BCHO

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF OREGON

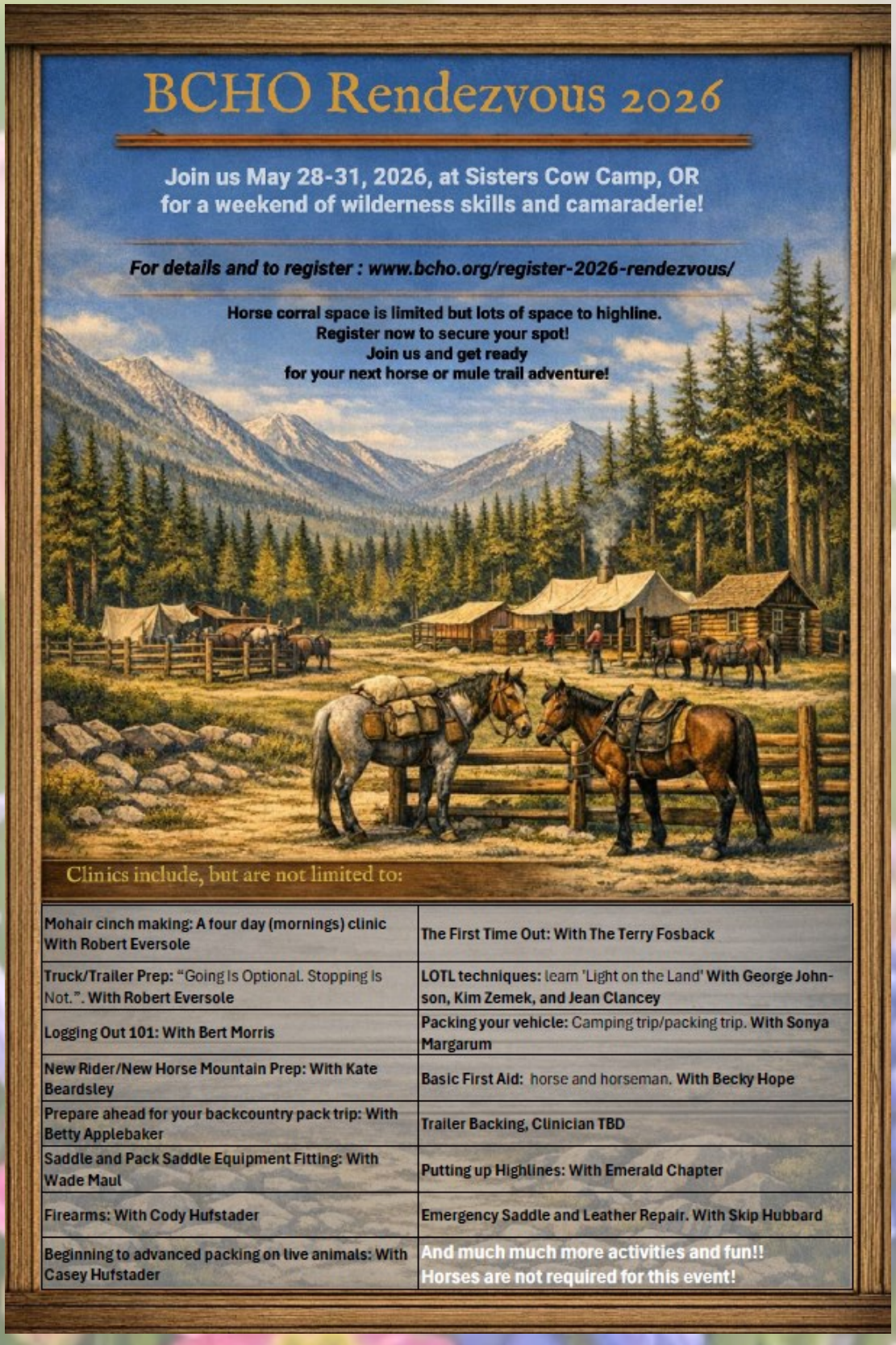
The Highline

APRIL 2026 ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Presidents Desk	3
BCHO Tech Corner	4
BCHO Tech Corner	5
Disaster Pre-Registration for Equine	6
Passing of a Friend	7
Rendezvous Clinics	10
Public Lands	12
Horses, Snowy Plovers, SOLV at the beach	14
For the Love of Trails 2026	16
Cascade Lakes Relay Fundraiser For BCHO	18
HDTRBCH Chapter up-date	19
Events	20
Search for Bigfoot With TRBCHO	22
BCHO 5 Principles	24
Volunteer Award	25
Membership Desk	26
Membership Application	27

Scan QR code to read online



Continued on page 10

BCHO State Officers

President

Lisa Rodriguez

president@bcho.org

~

Membership

see your local chapter

~

Public Lands Director

Becky Hope

pld@bcho.org

~

Education/LNT Director

George Johnson

education@bcho.org

~

Newsletter Articles

Sara Lagasse

newsletter@bcho.org

~

Newsletter Advertising

Lisa Rodriquez

advertising@bcho.org

~

Please feel free to contact our officers or staff if you need any assistance or have a question pertaining to BCHO.

Come To A Meeting And Make A Difference

Columbia Gorge Chapter

When: The 3rd Wednesday of the month

Where: Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr., Hood River, OR 97031

6:00pm—8:30pm Please confirm meeting with Joy Senger, columbiagorge@bcho.org

East Cascades Chapter

When: Monthly on the second Monday,

Where: Abby's Legendary Pizza 1938 S Hwy 97, Redmond, OR 97756

6:30pm—8:30pm Please confirm meeting with Rhonda Marquis, eastcascades@bcho.com

Emerald Empire Chapter

When: the 2nd Wednesday of each month

Where: Emerald People's Utility District, 33733 Seavey Loop Rd., Eugene, OR 97405 6:30pm—8:30pm Please confirm meeting with Barbara Dumsenil, emeraldempire@bcho.org

High Country Wilderness Packers

When: Held by conference call as needed ~ Please confirm meeting with contact

Contact: Mat Wooley, hcwp@bcho.org

High Desert Trail Riders Chapter

When: The 3rd Tuesday of each month

Where: Waffle Hut 106 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

6:00pm Please confirm meeting with Betty Applebaker, hdtr@bcho.org

Sourdough Chapter

When: Monthly on the second Monday,

Where: Foots Creek Chapel, 913 Foots Creek Rd, Gold Hill, OR 97525

6:00pm—8:00pm Please confirm meeting with David Browne, sourdough@bcho.org

Steens Chapter

When: Held as needed ~ Please confirm meeting with contact

Contact: SteensBCH@gmail.com

Territorial Riders Chapter

When: The 2nd Tuesday of every month

Where: Beavercreek Fire Dept., 22310 South Beavercreek Rd., Beavercreek, OR 97004 7:00pm-9:00pm Please confirm meeting with Dan Dahlke, territorialriders@bcho.org

West Cascades Chapter

When: The 1st Wednesday of each month

Where: Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dinner at 6:pm Meeting at 7:pm

Please confirm with contact Arden Corey, westcascades-pres@bcho.org

From the Desk of the President of BCHO

Hello BCHO Family,
Now that the days are longer and the weather is turning to Spring, I hope that you are able to spend more riding time with your equine partners. I seem to have time to ride only if it's cold, rainy and/or windy right now so looking forward to a little sunshine one of these weekends. For those of you who used the winter to have repairs done to be ready for riding season, speedy healing.
Our May all member meeting was productive. The BOD has been working on a Code of Conduct policy and great discussion took place around that. The Grant Committee has been developing policy and procedures and forms around the grant process as well. Those will be finalized at our May 2nd BOD meeting. Special thanks to Kim Zemek, Tim Lagasse, Becky Hope and Barb Dumesnil for you work on these projects.
We do have monthly Public Lands and Presidents calls if you are interested in what is going on, please join one of them. Check out the BCHO calendar for the info to join.
Chapter trail projects will begin soon. Check out the BCHO calendar for information on those.
The Rendezvous on May 28-31 at Sisters Cow Camp is shaping up to be a weekend of fun and informative seminars. We will have entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights as well as those famous potlucks. Come join the fun and fellowship.
Happy trails,
Lisa

~ NEW! BCHO Cookbook ~
Calling all camp cooks…

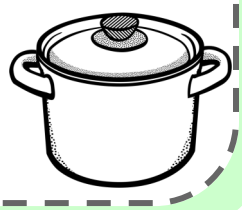
BCHO wants your camp recipes for favorite Dutch oven, camp cooking and or what you snack on while out on the trail…..I like to call them Saddle Snacks. We are also looking for any cast iron tips, tricks or food related hacks that could be helpful for a beginner or an experienced person alike, lets face it, we can all use some helpful tips when out in the woods. Like what is a Charmin Lilly? And why do I not want to smell it. … OK perhaps not that sort of tip.

What is this for? you ask. You mean besides bragging to your family and friends that you are in a published book and are now famous. Well it's also a fundraiser for BCHO and we want you to be a part of it. I really think that our BCHO Family have a wealth of information to help anyone just starting out on the camping adventure. And to share the knowledge with experienced ones, we can all learn something new. I also think that it's the right thing to do as a group, to help others have the best camping experience. We all know food is a big part of the camping equation and a big part of our Light on the Land and being prepared. So come on what do you say … jump on the ol' chuckwagon!!!

What you need to do, email cookbook@bcho.org your recipe along with your name and chapter.
Please send us 1 or 127, We are happy to put them in.



Help Wanted!!



What is Two-Factor Authentication and Should You Use It?

You may have seen a pop-up recently when logging into online accounts asking you to "turn on 2-Step Verification" or "use Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)." It can sound complicated, but it's actually a simple and very smart way to protect your personal information online including access to your email, and chapter calendar.

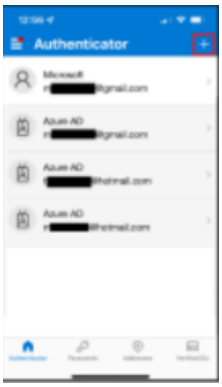
What is Two-Factor Authentication?

Two-Factor Authentication (commonly called 2FA) adds an extra step when you log into your online accounts.

Normally, you just type in a password — but with 2FA, after you enter your password, you'll also need to prove it's really you a second way. This second step usually involves: Entering a code sent to your cell phone by text message, OR confirming a notification on your phone, OR using a special app that gives you a code (called an authentication app).

Think of it like using both a key and a security code to unlock your front door. Even if someone guesses or steals your password, they won't be able to get in without your second "proof" — usually your phone.

What is an Authentication App?



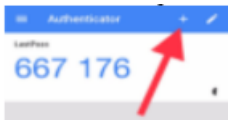
An authentication app is a free tool you can install on your smartphone. Instead of waiting for a text message, the app instantly generates a code for you right on your phone — even if you don't have cell service or Wi-Fi at the moment!

Some popular authentication apps are:

Google Authenticator

Microsoft Authenticator

Authy



Once you set it up, every time you log into your account, you just open the app and type in the 6-digit code it shows you. The code changes every 30 seconds for extra security. Many people prefer using an app because it's faster, more private, and more reliable than text messages.

Why Should You Use It?

Unfortunately, online crime has gotten more common. Passwords alone aren't always enough to protect your accounts anymore — especially if you tend to reuse the same password for multiple sites (which many of us do). By turning on 2FA, you make it much harder for someone else to break into your accounts. Even if a bad actor steals your password, they still can't log in unless they also have your phone. It's a simple and very effective way to stay safe online, especially for important accounts like:

Your email, your personal account (which gives you access to BCHO's calendar, files, and emails), Online banking or shopping sites

How Does It Work for Google Accounts?

Google makes it fairly easy:

1. After you enter your password when signing into your account, Google will either text you a short code, send a notification to your phone, or ask for a code from your authentication app.
2. You simply enter the code or tap "Yes" to confirm it's really you.
3. That's it — you're safely logged in!

You can also choose to mark a device (like your personal home computer) as "trusted" so you don't have to enter a code every time.

Is It Hard to Set Up?

Not at all! Google walks you through the steps. To turn it on: Visit https://g.co/2sv and sign into your account. Follow the prompts to add your phone number or authentication app. Google will test it once to make sure it works.

It only takes about five minutes to set up — but it can save you hours (or even days) of stress if your account were ever compromised.

Is It Really Necessary?

While nothing online is 100% guaranteed, 2FA greatly reduces the risk of someone else gaining access to your account. Many internet security experts recommend enabling 2FA, especially for members who want to access our private Google Group, Calendar, and Shared Drive. It's a simple step toward keeping your information — and BCHO's —

safe and sound. With your Smartphone receiving a Text, a Phone Call, or via the Authenticator App makes Two-Factor Authentication easy to use to verify you are the person logging into your account. For other accounts, just open your favorite AI chat App and ask how?

Understanding and Managing Passwords

Passwords are something we all use every day — but it's easy to overlook how important they really are. Your passwords protect your email, your bank accounts, your shopping history, your online memberships (including our Back Country Horsemen of Oregon Google Group), and even your private documents. Creating and managing strong passwords doesn't have to be hard — just a few small habits can make a big difference in keeping your personal information safe.

Why Passwords Matter More Than Ever

Years ago, a simple password like "horselover" or "BCHO2020" might have been enough. Today, criminals use powerful computers that can guess billions of password combinations in minutes. If your password is too simple or too common, it's like leaving the front door to your house unlocked. Worse, many people use the same password everywhere. If one site you use gets hacked (and it happens often), bad actors can use that same password to get into your email, your bank, your Facebook account, and more.

How to Create a Strong Password

Good passwords share three important qualities:

Long — at least 12 characters or more.

Complex — include upper- and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.

Unique — use a different password for every account.

Here are some simple ways to create a strong password:

Use a passphrase: Think of a phrase that's easy to remember but hard to guess.

Example: "MyHorseRidesFast#2025!"

Favorite things mash-up: Combine your favorite food, a number, and a symbol.

Example: "PizzaLover1975$"

Song lyrics or quotes: Use a line from a song or poem you love, and tweak it slightly.

Example: "TakeMe2TheRiver#SingIt"

Avoid names of pets, children, or grandchildren, your birthday, phone number, or address, and common words like "password123"

If you can remember a phrase but not a random jumble of characters, that's okay! Long phrases are actually very strong.

How to Manage Your Passwords

With so many accounts nowadays — banking, shopping, health care, social media, club memberships, and more — it's impossible to remember everything without help.

Here are safe ways to manage your passwords:

1. **Use a Password Notebook**

Writing down your passwords in a small notebook is a perfectly good option — especially if you're not comfortable using apps.

Tips for safe password notebooks: 1) Keep it somewhere private (like a desk drawer, safe, or file cabinet), 2) Don't label the notebook "Passwords" on the cover. 3) Update the notebook when you change or create new passwords. A notebook never needs batteries or internet access — simple and reliable!

2**. Use Your Web Browser's Password Manager**

Most modern web browsers — like Chrome, Safari, Firefox, and Microsoft Edge — have built-in password managers. When you log into a website, your browser often asks, "Would you like to save this password?" If you say yes, the browser will remember your passwords and auto fill your login information the next time you visit the site. This a convenient option but can be an issue If someone accesses your computer or phone without a password, they might see your saved passwords.

3. Use a Password Manager App

A password manager securely stores all your passwords in one place. You only need to remember one master password to open it. They store your passwords safely, fill them in automatically on websites and suggest new strong passwords.

Some popular choices are: LastPass (offers a free plan) Bitwarden (free and highly rated) and 1Password (small yearly fee, very user-friendly) Most password managers work on smartphones, tablets, and computers. Some even let you share passwords securely with a family member if needed.

If you're nervous about using a password manager, that's normal! But they are carefully built with security in mind— much safer than trying to memorize dozens of passwords.

4. **Update Your Important Passwords Regularly**

You don't need to change every password all the time, but it's a smart habit to update your most important ones (email, banking, Google account) at least once a year.

Updating passwords prevents old leaks or breaches from affecting you years later.

(Continued on page 8)

Disaster Pre-Registration for Equine & Livestock Owners

Oregon Livestock Council (OLC) is a new statewide nonprofit working to provide organized and credentialed evacuation and sheltering assistance to equine and livestock owners during disasters. We advocate for the development of robust emergency strategies tailored to encompass both human safety and the welfare of horses and livestock. To achieve this, we provide evacuation aid to owners who need assistance, or who may be unable or lack the knowledge to do so safely. Particularly vulnerable community members, such as those with disabilities or limited resources, are at significant risk during disasters. We enable owners to evacuate without concern, knowing their animals are in safe hands, or to move animals to an emergency shelter for those capable of self-evacuation.



At the individual level, we emphasize the importance of creating emergency plans that include provisions for assembling essential supplies for, and the care and evacuation of, both humans and animals, having detailed records for accurate proof of ownership, and implementing effective animal identification. We host community preparedness fairs, present to groups, and disseminate informative PSAs and newsletter articles persuading animal owners to have a plan, have access to the resources to enact that plan, and know where to get necessary assistance and information. Our direct engagement facilitates discussions on evacuation and sheltering contingencies specific to their operations.

There is a NEW asset in Oregon's equine and livestock preparedness toolbox, and we encourage EVERYONE to participate! OLC has partnered with Relief Compass, a software company who originally developed a program to assist people affected by wildfires in southern California—creating connections with the services and assistance they needed for recovery. Utilizing a twist on their human application, we are piloting the very first Equine & Livestock Pre-Registration program! This app connects owners to the assistance and information they need in a disaster and you can pre-register in just minutes! Scan the QR code, enter your contact information, respond to a few demographic questions that help OLC determine the level or type of assistance that may be needed, and how many of each animal species is owned at the location. The information goes directly to our database, and rest assured, any personal information about you or your animals is absolutely not shared.

How does the program work after you pre-register? If an incident or disaster occurs in your area, we will send a message out to you, asking if you need assistance with transportation or sheltering of your animals. At that point, 2-way communication can happen with you about your specific needs. Pre-registration allows us to have a basic idea at the time of deployment of the number of each animal species and their locations, as well as the amount and type of resources needed to respond. We can also provide pertinent information around sheltering locations, road closures, best routes, and other information the EOC may provide us. Occasionally you may also be notified through the app about pertinent preparedness events or updates in your area. The reason we encourage all livestock and horse owners to register, is that at any point in time down the road, even if you are not currently, you may experience a physical issue that would prevent you from attending to your animals as needed in an emergency. If you are registered, you will get the notification, and you can merely respond that you do not need assistance. Pertinent information about the emergency can also be transmitted through this app.

We are establishing collaborative partnerships with emergency management, fire, law enforcement, rural officials, Red Cross, COADS, and other disaster response organizations statewide to ensure our efforts complement the broader response strategy. Additionally, proactive engagement with the community and individual owners during blue skies enables us to gather crucial insights to address existing gaps in resources effectively.

While we are busy applying for grants and soliciting donations for evacuation and sheltering equipment, we are also actively recruiting volunteer members in several areas to be ready for next fire season. We have open positions on our board, on several committees, and in our Emergency Response Team leadership. We also seek local volunteers that will be trained and activated only in their local community. Call 541-321-6411 or email oregonlivestockcouncil@gmail.com to join us in making a difference for equine, livestock and their owners during disasters.

Passing of a Friend

Long time Columbia Gorge chapter member Ken Hansen passed away on February 1st.
Ken and wife, Helen, joined the chapter in the spring of 1998 when the chapter was just 2 years old. The Hansen's lived at the Hood River Saddle Club and were the caretakers there. The chapter had been meeting at members' homes and the Hansens suggested we hold our meetings at the clubhouse. Ken & Helen continued to live and care for the facility until 2025 when they moved to a care facility.

For many years Ken was the Public Lands person for the chapter. He kept us informed of issues affecting equestrian trails in the Hood River area, attending meetings and being a voice for us.
Ken and Helen had a long love affair with trail riding and the Gibson Prairie area in the Mt Hood National Forest was near and dear to their heart. They frequented the Gibson Prairie Horse Camp and spent hours/days mapping the user created trails out of camp. The chapter entered into an agreement with the FS to maintain the camp to keep it fee free.

In 2018 Ken made application for an RTP grant and the chapter received funds to renovate the campground - improving the road into camp and the parking pads at each corral. Ken received a recognition award from BCHO for his efforts. As a result of Ken's work with our Forest Service liaisons, the trails at Gibson Prairie have been recognized by the FS; mapped, numbered and named and appear on official maps. Despite it's official name, one of the trails is still called the "Hansen" trail by our members and I often comment that the camp should be renamed after them.

Joy Senger, Chapter VP









(Continued from page 5)

Wrapping Up

Passwords are the keys to your online home. Strong passwords help protect your emails, finances, and personal information from falling into the wrong hands.

Whether you prefer a good old-fashioned notebook or a modern password manager app, **the most important thing is to start making strong, unique passwords today.** With just a few minutes of effort, you can lock your digital doors and sleep a little easier at night.





TBM SADDLES

Trail saddles for the 21st century / tmbsaddles@gmail.com

TBM Saddles is the result of years of hard work in the saddle and tack industry. Although we provide saddles for all disciplines, our focus is on trail riders and packers. Those of us involved in TBM Saddles have over 200 years of combined experience in the saddle, tack and leather industry. We also offer custom saddle fitting for the most comfortable fit for you and your Mule, horse or donkey. All saddles feature 10yr warranty on tree. One year warranty offered on material and workmanship.



The Outrider



The Montosa



Working Trail Saddle

OREGON HORSE COUNCIL

OUR MISSION

Strengthening, Representing, and Advocating for the Equine Lifestyle Across Oregon.



Pick up your FREE 2024-25 Oregon Horse Directory at Feed/Tack Stores Across Oregon!

OHC Provides Marketing & Value to Equine Businesses & Organizations throughout Oregon!

- Marketing sales, promotions, events, and more through our active website, popular Facebook page, and regular e-newsletters
- Discounts to attend trainings and programs such as the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue courses
- Legislative alerts and representation of the equine industry at the local, state, and national levels
- Premier directory listings in online and printed directories
- And much more!!

For Directory, News, Events and Membership Info...

www.OregonHorsecouncil.com

The 2026 BCHO Rendezvous Clinics

Presenter(S)	Descriptions	Time	Thurs	Fri.	Sat.	Sun
Trail Meister	Build a cinch, build skills, and build community in this four day mohair cinch making clinic at the BCHO Rendezvous. Spend each morning learning hands on cinch construction, gaining the knowledge and confidence to continue the craft at home. Participants leave with a finished hand-made cinch. **Pre-registration link - https://www.trailmeister.com/product/camp-and-cinch-craft-weekend-clinic-deposit-bcho-or-may-2026/"**	8:30-am-10:30am	X	X	X	X
Trail Meister	"Truck/Trailer Prep: "Going Is Optional. Stopping Is Not." Purpose: Help horse owners prevent breakdowns, reduce accidents, and protect their animals by understanding how to evaluate and maintain a safe towing setup. This clinic is about: Systems, habits, and decision-making. Not mechanical skill. Not horse training."	3pm-5pm	X	X	X	X
Bert Morris	Logging Out 101: 1-1.5 Hour of Logging out the trails with saws 101, basically what we mean by Logging out, specialty tips on what to look for, why saw certification. When to not cut a tree out /why. Safety about going around a tree in the Trail and when not to...	9am-10am		X	X	
		1pm-2pm	X	X	X	X
Betty Applebaker	Prepare ahead for your backcountry pack trip, whether for a couple of nights or for an extended trip. Planning is the most important part of the trip for your comfort and safety.	1pm-2pm		X	X	
Wade Maul	Saddle and Pack Saddle Equipment Fitting, Will help trouble shoot any on going equipment or fitting issues	11am -12pm	X	X	X	
		2pm-3pm	X	X	X	
Becky Hope	Basic First Aid for horse and horseman	11 -12pm		X	X	X
		3pm-4pm	X	X	X	
Bonnie Somoa and Heidi Holcomb	Morning stretches-Keeping moving even when sore	7:30am-8:15am	X	X	X	X
Kate Beardsley	New rider/New Horse Prep going to the mountains; Mustangs To The Rescue — Improving the lives of horses and humans in our community through education and assistance.	2:00PM-3PM	X	X	X	X
Kate Beardsley	KNOT TYING-What knot are needed while handling stock and while camping. Ability to have hands on practice.	3:00pm-4pm	X	X	X	X
Cody Hufstader	Firearms: Cody will be giving an inside look at selecting the proper caliber of firearm, how to safely carry it and secure it on your animal in the back country	2:00pm-3:00pm			X	X
Casey Hufstader	CH Packstring will be teaching beginning to advanced packing on live animals. Discussing different types of pack saddles, pack gear from basics to advanced gear.	10:00am-12:00pm		X	X	X
Terry Fosback	The first time out, The first season out; you probably already have what you need to go out	9:00AM-11:00	X	X	X	X
George Johnson and Jean Clancey	learn 'Light on the Land' techniques	10-12pm	X	X	X	X
Sonya Margarum	Packing your vehicle for a Camping trip/packing trip	2:00pm-3:30pm	X	X	X	X
Skip Hubbard	Leather and saddle repairs on the fly	1pm-2:30pm	X	X	X	
Oregon Livestock Concil	"Livestock Disaster Preparedness & Pre-Registration" :Best practices to prepare your horses and livestock for emergencies and disasters, plans and things you can do to ensure your animals are included in evacuations, identification for reunification, and how to work with OLC and emergency management in a disaster.	7pm-8pm		X		
Emerald Chapter	Putting up Highlines and keeping your horse in camp	7am-8pm	X	X		

Back Country Horsemen of Oregon Announce 2026 State Rendezvous at Sisters Cow Camp

Four Days of Clinics, Education, and Backcountry Community • May 28–31, 2026

Sisters, Oregon — The Back Country Horsemen of Oregon (BCHO) proudly announce the upcoming **2026 BCHO Rendezvous**, a four-day educational and community event taking place **May 28–31, 2026**, at **Sisters Cow Camp**. Open to members, supporters, and the public, the Rendezvous brings together riders, packers, volunteers, and outdoor enthusiasts for a weekend dedicated to backcountry skills, stewardship, and horsemanship.

The annual Rendezvous is one of BCHO's signature events, offering hands on learning opportunities that support the organization's mission to preserve and enhance access to Oregon's public lands for equestrians. This year's schedule features an expanded lineup of clinics, demonstrations, and presentations from respected instructors and long time backcountry professionals.

Why Attend

- **Handson learning:** Every clinic emphasizes practical skills for real world backcountry riding.
- **Community connection:** Meet fellow horsemen, share experiences, and build friendships.
- **Trail stewardship:** Support BCHO's mission to keep Oregon's public lands open and accessible for equestrians.
- **Expert instruction:** Learn directly from seasoned professionals and volunteers who live the backcountry lifestyle.

Event Details

- **Dates:** May 28–31, 2026
- **Location:** Sisters Cow Camp, Sisters, Oregon
- **Hosted by:** Back Country Horsemen of Oregon (BCHO)
- **Registration:** Available now at bcho.org/register2026rendezvous (bcho.org)
- **Stock Requirements:** Bring your own corrals or highlining equipment.
- **Stock:** not required
- **Dogs:** Must be kept under control at all times.
- **Saturday** purchase swag
- **Enjoy** some Western entertainment in the evenings.





Public Lands

Here is an overview of various issues in Publics Lands affecting us.

US Forest Trail Service Maintenance Budget

For Fiscal Year 2026, Congress approved a funding package that increased US Forest Service trail maintenance to $22 million, overcoming an administration proposal that sought to cut trail funding by 60%. Despite initial executive branch proposals for deep cuts to recreational infrastructure, the final enacted budget prioritized increasing trail maintenance by $2 million over 2025 levels.

Drone use in Oregon State Parks

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is accepted public comments through February 15th on proposed rules governing the operation of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) from designated areas within Oregon State Parks and along the ocean shore.

The proposed rules are designed to provide clear, consistent guidance for UAS operation while protecting natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources and minimizing conflicts among park visitors.

Overview of Proposed Changes – UAS (Drone) Rules

The proposed rules establish a clear framework for operating Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) from designated locations within Oregon State Parks and along the ocean shore.

Key changes include:

Clear default standard: UAS operation from park property is not allowed unless the area is specifically designated as a UAS Operation Area and published on OPRD's website.

Designated UAS Operation Areas: OPRD may designate entire parks or specific sub-areas where UAS may be operated from, with conditions that may vary by season, time of day, or other management needs.

Adaptive management authority: The department may add, modify, suspend, or rescind UAS Operation Areas on a temporary or long-term basis based on visitor safety, resource protection, wildlife considerations, user conflict, or operational constraints.

UAS Pass option: In certain locations, OPRD may require a UAS Pass to manage seasonal sensitivity, high visitation, or capacity limits. The department may also limit the number of passes issued per day.

Areas that remain closed: UAS operation is never allowed in overnight facilities or in areas otherwise closed by statute or rule.

Alignment with federal rules: UAS operators must comply with applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

Commercial and research use: Operation of UAS for commercial or research purposes, or outside designated UAS Operation Areas, requires authorization through existing Permit processes.

Emergency operations: Public safety agencies and other governmental entities may operate UAS during emergencies without prior approval.

National Park Protections

Last year, Senator Mike Lee of Utah proposed a budget amendment that would have removed some of the protections against selling National Park Lands. This was in addition to significant budget cuts that were proposed for National Parks. Due to significant public pressure from numerous outdoor groups, Senator Lee withdrew the amendment. This is good news in the fight to maintain our National Parks.

Region 6 Forest Service Stewardship Summit held in January 2026

This was a high-level overview meeting put on by the Forest Service in Portland. Numerous outdoor groups along with several tribes were in attendance.

The takeaway from attendees was that the forest service were going to be more positive









(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)



when working with groups to a “yes” on projects.
They also stated there were monies available, but due to staffing cuts there were not people to administer the funds. No specifics were given regarding the funds.
The takeaway was that the Forest Service would be more positive when dealing with groups to get the work done.

Waiver Bill

Oregon SB 1517 A was submitted instead of SB 1593. Several amendments were added to the bill to strengthen waivers to be consistent with neighboring states.
The Bill passed the house 55-2 on March 5 and the Senate 29-0 on 6 March. The bill will be forwarded to the Governor for her signature.
History behind the bill:

In 2014, the Oregon Supreme Court essentially nullified the power of liability waivers — the documents you sign before hopping on the chairlift or going on a guided rafting trip. They ruled the waivers were an “unconscionable contract," following a case of a snowboard accident at Mount Bachelor.
Without the legal power of waivers in place, the number of lawsuits skyrocketed, which led insurance companies to raise rates and even leave Oregon all together. That meant far higher costs for ski areas, outdoor recreation businesses and gyms.

Fire season dangers

The 2026 fire season may be a busy one as snow pack levels are estimated to be 23%-33% of normal in Oregon as of March 2026. There is mounting pressure on the current administration to develop a plan in the face of forest service staff reductions.
If this does not improve, it is likely that trail maintenance will shut down earlier than usual, impacting our ability to clear trails.

Brad Pollman Retires

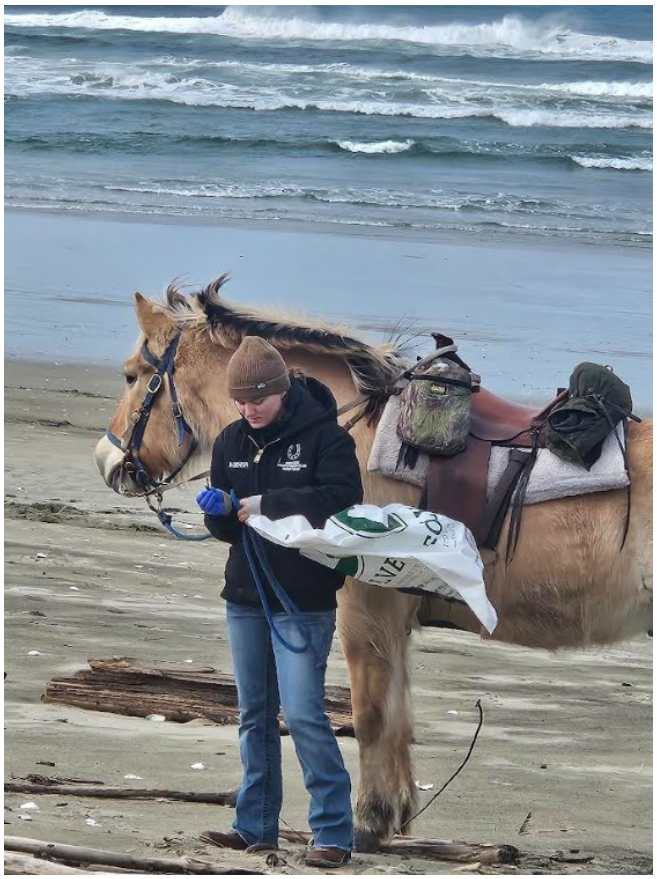
Brad Pollman, BCHA Public Lands Director, has retired after 5 years in the position. BCHA has stated they plan to restructure Public Lands at the National Level, but have not provided any details. They have stated they expect no changes at the State or Local levels.





HORSES, SNOWY PLOVERS, SOLV, AND A GREAT DAY AT THE BEACH

Late February this year a group of Emerald Empire BCH volunteers, guests, horses, and USFS staff all met at Baker Beach on the Oregon Coast to do our part with Oregon's annual litter clean-up project (SOLV). Weather that was predicted to be terrible, always a potential problem this time of year, was actually beautiful. Little wind, some blue skies, and no rain!



Our chapter has hauled garbage off Baker Beach for over two decades by now. We go early in spring to avoid interfering with nesting snowy plovers. These are small shorebirds that are seriously endangered, due in part to the litter that clutters their nesting grounds in the beach fore-dunes.

Horses to the rescue! Over the years our horses have learned to tolerate riders popping off and on, stepping through driftwood piles, large plastic bags blowing in their faces, USFS trucks approaching through the sand to gather the filled bags. The older veteran mounts demonstrate calm and patience to the younger newbies. So much to learn!



After several hours scouring through the sand, we returned to the Baker parking area to enjoy lunch. Soon after, we got back in the saddles, this time for a pleasure ride along the dunes and open beach. It is worth noting that each year the litter load has become

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)



smaller. Persistence has paid off, and this section of the Oregon Coast is pretty darn clean.

EEBCHO thanks Siuslaw Forest Service staff Elizabeth Kuplet and Christina Ojeda for helping gather the full bags. Thanks to volunteers Matt and Becky Hope, Rachel Herrick, Jean Clancey, Rene Mann, Kathleen Gekiere, and UO Equestrian Team members Ava Turner and Anika Menta.







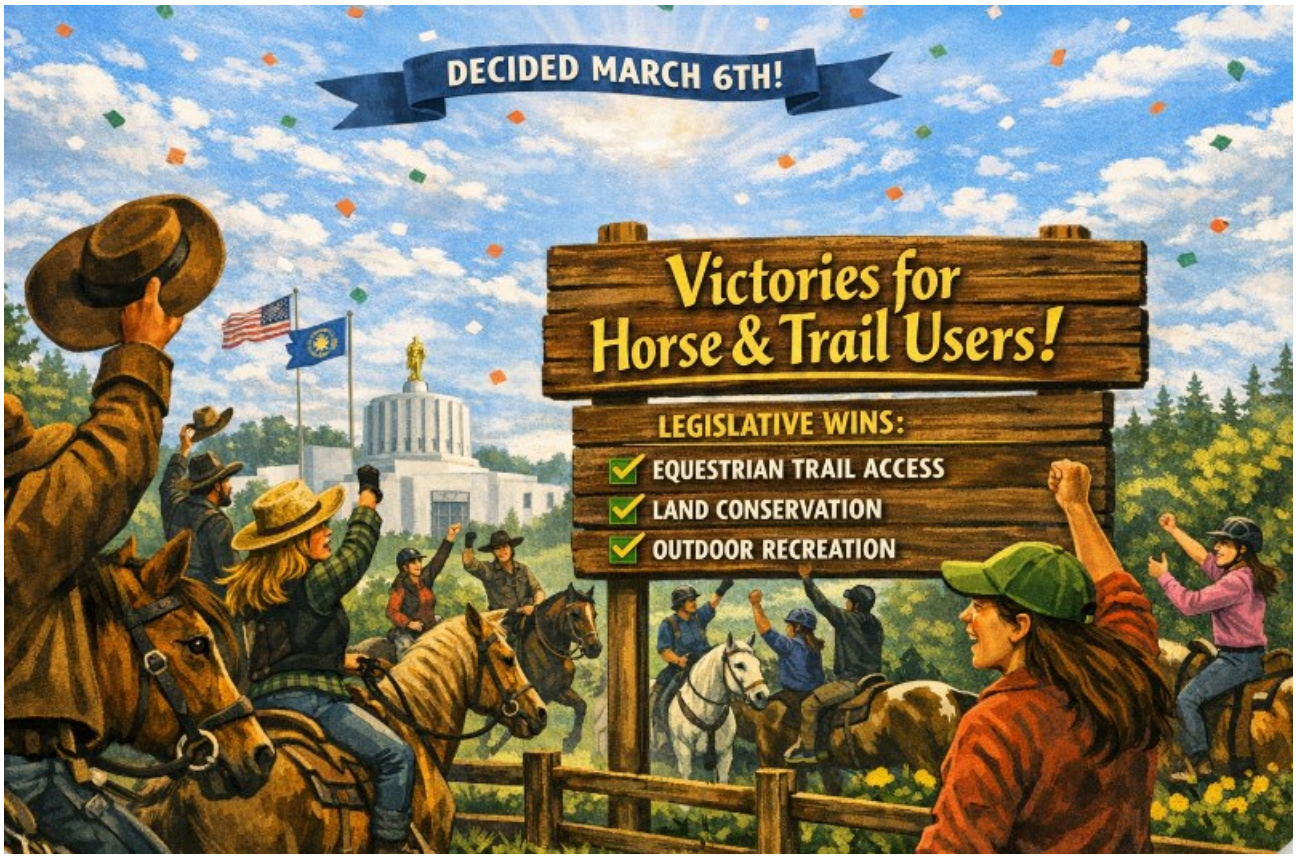




FOR THE LOVE OF TRAILS 2026

A group of equestrians dedicated to preserving our trails, members of both Emerald Empire BCHO and OET, joined a large gathering of other trails enthusiasts for the February 2026 Oregon Trails Coalition gathering in Salem. The purpose of the annual "For the Love of Trails" day is to meet with our state-wide senators and representatives to discuss with them the importance of funding trails throughout Oregon.

The many volunteers present were divided into groups and assigned to meet with 4 or 5 specific senators and representatives. After a morning of coaching, we all felt reasonably capable of presenting our concerns in a concise and relevant manner.



We met with the entire membership of the Oregon congressional body in person or with their aides. As representatives of the equestrian community, we pressed always for public lands and equine use thereof.

As of Friday, March 6, the results were in. Oregon's House and Senate have decided. Here are several of the bills that we, as horse and trail users, can consider as wins.

-SB 1517 passed as a compromise recreation liability bill. It explicitly includes stew-

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

ardship activities (our trail work), waivers signed by guardians, and clarifies that Oregon's recreation waivers are enforceable. OTC believes the final product will significantly improve insurability and decrease risk for trails organizations and other recreation and trails stewardship providers.

-HB 4134, the 1.25% for wildlife bill passed, including funding for the Wildfire Protection Program. The bill does not invest directly in trails, but it does invest in a number of wildlife and wildfire protection programs that support public agencies such as NW Youth Corps and other conservation partners in caring for the places where we recreate.

-HB 4007 gives local trail and park managers the flexibility to manage e-bike and other powered micromobility devices in a variety of trail contexts. The bill standardizes definitions, sets safety standards, and creates penalties for marketing e-motos as e-bikes. This should reduce the presence and risks of inappropriate vehicles on non-motorized trails.

-SB 1590 prohibits public bodies from assisting the federal government with privatization of certain federally owned lands. It passed along largely partisan lines.

What is important for us about participating in this annual "For the Love of Trails" is the empowerment it gives us, as citizens of Oregon, to weigh in directly on decisions that will affect our lives, the lives of those who come after us, and the character of our state. Step by step we can make our presence known and exert our collective influence to protect our public lands and our right to use them with our equine partners.

Learn where all our bills in this session landed, both wins and losses, by checking the Oregon Trails Coalition blog.

Submitted by Jean Clancey, EEBCHO





Cascade Lakes Relay Fundraiser for BCHO

The Cascade Lakes Relay will take place Friday June 26 th in Central Oregon.

Oregon's most challenging running relay course starts in the Cascade Mountains at Diamond Lake Resort, travels through the Oregon Outback and rural agricultural country, and winds back to the Cascade Lakes Highway, around Mt. Bachelor and into the resort community of Bend.

What does BCHO do at the race?

The section of race between Silver Lake and Cabin Lake goes through the remote Oregon Outback. Runners are often in the dark and can be racing by themselves at times. The presence of riders gives them a very secure and supported feeling as they travel this section.

We have designated sites that we park our vehicles and we ride along the race course from dusk, or when the first racers pass, until the last racer passes which is usually about 3 hours. Riding is beside the gravel/dirt road. All areas have space to get off of the road and farther away if it gets dusty from vans. You can take a break as necessary; you don't have to ride continuously. Usually, you would ride one way for up to a mile and then go back the other way—up to you how far you go. Once you are done you can spend the night there at your spot or leave. If there is interest on Saturday morning for a meet up and ride, we can do that.



The fun part. Dress up, light up your horse, play music at your parking spot. Wave and cheer the runners. We get a lot of positive interaction from the teams and sometimes treats. My experience on several different horses who had not been exposed to this type of atmosphere before has been positive. What I thought might be spooky did not turn out to be.

How we make money

We get paid per horse that participates. There is not a set amount ahead of time. It is calculated based on numbers of volunteers from all of the non- profits involved. Avg has been over $1000-$1500 in years past.

How to sign up

You can have a group of 2+ riders at a station. If you are an individual and want to come, I can pair you with someone. Once I know how many groups, we have I will assign your location.

Contact Lisa Rodriguez 541-913-3738 for more info or to sign up.

Chapter up-date

HDTRBCH Chapter- Volunteer work projects for 2025

On March 8th & 9th, many of us did volunteer work at the Klamath Falls Home Show. We posted members at all the doors to give information to in coming visitors.

On March 15th & 16th, we helped with the Klamath Falls, Sportsman show. We had a booth there with information about what we do, to help maintain trails and work with the Forest Service to keep trails open for the enjoyment of the American people.

On May 26th, we did trail work clearing at Gerber Reservoir.

On May 31st & June 1st, we helped at the BCHO Rendezvous at the Sisters Cow Camp.

June 28th, we cleaned and cleared the trails at Rye Spur. That is the Trail Head and area that we take care of every year.

July 4th, we packed in loads of baby fish at Blue Lake in the Gearhart Mountain wilderness. We do that every year.

July 14th, we packed in supplies for the North West Youth corp. into Blue Lake

July 17th, we did some repair work on the Varney Creek bridge.

July 25th, we packed the North west Youth Corp. out of Blue Lake.

Aug. 9th, we packed in to Seven Mile Trail head for Siskiyou Mt club.

Aug. 17th, we packed supplies to Mountain Lakes wilderness for the Siskiyou Mt. club.

Aug. 18th, we went into Clover Creek to retrieve and pack out a trash bundle, dropped there by the Forest Service.

Aug. 23rd, we worked and repaired the Cherry Creek bridge.

Send in you Chapter accomplishments just like HDTRBCHO has done in a date/list format or like EEBCHO has done in article form, BCHO wants to know and publish all the dedication, hard work and FUN. Please have your chapter event organizer send me the list to newsletter@bcho.org to be published in the next Highline. ~ Sara Lagasse



BCHO and Chapter events

Date	Time	Chapter Cal.	Event Title	Location	Description
May					
May 1-2		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Emerald Empire-Saw Cert-Recert		
May 2	10:30AM - 03:30PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHO Board Meeting	Sisters Library, 110 N Cedar St, Sisters, OR 97759	Contact: president@bcho.org
May 8-11		BCHO State Calendar	BCHO Sister's Cow Camp Clean up	Sisters Cow Camp, Forest Service Rd 15, Sisters, OR 97759	Cleaning brush, Identifing Highlining spots, Flagging potential areas for Bathrooms, water, etc...
May 11-16		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge campout/ camp clean up @ Cyrus Horse Camp	Cyrus Horse Campground, Prineville, OR 97754	
May 11	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
May 13	12:00PM - 01:00PM	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge mtg		
May 28-1		BCHO State Calendar	BCHO Rendezvous		Becky Hope, Rendezvous@bcho.orgBCHO Rendezvous
June					
Jun 6-7		Hight Desert Trail Riders	Tentative HDTR Spring Tune-Up	Roger & Cindi Boehner's Home 15600 S Poe Valley Rd Klamath Falls OR 97603	
Jun 8	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
Jun 12-15		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Emerald Empire-Robinson Lake	Robinson Lake Trailhead, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413	Logging out trails from Robinson lake
Jun 15-20		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge work party/ Ochocos	"The Park" on Rd 2630	
Jun 19-22		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Emerald Empire-Kelsey Valley	Kelsay Valley Horse Camp, Windigo Pass Rd, Crescent, OR 97733	
Jun 20-22		Hight Desert Trail Riders	Rye Spur Trail Project	Rye Spur Trail, Oregon 97601	Trail clearing project. Meet at Big Meadows parking lot on Hwy 140 at 8:00 am.
Jun 26-27		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Emerald Empire-Pengra Pass-Willamette Pass Log out	Pengra Pass, Oregon	
Jun 26-29		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge/Senger Camp	Neil & Joy's place	
Jun 26-28		BCHO State Calendar	Cascade Relay		
Jun 27-28		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Cold Springs TH bucking rail fence around spring	Cold springs	
Jun 27	05:00PM - 06:00PM	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge mtg	Senger's place	

Continued on page 21

Please verify the event details with the listed contact.

Continued from page 20

Date	Time	Chapter Cal.	Event Title	Location	Description
July					
Jul 6-11		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge - campout/ work party at Allen Creek HC		
Jul 10-13		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Pengra Pass Trail Project	Pengra Pass	
Jul 11-12		Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Fish Packing with ODF&W	Blue Lake TH	
Jul 13	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
Jul 15-16		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge (no mtg)		
Jul 31-3		Emerald Empire BCH Chapter	Waldo 100K		
August					
Aug 10	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
Aug 19-20		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge (no mtg)		
September					
Sep 14-19		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge campout @ Gibson Prairie Horse Camp		
Sep 14	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
Sep 16	05:00PM - 07:30PM	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge mtg	Gibson Prairie Horse Camp, Oregon 97055	
October					
Oct 12	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
Oct 17	08:00AM - 01:30PM	Public Equestrian Events	Clackamas 4-H Tack Sale	694 NE 4th Ave, 694 Northeast 4th Avenue, Canby, OR 97013	The Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale is a fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. It is held twice each year at the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center in Canby, on the third Saturday of March and October. The sale includes new and used tack as well as other horse-related items. Parking 5$, admission is $1 per person.
Oct 21-22		Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge (no mtg)		
November					
Nov 9	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
December					
Dec 12	02:00PM - 05:00PM	Columbia Gorge BCH Chapter	Col Gorge Christmas Party	Hood River Saddle Club, 4384 Belmont Dr, Hood River, OR 97031	
Dec 14	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		

Go to BCHO.ORG > click on "Event Calendar" icon: at the top of the page for a full list

The Search for Bigfoot With TRBCHO

On July 23th, 2025, the Territorial Riders Chapter hosted a Bigfoot ride to raise money for trail maintenance programs. It was held at the Horning Seed Orchard in Colton, Oregon.

Members of the chapter created unique Bigfoot using a provided template for the event.

20 Bigfoots were selected for the ride and placed out on the course the day prior to the ride. The Bigfoots were placed along the trail, in trees, near stumps and in grassy areas to provide a challenge to the riders. The object was to find as many Bigfoot as possible and take photographs. People could ride as individuals or teams for this event.



Upon completion of the ride, the riders would present the pictures to the Judge's table for verification.

Plenty of prizes were awarded to the riders. The top team/individual found 16 of the 20.

A survey was done to see how the riders enjoyed the ride and provide feedback. The event was viewed as overwhelmingly positive and people were looking forward to doing it again.

Based on the feedback, we plan to do another Search for Bigfoot on July 12th . Here is this years flyer for the event.

Please pass the flyer along to people who may be interested in a good ride with lots of prizes and fun and or come out and search for bigfoot!! There is lots of parking for large trailers.



'The Hunt for Big Foot!'

Horseback Scavenger Hunt

July 12, 2026

Three Ways to Win!

Sponsored by:
Territorial Riders Oregon City Chapter
Of Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon

"Better Than a Family Day at the Ballpark! Food, Fun, Prizes and Your Horse!"

Where: Horning Seed Orchard
27004 S Sheckly Rd., Colton, OR 97017 (From Unger Road, off of Hwy. 211)



What: Bring your digital camera Or Smart Phone and Find BIG FOOT! From horseback, compete as an Individual OR Teams of 2 – 3!

Riders out 9 am to 11 am. Riders will ride an **extended trail** and leave in intervals, Ride Route is 2 – 2 1/2 Hours long. Finish by 2 pm. Intervals intended to control congestion on the trail and prevent a disclosure of a "Big Foot" find, remember, you are competing with those in front of you and behind you! *Hunting Course will only be a portion of the trail.* Three Ways to Win! You will be given a raffle ticket at registration AND you will receive one Poker Chip Draw Card included with your registration. You may purchase up to 3 more hands for $5 each.

Riders must return no later than 2 pm to turn in their results, Prizes awarded *after* 2 pm.

Shoes for horses recommended, Children are encouraged to wear helmets and dogs must be on a leash. (One player per horse.)

For Lunch, Enjoy a Taco Bar with all the necessary condiments as well as Street Corn and Refried Beans. Ice water and treats provided, too! Lunch only, $10.

Entry Fees: $30 per Rider; Children 12 Years and Under, $20; Cash or Check. Extra Poker Chip hands (maximum 3 extra), $5 each.

Prizes Awarded: Prizes awarded for Individuals or Teams with the most points in the Hunt, for First, Second and Third Place. Judges decisions are final. We will also have Poker Chip draws for other wonderful prizes as well as raffle ticket prizes for the 3rd chance drawings if you don't win in the first two categories, you may still win a prize! He's out there, I swear!

Questions? Contact:
Rebecca Duren
503-688-8179 e-mail:
Rebecca-d@msn.com

Trail Questions? Contact:
Tim Lagasse
503-314-7712

Driving Directions: From Molalla, head east on Hwy. 211, go thru Colton, turn left on Unger Rd., turn right on Sheckly. From Estacada, head southwest on Hwy. 211, turn right onto Unger Rd., turn right onto Sheckly.

Proceeds to benefit maintenance of trail systems on Federal & State Lands

For more info:
https://TerritorialRidersBCHO.org/HuntforBigfoot.pdf
Visit us at: Facebook.com/TerritorialRidersBCHO

BCHO Principles

The Purpose of Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

To PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness.

~

To WORK to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

~

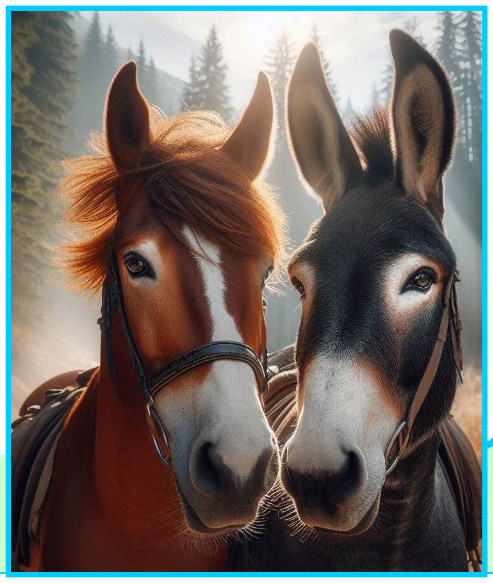
To ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.

~

To EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

~

To FOSTER and encourage the formation of new BCHO chapter organizations.



BCHO.ORG

Becky Hope receives Volunteer Award



Award winners included:

- Becky Hope for the "Judy Mitchell Volunteer of the Year Award", which recognizes exceptional stewardship and service to public lands.
- Adam Kirsch for the "Willamette Lasting Impact Award", which recognizes volunteers whose service has made a profound and lasting impact on Willamette National Forest lands and its communities.
- Garrett Turner for the "Cascade Volunteers Trail Stewardship Award", which recognizes exceptional trail volunteers who help ensure safe and reliable access to public lands in the Oregon Cascades.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for their service to our public lands









From the Membership desk

Membership Reminder

Membership Reminder

Fellow Back Country Horsemen of Oregon
If you have not already renewed, it is that time again to renew our annual memberships for 2026. Please note, BCHO now encourages members to either join BCHO or renew your membership online at https://www.bcho.org/membership-form/. A Single Membership will be $40, and a Family Membership will be $50 for 2026. Still a bargain though for everything Back Country Horsemen does to keep riding accessible to our members!

If you would still like to join or renew for 2026, membership in a BCHO Chapter helps keep you in touch with folks who are doing rides and projects in your area. In addition, please know that we at the BCHO State level have plans for ongoing education, projects and opportunities to get together that make membership in BCHO so rewarding. Also asking that you take a moment and make what we want to do possible by considering making a Tax-Deductible donation through the Website. WWW.BCHO.ORG

If you find it easier, you can also still join or submit your renewal through your local chapter as well. Also, chapter specific dues will not be collected during the online registration process. If your local chapter has any chapter specific dues, that amount will still need to be paid to your local chapter in addition to dues paid online to BCHO. Thank You, Tim Lagasse, BCHO Membership Coordinator

--
Tim Lagasse, BCHO Membership Coordinator
PO Box 488
Colton, OR 97017
membership@bcho.org, 503-314-7712(C)



Membership Application
Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc.

Yes! I would like to help preserve Horsemen's rights to use stock on public lands.

_____
(Print Name)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City) (State) (ZIP)

_____
(Telephone)

_____
(Email)

_____
(Print 2nd person family only Name)

_____
(Telephone 2nd person family only Name)

_____
(Email 2nd person Family only Name)

(Please check one)

New _____ Renewal _____

BCHO Membership Dues:

Single $40 ____ **Patron $100** _____

Family $50 ____ **Benefactor $250** ____

Sustaining $500 ____

The membership dues collected here are paid to the State and National organizations

Please select the Chapter nearest to you, below.

Note: Some Chapters have additional dues, please pay them directly.

See Map of Chapters, www.bcho.org/chapters/

__ Columbia Gorge, Hood River
__ East Cascades, Bend
__ Emerald Empire, Eugene
__ High Country Wilderness Packers
__ High Desert Trail Riders Falls area
__ Klamath Falls Area
__ Steens, South East Oregon
__ Sourdough, South West Oregon
__ Territorial Riders, Oregon City
__ West Cascade BCH, Salem
__ Member At Large

Mail your application along with your check made out to BCHO, to:

BCHO-Tim Lagasse, PO Box 488, Colton, OR 97017

For questions email membership@bcho.org



Sign up online

Our newsletter, the Highline, will be emailed to you at the address you entered above.

☐ Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter by US mail.

☐ Check here if you prefer to exclude your email address from the information sent to BCHA.
(Please note, excluding your email address will prevent you from receiving three emailed BCHA newsletters per year)

Liability Release: Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident where ever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders and spectators, and also recognizing that Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., including its chapters, officers, directors and /or members cannot know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other Back Country Horsemen of Oregon functions, I do hereby release Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Inc., its officers, directors and members from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Some Dues maybe deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

*Signed_____ Date_____

Signed_____ Date_____

BCHO
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF OREGON

*Must be signed by chapter members 18 years and older.

BCHO website: bcho.org/membership/

BCHO Highline

C/O Sara Lagasse

PO BOX 488

Colton, OR 97017



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF OREGON