

The Shoshone Rider

March 2024

Shoshone Back Country Horsemen

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WY-BCHA Delegates

Kandy Christian
Bre Fagan

Alternates

TBA



From the President, Mike Blymyer...

First of all, I want to thank Kandy Christian for her numerous contributions during her tenure as President. Even when she was pretty much incapacitated from her injuries she was still able to show up for projects and offer encouragement. Hope you enjoy your stay down in Colorado, but know we're all looking forward to your healing and getting back in the saddle for the trail work Howard has planned for us.

Then, I'd like to thank the membership for the support and trust you've shown by honoring me with this opportunity. As you know, we're extremely fortunate to have a great bunch of folks that are able to selflessly volunteer their expertise, time and ideas for the benefit of the horse riding public.

Next, I send out a heart-felt thank you to those of you who answered the call to volunteer for the various officer and board of director jobs. As I outlined at our February meeting, the Shoshone National Forest has an unclear funding situation right now which could impact some of the projects we were looking at this year. I hope to be able to get a better take on this situation after meeting with the Supervisor's Office Recreation Program Lead and Staff Officer after the present budget discussions are resolved in Washington.

Over the next several weeks, I hope to get with our current Officers and Board of Director members (serving and nominated), to discuss and go over our proposed Position Descriptions and a Policy and Procedures write up.

Lastly, as I compose this submission, I see the weather forecast is calling for strong winds and precipitation in the coming days. This might be a great opportunity for all of us to go over our tack and get prepared to get our mounts legged up for the work Howard has planned this summer.

Mike Blymyer
President, SBCH



Secretary's report by Randi Slaughter

Minutes of Meeting 02/22/2024

The meeting began officially at 6:40pm with Kandy joining us by phone. We welcomed new members Jeff and Terry and visitors David and Colton.

Mike Blymyer moved to accept the January minutes; Connie Jack seconded. MSP

Treasurer's Report: Howard Sanders moved to accept the treasurer's report and Mike Blymyer seconded. MSP
Linda Putney asked for permission to pay the following bills: Linda Putney \$143.40 for Garmin In-Reach which will now be paid up through next February, Kathi Gimmeson \$7.71 for newsletter printing, \$3.95 for meeting supplies and \$4.31 for Youth Flyers for a total of \$15.97. The total to come from the Operating budget is \$159.37. Judi Blymyer moved to pay, Carol Olson seconded. MSP

Committee Reports:

Watchdog: Mike Blymyer. Mike spoke to Paul Rau, the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Shoshone National Forest at the supervisor's office. There are no fee updates and they are still deep in the process. The Forest Service's intention is to update the fees for this coming season. They are coordinating with the Regional Fee Authority Board, and some others. From conversations Mike has had, the budget for the year sounds bleak. At present there, apparently, is no money being budgeted for projects and maintenance. This is based on the assumption that there will be a scale-down on a continuing resolution. We will have to wait until the end of the budget resolution process. Right now it looks like the Shoshone National Forest isn't going to be able to do anything. When Governor Gordon came here, he got an earful from outfitters that trails were a mess and the tread is deteriorating. The impression is that he will do something about that. Howard said there is so much downed timber these days that you can't even get around obstructions. We are no longer even attempting to keep tertiary trails open. Linda asked if that budget includes our cost share amounts? Mike is going to get back with the Forest Service to find out about that. Howard said he hasn't seen anything that indicated it wasn't going to be supported.

Activities: Cathy Ringler, speaking for Von, said there was nothing to report.

Service: Howard Sanders. Howard reported that the total of equivalent work that all the Wyoming BCH chapters sent in was \$253,537. Of that, SBCH contributed \$123,805, which leaves the remaining chapters contributing \$129,732.

He met with the Shoshone Forest Service and they agreed on the cost share trails which he listed in the February newsletter. The following members agreed to lead work parties: Bruce Fauskee on Wood River; Hannah Weed on Big Creek which will be August 28-31. For other trails, if you want to lead, contact Howard. Some of the projects on the list are to be finished up and we have the materials ready to go, which includes corral building panels for Middle Fork of the Wood River.

Originally there were 4 people going to meet with the Bighorn FS Medicine Wheel District Ranger, Mark Foster, but it ended up just being Howard. Ashley Duke was there too. Meeting went well, and the Bighorn FS will have the Bald Mountain corral site ready for us to do the project in late summer or early fall. The Bighorn FS is going to think about a working agreement with SBCH, although on a smaller scale than what we do with SNFS. Hopefully we can get some new members from the east end of the Basin and see if we can find some people that can easily do this. The older members want less up and down. With the corrals at Bucking Mule Falls, working on that side has less up and down.

We all need to have First Aid and CPR training this year. Howard is working with the Forest Service to add us to classes they're setting up.

Saw training. Quite a few members need to be recertified. According to the Forest Service, if you've been through their training for saw certification and First Aid/CPR, if you're working on trails and get injured and your insurance doesn't cover it, then the US Government will cover it.

Barry Reiswig asked if we still have names of people from the east side that used to be members. We should get hold of them again and see if we can get them to join. Or put an ad in those small town newspapers.

We use the college (the Rod Burners) to make our panels. We pay for the materials, they make panels, and then we give a contribution to the Rod Burners. This gives the students access to materials to prove they can weld which they need to do to get certified.

In answer to a question, you may have to be 18 for chainsaw certification but Howard was not sure. There is no age on cross cut saws. You must have 9 layer chaps for chainsaw work. We have 4 pair for the club to use.

Education: Cathy Ringler. Kathi Gimmeson has made flyers for the Youth & Packing Clinic. Cathy reminded everyone to bring cookies to the next meeting for the Youth and Packing clinic, and they can be put in the freezer.

Christine Nicky and Christi Greamham contacted Cathy to invite us to put on a seminar at the Homesteading conference at the fairgrounds. There will be all sorts of classes about various things. It will be April 27 at the Powell Fairgrounds from 1-4pm. We can fill 3-4 hours on how to choose panniers, how to select a horse, and end with a packing demo that can be hands-on. Cindy Geissler is willing to lead the packing part. Jay York was not here but loves to do packing. Cathy needs folks to help at the event. We can use our education fund for this. The more club members we have there the better, just to mingle and advertise the club. Kathi moved that we support the Homesteading conference and hold a seminar for them. Howard seconded. MSP

Secretary's report cont.

Howard got a call from Janie Curtis asking us to participate in the Sunlight Sports social event. People pick up chips and drop into whatever organization they want to support. It will be held on March 14 from 5-7pm. We need to include educational materials from the Forest Service and Weed and Pest, as well as ours. Kathi is willing to help start setting things up. Looking for some more members to be there and lobby for new members. Sunlight Sports will have tables and we can bring our own too. We need some giveaways such as candy. Barry moved that we print more SBCH brochures if needed, and it was seconded. Funds for this come out of the operating budget, with \$100 added for marketing materials. Kathi will get them printed. MSP

Social Media: Randi Slaughter. Randi noted that she had shared the Youth and Packing clinic flyer on Facebook (both the page and our group page), and asked that members share that to other pages and groups they belong to that might generate interest.

Retention: Connie Jack. Connie expressed appreciation to the whole club for work they are doing on this.

Vice-Chair, WY Back Country Horsemen: Barry Reiswig. The State BCH Rendezvous will be the first weekend of August. The Wind River chapter is hosting this and it will be at Blucher Creek.

The National Board meeting will be in Casper March 24-27. People will be coming from all over the country. There is a form on the national site, but you can also just show up. On Monday night (3/25), there will be a meet and greet at the National Trails Interpretive Center. The center covers the Mormon Trail, Pony Express, and so forth.

State zoom meeting "President" vs "Chair" in the constitution it says 'Chair.'

The Legislature in session and a bill to transfer public lands to the state didn't even get introduced. Dan Larson was a sponsor of the bill.

Hat pins are available for \$10.

Barry addressed the question: Why don't our nominations get the Dennis Dailey award? It could be because this is a new award and there's a backlog of deserving individuals. We should just keep applying.

There are 7 chapters in Wyoming and several of them are in trouble. Cloud Peak, Sheridan, and Buffalo are down to 6 or 7 members. Mountain Man in Pinedale is getting sparse too.

Old Business

The Board is creating a policy and procedures manual. It will be available for review at the March meeting. Kathi suggested that we have a board meeting before then or share via email. Be sure to check what's in the current document. Email a copy to the President or VP for review, before sending to the current Board of Directors and officers for review and amendments. It will go back to the committee chair for final approval before circulating.

We no longer have a collection of material for new members or even existing members. We should have documentation on trail etiquette, safety, and how we present ourselves. We need to remain true to our mission statement purpose. We should leave the by-laws in place but protocols should fall under the current mission statement and by-laws. There is a copy on our website.

The Education page has a list of different documents or websites, and refers back to the National BCH site too.

Kathi has raffle tickets for the table that the Fagans made to benefit Dano. She can sell tickets tonight.

New Business

The web site has a new page for Governance under the Info menu.

We need 2 volunteers for the upcoming audit of the books that needs to be done before April. Linda will ask Debbie Black. Kristin Alcalá agreed to be one of the volunteers.

Kandy will be in Kentucky for a few months getting physical therapy specific to riding.

The Nominating committee consisting of Howard, Linda, and Wanda presented the following slate for officers: President Mike Blymyer; Vice President Jesse Alcalá; Treasurer Cindy Geisler; Secretary Randi Slaughter. Nominations from floor were solicited but none were presented. Kathi moved to accept the slate of officers, Eldon Sanders seconded. MSP

The new president can appoint new committee chairs.

Mike Blymyer made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm and was seconded by Howard S.

MSP = Motion Seconded & Passed

*"Train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice.
The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts."*

– Marcus Aurelius

**Treasurer's Report
by Cindy Geissler**

Shoshone Back Country Horsemen
Reconciliation Detail
for Period 02/01/2024 – 02/29//2024
--- For March 2024 Newsletter ---

Type	Cleared #	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
<u>First Bank of Wyoming accounts</u>					
CHECKING ACCOUNT Beginning Reconciled Bank Balance 01/31/2024					\$18,207.36
<i>Cleared Transactions</i>					
Check	02/12/24	ACH Equisure	Youth Clinic Insurance	-177.77	
Check	02/26/24	1778 K.Gimmeson	Newslt, meeting water, youth forms	-15.97	*
Check	02/26/24	1779 L.Putney	Garmin annual renewal	-143.40	
TOTAL Cleared Checks and Payments				-337.14	
Deposit	02/02/24		9-Dues, BB donation, other donation	510.00	*
Deposit	02/22/24		5-Dues, donation	210.00	
Deposit	02/26/24		14-Dues , BB donation, other donation	705.00	*
TOTAL Cleared Deposits and Credits				1,425.00	
CHECKING ACCOUNT Ending Reconciled Bank Balance 02/29/2024					\$19,295.22
<i>Uncleared Transactions</i>					
None.				0.00	
Net Uncleared Transactions				0.00	
CHECKING ACCOUNT Ending Checkbook Balance 02/29/2024					\$19,295.22
*Of this balance, \$6,893.44 reserved for Youth: Donations in memory of: Jim Hillberry \$1,322; Dale Olson \$340; Charles Sheets \$380; B. Brazelton \$322					
MONEY MARKET (Commissioner's Tag) Beginning Bank Balance 01/31/2024					\$23,518.55
<i>Cleared Transactions</i>					
Check	None.			0.00	
TOTAL Cleared Checks and Payments				0.00	
Interest	February interest income			2.79	
TOTAL Cleared Deposits and Credits				2.79	
MONEY MARKET (Commissioner's Tag) Ending Bank Balance 02/29/2024					\$23,521.34
<i>Uncleared Transactions</i>					
None.				0.00	
Net Uncleared Transactions				0.00	
MONEY MARKET (Commissioner's Tag) Ending Checkbook Balance 02/29/2024					\$23,521.34
12-MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT Beginning Balance 01/31/2024					\$15,629.40
Interest	Interest Income – Annual/Redemption			133.86	
12-MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT Ending Balance 02/29/2024					\$15,763.26

Service by Howard Sanders

SBCH MARCH 2024 SERVICE REPORT

At the February meeting there were some questions about chain saw and crosscut saw certification. So, here are some answers to the obvious questions: The minimum age for chain saw sawyers is 18 years of age. Crosscut sawyers must be at least 16 years of age. All saw users must be trained and certified.

Hand saws, bow saws, pruning saws, brush saws, and pole saws do not require training and certification unless they are used for cutting material larger than 5".

First aid and CPR are required for all certified sawyers. Before we begin our trail work this spring, all sawyers must read and sign the Saw Risk Assessment and also fill out their information on the Volunteer Service Agreement (form OF301b). I will bring these forms to the meetings and to Saw and First Aid/CPR training. I will keep you informed of upcoming training date options.

See you at the next meeting.

Howard Sanders
Service



"I've learned that the best and quickest way to appreciate other people is to try to do their job."

~ Anonymous

Help us Remember Bill Brazelton

We are looking for photos of Bill on horseback, possibly of him leading a pack horse. Our preference would be a profile that could be used as a silhouette for a plaque, but we would gladly accept any favorite photos of Bill to share in a page of remembrance in the newsletter.



SBCH would like to honor Bill with a memorial at Battle Park that would be a remembrance of his life and many years of service.

Although we are considering a metal plaque, we would gladly accept suggestions for an appropriate type of memorial to be placed in the forest.

If you would like to make suggestions for the memorial or send photos or donations, please contact SBCH at shoshonebch@gmail.com or send them to: PO Box 465, Powell, WY 82435.



We Need Cookies !



If you are able to help provide cookies for the Youth & Packing Clinic, April 6, it would be greatly appreciated!

Please bring them to the March SBCH Meeting or contact

Cathy Ringler (307-202-0335 or cathyringler@yahoo.com)

She can freeze them until the clinic. Thank You!



Education by Cathy Ringler...



Gear up for Spring!

The Annual SBCH Youth Horsemanship & Packing Clinics are Saturday, April 6, 9am-3pm at the Silver Spur Arena, 721 Rd 18 (Hwy 294). If you can help provide cookies or would like to help serve lunch, let Cathy know.



The SBCH Members' Desensitizing Clinics will be held at Ron Ostrom's arena (258 Lane 10, Powell), **March 23-24** and **April 13-14** (Sat- Sun). Attendance will be limited to 10 riders per clinic, so call Marty Morris @ 307-899-7510 soon to register. A fee of \$25 per participant for a 2 day clinic helps defray heating costs. Please make your payments to Ron.



Marty Morris, Sage Brush Four Step, Turning Exercises

“There are many advantages to turning and changing direction when we ride.

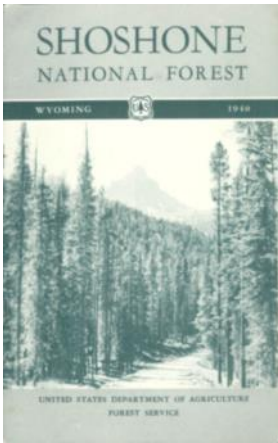
We establish our leadership by controlling the horse's movement.

We soften our horse to our hands and leg cues.

We keep the horse's attention on us instead of things could that distract his attention.

Each of these advantages helps make the horse safer for us and improves our partnership relationship.”

(featured in *The Shoshone Rider*, March 2020)



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We are privileged to live on the edge of the Shoshone National Forest, to recreate there and to partner with the SNFS as caretakers and stewards. The *Project Gutenberg eBook of Shoshone National Forest* provides facts, history, resources and places of special interest, as well as interesting photographs of Shoshone National Forest. If you haven't been to some of these places on horseback, consider visiting them this summer!

PLACES OF ESPECIAL INTEREST

Bliss Creek - One of the favorite routes of rustlers in earlier days, leading to their favorite rendezvous in Jackson Hole, followed Clark Creek at the head of the South Fork of the Shoshone River. In 1892, a horse thief named Bliss, attempting to escape pursuers, was captured by a posse after a long and grueling chase. He was shot and buried at a point about a mile above Clark Creek, near where a small stream from the north empties into the South Fork. This stream was named Bliss Creek as a result of this episode. Bliss's grave was marked by a rude pile of stones

along the trail until a very few years ago when it was destroyed by a mountain cloudburst. Bliss Creek can be reached only with a saddle horse and is 35 miles southwest of Valley.

Beartooth Plateau - After two military expeditions had previously failed, the first official crossing of Beartooth Plateau was accomplished the last week of August 1882 by a scouting party headed by Lt. Gen. P. H. Sheridan. His party had 71 officers, soldiers and civilians, 36 packers, 1 hunter, and 5 Shoshone Indian scouts and 1 Squaw. The party reached Cooke City, Mont, on August 24 from Mammoth Hot Springs, and Billings on August 31. The route selected and followed by General Sheridan was almost identical with that of the present Red Lodge-Cooke City Highway.

Dead Indian Hill - A small war party of Bannocks was attacked by General Miles' troops just south of Clark, near the northeast corner of the forest, in 1878, shortly after the Nez Perce outbreak. The Indians retreated over what is now known as Dead Indian Hill, about 16 miles SW of Clark, leaving one of their wounded behind. The following day the Bannock was found by some of the Crow Indian Army scouts, who promptly killed and scalped him. Until recent years a rude pile of stones marked the grave halfway down the west side of the hill, north of the road, near the drift fence. From this episode the hill got its name. Captain Bennett, in charge of the cavalry troop which engaged the Bannocks, and one of his Crow scouts, Little Rock, lost their lives in the fight. Two streams running down the east face of Beartooth Plateau, just west of Clark, bear the names of these men.

Camp Monaco - Located about 15 miles north of Pahaska Tepee, along the North Fork of the Shoshone River, is one of the old hunting camps of Colonel Cody, Camp Monaco. Here in September 1913, Colonel Cody took as his guests on a hunting trip, Albert I, Prince of Monaco, and his aide-de-camp, Count Beret. At the close of the successful hunt, the Prince had his artist paint on a large tree at the camp site, "Camp Monaco, 1913," and a bear's foot.

Frank Hammitt Grave - Frank Hammitt was one of the first six forest rangers appointed in the United States. He met his death by plunging over the precipitous walls of Russell Creek Canyon near its mouth, on July 25, 1903. His grave is near the south base of Antelope Mountain, beside the Crandall Road. Hammitt was trained for the priesthood, but gave it up for the life of a cowboy. For 7 years he was chief of cowboys with Colonel Cody's Wild West Show before he became a forest ranger.

Jack Crandall Grave - On July 1, 1870, a prospector named Jack Crandall and his partner, T. Dougherty, were on their way to a rendezvous with some miner friends on the headwaters of the Clarks Fork River. The two men made camp on Crandall Creek and, as they prepared their evening meal, were killed by a marauding band of Indians. The miners' picks were driven into the ground and their severed heads were spitted on the ends protruding. The grave of these men is marked by a huge boulder on which is a large bronze plate giving a brief history of the incident. It is located on the north side of Crandall Creek, about three-fourths of a mile upstream from the Crandall Creek bridge, on the Sunlight-Clarks Fork Road.

Pahaska Tepee - Pahaska Tepee, situated alongside the Cody-Yellowstone Highway, 51 miles west of Cody, is the original hunting lodge of Colonel Cody, which he built in 1901. Here he entertained such distinguished guests as Albert I, Prince of Monaco, statesmen, and the more famous members of his troupe.

Sheepeters' Tepees - Ancient tepees of the "Sheepeters" made entirely of poles are to be found in different parts of the forest. There is a group of three, well preserved, on Tepee Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of Crandall Creek, where the trail crosses. Another is located about 1 mile above the Timber Creek Ranger Station, along an old logging road. They can be reached only with saddle horses.

The Old Stockade - In August of 1891, a cowboy discovered a log stockade on Beartooth Plateau, on the divide between Little Rock and Bennett Creeks, about 3 miles north of Deep Lake. The stockade resembles a corral about 50' in diameter and made of huge logs laid up similarly to those in a log house. Here and there along the walls loopholes had been cut, obviously to permit shooting through them. The stockade was old when found. Who built it and why is not known. The logs had been cut with a sort of an ax or a hatchet, yet only a portion of the work appeared to be that of white men. Some of the chopping appeared to have been done by a man familiar with an ax, while other logs were literally "gnawed off." The old stockade is still standing and reached only afoot or with horses.

Wapiti Ranger Station - The Wapiti Ranger Station, situated along the Cody-Yellowstone Highway, 30 miles west of Cody, is the oldest ranger station in the United States built with Government funds. It was erected in 1901.

The Firefighters Memorial - On 8/21/1937, 15 men lost their lives in what is known as the Blackwater Fire. Along the Cody-Yellowstone Hwy, 36 miles west of Cody, at the mouth of Blackwater Creek, a large cut stone monument was constructed by the FS and the Civilian Conservation Corps, to commemorate the memory of these men. The fire originated 4 miles south of the memorial and burned over 1,254 acres. The Memorial Trail, a splendid foot or horse trail, leads to the burned-over area and Clayton Gulch, 6 miles south, where a stone marker with a huge bronze plaque marks the site where the firefighters were burned to death.

Coming Events

- March 21 - SBCH Monthly Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Park Co. Weed & Pest Bldg, off Hwy 14A at 1067 Road 13, Powell, WY. Potluck dinner @ 6, with the meeting to follow.
- March 23-24 - SBCH Members' Desensitizing Clinic, Ron Ostrom Arena, 258 Lane 10, Powell.
- March 25-27 - BCHA National Board Meeting in Casper, WY
- April 6 - Youth Horsemanship & Packing Clinic, 9 am-3 pm @ the Silver Spur Arena, 721 Rd 18 (Hwy 294), Powell, WY
- April 11 - SBCH will have reps at Sunlight Sports' Community night from 5-7 pm. (*postponed from 3/14/21*) Come to mingle, represent & recruit new members.
- April 13-14 - SBCH Members' Desensitizing Clinic, Ron Ostrom Arena, 258 Lane 10, Powell.
- April 27 - Homestead Seminar at PC Fairgrounds

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\$ ~ Dues & Don'ts ~ \$

If you haven't already done so, please **Do pay your 2024 Dues** and **Don't let your membership lapse!**
A friendly reminder from your Treasurer

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 2024). *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

*"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."
~ Mark Twain*



NEXT MEETING:
March 21, 2024
at the Park Co. Weed & Pest Bldg,
Hwy 14A at 1067 Road 13, Powell, WY.
Potluck Dinner at 6:00 with the
Meeting to follow.