

New Year’s Resolutions that Work

By Tif Rodriguez, BCHA Fundraising Co-Chair



According to *U.S. News & World Report*, the **failure** rate for **New Year’s resolutions** is said to be about 80 percent, and **most** lose their resolve by **mid-February**. Instead of New Year’s resolutions that are easily forgotten or broken, commit to a resolution that really works and will last past February. Here are a few ideas to support BCHA in 2020:

- Set up a recurring monthly donation.
- Encourage a friend or family member to make a recurring or one-time donation.
- For birthdays this year, sign up a friend, donate on their behalf or gift them a membership.

- Check with your employer – many companies offer an employee match. If you donate this year and submit an employer match request, that means whatever you donate is doubled.
  - Create a Facebook fundraiser for your own birthday. This is a popular one and it costs nothing. Ask your friends and followers to donate to BCHA for your birthday in lieu of gifts. It’s so easy and 100% of all donations made on Facebook go to BCHA.
  - Visit our website and check out our branded merchandise. They make great gifts for family, friends, and folks in your chapters that have gone above and beyond.
- Just in case you need a reminder

how your donations work for you all year long, here you go. If you’ve been following our social media posts on Facebook and Instagram, you know BCHA does a lot. We have active committees supporting your state and local chapters. We provide boots-on-the-ground training and administrative work. Your national organization support your local advocacy for trails and represents you in Washington.

Many of our members are out enjoying our trails with their families, teaching the next generation what it means to maintain our access to **OUR** public lands. It’s a pretty good wager to say Back Country Horsemen helped to clear that trail. You also have assurance

that trail is going to stay open for future generations. Our collective impact as an organization is tremendous.

Continuing the work we do is vital to our long-term goals and mission, but keeping the doors open and the lights on is a constant demand. Visit the [BCHA.org](http://BCHA.org) website and donate today.

As you plan for riding and exploring our trails in the new year ahead, my **strong** suggestion is to set up a monthly donation. When you sign up for a monthly donation with your credit card, it’s automatically deducted each month. You don’t need to think about it until your card needs to be renewed. If you donate a minimum of \$20 a month every month, you can use our trails and

[continued on page 2]



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# Economic Benefits of Trails from *American Trails*

By Mike McGlenn

In case you missed it, *American Trails* had a nice article on the economic and health benefits of trails and being outdoors. Author Stuart Macdonald quoted highlights from a 2011 Department of the Interior study that showed trail visits provided over 388,000 jobs and more than \$44 billion in economic activity nationwide. Macdonald also pointed to some public health studies that explored the link between trail use and direct medical benefits (e.g., more physical activity leading to fewer medical costs). Of particular interest to BCH members, the author cited a 2009 study in Minnesota

## Leaving Your Personal Legacy

By Ginny Grulke

You’ve gotten this advice from friends, from financial advisors, and maybe even from your spouse or family members: GET YOUR ESTATE IN ORDER! In other words, contact an attorney and write a will. Have you done it yet? Wills are not just for the rich. If you want to make the decisions about who gets your money, property, and personal belongings, then a will is a must. Otherwise the courts will make decisions on your behalf – and they don’t know much about making sure younger generations can enjoy our trails.

If you haven’t looked at your will in a while, it might be time to do so. Things change. If you’re drawing up a new will or reviewing an existing one, consider a bequest to the BCHA Legacy Fund. Part of ensuring the next generations can ride our trails is to make sure that BCHA is financially healthy in the future. The values of BCHA are your values. The BCHA membership is like an extended family with a unified goal. We all believe in working hard to keep what we treasure. We believe in boots-on-the-ground, as well as strong land manager relationships. You also know our future success requires BCHA to have a firm, informed, continuous national voice with public officials, lawmakers, and land managers — now and in the future.

Through your will, you can help BCHA stay strong. Providing BCHA with financial support in your will is known as a Charitable Bequest. Your bequest can be made in cash, life insurance proceeds, or stocks or bonds. You can specify your Bequest as an exact amount, a percentage of your estate, or

that showed the economic benefits of “horseback riding activity...purchases of new equipment and horses, boarding of horses, feeds, veterinary fees, and other maintenance costs.” According to the Minnesota study, horse owners were responsible for 59% of all equipment spending in the state. To see the full article go to <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/evidence-of-many-varieties-of-economic-benefits-linked-to-trails>

a residual value after other needs are met. No transfer is made until after your passing. One hundred percent of the value transferred to the BCHA Legacy Fund is considered a charitable deduction. No taxes are taken out.

Designating BCHA as a recipient builds the BCHA Legacy Fund so that it can meet its mission: “Keeping Trails Open for Future Generations.” The Legacy Fund is similar to a large savings account with strict limitations on withdrawals. The principal may not be withdrawn for any reason. Earned income can be used by BCHA to support important programs. We do not expect to use any of the Legacy income until the balance reaches a value of \$500,000 or more. It is for our future.

For more information, please contact Erica Fearn at 860-586-7540 or [erica@bcha.org](mailto:erica@bcha.org). All inquiries are confidential.



## New Year’s Resolutions that Work

[continued from front page]

feel the pride of your contribution at work. Of course, the monthly subscription can be in any amount you choose. Remember, whatever amount you choose is tax deductible. You can also donate one time via credit card or you can snail mail your donation.

Spread the news, sign up a friend. **How about a challenge for EVERY member to sign up a friend?** Encourage them to give because we help improve their access and opportunities to visit our public lands and walk or ride on the trails.

Thank you to everyone that donated to Giving *Trails*Day – our 2019 social media campaign. There is still time to give. Please consider increasing your usual donation by 20% or signing up for a recurring monthly donation of ***at least*** \$20

to celebrate the new year. Look out 2020 – here we come!

If you need help, let us know. Our organization is only as great as the members who support it. Do you have other great ideas for BCHA’s fundraising? Then, please, sign up for the committee. We’d love to have you.

Thank you for your generosity and for another year of the tremendous work we all do.



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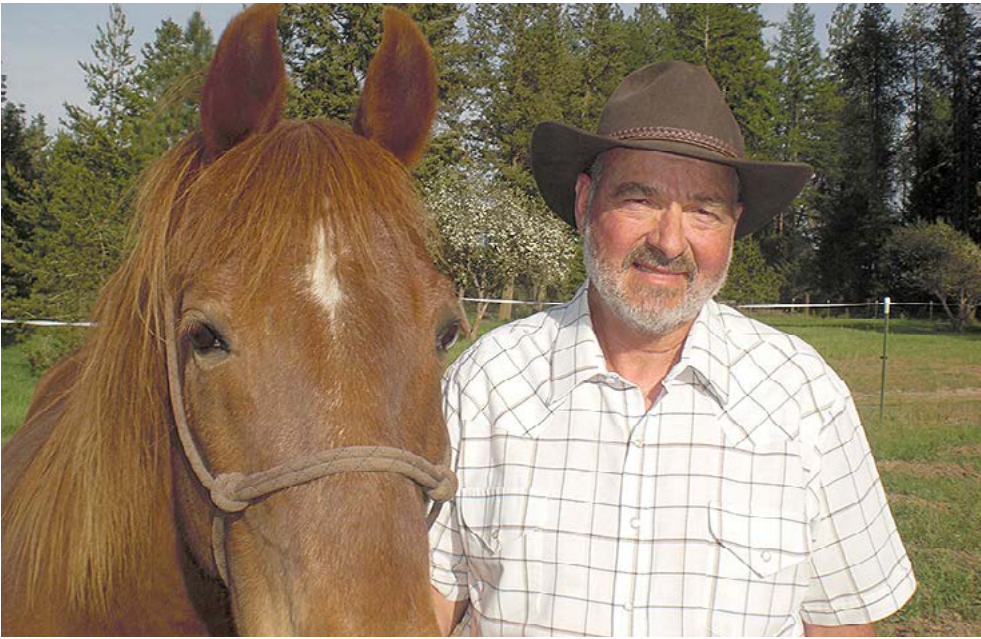
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# View from the Chairman’s Saddle

By Darrell Wallace, BCHA National Chairman

BCHA is a great organization and I’m proud to be national chairman. I wish I wasn’t such a great procrastinator and had finished all the little projects I started or wish I had started. During the winter season, when many of us choose not to ride much, I always find myself hoping to catch up on the dreaded “paperwork.” Well, nowadays it’s really laptop work, but you get the picture. Imagine this old trail bum sitting at a desk with a tall stack in his inbox, staring out at his horse walking around in the snow and wishing he was in the saddle. That’s me.

During Thanksgiving, I started thinking about everything for which I’m grateful. It was easy to come up with quite a list about BCHA. First, I’m grateful for your Vice-Chairman Sherry Copeland and Treasurer Mark Himmel. They have been working hard to get a handle on our finances despite some bookkeeping obstacles. Sherry organized what I think was the first-ever conference call for national directors and planned three more. Mark recently took on leadership of a task force to come up with an investment strategy for our restricted funds. Those are just a few of the important tasks they’ve accomplished. There are a ton of tasks needed to be done each week and neither has ever shirked any of them.

You can be proud of your Executive Committee. I am so thankful for Past Chairmen Freddy Dunn and Mike McGlenn on the EC. Both give us the benefit of their experience, energy, and knowledge. Newcomers to the EC are Tif Rodriguez, Dennis Serpa and Brad Pollman. All have jumped right in, learning as they go. Ginny Grulke, Mark Himmel and Sherry Copeland continue to add so much to the team.

I’m so grateful for our committee chairs Craig Allen (Education), Brian Pierick (Media/Marketing), Don Saner (Public Liaison), Truman Prevatt (Expansion), Tif Rodriguez (Fundraising), Jerry Bentz (Public Lands), Karen Saner (BCHA Grants), and Dennis Serpa (Membership). Over the past year, they have really been working hard on our behalf. I’m also thankful for the committee chairs who are leaving their roles: Ginny Grulke (Fundraising) and Leean Sahagun (Volunteer Hours). I’m pleased to welcome newly-appointed chair Doug Stewart (Volunteer Hours). Doug is already planning his committee’s work! Each of the committee chairs are already planning for the National Board Meeting in April.

Yes, I have a lot to be thankful for as we end this year and start a new decade in 2020. Last and most important on my list of things for which I’m grateful is each and every one of you wonderful members! BCHA members can look back on everything that’s been accomplished and look forward to more good work. Those of us in the leadership in the organization do it all so you can continue to do all you do to keep our trails maintained and accessible. You have my absolute appreciation for your work and support. Not only do you work on local trail projects, but you also have generously responded to the Chairman’s Letter campaign. Your thousands of dollars of donations are already at work to ensure public lands remain open to recreational stock use and for the benefit of all trail users.

Happy Trails!  
Darrell

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# BCHA Mission Statement

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America’s back country and wilderness areas.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. 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.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen’s organizations.

# Thank you to our Advocacy Partners:

- Equine Trail Sports
- Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association
- North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)
- North Carolina Horse Council
- Old Dominion Endurance Rides Inc.
- Pennsylvania Equine Council
- Walkers & Talkers Saddle Club

BCHA Advocacy Partners are organizations, alliances, and coalitions involved in a common goal of Keeping Trails Open. To learn more about your organization becoming an Advocacy Partner email [Partners@bcha.org](mailto:Partners@bcha.org).

# Back Country Horsemen of California - MLU Seeks Youth Packers on College Campus

By Lucy Badenhoop, Mother Lode Unit, BCH California

On Saturday October 19, the University of California at Davis (UCD), Department of Animal Science, hosted their annual “Horse Day” which included a wide variety of equestrian discussion topics and demonstrations. There were multiple choices that included genetics, genomics tools, breeding, diseases, supplements, hoof care, saddle fitting, and much more. The Horse Day event was fortunate to get a clear and sunny day so that a good time was enjoyed by both volunteers and spectators.

In support of this event, the BCHC Mother Lode Unit (MLU) brought one of their “pack-n-go” display booths with Leave No Trace (LNT) handouts for setup in the vendor area and to recruit new BCHC members. MLU packer Andy Assereto demonstrated how to pack your mule correctly and safely

with many tips he learned as a long-time packer for the Rock Creek Pack Station. Mike Kohlbaker assisted Assereto. The shaded bleachers overlooking the arena next to the UCD Horse Barn was the perfect venue to show the various types of pack saddles and panniers. Included were soft and hard panniers, plus specialty panniers such as those for hauling gravel.

The MLU sponsors the UCD student pack teams that compete every year at Bishop Mule Days over Memorial Day weekend. The UCD student packers demonstrated their skills with three teams competing in a scramble. One very green mule entertained the audience by showing all the challenges of capturing, tacking and cargo loading a mule that has not yet learned to co-operate.



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# Rocky Mountain BCH Reopens Two Long-Blocked USFS Trails

By Hillary Leeman, Rocky Mountain BCH, Colorado

Rocky Mountain Back Country Horsemen (RMBCH), established in 1991, was the first chapter in Colorado. RMBCH focuses their trail stewardship on the southern half of the San Isabel National Forest. Specifically, we work in the Sangre de Cristos, which are the southernmost range of the Rocky Mountains. This range boasts some of the most challenging trail riding in Colorado and is an area well-known for its deadfall and wildfires. This area of the Rockies, which was designated a Wilderness area in 1993, is managed by the San Carlos District of the U.S. Forest Service.

The partnership between this ranger district and the chapter was strong for many years, with members consistently getting out to work trails in the back country. Sadly, lapses in membership and MOUs caused the chapter to struggle for many years to complete work projects for the San Carlos rangers. This year, new President Kristin Dorner reopened the lines of communication with the Forest Service. The chapter was designated to clear two badly devastated trails in their region – Macey Lake and North Brush. Both trails can be accessed from different points on the Rainbow Trail, both have roundtrip mileage of over 12 miles, and both follow varied terrain with gorgeous views up to picturesque mountain lakes at elevations above 11,000 feet.

Long-time members were inspired to go out first thanks to the RMBCH Board’s positive actions, a willingness to “saw logs,” and maybe a bit of nostalgia for their beloved Sangres. Dorner wrote in a spring newsletter to members that “it is absolutely beautiful riding in the San Isabel, so we have challenged ourselves to see [these trails] complete!” Members got off their couches and into the wilderness to scout these beautiful trails, where they found massive amounts of downed trees, scrub oak and young trees growing so wild that they obscured the trails in many places.

A plan of attack was then formed: chainsaw-certified members would go out and clear the “pick-up-sticks” trees that blocked even hikers from advancing up the trail. After that, different officers of the chapter would lead work rides on as many weekends as possible to tackle the overgrowth. In another newsletter, Dorner updated members, “We’ve managed to get out some small work parties here and there to whittle away at it, but let’s get that consolidated effort rolling... get your work gloves, saddle your horse, and let’s do this!”

In less than two months and over



125 hours later, both of the trails are now cleared for hikers and equines to the top! From sawing or moving logs for three full days, or cutting back scrub oak for eight straight hours, to flagging the trail for users and sharing the newly opened trail with friends: chapter members delivered on their promise. RMBCH has restored their relationship with the Forest Service, who have already assigned the chapter two more neglected trails for 2020. Dorner, was re-elected for 2020 and intends to keep the forward momentum by encouraging members to “reach out to the entire horse community in our area for education and trail privileges.” We need to educate trail users; we need to educate ourselves. If we sit idly by, we risk losing our precious back country trails altogether.



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# Mammoth Cave Back Country Horsemen Kentucky Busy Summer Projects

By Brenda Cecil, President, Mammoth Cave BCH, Kentucky

Formed in 2014, Mammoth Cave Back Country Horsemen (MCBCH) continue to work in partnership with Mammoth Cave National Park to preserve, maintain and improve the back country trails. Home to the world's largest known cave system, the park has over 70 miles of surface trails and over 50 miles of forested hill country and river valleys available for horseback riding in south central Kentucky. Reminders of the history of the land prior to the establishment of the park are evident as you ride past old cemeteries and homestead sites. Preservation of the cave, land, history and artifacts is a key mission of the park and Mammoth Cave Back Country Horsemen are glad to do their part.

During the summer of 2019, MCBCH were involved in two significant projects. The park offered scholarship opportunities to MCBCH members to attend a four-day Trail Master Certification Course presented by Trail Design Specialist. MCBCH members attending included Brenda Cecil, Kevin Davis, and Anna Crabtree. Other attendees included Mike Bossert from Fort Harrod BCH and members from a local mountain biking association and the park trail crew. The course focused on trail design, trail construction and trail maintenance which involved classroom instruction as well as hands-on outdoor application. All attendees successfully completed the course and

worked to rehabilitate a section of a mountain bike trail.

Thanks to funds from a Back Country Horsemen of America grant, the second project involved construction of a bridge over a washed out area on the ever-popular Sal Hollow Trail. Several members of the MCBCH worked with Troy Bradshaw, the park's trail coordinator, and a group of young people from the AmeriCorps NCC to construct a 16-foot by 6-foot wide bridge. Fortunately, park staff managed to get the building supplies (including the heavy 6 x 6 treated posts) to the site prior to the scheduled work day. Members hiked one mile to the worksite. After eight hours of trail leveling, heavy lifting and precise measuring, we constructed a very sturdy and safe crossing with a headwall to prevent erosion and a rock retaining wall built and designed by the AmeriCorps NCC group. The total cost of the bridge was \$650 with \$500 coming from grant funds and \$150 from MCBCH. Members of the AmeriCorps NCC group were presented with a \$50 gift card to help with groceries during their two-month assignment at the park assisting with trail maintenance.

Future projects for 2020 include an additional bridge construction located at the one-and-a-half mile marker of the Sal Hollow Trail to prevent erosion and provide a safe crossing for horse and rider.



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Spring Sponsorship Deadline:  
March 5th, 2020

## BCHA Newsletter Media Kit

Our BCHA newsletter is read by passionate trail riders, saddle and pack stock owners, avid back country packers and others who have an investment in saddle and pack stock and public land management. We serve over 13,000 members nationwide who belong to 194 active chapters/units and affiliates in 31 states. Our mailing list includes members, public land agency personnel (Forest Service, BLM, National Parks, state land agencies), elected officials, advertisers, other trail and horse organizations. Visit [www.bcha.org](http://www.bcha.org) for more information on BCHA.

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# Kendrick Mountain Arizona: Lookout Work

By Leean Sahagun, BCH of Central Arizona

A group of dedicated Back Country Horsemen (and women) from our Central Arizona chapter made several trips to the Kendrick Mountain Fire Lookout Tower this past Summer and Fall.

Kendrick Mountain Wilderness encompasses Kendrick Peak, one of the many peaks of the vast San Francisco mountain volcanic field located on the Coconino Plateau in North Central Arizona. Reaching an elevation of 10,418 feet, the summit affords excellent views of the surrounding plateau – the San Francisco Peaks to the east, the distant red rock of the Oak Creek/Sycamore Canyon country and Sitgreaves and Bill Williams Mountains to the south, Red Butte and distant views of the north rim of the Grand Canyon to the north. A fire lookout was first established on the summit in the early 1900's, and continues to be staffed to this day.

On June 4 and 5, Paul Gullickson, and Paul Haese and four mules packed in paint, painting supplies, paper products, three 75-pound bottles of propane and 12 five-gallon jugs of water (60 gallons = 480 lbs). On September 16, they drove up to Kendrick Mountain as a support team for an ACE crew (American Conservation Experience) who were doing trail maintenance off the backside of Kendrick Mountain. They packed in water on September 17. Gullickson and Haese were met by Charlotte Foss and Carolyn Lee with one pack horse. On September 18, they packed water in again, this time with the help of Charlotte Foss and Amy Jo Shoemaker. Total water packed in was 190 gallons of water or 1520 lbs.

On October 31, Gullickson and Haese again supported an ACE crew by packing water and food up the mountain. Packing in 80 pounds of food, tent, propane heaters, tools and 50 gallons



(400 pounds) of water. It was 8 degrees when they left home, and 25 degrees at trailhead.

Kudos to the dedication and commitment these members have shown to support this critical resource to our forest and wilderness area.



## BCH California-MLU Sponsors BSA Troop 186 on the Pony Express Trail

By Lucy Badenhop, Mother Lode Unit, BCH California

In 2018, volunteers restored the Pony Express (XP) Corral Trailhead by grading the site to correct drainage and erosion issues; then installed compacted gravel. The gravel was purchased with a grant from National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and donations from Back Country Horsemen of California Mother Lode Unit (MLU) and the Pony Express Association California Division.

In 2019, a contractor installed the 15-foot asphalt swale at the entrance on Wrights Road to remove the last impediment to street vehicles accessing the trailhead over the heavily eroded drainage ditch. MLU obtained a grant from Bass Pro Shops that paid for the asphalt entry and a portion of the gravel driveway.

Providing hardened surfaces of gravel in the trailhead and asphalt at the entry significantly improved public access to the XP Trail in two ways. First, street vehicles are now able to access the trailhead, which is adjacent to the XP Trail. Second, volunteer work parties have a staging area for trail maintenance.

One of the most active volunteer groups on the XP Trail is BSA Troop 186 from Elk Grove, Calif. The 20

members of the troop adopted 11 miles of the XP Trail in 2018 and use the trailhead to conduct a spring work party for pruning and a fall work party for cleaning the many culverts. They also assisted in trailhead construction by placing rip rap (cobblestones) to control erosion at six locations, three of which protect the seasonal creek. MLU purchased tools for the scouts to perform these trail maintenance activities.

As a result of having access to the trailhead and the XP Trail, BSA Troop 186 simultaneously benefited the general public with 11 miles of improved trail for hiking or riding and empowered their own scouts to earn BSA merit badges, fulfill rank requirements, and earn rank advancements.

Every one of the 20 scouts fulfilled rank requirements for trail maintenance, conservation, and public service resulting in a dozen rank advancements from hundreds of man-hours of Scout service. Additionally, as a direct result of work on the trail, five Scouts advanced to Life Rank (the second-highest rank in Scouting), and four advanced to Eagle Rank (the highest rank in Scouting). The 2018-2019 seasons were very productive for BSA Troop 186.



Eagle Scouts

One of the Eagle Projects resulted in a digital map of their 11 miles of the XP Trail for the US Forest Service to develop a Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG). The United States Forest Service will add driving directions and narratives describing the scenic points along the trail. ROG's are handed out to trail users who stop at the various ranger stations. This ROG is planned to be ready for spring 2020.



# Buffalo River BCH Arkansas Silver Celebration Ride Third Time *Was Charmed*

By Nancy Deisch, Buffalo River BCH, Arkansas

The Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen finished their third Buffalo River ride and clean up on October 17, 2019. The first one in 2013 was to commemorate Buffalo National River Park's 40th anniversary, the second in 2016 was to celebrate 100 years of national parks, and this one was the silver (25th) anniversary of the Buffalo River BCHA. It took a year of planning and work to pull it off again, but it was worth every second spent in preparation. The all-member rides have also been river clean-ups with bags of garbage too numerous to count being removed from the trails.

With all the rain in the spring and all the heat in the summer, getting 140+ trail miles in shape took some real work. The river was divided into 11 segments (one for each night on the trail). Each segment was claimed by a trail volunteer or two who would guide the riders and who would also make sure that the section was safe and rideable. Twenty-five Buffalo River BCHA members signed up to go and most rode several days of the ride. Nine made all twelve days. The first day was perhaps the biggest challenge as it rained 4-5" that day and night making for the second day's challenge – crossing a fast-flowing-rising river several times.

We were entertained by talented musicians two different nights. We were fed extraordinary meals each evening (and some mornings) by volunteers who delivered to our campsites. Our gear was loaded, unloaded, and hauled each day to our camping areas by members who also rode (when he/she was not driving) and others who did the loading before and after riding all day.

It was certainly an enterprise that could only have happened with the hard work of many. Putting up and taking down tents each day was a chore many of us thought we left behind years ago

The Buffalo River National Park refused to allow any special permits for crossing some park areas or camping on park lands as on the previous two river rides, so we were forced out of our comfort zones. We were still allowed to camp in the three designated primitive horse camps. Most nights were spent on private land, and different trails were used to traverse the river. Our new route opened up different vistas in many places, so we were quite happy with the way it turned out.

At the end of our ride, we were welcomed with a wonderful meal and lots of hospitality by Wayne and Karen Johnson, the owners of a new horse camp: Saddle Valley Ranch Horse and RV Camp at Advance, Ark. The Johnsons are working hard to establish a horse camp with many new and fun offerings, and even though they are not quite through with all their plans, we were treated like royalty and did not miss a single amenity.

A ride like this is special for so many reasons; it is hard to express or convey the beauty of the trails, the camaraderie of the riders, the shared joys and challenges, and the feeling of awe that such a wonderful experience could happen to each of us. We are especially thankful that each human and equine participant came home safely.

Who knows what three years will bring? Perhaps another river ride in 2022?



Photos top to bottom:  
Musicians Joe Golden and Richard Roberts.  
Heart of the Ozarks at Wolf Knob.

Photos top to bottom:  
10th day on the trail getting ready to head out to the "Duck Head"--part of the group--Ron Raugh, Nancy Deisch, Terry Bell, Kathy Henson, Jeff Blake, Karen Waite, Carol Bitting, Jacci Perry, Jacque Alexander. We were holding up 10 fingers to show what day it was--after one gets home, sometimes it is hard to remember which day is which!  
  
We even had a little cowboy poetry from Max Ryan. Enjoying every word was Evelyn Mills, Kathy Henson, Bonnie Shepard, Jacci Perry, Max, Karen Waite, Ricky Horton, and Carol Bitting.  
  
Our last gathering for a while--(standing l-r) Nancy Deisch, Larkin Floyd, Ginger Charles, B Gierman, Max Ryan, Jacci Perry, Evelyn Mills, Pam Floyd, Carol Bitting, Peter Deisch, Ricky Horton, Terry Bell, Ron Raugh. Kneeling or seated--Ted Spears, Elaine Appel, Kathy Henson, Bobby and Jacque Alexander, Donna Blake, Bonnie Shepard, Mike McGee, and Jeff Blake.





# Mesa Verde BCH Preserving a Bit of History - Update!

By Tif Rodriguez, Mesa Verde Colorado BCH, Public Lands Chair

I have an exciting bit of news to share. Please take a look at the BCHA winter newsletter of January 2019, BCHA-winter-01-2019-web-version, particularly page 6. Our local Forest Service, Dolores Public Lands Office, San Juan National Forest, got the grant! They were awarded \$20,000 through the National Forest Systems Trails Stewardship Act. Mesa Verde BCH (MVBCH) wrote a letter of support and pledged time, energy and sweat to the project, not to mention a commitment to help preserve and keep the site in order!

The Forest Service wasted no time. Demo of the old aspen log corrals started and, before we knew it, the new corrals were up. The new corrals are a bit smaller than what was there, but there are more and they are extremely safe and sturdy. The Forest Service also installed a hitching rail and a stock tank. With four corrals in the front and one large turnout area in the back, horses have plenty of room to roam in their new digs. The corrals can be easily opened up for ease of maintenance. With shrinking budgets and volunteer numbers, this will make preservation of this site easier. MVBCH, is discussing a formal adoption agreement. Signs can

go up advertising our efforts and partnership with the Forest Service, translating to free advertising for the wonderful organization that is Back Coun-

try Horsemen of America! Coming to Southwest Colorado? Contact me and I can get you information. The network of trails here and the scenery are truly

breathtaking. And with five dedicated horse trailer sites, there's room to stretch out and get comfortable. See you on the trail!

