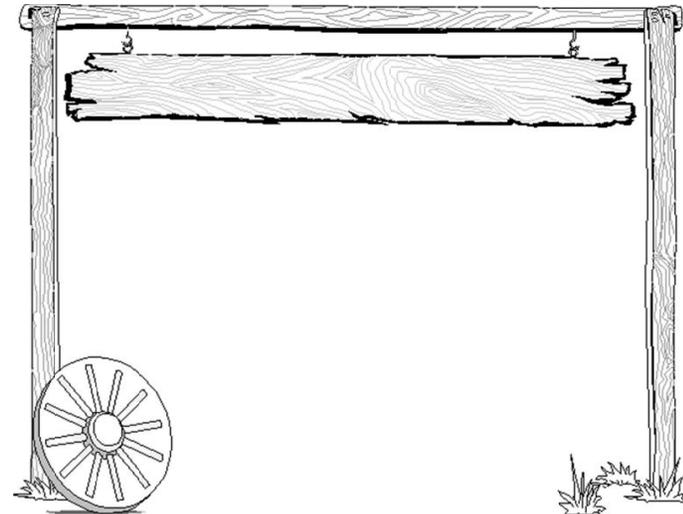


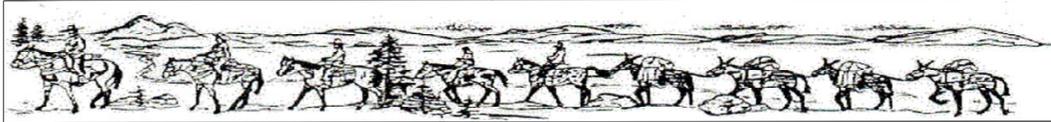


High Desert Trail Riders
Back Country Horsemen
PO Box 1858
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

“Back Country Horsemen” does not mean that all our members have to be back country packers. Although we have a number of members who pack with horses and mules, it is a matter of fact that most of our members do not pack, but are day riders who either camp at the trailhead or drive in for a day ride. Back country packers, front country riders, or any horse enthusiast who agrees that public lands should remain open to the recreational use of stock are welcome in our organization.



High Desert Trail Dust



High Desert Trail Riders Back Country Horsemen ** PO Box 1858 Klamath Falls, OR 97602

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March

Prez Sez

It is nice to have a real winter again and see the snow falling but I'm ready for Spring. I think we're going to have a Spring, sometime... The calendar say so anyway. Snow again today as I write this.

I think we're off to a good start this year. Dr. Jon Goodell is such a good speaker and gave us an informative talk on dental health and aging horses with their teeth. If you have a topic you'd like to have a speaker talk about let me know. This last talk was from a request.

We had our first training session for those interested in learning to pack or camp with their horses. There was a good turnout and we covered packing equipment, saddle fit and adjustment, and packed and balanced panniers. The next sessions will be March 24, 27 and April 1.

April 1st will be our Spring Tune Up at Klamath Equestrian Center where we will put all the packing skills together with everyone bringing their animals and equipment. There will be riding in the arenas available and Jim Collins will be heading up the Dutch oven instruction class. Should be a full day. Pray for good weather!

Carole will be teaching First Aid and CPR the end of the month so all people involved in chainsaw trail clearing need to see if they are still certified for this year or whether they need to take the class again. I'm sure she will have an article covering this.

We're gearing up for the Horse Packing and Wilderness Skills Expo the first weekend in May. This is a fun filled weekend for everyone. For you new folks, come get involved. That is how we make our friendships. Just ask what you can do and someone will help you get going. It will be fun this year for those who wear a Fitbit tracker so see how many miles we walk!

Come on Spring.....



Notes from the Editor

With so many things to be done and with winter lingering on as it is want to do in Oregon, Spring is coming eventually. And as usual, Facebook is full of comments regarding the snow, sun, snow, clouds, rain and such. But this is typical Oregon.

But the promise of Spring is out there at least in the lower elevations. So, with that said, it is time to prepare for the summer with the various training that HDTRBCH makes available for it's members.

Please check out the calendar on pages 10 and 11 for upcoming training sessions.

Last issue, I wrote about the possibility of having a photo contest. I still think this is a good idea for our chapter. The board has not approved a budget for prizes, but if they do not, there will be certificates issued as prizes. Check out the next page for rules.



2017 HDTRBCH PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Rules:

All photos must be original work by member who submits the photo and has been taken in 2017.

Entries must be submitted by September 30

Photo must not have been published in any media including our Trail Dust or Facebook.

Photos must be submitted to the editor of the Trail Dust by the photographer and she will record the pictures and number them and submit them to the judging committee with out the owners name on them. There can only be one entry per category by the photographer.

Categories will be as follows:

Equine photos

Nature \landscape \ flowers Photos

Pack Clinic Photos

Work Party \ Chapter activity Photos

I am hoping the board will authorize some funding for prizes, otherwise it will just be for the honor and the awarding of certificates.

Tips for taking better Photos

By Dave Van Scoyc

Here are some of my ideas to make your photographs better. If you have other ideas, please submit them or let me know. Also, these tips are in no particular order.

First and I repeat - Delete lousy photos. Look at your pictures critically and delete some, maybe lots. If you have many photos that are almost the same, just save ONE good one. Especially if you are posting on Facebook.

I commonly under expose one stop. That way you are guaranteed to get the detail. Over exposed photos are too bright and eliminate details. Check your manual – it's easy.

Use simple photo enhancement programs. Some are free. Auto enhance is pretty good. I use brightness and contrast tools fairly often. Nothing fancy. I also use the cropping tool to simplify and eliminate unwanted portions of the photo.

Flash is very effective if your subject is in the foreground, fairly close and in the shade (flowers, people, etc.). The flash will light up the subject and the background will still be exposed properly.

Carry extra batteries, especially if it is cold.

BTW – I have an inexpensive Kodak, 12 Megapixel, waterproof camera. It fits in my pocket so it is handy. I have a fancier camera with an 18x optical zoom (digital zoom is just cropping the photo and losing much of the data or pixels). I don't often use that camera because it is bulky and much more cumbersome. Most smart phones take good pictures too.

You can always break the rules.

Dave VS – dvs@cot.net

and take more photos.

Saddle and Tack Care

By Carole Hopkjins

I am no saddle care expert, but there is a lot of good info on the internet, so since we are having a speaker on saddle care soon, and I needed to fill space on this newsletter, I found some info that is worth sharing. Of course, none of us are new to saddle cleaning and each has found what works for them, but the thing that came up in every article I looked at was the basic starting point to caring for your tack is cleaning it. Whether you use saddle soap, glycerin, or some other magic elixir cleaning your tack after each use is essential. Dust it off, and wipe it down with a damp cloth. Dirt and dust are enemies of your leather and that leather comes at a high price these days so we need to care for it properly.

One other thing I found of interest, was that back in the day, I was told not to use Neats Foot oil because it would rot the stitches on your tack. Not so, says one web page, now stitching is made of synthetic material and will not rot.

That said, at that time a Tex Tan Saddle rep who spoke to our class, recommended an English product called Ko-cho-lin. I tried it and then found that the U.S. Navy used it on the leather on Diving Suits, which of course were in salt water much of the time . I still use it.



HDTRBCH 1917 Schedule

General Meetings are held the second (2) Tuesday of each month except in December. General Meetings are held at Elmer's Restaurant on South 6th Street. Board Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at Mazatlan Restaurant Washburn. Pack Expo meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of the month except in February, March and April when they are more frequent and they are held at Roosters on South 6th St.

March

24	Packing Training	Applebakers	Betty Applebaker
25	Trailer Training	Klamath Fairgrounds	Matt Watkins
29-30	First Aid/CPR	USFS Office	Carole Hopkins

April

1	Spring Tune Up	Klamath Equestrian Ctr	Betty Applebaker
21-22	Saw Certification	TBA	Dan Applebaker

May

2-4	Pack Expo Set Up	Klamath Fairgrounds	Ken Gudgeon
5-7	Horse Packing Expo	Klamath Fairgrounds	Maria Meister
26-29	Campout/Ride	Sun Pass	Jim Collins

June

9-11	PCTA Skills College	Hyatt Lake	Lona Phipps
12-16	Bridge Project	Cherry Creek TRHD	Jim Icenbice
17-18	Campout/Ride	Williamson River	Jim Collins
24	Trail Clearing Project	Rye Spur	Jim Icenbice
25	Trail Ride or Rye Spur	4 Mile Horse Camp	Ken Clegg

July

1	Trail Ride	Price's- Sprague Rvr	Deb Price
8	Fish Packing	Gearhart Blue Lake	Jim Icenbice
10-14	Bridge Project	Cherry Creek TRHD	Jim Icenbice
15	Trail Clearing Project	Rodman TRD, Yamsay	Dan Applebaker
21-23	Pack Trip	Yamsay Mtn	
28-30	Campout/Ride	North Coast CA	Deb Price

August

7	Pack Support in	Mountain Lakes	Jim Icenbice
11	Pack Support out	Mountain Lakes	Jim Icenbice
19-20	Trail Project	Demming Creek	Lona Phipps
21	Pack Support in	Sky Lakes	Jim Icenbice
22	Pack Expo Meeting	Red Rooster	Maria Meister
25	Pack Support out	Sky Lakes	Jim Icenbice

September

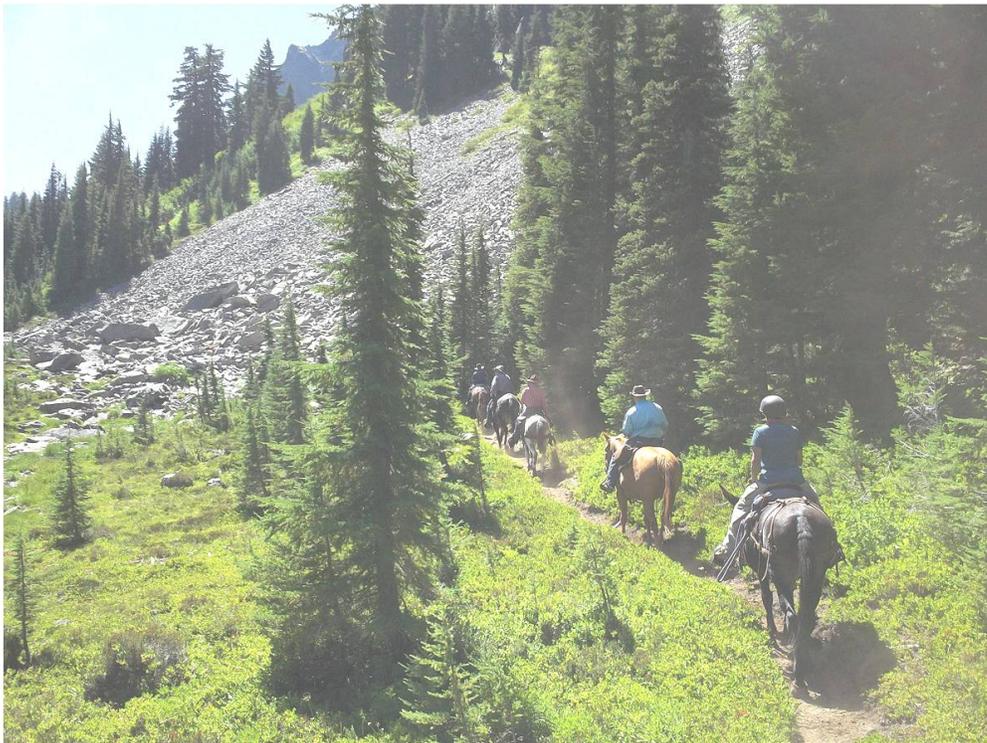
1-4	Campout/Ride	3 Sisters-3 Creeks Lk	Victoria Trees
7-10	Pack Trip	Marble Mtns	Betty Applebaker
11	Pack Support in	Gearhart-Demming	Jim Icenbice
15	Pack Support out	Gearhart Demming	Jim Icenbice
25	Pack Support in	Sky Lakes	Jim Icenbice
29	Pack Support out	Sky Lakes	Jim Icenbice

October

November

December

16	Year End Meeting	Shasta Grange	Carole Hopkins
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Jim Icenbice and Liz Warren on the Cross Cut Saw

American Red Cross
First Aid and CPR Classes
March 29 and 30
USFS office on Daliah St.
5:30 pm—done

If you wish to buy a book, it will cost \$10.00
You may use a chapter book, but it must be returned.



American
Red Cross

Basic Pack



Once again, Betty Applebaker, Our President, and retired Forest Service Packer has gifted us with her knowledge regarding packing our horses and mules. This session, she went over the types of pack saddles as well as how to get a proper saddle fit on your animal, so you do not end up soring them on a trip. In the barn, using one of her and Dan's mule, she went over the types of pack saddles, and the parts of a pack saddle.

Training



In the tack room Betty reviewed the types of panniers and bear boxes for packing food and supplies. Then using typical gear that we pack for the USFS, members practiced loading and balancing the packs which is critical for keeping the loads from shifting and falling off.



We're On The Web! www.hdtrbch.org

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Chairs:				
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The High Desert Trail Riders Back Country Horsemen is dedicated to good horsemanship, good sportsmanship, the promotion of horse trails and trail horse facilities, to provide an active program of recreational riding and adherence to the purpose stated below.

The purpose of the High Desert Trail Riders Back Country Horsemen shall be:

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.

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 use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA.