



Purposes of Back Country Horsemen

TO PERPETUATE The common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.

TO WORK To ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

TO ASSIST the various governments, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

TO EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the backcountry resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

March 2020 Newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/Back-Country-Horsemen-of-North-Georgia-621015811309736/>

www.bchng.org

BCHNG OFFICERS

President: Robert (Bob) Wagner
Vice President: Martha Fillingham*
Secretary: Kathleen Corcoran*
Treasurer: Linda Richards

2020 Board of Directors

Billy Long 706-455-7663
Chuck Panter 706-455-7302
Dewey Campbell 706-271-6097
Henry Wyatt II 423-715-7847
Jeremy Kirby 706-264-4701
Kelly Mathis 706-633-8305
Melinda Wagner 706-455-2921
Molly Ford Campbell 706-889-5555
Sandra Stephenson 706-669-9021

State Directors

*Kathleen Corcoran
*Martha Fillingham 2020 BCHGA

State Officers

State Chairman – Randy Brown
BCHMSGA
Vice Chairman – Kathy Keller
BCHNEGA
Secretary – Kathleen Corcoran
BCHNG
Treasurer – Martha Fillingham
BCHNG

BCHNG MEETINGS

March Board Meeting – **Mar. 31st 2020**

April Board Meeting – **APR. 14 2020**

Location : Fannin County Senior Center 440 W. First St. Blue Ridge GA. 30513 Time; 06:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING

(2nd Quarter)

June 9th 2020

(3rd Quarter)

August 11th 2020

Location : Fannin County Senior Center 6:30pm 440 W. First St. Blue Ridge GA. 30513



***PRESIDENTS
CORNER***

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our February general meeting went a bit south but don't give up. We are looking forward to making these general meetings a reality and pulling our membership closer together. The sharing of trail information, programs and involvement with our Agency personnel will definitely be to our benefit.

Of note this month is our upcoming **COGGINS CLINIC** on March 28th at Uncle B's Feed Store in Fannin County. The Veterinarians and staff from Copper Basin Vet Clinic will also be holding a Rabies Clinic in conjunction with the Coggins clinic.

The trees continue to fall in the Cohutta wilderness so if you are out enjoying a ride, please be careful and let someone know where you intend to ride. Next, report trail hazards so that the trail crews can be informed.

**COTTONWOOD PATCH
REOPENS**

Member ***Justin Patterson*** reports that as of 02/21/2020 the gates have been unlocked and is ready for camping .On 02/23/2020 a scoping trip showed F.S. roads to be in relative fair shape with several areas showing heavy erosion due to recent rains. The facilities at Cottonwood patch are in excellent shape and win the Good housekeeping seal of approval. Kiosks at most trailheads visited are in dire need of cleaning with some needing minor repairs. Again, Cottonwood Patch being the exception Great Job to Forest Service Recreation - ***Alan Orth***

DUES

Dues are due, please Remit to: Linda Richards (Treasure) Application/ Renewal form can be found online at bchng.org. No matter the method of payment, this form must be filled out, signed and sent to the address on the form or turned in to treasure.

****NOTE**** Use Pay Pal for donations ony until we work out electronic signature details



bchninfo@gmail.com

The 2020 National Board Meeting will be held Sunday, April 19-Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Kansas City International Airport, Kansas City, Missouri.

Registration deadline: March 27, 2020. **Click here** to register.

Registration - Non board member registration is \$40 per lunch and \$65 for the banquet.

BCHNW will be the host for the **2020 BCHGA Rendezvous Oct. 23rd-25th** McIntosh Reserve Park on the Chattahoochee River, Whitesburg, Ga

CAMPGROUND WORK DAYS
Work days will begin April 4th 2020 watch the Newsletter and events calendar on the website -www.bchn.org for details.

Trash –JRF

Tommy/Martha	2-Mar
Hanley / Kathleen	9-Mar
Robert /Melinda	16-Mar
Dewey /Molly	23-Mar
Lakota /Kelly	30-Mar

SCHEDULED TRAIL WORKDAYS

Events calendar on the web site.

www.bchn.org

CLASSIFIEDS



We will run ads for members for free in the newsletter, but for others (non-members) there will be a fee. Please submit you're add /payment to:

Robert W. Wagner
horsepacker47@yahoo.com
prior to the 1st of the month.

Full Page \$20/issue or \$200/year
Half Page \$10/issue or \$100/year
Quarter Page or less \$5/issue or \$50/year

LEAVE NO TRACE
PRINCIPLE #1

PLAN AHEAD AND
PREPARE

THE 4 “P”S

PLAN
PREPARE
PROCRASTINATE
PANIC

PLANNING

**“TAKING THE TRIP BEFORE
YOU TAKE THE TRIP”**

Good planning and preparation ensures a safe and enjoyable trip while minimizing damage to the land and its natural resources.

It helps you to avoid unexpected emergency situations as well as reduces the likelihood of the need for a search and rescue team.

Importance of trip planning:

- 1. Know before you go**
- 2. Helps ensure the safety of groups and individuals.**
- 3. Contributes to accomplishing trip goals and having fun.**
- 4. Increases self-confidence and opportunities for learning.**

Considerations when trip planning:

- 1. Identify the goals and expectations of your trip.**
- 2. Identify the skills and ability levels of trip participants.**
- 3. Select destinations and activities to match the group’s goals, skills and abilities.**
- 4. In advance, gain knowledge of the area you plan to visit.**
- 5. Choose the proper equipment and clothing.**



- 6. Evaluate your trip upon return --- Identify needed changes during this evaluation.**

1. Identify the goals of your trip:

What kind of trip are you taking?

Hunting

Fishing

Hiking

Horse trek

What do you want to accomplish on this trip? Pack appropriately.



Example: you are not going to take a fly rod to go on a winter hunting trip.

2. Identify the skills and ability levels of your group.

3. Select destinations and activities to match the group's goals, skills and abilities.

Size of your group is a necessity to know in advance so that you can pick appropriate trails with adequate campsites to accommodate your group.

Remember, group size is now regulated to the number of stock or heartbeats in some cases.

Be very familiar with the skills of your group so that you can choose a destination which will remain within their trail abilities safely. A group is only as strong as the weakest member.

When dealing with equestrian groups, also keep in mind the riding skills which each member of your group has. You do not want to choose a trail with terrain too difficult for your group to traverse safely. As your group gains experience then more difficult trails may be taken.

Plan trip activities

Small groups are better; they have less impact on the environment and cause fewer disturbances to others

Schedule your trips in off season when possible so as to help eliminate heavy traffic on the trails.

Be safe

Be responsible for your safety by practicing

Self-awareness

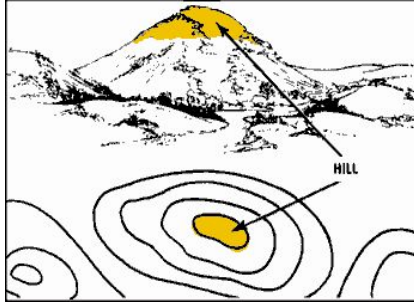
Caution

Good judgment

Plan your trip to match your skills

Be prepared to rescue yourself if the situation arises

Prepare for unexpected problems and plan solutions for same.



4. In advance, gain knowledge of the area you plan to visit.

Acquire maps of the area you will be traveling in.

Topo maps show steep terrain as well as water, canyons, roads, etc.

Topo maps also give you a good idea the terrain you will be traversing.

So that you can pick the trails which best suit your group's skills.

Use all available sources to gain information; the internet, books, and the local conservation office for where you will be traveling and even local land managers when available.

All of the above resources can be used to obtain information such as:

Fire bans

Permits where required if using pack stock as well.

Local weather forecast so that you can pack accordingly

Restrictions and regulations for the area.

If registration is not required with the local ranger's office then always leave information with someone of where you are going and when you will be returning

Always check the weather forecast and take clothes suitable for the season of the year.

Plan your campsites away from ridgetops as this could be a lighting danger or high winds.

Also stay away from flashflood areas.

Both of these can be assessed by using a topo map.

Always pick safe locations away from rugged terrain and where a leave no trace camp will be practical.

Example: Hard durable surfaces away from trails.

Familiarize yourself with your map and compass so that you do not have to leave cairns, mark trees or leave flagging. If in the event you do leave flagging remove it on your way out.

5. Choose the proper equipment and clothing



When choosing equipment and clothing choose wisely. Make a list, use it.

Stoves are preferred over campfires. They leave no impact on the environment and are portable.

Pots, matches, signal mirror, whistle, map, food and water, and a water purification system, emergency heat blanket, proper sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear and first aid kit for you and your horse.

Feed for the horses if grazing is not possible

You will need equipment for high lines, Hobbles and /or electric fences

Be sure when using these that they are constructed in a way that tree damage does not occur. The less restraint used, the less the impact on the land.



Food

When using prepackaged food try it ahead of time so you can see how much it really makes. Just because it says it serves 2 doesn't mean it really does.

Prepare only what will be eat per meal. Burying, burning or dumping food is not an option. This leaves unsightly mess and draws unwanted critters as well.

Prepackage food before leaving to reduce trash carry out and simplify preparation of meals.

Choose lightly do not take heavy cans of food, it is better to go with dried or prepackaged food for the trail. You do not want to have to carry out a bunch of empty cans.

When choosing equipment keep it light for your sake and your horse's sake.

Your pack should not weigh more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of your body weight.

For long difficult trips, a Pack horse /mule should be limited to not more than 1/5 of his body weight as well. (Ex. 1000lb x 1/5 = 200 lbs.)

Know your stock and their level of training

Expose him to hobbles, high lines, etc. before the trip.

Do not wait till the first night at camp 20 miles from the trailer to try and hobble him for the first time.

Do not take an inexperienced equine on difficult trails – work up to them.

Make sure young and inexperienced equine get plenty of training and practice for situations and conditions that they might have to experience on the trail.

There is always a maiden voyage for each animal, but try to minimize system shock to them as much as possible.

Condition yourself as well as your equine for a trip. Walking is a good form of exercise and is easy to do. When you are in good physical shape you are less likely to fatigue, or get injured.

Proper planning ensures:

Low risk adventures because campers obtained information concerning geography, weather and prepared accordingly.

Campsites are well located, safe, and arrival at destination planned to allow ample time to set camp, cook meals and relax.

Your group generates minimal trash because of careful meal planning and food repackaging.

Comfortable and fun camping, hiking, and horse riding experiences because the trip matches the expectations and skill level of the participants.

6. Evaluate the trip when you return home, there is ALWAYS room for improvement.

SAR INSTRUCTORS always tell you.....

**“Fail to prepare, prepare to fail”
(Truer words were never spoken)**

In the Truck / Trailer

Road Map and
Directions
to trailhead
Registration /
Insurance
Coggins Papers /
Health
Papers/Brand
Inspection
Flashlight w/ spare
Batteries
Spare Tire Truck /
Trailer
Jack & Lug Wrench –
Truck/ Trailer
Chock Blocks for
Wheels
Manure Rake / Forks
Manure bucket
Spares
Extra Cinch / Girth
Headstall / Bridle
Reins
Halter and Lead

Tools – Pliers /
Screwdriver
Duct tape
Garbage bags

Tack

Saddle
Bridle
Saddle Pads

Saddle / Pommel Bags
Halter
Hobbles
Breast Collar
Crupper / Breechin'
Cinch / Girth
ID tag

Equine Supplies

Feed – Hay / Grain
Feed and Water
Buckets
Water

Hay Bag
Horse First Aid Kit
Fly Spray
Hoof Pick
Sponge or rag
Grooming Supplies
Hoof Rasp

Personal Supplies

Riding Pants and Jeans
Riding Boots
Socks
Outerwear Jacket /
Sweater
Rain Gear
Undergarments
Extra Set of Keys
Knife
Lip Balm
Hat - Gloves
Helmet
Sun Block
Insect Repellent/First
Aid Kit
Toilet Paper / Wet
Ones
Medications
ID for emergencies

On the Trail

Hoof Pick

Knife / Wire Cutters

Map of the area /

Compass

Water Bottle

Snacks

Saddle Bag / Pommel

Bags

Helmet

Insect Repellent

First Aid Kit

Rain Slicker

Cell Phone/way to call
for help

Rope/ cord for repairs

Lead rope

Sun Block

Camera

Lighter

Flashlight

Camp Equipment

Tent / Hammock

Sleeping bag

Camp Shoes/Mud

Boots

Lantern

Food

Camp Stove

Air mattress

Saw

Camp Chairs

Folding table

Highline gear

COOKS CORNER

Submit your Favorite Camp recipe:
to: horsepacker47@ yahoo.com



Goulash

Ingredients:

2lbs. lean ground beef or venison
2lg. yellow onions, chopped
3 cloves fresh garlic, chopped
3 cups water
2 - 15oz. cans tomato sauce
2 – 15 oz. cans diced tomatoes
2TBS. Italian seasoning
3 bay leaves
3TBS. soy sauce
1TBS seasoned salt
2 cups elbow macaroni, uncooked
1TBS. House Seasoning

Recipe follows:

House Seasoning:

1 cup salt

¼ cup pepper

¼ cup garlic powder

Directions:

In a 12” Dutch oven, sauté the ground beef over medium – high heat until no pink remains. Break up the meat while sautéing. Spoon off any grease. Add the onions and garlic to the pot and sauté until they are tender, about 5minutes. Add 3 cups of water, along with tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, Italian seasoning, bay leaves, soy sauce, House seasoning and seasoned salt. Stir well. Place lid on oven and allow this to cook for 15-20 minutes. NOW add the elbow macaroni, stir well, return the lid to the oven and simmer for about 30 minutes. Remove from heat, remove bay leaves and allow the mixture to sit about 30 minutes more before serving.

SUGGESTION: Serve with Garlic Bread and a fresh garden salad.



