



Back Country Horsemen of America

Minnesota

JULY 2016

MINNESOTA IS NOW A STATE CHAPTER

At the 2016 Back Country Horsemen of America national convention held in Las Vegas, Minnesota was accepted as a state organization of the national group. One of the requirements of becoming a state chapter, is a minimum of 40 members. At the time of the convention, BCH-MN, was a few members short. BCH-MN president, Marv

Breitkreutz and his wife Patsy attended the conference. Marv discussed the Minnesota problem "not enough members" with fellow BCHA members. Within hours BCH-MN was getting membership applications from Utah, Montana, Arizona and Wyoming. Enough to fill the 40 member

requirement. This BCHA group is a good bunch!

Thanks Marv for attending the conference and promoting Minnesota!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *BCH-MN accepted as a state organization at the Back Country Horsemen of America*
- *Record Volunteer hours to Russ Wright*
- *Start a BCH-MN Chapter*

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RECORDING VOLUNTEER HOURS

We all know that many horse riders in Minnesota spend a lot of time and effort doing volunteer work to make horse trails on public lands safe and rideable every year. Much of this effort is not fully recognized by the state, federal or local agencies that manage these facilities. The Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota (BCH-MN) would like to ask you or organizations you are as member of to record and report all of the volunteer efforts of riders and forward this information on to us. We will aggregate all of this information and report it to the appropriate agencies at the end of the

year. Your organization will be recognized in the reports. Last year Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) contributed over \$14 Million worth of volunteer work to horse trails across the country.

BCH-MN has 2 primary objectives:

- Preserve equine trails on public land
- Provide volunteers to assist with trail maintenance

Organizing work efforts and documenting and reporting the volunteer efforts of all riders volunteering time, talent and travel for the maintenance of trails is key to our organization. This kind of information

in other states has been valuable to preserving trails for equine use and in some cases been a factor in increasing the trails available.

See page 5 for volunteer form and more detailed information.

Thank you for all of the work your group does for trails and trail riders in Minnesota!

For more information contact Russ Wright at 507-775-2512 wright@frontiernet.net

NOTE FROM THE BCH-MN PRESIDENT

Back Country Horseman of Minnesota (BCH-MN) officially finished forming in early February. It took a period of time between filing the organization paper work until we received official notice that everything was filed correctly and we had full organization status.

Patsy and I attended our first BCH-MN annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV the end of April. BCH-MN was accepted as an official voting member of BCHA. Since the BCHA annual meeting your board has been working on several fronts.

We have been working on project like establishing an efficient way to record everything ranging from membership to volunteer work hours spent on behalf of horse trails in MN.

We have a meeting scheduled on July 11 to meet with the MN DNR. This meeting will acquaint the DNR with our organization and help identify projects in which BCH-MN can work with the DNR. We will set some guide lines to follow when we are working on trails.

We hope we can identify a larger work project with the DNR later this summer or early fall as our first official project. Next year we hope we will have formed some local chapters who would work on projects in their location.

We held an open conference call in late May but did not get any members check-in other than the board. Now that we have more members we will try again in July or August and hopefully encourage better participation. This would help to identify work projects, advance discussions with State and Local officials and help to identify potential new member leadership.

We are asking for volunteers who would be willing to help form local chapters throughout the state. We will help with membership meetings and information.

One more thing that will come to the forefront faster than one would think is the year end. We need to complete several of the goals that I commented on earlier. Depending on the amount of success and interest we can build will play a big part as we plan for the rest of 2016 and for the New Year.

Marvin Breitzkreutz



*Trails worth
having are
worth
working For*

FORMATION OF BCH OF MN

Formation History

Starting in late January 2016 a small group started discussions to form a new state organization called Back Country Horseman of Minnesota (BCH-MN).

Minnesota has several Equestrian groups supporting all breeds and type of uses. The largest and most diverse is the Minnesota Horse Council (MNHC). They support all aspects of equestrian activity and are much respected in their activities. The Minnesota Horse Council has strong working relations with other states which gives it a national presence.

The Minnesota Trail Rider Association (MTRA) is an organization focused primarily on supporting state and local trails, horse activities connected with trail riding, and legislative work at the state level. They support trail activity through sponsored rides, work days and grant funding for specific projects.

Local saddle clubs maintain public and private trails on a more local basis. Each of these

groups do a great job.

BCHA is a national organization organized in 32 states. Its primary focus is supporting and maintaining trails and resisting any pressure to close or reduce the equine use of state and national trails. This is accomplished by promoting new trails, documenting the volunteer efforts of all trail riders involved in maintaining existing trails, maintaining existing trails, supporting state BCH organizations on these issues, and sponsoring and supporting legislation effecting national and state forests.

BCH-MN was formed to work on these same areas and to help support other states and the national BCHA organization on national issues. BCH-MN will have a much stronger focus on trail maintenance as this is one of our main goals. We look to gain strength with strong support from BCHA and other state BCH members.

**PRESERVE
PROTECT
MAINTAIN**

BCH-MN STRUCTURE

BCH-MN was officially formed in February of 2016

BCH-MN elected a slate of Officers and Directors

Marvin Breitreutz, President	320-212-9843	heritage@rswb.coop
Russ Wright, Vice President	507-775-2512	rlwright@frontiernet.net
Ken Olson, Secretary	507-356-8686	oakridgefarm244@gmail.com
Barb Partington, Treasurer	651-345-9909	bpartington2014@gmail.com

BCH-MN 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT

WE ARE ON THE WEB
WWW.BCHMN.ORG

*JOIN US IN PRESERVING
AND MAINTAINING
TRAILS IN MINNESOTA*

BCH-MN REGIONAL DIRECTORS NEEDED

One of the strengths of BCH state organizations is the establishment of "local" or "regional" chapters within the state. The members in these chapters are the eyes and ears of the organization. Through these chapters the organization can see what needs to be done and create the opportunities for riders to fulfill the mission of BCH in MN - helping maintain trails and keep trails available to horses.

2016 is our formation year. The officers have been busy getting things set up. We are at the point where it would be good to expand the Board of Directors to include regional directors on the state Board. Article VII Section 4 of the BCH-MN by-laws says: *Each Region, when established, shall elect a Regional Director and Alternate from their membership at the annual meeting to serve as a regional representative to the State Board of Directors. These regional directors shall serve two year terms.*

As we get BCH-MN rolling, the officers are asking for members to step forward and volunteer to be a director for your area of the state - i.e. northwest, northeast, west central, east central, southwest or southeast. By doing this we can begin to establish chapters around the state and expand our ability to observe needs, organize activities and enhance our influence. We hope to begin forming local/regional chapters in 2017.

We ask that all members consider volunteering to become a director for your part of the state. Like the President says - "If we don't get any volunteers we may have to start twisting some arms!!!"

Start a New Chapter

If there is not a chapter in your area, it only takes a small group of motivated individuals to make a difference and to start a new chapter. We are willing to come to your group and talk Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota.

BCH-MN has a 501(c)3 non-profit status. This non-profit status will flow down to BCH chapters in Minnesota.

For more information contact any of the officers or email bchminnesota@gmail.com

Luce Line Work Day

When – Sept 8 – 11

Where – the work area would be north east of Silver Lake (between Silver Lake and Winsted) by the little settlement of Sherman Station. The area is not right along any road.

Camping – is available

Work – would be mostly removing brush and trees. Some DNR staff may be with us part of the time but once we know what the work is we'd be able to be on our own

Contact Ken Olson for more details

507-356-8686

oakridgefarm244@gmail.com

ZUMBRO BOTTOMS WALNUT GROVE—NEW TIE LINES



The Zumbro Bottoms Equestrians (ZBE) group installed new tie lines at Walnut Grove as part of the National Trails "work day" June 4, 2016. ZBE repaired the existing tie line, installed a new tie line and added a hitching post. Walnut Grove is a popular lunch and rest stop at Zumbro Bottoms. The need for repairs and improvements were over do because of safety concerns and damage to trees from tying horses to them.

The process started with discussions with DNR Trails and Forestry managers in the fall of 2015. It was decided the best solution and location would be additional tie lines. ZBE provided labor and materials with the help of donations. ZBE would like to thank Bill Page, horse rider and owner of Page Welding shop in Zumbrota for donating the pipe and welding for the new lines and Mark Fitting donated the pipe to repair the existing lines - thanks Bill and Mark! Angie Murphy, owner of COWPOKES Western Shop from Kellogg donated the use of her UTV to get the materials up to Walnut Grove.

Volunteers donated their time, personal tools and equipment, and a 4 wheeler to get everything up the steep hill from Rescue

Point E to Walnut Grove. Since Walnut Grove is on the opposite end of the forest from the West Assembly Area where most of the national trails day projects were planned, we decided to install the tie lines on Wednesday, June 1st. Making the list and gathering the materials started several weeks before.

The five volunteers - Steve Freeze, Lee Partington, Ken Olson, Angie Murphy, and Mark Fitting met at 9 am to load the tools and materials and started up the hill. It took several trips and a little exercise to get up the steep part, even with the UTV and 4 wheeler. At Walnut Grove we divided the tasks into 3 groups and got started. I was surprised that repairing the old tie line took as long as installing a complete new set. The third crew - Angie, cleared brush, cleaned the fire pit and installed a new set of "Pack it



in, Pack it out "signs. I've always been amazed when park users can carry full containers out on the trails but can't manage to haul their garbage out! After a lunch break we took a few pictures, loaded tools and garbage and headed back down. I believe the tie lines will provide service for many years and help make Walnut Grove even more enjoyable.



DNR TRAIL DESIGNATIONS COMING TO A PARK NEAR YOU

At the meeting following the Minnesota Trail Riders Association "Ride with the DNR" on May 20th, 2016, Laura Preus, planner from the MN DNR Parks and Trails Division, explained to us that all DNR "parks" (State Parks and State Forests) will go through a trail designation review over the next couple of years. This is very important to horse riders!

In this process each "park" will take a look at their trail system to look at which trails are designated for which uses. DNR will be asking for input from users during this time. This review will lead to the revision of each facility plan that will determine which trails are "official" trails and set the uses and users of those trails. During this planning process is the time to speak up and make our voices heard. Once the plan is set, it is often too late to change something that you don't like!

Many of the State Forests that horse riders like have unauthorized or "renegade" trails that riders would like to keep. I know for a fact that at Zumbro Bottoms this is going to be a big topic of discussion and I'm sure it will be at other locations as well. We all know that there are mountain bikers and other users that would like to gain access to horse trails as well. This could lead to conflicting uses and/or loss of trails to horse use. We can be sure that other users will be looking at this "review" period as an opportunity to gain access to any and all trails they can.

We as horse riders are a very small number of people as compared to hikers, bikers and motorized users. Please watch carefully for the opportunities to attend and speak up at the public input meetings for your local and favorite places to ride during the next couple of years.

Information on this should be posted on the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/index.html>. You can also find the location and contact information for parks and trails field offices at this web site. It is a good idea to contact the DNR staff person who manages the trails in your area so that you can learn when the trails at their facility are going to be reviewed. Most reviews will be during 2016 and 2017. Often the notices of these meetings are not well publicized. I hope that MTRA and BCH-MN will alert members to these dates and locations but keeping tab on it yourself is a good idea.

Let's work hard to keep our horse trails!

Ken Olson

Pine Island, MN.

BCH-MN MEMBERSHIP LIST

As members of BCH-MN you might like to know who else is a member. Here is a list of the members as of June 15, 2016. Addresses and contact information is not included to protect our member's privacy. Near the bottom of the list are several people from outside of MN but have ties to MN or are national BCHA members who wish to be members of our MN organization.

BCHA

DEDICATED TO
KEEPING TRAILS
OPEN FOR ALL

MINNESOTA
TRAIL
RIDERS
ASSOCIATION
IS AN
ADVOCACY
PARTNER OF
BCHA

Ken & Lynn	Olson	Pine Island	MN
Marvin & Patsy	Breitkreutz	Renville	MN
Russ & Darlene	Wright	Byron	MN
Barb & Lee	Partington	Lake City	Mn
Barry	Saylor	Wykoff	Mn
Megan	Gustafson	Clearbrook	MN
		West Con-	
Rachel	Durst	cord	MN
Michael & Dawn	Leonhardt	Mantorville	Mn
Terry	Leary	Oronoco	MN
Connie & Scott	Moran	Wabasha	MN
Mark & Cindy	Fitting	Plainview	MN
Carolle	StJean	Big Lake	MN
Susan & Mark	Wegner	Fairbault	MN
Diane & Steve	Freese	Rochester	MN
Dawn & daughter	Dick	Kellogg	MN
Beth	Lecy	Dexter	MN
Kathy & Ron	Grindeland	Howard Lake	MN
Carol	Krueger	Pine Island	MN
Sharon	Greening	Cannon Falls	MN
Dorothy & Harry	Becher	Rochester	MN
Coleen	Morgan	Spooner	WI
Jodi	Johannessen	Duluth	MN
Wendell & Judy	Zwart	Oronoco	MN
Anne	Gullion	Cloquet	MN
Barbara Lynn	Smith	Cloquet	MN
Candace & Edward	Barbo	Duluth	MN
Eileen & Edward	Menefee	Squaw Lake	MN
Kim	Lewis	Jackson	MN
Jerry & Patty	Brost	Duluth	MN
Barbara	Dunn	St George	UT
Jacque & Robert	Alexander	St Joe	AR
Don & Karen	Saner	Wilson	WY
Jim & Cindy	McGarvey	Calhoun	GA
Carol & Connie	Allen	Hooper	UT
Mack & Connie	Long	Charlo	MT
John & Bonnie	Chepulis	Columbus	MT

VOLUNTEER HOURS—DEFINITIONS

Here are the definitions for the fields which we want to record for volunteer events:

Date(s)	Date(s) that your event was held.
Names	Names, phone, email, of everyone who participated: You will usually have a volunteer signup sheet that everyone must sign: e.g. DNR Volunteer Agreement & Report
Place	Name of the public facility: e.g. state forest or county park
Agency:	Governing agency, e.g. DNR or County where facility is located.
Work type	Description of the project work: e.g. Trimming and brushing on Trail xx, or cleanup at campground
Work hours skilled.	Total number of hours that everyone spent at work. There are two types, basic and skilled . This can be hours for basic work like trimming and then hours for skilled work like operating a chain saw or leading a pack horse.
Travel time	Total number of travel hours for everyone, to and from the project.
Vehicle miles	Total number of miles driven to and from the project for vehicles other than horse trailers. Only vehicle drivers can count these.
Trailer miles	Total number of horse trailer miles driven to and from the project. Only trailer drivers can count these.
Horses	Total number of horses used on the project and total number of horse days if the project was more than one day long

Once you get familiar with these items they are not that hard to remember to keep track of for your projects. The first five items are obvious and just getting everyone's name is usually the most effort. We will be suggesting forms that you can print out ahead of time to have with you and a template spreadsheet you can use. The last five items are logical breakouts because when BCHA accounts for volunteer efforts they assign a dollar value to each type of activity so that we can report to the public agencies, not just the number of volunteer hours but also the money equivalent value of the work. We all know how much more money talks!

The dollar values assigned for 2016 will be available on the official BCHA website soon – we only need them at year end. The values are derived from US Labor Dept official guidelines and are approximately as shown here.

Basic labor	\$22.50 per hr	This rate applies to basic trail work, administrative work, reconnaissance work etc. all of which can be counted.
Skilled labor	\$35.00 per hr.	This rate applies to any power tools or heavy equipment operation or pack horse skills
Vehicle mileage	\$0.50 per mile	Must just be for small cars.
Trailer mileage	\$1.10 per mile	This is OK for Ford or Chevy - Dodge probably needs more
Horse day	\$100	Don't we wish they only cost us this much?

Send your reports to bchminnesota@gmail.com and rlwright@frontiernet.net.

Thank you for all of the work your group does for trails and trail riders in Minnesota!

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