

# Letter from the President

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January 2013, Issue 1

Northern Colorado Back Country Horsemen

This year, 2013, marks the 40th anniversary of Back Country Horsemen of America, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Northern Colorado Back Country Horsemen. BCHA started with an idea during a hunting camp in Montana. Our chapter started with an idea by Vickie Buchanan after she learned of BCHA. I was invited to the first NCBCCH meeting in Berthoud. There was a good crowd and people signed up to join the new chapter. Many of the original members remain and have been friends for all these years enjoying trail rides and other activities.

NCBCCH has evolved from what I saw as a riding club years ago to a team working to maintain our trail system. We have a good working relationship with other equine groups, government agencies such as the USFS, Colorado State Forest, City of Fort Collins Open Space to mention a few. Agencies are contacting us for assistance and advice because we have been recognized as a group with members who have the knowledge, expertise and active members to solve problems, build and maintain trails, campsites and corrals. Members work on trails, give presentations, promote BCHA and our chapter at the Horse Expo as well as horsemanship and respect for the outdoors and our mounts. We have great educational speakers to help us learn more about the horses we enjoy and care for 365 days a year. It's hard work caring for horses but we do it for the love of the animal that takes us to the high country or just down the trail for a day ride. We gather together once a month to socialize and enjoy the company of other equestrians, get educated, enjoy some good food and great company and this camaraderie is part of what attracts me to NCBCCH.

I want to thank Vickie Buchanan for her years as President of NCBCCH. I know she worked hard for the group and sacrificed many hours and days of her life to get this chapter where it is today. Nancy Flippin is a past President but many members don't know this fact so I'm also acknowledging her time as President.

I also want to thank the out-going club officers who worked hard to keep the show going for the past few years. Cynthia Rizzo, the club Treasurer and right hand woman for Vickie. She has done so much that I can't list everything right now. I know that when things needed to be done we could call Cynthia for help or to get the job done. Cynthia will continue with the newsletter.

Chuck Peterson has been a member for years and VP for a year. Chuck developed some good fund-raiser and educational programs that we're excited about for this year. Chuck has a vast array of experience as an outfitter and packer that he has shared with the group. He's also good for an interesting story about his adventures on the trail.

Bob Vrooman has been a member for a number of years as well and the club Secretary for a couple years. He stepped up and got things organized. He'll continue to collect the volunteer hours, which is an important job. He's quiet but if you ask him he'll tell you a lot about riding the trails, especially his rides into the backcountry of Yellowstone NP.

To Vickie, Cynthia, Chuck and Bob, we thank you for your service and dedication. We'll try to fill your shoes and continue the good service.

To our new officers, Ken Dahlgren, VP, Rick Farasyn, Treasurer, and Marion Dahlgren, Secretary, welcome aboard and prepare yourself for the work ahead. We have goals to meet and challenges to conquer, but as a team we'll get the job done. NCBCH is a great chapter and I'm proud to be its third President.

My thanks go out to our Board of Directors and all the members for the work and dedication you have given to NCBCH. Good members, hard work and fun make this a great organization.

Sincerely,

Alan D. Ohms, President

NCBCH

**The Farm Show** opens in Greeley on Tuesday, January 29th. There are several good things to see at the Show concerning agriculture.

Thursday, January, 31st 9AM-Noon Events Center, Room A

Ron McDaniel of Merck Animal Health will be discussing the unwanted horse issue, horse rescues, and horse health care issues.

Thursday, January, 31st. 1:30PM-4:00PM Events Center Room A

Josh Zacharias, DVM, surgeon at Countryside Large Animal Vet Services, Greeley, will be talking about animal injuries, first aid and treatment.

Both are interesting topics and will be informative to all of us.

Thursday, January, 31st 2-3:30 PM, The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program will be showing raptors and discussing the agriculture and raptor relationship. This is also an interesting program.

## Upcoming Events for 2013

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Board of Directors meeting 6:30 pm,  
January 29, 2013 at The Ranch

Monthly meeting, February 6, 2013,  
6:30 pm. Pot luck at The Ranch  
Guest speakers are Drs Patty and Jim  
Latham, DVM—topic “Bare Foot to  
Natural Balance, Healthy Foot to  
Lame” program starts at 7 pm

Monthly meeting, March 6, 2013, 6:30  
pm. Pot luck at The Ranch  
Mike James, Smarter Food Solutions  
Feeding your horse for \$1.00 / day

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Monthly meeting, April 3, 2013, 6:30  
pm. Pot luck at The Ranch  
USDA ruling, how it effects horse  
owners in Colorado

Monthly meeting, May 1, 2013, 6:30  
pm. Pot luck at The Ranch  
Bo Chapin  
Liability laws, etc. for horsemen

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Fourth of July weekend, Red Feather  
Lakes.

## Towing on Steep Grades

Many thanks to TrailMeister reader Fred H. for this important towing tip.



My tip has to do with driving in mountains.

When you are about to go down big hills (watch for the signs advising to use lower gears) stop at the top and do a brake check, then if you have 4 wheel drive put your vehicle in 4 wheel low. Make sure it is in low side not high side. Then as you start down the hill you can shift out in higher gears. Being in the low side of 4 wheel drive will keep you at a low speed and you will use your brakes very little.

Thank you Fred for this very pertinent information.

As most trail riders know, towing a horse trailer requires a different set of driving skills than we normally use when jumping into the car for a quick drive to the grocery.

Once you are out on the open road, the driving task seems almost the same as driving the family car, but it's what happens at either end of the trip that cause white knuckles and a certain "puckering" experience for the first-time horse trailer driver. With many favorite horse camping areas located well off the beaten path and perhaps up, or down, a steep hill; now is a great time to prepare yourself by thinking about how we should approach the task.

### **The proper use of your brakes while descending a grade is to not use them.**

Your brakes are not there to help you maintain a safe speed of descent. Brakes should be to be used to slow you down enough to "grab a lower gear." Though your truck and trailer weigh many times what a car weighs the brake surface area is only slightly larger. Therefore a very different driving technique is needed. The goal to successfully descending is to find the correct gear to hold your speed in equilibrium; neither gaining nor losing speed. That could mean 1st or 2nd gear, or even the 4WD low range.

December 23, 2012, was the day I put my horse out to pasture, hung up my spurs and jumped on a Harley. I joined over 400 Harley riders for the Charley Barnes Sleigh Riders annual Christmas toy run. What a sight. We all gathered in Greeley at John Elway's car dealership. Road thru town and ended at Whisky River.

The thing I have to say about Harley riders is they are a very generous group of people. There was every kind of bike you could imagine, people from every walk of life and every age. There was even a Harley ridding golden lab. I should have taken Sam. The parking lot looked like Santa Claus flew over and lost his bag of toys. There were teddy bears, dolls, trucks, books and games tied on every bike. People were dressed in Santa hats and some even had real beards. It is so fun to see all these great big burly guys sitting on the bikes holding large stuffed animals. What big hearts all these people have. Tell them it is for a kid and they show up in droves.

Charley Barnes, his kindness and passion for this ride shows in his eyes. What a great job he is doing for the kids. I have been on a lot of toy rides from Washington to Colorado and Charley's ride went perfectly. Just before noon the rumble of bikes started, first a low rumble then as all the bikes started the rumble turned into a roar. I think the ground even shook. Seriously you can't beat the sound of a Harley. With police escorts we road thru Greeley. I thought I was at the tail end of the group but realized I was in the middle. There were so many bikes in front and back of me I couldn't see where they started or where they ended. People drove by honking, people came out of stores and homes waving. When you are giving back the feelings are over whelming. There is no other feeling like it. Several hundred children are going to have a Christmas due to Charley and his Sleigh Riders and you.

Thank you to all the NC BCH members that donated toys. Not only did I have a great day on an iron horse instead of a real horse, I didn't have to stay behind and clean up the parking lot after the horses.

Wishing you all a blessed Holiday and thank-you for your donation.

Vickie



## Tres Piedras, New Mexico—travels by Rick and Janet Farasyn

Last October Janet and I traveled with our horses to Tres Piedras, New Mexico. Tres Piedras is about 60 miles south of Alamosa and about 35 miles from Taos.

We stayed at a fabulous place called Taos Horse Getaways. I was impressed enough that I thought it was worth letting the NCBCB members know about it. They have 3 houses and 3 LQ trailer hookups.

We arrived to a concrete loafing shed filled with clean shavings, a freshly scrubbed water tank and clean corrals. We stayed in the solar house which was spotless and had a bottle of wine waiting for us. Dogs are allowed in the houses as long as they are well behaved. When you go riding you can take them with or put them in the large kennel next to the house.

The riding is as easy or as challenging as you want. You may have to trailer if you want to hit the rough stuff. The owners, Ken and Holly will become friends as soon as you walk onto their place. They are there for you as much or as little as you want. We rode from the corrals directly into the Carson National Forest and through their ranch. We rode with Holly twice and were able to basically travel cross country to her favorite spots.

Our aussie (Faith) and Holly's two aussies ran and ran and ran, through the forest, following scents, chasing each other and following us. It's a great area to teach a young dog how to act around horses. Ken and Holly have developed trail maps over the last 20 years so you can take off on your own and ride all day if you want.

We try to go several places each year and this is by far our favorite. If you're considering a mini horse vacation next summer, I suggest you check them out at [www.taoshorsegetaways.com](http://www.taoshorsegetaways.com).





Copied from the Winter edition of the Back Country Horsemen of American newsletter

### *40th Anniversary Special Edition*

Roland Cheek has been involved with Back Country Horsemen **for more than 40 years**. His hunting camp provided the setting where the idea for BCH was brainstormed four months before the actual organizational meeting. Front row (l-r) are hunters from Wausau, Wisconsin: Glenn Ploechelmann, Jim Gassner, and Bob Wylie. Back row is Carl McLaughlin (cook), Ken Ausk (guide), Roland Cheek, and Dennis Swift (guide). Jerry Brickner was the cameraman.

Cheek describes what took place at that first brainstorming: “The hunters were mostly observers (as was Carl) while Ken, Denny and I gnawed on the problem confronting horse users in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. What we REALLY wanted was to alert some already in-place conservation organizations to the problem. What we wound up getting was the realization that ‘the buck stops here.’ Thus we sighed and directed most of our late-night campfire brainstorming to developing a marching plan that would hopefully lead to an effective conservation organization representing horse users.”

Roland Cheek is one of the BCH founders and the first club's first nominal leader. He is also a writer, journalist, and radio show host. Commenting on the last issue of the BCHA newsletter, Cheek said, “... BCHA's last newsletter issue is superb in providing nationwide scope for the BCH, certainly proof positive that the organization has far exceeded the wildest dreams of its earliest proponents.” Congratulations, BCHA!



Gerry Cole holding the old gate at Mount Margaret

Then it was suddenly transformed into this perfectly workable gate,. Thank you, Rick Farasyn, Bob Vrooman, Gerry Cole and Kate from the Forest Service





## MILL CREEK VETERINARY SERVICE, PC

Dr. Jim Latham [www.lathamdvm.com](http://www.lathamdvm.com)

### Hoof Care Check List for Horse Owners

Most horse owners entrust hoof trimming or shoeing to a skilled farrier, although some prefer to do their own work. In either case, here are some basic principles.

1. Have a clean, level place to work.
2. Make sure the horse is properly trained to stand for the farrier.
3. Optimum trimming or shoeing cycle for most horses is about six weeks.
4. If the horse is to be trimmed only, most of the sole should be left alone.

Remove only that which flakes out easily. Bevel hoof walls slightly.

5. Trim the frog conservatively, removing only loose or undermined tissue.

6. In most horses, the bearing surface of the trimmed heels should be as far back as the widest part of the frog. (see diagram A below, red line)

7. When finished, the angle of the pastern should be aligned with the angle of the hoof wall. (see diagram B below)

8. Barefoot trim allowing heel, frog, bars, and sole contact will expand and strengthen heels over time.

9. When shoes are applied, the shoe should fit the contour of the trimmed hoof from the toe around to the quarters, but then be wider from the quarters to the heel.

There should be visible shoe about as wide as the thickness of a dime.

9. The finished shoe should extend slightly past the trimmed heels.

10. Nails should not be placed past the widest part of the foot. This allows for heel expansion.

11. Walk and trot your horse in hand after work is done to make sure no immediate problems have developed.

Diagram A

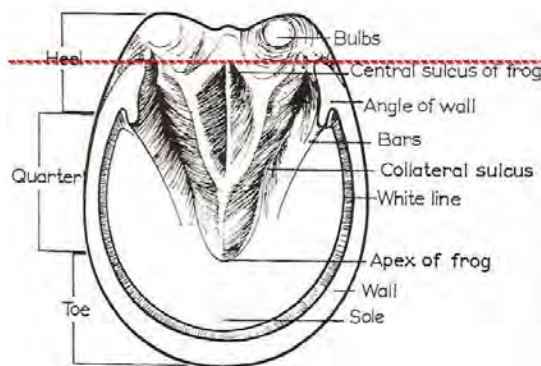


Diagram B



**\*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\***

**CHECK OUT [WWW.NCBCH.ORG](http://WWW.NCBCH.ORG) OUR AWESOME WEBSITE**

Make sure to look at it now and then to see what is going on. The calendar is filling up fast and this is a great place to see what rides/weekends are planned.

If you want to post anything to the calendar or in any of the other sections, contact Marion Dahlgren, Kathy Wester or Cynthia Rizzo. We also have a place for ads if you are selling something or have a service you wish to advertize.

Make your friends aware of it. You can add pictures of your adventures, just let Marion, Kathy or Cynthia know and email them.

## **Manure** (an oldy but goody)

An interesting act

Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common.. It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier,

but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by product is methane gas . As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term 'Ship High In Transit ' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow ihigh enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term ' S.H.I.T ', (Ship High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I. I had always thought it was a golf term.

Services - NCBCH

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