



Cloud Peak Back Country Horsemen

Winter 2008

Dwight French, President

Rosemary Carr, Editor

This has been an exciting year for our Chapter of Back Country Horsemen. We successfully sponsored the 2007 Rendezvous, bought our tool trailer, and have any number of enthusiastic new members.

We especially want to recognize Gary Mills for all his work on the Rendezvous, for Gary and Harvey Beattie for getting the Hole in the Wall sign made. Gary & Dwight led the pack in getting the sign installed and we are so glad to have that project done. Larry Durante says he is planning the Hole in the Wall ride this year and many of us are looking forward to that. There is a limit of 20 – so get your names in soon if you are interested. Remember to have your animals and yourselves conditioned for an early ride. Usually in May.

Eph Moore has been working on the tool trailer and we need to schedule a 'sanding day' to get it ready for painting

Gary Mills has agreed to be our new Trail Boss and Marty Casey has agreed to be our Volunteer coordinator. Kandy & Dean did these jobs for many years, but because of job conflicts – cannot do it any more.

We have many projects we are working on and need to get ourselves organized. We are committed to hauling supplies in for the Wyoming Job Corps who will be working on Florence Pass. As most of you know Florence Pass is the main mountain pass across the Bighorns on the Solitude Trail. It has been closed to horsemen for many months because of a large rock slide. At least one pack mule was killed when it cartwheeled off the side of the mountain last fall. Human life could so easily been lost at the same time.

Al Sammons, WYBCH Public Lands Coordinator has arranged for the Wyoming Job Corps to rebuild the trail and they have to have support from us to get the job done. This is an important project and they need us to help out.

Gary, with help from Lee Foran, Dwight and others have more projects planned as well as our traditional Elgin Park trailwork.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Dwight has indicated that he is ready to resign from his lifetime reign as President of Cloud Peak Back Country Horsemen. He has suggested to Lee Foran that it was time for him to take up the post. Other nominations will be taken from the floor.

Jack is ready to give up the Treasury, also. He has held this position for many years -

Without the calendar sales – it isn't that big a job, but it is an important one!

As you can see the opportunities to take an office are wide open!!

FINANCES:

This is our bill for the annual state and national organization. **After we pay the State & National dues – it only leaves us with about \$300.** for our 2008 income.

Dues Breakdown as follows:

Membership Type	<u>Single (1 person)</u>	<u>Family (2 or more persons)</u>
BCHA (National Dues)	\$10.00	\$13.00
WYBCHA (State Dues)	\$1.00	\$2.00
WYBCHA (Delegate Fund)	<u>\$1.00</u>	<u>\$1.00</u>
Total Dues	\$12.00	\$16.00

COMMITTEES

Finances:

Jack Carr, Treasurer:

Dues are due. Some dues are already in – we hope other will come in at the Chili Feed, Tues the 29th. We have been spending more than we are taking in – which means we will have to raise dues or have a fund raising project!!

Public Lands: (Watchdog) Rosemary Carr

ROCK CREEK WILDERNESS: Our group wrote to Senator Enzi asking him to support the Rock Creek Wilderness and to take the lead in shepherding the bill through Congress. Our response from him has been disappointing, but we still hope that he will take up the challenge to get it approved.

FORTIFICATION CREEK: One of the last prairie elk herds is being threatened by coalbed methane development in the Powder River Country. We have been asking members to write to BLM asking them to refrain from allowing drilling in this area.

MOTORIZED USER PROBLEMS:

The Forest Service has been struggling with user conflict problems this past year. Some of the motorized users have become quite aggressive since they have been required to purchase 'stickers'. They also feel they losing access to forest trails. In actuality, the FS has been closing user created trails which aren't and never were legal trails. The closure of the C areas has also caused problems. Elgin Park was the last "C" area in the southern Bighorns where ORV use was allowed everywhere and anywhere. Though most users stayed on trails and caused no damage, some caused major problems in riparian areas and to game habitat.

Change is always difficult for users to accept and for enforcement to take place.

Other Trail projects:

St. Jude's Ride: Gary Benson is working on this one. It will be a great ride, I'm sure, and a great cause, also.

I received a call from the City of Buffalo today and they are trying to decide how to handle the Bill Mentock hiking trail extension to Tie Hack and beyond. Perhaps all the way to Elgin Park. The trail was originally planned to be just a hiking trail, but mountain bikers have been using it and have been causing erosion problems. The biggest question they had is if how mountain bikes and horses can co-exist on trails. I only know from experience that horses can really spook if a biker rides up fast and silently behind them. If the horse sees or hears the biker first – trouble can be averted. I will be attending the trail group board meeting in March to discuss potential problems. Please let me know if you have suggestions or concerns.

Wyoming Wildlife:

Dwight & I have both been contacted to see if CPBCH wants to endorse their letter to Governor Freudenthal thanking him & encouraging to continue support of rational balance between Oil & Gas development and protection of Wildlife habitat. Copies will be available and it will be on the meeting agenda.

STATE TRAILS:

The State Trails Council has agreed to sponsor a Grant Writing Seminar It is tentatively scheduled for May 2 or 3 – in Casper. Probably on the 3rd which is a Sat. I will probably attend, but it would be great for someone else to go also. It will be aimed toward the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants, but will be useful for anyone who applies for grants.

The Volunteer Host program for Horsemen is still being discussed. I think it would be a great program to get involved in. Ask for details

Wyoming State Dep't of State Parks and Cultural Resources Director, Milwood Simpson, attended the Dec. meeting of State Trails Council. He has many interesting ideas for this department. One of his ideas is to develop a

“NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE” program.

The State did a survey of children, even in small towns close to the mountains and found that up to 75% of them had never been to the mountains. Incredible, but true. He hopes to have schools promoting any and all activities to get kids out in the fresh air and doing things.

One last thing. I finished my ArcView project for Craig Cope. It still has a projection and/or datum conflict that I haven't been able to resolve. Hopefully, the FS GIS team can straighten it out. Otherwise, Craig seems pleased with it & I am happy to have it done.

ADD-ON FROM JAN. 29 MEETING:

We have a new President this year:

Marty Casey agreed to take on the job when Dwight said he really would like to not be re-elected. Thanks, Marty

Laura Foran - Secretary.

Shelby Casey volunteered to get Laura's notes into the computer. Thanks, Shelby

Treasurer – Jack Carr – who wasn't successful in getting replaced

Public Lands, Rosemary Carr

Volunteer Coordinators –Marty and Linda Casey

Trail Boss and Volunteer Boss – Gary Mills

State Delegates:

Dwight French, Gary Mills

Alternate State Delegate: Larry Durante

We approved the motion to add our Chapter to the Wyoming Wildlife's letter of support to Gov. Freudenthal.

We voted to do the packing in for the Wyoming Conservation Corps project on Florence Pass.

The next meeting will be in Sheridan at the Carrol Realty Offices: 7:pm Feb 26. Dwight will schedule the program.