our stock; that increases decomposition and minimizes later users' encounters with our manure. We should also refill any areas that our stock pawed.

### Selecting a Campsite

When selecting a campsite, we first need to consider our stock. Our campsite should be able to accommodate all of our animals without any damage to the area. We need to make sure there is enough high line space for all our animals. As we ride into a potential campsite, we also need to decide whether there is enough feed for everyone.

### Stock In Camp

Stock should spend the shortest amount of time possible in the camp core; enough to load and unload. We can tie to trees, but only for those short periods of time to unload and load the pack gear and saddles. And realistically, since they have been working all day, we want to get them out grazing as soon as possible to maximize their food intact before high-lining them for the night. A good method when tying to trees is to wrap the lead rope around the trunk twice before tying the knot. This will prevent most of the damage the rope can do to the tree bark.



For details & directions  
to all SBBCH events  
visit our website  
[www.sbbchidaho.org](http://www.sbbchidaho.org)





**The Backcountry Outdoor Show at the BCHI convention**

**By Robbin Schindele**

The 2006 Back Country Horsemen of Idaho was my first BCHI convention. I was also able to go to the Board of Directors meeting as the alternate to the alternate. Both were fun and interesting as well. The BOD meeting is always held the day before the convention and is where the State Delegates from each chapter discuss the issues and determine the organization's position and direction before they are presented to state members at the convention.

This year most of those issues were the same as they have been in the past; the Right to Ride bill, the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness Act, Trails Management in the Frank Church RONR Wilderness. There are also reports from all the officers and discussion of new proposals, resolutions and issues. While only a chapters elected delegates can vote at the BOD meeting but any member

can attend. I'd recommend anyone interested to go to one to view the process. It is a lively and spirited event.

The convention is for all BCHI members and is a shorter version of the BOD meeting informing the general membership of the positions and actions taken by their delegates and officers and other business such as the choice of the chapter sponsoring the next year's convention being one.

This was a contentious issue this year because of Back Country Outdoor Show held at the same time as the convention. The discussion was whether the convention should be held in Lewiston again and at the same time as the show or should the convention be held in the chapter's home area as has always been done in the past. The show, running Friday, Saturday and Sunday and organized by the Twin Rivers chapter, was a huge success with over 90 vendors, all day

clinics, and an attendance of about 3000 people. So it was voted to have the convention in Lewiston at least one more year to help support the show. It takes quite a bit of work to do this as the sponsoring chapter runs the silent and live auction and provides the Saturday evening meal and entertainment. The up side is they also keep the proceeds. Then the issue became what chapter would run a convention remotely. And a stalwart and courageous group stepped forth to take up that challenge, Squaw Butte. So we'll be seeing a many more people from SBBCH at next year's convention as you volunteer to help organize and carry it off.

Off special note SBBCH won a photo prize for a picture of, Sally's mule Waco eating Kelly Creamer's hat. Ellen's mom also won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the raffle, a basket of Red, white and blue tack.





# The Prize Winners



Marybeth Conger & Sherrie Lionberger speak on Recreational Packing



Ellen & Sally saving an injured Marybeth



Bill & MB preparing Bill's talk



Robbin slings a pack for Steve Didier

**ALSO MANY THANKS TO PHIL & KAY RYAN AND ROB ADAMS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT CHAPTER DISPLAY!**





- May 6 SBBCH Fun Ride – Birds Of Prey (Snake River Canyon)  
 May 10 Road Cleanup, 10AM (Wild Rose Park – Hwy 52, Emmett)  
 May 13 Forest Service – Chain Saw Certification  
 (Emmett Ranger District Office, FDA Building, Hwy 52, Emmett)  
 May 20 SBBCH – Poker Ride (Planning will be done at the May Meeting)  
 May 27-29 Memorial Day Ride & Camping Weekend  
 (Cuddy Mountain-Hells Canyon )

Please view the [Activities & Directions](#) pages on our website, for more information on these events

<http://www.sbbchidaho.org>

## ***JUST A HORSE!***

**F**rom time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a horse," or, "that's a lot of money for just a horse". They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a horse."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a horse." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a horse," but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a horse," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a horse" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day. If you, too, think it's "just a horse," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a horse" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a horse" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a horse" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a horse" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a horse" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a horse" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a woman or a man."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a horse" just smile, because they "just" don't understand.

*Thanks to Kay Ryan*

**Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen – Chartered 3/92**  
**04/06/2006 Regular Meeting**  
**Minutes**

Name	Present
Adams, Rob & Linda	Rob
Argo, Doug & Teri	
Berggren, Leon & Margaret	
Boeder, Jess	
Burak, Nadine	
Burdine, Russell	X
Bush, John & Jackie	
Buthman, Tony & Tami	Tony
Carpenter, Vern	
Creamer, Kelley	
Conger, Bill & Marybeth	
Dann, Tony & Diane	X
Edwards, Harold & Renee	
Fry, Linda	

Gaskell, Lou Ann	
Gress, Rose	X
Guinn, Lettie	
Gudmundsen, Bob	
Harding, Bruce	
Hezeltine, Alex & Sherrie	
Holcroft, Steve	
Holt, William & Chris	X
Howard, Bob	X
Howard, Robert & Donna	Donna
Leonard, Steve & Tonya	
Lox, Charles & Ellen Knapp	X
Lyons, Barney & Judy Hudson	Barney
MacDonald, Terry & Gail	
Nichols, Jil & Michael Bryant	

Nielsen, Dolores	X
Richards, Tom	
Ryan, Phil & Kay	Kay
Schantz, Shannon	
Schindele, Robbin & Sally	
Seal, Nate & Ruth	
Seel, Jon	
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

**Past President:** John Bush

**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 7:03 P.M. by Vice President Rob Adams***

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Introduction and Welcome to Guests:** Karen Farnese, David, Tracy, & Ayana Dineen, Bridgett Leach, Martin Fry, Claudia Rindlesbach

**Introduction and Welcome to New Members:** Chris & William Holt, Rose Gress, Tony Buthman

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING**

Diana Dann moved to accept the minutes of the March meeting as published in the April newsletter. JoAnna Stroeder seconded the motion which passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Beginning Balance:** \$1,066.71  
**Deposits:** +\$ 880.00  
**Expenditures:** - \$ 324.96  
**Ending Balance:** \$1,621.75

Ellen Knapp moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Donna Howard and was passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Liaison Report:** No report as Harold Edwards was absent.

**State Directors Report:** There was no report as Phil Ryan was on his way to the State Convention.

**Education & Foundation Reports:** There was no report as Sally Schindele was on her way to



the State Convention.

**Work Projects and Rides Report:** Rob reported that the local Forest Rangers have gotten together and made a wish list of projects. They are now looking for groups to volunteer to do some of the projects and he has been approached by several districts. In addition he has been asked by the Frank Church Wilderness Trail Alliance to help haul in equipment and supplies for groups who have volunteered to do trail work. More information will be out later. As to upcoming events, April 8<sup>th</sup> is the Rendezvous in Lewiston in conjunction with the State Convention. April 15<sup>th</sup> is the ride in the Owyhees. The Horse Expo will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are responsible for that day between the hours of 12 noon and 9:00 PM. Rob asked for volunteers to man the booth.

JoAnna Stroeder	12 – 9
Chris & Bill Holt	12 - 2
Barney Lyons	2 – 4
Rose Gress	2 – 4
Ellen Knapp	4 – 6
Charles Lox	4 – 6
Tony Buthman	4 – 6
Rob Adams	5 – 9

There are a number of events in May, including a poker ride, chain saw certification, and an orienteering ride.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**First Aid Kits:** JoAnna said she sold four kits and still has kits available for purchase. They are \$98.00 and a lot of the items were donated which is keeping the cost down.

**Donations Probable:** JoAnna reported that Sportsman’s Warehouse will be donating something from their camping department for a raffle at the Horse Expo. She says she hasn’t been told yet what it will be.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Website:** Rob reported that we now have a website that just went up today. Robbin has been putting it together and we owe him a great big “Thank You” for his work. Everyone should take a look at it and give Robbin some feedback. The web address is: [sbbchidaho.org](http://sbbchidaho.org).

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

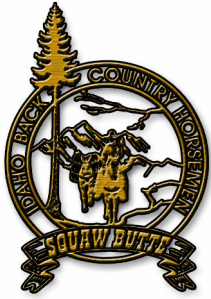
**Speaker:** Bridgett Leach, a certified equine muscle therapist introduced herself and explained about the services she provides. She talked about the large muscle groups, working with injured horses and pressure points on the horse. She told us we should become familiar with our horse’s temperature and heart rate at home so that we can know when they are stressed when worked. It is a good idea to keep this information in our first aid kits.

**Notices:** Rob showed a trail saw that he bought from Sawtooth Outfitters. He says they will sell these at cost to BCH members so if anyone is interested, they should send Rob an email.

**Door Prizes:** Two door prizes were offered. Kay Ryan won a bag of horse feed donated by Pet Corral. Tony Dann won the horse massage/chiropractic session offered by Bridgett Leach.

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.***

Respectfully submitted by Kay Ryan, Secretary, SBBCH



Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen  
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