



## 2023 Summary Newsletter

Keeping Trails Open and Maintained – “we are the workers”

### 2024 Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota Annual Meeting

January 13, 2024 at 1 PM

Location: Firehouse Grille, 7875 Old Town Road, Elko New Market, MN

Please join us for our BCH-MN annual meeting. Come early and enjoy lunch. The food and service are excellent!

Meet and greet new and returning members and learn about what we have accomplished this past year as well as goals for the coming year. Please bring new or lightly used items for the raffle.

Primary agenda items will include:

- The Financial report
- Election of officers:
  - o Open officers' positions are President and Secretary.
  - o Diane Freese has been nominated for President.
  - o Lori Jones and Barb Partington have been nominated for Secretary.
  - o Nominations are still open for these positions.
- Reports reviewing 2023 and looking ahead to 2024.

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### Calendar of Events

Jan 13 – Back Country Horsemen of MN – 2024 Annual Meeting – Firehouse Grill – Elko New Market- Meeting starts at 1:00

Jan 20– Southeast MN Back Country Horsemen of MN – 2024 Annual Meeting – Forestville State Park

Jan 27 – Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen of MN – 2024 Annual Meeting – Kim's Saloon & Grill – Plainview 12:00-1:00 social hour, 1:30 meeting

May 4 – ZB Chicken Que fundraiser

## BCH-MN President's Report for the 2023 Year

Affiliation with Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) identifies us as a responsible voice for recreational stock use on public lands. By affiliating with BCHA as a state chapter in Minnesota, our organization is recognized as a group that seeks to improve trail access for recreational horsemen's use in a responsible and sustainable manner. We also have the backing of both a recognized state and national organization to help us when necessary to accomplish our mission.



We continue to work on increasing membership and establishing new chapters in all areas of our state. Last year, we had our summer rendezvous at Sand Dunes. Projects were identified to improve this campsite and trails, and there was interest in forming a BCHMN chapter to support the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in this area. We are very happy to report that a chapter is being started now, and the DNR is looking forward to having Back Country Horsemen support to maintain camps and trails. We will report in more detail on this at our annual meeting.

This year, we have been working closely with the DNR to award us a contract for doing the work we do on trails and in camps. We communicated the types of work we would like to do and now expect to have this in place by spring.

We have members on the BCHA Northeast Public Lands Committee and Volunteer Hours Committee. BCHA members know us personally from our attendance at the BCHA annual meeting, and they have given us a wide range of help with issues.

We welcome input from all our members. There is a place for everyone. There are the boots-on-the-ground projects, as well as members who support these workers by providing food and beverages or even holding horses for members while they complete their work. We need members with skills in education, business, management, and legislation. Everyone who pays membership dues helps our organization.

Please join us at our annual meeting on January 13 in Elko New Market, MN, to participate in our planning for 2024. We have state officer positions open for President and Secretary. We will also be looking for committee members. Let us know if you would be interested in working with us. Your active participation will help keep us growing and strong.

Have a blessed holiday season,  
Diane Freese, President

**Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota Web Page**  
**Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota Facebook Page**

## 2023 BCH-MN Rendezvous - August 19-20, 2023

This years Rendezvous was held at Rush River Park, near Henderson, MN. This is a lovely 285 acre Sibley county park. The Rush River runs through the park. The trails are maintained by "Friends of Rush River".

We had a wonderful time. It was a busy campground. During the heat of the day, several of us took our lawn chairs and sat in the river. It was quite pleasant.

The silent auction and poker run had great participation from the entire campground. Members of the Friends of Rush River were our trail guides. The Saturday evening potluck and meeting had 14 attendees. We would like to thank the people that participated in the silent auction and poker run as we were able to donate back to the Friends of Rush River \$300 for upkeep of the park.





## BCH-MN Expo Booth

The BCH-MN booth was again located in the Miracle of Birth building. This year all BCH-MN members that visited our booth had a chance to win a EZKut loppers\ case or a BCHA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cap.

A big thank you to the 13 volunteers who helped with the booth. It was a little bit of work and a whole lot of fun. We were pleased to welcome the 7 new members and 5 renewing members.



## Workday at Sand Dunes State Forest

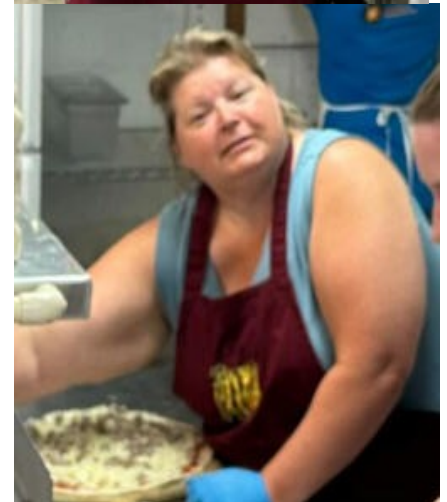
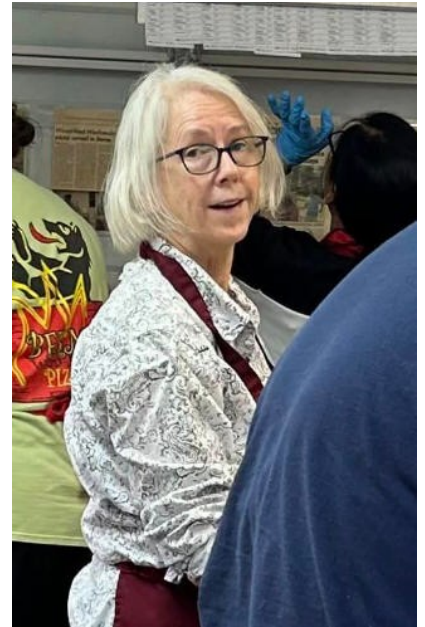
Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota joined the members of the newly formed Northwest Metro chapter for a work day at the Bob Dun Horse Camp located in the Sand Dunes State Forest. We performed some much-needed maintenance.





## Berne Wood Fired Pizza – raised \$700

Thanks to all our great volunteers. A huge thank you to Cindy Fitting for finding this great fundraiser and coordinating all of the volunteers.





# Southeast Chapter (SEMN BCH) 2023

## This past years activities and accomplishments

- Annual meeting at Forestville State Park with silent auction and potluck for guests
- May tack sale at Forestville
- Created new logo
- SEMN BCH-MN apparel
- Forestville campground cleanup
- Replaced railing around water hydrant at Forestville
- At Forestville, providing education through the [BARK Rangers - Pets \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/barkrangers/pets)
- Representation at MN Horse Expo
- Representation at Berne pizza fund raiser



[SEMN BCH web page](#)

[SEMN BCH Facebook page](#)





# Zumbro Bottoms Chapter 2023

## This past years activities and accomplishments

- Annual meeting in Plainview
- Spring and fall workdays
- Opening Weekend Chicken Que fundraiser
- National Trails Day Scavenger Hunt
- Hosted Dennis Auslam Clinic
- Laser cut horse head raffle
- Memorial Weekend live music
- ZB BCH-MN Apparel
- Ride with the DNR
- Representation at MN Horse Expo
- Representation at Berne pizza fund raiser



[ZB BCH-MN Facebook Page](#)

[ZB BCH-MN web page](#)





## Northwest Metro Chapter 2023

BCH-MN is ecstatic to announce the formation of our newest chapter, the Northwest Metro Chapter! Debra Podvin & Sue Schmidt have taken the leadership of the formation of this chapter. Debra became involved with BCH-MN after seeing a Facebook post last year about the deterioration of the horse camp at the Sand Dunes State Forest.

"The Sand Dunes State Forest has always been one of my favorite places to ride. I live nearby and ride there often. Over the past few years, I've noticed the lack of responsibility by other riders and the destruction caused by the general public at our local horse camps and trails. I was looking for an organization like BCH-MN to become involved with and wanted to make it my personal mission to get others involved before it's too late."

Debra started the year getting to know a couple of the DNR officers and helping them with small projects at the Sand Dunes State Forest. These projects were simple things, like picking up trash at the horse camp, picking up nails left from individuals that burnt pallets in the parking lot of the horse camp and painting the vault toilets at the trail heads.

Throughout the year, Debra was able to generate enough interest in the area to organize a clean-up day in October at the Sand Dunes horse camp. It was a long, hot day, but boy did we accomplish a lot! Thank you to everyone that came out to help that day!

The Northwest Metro chapter is looking to continue working at the Sand Dunes State Forest in 2024, along with other local parks and trails. If you are interested in joining the Northwest Metro chapter, please reach out to Debra Podvin.

(c) 320-260-8104 [Debra\\_klein1@yahoo.com](mailto:Debra_klein1@yahoo.com)

"Care Enough To Be Involved!"



## 2023 BCH-MN Officers and Directors

President – Diane Freese – 507-319-5808 [freese.diane@outlook.com](mailto:freese.diane@outlook.com)  
Vice President – Ken Olson – 507-251-7401 [oakridgefarm244@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgefarm244@gmail.com)  
Secretary – Lori Jones - [trlriderjones@gmail.com](mailto:trlriderjones@gmail.com)  
Treasurer – Bruce Kvittem – 507-259-6127 [kvranch@mail.com](mailto:kvranch@mail.com)

### SE Chapter Delegates to State Board –

Nola Robson – 507-272-7882 [nolar2@gmail.com](mailto:nolar2@gmail.com)  
Southeast MN BCH-MN – Marilyn Messmer – [m3messmer@q.com](mailto:m3messmer@q.com)

### ZB Chapter Delegates to State Board –

Dawn Dick – [winddancer55945@yahoo.com](mailto:winddancer55945@yahoo.com)  
Jim Reisinger – 612-919-6382 [jtreisinger@yahoo.com](mailto:jtreisinger@yahoo.com)

### Northwest Metro Delegates to State Board -

Deb Podvin - [Debra\\_klein1@yahoo.com](mailto:Debra_klein1@yahoo.com)

### Area Representative on State Board –

Marv Breitkreutz – Southwest/West Central MN 320-212-9843  
[mphorses43@gmail.com](mailto:mphorses43@gmail.com)

**National Delegates** – Marv Breitkreutz and Bruce Kvittem

### Chapter Presidents -

- Southeast MN BCH-MN – Marilyn Messmer – [m3messmer@q.com](mailto:m3messmer@q.com)
- Zumbro Bottoms BCH-MN - Bruce Kvittem - [kvranch@mail.com](mailto:kvranch@mail.com)
- Northwest Metro BCH-MN – Debra Podvin – [debra\\_klein1@yahoo.com](mailto:debra_klein1@yahoo.com)

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**Renew your membership for 2024!!**  
**Contact your chapter or state treasurer**

[www.bchmn.org](http://www.bchmn.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BackCountryHorsemenMinnesota/](https://www.facebook.com/BackCountryHorsemenMinnesota/)  
[bchminnesota@gmail.com](mailto:bchminnesota@gmail.com)