

January 2026

The Shoshone Rider



Shoshone Back Country Horsemen

Email

shoshonebch@gmail.com

Web

<https://shoshonebch.org>

Officers

President:

Kathi Gimmeson

Vice President:

Kandy Christian

Secretary:

Lydia Yoder

Treasurer:

Cindy Geissler

Committees

Watch Dog:

Barry Reiswig

Activities:

Deanne Yoder

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

Kandy Christian

Alternate

Kathi Gimmeson

Past President:

Mike Blymyer

From the President, Kathi Gimmeson...

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had great Christmas and New Year celebrations. The mild weather has been great for shortening our winter and allowing us to spend time outdoors. But as much as I like this weather, we sure need snowfall to bring needed moisture.

Looking ahead, SBCH has a lot of activities in store for 2026: clinics, more corrals to build or repair, trail cleaning and hosting the State Rendezvous. There will be opportunities for everyone to be involved, get to know each other better and have fun while we do it!

While it may sound daunting, I know from experience, that our wonderful membership always pulls together with a cheerful can-do attitude and every individual is valuable to the whole. It is amazing what we accomplish working together and finding such strength in unity.

Our next meeting and potluck will be Thursday, January 15 at the Park Co. Weed & Pest at 6 pm. I hope to see you there, we will have a lot to talk about!

Kathi Gimmeson
SBCH President

We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.

~ Native American Proverb

Happy New Year!

*May your days be filled with Blessings,
Happy Trails
and New Beginnings!*

"There is nothing like a dream to create the future."

— Victor Hugo

Secretary's report by Lydia Yoder...

SBCH Monthly Meeting Minutes 11/20/2025 By Lydia Yoder

Following a potluck dinner, the November 20, 2025 SBCH monthly meeting was called to order by President Kathi Gimmeson at 6:37 pm at the Park Co. Weed & Pest Bldg.

New Members & Visitors: Welcomed Karen as a new member.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the last meeting were published in the November newsletter. Judi Blymyer motioned to accept the minutes as published. Howard Sanders seconded. MSP

Treasurer's report: The October Treasurer's report was published in the November newsletter. Kristin Alcalá motioned to accept the report as written. Joe Childers seconded. MSP

New Bills: Cindy Geissler reported one bill, \$86.11 to Kathi Gimmeson for newsletter printing and postage. Jesse Alcalá motioned to pay the bill. Mike Blymyer seconded. MSP

Committee Reports:

Watch Dog/ WYBH Delegate: Barry Reiswig reported on the State meeting he and Kathi went to in Casper.

Nominees, Howard Sanders and Glenn Darnall (Wind River BCH) won the Dennis Dailey award.

Reporting the volunteer hours to State has changed to using a link on the State website, rather than submitting a spreadsheet to an individual. This was not found to be an improvement from the spreadsheet formerly used.

The Mountain Man Chapter in Pinedale is folding, but there was talk of possibly incorporating it into another chapter.

The Forest Service is creating a commemorative museum in Missoula, Montana. It will feature a display of the Backcountry Horsemen of America, and BCH chapters are encouraged to donate.

Kathi Gimmeson reported that the State discussed possible resolution changes regarding the end of year expiration date of membership fees received late in the year, and whether they should carry over to the next year.

Barry asked Anna Paris to set up a meeting with Rachel Rodriguez-Williams, the Powell representative. Anna agreed to look into it.

Activities: N/A

Service: Howard Sanders is working with the Rodburners Welding club at Northwest College. They are building feed bunks and removable steel posts for SBCH projects on the Beartooths and Sunlight Ranger Station. They will probably be done this week. Howard moved to give \$400 to the Rodburners Club, since NWC doesn't provide funds for materials necessary for class instruction. Kristin seconded. MSP Barry suggested ways to recognize the Rodburners club so they can receive more support and recognition. Howard agreed to visit with the newspaper, Barry will call the college president.

Education: N/A

Publicity:

Newsletter: Next newsletter comes out in January.

Social Media: Nothing new since Randi posted Youth Clinic pictures on the website.

Recruitment & Retention: N/A

WY-BCH Delegate: Included State meeting news in Watch Dog report.

Old Business: Kandy Christian needs volunteers to help with the Rendezvous. A date will need to be decided on soon. Howard and Kandy will work to reserve the Sunlight Ranger Station cabin. Cathy Ringler will help with games. Howard will help with panels and gates. A separate meeting will be held before our next monthly meeting to decide on the budget, committee heads and other planning details. Anna reminded the group about the Park Country Fair in July. Kandy is keeping an eye on the dates.

New Business:

Connie Jack reported on a highly contagious Equine Herpesvirus which originated at a large event in Waco, Texas. The Billings horse sale was canceled. She asked that the group take precautions to protect their horses.

Secretary's report by Lydia Yoder, continued ...

New Business cont...

Barry asked for suggestions on the wording for Howard's Dennis Dailey award. Kathi agreed to help. Kathi reported that the Cody Medical Foundation is planning a Frontier Festival June 6-7, 2026, and is looking for demonstrators and exhibitors, as well as having a pack horse race. It might be an opportunity to promote SBCH. Kathi has the entry forms and applications.

The next meeting will be January 15th.

Anna Paris moved to adjourn, Mike Blymyer seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM. MSP

MSP = Motion Seconded and Passed

Service by Howard Sanders

SBCH JANUARY 2026 SERVICE REPORT

The NWC Rod Burners finished the projects they were doing for us. The finished items have been picked up and are ready for their respective scheduled projects this spring and summer.

We should have some meetings, with Shoshone National Forest personnel, scheduled in the month of January to firm up our trail list and corral projects for 2026.

I think I will take my ponies out for a ride tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Howard Sanders, Service

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/Light on the Land principles.
- TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen organizations.

BCHA members offer time and equipment to government agencies for such tasks as clearing and maintaining trails, building trailhead facilities, packing out trash and other projects which will benefit both horsemen and non-horsemen. A main contribution is to educate people to reduce environmental impact. BCHA has a guidebook available with suggestions and information from commercial outfitters and packers, backpackers, horsemen, professional foresters, resource managers, "Leave no Trace/Light on the Land" and state BCH organizations.

We have a responsibility as stewards to preserve the wealth of our backcountry resources for our children and future generations. With the proper guidance and discretion, back country resources could last forever, but if neglected and misused, they may be only memories in a short time. BCHA is dedicated to future generations so they, too, may find the same peace and beauty we now enjoy in the back country and to the people working diligently to keep it wild.

Credits: BCHA & BCHA Guidebook



“Legacy is not just leaving something good for people,
it’s about leaving something good *in* people.”

~ Unknown

We are proud to announce Howard Sanders as a 2025 recipient of the Dennis Dailey Award. SBCH submitted the following justification for our nomination of Howard:

2025 Dennis Dailey Award Justification for Howard Sanders of Shoshone Back Country Horsemen

The members of the Shoshone Backcountry Horsemen (SBCH) would like to nominate Howard Sanders to receive the 2025 Dennis Dailey Award for his outstanding service.

Howard is a strong advocate, voice and educator for the wise and sustained use of equines in the backcountry. Howard's diligent work with government and private entities has helped ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use and that our public resources are appropriately managed and maintained.

A selfless team player with leadership skills, Howard is quick to point out that he is but one part of SBCH group efforts, and not solely responsible for any achievement. However, he has proven to be instrumental in facilitating the success of many SBCH projects.

Howard became SBCH's Service Chair in 2016 and has served in that position to the present. During his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to secure resources, donations and volunteers to clear over 1,729 miles of trail, build and/or maintain many sets of corrals, feed bunks, hitching rails, parking delineators and fire rings, as well as to help construct a bridge at the Four Bear Trailhead.

To accomplish this, Howard:

- Organizes and coordinates yearly work agreements, projects and activities with the Shoshone National Forest Service (SNFS) and other interested agencies and groups.
- Coordinates with SNFS personnel for annual First Aid training, initial saw certification, and re-certification for SBCH members in accordance with SNFS requirements.
- Encourages and shows appreciation for fellow members, making them feel important, useful and needed. He often provides transportation or a mount to ensure volunteers can participate in projects.
- Organizes and works in virtually every trailhead work project, trail cleaning, and SBCH club activity, including youth, promotional and educational activities. Howard is often the voice for SBCH and its mission and as a result, generates publicity, which helps recruit new members and donations.
- Records numbers of miles of trails cleaned, volunteer work hours, miles traveled, stock use and equipment usage which he reports to the State Back Country Horsemen.
- Visualizes and spearheads long-term improvement of resources for equine use in areas having inadequate or non-existent horse facilities. For instance, Howard:
 - ◇ worked with Shoshone National Forest Service personnel to build:
 - * an additional corral at Pilot Creek in 2020
 - * four new corrals at Cabin Creek in 2021
 - * an additional corral at Dead Indian in 2022
 - * two new corrals at the Middle Fork of the Wood River in 2025
 - * four proposed new corrals on the Beartooths, with construction tentatively planned for 2026
 - ◇ worked with Bighorn National Forest Service personnel to build:
 - * four new corrals at Bucking Mule Falls in 2022
 - * four new corrals at Bald Mountain Campground in 2025
 - * and as a spokesperson for SBCH, is encouraging the creation of more recreational opportunities for horsemen in the northwest area of the Bighorns

The above are just a few examples of Howard Sanders' tireless efforts to promote safe and responsible use of recreational stock in our nation's back country.

His motto is, "Safety first and keep it fun. If it's not fun, we're going home!"

He hasn't gone home yet.

See following page for the conclusion of the DD justification...

Dennis Dailey justification continued ...

Howard Sanders (at left in both photos) and trail crews, still having fun!

With SBCH crew

With SNFS crew & SBCH volunteers



**Congratulations, Howard!
Thank you for your service!**

**7/16-19/25 Bald Mountain
Corral Construction**

Photos by Howard S.

Off to a foggy start



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

~ Unknown



Coming Events

January 15 - 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.

February 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.

From the archives...

Feeding Time is Prime Time with our Animals

by Marty Morris

As the days become shorter and the weather more unpredictable, we spend less and less time with our horses and mules. We need to make sure that the time we do spend with them is productive, even if it is just a few minutes while we feed each day. During feeding, if you socialize and interact with your animals, it will make a big difference in your relationship with them.

Our animals are attentive to each move we make. They naturally communicate through body language. So pay attention to your body language each time you are around your animals; your horses and mules do. Use your body language to improve communication and get a positive response each time you make a request.

Be sure that you are able to send the horse or mule away as well as bring it closer. It is for your safety. I have been kicked more than once when feeding when an animal was close and it thought I was another animal trying to make it give up feed.

Think up some simple activities that you can do in the few minutes you spend with your animals that will improve your relationship and training goals. In everything we do with our animals, try to build softness and have them yield to your moves. Keep trying for lightness and building trust with your horses and mules.

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). *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

“Every life leaves a footprint in the sand of time, but the deepest and most lasting impressions are made by those who live with purpose and passion.”

~ Unknown



NEXT SBCH MEETING:

January 15, 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.**