

HIGH DESERT



BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

BRET CHRISTENSEN
329-0997

BONNIE STACY
324-5603

KATHY KERLEY
324-4754

This past month we had another successful chili feed. I want to take a moment and thank all of the people that brought food and auction items for the chili feed along with the people who brought their check book and purchased items. I think fun was had by all attendees. I saw several new faces in the crowd as well as several people who I only see at the chili feed. I hope we can get some of the new people to start riding with us as the weather improves. We will always welcome new comers.

We are headed into the home stretch towards spring. I have visited with several people and the recent sunshine has triggered a great deal of spring fever. I have noticed that the number of trailers I see heading to Niagara has increased with the sunshine. Keep in mind that most of our horses have not been ridden much for the last several months and so they are not in the condition, physically or mentally, they were in November when the weather started to turn. Lots of pep, vinegar, and hair.

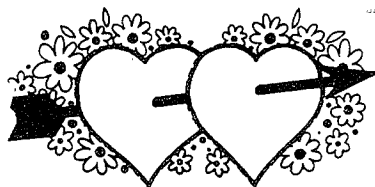
I would like to discuss in greater detail where we are going to have our overnight rides. This way we can get them on everyone's calendar. I realize we all work and have families that need to be organized, and so hopefully with plenty of warning we can have a good turnout all summer.

The state BCH website has set aside room for five pictures from our club. I received a note this week that we are five pictures short of meeting our goal. So, I am asking you to bring digital pictures to the meeting on 2/9/10, and then we can get these sent in to the state chapter. We put in a great deal of work this past year and I saw several people with cameras. Unless you were in my group and we just carried them and forgot to use them during the trail cleanings. I think we should be able to supply some pictures showing our hard work.

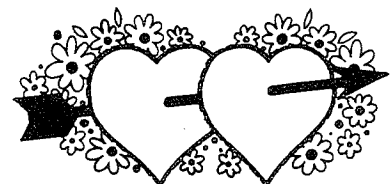
Have a good month and remember that spring is on its way.

Bret

Happy Valentine's



Day



**HIGH DESERT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 12, 2010
Home of the Stacys**

The meeting was called to order by President, Bret Christensen.

Bonnie moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Norm. Passed.

The treasurer reported the bank balance. Susan moved to accept the report seconded by Perry. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Susan reported that there were 70 calendars left to sell. Bryan offered to sell calendars at the Valley Co-op in Buhl Saturday and asked if anyone would like to help. Discussion followed about selling at Valley Co-op in Jerome or D & B. Susan and Bonnie and Kathy and Norm and Val volunteered to help.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bret asked for volunteers to host the meetings the next few months with the following results:

February.....	Norm McGuire	June.....	Anita Jacobs
March.....	Perry Vance	July.....	Norm McGuire
April.....	Bret Christensen	August.....	Kathy Kerley
May.....	Judy Butler		

Membership List: Bret passed around a membership list to make sure that it was still current with addresses and pick up any new email addresses that we did not have.

Dues and Life Flight: Bret reminded us that the dues and life flight are now due for 2010 and the life flight renews on 2-28-10.

Upcoming events: Discussion on where to have overnights this summer came up with these suggestions: Go over Fleck Summit to the Bear Creek area campground. Lime Creek or Hunter Creek, there is a transfer station there to camp. Past the SNRA to the S fork of the E fork drainage or Murdock Creek. Thompson Creek and Hydnman. Big Smokey. We were to think about these and make suggestions at the next meeting, of course taking into consideration the weather and availability. Bret would like to schedule one overnigher per month this summer.

Perry suggested that we contact the FS regarding the other Porcupine Springs corral project and if it is a go, fit it in

American Horse Council: They are asking BCH to report to them any closed trails in our area that are a problem. At this time we have none to report.

Chili Feed: Bret went over the chili feed plans for the 23rd of January. All is on board.

Billingsley Creek: Bryan said that the parks in our area may be in trouble and especially Billingsley Creek. The state may consider a private concessionaire at the stable there.

Trail Blazer Magazine: Is looking for articles from BCH which would be good publicity for us. Rod Parks, our national director suggested using a "HERO" story and picture from what we had at the convention.

Susan moved to adjourn. Seconded by Anita. Adjourned.



SNOWBALLING

When mixtures of snow, ice, mud, manure, grass or bedding accumulate in the sole area, it can pack densely into large rounded ice mounds that are almost impossible to chip out. The junction of the inner edge of the shoe with the sole provides a place for the mud and ice to become securely lodged. Snow will melt from the heat of the sole and freeze onto the metal horseshoe and the snow ball will begin. When a horse is forced to stand or move on the snowballs, he has decreased stability in his fetlock joint. His weight is liable to suddenly roll medially, laterally, forward or backward. It is extremely fatiguing for his muscles, tendons. And joint ligaments as he constantly must make adjustments to maintain his equilibrium. It is easy for a snowballed horse to lose his balance and wrench a fetlock.

Applying various substances such as grease to the sole of the foot or spraying it with a non-stick cooking coating may prevent snow build-up during certain temperatures, but only temporarily.

Full pads can help prevent snowballing in some situations. The choices include plastic, synthetic rubber, sorbothane, and leather (list in order of their effectiveness). Traction is, however, reduced with full pads.

Tube type rim pads which fit between the shoe and the hoof wall leaving the sole open are the best anti-snowballing option. The sole retains its cupped traction feature, can respire normally, and can descend with weight bearing. As the horse's weight descends on the hoof the pads flex and dislodge the snow that accumulates at the junction of the shoe and sole. Bar, egg bar and other full support shoes will trap snow and not allow the tube pads to work.

There are combinations of snow type and temperature where it is impossible to provide safe traction and prevent snowballing. The best results can be obtained from normal shoes with an application of various traction and anti-snowballing devices.

This is compiled opinions of various farriers on the internet.

CALENDAR

February 9, 2010....General Membership meeting 6:30 p.m. potluck 7:00 p.m. meeting. Home of Norm McGuire in Hansen

March 9, 2010....General Membership meeting 6:30 potluck, 7:00 p.m. meeting Home of Perry Vance in Twin Falls.

March 13, 2010....State Board of Directors meeting hosted by North Central in Lewiston.

April 13, 2010....General Membership meeting 6:30 p.m. potluck, 7:00 p.m. meeting. Home of Christensens, Buhl

April 16,17,18, 2010....Idaho Horse Expo, Idaho Horse Park, Nampa, Id

May 11, 2010....Membership meeting hosted by Judy Butler, Hagerman

June 5, 2010....National Trails Day

July 10, 2010....State Board of Directors meeting hosted by Priest River at Pee Wee Creek.

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BE SURE TO CALL PERRY TO MAKE SURE THESE EVENTS ARE HAPPENING. 539-7766

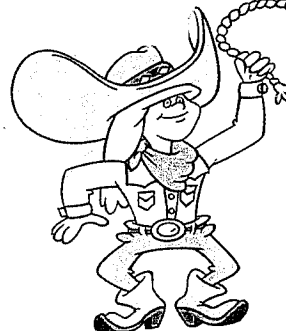
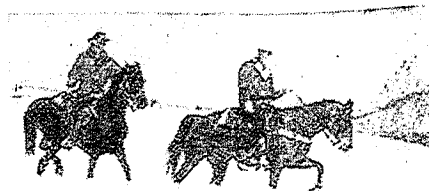
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Directions to Norms for February meeting: 3802 E 3800 N Call 423-5696 if lost. From the center of Hansen go 1 mile north, house on the NE corner of the intersection. From the freeway, get off at the Travelers Oasis and get on HWY 30 towards Twin Falls, at the sign

that says Hansen 2 miles, turn left and go one mile. House is on the NE corner of the intersection.

STUFF TO REMEMBER

2010 DUES ARE AGAIN DUE IN JANUARY. THEY ARE \$20 PER INDIVIDUAL AND \$35 PER FAMILY. REMEMBER THAT LIFE FLIGHT IS \$35 PER FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL THIS YEAR 2010 AND ALL THE MEMBERSHIPS NEED TO BE RENEWED BY 2-28-10. IF ANYONE HAS ANY CALENDAR MONEY BRING IT TO THE MEETING. THIS YEAR YOU NEED TO PAY LIFE FLIGHT DIRECT, I HAVE FORMS.



FOR SALE
Missouri Fox Trotter gelding, 17 years, gentle, sound, reliable and many many trail miles. Call 208-543-2416.