

Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- BCHCAZ Incorporates as non-profit.
- Prescott to host 2007 BCHA National Board Meeting.
- Back Country Horsemen Around Arizona.
- 2006 National Board Meeting (April 25-29).

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**JANUARY 2006 ANNUAL MEETING
INCLUDED MANY IMPORTANT TOPICS**

Our annual meeting was held on January 22, 2006 at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds. The initial activity was a potluck chili lunch that was a great success and gave everyone an opportunity to get to know new friends and confab with old ones. Our display board was set up with photos of past projects and a calendar of upcoming events.

The meeting kicked off at 2:00pm by recognizing US Forest Service personnel in attendance who included Alan Quan, Bruce Farnhi and Dick Felgenhour, who was retiring in February. Dick was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation for his leadership with the Groom

Creek Horse Camp. Other certificates of appreciation were presented to Cathy Alger for her Litter Lifters work,



Wayne Pitrat (r) receiving Silver Spur Award.

Sandra Jackson for handling volunteer reporting for two years; Wayne and Sheree Pitrat, Jim Buchanan and Barb Sweeney for their substantial fund-raising efforts in 2005.

Wayne Pitrat and Jim Buchanan were awarded the first ever "Silver Spur" awards for outstanding volunteer efforts over the past five-years. Jim Buchanan was also presented a certificate from Back Country Horsemen of America for his efforts in establishing back country horsemen in Arizona. Lon Willoughby was presented with the "Lon Willoughby Annual Outstanding Service Award" for 2005. This is a newly established perpetual award that will be passed to a new recipient for 2006.

Other business included a discussion of BCHCAZ hosting the BCHA national board meeting in 2007 and a vote to replace our constitution.

**BCHCAZ INCORPORATES AND
APPLIES FOR TAX-EXEMPT STATUS**

The Board voted to incorporate as an Arizona non-profit corporation and apply for tax exempt status as a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code. The articles of incorporation were filed and approved by the Arizona Corporation Commis-

sion. A set of by-laws were written to comply with Arizona and IRS requirements. The members voted, at the annual meeting, to replace the BCHCAZ constitution with the new by-laws. (The Articles of Incorporation and the By-laws are available on-line at our

website www.bchcaz.org.

The application for tax-exempt status has been filed with the IRS.

A favorable ruling by the IRS will enable us to apply for various grants and accept tax deductible donations.

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF ARIZONA TO HOST 2007 BCHA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

By Jim Buchanan

The 2007 National Board of Directors meeting will be in PRESCOTT, ARIZONA!

Yes, you heard me right. We have the honor of hosting the NBD meeting April 24-28, 2007. Plans are developing including the using the Historic Hassayampa Inn as host hotel. An evening BBQ including inviting all members of Arizona BCH Chapters. A



night at the Historic Palace Restaurant and Saloon and a Saturday evening banquet at the Hassayampa Inn. Jim Buchanan, Gayle Higgs

and Sheree Pitrat are leading the committee. Carrie Jones, East Valley, and Mary Van Rooy, Lake Havasu are also on the committee. We need lots of help so please contact one of us and get involved. This opportunity will not happen again for many years. For most of us, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity!



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BCHCAZ

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\$15 per issue.

Contact:
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By Gayle Higgs

I'd like to welcome our new members and thank everyone else for continuing to support Backcountry Horseman of America. Remember, even if you can't be active, a portion of your dues is sent to our national organization.

We are in danger of losing access to many trails nationally on the forest due to a lack of funds for trail maintenance; allowing the forest service to condemn them as unsafe for horse and pack animal travel. We are doing our part locally with trail and trail-head maintenance. The Groom Creek Horse Camp is of prime importance to all horsemen and our clean-up day April 15 needs your support. We work with other horse groups and the forest service to get the camp ready to open. It's a day of work

and fellowship that benefits all horsemen who enjoy camping with their horses.

Don't forget to send in or call in your reservations for our 2nd Annual BCHCAZ - Pitrat fun weekend. I hope our snow will leave the trails open and maybe even a campfire! See you all at Pitrats.

This is our first quarterly newsletter. The board felt that we weren't keeping everyone in the loop with everything that we are doing and what is being planned for the future. It's real easy not to read your e-mails, ask me how I know? Jim Buchanan has to call and tell me I should read the e-mail he sent so I can respond to it. Bad, really bad, but true!

I have big footsteps to follow as Lon was an organized true leader. Wish me well.

Pull your hat down tight, take a deep seat and get ready for a for a good ride with BCHCAZ this year.

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THE UPPER RANGE
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BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN AROUND ARIZONA

By Jim Buchanan

Some of you may not understand what the State Organization is: When BCH Central Arizona was the only chapter in Arizona there was no State Organization. National requires we form a State Organization when there are more than 2 chapters. We helped form the Back Country Horsemen Lake Havasu and later East Valley Back Country Horsemen, and consequently the State Organization. We hope to help form many more Chapters in Arizona. The BCH Arizona State Organization is made up of 3 directors from each Chapter or currently 9 directors. Jim Buchanan is serving as president of the State Organization. Wayne Pitrat and Jim Higgs are our other Directors. Each State Organization

may have 2 National Directors who serve on the Back Country Horsemen of America, National Board of Directors. Jim Higgs is one of Arizona's National Directors and Tony Van Rooy from Lake Havasu is the other. The National Board of Directors communicates a lot through the year primarily by email. Then in April of each year they have a week long BCH America, National Board of Directors (NBD) meeting. It is intense and very interesting! The NBD meeting is where we get lots of leadership and where positions are created that National then takes to Washington, DC, to our legislators and to agencies like the U. S. Forest Service. Until you are involved you would not believe how dedicated National Directors are and how positively they influence the opportunities we have to ride and access public



Jim Buchanan (r) receiving National award for developing back country horsemen in Arizona.

lands! This year, 2006 the NBD meeting is in San Diego, California. Directors from 20 States and a number of other representatives will be there.



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JAMES R. HIGGS, P.C.
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BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA 2006 NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

By Jim Higgs

As one of your National Directors, I will be headed for the National Board meeting in San Diego April 25 thru 29. There should be news about BCHA's lawsuit with the Forest Service. This suit is very important to all of us who ride and use pack animals on the forest trails. The suit was initiated because the Forest Service

wanted to apply the new 5 Class system to the existing trail conditions without public input or NEPA. See Steve Didier's article in the Summer 2005 edition of BCHA newsletter for complete information. If you don't have a copy, call me and I will see that you get a copy of the article.

At our National Board meeting last year in Park City, it was decided BCHA had grown about as much as we could without additional funding. If we had an Executive Di-

rector, who paid his own salary through grants and sponsorships, we could start to grow again. I was asked to be on that committee to draft a job description for the Executive Director. I am happy to say that the position has been advertised and applications are coming in, so hopefully in San Diego we will be hiring someone to help us reach the next level.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Date/Time	Description	Contact
April 15, 2006	Groom Creek Horse Camp pre-season maintenance day.	Jim Buchanan (928) 445-0072
April 21-23, 2006	2nd Annual Pitrat Ranch Ride, Spring Fund Raiser. Cook out, trail rides, auction	Sheree Pitrat or Gayle Higgs (928) 713-3981 or (928) 445-3809
Sept 8-10, 2006	Prescott Frontier Days Trail Ride—Groom Creek Horse Camp	Jim Buchanan (928) 445-0072
Sept 16, 2006	Equifest	Jim Buchanan (928) 445-0072
April 25-28, 2007	Back Country Horsemen of America National Board Meeting—Prescott, Arizona	Jim Buchanan (928) 445-0072

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