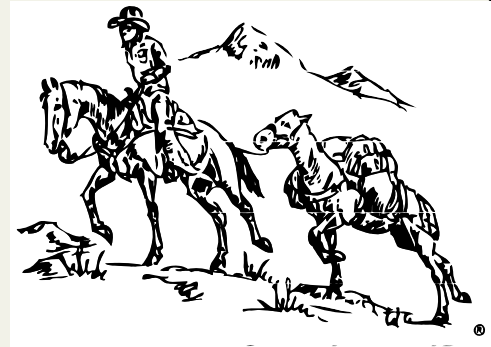


Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN PROJECT STATUS AND UPDATE

By Jim Buchanan
Scouting

No, not what you typically think of. We need youth in BCH and as horsemen in general. We have the opportunity for a member or more than one to work with Scouts. Boy Scouts of America and primarily Eagle or Explorer Scouts (teenagers). Two opportunities that could be done by one person or different persons. A merit badge counselor who will spend some time with an individual scout to see the

individual understands and can apply horsemanship practices. Also there is an opportunity to be a Scout leader of an Eagle or Explorer Post. We know there is some but limited interest so this will not be a big group but may involve several scouts who want to learn horsemanship in Scouting. Most likely they will already own a horse. What we need is for you to contact Jim Buchanan, if you would like to discuss this opportunity. Anyone who takes on

this responsibility will be covered by insurance through Boy Scouts of America.

Trail Gates

The trail gates we have been constructing and installing are becoming very popular. We have received approval to make 6 more. 4 of which will be installed in the Williamson Valley trails system on Forest Trails. This entails more welding and fabrication plus installation when ready. Thanks to Don Parks (Projects—page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Projects Status and Update.
- Right to Ride Bill Update
- The Mule in the Frontier Army
- Upcoming Events Calendar

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RIGHT TO RIDE LEGISLATION UPDATE

By Jim Higgs, National Director:

I received a note from Peg Greiwe regarding the Forest Service request for comments on the Trail Classification. She said that only 50 letters had been received by the FS from BCHA members.

If this is true, I am very disappointed that more members did not send letters opposing this change. This is probably one of the most important letters you could have sent to ensure the continued use of pack

and saddle stock in the wilderness.

It was confusing as to how to get your comments to them, I actually faxed my comments as we weren't sure about the e-mail process. I am asking Lon to include this letter from Steve Didier as so many of you wrote letters concerning the Right to Ride legislation.

Message from Steve Didier:

This morning, I, along with several others, met on a conference call with

Frank Gladics, Senior Professional Staff for the Senate Energy Committee and Mike Freese, environmental staffer for Senator Larry Craig.

The call had a singular purpose, to try and determine if the Right to Ride legislation was still alive in Congress and, if so, what could be done to get either the Senate or the House version of the bill to the Senate floor for a for a vote.

(See Steve, page 3)

(Projects cont. from Page 1)

we have been able to use his workshop for the welding work. If you are willing to help with any part of this please give Jim Buchanan a call.

Granite Mountain Wilderness Trail project

The Forest Service approved the system trail. We have done some work flagging it and more needs to be done. Then final clearances before we can start brushing and developing the actual trail for use by you, horsemen and also hikers. Since this is a wilderness trail no motorized users or

mountain bikes may use this trail. Please let Jim Buchanan know if you would like to help with this project.

Trailhead for Trail 3 and 100 update

The Forest Service is in what we feel are the final approvals and we should have the go ahead to construct this trailhead serving Juniper Mesa Wilderness and the forest in that area in the spring. We will need a tractor with loader and gannon plus possibly a backhoe and lots of labor, Keep this in mind for the spring!

Back Country Horsemen**of America, National Board of Directors meeting in Prescott. April 24–28, 2007**

We have heard from some of you but not all of you. Lots of opportunities to help and we need some of that help now. We need auction items! Bill Anton, western artist has donated a beautiful print. And we have a 2006 Cowboy Poets poster featuring Fred Fellows art. What do you have, who do you know or what can you make? We also will need a number of volunteers. Jim Buchanan, Gayle Higgs and Sheree Pitrat are the local committee members so please contact one of them and offer to as-

sist. Mary Van Rooy of Lake Havasu Chapter and Carrie Jones of East Valley Chapter are also on the committee as this is a State event. This is probably the only time in our lifetime we will have the opportunity to host the NBD here in Arizona so lets make them remember it with fond memories of Arizona hospitality!

Groom Creek Horse Camp

Pre-season work day is scheduled Saturday, April 7, 2007 so please plan to help! Yes this is the Saturday before Easter Sunday. Contact Jim Buchanan for more information.

Ball Caps and Visors

Some of you have noticed other members wearing Back Country Horsemen ball caps or visors. They are great looking, good quality and only cost \$10, just ten dollars each! Jim Buchanan has some more on order and can re-order as needed. Contact Jim and give him your \$10 so you can proudly show you are a Back Country Horseman. 445-0092 or jimbu-ghanan@cablone.net

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By Gayle Higgs

We have a busy fall with packing projects, gate construction and installation for the FS and an overwhelming Spring coming up. The National Board Meeting will be here in Prescott the last week of April and we will need ALL of our members who can, to pitch in and help with this prestigious endeavor.

The 3rd annual Pitrat ride is scheduled for the 2nd weekend in April and we will be asking for volunteers to be on the committee to put it together. If you are interested, please give me a call.

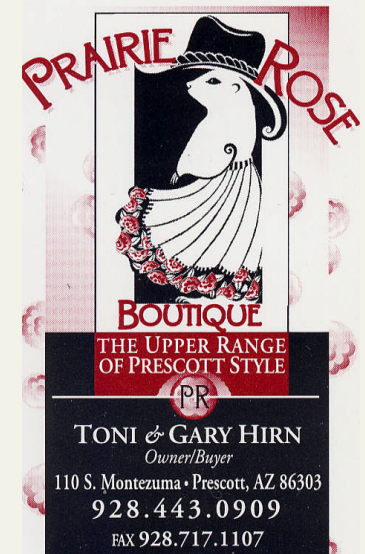
As you can see, the Chapter has a lot on our plate and we need all of you to answer when we call for your help.

I'd like to start my letter with a huge thank you to Jim Buchanan for all your hard work putting together another great Equifest. Wayne, Spike, Diane and Harley led off with the grand entry, Jim B, Barb, Sheree and I did the Dutch Oven cooking demo and every-

one loved the biscuits. Wayne, Spike and Harley did a packing demo and last but not least Spike, Ginny and Wayne gave a Powerpoint presentation on Leave No Trace. Lon and Jim H. set up the booth and members manned the booth, answered questions and gave out literature all day. Thanks again to everyone for their hard work and another successful Equifest.

The Cowboy Poet's breakfast that we cooked was another successful money maker. Thanks to Buchanan's hospitality and again Jim and Barb putting in long hours, we served approx 130 hungry people plus crew a fabulous meal and made \$500.00.

Special thanks to Phyllis Bartholomew for creating a beautiful BCH themed quilt to donate for the auction at the National Board Meeting.



THE MULE—THE BACKBONE OF THE INDIAN WARS ARMY

During the Civil and Indian Wars period, the mule was probably the most catered to animal in the U.S. Army. The health and condition of the mule teams was a primary concern and their needs took precedence over those of the poor enlisted men. Because of their temperament, the mules rarely served as scouting mounts but were used to pull wagons and haul pack saddles. The wagon trains were the lifeline of the Frontier Army in the field and without mules the movement of troops would have come to a halt.

The four-mule and six-mule drawn wagons were the most popular vehicles of the period. The four-mule wagons gradually replaced the standard Civil War six-mule wagon in the later 1870s. The army pack trains consisted of a string of 50 pack mules, 14 riding mules, and a bell mare. The string was commanded by a pack master who was aided by a number of assistants who were responsible for keeping a close eye on their charges.

The Army set strict regulations and guidelines for the purchase of

(Steve—Cont. from Page 1)

The Trail Standards and Classification rule was also discussed as it pertains to Right to Ride and how we view the pending rule as detrimental to continued access and use of public lands (particularly in Wilderness by pack and saddle stock).

Most of you know from my articles in our Newsletter that my optimism for the future of pack and saddle stock use in Wilderness has not been very high in recent years. Although the chances of getting Right to Ride legislation passed are not good in its present form, we did hear essentially two things that are promising.

We may have an opportunity

both wagon and pack mules.

Mules fit for Army service usually cost the government between \$115 and \$150 each and were considered to be very valuable property by soldier and Indian alike. The daily ration of the Army mule was also governed by regulations. Food had to be "prepared with great care, kept free from dust, foreign substance and bad odors." Each mule was entitled to a daily allotment of four pounds of hay, four pounds of alfalfa, nine pounds of oats, one-half pound of bran, and one salt lick slab. Often this hearty diet could not be provided and the mules were put out to graze, although they were known to have supplemented their diets with such "eatables" as hitching posts, grain sacks, and pieces of harness.

The mule proved an invaluable animal to the U.S. Army. Although their greatest achievements were attained during their service in the Frontier Army, mules continued to serve in the Army of the United States until 1956 when it was finally decided they had outlived their military usefulness.

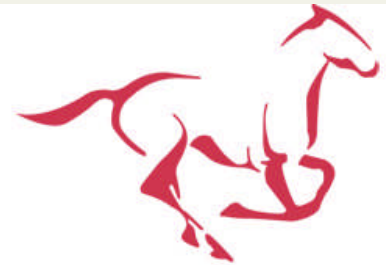
With the current war on terrorism, some of our special operations forces have begun training with pack mules as a means of getting supplies into remote

areas. There is nothing better than a good mule.



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(NM) - and both are in leadership positions on the key Senate Committee with jurisdiction for public lands. I am appreciative for that, and for me at least I have a degree of optimism today that I have not had in some time!

Steven J Didier
 Public Lands Chairman
 Back Country Horsemen of
 America
 (208)926-4910

PS - Please keep the pressure on your senators for support of the Right to Ride either the House version or SB 781.

to modify the bill to attract broad based support in the Senate and House, without losing the purpose of the original bill. The bill needs to be modified so that it does not appear to favor one recreation's use on public lands over all the others. However, we do believe that consideration of "historical" uses of any public lands can still be part of a modified legislation proposal.

We pressed the Senate to support a delay of the Trails Standards and Classification rule while the Senate considers legislation to deal with a host of concerns over public lands' use. We believe that this idea was generally well received and we should know more about this in the coming days or weeks.

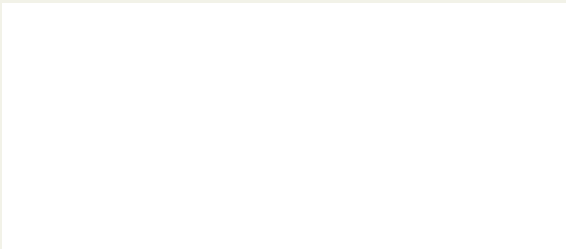
I believe we have two very strong supporters of Back Country Horsemen issues in Senator Craig (ID) and Senator Domenici

Upcoming Events Calendar

Date/Time	Description	Contact
Oct 22, 2006	Quarterly Membership Meeting at Pete's Family Restaurant on Iron Sprints Road, Prescott. No host lunch at 12 noon followed by a meeting at 1:00 pm.	Gayle Higgs (928) 445-3809
Jan 21, 2007	Annual Membership Meeting (Food, Fun and election of officers and directors for 2007)	Gayle Higgs (928) 445-3809
April 7, 2007	Groom Creek Horse camp Pre-season Maintenance Day	Jim Buchanan (928) 445-0072
April 13-15, 2007	3rd Annual Pitrat Ranch Ride	Gayle Higgs (928) 445-3809
April 24-28, 2007	Back Country Horsemen of America National Board Meeting— Prescott, Arizona	Jim Buchanan (928) 445-0072

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