Treasure Valley Back Country Horsemen
Newsletter Feb 2010
Web site: www.tvbch.com Meetings the 4th Tues Feb – Nov

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THANKS TO DICK PELKOLA AND CONVEYOR ENGINEERING FOR PRINTING OUR NEWSLETTER!!

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2010 Calendar

⇨**April 24TH Practice packing shingles for 44 cabin @ Wilson Creek ~~9~~10 am Keith L. or Joe W.**
⇨**April 27th** Monthly Meeting @ FRA 7:30 pm
⇨**May CANCELED** Pack Clinic at
⇨**May 25th** Monthly Meeting @ FRA 7:30 pm
⇨~July 2nd – 5th -+? 44 cabin multiple weekends or weeks Keith L. & Joe W.
⇨July 16th-18th Bernard Lake/Elk Creek/ Mountain Meadows/Camptender Trail Bonnie & Paula.

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Summer Packing Thoughts by Joe W.

Looking forward to a good summer of volunteer work for the BCH, got me thinking about some of the struggles I have had in the past while packing in the wilderness. Knowing what to expect and knowing how to handle a problem, can mean the difference between a delay and shortening a trip.

On most pack trips you forget a few items and have to handle a few small problems. On the other hand there are two memorable trips when horses rolled into Pistol Creek unexpectedly. We had to cut their packs off while holding their heads above water to prevent them from drowning. Having a knife handy and everyone pitching in saved a pack animal.

Last summer, we watched Ron Mort's mule roll off the trail on two different days. Lots of things happen to cause these accidents. The first time his horse rolled, we were going through a bog on a steep hillside. The main trail had no maintenance for years. The second time it rolled on a steep hillside above Little Pistol Creek. That time, I saw the bank cave out from under his feet when a horse in front stopped.

Maybe we need to review the common problems ahead of time. We should try for a perfect record this year of no rolled pack stock. There are a few things we can carry in our personal saddle bags. I carry a leatherman tool, black tape, small roll of wire, and lots of baling string. These are carried just for fast repair of tack and broken harness. Last year I carried baling string on the trail to Buck Lake and our group used it all by the second day.

We should look at our saddles first to check the horse's withers for clearance under the sawbuck crosses or the decker steel loops. If you have never looked at your equipment in this area you may get surprised. Lots of saddles are made for quarter horses and we get out there with thoroughbreds and saddlebreds with high withers and our equipment doesn't fit. Pack saddle cinches should have a second ring to tie ropes to. On the 44 Cabin project, we will need to manty the shingles. We will have several practice sessions to learn how to do this. Anyone planning to help with the packing should bring their stock and pack saddle. Packers need to work out the best way to tie on the loads, and pack animals need to get used to odd size packs.

We may want to think about our horse's pecking order. I know from years of experience, it works best with the boss animals in front and the lesser ones in the back of the string. Also, it is not a good idea to have a fast gaited horse in the rear of a pack string, as he will continually try to pass. This causes a lot of wrecks in the timber. For animals that are notorious for balking or pulling back, it's better to lead them off the saddle

horn than to have to retie them when they break a piggie.

At the next meeting or at our pack clinic, we may want to discuss some trail safety issues. We can discuss our equipment and conditioning of our stock before we start down Pistol Creek. This could be a very enjoyable project, if we look ahead, plan, and prepare.

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PHOTO CALL for next set of BCHI Calendar Photos. Deadline is May 1, 2010 so send them now to Alice Millington millington0606@gmail.com

A separate page of the newsletter is the photo form that needs to be included with any photos sent.

The priority we were given for selecting photos is:

1) Each chapter must be represented
2) Idaho Location
3) With horses
4) Then work projects
5) Only one nature/landscape/wildlife photo per season for one of the
12x12's if we could not fill them using the above criteria
6) no special treatment for contest winners

send to Mark Bogar --*sounds like they want files on cd or jump drive* ***mailed*** *to* Mark Bogar 4737 Asotin Creek Rd, Asotin, WA 99402
509-243-5300 mpbogar@clarkston.com

The chapter needs to send 20 -25 photos on a CD. JPEG or Raw Format, 300 dpi – images need to be in focus at a size of 12" X 12" (These are for calendar pages). Include nature, trail riding, packing, winter scenes with horses & mules & work projects. Print legible info about photo on table included in newsletter (separate page):

Chapter Name_____
Contact Person:_____

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Minutes March Meeting: Meeting was called to order by Pres John Millington @ the FRA Hall @ 1932.

Dr. Robert Washington DVM was introduced and gave a presentation on equine first aid with a list of needed materials for both on the trail and at the barn. An extended question/answer session followed for the remainder of the hour.

Minutes of the last meeting, Patty Pennington moved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter, Terry Burgess seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar sales were checked on. Our chapter has sold our allotted calendars.

Ken gave a report on the Ways & Means presentation given by Mark Bogar at the State BOD meeting in Lewiston.

The total membership for BCHI is now over 1000 which means if each member can pitch in to sell only 2 calendars the program would be in great shape.

This of course is not how it is in the real world. Most of the chapters have done well with their sales. However a couple of the chapters have not done so well. Any ideas to help with this dilemma will be welcomed. The calendar committee has been very good to try to correct any items that have been complained about.

Horse Expo. John passed around the signup sheet to man the BCH booth.

John announced the celebration of the 20 year since the Celebration Park opening on May 1 & 2.

John announced the Weiser River Wagon Train Ride for 5/28-31

RAC funds report by Terry Burgess on funding for 44 Cabin project. We got pretty much what we had asked for. Practice for packing of shingle bundles was discussed.

The pack clinic scheduled for 5/8 at Red Top arena.

Wendy reported we have 2 vendors lined up, Flying V saddlery and a Dutch Oven Demo.

Menu: BBQ Chicken, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs. Potluck for sides.

Hi Line demo. Registration starts at 9:00 AM. Volunteers are needed to help with this event.

Whit talked on Trailer Stamp. About 60% of equines are used on trails. BCH needs to get behind the sticker.

Whit requests letters be drafted and sent to Broomtails & each BCHI chapter.

Wendy C. moved for adjournment of meeting, 2nd by Paula M. Meeting adjourned @ 2135.

Attendees;

Ken Nungesser	Cini Baumhoff
John Millington	Alice Millington
Jim Freeland	Keith Lambrecht
Terry Burgess	Cheryl Burgess
Whit Whitham	Mike Carl
Paula McDermott	Gerald Aebischer
Wendy A. Coome	Patty Pennington
Maureen Jackson	Alie Columbus

There were no board meeting minutes available at print time.