



## President's Letter

10 Tips for Safe Trail Rides excerpt from Google Search

1. Ride in advance. If weather has kept you off your horse for weeks (or even months), don't let a trail ride be your first return to the saddle. Horses learn and remember well, but they do get rusty just as we do when we haven't done something in a while. Get a regular riding routine going to tune up your horse's responses and respectfulness before you go out on the trail, where additional distractions (especially other horses, if you go in a group), will test your control of your mount. (For a good schooling exercise, check out the simple side pass.)

2. Deal with any issues. If, in your pre-trail-season schooling rides, you run into specific problems, deal with them in the arena before you go out on a trail. Is your horse being resistant or bullying you? Take steps to correct his behavior—don't make excuses for him.

3. Practice easy trails. Before you accept that invitation for a group ride in the high country, take a few low-key spins around your own area first, with a single trusted companion or two. Let your horse get used to being next to another horse, in front of him, behind him—and even a few horse-lengths behind him (this is the tough one). Cross water. Step over logs. Go up and down hills. Work out any glitches in a controlled environment before you venture out into unfamiliar territory.

4. Be realistic. Is your horse truly ready for the type of ride you're considering? If not, you're better off staying home and continuing your schooling in the arena and on practice rides until he is. (For fun, try our terrific arena exercises.)

5. Gear up. A breast collar and a back cinch can help prevent saddle slippage that might alarm your horse or unseat you. A well-adjusted running martingale will help keep your reins in place during the odd fractious moment. A mecate-rein setup or a lunge line tucked into your saddle bag can provide a way to work the sillies out should your horse (despite all your prep work? it happens) start to unhinge during the ride.

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## Membership

Please go to [www.pbch.org](http://www.pbch.org) and print out the 2023 membership form and mail in. Please email Bea Christopherson, treasurer [christobea@yahoo.com](mailto:christobea@yahoo.com). You can also sign up at any ride or event throughout the year! Mail to PBCH, P.O. Box 1903, Hayden, ID 83835.

\***Life Flight membership** forms available. Cost for members is \$65 per year. A must-have! Air transport only. Also **Air St. Luke's** has memberships available at \$45/year.

\***Classified Ads:** Please let me know if you have anything you want to sell by the 1st of each month.

## Calendar of Events:

**Saturday, March 25 PBCH monthly meeting.**

Location is the church, 9485 N. Maple St., Hayden. Third Saturday of this month is set aside for the state convention. So our meeting is fourth Saturday now. Socialize at 6:30 p.m. and meeting starts at 7 p.m. Discuss notes from the state convention.

Calendar of events continued page 3

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6. Pick good pals. Ride only with friends who know and practice proper trail manners and can control their own horses.

7. Mind the weather. A calm, sunny day is ideal. Frigid or especially windy weather can make even clam, well-mannered horses flighty. (Cold air is bracing, and wind makes it hard for prey animals to tell where scents are coming from, causing them to feel extra-vulnerable and jittery.)

8. Prep right before the ride. Before you head out, work your horse in a round pen, put him through some groundwork exercises (lunging is ideal), or ride him in an arena to work the fresh out and get him dialed in to you.

9. Then ride. Don't just be a passenger out on the trail. Keep your horse's attention focused on you by asking for small adjustments—speed up a bit here, collect yourself there, side pass to avoid that rock. Keep your connection with him always live and you'll resolve most problems before they start.

10. And breathe! Keep alert, but also stay loose. Don't hang on the reins defensively; that just makes your horse tense. Sit deep in the saddle, shrug your shoulders back, relax your muscles downward, and keep breathing. To ease any nervousness you feel at any point, hum or even talk reassuringly to yourself.

You can find more tips. trail riding safety tips - Google Search

John Galdi, president PBCH chapter

## Riding in Death Valley National Park



**PBCH member Shari Bolander and her daughter Gina recently visited Death Valley National Park. They took a two-hour guided ride into the park. See more photos and read about their horseback trip on page 8.**

## Calendar of Events continued from page 1

### March 17-18 BCHI State convention

Elks Lodge, Salmon, ID. Sponsored by Salmon BCH. See website [www.bchi.org](http://www.bchi.org) for more information and registration form.

**August 13 PBCH** Annual hot dog feed and fun ride at Farragut State Park. Trail boss Julie Volpi.

### Other events

**May 19-21.** Sponsored by Priest River BCH chapter. Upcoming trail clearing that they would like other chapters to participate. Camping available at Reynolds Creek. They will potluck for dinner. Waylon will be doing Chainsaw certification and crosscut for members that need it. PRVBCH president Janna Ostler. Her phone number is 208-627-8893 if you have any questions. She also suggested that 1st aid training can be available for nominal cost through PRVBCH. See attached flyer for this Trail clearing Extravaganza.

**Packing Clinic April 29th** in Athol by Bat Masterson. Sponsored by PRBCH chapter. Must be a BCH member . More information in the April newsletter.

**May 21 Poker Ride.** Riverside State Park. Sponsored by Ponderosa BCH of Washington. Go to [www.pbchw.com](http://www.pbchw.com) for more information.

**Scavenger Hunt September 23rd** at Chipmunk Rapids. More information later. By Priest River BCH.

## PBCH Horsewoman of 2022 Joni Lueck



Joni was chosen because of her work on the newsletter and as website liaison.



## 2023 PBCH Officers

President John Galdi  
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Vice-president Arnie Wilkens  
[Ajwilke@gmail.com](mailto:Ajwilke@gmail.com)

Secretary Julie Volpi  
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Treasurer Bea Christopherson  
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### Board members

Ray Heilman 208-660-2907;  
Jim Kimball 208-772-2434  
Tom Knoll 208-651-4600

\*\*State Board of Directors  
Karen Kimball & alternate Tom Knoll  
Chapter Foundation Dir. Jim Kimball

Facebook Wrangler  
Audra LaBelle  
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Joni Lueck, newsletter editor and  
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Volunteer Hours, education chair  
and past president  
Karen Kimball  
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## Upcoming Events

- PBCH Members Only: Backcountry firearms safety training will be offered to members that are interested in carrying a firearm on horseback. Please contact Tom Knoll or Arnie Wilkens to schedule a class. Time TBD.
- Trail Plant Identification Event: PBCH is planning to host a trail plant identification walk around that will be open to the public at English Point Time TBD

## Attention Members

- **2023 State Convention March 17-18 photo contest.** Photo Categories: Seasons, River, Water and Bridge scenes, Work Project, Ride Scenes, Thru the ears of horse or mule, and Scenery.  
To all PBCH members. Karen Kimball and Tom Knoll are requesting club photographs to submit at the **State Convention “PHOTO CONTEST”**. Tom will Register the photograph Friday or Saturday morning by 9:00 am at the Registration Desk. Attach your name, address, club name, and category to the back of the photo. No frames please.  
The photo contest consists of the following categories: Animals in the Backcountry – wildlife, horses, mules, bugs, etc. Backcountry Horsemen Activities – work projects, parades, packing clinics, etc. Backcountry Scenic Views – wildflowers, mountains, seasons, rivers, water, bridges o Outhouses. Photos are to be taken by BCH amateur photographers. One entry per category. Pictures that have won a prize previously are not eligible. Please contact Tom for additional information prior to March 16, 2023.
- PBCH is working to create a list of PBCH members that carry GPS Satellite Rescue Beacons on club rides.  
Personal locator beacons are the safety net of backcountry travel. They’re simple electronic devices, usually with sealed mechanisms, that are meant to be used a single time.
- Our members that carry a rescue beacon: Karen Kimball and Tom Knoll.

## **Panhandle Backcountry Horsemen minutes February 18th 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

18 members in attendance (2 on zoom). 5 guests. Jody and Jim Sargent, Tom and Keith MacIntire and friend Christian.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Horsewoman of the Year award given to Joni Lueck by Karen Kimball. In appreciation for all her work. Including the News Letter and the website.

John Galdi reported on attending a meeting with the local USFS representatives, Jed and Ian along with Karen Kimball. Our chapter still has some work to be done to complete current contract. Will do spraying at Burton Meadows this spring.

All public rides planned for this year need to be submitted for insurance by March 1st.

**Friends of North Idaho Trails:** "Friends of North Idaho Trails: Karen and Jim Kimball, John Galdi and Audra LaBelle attended and reported that Jed from the Forest Service attended, filling in for representative of USFS. Group is applying for 5013c status as needed to generate money through grants and donations for trails. Group is comprised of mixed use trail enthusiasts. They are working on separating from USFS so they can apply for grants. Parks and Recreation has money for grants.

**AED-** Arnie Wilkens reported on AED unit. We received a donated AED through a representative of Zol. It has a \$2100 value. It has long life 3 volt batteries and is built for rugged use. Also has a 7 year warranty. A motion was made by Karen Kimball and 2nd by Tom Knoll to buy a case for the unit. The motion was approved by the chapter. Arnie would also like to consider buying pediatric pads and also an extra set of pads. He will do a presentation of use and would like to have someone appointed as quartermaster to overlook unit of events. Also have signage to alert to location of devise.

**Board of Directors:** Board of Directors meeting February 22, 2pm at Karen Kimball house.

**BCHI convention:** BCHI convention to be held in Salmon, Idaho, March 17th and 18th. Registration fee \$85 and Motel fee \$109. Stan Smith made a motion to pay fees and motel room. Betsy Walker 2nd motion passed. It was also brought up to vote on increasing money for hotel fees that the chapter will pay. Jamie Smith made motion to accept and Linda Wuest 2nd, motion passed

**Auction Items:** Auction Items that are wished to be donated for the BCHI convention need to be dropped off to Karen Kimball prior to the March 17th and 18th convention. Rich Simpson and Julie Volpi have donated some items.

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**Grant opportunity:** Darrell Wallace from BCH of Washington is submitting a grant request and has asked if there are any projects we would like included. We will discuss further at Board Meeting.

Karen Kimball discussed getting **business cards** with a QR code on the back for the chapter.

Upcoming events: events can be viewed on our monthly newsletter. Including the Priest River BCH trail clearing Bonanza May 19-21st, April 29th packing clinic by Bat Masterson in Athol. PBCH Hot Dog ride August 13th at Farragut State Park.

Past Minutes were approved as written. Audra LaBelle made motion, Jamie Smith 2nd and approved by chapter

**Treasurer's Report:** Bea Christopherson reported Income: \$180 in membership dues .07 in interest, \$180.07 total income. Expenses: IBCH calendars \$2500, bank statement \$2. Total expenses \$2502. Bill from Karen Kimball for chainsaw sharpening, food for meeting, \$274.35  
Bill for website \$63.32

Air St. Luke's: Tom Knoll reported he researched Air St. Luke's and Life Flight and they both reciprocate services. Application for Air St. Luke's is available and the fee is \$45. For members of BCHI. Robert Wuest contributed that Medicare supplemental plans also cover addition Life Flight/ Air St. Luke's services and also veterans are covered for free. Air St Luke's recommends checking with your insurance carrier to make sure.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Audra LaBelle  
Seconded by Betsy Walker approved by chapter. 8:10 pm

Jamie Smith announced that she will be hosting rides in the spring as weather permits. She will send out emails before to let members know.

Also Karen reported no Asotin ride this year.

**Minutes submitted by secretary Julie Volpi.**

## Rides and Events

These are some past rides, work parties, campouts and other events for our chapter of PBCH.

- \*Escure Ranch in Washington fun ride and campout.
- \*Obstacle Course Dalton Garden Arena Event open to the public
- \*Marie Creek trail clearing
- \*Marie Creek fun ride
- \*Asotin ride and campout in Washington at Fordyce Trail
  - \*Chilco Mt. trail clearing
- \*August Farragut State Park Hot Dog fun ride open to the public
- \*4th of July Pass fun ride and lunch open to the public
- \*Antoine Peak ride and potluck in Washington
- \*Blue Creek Bay Recreation Area fun ride
- \*Squaw Valley near Priest Lake
- \*Liberty Lake horse park in Washington fun ride
- \*Red Ives work party and campout in Idaho
- \*McKenzie Conservation Area fun ride in Washington
- \*Pee Wee Creek fun ride and campout in Idaho
- \*Heyburn State Park work party and fun ride
- \*Bernard Peak fun ride
- \*Riverside State Park day ride and campout in Washington

If anyone wants to trail boss a ride or event please let chapter officers know!

## Riding the ridge at Death Valley National Park



The vastness of the valley, threatening clouds, descending a steep trail that was nothing but rocks, and with the high winds, you can see how rugged, extreme and unforgiving the area is. Allison was our guide. Gina rode a huge black mule and I rode a draft cross. Very sandy in areas. Rode the ridge of a hardened sand dune, which had a firm crust, but crumbled easily like a very coarse sandpaper. The ride up into the base of the foothills was gradual. Our mounts were slow and steady and felt safe.

They have an interesting bush out there called desert holly, which I am told, the horses absolutely love to eat. The leaves resemble miniature thick holly leaves. We were told that in Death Valley it is too hot and dry for cactus, so that explains why we didn't see any.

Our guide Allison, shown above left photo, said the sunset ride the day before saw 16 riders out. Many are families with kids. Compiled notes from Shari Bolander.



