



Trail Country News

Spring 2012 Issue

Chairman's Corner

Russell Martin

It is official, winter is over. It's time to dust off the saddle and hit the trail, however, as we are enjoying a beautiful sunny ride, let's not forget whose responsibility it is to keep these trails open. Sure you can say, "Well, it is the land manager's job" and yes, you are politically correct. However, they cannot do it without all of our help. We must be willing to help out or we will lose our trails. It does not have to be a big organized work day. You can make a difference each time you take a trail ride. Keep in mind and practice the "Leave No Trace" principles. Pack it in and pack it out; don't ride when the trails are muddy; be considerate to all trail users, and so much more.

I challenge each chapter leader to make contact with the land managers in their area to see how we (SMMBCH) can help them. Remember the saying, "The more you put into something, the more you get out of it."

Upper Current River Clean-Up

SMMBCH will again headquarter at Big Creek Trail Ride for our annual event to jump start our work season. The Upper Current River Clean-Up event will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 6 - 7 (Easter Weekend). Registration will take place at 6 PM on Friday, and the workday will begin at 9 AM on Saturday. If you plan to attend, call Big Creek for reservations at 877-932-4846.

President's Comments

Eldon Kreisel

We have had a mild, enjoyable winter and hopefully many of you have had time for some good winter riding. It's about time to get our vets and farriers to working and get ready for spring riding and projects. Good equine health, good health papers, and good shoes make for great spring outings.

Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen will again be holding the spring clean up ride at Big Creek to do clean up and a project on or adjacent to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The date will be April 7th and 8th. More information will be found later in this newsletter. We realize that this is Easter weekend but this is the only time to work this into the schedule for the majority of people. We realize that many have church and family obligations, but if you can work the event into your schedule, please do so.

Many events and opportunities will be planned by local chapters and the state organization during the upcoming months. If you haven't renewed your membership, please consider doing so now. Your membership and support is vitally important to keeping our trails open and maintained. SMMBCH has become well recognized by our land managers and our membership numbers count for influence when expressing our trail concerns and interests.

Many of us have been riding local trails and local public lands where possible this winter due to the mild weather. I would suspect that with the prediction of higher fuel prices this spring and summer that there will probably be an increase in local trail usage. With this in mind, it is even more important that we develop relationships with our local, close to home land managers. I encourage you to get to know them and express your willingness to help as well as expressing our concerns.

One of our concerns is the seasonal closing of some of our trails on Missouri State Parks land. Encourage your local manager to base any closures, when necessary, on daily or weekly trail conditions and not on just a seasonable basis.

On another thought, SMMBCH's National Directors will be traveling to the National Board Meeting in April to represent Missouri and convey our Missouri interests to the national board of directors of Back Country Horsemen of America. BCHA represents us and lobbies for us on a national level. I have often found that, "as the nation goes, so goes the state" thus making it vitally important that we be represented on a national level. With this in mind, I again encourage you to renew your SMMBCH membership.

Continued on next page

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On one other note, we are trying to keep everyone up to date on information through the use of e-mail when possible. This means we need your current, up-to-date e-mail address in order to get pertinent information to you as quick as possible. Would you be sure to notify either Janet Karrenbrock, Phyllis Rowe, or myself of any changes that you may have made to your current e-mail address?

Remember, ONSR clean up ride, UPDATE current e-mail address, and RENEW your membership, HAVE good rides and projects.

Tri Lakes Chapter

The annual meeting of the Tri-Lakes Chapter of SMMBCH was held on February 4, 2012 at Golden Corral in Springfield. Over 60 were in attendance for the meeting, and several new memberships were established. The Chapter is very excited about the number of new members and is eager to continue to provide the high level of service to our trail areas.

Several local and statewide equestrian issues were discussed during the annual meeting. Russell Martin gave the Chapter the latest update on the proposed equestrian trail within the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry. In addition, the future statewide "Your Vote Counts" ballot issue promoted by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) was discussed.

A schedule of SMMBCH events as well as Chapter work days and rides was presented during the annual meeting and is available on the SMMBCH website.

Reminder-Renew Your Membership Now!

If you have not mailed in your renewal for 2012 please do so now! It is very important for SMMBCH to keep our membership numbers up! We need you and your friends to remain on our membership list. There is power in numbers! So, if you do not have the renewal form, visit our website at www.showmebch.org, or email our Secretary Phyllis Rowe at randprowe@centurytel.net, or call Phyllis at 636-456-2647. She will be happy to mail you a form!

Brownfield Chapter Report

The Brownfield Chapter has been working on the trail system at Cole Creek, held a couple meetings, and are preparing for the first work day at Brownfield on April 14th.

Chapter Leader, Lynetta Berncich, met with forester Carol Trokey on December 15th and walked the proposed new trails at Cole Creek Trail. Carol was pleased with the layout and approved it for designation. There are a couple more officials who need to sign off and best case scenario, it may be ready by March 1st. There are several minor corrections to make which should be worked out quickly. The Brownfield Chapter is very excited about the progress of the trail system as Lynetta has worked hard with the forestry to get the trail approval for designation. The Chapter is hoping the trails will be approved before the April 14th work day.

The original date selected for the Brownfield Chapter spring work day (April 28) is during turkey season (Apr 16 thru May 6)...therefore, for safety and respect to the hunters, the new work date will be April 14. More details will be provided as the date draws near - take time Friday to camp and enjoy, work on the trails Saturday, and ride on Sunday if you like. Lunch will be provided with drinks and meat will be provided for the evening meal with side dishes provided by those who volunteer to do so. Another Cole Creek Trail Work Day is planned for September 29.

The Brownfield Chapter held an Educational/Membership Meeting at the La Mexican Kitchen in Lebanon on February 16. Good turnout, 30-35 attended and enjoyed an evening meal and a lot of information was provided. Lynetta and Robin welcomed the crowd, gave some background on BCH, SMMBCH, the Brownfield Chapter and focus of the group, progress of the work completed on the Cole Creek trails, information on the RTP, and also provided several handouts. Carol Trokey from the forestry presented information about trails, working with the forestry, and the Cole Creek trail area. Nancy Feakes, also from the forestry, provided detailed information for some topics and answered questions as well. The meeting lasted about 2 hours and everyone was invited to volunteer and learn more about the group during the Brownfield Chapter work day on April 14th. The meeting concluded with (hopefully) a few interested in new members!

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NEMO River Valley Chapter News

The NEMO River Valley Chapter re-organizational meeting was held January 26 @ Boudreoux Visitor 's Center at Mark Twain Lake, with over 28 members and COE managers Shelly Howald and Allen Mehrer were in attendance. Social time and a carry-in dinner were enjoyed, followed by the business meeting. Local officers were retained: Mary K. Church, Trail Master; Wayne Lake, Assistant Trail Master; Becki Krueger, Paper Trail Master. Carol Snell, state treasurer, is always on call for our membership and record keeping needs. Several new members were welcomed, group work dates set, and individual projects adopted. Allen and Shelly explained the two grants that we have partnered with them on, and the Handshake Agreement grant was officially signed, pledging our in-kind services.

We are on Facebook, thanks to Von Pilkington, who has set it up and will maintain it. To find us, search for *NEMO River Valley Chapter*. The schedule of events and work days can be found on the Facebook page, as well as the website www.showmebch.org.

NEMO River Valley Chapter was represented at Mark Twain Lake FOREST planning meeting on Feb. 9 by Mary K. Church, Wayne and Margaret Lake, and Von Pilkington, where several of the MT Lake partners discussed the vision for the future.

Mary K., Wayne and Margaret, and Von met with COE managers and construction and electrician personnel to advise on making the new sites soon to be constructed at Frank Russell Trail Head, resulting from the Handshake Agreement grant, equestrian friendly.

Annual Meeting Notice

Please mark your calendars for the next Annual Meeting the weekend of November 3rd and 4th. The meeting will once again be held at Brushy Creek Resort and Lodge. Call today for your reservations, 573-269-4600. Be sure to tell them you are with SMMBCH. The meeting will be held on Saturday in the Lodge and breakfast and dinner will be provided. Come early and ride and enjoy the trails. For more info on the meeting contact one of the Board Members listed on page 10.

MOUNTAIN RIDERS CHAPTER

A meeting was held January 5, 2012, at the Subway shop in Ava, Missouri, at 7 p.m.

The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) has asked the Mountain Riders to provide safety riders for their competitive trail ride to be held at the Flying "R" Ranch on June 2 and 3, 2012. We voted to do so.

Bob Voyles, Dale Lawson, and Steve Assenmacher met with the U.S. Forest Service at Ava on February 14th. The Mountain Riders along with the Forest Service will be installing trail signs on April 6th and 13th at Bar-K Wrangler area, also known as Swan Creek. Also, we will be installing trial signs at Bateman Ranch on Wednesday, June 27th. Bob Boyles will pick up materials for the self-closing gate for the Bateman Ranch, and the Forest Service will perform the welding.

We have scheduled our rides for the year along with Douglas County Fox Trotting Horse Breeders Association. We will be riding over 60 rides for the year, with plans to do clipping and cleaning on some of the rides. Rides will be posted on the web and on the calendar page of the newsletter.

The group received \$2700 from a Douglas County grant for the Braddock Lake road and parking lot. The Forest Service has graded the road and all the Chapter needs to do is clean for the parking and lay down the gravel.

Happy Trails to you all! Bob Voyles

2012 Member Appreciation Ride

Show-Me Members, mark your calendar for June 15-17, 2012 for the Member Appreciation Ride at Brushy Creek. This is the weekend we set aside for nothing but getting together to have some great trail riding and a lot of fun. There will be trailing riding, a poker run, challenge course, and a cook out on Saturday night. The only rule for this weekend is that no work is allowed. Call Brushy Creek at 573-269-4600 and make your reservation now.

Pictures for Calendar

Please remember we will need good quality pictures for our annual SMMBCH calendar so please be taking pictures of your events/workdays throughout the year. Mary K Church will ask for the best of the best sometime in the fall.



Dates To Remember

- March 17th** -Mountain Riders work day at Bateman Ranch, Clear down trees and Marsh Glade Top - Clean Trail at 10AM. For more info contact Bob Voyles at 417-767-4681.
- March 17th** -Indian Trails clean up at Little Indian Creek Conservation Area Trail at 1PM. For more info contact Kathy LaRue at 314-277-6942.
- March 24th** -Tri Lakes trail cleaning at Lead Mine Conservation Area. (rain date March 31st). For more info contact John Waitman at 417-859-3428.
- March 31st** -Mountain Riders work day at Bucks & Spurs, Cemetery Clean up at 10AM. For more info contact Bob Voyles at 417-767-4681.
- April 6th** -Mountain Riders will install trail signs with U.S. Forest Service at Bar-K Wrangler area at 9AM. For more info contact Bob Voyles at 417-767-4681.
- April 6th, 7th and 8th** -Upper Current River Clean Up Weekend. For more info see article on front page.
- April 14th** -Mountain Riders Annual Dogwood Ride at Bar-K Wrangler at Swan Creek area at 9AM. For more info contact Bob Voyles at 417-767-4681.
- April 14th** -Indian Trails clean up at Meramec Conservation Area (J Avery Ruble Trail) at 10AM. For more info contact Kathy LaRue at 314-277-6942.
- April 21st** -NEMO River Valley Mt. Pleasant Cemetery maintenance. For more info contact Mary K Church at 573-406-2566.
- May 5th** -Mountain Riders Ride/Cookout (bring dish)/Meeting at 1PM at Steve & Kate Assenmacher. For more info contact Bob Voyles at 417-767-4681.
- May 18th** - Salt River Expo, LNT Awareness sponsored by NEMO River Valley at Clarence Cannon Dam. For more info contact Mary K Church at 573-406-2566.
- May 19th** -NEMO River Valley work day to be announced.
- May 19th** -Indian Trails clean up at Berryman Trail, Brazil Creek Campground at 10AM. For more info contact Kathy LaRue at 314-277-6942.
- June 2nd and 3rd** -Mountain Riders will be safety riders for the North American Trail Riders Conference (NATRC) to be held at Flying "R" Ranch. For more info contact Bob Voyles at 417-767-4681.
- June 2nd** -Tri Lakes Youth Ride at BC Stables in Fair Grove. For more info contact Marsha Copeland at 417-345-5753.
- June 9th** -Indian Trails clean up at Bell Mountain Wilderness Trail at 9AM. . For more info contact Kathy LaRue at 314-277-6942.
- June 25th to 17th** -Membership Appreciation Ride at Brushy Creek. For more info see page 6.
- Nov. 3rd** - Annual meeting at Brushy Creek Lodge. See page 5.

River Springs Chapter News

After a very slow 2011, the few existing members of the River Springs Chapter got together and decided not to let the chapter die. And guess what? It didn't. We have done more in the first two months of 2012 than we did in all of 2011. In December, Paula Hull and Candace Hale attended the Ripley County Wagon Train and Horse Association meeting. They talked about the Back Country Horsemen organization and were able to recruit several of their members who were impressed with the mission and work ethic of BCH. They wanted to ride, but they also wanted to protect the environment, our right to ride, and do their part in building, maintaining and improving the trails.

Our first outing was a New Year's Day fun ride at member Keith Temple's Kelly Hollow Ranch. This has become an annual event and as usual, it was chilly, but some of our new members drove over 45 miles to join some of us old members on a beautiful sunny day. They even brought food for our potluck. The next week, we met at Twin Pines Educational Center and elected officers. Those elected were: Candace Hale, President; Paula Hull, Vice President; and Jean Wrightfield, Secretary/Treasurer. We also voted to make every third Saturday a chapter event. So, two weeks later, we went to a section of the Ozark Trail off C Hwy in Ripley County for a workday and ride.

Also at the January meeting, we had several of our new members talk about the poor condition of the Victory School Horse Trail near Poplar Bluff and, as it sometimes happens, the Ozark Trail Association Sawyer Coordinator had just contacted our new president, who is a certified sawyer, about getting a group together to work on clearing it. The trail was in the path of the tornado/straight line windstorm that devastated the Ozark Trail between the Brushy Creek Trailhead and Lake Wappapello. No one had done any clearing since the storm hit three years ago. The trail was completely blocked. We made the Victory Horse Trail our February, third Saturday event. But, while organizing our workday, we discovered that the Ozark Trail Association volunteers were having their own workday on the Victory Trail on the fourth Saturday, Feb. 25th. We signed our chapter up and on the morning of the 25th, we met with the Ozark Trail volunteers and Scotty Scott, the trail manager for the National Forest Service. They were going to work on the main trail and we were to work on the horse trail which is a spur of the Ozark Trail. However, we were told that a large portion of the area the horse trail is in is sold, or in the process of being sold, for logging and the blow down is going to be commercially logged. We could not clear the blown down trees that were in the sale even if they were over the trail (which they were). The trail was lost in the debris and basically non-existent. But thankfully, one of our members knew a local landowner who showed up with horses and brought other landowners with horses to lead the way on horseback. Four of our members are certified sawyers and we cleared 3.5 miles of trail, 1.9 miles on the western part and 1.6 miles on the eastern part of the loop. Our other members and landowners swamped (dragged away the cut limbs) and replaced missing trail signs. We can proudly say that the horse trail loop, with some

temporary trail diversions, is now passable.

After a potluck meal and campfire at the end of the day, we all vowed to come back when the logging was finished and return the Victory Horse Trail to its original condition.



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