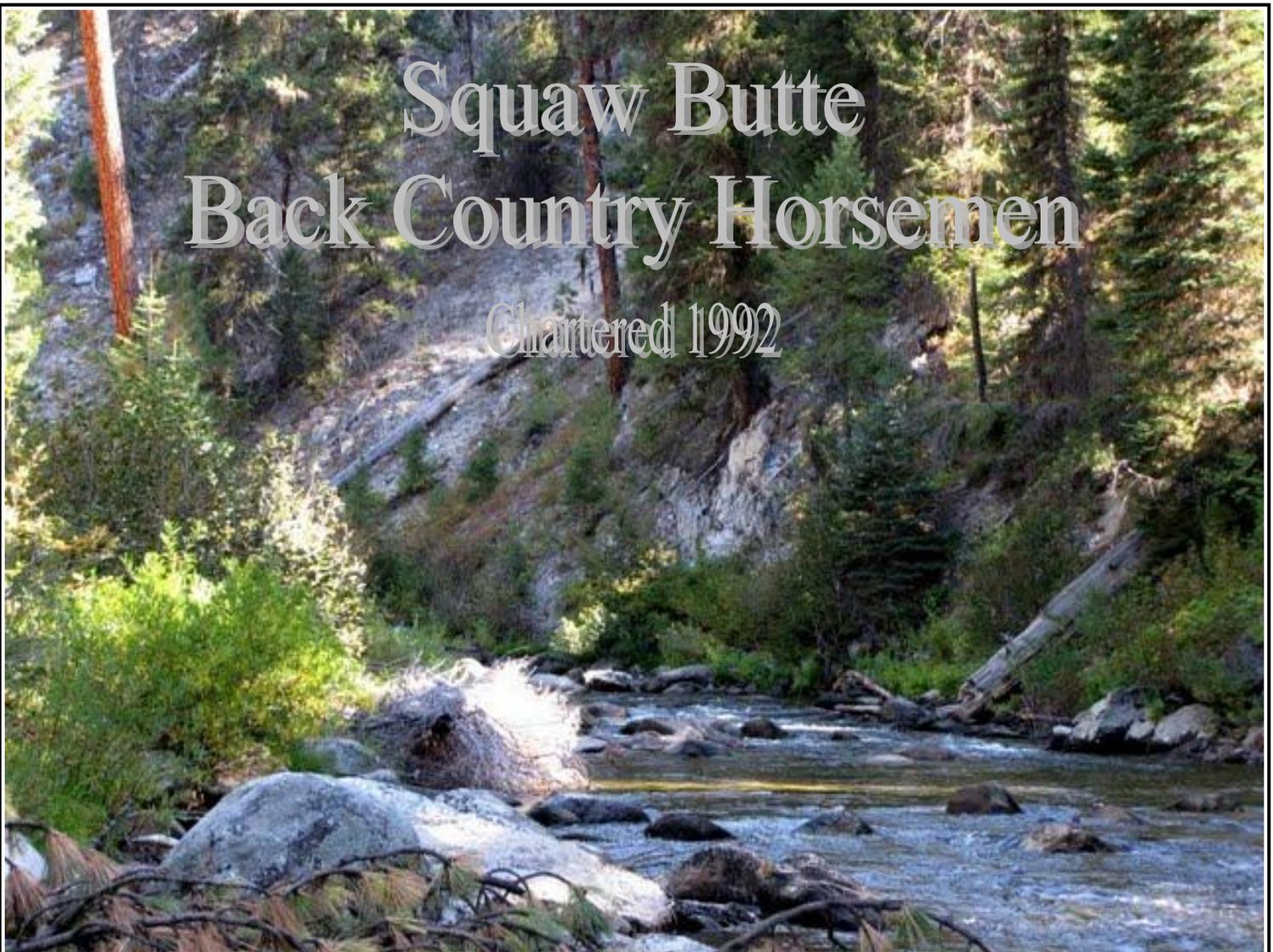


Squaw Butte Back Country Horsemen

Chartered 1992



Newsletter

September / October 2009



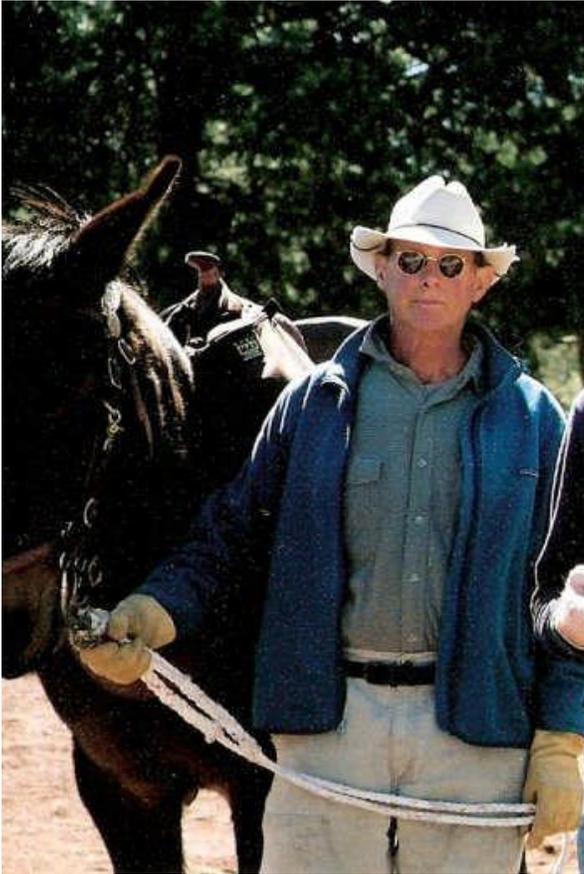
Featured Articles

Grand Canyon Pack Trip
Fund Raiser Calendar
Recipe of the Month
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Coming Events
And
More

Grand Canyon Pack Trip

By Jake Lemon

In 2004, Jake, after 4 years of planning & saving, embarked on a pack trip of a lifetime. His plan was to pack from the Grand Canyon to the British Columbia Line. He made it as far as Kooskia, Idaho & threw in the towel. It was 5.5 months & 1,300 miles later. The following are some writings synthesized from his trail log.



Day 1

I had actually arrived at Grand Canyon Village about a week early. There was a significant amount of logistics and red tape to take care of. I will cover that in an addendum.

Frank and Wendy arrived two days early to facilitate preparations and, lest I forget to mention Wendy brought her mule, Roy and my 3 mules, Jed, Bernice, and Riley. Bernice goes by Bernie. Wendy has a nice spiffy truck and aluminum trailer and had no problem bringing these 4 fine beasts of burden from Yarnell. Phil and his wife Elizabeth Worrell showed a day late, but we made it work

We were scheduled to head down the Bright Angel Trail the morning of the 15th of April, 2004. Because of obvious flow problems, the park has a rule for mule traffic on the Bright Angel Trail; down traffic before noon; up traffic afternoon. Feeling the pressure of that deadline I managed to get us to the start point at 1 o'clock. As we were taking pictures and making final arrangements at the stone "Round Corral" at the top of the Bright Angel Trail, a park ranger addressed us about a problem with the location of one of our parked vehicles. That problem compared to the potential of mule traffic problems on the trail seemed petty to me, but the park ranger had his way. Phil and Elizabeth went back to re-parked their car. The rest of us headed on down, so our group was split up right out of the chute.

It was a stellar, light jacket day at the South Rim's 7,000 ft. elev. We looked like a fur-sure outfit...kinda. This first leg was about 9.5 miles, mostly down-hill. Having had strict John McClatchy coaching up in Idaho about not riding one's mount downhill to save it's shoulders, I never considered

anything but leading my three mules down the trail. Jed, Bernie, and Riley are all pretty good around people. There were lots of them on the trail...going both ways. As can be expected our pace was a little faster than most hikers, so we ended up having to pass most of the downhill hikers. For the most part this was pretty easy going. However, there is always the macho college kid jerk who feels it's unnecessary to yield in situation like this. I put Frank out in the lead to tactfully notify hikers of our approach. He was good, but there was one crusty old gentleman who put up some short-lived argument about right-of-way. Part way down to Indian Gardens, at Three-Mile Resthouse, Frank and I pulled off to take water/snack break. While there, we saw Wendy passing on the trail underneath us. She was leading her mule as well. We yelled to get her attention, but with no success. She kept on trucking. We really didn't think much of it, as there was nowhere to make a wrong turn. We were not together, but we were at least all on the same trail.

There were 2 new phenomenons that made the mules edgy. I'm not sure they ever figured out what those centipede looking animals far down on the switchbacks were. For those of us familiar, they were strings of people. The other strange animals that made them nervous were those creatures that looked sort of people like, but had these big growths on their backs that in some cases went up above their heads. They are as weird as those other somewhat familiar looking creatures that ride on National Forest trails on those buzzy little mechanical ponies. Those little ponies are so weird, coupled with those strange animals on their backs with huge heads. Mules are justified in their caution around these suspicious aliens.

While at that stop I discovered that Riley had thrown a shoe! In the first hour of the trip! Not good. Frank and I decided to limp on down to Indian Gardens, 4.6 miles from the top, to address the problem. That was a good idea as there were nice solid hitching rails in the shade there. My first thought was to try to nail on one of the pre-shaped shoes. However, I have nothing that was pre-shaped close enough to work. Having no single-jack hammer nor anvil available to do the shaping necessary. The next alternative was one of

the "Easy Boots" I had brought. I was reluctant to use this precious piece of emergency equipment so early in the trip. Having never used one, I had no idea how long one would last on these rocky trails. I guess we'll find out; this is what I signed up for.

During this one hour drill, Phil and Elizabeth came hiking in. They were in pretty good shape but needed a break. Indian Gardens is a pretty idyllic place to take a break, 4.6 mi. into it. About half an hour later, as we were about ready to head out again, Wendy came limping **up(!)** the trail with a very fed-up look on her face, leading her mule. One has to realize, none of us are spring chickens. We're all in our mid to late 50s. We all have our infirmities we were limping along with. Wendy, I knew had had some type of foot surgery in her not-too-distant past. She complained the mule had stepped on that foot 4 times! She had had enough. She was headed back out. None of us wanted to see that so we managed to twist her arm into continuing on with us.

Fortunately, we met an up-bound string of dude mules in a fairly flat area where we were able to pull off the trail, no problem. I had met the wrangler gal briefly in the village a few days before. She was impressed with the rare sight of seeing private mules on a Grand Canyon Trail. As she was passed, it dawned on her that she should remind me that it was the second bridge we were to take. For some stupid reason, I lied to her and told her I knew that but "thank you for reminding me".

As we hiked on, it felt good to all be together as a pod of people and mules. The crowds of hikers and those weird creatures with the big growths on their backs had thinned out by now to almost nothing. We made another short snack stop at an established rest stop. It was a very nice, stonewall-defined place with an early and distant view of the Colorado! We were getting close.

Down at the River, the first bridge has a metal see-through grate deck. It would have been impossible to get a mule to set foot on that thing...one of mine anyway. As long and high above the water as that bridge is, with the see-through decking, it's spooky for a human to go across it; then add the sway of the suspension bridge, you've got a memorable experience. Phil and Elizabeth took that bridge as a shortcut to the Bright Angel campground. They were going to establish a campsite for us. The rest of us continued about a mile further downstream to the second suspension bridge in this area. This bridge also has its good mule reasons not to go near it. Its approach from the south side confronts us with about a 50 foot long, 6 1/2 foot high (small opening, long length), dark tunnel leading directly onto the swaying bridge. Oh Brother! "Come on guys, we can do this, come on, come on Bernie girl. Att-a girl, come on, that's a pretty girl. Come on, we can do this. Att-a girl. Good boy Jed. Come on Riley. YES!!! (Whispered to myself)". The tunnel has a bend; when you first enter, one cannot see light at the other end. We round the bend, as I am leading the string through, and see light. As we come to the step up onto the deck of the bridge, we are basted with excruciatingly bright sunlight. The deck of this bridge is like tar saturated asphalt. It's kind'a smooth, but has hoof prints in it made in the heat of summer. The mules are a little bit more willing to get on this bridge than they were to enter the tunnel. We all get onto the bridge just fine. This is a loooooong bridge, about the length of a football field! We got about a third of the way across, and the thing starts to sway from our cadence. The wind is not blowing. It continues to sway for most of the rest of the way over. We all made it to the other side; I look up to the heavens, touch my hat brim, and roll my eyes in personal gratitude! In a way, it's unfortunate mules do not know the difference between yelling in exuberance versus yelling in a rage. As a handler, you just have to give them subdued admiration (positive reinforcement) when accomplishing these major milestones, deceiving them into thinking it's as easy as stepping over a small log. It's a confidence and trust building thing.

After 9 miles, we are getting pretty weary and, us humanoids, foot-sore. We trudge back upstream that extra mile, and start up Bright Angel Creek trail to find the Bright Angel CG, elev. 2,480 ft. We find it, with no sign of Phil or Elizabeth. We know we are required to camp near the stock pen where our critters are going to spend the night. Frank and Wendy commence to set up camp as I play Wrangler. Eventually Wendy and I locate a big stash of baled hay. I have paid the Grand Canyon price of 50 bucks per bale, one for each of the three nights we will be down in here. We're not sure if we are allowed to give our animals free rein of the Park Concessions corral, but we take our chances. I then set up my bedroll under the sky next to the corral, separate from our main camp. Eventually Phil comes to notify us that he and Elizabeth are camping separate from us. They are too tired to even join us for dinner.

It becomes the closing of a momentous day. We ration our margaritas and have a satisfying dinner. We're all too exhausted to get the least bit rowdy, but we all have a little telltale twinkle in our eye.

Even though things were in fairly good control, I still have a short night's sleep. Morning came early, as Wendy had made arrangements to pack out the next morning with the pack string that supplies Phantom Ranch. I heard the faint jingle of their tack at first light. This notice gave us time to get up, not have breakfast, and get Wendy packed up to leave.

To be continued next issue.



2010 Calendar



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF IDAHO
Year 2010 Fund Raiser Calendar
\$20 Donation - Only 2,000 calendars to be sold

WIN

one of 11
\$500 prizes and the
GRAND PRIZE of your choice.
\$6,000 Cabelas gift card or
\$6,000 Lucky Acres Fencing products
or half and half
Grand Prize Drawing Dec. 25th, 2010

Monthly drawings conducted at the end of each month. Cash prizes will be awarded by check. Name of monthly winner to be returned to prize pool for grand prize drawing on December 25, 2010. The grand prize winner shall be responsible for paying sales tax, registration, all applicable fees and pickup or transport of the prize. Need not be present to win.

Direct questions or concerns to:
Mark Bogar (BCHI Vice-Chair)
4737 Asotin Creek Road, Asotin, WA 99402 • Phone 509-249-5900
E-mail: wpbogarselarkston.com or visit www.bchi.org

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY

2010 Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Fund Raiser Calendars

Now is the time to get your order in for the 2010 Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Fund Raiser Calendar. Our Chapter is committed to sell 300 copies. They make great Christmas Gifts and our Chapter is well represented in the 2010 Calendar, many of our members have pictures featured throughout the Calendar. You can get your copies by calling Phil Ryan at 208-398-8993 or emailing Phil at ryan3863@speedyquick.net.

**DON'T MISS OUT!
YOU MIGHT BE THE NEXT BIG WINNER!**

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY OF THE RATTLESNAKE IN THE OUTHOUSE?

By
Phil Ryan



Early this month my friend Vic Haight and I went over to Wyoming scouting a good hunting place because we drew tags for deer there. We left Emmett at 4:00am in the morning because it is a 12 hour drive. We went through Jackson Hole and down the Wind River and the Big Horn canyon. This is some of Wyoming's most picturesque country. We left the main highway at the small town of Ten Sleep and headed south to Big Trails. That's where the pavement ends. Our hunting area is in the south end of the Big Horn Mountains. That first evening of scouting we saw 30 Mule deer bucks 120 elk cows with their calves and a large number of antelope. The next day it rained all day and night, just like here in Emmett. Sunday it turned off clear and cold, about 38 degrees, but by noon it was pleasant. My friend who built the cabin some years ago didn't bother to add a bathroom, just an outhouse. Well anyway after a good meal it was my time to visit the one-holer. I sat there admiring the beautiful scenery when I looked down and coming straight into the outhouse was a 4 foot mountain rattlesnake, right between my feet! Needless to say I didn't finish my job as I leaped over the snake and closed the door and locked him inside. I called to my friend to come and see what I had and I grabbed a shovel. We opened the door and there on the floor all curled up waiting for the next visitor was the snake. I put seven dents into that concrete floor trying to kill the snake and finally managed to get the job done. I cut off the head and nailed the snake to the barn door. If I would have had my pistol on me when I first saw the snake I'm sure I would have filled the snake and outhouse with holes. I found out that this was the second mountain rattler that was killed at the cabin this summer. I'm still going to use the outhouse when I visit the cabin because it is easier than going out in the sage brush, but I will take a really good look around and keep the door closed while doing my job, other than that the trip was wonderful.



Recipe of the month from the Kitchen of Shannon Schantz

Blueberry Cobbler

This can be made in a 14 " round cast iron skillet or 9x13 pan. It would probably also work well in a Dutch oven.

2 ½ lb of blueberries or huckleberries (or a mix of both)
¾ c sugar if using blueberries,
1 ¼ c sugar if using huckleberries
1/3 c quick cooking tapioca (or corn starch)
1 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp ground cardamom
2 TBS balsamic vinegar

1 pie crust recipe

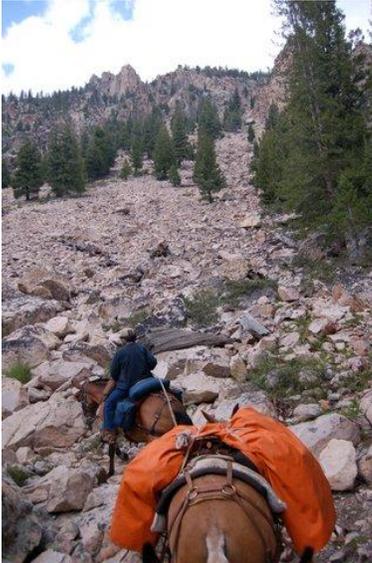


Mix above and spread in bottom of baking pan. Cover berries with pie crust and crimp edges. Bake 400 degree 50-60 minutes until cobbler begins to bubble over. Let cool and serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

Sawtooth Wilderness Trip

From
Pam and Randy Kirkbride
August 18, 2009

To: Rob Adams and Ellen Knapp



Thank you for your help in providing information on the Sawtooth Wilderness. Pam and I have just returned from our two week trip there. The trip was great. The Sawtooths are awesome. We camped near Tin Cup Trailhead by Pettitt Lake, and spent the first three days doing day rides into Alice Lake, Hell Roaring Lake and Bench Lakes. Hot weather, high eighties, at first, then two days of Thunder storms with hail and rain. Afterwards we were finally; we were able to start our pack trip with our four mules, two riding and two packing. We had planned a seven day pack trip into the backcountry. No firm plans as to where until we arrived in the Sawtooth's a got a update as trail conditions. Wind fall trees and a couple of snowfields existed in the area. Because of the thunderstorms forecasted for the first two to three days of our allotted time for the pack trip, we held off until the weather report showed some improvement. Conditions improved to provide us for a five day trip.

We packed into Toxaway Lake the first night with some threat of rain, Then the next day crossed over Sand Mountain Pass on our way to Ardeth Lake. From Toxaway Lake we climbed the many switchbacks to the top of Sand Mountain Pass. The last ¼ mile to the top is a narrow trail with very steep drop offs. Meeting another group of stock users going the other way on this section could be a problem.

At the bottom of the steep descend into Ardeth Lake, only a ¼ mile from our campsite location one of our pack mule, Maggie, pack load rolled onto her side. After struggling to remove the load and pack, as well as, preventing the Maggie from being strangled by her breast collar. We resaddled and loaded the mule for the last 1/4mile. I have to give the mule Maggie credit for being so calm during and after this event. We found a nice site above the lake on the Northwest end where we could highline them and setup camp. We found only minimal graze close by, a couple of small meadows and wet bogs which some had been grazed over by horses and elk. The next day, I hiked up to the pass over to Spangle Lake area. That evening I noticed Maggie was not eating and drinking any normal quantities. With no change in the morning, We got concerned that she might be colicing from the meadow grasses. We headed out as planned hoping that the trek would solve her problem if it was colicing. She did well on the packing back to Toxaway Lake, but still wasn't eating or drinking and was starting showing signs of dehydration. We decided that we needed to get her out and checked by a vet. We had already started to set up camp and daylight short, so we left our gear and headed out back to the trailhead with no load on the pack mules. We reached the trailhead just at dark 8:45PM and had ridden seventeen miles total that day. A call to our Vet with Maggie's vitals, our vet thought it was most likely a virus not colic. Maggie still was drinking and eating in small quantities, temperature of 101.5 degrees with normal respiration and heart rate.



The next morning, Maggie showed signs of improvement by increased eating and drinking. I headed back to Toxaway Camp with Cindy and our other pack mule Dusty. Cindy began to poop out half way up to Toxaway and I had to lead both mules for a 1 to 2 miles. While packing up and loading, I feed both the mules some grain and feed that I had left in camp. The return trip was no problem, we got out about 7:30PM.

The next morning we were supposed to be the day we started home. First, I had to repeat the trip back to the Toxaway camp to retrieve the other pack saddle and remaining gear. This time, I took the healthier looking Maggie with me. About half way up my mule Cindy was again was running out of steam and I swapped my riding saddle over to Maggie and ponied Cindy. Maggie did great, plenty of energy, and this was only her second time being a lead mule up in the mountains. The first time was going up to Hell Roaring Lake. I swapped saddles at the camp feed them some feed while I got our gear packed up then headed back out. This time we got back to the trailer around 6:30PM. Loading the gear and mules into the trailer and started down the road for home.



We stayed Friday night at a private place in Kimberly near Twin Falls, Then the next morning continued on home, only to have an alternator fail just outside Fernley Nevada near Reno. US Riders Equestrian Insurance were great in providing us service and checking up on us. We got the truck fixed by 10PM and stayed the night at the rodeo grounds and finally got home on Sunday at 11:30AM. The mules were happy to be home rolling in the arena and grazing on the green pasture.

I will note that the forest service info about the stock tie locations is not accurate for Toxaway or Ardeth Lakes and the Two highlines, one at Alice and the other at Toxaway are not usable. The highline were way to low, and over rocky or uneven ground. At Ardeth Lake, Tie posts are located a Southwest side of the lake not at Northwest side as shown in the Forest Service Stock brochure. Also some of the GPS coordinates are not correct.

Of all the places we visited in the Sawtooths I would say Alice Lake was the prettiest for it grand panoramic mountain range. Trails were excellent shape. Some very rocky sections. Sand Mountain Pass Toxaway side top portion is narrow with steep drop offs and blind curves. If you ran into pack string going the opposite direction you would have a challenging potentially dangerous situation. The trail from Vern Lake down into Ardeth Lake is steep with lots of short switchbacks. Although windfall trees can be a issue. While at Redfish lake we had two trees fall together just outside a campsite. We had other trees that fell after we past through the area and on the return found them down across the trail. Feed was limited at Ardeth Lake. We found only a couple all ready

grazed over meadow/bogs. Above the lake to the south was some large meadows. I must say again the Sawtooths area is a wonderful area. We very much enjoyed the area.

Again thanks for your help. Pam and Randy Kirkbride, Mule Haven Ranch, Wilton, CA





Dear Friends,

As this was our first summer with the Backcountry Horsemen we would like to relay how happy we were with the four outings we attended. Our goal was to ride more and help clear trails, that was easily accomplished. However, the Grandjean trip proved that having great knowledgeable friends with us possibly averted losing one of our horses. We would like to thank all who assisted us when Seanna became heat stressed. We look forward to all future get togethers with great friends like you.

Charles and Lorraine Chick



Notes from the Trail:



Hi all, I have to say that the trip to the Sawtooths was a dream weekend. Great company, great weather, and some of the most beautiful country in the world. My friends and I enjoyed the weekend and took lots of pictures. Now we are planning a trip there next year for a longer stay.

The sweeping vistas were so eye-catching that I felt very small and very overwhelmed at times. And trying to capture an entire photo from foreground to those massive, soaring peaks in the background was quite a challenge. I don't think I ever managed to capture the real scale of what we were seeing.

The trails were in very interesting. Lots to see and do, as the trail went from running along the South Fork of the Payette River; to

climbing high to a mountain meadow; to crossing creeks that could be rushing or lazy; climbing over downed trees or going around obstacles that were simply too large for our horses to scale. We saw and crossed rock slides; walked through meadows filled with quaking aspen whose yellow leaves fluttered in the breeze like a million golden coins; to climb up a bit and move into the deep shadow of the huge towering yellow pines.

It was a fantastic experience, and the combination of people, horses, location, and weather would be impossible to out-do. I hope you enjoyed it, too.

Here are some photos that I thought came out well. Hope you can use them. Gina Waddell



Coming Events

October

Saturday 10/17/2009, Packers' Play Day, Circle G River Ranch, Emmett, Project Leader- Rob Adams, projects@sbbchidaho.org or 208.584.3780,

*Packers Play Day IV, Hosted by Squaw Butte Backcountry Horsemen & The Circle G River Ranch October 17th, 2009
First events starts at 09:30 / ends 15:30 Location: Circle G River Ranch, Emmett, Idaho*

No cost to participate in events, Lunch \$ donations accepted – 4H fund raiser

This is a non competitive day of having fun with horses. Events are a mixture of traditional play day offering like pole bending and barrels, but also include musical chairs, 3 legged races, obstacle course and a number of other fun games on horseback. 'All ages and skill levels' of riders are encouraged to participate in any and all events.

Saturday 10/31/2009, Day Ride - Diamond Basin, Owyhee Area, Ride Leader- Ellen Knapp, president@sbbchidaho.org or 208.365.0737 Be ready to ride at 10:00

November

SBBCH Monthly Meeting - Thursday, November 05, 2009-La Costa Restaurant, Emmett ID CONTACT: Ellen Knapp president@sbbchidaho.org 208-365-0737

Saturday 11/07/2009, 10:00 AM, Highway Clean-up, Wild Rose Park, Hwy 52 Emmett, Project leader- Charles Lox, 208.398.7279

Friday 11/13/2009 - BCHI State Board Meeting, Twin Falls, Idaho

Saturday 11/14/2009 - BCHI State Convention <http://www.bchi.org/09-mtg-convention.htm> Squaw Butte Members are highly encouraged to check out and attend this state convention. Meet members of other state chapters, enjoy good food and entertainment, and help shape the direction that our organization takes in the years to come. If you have any questions contact Phil & Kay Ryan or Marybeth Conger stateboard@sbbchidaho.org

December

SBBCH Monthly Meeting -Thursday, December 03, 2009-La Costa Restaurant, Emmett ID CONTACT: Ellen Knapp president@sbbchidaho.org 208 365-0737

Saturday 12/5/2009, 6:00 PM, Holiday - End of Year Party, Legion Hall, Emmett, Project Leaders - ??.
Volunteers will be needed to help set-up and clean-up. Do we want to have music so we can "Dance"?
Party@sbbchidaho.org



10/1/2009 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Regular meeting called to order at 7 PM by President Ellen Knapp.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion to approve the Previous Meeting Minutes by Tony Buthman, 2nd by Bill Holt and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Checking Account Balance: \$ 10,076.97

Deposits: \$ 320.00 (calendar)

Expenses: \$ 192.18 (website fee 41.94, secretary supplies \$17.40, work party food \$132.84)

Ending Checking Account Balance: \$ 10,204.79

Motion to approve the Previous Treasurer's Report by MaryBeth Conger, 2nd by Rob Adams and carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calling Committee Report – Phil Ryan – everyone was called or emailed

Education & Foundation Reports – Bill Conger finally got a copy of the minutes from last years Foundation meeting.

The Foundation has over \$6000.00 in the bank. If BCHI gets 501C3 instead of 501C4 why do we need a Foundation? In the past there was a problem with that because we lobby our legislators. Foundation only meets once a year. Next meeting is Nov 13th in Jerome, the same time as the Board of Directors meeting.

MaryBeth – Education – state wants all of the certified "Leave No Trace" trainers identified. Purpose is to put together a training directory all across the state.

Public Liaison Report – Tony – Nov 20 is the next Idaho Horse Council meeting in Boise. We are all members. If anyone is interested in horse issues across the state this would be a good meeting to attend.

Robbin – We should all thank Sandra Mitchell – Chief Advocate for motorized use – been working hard to get our Parks and Recreation money for trails back. The money was pulled back out of the general fund and given back to Parks and Recreation at least for this year.

State Directors Report – MaryBeth – agenda will be coming out for next meeting. The convention is Nov 14th in Twin Falls, info is on the state website. Every chapter has up to eight voting options, members should consider going.

Phil Ryan - Idaho Horse Council coloring book – Elise Conger-Dix drew picture for the coloring book. They will be out at some point, don't know the price.

Work Projects and Rides Report – Rob Adams –

Website – our main website averaging 1200 hits a month, up 200 hits from last year. Backcountry Musing – being linked from Backcountry Trails Guide. The most visited page is Activities, followed by pictures.

Pack Clinic - presentations are dominating the hands-on events. Maybe we want to hold it later in the year, two days, have one day with presentation, second day hands on and people could bring their stock. There will be more discussion at a later meeting.

Reports:

Boiling Springs Project – really fun time, crossed river multiple times

Payette National Forest did not provide signs for sign project so went to Grand Jean for the weekend – beautiful weather, had lots of food, good rides. Twenty-two people attended, went three different directions.

Upcoming:

Triangle Peak LO Fun Ride (10/3) – cancelled due to weather
Packer’s Play Day (10/17) – at Circle G Ranch. Free, non-competitive. Need volunteers to help, bring something to add to obstacle course. 4-H will provide food for a donation.
Diamond Basin Fun Ride (10/31) – last ride of the season
Highway Clean up (11/14) this is the same date as the state convention so this will need to be moved to 11/7

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2010 Calendar status – Phil – everyone in chapter has been contacted. Our Chapter still needs to sell 129 calendars. If we don’t sell anymore at this point the chapter will have to pay \$2580.00 for calendars because we are committed to buying a certain number. Maybe we could sit in front of Bi-Mart or Albertsons to sell calendars. MaryBeth suggested that Ellen assign people to take this on. All of the money has to be turned in at the Nov 14th state directors meeting. Robbin made a poster; it will be on the website.

State Convention Chapter Display – Rob/Chick - Chick is going to build a foldable display. It will be ready by the next meeting. We will need to decide what we are going to put in the frame.

Chapter proposal to the state – Rob/Phil - Formal proposal will be presented at the state directors meeting for a week long camp packing school for BCHA members. If approved would be Summer 2011. Forest Service has a curriculum that we could use. Rob, MaryBeth and Robbin Schindele will work on formal proposal. It would require a special use permit from the Forest Service, the fees would most likely be waived, and they would probably be willing to be listed as a co-sponsor. No cost to attend. Hopefully get funding from the state to defray some of the cost. Food event provided. Certified hay provided. Squaw Butte would take on the role of logistics. Limited number of participants. Discussion followed.

Proposal – MaryBeth – proposal to the board of directors that each chapter get an amount of money set aside from the state to be used for reimbursement for trail work.

State Comm. radios and training – Bill C – having trouble getting connected with the lady from State Comm. Found a source for radios – aprox. \$300/ea. If we had a least two we could have them in different locations at the same time. We could come up with another frequency and communicate within ourselves. It will be part of the budgeting process for next year. Bill will continue to pursue the training end.

2010 Sportsman Show – Tami – Idaho Expo March 4-7, 2010 - \$300 for a booth. \$25 for electrical output. Might be internet access but not sure. 10 x 10 booths. We will need to take our own chairs, tables. Advanced registration must be in by Nov 1. Robbin said that we might be able to get money from the state. The state has money set aside for Horse Expo or Horse Affair. Our directors will try to change that so we could get money for Sportsman Show. Shannon Schantz made a motion to try it out this year and at a later date invite other chapters to split it with us if we decide. Bill C seconded. Approved unanimously. We have to send a 50% deposit. Tami will contact the other chapters who we participated with last year to notify them what we are doing but we will be in charge.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – elections coming up in Dec. Chris Holt will lead up the Nominating Committee. Linda Phillips will also serve on the Nominating Committee. Clarification - State BOD - one 2 year term person needed.

Christmas Committee – at VFW this year. Dec 5 Ellen asked for someone to volunteer to head the committee. No one volunteered. Ellen will work on getting someone to head up this committee.

Program – none

Notices – still have BCH items for sale

A River Thru Time – Emmett – 10/3-4 – hands-on living history event. Gem Island Sports Complex Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Free 75 Saddle & Tack in Nampa – Oct 1-18 going out of business sale. Flyer will be on website.

Door prizes – none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Robbin, seconded by Bill C and carried. Regular meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM by President Ellen Knapp. Respectfully submitted by Secretary Linda Phillips

2009 SBBCH Officers and Board of Directors

President	Ellen Knapp	president@sbbchidaho.org	208-365-0737
VP	Tami Buthman	info@sbbchidaho.org	208-549-2054
Secretary Team	Linda Phillips	secretary@sbbchidaho.org	208-585-3019
	Linda Hays		208-571-0376
Treasurer	Kay Ryan	treasurer@sbbchidaho.org	208-398-8993
Education/Foundation	Bill Conger	education@sbbchidaho.org	208-365-9864
	Bill Holt (alt)		208-398-9825
State Board	Rob Adams	state.board@sbbchidaho.org	208-584-3780
	Marybeth Conger		208-365-9864
	Phil Ryan (alt)		208-398-8993
Projects & Rides			
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	Terry MacDonald		208-584-3767
Payette National Forest Hells Canyon & Weiser NFS Districts	Tony Buthman		208-549-2054
Public Lands	Tony Buthman	public.land@sbbchidaho.org	208-549-2054
	Chris & Bill Holt		208-398-9825
	Robbin Schindele		208-365-1789
Newsletter	Linda Hays	newsletter@sbbchidaho.org	208-571-0376
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Meetings: First Thursday of every month 7 PM at LaCosta Restaurant, Emmett Idaho



Building Bridges

by
Rob Adams

For Backcountry Horsemen to fulfill its stated goal of keeping public land available for horse and stock use, a good relationship with the government agencies that manage the public land is required. Over the last few years Squaw Butte has been working to build these relationships with the various ranger districts that manage the Boise and Payette national forest. Over the years we have performed a number of projects with the Emmett, Boise, and Lowman ranger districts, and have been building a relationship with the Weiser district. These relationships are important and will be ongoing as we work together to improve the recreation opportunities to horsemen in the areas they manage.

For the last few years we have been trying to develop a relationship with the Cascade ranger district, but the rangers there showed little interest in working with a volunteer organization. This changed when ranger Carol McCoy-Brown and her team took over the office. Carol had been stationed in northern Idaho and had worked with BCHI chapters before so was very receptive to working with local chapters on projects of mutual interest. We started exchanging email and phone calls in the spring of 2008 and planned a 'national trails day' project for 2009. The heavy rains of June delayed that project until the end of August.

The Warm Lake area east of Cascade was hit with a series of wild fires over the last few years that damaged camp grounds, trail heads and the popular hot springs of the area. One of the casualties was a wooden bridge to Vulcan Hot Springs. The rebuilding of this bridge was on Carol's list of project that might be a good fit for a volunteer group to assist with.



Squaw Butte indicated that they would be interested in working on the project as well as doing some trail maintenance in the area. On the weekend of August 29, 2009 members of the chapter set up camp near the Yellow Jacket trail head, south west of Warm Lake. The group divided into two team, the trail team, consisting of all the woman members attending, spent Saturday on a 16 mile loop working two trails and riding through some areas that were heavily damaged by fire, but still spectacular.

The guys joined up with ranger Dan Fisher build a wooden foot bridge suitable for foot and horse traffic. All of the needed material had been pre-staged at the bridge location, so all we needed to do was bring our tools. It was determined that the work location was about a mile from were we could park our truck and that there was very little interest in carrying in the tools by hand, so Moosely was drafted to do this for us. Dan and his team brought their equipment in using a wheel barrow. By 10:30 work was started, the first part being the building of a foundation for the bridge. This work entailed digging out two stumps, a number of rocks and a lot of shovel work. At any given time one or two would be working and the rest would be catching their breath and looking like a road crew all leaning on shovels, supervising.



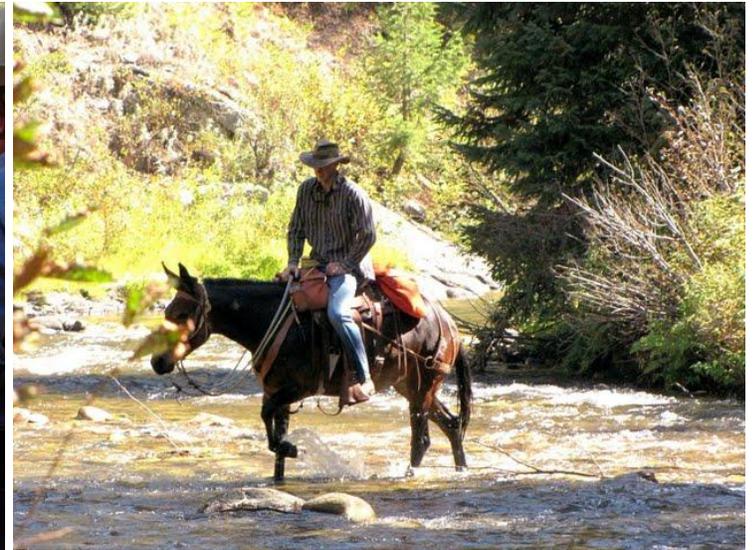
As the day approached noon, the foundations were well under way and it was time to take some measurement to ensure that we had the cast stone work aligned correctly for the bridge members. We had been told when we started that we would be setting the foundation for a spam of 18 foot, using treated 2 x 8 x 20. After measuring the spam, a bridge timber was put in place.

It was instantly apparent that we had a problem as the span was too large for the material we had. It turned out 2 x 8 x 16 treated timbers had been brought to the site instead. A

quick conference was held and it was determined that we could move the foundation on both side closer together for a 15 foot span. After this work was completed, we shifted from shovels to hammers as we started placing these timbers on their sides and nailing them together until we had a solid structure that was 16 foot long, 5 foot wide and 8 inches thick. A small tank could be driven over this bridge. Each timber was attached to the ones next to it with ten to twelve 5 1/2 inch ring nails. Ring nail are easy to hammer in, but almost impossible to pull out.

Putting that number of spikes into the treated timbers took its toll on the Squaw Butte crew whose age ranged from 59 to 67. We all were having trouble at the end of the day with sore elbows and shoulders. Our ability to hit the nail on the head consistently also decreased as time went by. By 16:30 the bridge was built, the tools collected and the team back at the camp where cold beer and an even colder bath in the near by creek refreshed the guys while we waited for dinner to be ready and the girls to return from their project.

The bridge project was a success, but more important we have started a productive relationship with the Cascade Rangers that we look forward to expanding in the future.



Boiling Springs

Editor's Note

Please submit articles for the next Newsletter by the 10th of each month.

1. Articles of interest, short stories about our rides, Include pictures you would like to go along with it.
2. Favorite photos, send your own or favorite pick of the month from our web site.
3. Personal pack trips and vacations you would like to share with others.
4. Favorite potluck dish or Dutch oven recipes.
5. Clever antidotes or jokes related to Cowboys or Mule skippers, Packers, etc. for the month.
6. Monthly Packing, Riding, Safety tips for the month.
7. News items of importance to BCH and SBBCH