

The Shoshone Rider

January 2023

**Shoshone Back
Country Horsemen**
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WY-BCHA Delegates
Kandy Christian
Bre Fagan
Alternates
TBA



From the President, Kandy Christian...

It's January already and we only have a few more months before we need to dust the snow off our horses' backs and start legging them up.

I am excited for another fun filled year with everyone, with new trails to explore and all the new country to see. I am sure our horses are looking forward to spring and out of these minus digits temperatures we been having.

Looking back to what we have accomplished this past year is amazing. Hopefully we can get some more corrals put up in the Bighorns this year so more people can enjoy that part of the country.

With this new year here, we have a lot planning to be done, trails to clear, corrals to be built, new members to meet, maybe another tack sale to put on, and a lot more exciting fun rides.

Thanks to our member Steve, who suggested that the new Cody Game and Fish Building, north of Cody, has a meeting room that we can reserve for our meetings. So we have reserved it for the February 2023 meeting. So every other month we will switch from Powell Weed and Pest Bldg. to the Cody Game and Fish Building. If you have any questions, please call me.

I wish everyone a blessed New Year to come!!

Kandy Christian
President,
Shoshone Back Country
Horsemen

Snowy horses!
Photo courtesy of Kandy C.



Happy New Year!

May your year be blessed
with good health, good
friends, good horses and
many happy trails!

Secretary's report by Judi Blymyer...

The November 17, 2022 meeting of the SBCH was called to order by President Kandy Christian at 6:30 after another great potluck dinner.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Mac Black made a motion to accept the minutes as written. MSP

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Deb Black made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as written. MSP

Linda requested the following bills be paid; Kathi G. \$70.12 for newsletter printing and postage and Howard S. \$7.79 for Christmas prizes. Deb B. made a motion to pay these bills. MSP

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Watch Dog: Mike Blymyer gave us an update from Mike LaFrentz (Resource Officer) about the current status of E-bikes on SNF. The FS considers E-bikes as motorized vehicles and can only be used on designated motorized trails and roads. There are discussions taking place at the national level, but the FS, most likely, will not deviate from this position.

Activities: N/A

Service: Howard Sanders gave us an update on corral projects on the Bighorn NF for 2023. If we are able to construct corrals at Bald Mountain Campground, the BHNF will do the dirt work and construct a pad for the project. After a discussion on the pros and cons of this project, Kathi G. made a motion that we construct 4 corrals at the Bald Mountain campground late this coming summer. MSP

The Jaws Trailhead still doesn't have available water or overnight camping. It will not be approved for horse camping until 2024 at the earliest.

Education: N/A

Publicity/Newsletter: Kathi Gimmeson reminded us that the next Newsletter will be in January.

Social Media/Photo Gallery: Randi Slaughter was happy to have received new pictures to post. She will have them on our Web page soon.

Recruitment & Retention: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

No new news on the status of our pending 501c3 application.

Kandy will 'round up' a nominating committee for officers before the January meeting.

Barry gave a summary on the recent November State Meeting. Raising the State dues from \$8 to \$15 was passed. Barry suggested we make a resolution to the BCHA for only one delegate to be nominated to go to BCHA's annual convention unless they have over 1000 members, then they could send two delegates. This would keep the cost down for the smaller State organizations and help prevent dues increases.

Linda Serduik from the Wind River Chapter and Don Saner from the Teton Chapter received the Dennis Daley Awards. We will re-nominate our two candidates for the award next year and appreciate Cathy R.'s work preparing the application.

While at the State meeting, Howard got compliments on how nice our new corrals are at Bucking Mule Falls. Bill Hackney and some others want to get together with our corral building guys and get the details on how we go about our building projects!

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be an executive Budget meeting in January 2023.

Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm.

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more,
do more and become more, you are a leader." ~ John Quincy Adams*

Treasurer's Report
by Linda Putney

Shoshone Back Country Horsemen
Reconciliation Detail
 for Period 11/01/2022 – 12/31/2022
 --- For January 2023 Meeting---

Type	Cleared #	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
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First Bank of Wyoming accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNT Beginning Reconciled Bank Balance 10/31/2022 **\$ 12,548.34**

Cleared Transactions

Check 11/16/22	1724	PC Events	Xmas Party Homesteader Hall rental	-150.00	
Check 11/06/22	1729	Cathy Ringler	Xmas Party: Ham	-21.46	
Check 11/23/22	1730	K. Gimmeson	Newsletter printing & postage	-70.12	
Check 11/22/22	1731	H. Sanders	2022 Xmas party; door prizes	-7.79	

TOTAL Cleared Checks and Payments **-249.37**

Deposit 12/12/22			1 – 2023 Dues	40.00	
Deposit 12/19/22			4 – 22 & 23 Dues; \$1,680 youth donation	2,000.00	
Deposit 11/28/22			3 - 2023 Dues	120.00	

TOTAL Cleared Deposits and Credits **2,160.00**

CHECKING ACCOUNT Ending Reconciled Bank Balance 12/31/2022 **\$14,458.97**

Uncleared Transactions

Check 10/29/22	1732	WYBCH	National & State Dues: 83 @ \$23	-1,909.00	
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Net Uncleared Transactions **-1,909.00**

CHECKING ACCOUNT Ending Checkbook Balance 12/31/2022 **\$12,549.97***

*Of this balance, \$3,384.72 reserved for *Youth: Donations in memory of: Jim Hillberry \$1,322; Dale Olson \$340; Charles Sheets \$380*

MONEY MARKET (Commissioner's Tag) Beginning Bank Balance 10/31/2022 **\$29,559.61**

Cleared Transactions

None. 0.00

TOTAL Cleared Checks and Payments **0.00**

Interest 12/31/222			December interest income	1.01	
Interest 11/30/22			November interest income	.97	

TOTAL Cleared Deposits and Credits **1.98**

MONEY MARKET (Commissioner's Tag) Ending Bank Balance 12/31/2022 **\$29,561.59**

Uncleared Transactions

None.

MONEY MARKET (Commissioner's Tag) Ending Checkbook Balance 12/31/2022 **\$29,561.59**

12-MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT Beginning Balance 10/31/2022 **\$10,294.00**

Interest			Interest Income- Annual	13.13	
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12-MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT Ending Balance 12/31/2022 **\$10,307.13**

MISSION & PURPOSE OF BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of AMERICA

- .. TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness lands.
- .. TO WORK to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- .. TO ASSIST the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- .. TO EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage and Leave No Trace" principles.
- .. TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen organizations.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."

~John Muir

Service by Howard Sanders

SBCH JANUARY 2023 SERVICE REPORT

We should have plenty of project opportunities to be involved in for 2023.

The Trail Head projects planned for this year include:

- New corrals at Bald Mountain on the Big Horns,
- Corral repairs (40 wooden rails and 6 wooden posts) at the Jack Creek Trail Head,
- Feed bunk and corral repairs at the Clarks Fork Trail Head, and
- Feed bunk repairs and footing installation at the Kirwin Trail Head.

We should have a 2023 Cost Share Trails meeting with Shoshone National Forest in late January.

I sent 4 cross cut saws in for sharpening, and they have been returned, all ready to go. I guess we will see how soon we have access to the Trail Heads and trails this spring.

Howard Sanders
Service

October SBCH Member Appreciation & Christmas Party

Photos by Kandy Christian



The October SBCH Member Appreciation & Christmas Party was a festive occasion, decorated with a combination of fall harvest and Christmas.

Spirits were high and members enjoyed visiting, sampling the delicious variety of food, seeing photos of the year's work projects, recognizing the efforts and hard work of volunteers, drawing for door prizes, and exchanging gifts. The party was a culmination of 2022, with friends working together to accomplish many acts of service and have fun doing it!

Thank You, Sunlight Sports!

SBCH has received a donation of \$403.65 from Sunlight Sports to support our Youth activities. This is the 3rd donation we have received from them, and we are one of several area non-profit recipients.

Sunlight Sports in Cody supports local nonprofit groups whose focus is to get our community outside, with an emphasis on groups that get kids involved in outdoor activities. Sunlight Sports donates 2% of their sales each year to nonprofits that serve Park County residents. By the end of 2022, they will have donated more than \$540,000 locally since 2010.

One of the events they host is Pint Night for those who bring their Sunlight Sports Sili Pint. 100% of each purchase of a Sunlight Sports Sili Pint supports a local non-profit whose focus is to get our community outside.

Are You a Fast Draw?

Be Sure You're Proficient with Bear Spray!

Winter is a good time to practice with your bear spray. If you have an outdated or inert practice can, take advantage of a snowy background to highlight the spray. Having bear spray with you in the backcountry won't necessarily ensure your safety if it's out-of-date, not readily accessible or you haven't practiced with it. As with any skill, having knowledge and practiced muscle memory will serve you well in time of need. Practice until you have a reflex action.

A frequent misconception is how much time you will have to retrieve and deploy your bear spray. Bears can travel 40' per second, so a bear 60' away can reach you in 1.5 seconds; at 20' away, it will be on you in ½ second! You will have no time to fumble around trying to access bear spray if it is not readily available on your person or you haven't practiced its use.

Check the expiration date on your bear spray: Although it may retain its potency, out-of-date spray can lose its propellant and not project as far as it should.

Accessibility: Always carry bear spray on your person, such as on your belt or a chest holster, so you can grab it *within a second*. Practice removing it from the holster, removing the safety clip and getting your hands in position to use it.

Grab the can and remove the safety clip: Remove the canister from its holster and place the index finger of your dominant hand in the finger loop and remove the safety clip by sliding it back with your thumb. Hold the can firmly in front of you with both hands, pointing downward, with your thumb on the trigger.

Aim slightly down and adjust for a the wind if you can: Always aim downward, as toward the ground in front of the bear, because the spray will billow upwards. Practice with the wind at your back, into a head wind, and with a crosswind so that you understand how bear spray is affected by the wind. Unfortunately, you may not have the time or ability to adjust for wind in a bear encounter.

Spray 2 or 3 short blasts of about 1–2 seconds in quick succession, in a slight side-to-side motion to create a cloud between you and the bear. Spray in an aggressive forward stance, shouting loudly.

Read your bear spray label & know your bear spray's capabilities! Not all bear sprays are alike. The EPA requirements range is 1.0-2.0% of Major Capsaicinoids content, the suggested minimum spray duration should be 7+ seconds, with a projection of 25-30'. Canister quantities vary from 7.9 oz. to 10.2 oz. In addition, the rate of deployment varies. One brand's 7.9 oz can empties in 4 seconds, while another brand of 9.2 oz. empties in 5 seconds. Yet another brand empties 9 oz in 9 seconds. *Does your bear spray have high potency, project far enough, have sufficient quantity and empty fast or slow?*

"The farther one gets into the wilderness, the greater is the attraction of its lonely freedom." - Theodore Roosevelt

Winter Riding

by Marty Morris, January 2019

One of our members read an article about riding in winter conditions and suggested that I write an article on the subject. Many of you reading this have considerable experience with riding in cold and stormy conditions while hunting or just being caught out when a storm comes in. Those of us that have done it have relied on common sense and our knowledge of the country and horses to get the job at hand done and get back to some place that is more comfortable.

You need to have a good reason for being out in very cold or stormy conditions. If you have that reason, you know that you must be prepared for what could occur during the time you are out.

For example, my longest coldest ride was in the Alaska Range in September 1992. A volcano blew up and the weather changed from nice fall to winter overnight. When I woke that morning in the guide shack, I had no idea what had occurred, but it was sure different than the day before. It was very cold, snowing and the snow had a gray look to it.

I was sent to rescue 3 hunters that were in a drop-off camp 20 miles from the lodge where I was working. As I prepared for the ride, I borrowed all the heavy clothing I could from whom ever had something and dressed in layers. I packed quite a bit of food and drinks and tied a sleeping bag to the back of my saddle in case of a survival situation. Of course, I carried my .44 mag and .338 Win. Mag. I did that wherever I went. The mountain grizzlies there weren't friendly or used to people.

I had no idea what the temperature was but later found out the chill factor was 30° below. It probably varied a lot with the country I rode and whether it was daylight or dark. I got back about 2 in the morning. There was no way to contact anyone if I had gotten into trouble and most likely no one could have gotten to me within reasonable time to help if I needed it.

Without going into detail, I made the trip, non-stop 40 miles and got the hunters to where they could be flown out to safer conditions. The point being that I was prepared for what could have happened during the ride. It took a little common sense to get there and back without problems. When crossing streams and rivers, water turned to ice as soon as it hit the cold air. Blocks of ice were on the horse's tails and everything else that got splashed. The stock of my rifle had an inch or more of ice on it. It was a cold ride.

If you ride in the winter, it is best to ride with someone who has experience with the country and conditions. Check weather conditions and if the weather looks severe, don't go at that time. Travel slow and try to avoid slick places. If there is any doubt about the footing, get off and lead through the bad places. When the ground is slick, a horse or mule can go down so quickly that you don't have time to get away from them.

Make sure that someone knows where you are going and when you will be back. Carry a means of communication with you should something unexpected happen.

Remember that your horse or mule is haired up for the winter. Avoid getting them hot or sweaty. If they do work up a sweat, don't push them and let them cool down while saddled. When saddling up and tightening the cinch, be sure you don't pinch the winter hair in the front of the cinch ring. Run your finger through there to make sure the hair is free.

Winter is a great time for riding in our country. I generally ride several times a week if I can. You can get a lot accomplished with your horse or mule, keep them in condition and see some interesting things that nature provides.

"The future has several names. For the weak, it is impossible; for the fainthearted, it is unknown; but for the valiant, it is ideal."

Victor Hugo

*2023 Membership Dues
Will soon be due!
January Meeting will be 1/19/23*



Feed Safely This Winter

It's good practice to be careful while feeding horses, but winter feeding can be more hazardous, due to snow, ice and hungry horses impatient for their feed. With the cold temperatures, we tend to bundle up more, which can restrict our vision and agility,



not to mention that we may tend to be in more of a hurry and become careless.

Dominant horses sometimes get rowdy with their herd mates at feeding time and may even display disrespect to their owners while feed is being distributed. It's important to maintain leadership to prevent getting caught in the crossfire of squabbling horses or being pushed around, kicked or bitten by disrespectful equines. If you ignore your horse when he grabs hay from your arms, pins his ears or pushes you, he just got a reward for bad behavior and may become bolder with time.

Many horsemen train their horses to stand back and wait for permission to eat when being fed. Make sure your feeding area is large enough to allow horses to escape more dominant ones and that there are adequate feeders for all animals to eat comfortably. Tell the horses to "get back" and carry a buggy whip as an extension of your arm to keep horses out of your space. If they pin their ears or show aggression, pop the whip and get after them if necessary to keep their distance. Use the whip as lightly as possible so the horses learn to understand and respect it, rather than to fear it. Make the horses stand back and face you until you are done filling the feeders and you walk off, giving them permission to eat. If you make a habit of keeping them back, they will soon respond to verbal commands and may even stand back without being told.

Coming Events

January 19 **SBCH Meeting @ PC Weed & Pest Bldg, Powell.**
Potluck @ 6, meeting to follow. *Remember to renew your membership!*
Let Linda know if you will be needing more bear spray.

February 16 **SBCH Meeting @ Cody Game & Fish Building, north of Cody**
Potluck @ 6, meeting to follow.

Shoshone Back Country Horsemen Membership

Membership is \$40 per year

Name (print) _____

Mailing address _____

e-mail address _____

Phone number(s) _____

How would you like to receive the newsletter? by mail _____ -or- by e-mail _____

Mail completed form with your check to: SBCH, P.O. Box 465, Powell WY 82435

When your dues are paid, it is noted on your newsletter mailing label after your name (PD 2023). If you receive the newsletter via email, you can write to:
shoshonebch@gmail.com to check if your membership is current.



PO Box 465
Powell, WY 82435
shoshonebch@gmail.com

"It's the little things that get tangled in your spurs that trip you up." ~ Unknown



NEXT MEETING:
January 19, 2023
at the Park County Weed & Pest Bldg.
off Hwy 14A at 1067 Road 13, Powell, WY
Potluck Dinner at 6:00 with the
Meeting to follow.