



Back Country Horsemen Pigeon River & Beyond

www.bchmi.org

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 3

Working to preserve our trails and campgrounds in Michigan

July, 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 17 & 18 * Alpena County Horsemen's Club Open speed show and cowboy challenge 9 a.m. Alpena County Fairgrounds, Saturday proceeds to Bonnie Cornelius Medical Fund - Sunday proceeds to BCH PR&B

September 12 - 22 * BCH PR&B Trail Ride and Campout at Middle Camp, Bay De Noc Trail in Michigan's U.P.

September 14 * BCH PR&B Potluck Dinner at the Middle Camp



February 1, 2014 * BCH PR&B Board Meeting 11 a.m. Outback Room Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare, MI General Membership meeting to follow at 1 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello Back Country Members,
I hope you're having a good riding season and enjoying the trails. We sure did enjoy riding with both BCH PR&B and Shiawassee Trail Riders members at the South Branch Camp in June. There was lots of good riding, good company and good food.

I hope you will be making plans to attend our PR&B summer (late summer) U.P. Campout and trail ride at the Middle Camp on Bay De Noc Trail, September 12 thru 22. Come and stay the whole time, or for just a couple of days. A potluck will be held on Saturday the 14th.

I want to send a special thank-you to each of you who volunteered at one or both of our workbees in the PRCSF this spring. It is amazing what can be accomplished when working as a group. Also a big thanks to all who just carry a pair of hand nippers when riding and doing a little trail trimming as you ride, that helps the trail maintenance in a big way.

*Happy Trails,
Norm Seppi*



CHAINSAW CERTIFICATION CLINIC

Presented by STIHL and Hosted by Harrison Do it Center



We are very proud to report that 41 dedicated folks completed our chainsaw clinic and received their certificates. Several of those folks then volunteered to operate their chainsaws at the workbees that were held in the PRCSF. PR&B received a wonderful letter from Al Sammons, a member of BCHA Wyoming, he said "you (meaning PR&B) certainly set a high standard for the rest of us and what a wonderful example of BCHA to keep our trails open. Compliments to all your people."

ALPENA COUNTY HORSEMEN'S CLUB

OPEN SPEED SHOW AND COWBOY CHALLENGE
NEMAHC POINT APPROVED
ALPENA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, ALPENA, MI
AUGUST 17 & 18, 9:00 AM RAIN OR SHINE
CHAIRPERSON: JACKIE KONECKE 989-356-0071

Please contact Jackie to get your copy of the showbill. If you can, please support this horseshow.

Saturday's show proceeds will help Bonnie Cornelius who is in need of a medical procedure, and Sunday's proceeds will benefit BCH PR&B. Thank You ACHC for your continued generosity and support.



NON PROFIT STATUS

The status of our 501C3 is still pending. The last contact from the IRS was a letter dated January 29th stating we should hear from them in approximately 90 days. Since there had been no news, I called them on June 27th, and was informed they had received our application on Dec. 29th, and they were now working on applications that were received in April. So we wait!!

Marieta Davis, Sec/Treas



VICE- PRESIDENT UPDATE

It's been a busy 4 or 5 months for me; I've attended a variety of DNR-hosted meetings and seminars, including a two-day Friends Workshop at the RAM Center. Connie Kleinhardt also attended for BCH PR&B, along with 16 other equestrian representatives of the 34 total guests. I've talked on the phone with BCHA officers Yvette Rollins, Freddy Dunn, and Rick McLean who recently resigned his position as Executive Director. They have provided me with some great information and reassured me that BCHA fully supports our efforts here in Michigan.

The Friends Workshop is important in the recent change within the DNR where forest camps and disbursed campsites are now part of Parks & Recreation Department (PRD) and subject to those fees, rules, and reservation system. The forest camps are primarily on the shore to shore riding-hiking trail but there are others. Friends Groups are how the DNR wishes to establish working relationships with tax-exempt groups such as those in Parks & Recreation areas throughout the lower part of the state. The key is to be a 501c3 to be eligible for grants. BCH PR&B uses the adopt a park/ campground program for Elk Hill campground which is slightly different. This newsletter does not permit an extensive explanation of the workshop. For more info (if you missed the Summer Meeting) please contact me.

Another item proposed and accepted by the members at the Summer Meeting was to create a \$500 scholarship for someone pursuing a degree or further education in land/resource management, trail conservation, trail building, etc. A committee was formed to create criteria and research this.

In April I was appointed by Senator Mike Green with the concurrence of DNR Director Keith Creagh to chair a committee for researching equestrian trails in the Tuscola & Lapeer county areas. The committee has been formed and notification sent to the appropriate offices, but no formal meeting has been held. Both Senator Green and Director Creagh were presented with BCH PR&B Horsecamp Cookbooks in appreciation for their efforts to meet with equestrians to discuss the issues.

The rules have changed at BCHA regarding state chapters. With these changes, BCH PR&B is now eligible to apply for, and become, a state chapter. It was decided at the Summer Meeting that we would hold off and consider it again at the annual meeting in February 2014.



Gabrielle Hume
VP,



ATTENTION BCH PR&B MEMBERS:
Kris Layman contacted me about a 6ft. gray folding table that was left in the pot-luck area at South Branch Trail Camp.

It does not belong to Shiawassee Trail Riders, so it must be one of ours. If you left it, please contact me.

Thanks, Marieta 517-296-4475

BCH PR&B SUMMER MEETING/CAMPOUT WITH SHIAWASSEE TRAIL RIDERS AT SOUTH BRANCH

The campground was full, the trails were awesome and the company was good. It appeared that a good time was had by all who attended.

Our group had two new members join our group and we had 1 family and 2 single renewals.

The Saturday night pot luck was fantastic, several tables were full of delicious dishes, even including home-made ice cream.



Our group had the summer membership meeting following the pot luck.



We had a few items on a silent auction table and sold raffle tickets on a "one of a kind" stadium blanket sporting our new logo, Gordon Davis' name was drawn as the winner, but he donated it back for another draw, the second name drawn was a happy Niki Cornelius.

There was a horse thief who showed up in camp and somehow found an opportunity to steal Chad's favorite little horse, but after looking several places he finally found her resting in someone's horsetrailer. Both Chad and his favorite little companion were happy to be together again.



Members who had purchased jackets



with the new logo lined up for a picture. Jackets can still be ordered and stitched, call Sandy Seppi for more information.

The campground had some good entertainment too, a cowboy, a horse, a guitar and some good country songs compliments of Jim-Bo. Bunches of thanks!!!



THANK YOU SHIAWASSEE TRAIL RIDERS FOR SHARING THIS WONDERFUL TIME WITH US!!



Leave Only Hoofprints - Take Only Memories

ELK HILL WORKBEE APRIL 2013

It was overwhelming, the wonderful response to our pleas for help, but our friends from across the state came to tackle this monumental task of reclaiming our trails that were damaged-some beyond comprehension by the winter storms! It is our rough estimate that we were able to open up around 60 miles in 3 days! That's a HUGE accomplishment!! Without a special waiver to allow us to use our ATV's to access our trails we would not have been able to have covered so much area in such a short time!! Thank you to Scott Whitcomb, manager of the PRCSF, for making this happen!! We had 15 certified chainsaw operators that were teamed up with 3 to 4 helpers and were given specific areas that they were responsible for. One crew managed to use their charm to lure in a few FISHERMEN to help in clearing a trail to their favorite fishing hole...now that proved to be a true test of TEAMWORK! Including other users groups to get the job done-what a wonderful way to prove that we do care about other friends in the forest. We had a crew working from Stoney Creek south on the Blue Trail while a couple other crews worked it to the north. A total of 31 miles of the Blue Trail were cleared!!



Over 15 different riding groups ARE represented in this picture from all across the state, coming together for a common goal and the love of the area. A great majority of these folks who so graciously volunteered were already members of Back Country Horsemen, if not before the workbee they joined before leaving!! Just to list a few of the riding organizations that were represented with joint membership are: MTRA, ACHC, Shore-To-Shore, Waterloo Horsemen's Club, Tri-Co, Shiawassee Trail Riders, Friends of Fort Custer and Walk-A-Way. A HEARTY thank you to all those who gave so much effort! Even though we were able to accomplish so much, there is still lots more to do and it will be a work in progress to finish as the days and weeks go on throughout the summer riding season. With that in mind, as we ride the PRC this summer don't forget to keep your nippers sharp and packed in your saddle bag as you ride your favorite trail-WE WILL GET IT DONE, one way or the other. Also, a big thank you to all those who furnished food for this weekend...sure was wonderful not to have to worry about where our next meal was coming from! LOL!!!

ELK HILL MINI-WORKBEE MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Over the Memorial Day Weekend 25 people, members of BCH PR&B, Alpena County Horse Club and Elk Hill Trail Riders joined together for a mini work-bee in the Pigeon. They cleaned up areas that did not get completed at the April work-bee. A total of 66 hours of labor was donated that cleared an additional 2 miles of trail. Volunteers brought their horses along for this work-bee and were able to enjoy riding the newly cleared trails.

LEGISLATIVE LIASION REPORT

The most recent meeting of the PRCEC was held in June at the Headquarters of the Pigeon River Country Forest. At that meeting Dick Kleinhardt was elected the committee chairman. He will have a report completed for the October Newsletter. The attendees are gathered on the porch in the picture below.



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**WE HOPE YOU HAD A
WONDERFUL 4TH OF
JULY.**

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

