



Trail Country News

Spring 2010 Issue

Chairman's Corner

Russell Martin

As most of you know by now, Bob Wagner stepped down as SMMBCH Board Chairman in January. He will still continue to serve as a board member. Bob's involvement with BCH National LNT program and many other commitments was overloading him. I just want to say, you will never find someone with more dedication and knowledge than Bob. He is truly a very dedicated BCH member, LNT Master Stock Trainer and leader. SMMBCH is very lucky to have Bob in whatever role he serves. "Thank You, Bob."

As the newly elected Board chairman, I want to take just a few minutes and look at the future of SMMBCH. It's amazing when you look at the accomplishments we have made in just a few short years. HB 251, the MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with DNR and NFS, as well as the wonderful working relationships with all of the land managers. None of this would have been accomplished without each and every member, and we cannot slow down! We have gained so much but there is still a lot more work to be done. Every day we run into more obstacles that we must overcome, so we must continue to work with our land managers by either attending meetings or pitching in with some good old fashion elbow grease. At the same time lets not forget to have some fun. This whole organization was started with a bunch of "trail riders." So pack a sandwich and take a fun trail ride. Lets enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Keep checking the web site (www.showmebch.org) for upcoming events and dates. We are working on expanding the site so it will be more informative, not only to our members, but anyone looking at our organization.

Each of the SMMBCH board members and I are here to work for you, the members. So please let us know your feelings for the future of SMMBCH. Let us know of problems or issues in your chapter area and we will do what we can to help.

Membership Renewal

If you have not sent in your membership renewal please do so! Our strength is in our numbers! You can print a form from the website www.showmebch.org or contact Janet Karrenbrock for a form. 314-503-5224 or karren-

Chainsaw Certification

A big "Thank You" to the individuals who gave up their weekend to be chainsaw certified. There were ten members present: Larry Dishman, Leroy Raymond, Joe Hamby, Tim Brock, Bob Camaron, James Murrell, David Carling, Donald Ruhland, Greg Cook, Stephen Assenmacher, and Phyllis Henderson.

A total of 1621 miles and 120 hours was given by these members. Once again, "Thank You" for their dedication to SMMBCH. The importance of this certificate is that these members can now help clear trails on any federal or state owned land.



Front Row: David Carling, James Murrell, Stephen Assenmacher, Back Row: Leroy Raymond, Donald Ruhland, Joe Hamby, Bob Camaron, Tim Brock, Phyllis Henderson, Greg Cook, Larry Dishman, Jess

2010 LNT Youth Ride

The 2010 Annual Youth LNT and Horsemanship Ride will soon be upon us. The dates have been set for May 28-29-30th and will be held at the Big Creek Trail Ride facility near Hartshorn, MO. The dates will again be very close to the end of the school year and hopefully will not cause scheduling problems for kids who wish to attend. The dates are almost locked in, as they must follow the ending weekend of the

May 23-29th Big Creek scheduled ride to make sure we have use of the kitchen facilities and other amenities.

Those who attended in 2009 will note differences. The 2009 Youth ride was a test run and much was taken away from it to improve it for this year. While the ages will run from 8 to 18 years of age, there will be different sessions taking place simultaneously based on age and experience levels. Activities for the older youth will concentrate on more of a "hands on" approach and more advanced principles taught by our Leave No Trace (LNT) Master Educators. The younger youth will find more time in the arena with their horses doing more basic and appropriate age and experience level activities. The goal for the entire weekend is to teach the kids the needed skills and knowledge to be safe and responsible riders and protectors of their future riding areas.

Each youth must have a SMMBCH sponsor - an adult that will act as the legal guardian. One does not have to be related but must be able to act as the legal guardian. The sponsor will attend the events with their youth. We must not forget about the trail riding that will take place also. The sponsor must provide a horse that will be trustworthy for both the youth and themselves, both on the trail or in the arena.

If you have a youth you would like to sponsor to attend the 2010 Youth Ride, you should register immediately. There will be a limit on the number of those who will be able to attend. The goal is to have at least 12-15 in each of the two groups. The Education Committee would like to see kids from every Chapter; however, members-at-large are welcome and very much encouraged to participate.

Attendance will be based on having the proper sponsorship and a first come - first serve basis. Once the quota is filled, no more applicants will be accepted. If the quota is not filled, enrollment will end May 21st. The youth meals and stall fee for the weekend will be taken care of by SMMBCH. The sponsor meals, campsite and stall fees will be the

responsibility of the sponsor. Big Creek Trail Ride will offer a reduced rate for the campsite and stalls for the sponsors.

To register or for more detailed information concerning the 2010 Youth LNT and Horsemanship Ride please contact:

Marsha Copeland
417-345-5753 (home #) or 417-838-6762 (cell #)
mcope@centurytel.net



Pictures from last year's Youth Ride.



Winter Work Weekend Accomplished

The Winter Work Weekend that was held on Feb. 27 - 28 to clean up storm damage near Big Creek Trail Ride has been declared a success. On Saturday, there were 26 workers; eight volunteers stayed and continued the work on Sunday. With two days of agreeable weather, many downed trees were cut and removed from several different trails, including the county road to the old cabin (a favorite lunch spot), the trail that leads from the cabin to the school, as well as the area adjacent to the cabin. More than 2400 vehicle miles and over 230 volunteer hours were recorded. Brett Howell says, "We deeply appreciate all the work that was done." As trail riders, we all can express a huge "Thank You" to all the SMMBCH members who gave up their weekend to help out.

Attention Volunteers

What: Back Country Horsemen of America National Board Meeting

When: April 20-24, 2010

Where: Clarion at the Palace, Branson, MO

If you want to volunteer to help Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen showcase Missouri as hosts of the BCHA National Board Meeting, contact Sherry Copeland scopeland@msimo.com with the specific dates (April 20-24) and time (7:30 am - 12 noon or 12 noon to 5:30 pm) you want to help. Opportunities will be available in a variety of areas: registration, auction, BCHA merchandise, administrative and, of course, hospitality. Please contact Sherry ASAP so she can confirm the schedule.

Let's show BCHA our Show-Me hospitality and make this event memorable.

Tri-Lakes Chapter Has New Leadership

Candy Megown

On January 31, the Tri Lakes Chapter of SMMBCH met at their favorite eating hole in Springfield to hold their annual planning meeting and election of officers. With 27 members present there was a lot of “weather” discussion and “boy, am I ready to ride” talk!

Russell Martin opened the meeting with an update from the previous State Board Meeting. He informed us of his new Presidency position, he went over the budget, and discussed the National Board Meeting in April. He also talked about the Annual Meeting last October in Sedalia and asked for Chapter feedback. After favorable discussion, the motion to support returning to Sedalia for our annual meeting was made, seconded and passed.

After discussion of the Slaughterhouse Bill, HB1747 sponsored by Representative Jim Viebrock, the motion was made for our chapter to show individual support by writing or calling our representatives. Russ will take this motion to the State Board to ask their support of the bill at the next Board Meeting.

The Chapter discussed the locations to be adopted this year. We will continue with Highway Cleanup, Lead Mine Conservation Area, Bolivar Landing, Compton Hollow, and Busiek Conservation Area.

Last order of business was election of officers. Leader, John Waitman, Marshfield; Vice, Larry Dishman, Strafford; and Secretary, Candy Megown, Buffalo were elected.

NEMO River Valley Chapter News

NEMO River Valley Chapter held its re-organizational meeting on Feb.13 at the Senior Center in New London, MO, after visiting and a carry-in meal. We were pleased to have Shelly Howald, our Park Ranger in attendance, as our guest.

Officers for 2010 were elected: Trail Master, Mary K Church; Asst. Trail Master, Wayne Lake; Paper Trail Master, Becki Krueger. In addition to usual trail maintenance, several members adopted projects to be completed in small groups, from a list previously provided by COE. Some of these projects are specific to the multi-use trails, and some are in support of the COE Environmental Stewardship project in conjunction with Earth Day and National Public Lands Day. Dates for trail maintenance and campouts were also planned.

Projects that were adopted to be completed in small groups were:

1) assembly and placement of picnic tables at Spalding, Frank

- 2) construction of and setting hitch rail at Lick Creek trail head;
- 3) maintenance of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery;
- 4) relocation of a wet section of trail to more durable surface;
- 5) GPS sites of interest on trails for placement on maps;
- 6) summer mowing around Frank Russell corral;
- 7) painting hitch posts behind Frank Russell corral;
- 8) tree planting at Frank Russell trail head;
- 9) adjusting of corral gates at Frank Russell trail head;
- 10) maintenance of picnic area on Log Cabin Loop; and
- 11) construction of and placement of additional hitch rail at log cabin picnic area.

Chapter campout and work dates were set . See Date to Remember on page 6.

Thanks to all who volunteered to chair or help with the adopted projects. Your commitment is appreciated, knowing that members are busy with family, jobs, and other activities. There are remaining projects that need to be accomplished, and can be completed at member’s convenience. If you were not at the meeting to sign up, but want to get a group together to adopt a project, contact Mary K. @ 573-769-4050 for more information.

We hope to see you at R & R Ranch for our first camp out and maintenance weekend, May 1 and 2. Check out the dates for all work weekends and activities in our NEMO River Valley area, which are posted on the web site calendar. As always, all SMMBCH members are welcomed.

Salt River Expo

NEMO River Valley Chapter will attend Salt River Expo on May 14 to represent SMMBCH and promote LNT awareness at the event. The Mark Twain Lake Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers is pleased to sponsor the event at the Warren G. See South Spillway Recreation Area below the Clarence Cannon Dam, which will be held May 14 -16. The expo will feature displays by many different artisans and re-enactors. There will be many exhibitions of history, artifacts, music and cultural displays of interest to visitors of all ages. On Friday, May 14, area schools are expected to take advantage of this opportunity for a near-by field trip, providing a willing audience for LNT awareness. Last year, students were eager to participate in discussions about their outdoor experiences (aka LNT awareness), view exhibits, and of course, pet the horse.

Indian Trails Chapter

At our November 2009 meeting, Indian Trails selected Chapter officers for the coming year. Allison Schottenhaml will continue as our chapter president, Kathy LaRue will continue as secretary, and Donna Wallace will be our assistant trail boss.

The last weekend in August, six members of the Indian Trails Chapter went to Slabtown campground to help Greg, the campground owner, with clean up of downed trees in the Paddy Creek Wilderness area. Although the weather was excellent, we were not able to accomplish as much as we hoped. No chain saws or power equipment can be used in the wilderness area so we had to rely on hand tools. We learned that large oak trees require really sharp saws and axes powered by lots of muscle. We will be better prepared next time. Greg was very appreciative of our efforts and treated us to a wonderful fish fry after our day of labor.

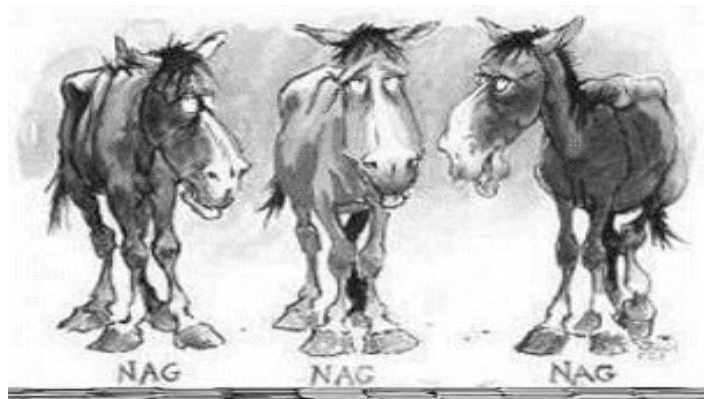
Indian Trails Chapter and the St. Clair, MO., Saddle Club are sponsoring an "Adopt A Highway" project for a section of Highway 44 between the St. Clair exit signs. Our first clean up on October 11, 2009, was a great success even though only 6 people participated; Allison and Jerry Schottenhaml, Cheryl and Gene Atterberry, Bob Hinson and Karen Brown. Twentysix bags of trash were collected. The next highway clean up date is scheduled for March 20, 2010.

Our chapter continues to work with local land managers. In the fall, several members attended a meeting at Robertsville State Park to discuss the possible addition of a five mile horse trail in the park. We were told that the horse trail project is on hold due to lack of funding. We will continue to express our interest in this project.

Indian Trails Chapter has adopted the Meramec CA and Little Indian Creek CA. Allison has been talking with MDC about repairing the badly eroded multiuse trailhead at Meramec CA. MDC has promised to have this done by July 2010. We have scheduled a clean up day and Bar-B-Q at Little Indian Creek on March 20,

Not all our activities have been work related. On December 06, 2009, we joined the St. Clair Saddle Club for a Christmas party, hosted by Gene and Cheryl Atterberry at their beautiful arena. The festivities included great fellowship with horse-minded people, good food, and a visit from Santa. It just doesn't get any better than that.

Service Committee Report



Extreme cold, snow, ice, slush, rain, and wind (did I forget anything?)---the weather has not been conducive for outdoor work, but nevertheless, there are trail warriors out there working, education events happening, and hours to report for the new year.

People hours	122.5
Personal Vehicle Miles	1105
Stock Hauling Miles	500
Heavy equipment Hours	15
Stock Days	6
Donations (gravel, fuel)	\$425
Total Dollar Value	\$5905

I am going to be more diligent to keep track of the public land agencies, as you report your hours. So if you can remember, note on your worksheet or in your email on what type of public land you volunteered and who the land manager is.

Don't forget the annual Ozark National Scenic Riverways clean-up is scheduled at Big Creek, April 9-11. I don't know about you all, but I have had enough winter, am ready to saddle the horse, and pull the trailer out of the shed! As always, ask for help if you need it. Thanks for the work! Mary K. Church; mkchurch@centurylink.net; 573-769-4050

Missouri Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR) Workshop Report

By Allison Schottenhaml

Background: The National Park Service General Management Plan for the ONSR will include four Preliminary Management Alternatives which were initially distributed to the public for review in May 2009. The official comment period on the preliminary alternatives ended September 11, 2009. During this time, the NPS received 5,117 pieces of written correspondence.

A water study completed in 2006 showed that the river way had high counts of coliform and E-Coli. Several environmental groups decided it must be the horses. However, this area is heavily used for many different users: canoeing, kayaking, tubing, rafting, boating, hiking, caving, hunting, fishing and horseback riding. During the comment period for the General Management Plan these groups had posted on their website that “equestrian activity has left substantial adverse impacts on soils, gravel bar texture and cleanliness, and, especially, on water quality. In some places, further asserting that the National Park Service had to post warnings against swimming in the rivers because of heavy loads of horse droppings and urine. They went on to insist that equestrian access to gravel bars and river crossings must be regulated and substantially reduced.

I asked Assistant Superintendent Russ Runge where on the river these signs were and when did they go up. He said the NPS never has had any sign like that up on the river. I then asked him to contact these organizations and kindly ask them to remove this if it is not a fact. He told me the NPS is not in the business of telling people what they can and can not have on their website. The fear factor created by this “propaganda” certainly contributed to the volume of “anti-horse” comments that the Park Service received.

The National Park Service Workshop on February 24 & 25, 2010: The **purpose** of the workshop was to bring together representatives from forty (40) different interest groups for discussion and creative thinking about the park’s potential future management. The workshop’s results, as well as other information, will help the National Park Service as it revises the planning alternatives and selects the agency’s preferred alternative for the Draft General Management Plan and Wilderness Study. No consensus decisions were sought or made at this workshop.

The majority of the interest groups commenting stated that they wanted horses off the river. There was one representative from two commercial equine campgrounds and myself representing Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen the recreational private stock user. I knew I had better Plan ahead and Prepare!! I knew I had to better educate these people on the real facts of horse manure. So, I first called Dennis Dailey and Barry Reiswig for advice on where I could get scientific studies on horse manure. This lead to several long conversation with Dr. Mylon Filkins DVM, then to Dr. Atwill DVM, UC Davis, and then Dr. False DVM at University of Missouri. The Envirohorse website was also a great help. I also studied the USGS water study over and over to better understand the science. I was now prepared to talk about the water studies on a more informed level.

The two issues that the NPS introduced at the workshop were **motorboat use** and **access to the river**. These were chosen because the Park determined that they need more information about our thoughts and ideas, as they consider refining their alternatives. The questions posed by the NPS regarding horses were:

- o Where should they access the river?
- o What limits on horses should be imposed?

Although the NPS provided information to participants on current regulations for motorboats and other uses, none were provided on current regulations for equestrians that were listed in the same compendium of rules and regulations. I had previously emailed the facilitator and asked her to please send out the current rules and regulations on horseback riding to all the stakeholders. When arriving at the workshop and after reviewing the workshop packet we received I noticed the horse regulations were still not included. I went to the facilitator and asked why they were not included; she said she could not find it. I told her I happen to have a copy and ask her to make copies and pass them out to all the stakeholders there. She left and came back in a little while later with copies for everyone and said they had forgotten to include it and wanted everyone to have a copy and thanked me for bringing it to their attention.

We then were broken into four (4) groups of (10) stakeholders, and asked to develop scenarios for motorboat use, access to the river and river crossing for vehicles and horses. The second day of the workshop we were to come together to discuss the benefits and drawbacks to each scenario the various groups came up with.

I was really surprised at the majority of the scenarios that came back saying that horses should use the current designated trail system and designated river crossing and make no changes for horse use. While discussing the benefits and drawbacks of the horse scenarios with the whole group a woman from the Missouri Sierra Club spoke up and said that the drawback to one of the scenario was that

Chapter Leaders

Chapters	Trailmaster	Address	Address	Number	Email
Cuivre River	Janet Karrenbrock	P O Box 217	New Melle, MO 63365	314-503-5224	karrenbrock@centurytel.net
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Mountain Riders	Bob Voyles	1647 New Hope Rd	Fordland, MO 65652	417-767-4681	bobvoyles@pobox.com
Nemo River Valley	Mary K Church	5132 CR 277	Palmyra, MO 63461	573-406-2566	mkchurch@adams.net
River Springs	Keith Temple	H C 89 Box 414	Winona, MO 65588	417-778-7016	kellyhollow@yahoo.com
Tri Lakes	Russell Martin	3948 S 92	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-326-5687	foxtrot40@windstream.net

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