



Keeping Trails Open and Maintained - "we are the workers"

### Minnesota Back Country *News and Notes* - Fifth Edition - March 2020

If you have comments or suggestions for this "mini-newsletter" send them directly to Ken Olson, BCH-MN Secretary at oakridgefarm244@gmail.com.

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**BCH-MN 2020 Annual Meeting** - On Saturday, January 11, 24 members attended the Annual Meeting at the Pizza Ranch in Lakeville, MN. The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$1876.16 with \$471.00 owed to BCHA for national dues. We have a state membership of 128 members. VP Diane Freese reported 1242 volunteer hours. With volunteer time, travel and stock hours, all contributions are valued at \$49,261 for 2019. Activities reported on included: the MN Horse Expo display, the proposed OHV trail/campground at the Togo Horse Camp, the BCHA National Meeting, and chapter and area reports from Zumbro Bottoms, Southeast, western MN and northern MN.

The membership adopted the proposed By Laws and implemented the officer election rotation effective immediately. Officers elected were: President - Marv Breitreutz - 2 years, Vice President – Diane Freese - 1 year, Treasurer – Steve Freese - 2 years, and Secretary - Ken Olson - 1 year. 2020 dues will remain the same as for 2019. A Summer Rendezvous at Tamarack Horse Camp was planned for July 31, Aug 1 and Aug 2. Other possible activities were discussed.

**BCH-MN at 2020 MN Horse Expo** - April 24 - 26, 2020 Miracle of Birth Building space B-33  
All Minnesota Backcountry Horsemen members that visit the booth can enter the drawing to win an EZ Kut G1 lopper and case.



Volunteers are needed to help at the booth - A little bit of work and a whole lot of fun! Contact Barb Partington :

[bpartington2014@gmail.com](mailto:bpartington2014@gmail.com) or

651-764-2713



**News from Southeast Minnesota Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota** - The chapter Annual Meeting was held on January 25, 2020 at Forestville State Park. Officers elected were: Dave Robson – President; Russ Mettler – Vice President; Steve Freese – Treasurer; Sally Johnson – Secretary; Mark Fitting – Delegate; and Maribeth Fair Pingree - Alternate Delegate. The by-laws were updated to be in compliance with recent changes to the BCHA and BCH-MN by-laws with final approval by the

membership on February 19. Meetings with various DNR staff were held on February 6 and March 6, 2020 to discuss how we can help for this coming year.

**News from Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota** - We have had a slow winter but looking forward to a very productive spring and summer with several projects on our list of "to do's". There have been a couple of meetings with DNR staff, Jess Althof and Jake Gaster. Projects include: putting together a summer and fall calendar for camp hosts at the West Camp, clearing brush and putting up high ties at some of the rescue points, clearing the area around the shelter at Walnut Grove, up-grading the tie lines at west camp to make them safer and adding tie lines.

Additional camp hosts are needed. Angie Murphy is putting the camp host calendar together with a few spots open for a weekend of being host. Hosts do not need to be BCH-MN members. There are papers to fill out and a background check done by DNR to qualify for hosting at state forest camp grounds. If you are interested contact Angie thru the [Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen - Mn](http://Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen - Mn) website or via Email: [zumbrobottomsequestrians@gmail.com](mailto:zumbrobottomsequestrians@gmail.com).

**Northeastern MN Report - Eileen Menefee** - We are still thigh deep in snow! It has been challenging to have safe riding on roads due to ice and snow cover and the woods are crusty and deep. Spring is close - horses are shedding hair for birds to use in their nests. We have work projects needed at many riding areas including - Stoneybrooke with 3 hitching rails to be installed at McCarthy Beach shelters and parking areas, Suomi trails are being evaluated to improve drainage and fix some bridges, and Cut Foot Sioux Horse Camp needs brushing in the campground and the planning of more drive through campsites. Look for more information on dates as plans are made.

**Huntersville State Forest Update - Tami Wenthold** - Report on application to expand the Park Rapids Clay Dusters/Offutt Sportsmen's Park in the state forest. The revision request for expanding hours to Year- round, 7 days a week was denied by the Planning Commission. The club can use the facility year-round but the shooting hours remain the same. Club representatives stated now that the range is built, their plans have changed. They will be building a club house and selling memberships to make the shooting range a business. They will be submitting another application for amending the Conditional Use Permit in the future which will be for Year- Round operation, 7 days a week with more hours available to members and public at their discretion.

The citizens of Shell River Township and Wadena County were misled by the organization regarding the original intent of the range being built for the local area high school trap leagues. Expansion will have negative impacts on the Huntersville State Forest, surrounding recreational areas, and area residents. Thank you to BCH-MN for your support.

#### **Calendar of Future Events/Activities\* -**

- April 9 - Zumbro Bottoms Chapter - member meeting - Tailgaters in Elgin, MN.
- April 18 -- Zumbro Bottoms Chapter - camp cleanup - 9 am at West Assembly. Many projects - watch ZB Facebook page for details
- April 24 - 26 - BCH-MN at MN Horse Expo - Members register to win a prize! Help needed

- May 2 - Zumbro Bottoms Chapter - trail cleanup on our first ride of the season - pick up trash and trim branches as needed
- June 6 & 7 - Southeast MN Chapter - National Trail Day - Trail cleaning days at Reno June 6<sup>th</sup> and Wet Bark June 7<sup>th</sup> - Contact - Dave Robson for details
- July 31, Aug 1 & 2 - BCH-MN Rendezvous - Tamarack Horse Camp - Hinckley MN. Watch for details.
- September 12 & 13 - Southeast MN Chapter - trail cleaning at Hay Creek - camp area by an individual between the Orchard Ranger camp and the day parking area.

*\* In the spring plans are being formulated for these and other activities - check with chapter or state leaders for additional activities and details*

#### BCH-MN Board of Directors -

- President - Marvin Breitreutz - mphorses43@gmail.com (National Director)
- Vice President - Diane Freese - freese.diane@outlook.com (National Director)
- Secretary - Ken Olson - oakridgefarm244@gmail.com
- Treasurer - Steve Freese - stree49@outlook.com
- Zumbro Bottoms Chapter Representatives - Barb Kvittem - bkvittem7@yahoo.com and Dawn Dick - winddancer55945@yahoo.com
- Southeast MN Chapter Representatives - Mark Fitting - fittingsnuthouse@gmail.com and Dave Robson - crazyhorses@gmail.com
- Northern MN Area Representative - Eileen Menefee - eileenm56672@yahoo.com

#### Chapter Presidents -

- Southeast MN BCH-MN - Dave Robson - crazyhorses@gmail.com
- Zumbro Bottoms BCH-MN - Bruce Kvittem - kvranch@mail.com

Be sure to visit our website at [www.bchmn.org](http://www.bchmn.org).