# The Shoshone Rider

Nov/Dec 2026

**Shoshone Back Country Horsemen**

**Email**
shoshonebch@gmail.com

**Web**
https://shoshonebch.org

**Officers**

**President:**
Kathi Gimmeson

**Vice President:**
Rob McCray

**Secretary:**
Shannon Pils

**Treasurer:**
Cindy Geissler

**Committees**

**Watch Dog:**
Barry Reiswig

**Activities:**
Kandy Christian

**Service:**
Howard Sanders

**Education:**
Cathy Ringler

**Publicity/Newsletter/Web:**
Kathi Gimmeson

**Social Media/Photo Gallery:**
Randi Slaughter

**Recruitment & Retention:**
Connie Jack

**WY-BCHA Delegates**
Barry Reiswig
Kathi Gimmeson
**Alternates**
Rob McCray
Shannon Pils



**VETERANS DAY**

*HONORING ALL WHO SERVED*

*Thank You for your Service!*



**From the President, Kathi Gimmeson…**

As I write this, I have to say that I'm grateful to have found a way to complete the newsletter, since Microsoft totally disabled my outdated Publisher and Word programs! PTL for answered prayers!

So, as fall progresses and Thanksgiving nears, I find myself recalling so many things to be grateful for, and I believe I am truly blessed in a myriad of ways.

One of my great blessings is to be a member of SBCH and to work and fellowship with so many of you. What a privilege to call you friends and partners as we strive to work out our BCH mission within this beautiful part of Wyoming!

This has been another busy year, and I would like to acknowledge and thank all of you who have so faithfully served in so many capacities this year and in years past. You all represent a vast scope of talent, abilities, knowledge, time, enthusiasm and service, and it takes all of you to make this chapter run.

Thank you members, for paying your dues, going to meetings, serving as officers & chairs, calling, writing and meeting with FS officials, legislators and representatives, organizing and making events happen, getting volunteers and donations, providing meals, creating and keeping our website up, running and healthy, photographing events, posting media photos and news, recruiting new members, providing education, clearing trails, building corrals, building and maintaining good relationships within our communities, businesses and government entities, and for encouraging and helping each other and still having fun and great attitudes!

Whew, I know I've missed some of you, but as members,
you're all valuable. Thank you!

**"There is strength in unity; wonderful things can be achieved with teamwork and collaboration."** ~ Unknown

Kathi Gimmeson
SBCH President

Wishing you a
Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

"Count your blessings; a grateful heart grows more faith, hope, love, peace and joy." ~ *Unknown*

Faith makes things possible,
Hope makes things work,
Love makes things beautiful.

**Service by Howard Sanders** **NO SBCH NOVEMBER 2026 SERVICE REPORT**

**Crow Creek 8/9/26** *(photos by Howard S)*






**Right: Big Creek 8/1/26** Eugene B, Camby R & Bobby S

**Below & Left: Kitty Creek 8/17/26** *photos by Howard*
Jeff, Rhonda, Kathi, Anna & Cindy













*"Helping another halves the work, doubles the results and multiplies the enthusiasm."*
~ Anonymous

**"Start each day with a grateful heart and then choose kindness and laugh often."** ~ *Quote Unknown*

## Thank you, Goodbye and Best Wishes, A'naka!

Saying goodbye when special people move on is never easy, and many in SBCH feel a void as member, A'naka Smith, SNFS Trails Coordinator, takes a new FS position in Idaho. A'naka was instrumental in securing grant monies for SBCH through partnerships in trail projects.

We will remember her for her friendship, cheerful and positive nature, can-do spirit and tremendous work ethic.

Our best wishes for your success and happiness, A'naka!
We'll miss you, Happy trails!






Above: Deer Creek
Left: A'naka and Jeff working on Kitty Creek
Below left: Dick Creek
Below right: Membership Appreciation party fun












"Those who plant blessings shall also harvest blessings."

*~Anonymous*

*Reprinted from 2023*

## **Matches** *by Marty Morris*

Recently I was trying to light a burner on a modern gas kitchen stove with a wooden match by striking the match on the side of the box that it came in. I had to strike it several times before it lit. Sometimes I have trouble getting these newer matches to light at all and try several before one will light. What a change from years ago when you could get a box of strike anywhere matches that would light when you needed them to light. You could get them lit with your thumb nail or your front teeth.

Matches were an important part of my childhood life. My father was a ranger in Crater Lake National Park for several summers. Our family lived in a couple of cabins that were in isolated areas of the Park during this time. Those cabins have long since been removed. We had running spring water and indoor plumbing but no electricity, cooked on a wood kitchen range and our only heat was a wood stove. If we needed hot water to wash dishes or for a bath, we heated it on the kitchen wood stove. Wooden matches lit the white gas lanterns we used for indoor lighting and of course lit the kindling in our stoves. In those days we had strike anywhere wooden matches that were dependable. Both the larger kitchen matches and the smaller box for pocket carry. My father smoked cigarettes and always had matches with him. One winter about this time period my little brother tried to set our house on fire by playing with Dad's matches.

I was a wandering kid. I entertained myself as there was no other people within many miles. My mother was busy with my younger sisters and brother so I would disappear and explore the woods alone for miles around often bumping into black bear and other forest critters. Black bear were numerous in the Park in those days. When I was 5 years old my parents had me carry a knife wherever I went. I was about 7 when they had me carrying matches every day in case I got hurt or lost in the woods. I never got lost and never needed to use the matches or knife for an emergency, but I always had them with me.

There was a small stream a couple of hundred yards from our cabin where I would spend hours fishing for small brook trout. One day I decided that I would sleep near the creek that night, so I laid out my sleeping bag in a good place and went back to the house for supper. Just before dark I walked out to get into my sleeping bag and there was a black bear sitting on it. I changed my plans for sleeping out that night.

My mother went to town, Ft. Klamath, once a week, did the laundry, got the mail and bought groceries for the coming week. Ft. Klamath wasn't much of a town in the late 40's and early 50's but you could buy the essentials there. My Dad never went to town during the summer. When he had days off, he would usually go fishing or explore remote parts of the park.

Those were good summers for a kid like me. I always thought of matches as an essential tool to be used with care.

Exactly 10 years later I was working for the Forest Service as a back country patrolman in the Sierra Nevada Range. I worked alone. I spent 10 days horseback in the high mountains and had 4 days off. I never went to a meeting, nor did I drive a new pickup truck. I had an isolated base camp with enough pasture for the horses and mules I used, cleared trail and packed whatever need to be packed in or out of the area. I cooked morning and night over open fires all summer. I packed a lot of garbage out that back packers left in their camps. They left a lot of tin cans where they camped which I smashed and sacked. I did various odd projects that needed to be done in the back country if horses or mules were needed to get the job done. This was before the wilderness act but there was no motorized equipment used in that area except for chain saws. I had a chain saw with me all summer.

In late August, a commercial packer had a horse break a leg on a slick granite spot in a trail at about timber line. That trail led up to a high mountain pass and was so rough and crooked that it made congress look straight. The packer used my pistol to shoot the horse, then it was up to me to clean up the mess. I packed in some old tires and a little diesel to get a hot fire going to burn the horse carcass. By the time I was ready to burn the horse, its carcass was getting ripe and was crawling with maggots. There wasn't much old down timber available, but I drug what I could find to the dead horse to keep a hot fire going for a day and overnight.

**Matches**, *continued*

This location wasn't a good place to spend the night. Feed and water for my stock was sparse. Just a little feed between the big granite boulders. I had to drop down to a small stream for water. There was hardly a place to roll out my sleeping bag, but I wouldn't be spending much time in it anyway.

I got a good hot fire going on top and around the horse. There wasn't any danger of the fire spreading in the boulders and surrounding rocks. When I got the fire lit, I put my box of strike anywhere matches in a front pocket of my jeans. When you burn a horse like this, you cook the moisture out before the carcass and bones are dry enough to burn. It takes about 24 hours to do it right. When you are finished there is nothing left but a pile of ash and 4 horseshoes.

I kept piling what logs I had on the fire during the night. The early morning hours got pretty cold. I put on my bat wing chaps to help keep my legs warm and to keep them from getting too hot when I was close to the fire. I was getting cold so I mothered up to the up-wind side of the fire and wouldn't you know, the box of matches in my front pocket got hot enough to ignite. Boy did that hurt. Had anyone else been around they would have had a good laugh watching me. I had to get my chaps off before I could get out of my pants. It didn't take long to do either. I branded the front of my thigh with strike anywhere Diamond Matches.

"You can see what man made from the seat of a car.
But the best way to see what God made is from the back of a horse."
(*CM Russell)*

"There is but one hope for repulsing the tyrannical ambition of civilization to conquer every square inch of the earth. That hope is the organization of spirited people who will fight for the freedom and preservation of the wilderness."

*~ Bob Marshall*

## 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 2025 or 2026). *If you receive the newsletter via email, you can write to:* shoshonebch@gmail.com *to check if your membership is current.*

## *Coming Events*

**November 11 - Veterans Day** Thank a Vet for their service!

*"Show your gratitude by living according to the values that preserve, strengthen and honor America and the efforts of those who made it strong and free." ~Author Unknown*

**November 19 - SBCH Monthly Meeting** at the Park Co. Weed & Pest Bldg, off Hwy 14A at 1067 Road 13, Powell, WY. Potluck dinner at 6:00, with meeting to follow.

***There will be no SBCH Monthly Meeting in December!***

**January 21 - SBCH Monthly Meeting** at the Park Co. Weed & Pest Bldg, off Hwy 14A at 1067 Road 13, Powell, WY. Potluck dinner at 6:00, with meeting to follow.

**Anytime - Sign up for online 1st Aid/CPR/AED training & certification** to qualify for saw certification and FS insurance coverage. E-mail Kathi at kathigim32@gmail.com.

*Just a reminder that there will be no SBCH monthly meeting or newsletter for December.*

## 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.





Merry Christmas

***For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.***

**Luke 2:11**

*Our Hope for a bright future,*
*Our Peace in times of need,*
*Our Joy for all Eternity.*

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

*MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!*



**NEXT SBCH MEETING:**

**November 19, 2026**
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.