



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

Minnesota Back Country Horsemen News and Notes - Sixth Edition - May 2020

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

BCHA Annual Meeting Summary - April 20 -23, 2020 - Marv Breitreutz and Diane Freese

This year's annual meeting was much different than past years due to the pandemic. The 2020 meeting was held via Zoom rather than gathering in Kansas City. The 2nd day was filled with reports on progress working with National Parks and Forest Service. South Carolina was welcomed to the organization.

All committees reported on 2019/2020 happenings including: Contracts, Education, Expansion, Fundraising, BCHA Grants, Media/Marketing, Membership, Public Liaison (regional and BCHA Director), and Volunteer Hours. All of these reports can be found on the YM National Board Meeting on the website. BCHA.org. A few of the highlights are:

1. **Public Lands** - Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding has been highly successful in funding big projects under BCHA's application. Washington State reported scoring higher than the Forest Service on fund requests because the government knows the work will be done so they are motivated to work with BCH WA. They use RPT funds to pay for part of their 3-million-dollar umbrella liability policy and also use funds to reimburse some mileage and per diems.
Randy Rasmussen (BCHA Director) reported that the BCHA lawsuit giving E Bikes permission to be on trails in the Tahoe National Forest without going through the proper review process resulted in the Forest Service rescinding the permission. *This is a great example of the work BCHA can do all of us.*
2. **Fundraising:** Without the BCHA organization we would not have the representation, organization, and professionalism that we enjoy and have become appreciated for. For that reason, we are encouraged to engage in all national fundraising opportunities.
3. **Public Lands/MRA Resolution & Partners:** In 2019 the resolution concerning the use of MRA's (minimum requirement analysis study) in wilderness areas passed unanimously. This will help with the opening of trails that have been closed due to extreme weather and fire events.
4. **Director conversations by region:** We met with national directors from IA, MO, KS, WI, IL, IN, MI, WI, and NY. Membership recruitment and retention and a feeling of disconnect between national and states/chapters were issues experienced by all.

For more information, all workshop reports are on the YM NBM 2020 page under "Workshops".

Elections on Wednesday resulted in the election of : Chair-Darrell Wallace (WA) and officers and board members from CO, MO, MT, CA, UT, and NC.

Our Conclusion is that BCHA is a wonderful organization with an immense number of dedicated individuals.

Director Change - Eileen Menefee has resigned the BCH-MN State Board as the Northern MN Area Representative. The Board would welcome a member from northern MN to volunteer to serve on the Board to represent that part of MN. Please contact the President for information or to volunteer.

BCH-MN Rendezvous - July 31, Aug 1 & 2, 2020 - Tamarack Horse Camp - Hinckley, MN

Please join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Tamarack Horse Campground is located 1.5 hours north of the twin cities. Activities include: Friday 6:30 trail ride, Saturday 9:00 Packing demo, 1:00 ride, 5:00 meet with DNR, 5:30 Dutch Oven Cooking, 6:30 Potluck and silent auction, and Sunday 8:30 Cowboy Church and 10:00 ride. You may ride with the group or ride on your own. Looking for items for the silent auction! It can be any new/used item in good shape. Tack, baked goods, wine, gift basket..... This is BCH-MN's only fund raiser. Non-members welcome! No reservation system for camping | First come basis | Primitive camping | Water available | High ties available | \$16 per night to camp | Minnesota Horse Trail Pass required | shoes recommended

Note: Bring fly/tick protection for horse and rider. If Tamarack Horse Camp and trails are closed – Plan B is to go to Zumbro Bottoms in SE MN. Contacts:

Event: Barb Partington bpartington2014@gmail.com 651-764-2713

Tamarack Horse Camp Information: Mark Widner mtwidner@gmail.com [763-242-2025](tel:763-242-2025)

Silent Auction - Barb Kvitem bkvitem7@yahoo.com [507-259-6117](tel:507-259-6117)

For more information go to the below MN DNR website

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_forests/forest.html?id=sft00044#cmp00045
[Riding Map](#)

[MN DNR Horseback](#)

News from Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota Chapter - Barb Kvitem - We had our camp cleanup day on April 18th with approximately 32 people helping. Fire pits were cleaned, wheel barrow handles were painted orange and placed by all of the manure pits, tie lines were re-graded to even out the gravel around them, and the remaining angle braces on the tie lines were removed and fastened to poles. Pipe braces are being made for each of the tie line sections that need them for support. With the "no camping" we may have the braces up before we get to camp over night.



The first weekend of May several riders headed out with garbage bags on their horses and picked up any garbage that was found on the trails. Amazingly, the trails were in great shape. We observed that there had

been some trail maintenance done with some trees cut out of trails. All in all, the three camps look great and are ready for that first day when it's all clear to camp again.

On June 6th for National Trails Day we are planning a scavenger hunt. All riders at the West Assembly that day may participate. There will be some instructions to follow to find an assortment of items along the trails. These instructions will be available at the shelter early on Saturday. More information will be available on Facebook and the website for ZB-BCH MN.

News from Southeast MN Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota Chapter



The SE Chapter received a grant from People's Energy Cooperative in 2019 for campground improvements at Forestville State Park. Six Cedar benches/mounting blocks were built and installed at various locations spring of 2019. The remainder of the grant funds is being used in 2020 to provide the Park with gravel to do much needed repair of the areas around the tie lines in the horse camp. Park personal have some sites completed to date with all of them to be rebuilt soon. Work days at Reno (June 6) and Wet Bark (June 7) for National Trails Day and at Hay Creek September 12 & 13 are planned.

Calendar of Future Events/Activities* -

- June 6 - Zumbro Bottoms Chapter - scavenger hunt. Details above and on Facebook and the website for ZB-BCH MN. Contact - Barb Kvitem
- June 6 & 7 - Southeast MN Chapter - National Trail Day - Trail cleaning days at Reno June 6th and Wet Bark June 7th - Contact - Dave Robson for details
- July 31, Aug 1 & 2 - BCH-MN Rendezvous - Tamarack Horse Camp - Hinckley MN. Note - in June the BCH-MN Board because of the pandemic will make a final decision on holding this event. Check with officers or website for any changes.
- 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. Contact - Dave Robson or Ken Olson

BCH-MN Board of Directors -

- President - Marvin Breikreutz - 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 - Open

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.