BCHO

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF OREGON

The Highline

JULY 2026 ISSUE

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Scan QR code to read online

The 2026 Rendezvous' Awesome Aftermath







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BCHO State Officers

President

Lisa Rodriguez

president@bcho.org

~

Membership

see your local chapter

~

Public Lands Director

Dan Dahlke

pld@bcho.org

~

Education/LNT Director

George Johnson

education@bcho.org

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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: 639 Kingwood St., Redmond, OR , Doors open at 6pm meeting at 6:30pm

Contact: Lee Fisher at 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



The 2026 Rendezvous was a well attended and fun event that was not only educational but also allowed the BCHO members to come together with old friends and meet some news ones. If you didn't get a chance to come out to the 2026 Rendezvous we hope you join us in 2027.

Happy Trails,

Lisa

(I'm in the middle)

~ NEW! BCHO Cookbook ~
Calling all camp cooks…

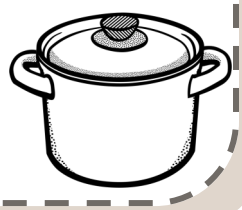
BCHO wants your camp recipes for favorite Dutch oven, camp cooking and or what you snack on while out on the trail…..I like to call them Saddle Snacks. We are also looking for any cast iron tips, tricks or food related hacks that could be helpful for a beginner or an experienced person alike, lets face 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!!



Your Phone's Silent First Responder

Whether you're embarking on a solo afternoon trail ride, packing into a remote horse camp for the weekend, or volunteering at an BCHO trail maintenance work party, safety is always our top priority. We double-check our cinches, pack trail-side first-aid kits, and make sure a family member or camp neighbor knows our planned route. But there's one powerful, built-in safety tool sitting right in your pocket that takes less than three minutes to set up: **Emergency Medical ID**.

What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

Smartphones today are kept locked with a passcode, PIN, or thumbprint to protect your personal privacy. That's great for security, but in a medical emergency on the trail, it poses a challenge: if you are injured or unable to speak, a riding partner or paramedic cannot open your phone to call your family.

To solve this, both iPhone and Android smartphones include a special, secure feature that lets anyone view critical health and contact information directly from your lock screen—**without needing your passcode, and without opening the rest of your phone.**

If you ever experience a horse refusal, a fall, or a sudden medical issue while out on the trail, anyone who finds your phone can instantly see:

- **Your primary emergency contacts** (your spouse, trail riding partner, or close family member).
- **Critical medical conditions or severe allergies** (such as penicillin allergies, diabetes, or heart conditions).
- **Blood type and current medications** that paramedics should know before treating you.

Rest assured, this feature is completely secure. Anyone viewing it can only see the specific emergency card you choose to create—they **cannot** look through your photos, read your text messages, or access your personal data.

How to Set It Up in 3 Easy Steps

Grab your phone, sit down with a cup of coffee, and follow these simple steps to set up your silent first responder:

For iPhone Users:

1. **Open the Health App:** Look for the white icon with a small red heart on your home screen.

2. **Open Medical ID:** Tap your picture (or initials) in the upper right corner, then tap **Medical ID**.

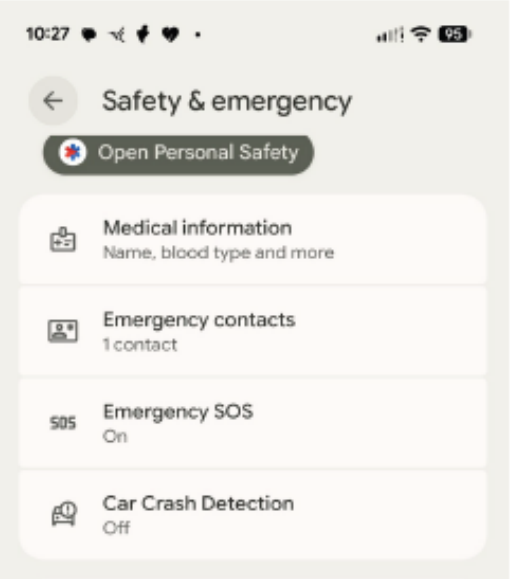
3. **Fill in Details:** Tap **Edit** in the top corner. Enter your emergency contacts, allergies, and blood type. Most importantly, make sure the switch for **"Show When Locked"** is turned **ON** (so it shows a green toggle). Tap **Done** to save.

For Android Users:

1. **Open Settings:** Tap the gear-shaped **Settings** icon on your screen.

2. **Find Safety Info:** Scroll down until you see **Safety & emergency** (on some older phones, this may be listed under **About phone**).

3. **Add Emergency Info:** Tap **Medical info** or **Emergency information**. Fill in your details and emergency contact numbers, and verify that **"Show on lock screen"** is checked or enabled.



How Someone Reads It in an Emergency

It's also helpful to know how to check someone else's phone if a fellow rider needs help!

If you pick up a locked phone, simply swipe up on the screen as if you were going to type a passcode. At the bottom left of the number pad, tap the word **Emergency**. On the next screen, tap **Medical ID** (or **Emergency Information**). The medical card will pop right up on the screen.

Taking three minutes today to fill out your Emergency Medical ID gives you and your trail companions immense peace of mind every time you step into the stirrup!

Meet Your Free "Digital Ranch Hand"

Many of us use our iPhone's primarily for everyday tasks—sending text messages to family, checking the local weather forecast, or snapping a quick picture of our horses on the trail. But your smartphone has a hidden, powerful capability that can act like a highly educated assistant standing right beside you in the barn, the pasture, or at the trailer.

You don't need a background in computers or a fancy technology degree to use "AI. In fact, if you know how to download a simple game or weather app from the Apple App Store, you already possess the skills needed to install a free digital assistant. This tool is ready to help you research everything from a strange pasture weed to a dense, complicated truck manual.

Installing the App on Your iPhone

To bring this technology to your phone, we are going to use an official, completely free app created by Google called **Google Gemini**. Think of it as a conversational partner that has memorized nearly every horse training book, veterinary article, and trail guide ever written. Follow these exact steps to get it set up:

1. **Open the App Store:** Look at your iPhone's home screen and tap the bright blue icon with a white letter **"A"**.
2. **Go to Search:** Tap the small magnifying glass icon labeled **"Search"** located in the very bottom right-hand corner of your screen.
3. **Type the Name:** Tap the gray search bar at the very top of the screen, type in the words **Google Gemini**, and hit the blue **"Search"** button on your on-screen keyboard.
4. **Identify the Right App:** Look down the search results for the official app by Google LLC. It features a clean, white background with a colorful blue and purple four-pointed star logo.
5. **Download:** Tap the cloud icon or the button that says **"Get"** next to the logo. To confirm the free download, your iPhone may ask you to double-click the physical button on the right side of your phone, or it may scan your face or thumbprint for security.
6. **Open and Sign In:** Once the download wheel finishes, tap **"Open."** The app will ask you to sign in. Since you already use a personal account for things like Gmail or Google Sheets, your email address will likely pop up automatically. Simply tap your personal email address to log in securely.

Showing the AI Your Horse's Issue

The real magic of having an AI assistant on your phone isn't just typing questions back and forth—it's the fact that you can **show it photos or attach documents** to explain exactly what you are looking at.

When you open your new Gemini app, you will see a text box at the very bottom of the screen where you can type. Right next to that text box is a critical button labeled **"Add files"** (it may look like a small plus sign or folder icon depending on your updates). When you tap **"Add files,"** a menu will slide up from the bottom offering you three main options: **Camera**, **Gallery**, and **Files**.

Scenario 1: From Your Windows PC to Your Phone

Let's say your vet emailed you a dense, 5-page PDF document detailing your horse's recent bloodwork results, or you downloaded a heavy trailer brake manual onto your home Windows computer. You want the AI to read it, but the file is sitting on your PC.

- **The Bridge:** The easiest way to move that file to your iPhone is to send a quick email to yourself. Open your email on your Windows PC, attach the PDF document, and mail it to your own personal email address. Next, open that email on your iPhone, tap the document attachment, and save it to your phone's built-in **"Files"** app.
- **The Action:** Open your Gemini app, tap the **"Add files"** button, select the option labeled **Files**, and tap on your saved document.
- **What to Ask:** In the text box, type: *"I have attached a PDF of my horse's lab results. Can you read this and explain what*

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A Look Back at the 2026 BCHO Rendezvous: Community, Education, and Trailside Adventure





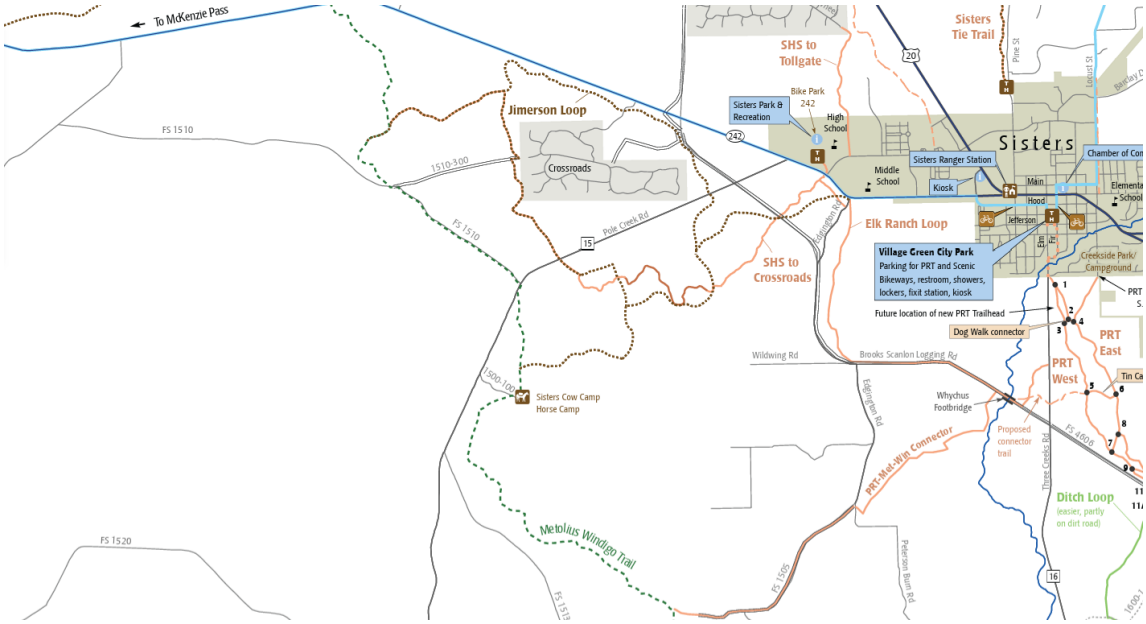




The 2026 Back Country Horsemen of Oregon Rendezvous proved to be one of the most memorable gatherings in recent years, drawing a fantastic crowd from across the state and beyond. Set against Oregon's signature backdrop of tall pines, open sky, and winding trails, the event delivered a lively blend of education, camaraderie, beautiful trail rides, camping, and pure fun—everything that makes the Rendezvous a highlight of the BCHO calendar.

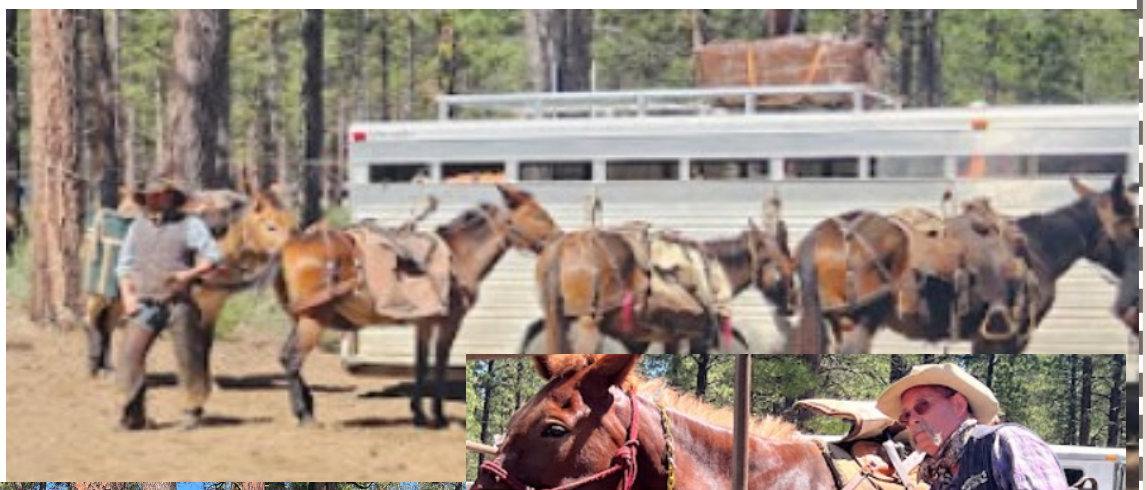
From the moment participants arrived at camp, the energy was unmistakable. Members reunited with longtime friends,

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swapped stories from the trail, and welcomed newcomers eager to learn, ride, and become part of the BCHO community. The atmosphere was equal parts reunion and adventure, with each day offering something new to experience.

Education remained at the heart of the Rendezvous, and this year's lineup of clinics and classes was exceptionally strong. Well-attended livestock sessions gave members hands-on opportunities to deepen their knowledge, sharpen their skills, and learn from experienced instructors who generously shared their expertise. Whether attendees were seasoned packers or first-time participants, there was something valuable for everyone.







Of course, no Rendezvous would be complete without time spent on the trail. Riders explored scenic routes that showcased Oregon's natural beauty, enjoying peaceful forest stretches, open meadows, and the kind of quiet moments with their horses that remind us why we do this work. Evenings around camp brought their own magic—shared meals, laughter,

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Meet your free “Digital Ranch Hand” cont.

'elevated fibrinogen' means in plain English for an everyday horse owner?" Within seconds, the AI will scan the entire document and give you a simple, jargonfree summary of the text. Scenario 2: The Pasture Photo Check Imagine you are out at the barn and notice a strange, crusty patch on your horse's hind leg, or you find a mystery weed growing along your fence line. The Action: Open the Gemini app, tap "Add files," and select the Camera option. Hold your phone steady, snap a clear, well-lit photograph of the issue, and tap "Use Photo." What to Ask: In the text box, type: "My horse has this crusty patch on his lower leg after a long, muddy trail ride. What common conditions look like this, and what are standard over-the-counter washing steps for it?" The AI will look closely at the image, cross-reference it against millions of veterinary examples, and give you a detailed breakdown of possibilities (like rain rot or scratches) and standard care routines. BCHO Safety Reminder: Remember, your pocket assistant is an excellent tool for brainstorming, understanding confusing documents, and preparing for the vet's visit, but it never replaces a licensed professional. Use it to build a smart list of questions before the vet arrives, ensuring you can protect your horse, your peace of mind, and your trail-riding legacy.

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!

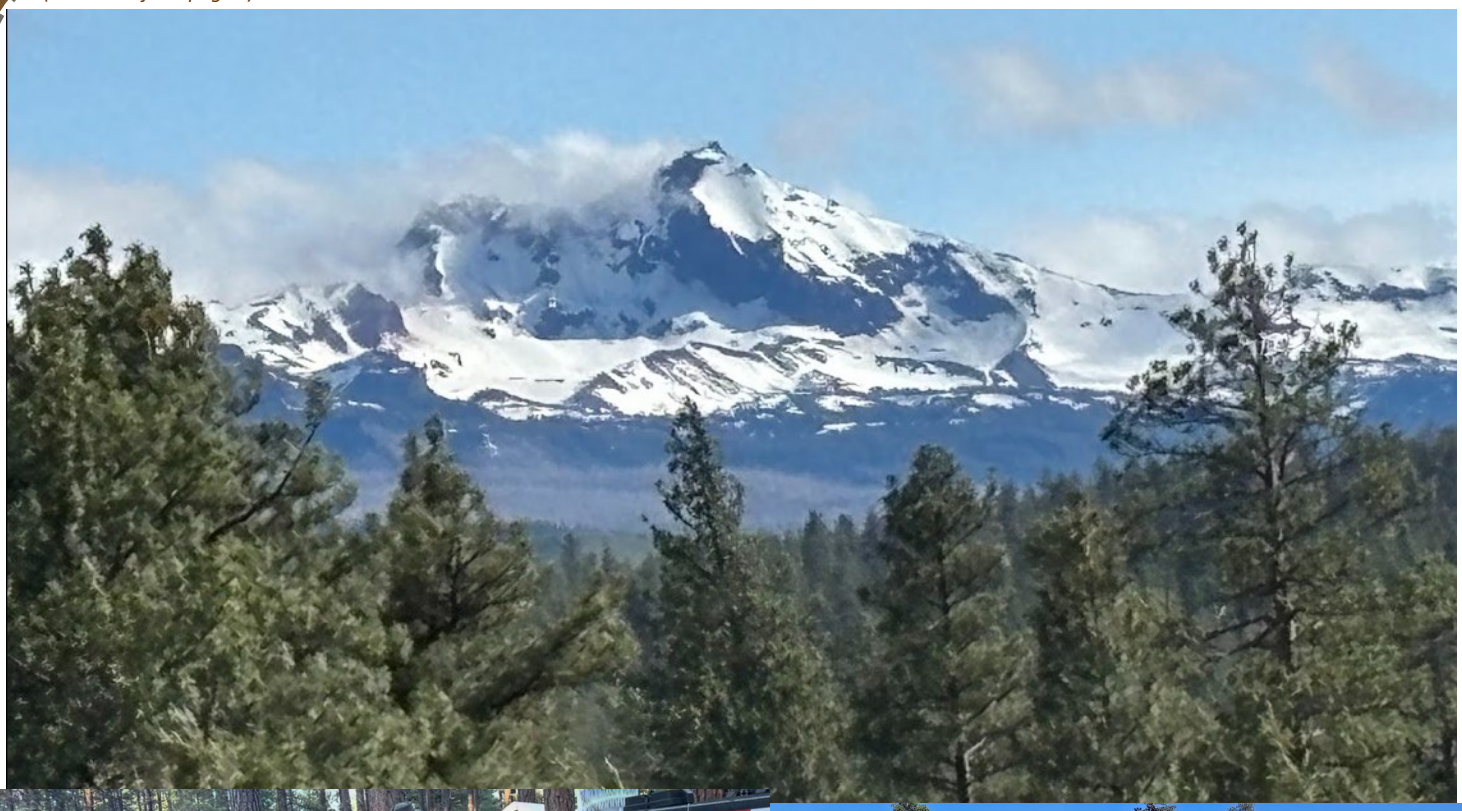
OHC Provides Marketing & Value to Equine Businesses & Organizations throughout Oregon!

- 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!!

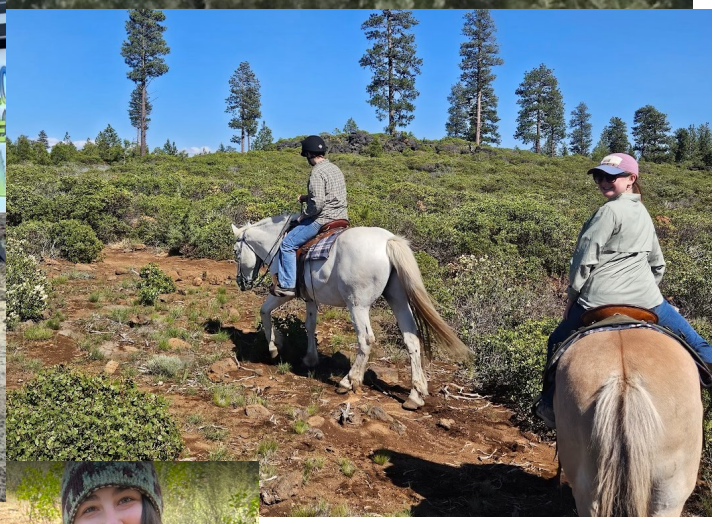
For Directory, News, Events and Membership Info...

www.OregonHorsecouncil.com

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and the simple joy of being together outdoors.

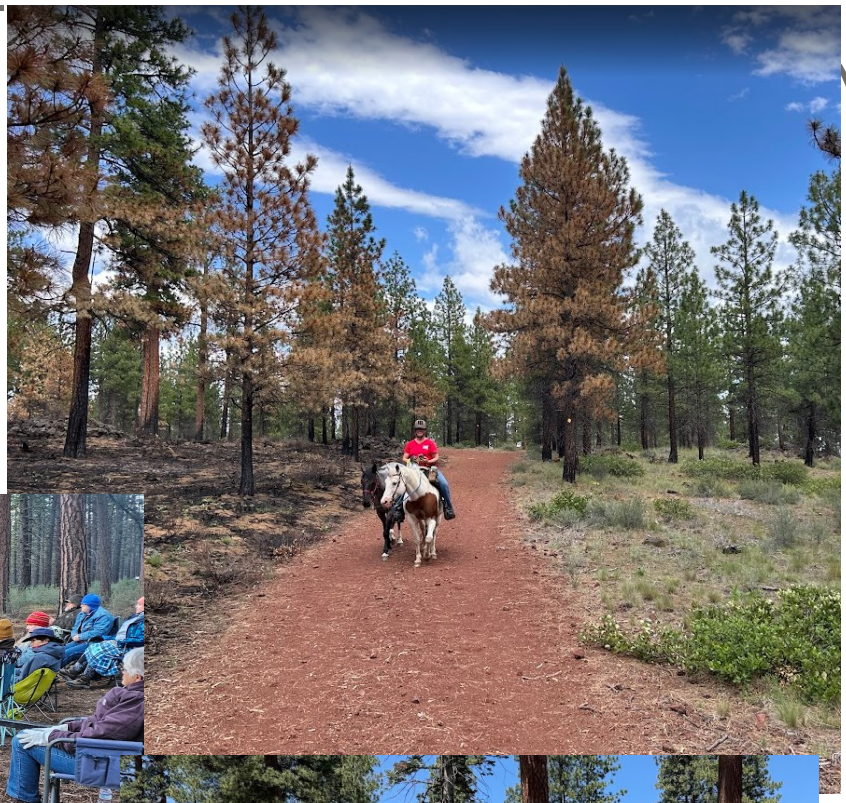
The celebration continued well into the night thanks to a lively performance from a talented live band. Their music filled the camp, keeping spirits high and encouraging plenty of dancing, singing, and

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relaxed conversation under the stars. It was the perfect way to cap off days filled with learning, riding, and connection.

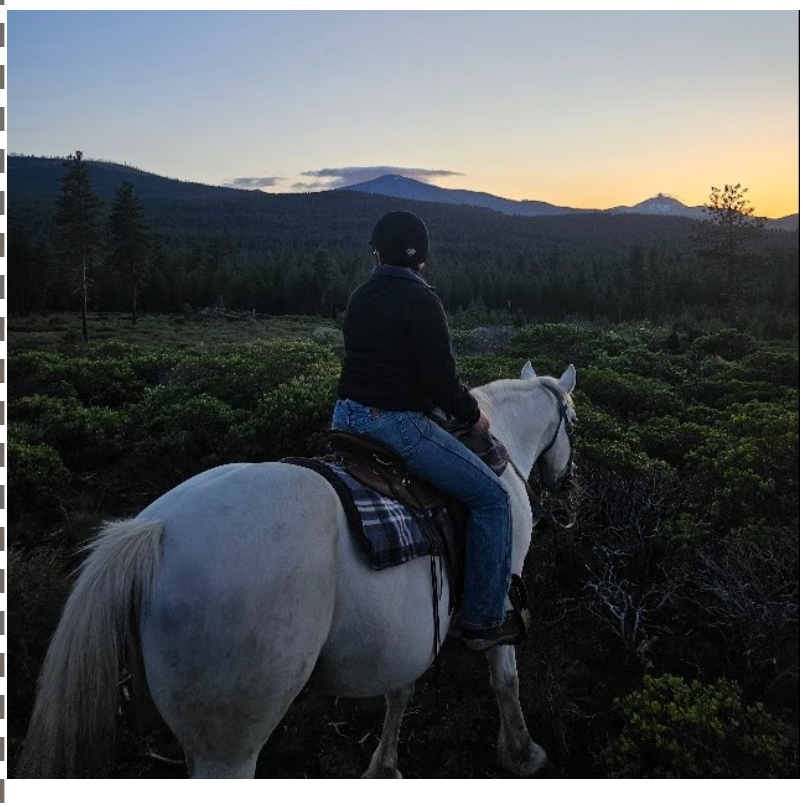
If you weren't able to join us for the 2026 Rendezvous, we truly hope you'll be part of the 2027 gathering. Plans are already underway, and it's shaping up to be another unforgettable event filled with the same spirit of community, education, and trail ready adventure that defines the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon.

We can't wait to see you there.











Keep Your Summer BUZZ Free with Clackamas County Vector Control!

Clackamas County Vector Control District (CCVCD) is committed to controlling flying vectors—including mosquitoes and flies—throughout Clackamas County and offers a variety of services to help residents enjoy a safer, more comfortable summer.

Did you know? CCVCD provides mosquito fish (Gambusia affinis) for eligible ornamental ponds and livestock tanks. These small fish are a natural, pesticide-free way to reduce mosquito populations by feeding on mosquito larvae and pupae. Because mosquito fish are a highly invasive, non-native species, they cannot be placed anywhere they could escape into Oregon's natural waterways. However, they are an effective biological control option for approved ornamental ponds and live-stock watering tanks.

Tick Information and Resources

We have been receiving more calls and questions about ticks this year than in previous seasons, and our field technicians have also been asked numerous questions by the public. At this time, Clackamas County Vector Control District does not conduct tick surveillance or provide tick control treatments.

However, we encourage residents to learn how to protect themselves, their families, and their pets from tick bites by visiting the trusted resources below:



- https://hersheyvet.com/blog/tick-borne-diseases-in-dogs/
- www.cdc.gov/ticks/prevention/index.html
- www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/diseasesconditions/communicabledisease/pages/ticks.aspx

At the Clackamas County Fair Be sure to stop by Booth 12- in the Grove Market- from August 18-22 to pick up your free 2027 CCVCD calendar.

To learn more or request services, visit fightthebites.com. You'll find educational videos, helpful resources, and the latest news and updates from CCVCD.

Have questions? Call (503) 655-8394 Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m. Don’t forget to follow Clackamas County Vector Control District on Facebook and Instagram for seasonal tips and updates.

Clackamas County Vector Control District—helping you enjoy the outdoors all

summer long… BUZZ free!

Cascade Volunteers Provides Hands On Training and Experiences for 98 Forest Volunteers

By Wenmi Klobah & Becky Hope

Our annual Skills College is an opportunity for both new and seasoned volunteers to brush up on their proficiencies. We were especially excited to run an extended duration Skills College, delivering four days of classes rather than three! This year, we had over 98 volunteer trainees and 10 forest service personnel gathered at the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest next to Blue River Reservoir. The event continues to be free to registrants but all are asked to volunteer for at least one activity in the WNF in the coming year. All financial contributions which help us to complete the critical work on the forest are gratefully accepted.

19 classes and talks were presented by both volunteers as well as Willamette National Forest Service personnel. These courses covered a wide variety of information including: introduction to trail maintenance, restoring burned trails/fire safety, bridge building, rigging, basic safety, first aid, introduction to cross cut, brushing/scouting, crew management, rock walls, chainsaw maintenance, tool sharpening and maintenance, radio communications and leave no trace principles, as well as many others! The instructors all showcased their expertise in skills which enhance the abilities of our volunteers.

The facilities at HJ Andrews Experimental Forest also allowed for participants to commingle and make new acquaintances as well as connect with old friends. We were thrilled to get to know some of the newbies, as well as folks that have been doing trailwork for a long time but had never attended our Skills College. Evening campfires and the infamous cross cut competition provided all an attempt to know one another even more.

Campgrounds as well as rooms and apartments were made available to attendees. A big thank you to HJ Andrews and American Land & Leisure for providing accommodations. Attendees were treated to evening meals courtesy of Takoda's Restaurant with the financial support of Oregon Trails Coalition and Travel Oregon.

We also want to thank our very hard working Recreational Staff of the Willamette Forest and surrounding Ranger Districts for their continued support and presence. We're grateful to our core of motivated and passionate Committee members; Doug Daniels(Vol), Jim Suiter(Vol), Becky Hope(Vol), Nick Swagger(FS), Eileen Kitayama(FS), Omero Torres(FS), Wenmi Collins-Klobah(CV), Stacy Rudisill(CV). We also appreciate the informational support of Oregon Tools-Randy Jensen, Pacific Crest Trails Association-Jeannine Russel, Deschutes Trails Coalition and Deschutes Forest-Christine Meyers(FS); and the physical support of our set up and clean up crew; Sonya Margerum, Jean Clancey, Melanie Kate-Mason, Renee Mann, as well as the Cascade Volunteer Board Members, Jeff Southwick, Melinda Martin, and Christoph Schauwecker.

This event demonstrates the commitment and collaboration between the Forest Service and Cascade Volunteers to continually support all the volunteers who strive to keep our local national forest open, healthy and available for all of us to enjoy …the amazing Willamette National Forest! A huge thank you goes out to all of our volunteers!



Jim Suitor defends his title as fastest in the single buck with a time of 13.28 seconds and donates $160 to CV thanks to his willing challengers who contributed an entry fee to participate.

CASCADE VOLUNTEERS
NONPROFIT PARTNER OF THE WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Emerald Empire BCHO and Eugene OET helps Waldo 100k Run and PCT Through Hikers

Della and Anne Webb, Troy Hansey, Terry and Kristie Fosback, Matt and Becky Hope, and this year Briana Kemp, Tiffany Kilday, Kathleen Gekiere, Natasha Giulietti help every year to pack in needed Water, tables, chairs, food, shelters to assist aide stations involved in helping this year 146 runners run 100 kilometers





(62miles) up and over 5 peaks in the Waldo lake area. We spend the day before packing gear etc. and then on the day of the race we supply stock to pack anybody needing a lift out. Matt spends the day giving rides to families that come in to support their riders and anybody coming through on the Pacific Crest Trail. Becky and Nastasha spend the day at the top of one particular long grade handing out water. Our dogs act as emotional support for the runners. This year as last year we did bring out one person who had run 44 miles but was unable to finish the ride. The best part is the wonderful people we work with. The organizers of this event are the best of us.



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2026 BCHO Rendezvous Stats

By Becky Hope and the Rendezvous Committee

WOW What a Turn out and Involvement by Everybody. We all enjoyed two musicians Friday night and Saturday night. Many went riding. Potlucks, on Friday and Saturday evenings. An evening presentation on Friday on livestock emergency rescue provided by Oregon Livestock Council. Our Saturday evening presentation was Back Country Horsemen of America's Public Lands paid national specialist (Randy Rasmussen); who works at the Federal level to assure our equestrian issues are represented and how we might assist in these endeavors. We were provided an educational Grant by BCH of Oregon to cover the costs, Many who attended donated to BCHO and the Rendezvous. I know I personally had many great conversations, sharing of Ideas, learned new techniques.

Here is just a little of the feedback from the evaluations form that were filled out.

Question: Favorite Part?

"Trailer and what to pack", "First Aid, Saddle Fitting"," Cow Camp Setting" , 'Music and Potluck", "being welcomed", "Saddle Fitting", "light on the Land", "Livestock Presentation", "Cow camp Setting", " Pam's Pictures, Pot luck". Most of everybody else repeated the above.

What other stock or wilderness education might you be interested in?

Map, GPS skills, Conditioning stock, Weather changes Prep, Feeding Differences, Additional packing techniques Mantees, VS panniers, progressing hobble training, large animal Rescue, Hobble training, identifying animals tracks and plants, Wilderness survival, Horse camps and trail locations (Great Idea).

Rendezvous Committee:

Provided water for everybody including stock, toilets, Certified Hay for those that needed it plus Hay for the summer season.

2026 Rendezvous Participation & Class Statistics:

The 2026 Back Country Horsemen of Oregon Rendezvous saw strong engagement across students, trainers, and clinics throughout the four day event. While some sign ins were incomplete, the following numbers provide a solid snapshot of overall participation and class interest.

Attendance Overview

- **61 Individual Students**
- **26 Trainers & Presenters**
- **12 Preregistered No shows**
- **29 Walk Ins** (signed in upon arrival; additional attendees likely did not sign in)

Class Participation Highlights

Note: Some classes had incomplete sign ins. These numbers represent best available counts.

- **Beginning & Advanced Packing – Casey Hufstader** • 12 attendees on Saturday
- **Logging Out with Crosscut Saws** • 17 attendees on Saturday
- **Back Country First Aid for Horse & Rider** • Friday: 6 • Saturday: 5 • Sunday: 5

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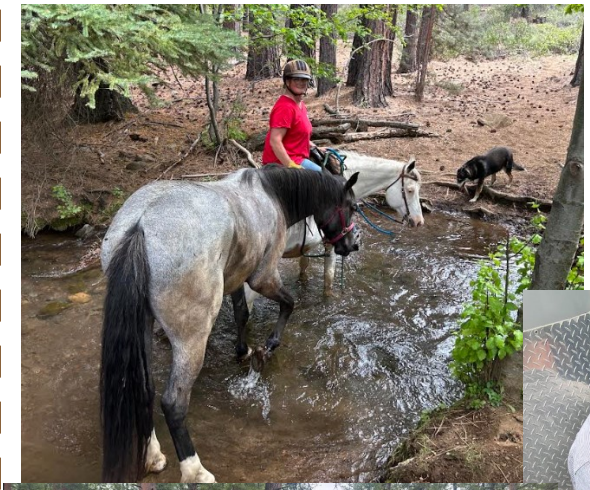
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- **Knot Tying** • Thursday: 4 • Friday: 9 • Saturday: 10
- **New Horse / New Rider Mountain Prep – Kate Beardsley** • Friday: 8 • Saturday: 6 • Sunday: Presenter not available
- **Pack & Saddle Fitting – Wade Maul** • Thursday: Not present • Saturday: 9 • Sunday: 4 *Busy throughout the weekend outside formal class times*
- **Emergency Tack Repair – Skip Hubbard** • Thursday: 4 • Saturday: 11 • Sunday: 4
- **Firearms – Cody Hufstader** • Friday: 9 • Saturday: 9
- **Light on the Land – George Johnson & Jean Clancey** • Thursday: 3 • Friday: 7 • Saturday: 5 (approx.) • Sunday: 9
- **First Time Out – Terry Fosback** • Thursday: 5 • Friday: 5 • Saturday: Not recorded • Sunday: Not recorded • **Total recorded: 12** *Actual attendance likely higher due to missing signings*
- **Cinch Making Clinic – Trail Meister** • 8 total participants across all four days
- **Pack Trip Planning – Betty Applebaker** • Signins incomplete; attendance not accurately captured

Summary

Despite a handful of missing sign ins, the 2026 Rendezvous demonstrated strong participation across a wide range of clinics—from hands on skills like knot tying and tack repair to safety focused sessions such as firearms handling and first aid. The diversity of offerings and steady attendance across multiple days highlight the continued enthusiasm and commitment of Oregon's backcountry equestrian community.

















BCHO and Chapter events

Date	Time	Chapter Cal.	Event Title	Location	Description
September					
Sep 12	12:00PM - 03:00PM	Hight Desert Trail Riders	HDTR Fall Chapter Potluck Picnic!	Lonesome Duck Ranch, 32955 US-97 N, Chiloquin, OR 97624	Our Fall HDTR chapter potluck picnic at Deb & Steve Hilbert gorgeous property! Bring a side dish or dessert for the potluck. The Hilberts will be serving the main dish, ice tea and lemonade.If anyone is interested in riding,
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		
October 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.
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		
January					
Jan 11	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
February					
Feb 8	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
March					
Mar 8	05:00PM - 06:00PM	BCHO State Calendar	BCHA Public Lands		
Mar 20	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.

Please verify the event details with the listed contact.

Why BCHO Needs Events Like the Rendezvous:
A Celebration of Service, Education, Stewardship, Safety, and Community

The 2026 Back Country Horsemen of Oregon Rendezvous was more than a gathering—it was a living demonstration of the values that define our organization. With 61 individual students, 26 trainers and presenters, dozens of clinics, evening presentations, music, potlucks, and countless conversations around campfires and corrals, this year's Rendezvous showed exactly why events like this are essential to the future of BCHO.

Everywhere you looked—whether at the crosscut saw demonstrations, the saddle□fitting sessions, the morning stretches, or the knot tying clinic—you could see the five principles of BCHO in action: **Service, Education, Stewardship, Safety, and Community**. These principles are not abstract ideas. They are the backbone of our mission, and the Rendezvous brought them to life in ways that no meeting, email, or online resource ever could.

Service: Giving Back to the Land and to Each Other

Service is at the heart of Back Country Horsemen. It's the reason we clear trails, maintain camps, and advocate for equestrian access. At this year's Rendezvous, service showed up in dozens of ways—some big, some small, all meaningful.

The Rendezvous Committee worked tirelessly to provide water for everyone (including stock), toilets, certified hay for those who needed it, and hay for the summer season. Trainers volunteered their time and expertise. Members helped newcomers set up camp, shared gear, and offered advice. Even the potlucks—overflowing with generosity—were acts of service, strengthening the bonds that make our organization resilient.

The Saturday evening presentation by Randy Rasmussen, Back Country Horsemen of America's Public Lands Specialist, reminded us that service also means advocacy. His work at the federal level ensures that equestrian issues are represented in national land□management decisions. His message was clear: BCHO's service extends far beyond the trail—it reaches into the halls where public land policy is shaped.

Events like the Rendezvous give us the space to learn how we can better serve our trails, our stock, and each other. They remind us that service is not a duty—it is a privilege.

Education: Passing Down Skills That Keep Our Traditions Alive

Education is one of the most visible principles at the Rendezvous. With 26 trainers and presenters offering clinics across four days, the event was a powerhouse of learning. Many attendees commented that their favorite part was the chance to gain new skills: "Trailer and what to pack," "First Aid," "Saddle Fitting," "Light on the Land," "Livestock Presentation," "Pam's Pictures," "Cow Camp Setting," and more.

The variety of classes reflected the depth of knowledge within our community:

- **Light on the Land** with Jean Clancey, George Johnson, and Kim Zemek
- **First Time Out** with Terry Fosback
- **Advanced Packing** with Casey and Cody Hufstader
- **Back Country First Aid** with Becky Hope
- **Saddle and Pack Saddle Fitting** with Wade Mauhl
- **Truck/Trailer Prep** with Robert Eversole
- **Cinch□Making Clinic** with TrailMeister
- **Leather and Tack Repair** with Sonya Margerum
- **Pack Trip Planning** with Betty Applebaker
- **Firearms Safety** with Cody Hufstader
- **New Rider/New Horse Prep** with Mustangs to the Rescue
- **Knot Tying** with Kate Beardsley
- **Morning Stretches** with Renee Mann, Bonnie Simoa, and Heidi Holcomb
- **Highline Setup** with Emerald Empire Chapter
- **Logging Out 101** with Bert Morris and Arden Corey

These clinics weren't just classes—they were investments in the future of backcountry horsemanship. Skills like knot tying, saddle fitting, packing, first aid, and logging out are essential to safe and responsible travel in the backcountry. Without events like the Rendezvous, these skills risk fading away.

Attendees also shared what additional education they want to see: GPS and map skills, conditioning stock, weather preparedness, feeding differences, advanced packing techniques, hobble training, wilderness survival, identifying tracks and plants, and more. This feedback shows that our members are hungry for knowledge—and that the Rendezvous is the perfect place to deliver it.

(Continued on page 21)

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.

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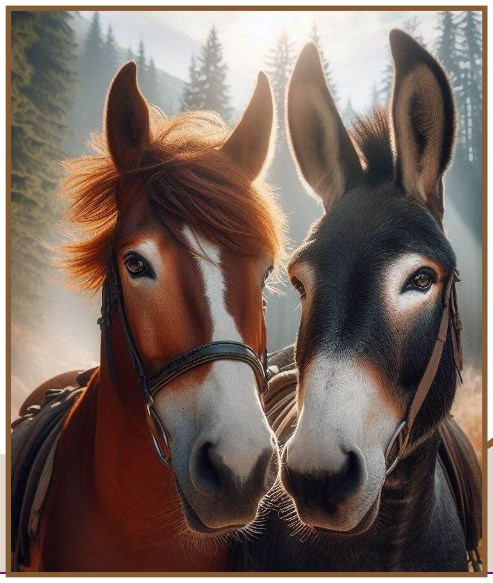
To ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.

~

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

(Continued from page 19)

Stewardship: Caring for the Trails, Camps, and Wilderness We Love

Stewardship is woven into everything BCHO does. It's the reason we clear trails, teach low-impact techniques, and advocate for responsible stock use. The Rendezvous amplified this principle through hands-on learning and real-world practice.

The **Logging Out 101** class drew 17 attendees on Saturday, demonstrating strong interest in trail-clearing skills. Participants learned what "logging out" really means, how to identify hazards, when *not* to cut a tree, and why saw certification matters. These are the skills that keep Oregon's trails open—not just for equestrians, but for all trail users.

The **Light on the Land** clinic reinforced the importance of minimizing impact in fragile wilderness environments. With sessions across all four days, attendees learned techniques that protect soil, vegetation, and waterways. This class embodies the stewardship ethic that defines BCHO.

Even the **Cinch Making Clinic** supported stewardship indirectly. By teaching members how to build durable, high-quality gear, we reduce waste, extend the life of equipment, and promote self-reliance—values that matter deeply in the backcountry.

Stewardship is not a single action; it is a mindset. The Rendezvous strengthens that mindset by giving members the tools and confidence to care for the land we love.

Safety: Preparing Riders, Stock, and Equipment for the Backcountry

Safety is one of the most practical and essential principles of BCHO. The Rendezvous offered an impressive lineup of safety-focused classes, each designed to prevent accidents and prepare riders for real-world challenges.

The **Back Country First Aid** clinic ran all weekend, with 6 attendees Friday, 5 Saturday, and 5 Sunday. Participants learned how to respond to injuries affecting both horses and humans—a critical skill in remote environments.

The **Truck/Trailer Prep** class emphasized that "Going Is Optional. Stopping Is Not." This clinic helped horse owners understand how to evaluate and maintain a safe towing setup, reducing breakdowns and protecting animals during transport.

The **Firearms Safety** class drew 9 attendees on both Friday and Saturday, offering guidance on selecting the proper caliber, carrying safely, and securing firearms on pack animals.

The **New Rider/New Horse Prep** clinic helped riders understand how to prepare their animals for mountain terrain, while **Morning Stretches** kept participants limber.

Safety is not just about avoiding harm—it's about building confidence. When riders feel prepared, they explore more, volunteer more, and contribute more. The Rendezvous strengthens this confidence in ways no online resource ever could.

Community: The Heartbeat of BCHO

If there is one principle that ties everything together, it is community. The Rendezvous was overflowing with it.

We shared potlucks on Friday and Saturday evenings. We enjoyed two musicians who brought warmth and joy to camp. We rode together, laughed together, learned together, and supported one another. The Friday evening presentation by the Oregon Livestock Council sparked important conversations about emergency rescue and preparedness. The Saturday evening presentation by Randy Rasmussen connected our local efforts to national advocacy.

Attendees repeatedly wrote "being welcomed" as one of their favorite parts of the event. That says everything.

Community is not built in a meeting room. It is built around campfires, in clinics, on trails, and in shared experiences. Events like the Rendezvous are the glue that holds BCHO together.

Why BCHO Needs Events Like This

The 2026 Rendezvous proved that our five principles are not just words—they are lived experiences. Events like this:

- Strengthen our ability to serve
- Expand our educational reach
- Reinforce our stewardship ethic
- Improve safety for riders and stock
- Build the community that keeps BCHO thriving

These gatherings ensure that our traditions, skills, and values are passed down to the next generation. They create the relationships that make trail work possible. They inspire members to volunteer, advocate, and stay involved.

Most importantly, they remind us why we do what we do.

The Rendezvous is not just an event. It is a cornerstone of who we are.

And BCHO needs it—now more than ever.

~ Sara Lagasse

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!
Renewals for 2027 can be submitted starting September 1, 2026.

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, or via US Mail to the BCHO Membership Coordinator via the printable form located in the membership section of the BCHO website as well. Also, chapter specific dues will not be collected during the online registration process, or when sending your membership via US Mail to the BCHO Membership Coordinator. If your local chapter has any chapter specific dues, that amount will still need to be paid to your local chapter directly.

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



Sign up online

For questions email membership@bcho.org

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