

# SQUAW BUTTE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

PO Box 293, Emmett, ID 83617

June, 2006

## NEW SBBCH SAWYERS



## BACK COUNTRY TRAVELER

JUNE EVENTS &  
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*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, 208.278.5011 or robertnchristy@msn.com*



By Ellen Knapp

*Part 2 on handling stock in the back country*

### **Stock Containment**

**I**n the back country, I recommend that all stock be high-lined at night. At the trail head, you can contain your stock in portable hot wire corrals. At the trail head, it has been my experience that stock will not travel very far, if at all, if they escape the hot wire. Their trailer and ride to REAL home is right there. In the back country, however, stock may travel all the way to the trail head and their trailer if they escape the hot wire.

When not high-lined for the night or tied for loading and unloading, stock should be grazing (assuming we are in a area that permits grazing) and held by the least constraining method possible. I will cover each containment method presented from generally lesser to greater degrees of impact. A good rule of thumb is the more the confinement, the more

concentration of impact. But, well fed, well watered stock, unbugged by bugs will be more content and less apt to paw, dig or dance no matter what grazing restraint is used. And, I as emphasized last month, PRACTICE these containment methods at home first.

Another recommendation, to minimize our stock use impact on the area and to help the area recover more quickly from our use is to break apart or widely disperse the manure piles our stock invariably has left. This both increases the deterioration and decreases the evidence of our passing by non-stock users of the same area.

### **Hobbles**

Loose grazing with hobbles is actually the best method to minimize impact. Horses confined only by their own herd-bound instincts cause the least impact. Every group of horses has a few members

which lack the courage or the ambition to leave the rest of the bunch. When we identify the leaders and restrain them, the followers will stay put with the leaders. A good idea is to place a bell on the leader. That allows us to keep track of the leader while we have kicked back at the campsite. While we hear the bell, all is good. Once we don't we need to check on the stock.

### **Temporary Corrals**

Portable electric fencing (hot wire) is a popular method for restraining grazing animals. As no trees are required, it is ideal for use in open areas or the desert. It is light-weight, versatile and easy to set up and move. We definitely need to make sure our stock respects the fence before the trip. In the back country, when used for grazing, the corral should be as large as possible to prevent over-trampling of the area. The corral needs to be moved

periodically to prevent overgrazing of the area. A good rule of thumb is to move the corral when 50% of the area has been grazed.

It is not a good idea to construct new corrals and hitch rails from logs or poles. These create a lasting impact; such as trees cut down for use as poles, damage to standing trees from nails, lashings and ax cuts, and pole corrals left standing after camp is broken.

When using a hot wire corral at the trail head for confinement, I have learned that the larger the area, the more time and effort I spend in cleanup. Since I use the hot wire as my trail head containment method and feed supplemental feed, I have learned, to minimize impact and cleanup, to make the corral on the most durable ground I can find and as small as possible for the number of stock I am containing.

### **Pickets**

A picketed horse requires good feed. We need to choose the site carefully and make sure it is free of obstacles. We should pack in the picket pins and not cut trees to make them. We really need to monitor the grazing impact and move the pins frequently to prevent overgrazing and trampling. That can be as frequent as every few hours. A good rule of thumb is that it is past time to move the picket when we can see a circle beginning to show. Picketing two horses is usually better than picketing only one. A single horse can get anxious if

left alone and may paw the ground or injure itself. Picketing a "leader" may help keep the hobbled horses in the general vicinity. Most horses require a little time to learn how to be picketed. We really need to teach picketing at home under close supervision. Remember, picketing horses can be very hard on soil and vegetation and is not allowed by land management agencies in some areas where meadow plants are not robust enough to withstand the repeated trampling of hooves and the rubbing of the picket line.

### **Highlines**

This is the preferred low-impact method for restraining stock in the back country camp, and, for many, the trail head camp. It is a secure method of keeping the stock during the night. When choosing a highline site, we need to find an area of dry, hardened ground. A rocky spot is not a good idea since the stock will paw up rocks all night and that is then hard to naturalize when we break camp. Also, we need to consider that if the area also catches enough breeze to discourage insects, there will be less pawing and stomping. Insect repellent can also help to create quiet, comfortable stock.

The preferred highline rope is one that doesn't stretch; such as a 1/2" diameter, poly Dacron. A good length is about 80 feet. To set up a highline, stretch the rope at least above horse-head high between two live trees at least 8" in diameter. To ensure

that the highline does not girdle trees, use wide nylon "tree saver" straps or use several loops of a lash rope to spread the constricting force. Saddle pads can be used for additional bark padding when using rope. Using the collapsible rake, rake away any duff, sticks, and pinecones. This makes cleanup and naturalizing easier when breaking camp.

Tie the lead ropes at greater than horse-length intervals along the highline, beginning with a horse length interval away from tree trunks. There are a variety of pre-made highline 'knot eliminators' available for purchase as well. Use these or tie loops in the highline at appropriate intervals. The lead ropes should not be able to slide along the highline; this will prevent horses from getting tangled with each other. And the lead ropes should not be long enough to allow the stock to get a foot over. Additionally, there should be no long loops in the lead ropes which a horse could step over or wrap around its neck. I prefer to tie my animals 'short'; long enough that they can rest, but not long enough that they can graze. This prevents anyone from getting a foot over the rope and causing injury.

Horses properly tied to a highline have freedom of movement yet are in little danger of getting hurt, and the highline prevents horses from damaging the root systems around trees. In a no grazing area or at the trail head, we can

hang feed bags from the highline. That greatly minimizes the feed waste. We can naturalize the highline area when breaking camp. Use the collapsible rake to rake up the manure onto a mantie, carry it away from camp and disperse the manure widely. That both aids in decomposition and removes the manure sight from those who will use the site after us. Then we can rake back the forest duff that we moved aside before high-lining our stock, to naturalize the area for those that follow, both stock users and non-stock users.

**Supplemental Feed**

In some areas, forage is limited; in others, grazing may be restricted by regulation. Grazing an area to fifty percent is often the maximum utilization guideline. Using supplemental feed can reduce grazing time. Also, a small ration of supplemental feed can also be used as a "bribe" to remind horses that camp is HOME.

Plan to take enough feed where stock are allowed but grazing is not. Processed feed pellets are a good source of nutrition. Pellets are more concentrated than hay and thus will help keep weight and bulk to a minimum. But, remember, the more stock we take the more stock we need to take to feed the stock we take. We should always want to minimize the number of stock we take into an area.

The seeds of many weeds and non-native species can be found in unprocessed feed, like hay, which can grow and then compete with native plants. All areas in Idaho require that we take certified weed free hay and grains, both to the trail head and into the back country. We need to feed that certified hay 3 days prior to our trip to prevent the transport of weeds our stocks' manure. It also allows us to ensure that our stock will eat the feed that we bring. As I mentioned above, we can hang a feed bag from our highline to minimize feed wastage, allowing us to tie shorter to minimize the chance of injury

and to ease cleanup when breaking camp.

**Breaking Camp**

We should take the extra time to naturalize an area that has been impacted by our pack animals. It's a good idea to scatter the manure piles deposited during the grazing; this aids decomposition, discourages flies, and is courteous to the other users that will follow us, both stock and non-stock users. We can use our collapsible rake to fill areas dug up by our animals' hooves. It is a good idea to remove, and widely disperse, excess hay and straw; they do not deteriorate and leave an unsightly mess.

**A Final Word**

We should always keep an eye out for problems with our confined stock. If a rope is long enough for a horse to nibble at the ground, it is long enough for him to step over it. A horse in trouble can do irreparable damage both to itself and the environment.

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## ***PRESIDENT'S LETTER***

*Dear SBBCH Members,*

I am finally back in the saddle and it sure feels good.

We had our semi-annual road clean-up on Wednesday May 10. I would like to thank the members who put forth the effort to do tthis important job. It makes the roadway look so much better.

We will be having a busy summer starting the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. I would like to aseee lots of people turn out for these very important trips. If you do not pack we can find a chore for you to do. If you do pack you can learn some new methods,

such as packing eight foot planks.

We had our chainsaw clinic with the forest service. Ten people attended a good turnout. I thought it was very well presented and a worthwhile event. We now have several members who are certified. Good going!

I was sorry to have missed the May birthdays which included Lettie Guinn and Joanna Stroeder. Happy birthdays for June are Marybeth Conger, Gaile MacDonald and my grandson Sam Howard.

I'm also glad to see Sally Schindele is improving nicely.

Bob



June 3 (9:00 AM, Saturday) -National Trail Day, East of Emmett Cycle Park, Brad Little Ranch. From Hwy 16 turn East on Sand Hollow Road, continue through the cycle park, just past the East fence there is parking on both sides of the road.

June 3rd (11:00 AM, Saturday)-FS/ SBBCH First Aid Jim R Ciardelli [[jciardelli@fs.fed.us](mailto:jciardelli@fs.fed.us)] Emmett Ranger District has organized a first aid and CPR class. If you're interested in attending contact Jim or Robbin. t will be in the meeting room at the district office. The two courses will take 5 hours, 2 for first aid and 3 for CPR. Since it starts at 11:00 we won't have a lunch break.

June 17 (Saturday) White Hawk Trail - Lowman (Scouting, Trail Clearing & Remove downfall)  
*(This may be shifted to June 24 if snow is still a problem on the 17th)*

June 25 (Sunday) (Rapid River, Pack in gear for 12 people from the American Hiking Society (food, tents, cook & camp equipment, trail tools)



by Kelly Creamer

**K**udos to the Emmett Ranger District for their 13 May 2006, Chain Saw Safety & Certification Clinic. Bob & Bob Howard, Phil Ryan, Shannon Schantz, Sally & Quentin Schindele, John Steel and Kelley Creamer of the Squaw Butte Chapter plus other BCHI members From the Treasure Valley and Boise Backcountry Horsemen clubs attended an eight hour training clinic ably taught by Jim Ciardelli and Jeff Clark. As the Trails Ranger for the Emmett Ranger District, Jim's voluntary efforts to expand the number of people capable of maintaining the region's hundreds of miles of trails is key to stretching the district's dwindling trails maintenance budget. Jeff is a Master Sawyer with the FS.

Anyone who wants to use a chain saw while working a forest service project must have attended chain saw safety training and be certified. Additionally, new chain saw owners or someone who wants some orientation to chain saw function and safety before

buying one for their own home use should take advantage of Jim and Jeff's outstanding training skills and experience. This year's clinic attendees covered the spectrum of chain saw users. We had brand new users and we had loggers who had worked in the forestry business for 20, 30, or 40 years. The clinic was an incredible opportunity to swap war stories and share tips, tricks and advice on everything from what saw to buy to how to maintain and sharpen the saw you bought. Not to mention some great donuts and coffee during the breaks.

The morning passed quickly covering topic such as required safety equipment and why it is required; proper starting, fueling/oiling, and basic maintenance of the saw and chain; and fundamental tree felling skills. Class 1 sawyer certification was the goal of the clinic. That level of certification allows a sawyer to basically work on the ground cleaning up fallen trees and brush. Class 2 and 3 sawyer certification is much more extensive and Jim is willing to teach those clinics if

there is enough interest to warrant setting up the training.

Hot springs campground, outside of Garden Valley ID, benefited from our afternoon hands-on chain saw orientation. We were all given the opportunity to don protective hard hats, eyewear, hearing protection, gloves and chaps and go to work with a chain saw. Jim and Jeff had visited the campground earlier in the week and felled two large dead pines for us to demonstrate our sawyer skills on. As we handled the saws we were instructed on best practices for cutting downed timber and optimal safety precautions. I for one have been using a chain saw for over 25 years and discovered I had several bad habits, which were easily corrected, and learned many new skills on how to make my cuts safer and more effective.

**The Class 1 Sawyer certification additionally requires current basic Red Cross Safety training** before attendees can pickup a saw and get to clearing trails. The certification card is good for

three years before you need to attend another clinic so watch your calendar to make sure you

are still in good standing with the Forest Service.

**The Emmett ranger District has set up a First Aid/CPR class for**

**SBBCHI members at 11:00 AM June 3, 2006. All BCHI members are invited to attend.**



Keeping your horse trailer in good shape means less frustration for you and a safer environment for your horse. Give your horse trailer a quick check before you use it this Spring.

**General condition:** Check for rust. Make sure there are no leaks on the roof, broken windows, or damaged or missing parts. Keep your trailer clean inside and outside.

**Trailer frame:** Your trailer should pull straight, and the frame should not be cracked or damaged.

**Wheel Bearings:** Bearings must be kept lubricated with grease and adjusted periodically. Your wheel bearings should be serviced every year to maintain top quality and safety.

**Lights:** Every time you hook up to your trailer, the lights should be checked to see if they are working. Repair any lights that aren't.

**Tailgate and dividers:** Check the wood for any damage. Check hinges, springs, latches and rings.

**Trailer jack:** Your trailer jack makes it easy to lift and lower your trailer. This jack should be given extra attention. Lubricate all moving parts with a grease gun. When the trailer is unused, crank the jack up and down occasionally. When the trailer is hooked up to the tow vehicle, be sure to crank the jack all the way. This prevents the jack from being damaged.

**Break-away system:** This system stops your trailer if it should pull loose from the tow vehicle. Check that all wires are hooked up and make sure the battery is fully charged. Check the switch, making sure all parts are together.

**Lubrication:** Lubricate all hinges, latches and trailer hitch parts every other month.

**Brakes:** The working condition of your brakes should be checked every time you use your trailer. The brake shoes, drums, electrical system and hardware should be checked when your wheel bearings are repacked.

**Safety chains:** Make sure these chains are the correct length, and that the hooks are not damaged. All links should be in good condition. Cross chains when they are attached to the tow vehicle.

**Matting and padding:** Look for tears in the matting or padding. If broken wires are found in the floor matting, replace them. The matting on the tailgate and ramps should be securely fastened to avoid slipping. Remove mats to check wood flooring for signs of rotting.

**Trailer axles:** If you notice a tire wearing out faster than another, the axles should be checked. This could indicate the axle may be bent. Check the axle mounting hardware and springs for damage.

**Hitch:** Check the trailer hitch at every hook-up. Make sure the hitch closes.

**Tires:** Your tires should be in good condition, not worn or dry rotted. The correct air pressure should be in your tires at all times; if your tires wear unevenly, they should be replaced. Have correct tire size and load rating for your trailer.

**Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen – Chartered 3/92  
05/04/2006 Regular Meeting  
Minutes**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>
Adams, Rob & Linda	Rob
Argo, Doug & Teri	
Berggren, Leon & Margaret	X
Boeder, Jess	
Brewer, Vernon & Anita	
Burak, Nadine	
Burdine, Russell	
Bush, John & Jackie	X
Buthman, Tony & Tami	Tony
Carpenter, Vern	
Conger, Bill & Marybeth	X
Creamer, Kelley	
Dann, Tony & Diane	
Davis, Justin	
Dineen, David & Tracy	

Edwards, Harold & Renee	
Farnese, Karen & Gary	Karen
Fry, Linda	
Gaskell, Lou Ann	
Gress, Rose	X
Gudmundsen, Bob	
Guinn, Lettie	
Harding, Bruce	
Hezeltine, Alex & Sherrie	
Holcroft, Steve	
Holt, William & Chris	
Howard, Bob	X
Howard, Robert & Donna	X
Leonard, Steve & Tonya	Steve
Lox, Charles & Ellen Knapp	X
Lyons, Barney & Judy Hudson	
MacDonald, Terry & Gail	

Nichols, Jil & Michael Bryant	
Nielsen, Dolores	
Richards, Tom	
Rindlisbach, Claudia & Fry, Martin	
Ryan, Phil & Kay	X
Schantz, Shannon	
Schindele, Robbin & Sally	Robbin
Seal, Nate & Ruth	
Seel, Jon	
Selkirk, William	
Stroeder, Joanna	X
Thielges, Jim	
Truax, Ralph & Sharon	Ralph
West, Bob & Alasya	
Young, Gene & Cheryl	Gene

**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 7:00 P.M. by President Bob Howard*

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Introduction and Welcome to Guests:** Rex Arnett, Marti Conger

**Introduction and Welcome to New Members:** Tony Buthman, Karen Farnese, Steve Leonard

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING**

Ellen Knapp moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting as published in the May newsletter. Gene Young seconded the motion which passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Beginning Balance:** \$1,621.75  
**Deposits:** +\$ 374.95  
**Expenditures:** - \$ 66.00  
**Ending Balance:** \$1,930.70

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**State Directors Report:** Phil Ryan reported on the State Convention and Outdoor Wilderness Event. He said the Board of Directors meeting went as scheduled. We had 9 members attend and would have had more if illness hadn't reared its ugly head. Harold Edwards has resigned his position do to ill health. Bernie Lionberger will assume the position. The rest of the officers remain the same. The big



news was that the Squaw Butte Chapter will be hosting next year's State Convention in Lewiston which will be held again in conjunction with the Outdoor Wilderness Event. Phil said getting good prizes for the state raffle has been a problem in the past but he already has things lined out on this. He has a three day/three night stay at Wapiti Meadows Guest Ranch (a \$2,000 value) as the first prize, a new saddle (a \$1,000 value) as second prize, and two guns, a 12 gauge shotgun and a 17 cal. Pistol (a value of \$500) as the third prize. We will be responsible for table decorations, negotiating some meals, the photo contest and the silent auction but all these can be handled remotely.

**Education & Foundation Reports:** No report as Sally Schindele was absent.

**Work Projects and Rides Report:** Rob reported that he met with Brad Tuininga and the Salmon-Challis National Forest has money for fuel on the projects we will be doing for them. But that means keeping very good records, including mileage. They are to start training volunteers in June at Lucky Peak and Rob plans to attend even though most of what we will be doing is packing in and out. As to the schedule, May is busy with a rides, road clean-up, and chain saw certification. There will be a Memorial Day ride and camping weekend at Cuddy Mountain on May 27-29. The Poker Ride scheduled for May 20 is canceled until next year. Both June and July appear to be busy also. There will be lots of opportunities to use pack stock this year.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**First Aid Kits:** Joanna Stroeder said she has sold six kits and has only six left. All money now goes to the Chapter. The cost is \$104.90 including tax.

**Horse Expo Raffle:** Joanna said we made \$122.00 on the raffle. Items included a Coleman cooler, a tent and other camping supplies donated by Sportsman Warehouse. Joanna had gift certificates for everyone to take. They must be used by the end of June in order for SBBCH to get credit but the more they are used, the better chance we have of getting donated items in the future.

**Website Status:** Rob reported that we are getting a fair amount of traffic on the website. Robbin is getting more trail information to post there so anyone who has information should pass it along to him.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Poker Ride:** Again, this has been canceled until next year.

**White Hawk Basin:** Rex Arnett, the Lowman trail crew foreman talked about the White Hawk Basin bridge repair project and passed out some maps of the area. The project is near Bear Valley and would be in late June or early July. He said the trail needs to be scouted first in order to determine what exactly needs to be done. He hopes to do this in June depending on the snow pack. A lot of lumber will need to be packed in. When asked how much, he said he thought probably 100 2X12s, 3 feet long and 40 2X12s, 8 feet long. The longest stretch for packing will only be about 2 miles but the lumber will have to go to a number of different places.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Notices:** Bill Conger announced that the Gem County Sheriff's Posse is raffling a file with scabbard. The tickets are \$5.00 each and they are only going to sell 500. There is also a Sheriff's Posse rodeo on June 10 at the Gem County Fairgrounds. Tony Buthman announced that on May 20, the Washington County Sheriff's Posse and Search and Rescue are having a pancake feed from 7:30 to 10:30. Joanna said the Diabetes Ride is scheduled for May 21 starting at 10:00 at the Eagle Foothills. Rob reported that Terry MacDonald's father passed away and his mother just found out she has bladder cancer. Kay will send a sympathy card to Terry and Gail. Ellen asked if anyone has any extra hay. Rob reported that Sally Schindele's mule kicked him in the arm but that although it was colorful, it wasn't broken. Sally wasn't so lucky. Kay circulated a Get Well card to be sent to Sally.

**Door Prizes:** Bob Howard, Sr. won a tube of horse wormer donated by Pet Corral.

***Meeting was adjourned at 7:50***

Respectfully submitted by Kay Ryan, Secretary, SBBCH



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