

February 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...

Greetings,

I don't know about you all, but the older I get, the faster time seems to fly by! Instead of winter, it feels like a foretaste of spring and is nearly as busy.

Our members have been busy making preparations for upcoming activities and projects. No doubt, a few of you have even spent time working with your ponies during the nice weather we've enjoyed.

You'll want to note that SBCH's spring clinics have been scheduled at Ron Ostrom's arena in April. Be sure to sign up early!

Also, Trail Boss, Kandy has lined out Wranglers to lead the preparations for the Rendezvous. Feel free to contact any of them if you'd like to get involved!

A late announcement is our **Saturday, February 7 Get-Together** at the PC Weed & Pest Bldg. We'll feature a **Pot-Luck lunch at 12**, followed by a **30 minute video** regarding bear behavior and how to prevent or handle an encounter. After the video, we'll have **time to socialize and play cards and games**. **Be sure to come! Bring a dish and a game or cards!**

Our next meeting will be February 19 and time for election of officers. Plan to be there.

I look forward to seeing you Saturday, 2/7 for some fun down-time as well as at the meeting 2/19!

Kathi Gimmeson,
SBCH President



Secretary's report by Lydia Yoder...

SBCH Monthly Meeting Minutes 1/15/2026 By Lydia Yoder

Following a potluck dinner, the January 15, 2026 SBCH monthly meeting was called to order by President Kathi Gimmeson at 6:39 pm at the Park Co. Weed & Pest Bldg.

Howard Sanders was honored with the Dennis Daily award. It represents outstanding service and dedication.

Guests & New Members: We had several guests from the Shoshone National Forest Service and welcomed new member, Danny Stewart from Clark.

Wyoming House Representative Rachel Rodriguez-Williams and Jennifer Fernandez, field representative for Senator Lummis were featured guests. Howard gave them a brief history of Shoshone Backcountry Horsemen, from our foundation in 1993 to present. He reported the trailheads at which SBCH has made improvements and installed corrals, the number of miles of trail cleared by the group and listed organizations SBCH has worked with or supported. Mike and Barry stated our mission and purpose, as well as our concerns. Representative Rachel Rodriguez-Williams and Jennifer Fernandez answered questions from the group on the public lands issue. Both women encouraged future conversations on the issue.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's report was printed in the November/December 2025 newsletter. Connie Jack motioned to accept the minutes as printed. Mike Blymyer seconded. MSP

Treasurers report: The Treasurer's report was printed in November/December newsletter. Joe Childers motioned to accept the report as printed. Bob seconded. MSP

New Bills: Cindy Geissler presented Kathi's bills for potluck supplies and printing. She also had a bill from Howard, for shipping saws to Idaho for sharpening. Mike Blymyer motioned to pay the bills. Connie Jack seconded. MSP

Committee Reports:

Watch Dog: Barry reported that the legislature meeting is coming up. Only budget items are on the agenda.

Activities: N/A

Service: Howard Sanders met with Zac at the Powell Tribune to ask for an article on the Rodburners club at Northwest College.

He is meeting with the Forest supervisor about the final design for the Sunlight Ranger Station Corals restoration.

Barry met with the Northwest College president about the Rodburners Club. He recommended they receive more funding from the college.

Education: N/A

Publicity:

Newsletter: N/A

Social Media: N/A

Recruitment & Retention: N/A

WY-BCHA Delegate: N/A

Old Business:

Kandy Christian gave an update on the Rendezvous. Tasks have been delegated. The dates are July 16-19, 2026.

Howard gave an update on the saw raffle. He is getting a deal from White Ink to create colored tickets picturing the saw. It was decided to get 200 tickets and sell them for \$10 each. Details will be worked out in the future.

New Business:

A Nomination Committee was set up including Howard, A'Naka, and Bruce.

Membership dues are due in February.

The next meeting will be February 19th.

Howard Sanders moved to adjourn, Kandy Christian seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM. MSP

MSP= Motion Seconded and Passed

Service by Howard Sanders

We had a meeting on January 26 at the Shoshone Forest Supervisor's Office to finalize the details for making improvements to the Sunlight Ranger Station corrals and pasture entries. This work will take place sometime in the early spring.

The 2026 Cost Share Trails were agreed to at a meeting January 21st. Those trails will be:

West Black Water, Clock Tower, Kitty Creek, Crow Creek, Mormon Creek, Big Creek, Pagoda Creek, Grace Creek, Elk Horn, East Painter, Windy Mountain, Reef Creek, Lodge Pole, Russell Creek, Aspen Creek, and Middle Fork of the Wood River.

July 31-August 2 are the days we will be working on the Big Creek Trail. There are other trail logout and improvements that we may be able to participate in with Shoshone Forest personnel.

Watch for email notices for project scheduling. There should be plenty of opportunities to be involved this coming season.

Respectfully,
Howard Sanders, Service

Howard received the
Dennis Dailey Award plaque
at the January SBCH meeting.
Thanks, Howard, for your
dedication and service!

Photo by Anna Paris



Education by Cathy Ringler & Marty Morris...

SBCH Desensitizing/Spring Tune Up Clinics
April 11-12 and April 25-26
Ron Ostrom Arena, 258 Lane 10, east of Powell
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Space is limited to 10 riders per clinic, so call soon to reserve your spot!
Call Marty Morris at (307) 899-7510 to sign up.

There is a \$25 charge per person to help defray the cost of heating the arena.

Please make checks payable to Ron Ostrom
and mail them to: Marty Morris
112 Davis Draw
Cody, WY 82414



*"Riding a horse is not a gentle hobby, to be picked up and laid down
like a game of Solitaire. It is a grand passion."*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Rowdy Rendezvous by Cathy Ringler

Many of us studied about the great mountain man rendezvous in Wyoming History. However, you might enjoy reading some of fun facts I learned when researching this era for The Shoshone Back Country Horseman's 2026 State Rendezvous.

- The first rendezvous was organized by General William Ashley in July 1825. It was held just north of present-day McKinnon, Wyoming along the Henrys Fork River.
- Only fifteen rendezvous were held. Eleven of the events happened in the southern part of present-day Wyoming. The others were held in present day Utah and Idaho.
- Sites were chosen based on proximity to rivers and enough land to graze thousands of horses.
- As the rendezvous gained traction up to 1000 people attended, including traders, trappers, French Canadians, Scots, Irish, Americans and Native American plus the wives and children of Native Americans. Women and children made up a large part of the attendees. Artists, scientists and tourists attended later gatherings.
- Similar to present-day pop-up stores, trading companies brought in massive mule trains loaded with clothing, saddles, bridles, guns, powder, blankets, whiskey, coffee, scissors, tobacco, sugar, ribbons, buttons, vermillion, hawk bells, beads and various other goods to trade for beaver pelts.
- Rendezvous made economic sense. Instead of trappers traveling a thousand miles to St. Louis, supply wagons came to them. This maximized trapping time and minimized shipping costs.
- Beaver pelts were the primary currency, often referred to as "hairy bank notes."
- Famous attendees included James Beckworth, a freed slave from Virginia. He described the rendezvous in his autobiography:
"Mirth, song, dancing, shooting, trading, running, jumping, singing, racing, target-shooting, yarns, frolic, with all sort of extravagances that white men or Indians could invent were freely indulged in. The unpacking of the medicine water contributed not a little to the heightening of our festivities."
- John Kirk Townsend, a naturalist who passed through the camp in 1834, contracted a fever and was confined to his tent. He wrote about the bedlam in his journal:
"These people, with their obstreperous mirth, their whooping and howling, and quarrelling, added to the mounted Indians, who are constantly dashing into and through our camp, yelling like fiends, the barking and baying of savage wolf-dogs, and incessant cracking of rifles and carbines, render our camp a perfect bedlam."
- By 1840 the beaver were nearly trapped out. Silk hats were replacing beaver hats. If men wanted a fur hat, a less expensive nutria pelt, a large rodent from South America, was used.
- The last rendezvous was held in 1840 in Wyoming's Green River Valley.

Although we can't promise the same excitement of the historic Rocky Mountain Rendezvous, we can guarantee a great event filled with interesting people, beautiful trails, and plenty of fun!

Sources:

Gowan, Fred R. Rocky Mountain Rendezvous: A History of The Fur Trade Rendezvous 1825-1840. Gibbs Smith: Layton, 2005. p 12-20.

Article Title This Frontier Fur Market Was Part Trade Show, Part Wild Party

Author David Kindy

Website Name History

URL <https://www.history.com/articles/rocky-mountain-rendezvous-fur-trade-wild-west-1800s>

Article Title: Road to Rendezvous: The Rocky Mountain Fur Trade in 1834

Author Tom Rea

Website Name WYOHISTOTY.Org

URL <https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/road-rendezvous-rocky-mountain-fur-trade-1834#>

SBCH will host the 2026 WY State Rendezvous at the Sunlight Ranger Station July 16-19

Plan to attend, volunteer and have fun! Wranglers Kandy and Cathy are planning fun games and activities; Monica and Carol are preparing menus for delicious meals, Howard is ramrodding trails and various camping details including mapping out the parking areas, transporting & assembling corral panels and making sure nothing is forgotten; Cindy and Kathi are handling registrations, payments and check-in procedures.

They will all need many helping hands to make light work and lots of laughter.

Lend a hand, take time to relax, have fun and make new friends!

Below are work & play pics from our 2019 Rendezvous... so many ways to be involved & enjoy!



Coming Events

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.

March 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.

April 11-12 - SBCH Desensitizing/Spring Tune Up Clinics, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm,
and Ron Ostrom Arena, 258 Lane 10, Powell. Space is limited to 10 riders per clinic.

April 25 - 26 - Call Marty Morris soon at (307) 899-7510 to reserve your spot!

July 16 -19 - SBCH hosts the State Rendezvous at the Sunlight Ranger Station
Plan to attend, volunteer and have fun!

July 31-August 2 - Big Creek Trail Project



SBCH Membership Dues are due in February!

Thank You to all who have paid your dues!



If you haven't already done so,
please **Do pay your 2026 Dues** and **Don't let your membership lapse!**

A friendly reminder from your Treasurer

Remember to update your Contact Info if anything has changed!

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up,
just as you are doing.” ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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.*



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

"If we always helped one another, no one would need luck." – Sophocles



NEXT SBCH MEETING:
February 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.