



# **BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEVADA BRISTLECONE CHAPTER**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018**

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

Calendar year 2019 saw a modest decrease in membership. Some of this decrease may have been due to changes in record keeping and the procedure for collecting dues. The membership breakdown at or near the beginning of the year was approximately 65 memberships including about 22 family memberships and other classifications. At year-end, the count was approximately 40 for all classes. The Board has assigned high priority to reinvigorating Chapter membership in 2019; especially, by increasing general trail riding and other social activities and events that are thought to be the principal reason most members join.

### **ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

#### **Service Projects**

During 2018, the Chapter participated in a number of service projects. Most events were conducted in cooperation with other non-profits including Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Wilderness Habitat Improvement of Nevada, and local Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups. The Chapter's typical role was packing support – hauling water, materials, camping gear, and tools to assist the partner groups with trail work and similar improvements. However, in addition to packing, Chapter members also performed actual trail work; especially on the Bonanza Switchbacks project described below.

Some events were local events such as “gravel hauls” and graffiti removal at Red Rock Canyon, while others were more remote projects in the Spring Mountains (Mount Charleston) about an hour north of Las Vegas. Our chapter relied heavily on outside contractors to perform some of the packing and trail work; especially on the Bonanza Switchbacks project. Following is a quick glimpse of some of our 2018 projects.

Bonanza Switchbacks Project With assistance from a fine trail crew from Great Basin Institute [GBI] (with whom the Chapter contracted for labor) and about a dozen Chapter volunteers, the Chapter continued its ongoing project to reconstruct several severely eroded switchbacks on the Bonanza Trail (*aka* Spring Mountain Divide Trail) in the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area. The GBI crew spent a full week on the mountain at around 10,000 feet elevation. Volunteers made over a dozen trips in and out to the work area over the course of several weeks. The work is not complete, but the switchbacks in question are now safely passable by equine riders. We plan to continue the project in 2019.

Griffith Peak Trail and Bonanza Trail Clearing & Reconstruction Working with one of our regular partners, Friends of Nevada Wilderness [FoNW], Chapter volunteers packed gear and tools in and out of a work area on Griffith Peak and pitched in with crosscut saws and shovels to



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---

clear burned trees downed by the Carpenter 1 Fire in 2013. It was dirty, but satisfying work! We also packed gear for a separate trail maintenance project on the north end of the Bonanza Trail.

Red Rock Canyon “Gravel Hauls” Another ongoing project was the continuation of resurfacing several badly eroded trails in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area with gravel. Chapter volunteers spent several Saturday mornings hauling in over 50 tons of gravel (which was loaded and spread by our frequent partners, Friends of Red Rock Canyon). The work is nearing completion and another gravel haul will be going on during the 2019 State BCH Annual Meeting.

WHIN Support Several Chapter volunteers packed poly pipe and other plumbing supplies for Wildlife Improvement of Nevada to assist with their reconstruction and maintenance of wildlife “drinkers” in the Spring Mountains.

Girl Scout Barbed Wire Fence Removal The Chapter partnered with a local Girl Scout working to earn her Gold Award by removing over a half mile of old barbed wire fence in Goodsprings Valley to enable wild burros and horses to migrate safely across the BLM-managed range.

Boy Scout Graffiti Removal Chapter volunteers packed in water and tools to support a Boy Scout graffiti removal project in Red Rock Canyon.

USFS Fire Fighting The Chapter responded to a request for packing support from the U.S. Forest Service to fight a small fire on Mount Charleston. Upon review of the requirements, we determined that the job was beyond our resources and redirected the USFS to a commercial packer.

#### **Trail Rides & Social Events**

During the year, the Chapter sponsored and/or organized several trail rides for members. Some rides were local and included a “stop and clear the trail” component as well as a picnic lunch. Two extended, multi-day, out-of-state rides were conducted, both in Southern Utah. Over two dozen members participated in these rides that visited well-know scenic areas like Paria Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, and Powell Point. Thanks go to our new president, Don Davis, for organizing and leading these rides!

Several social events were conducted, usually in conjunction with general membership meetings. In February, an annual “invite and thank our partners and friends” event included a fun raffle and a tasty barbeque lunch. Our November annual meeting featured a “Learn to Cook Dutch Oven-Style” participatory event where newbies learned Dutch Oven cooking skills from the old hands.

#### **Community Outreach Events**

The Chapter is ordinarily an active participant in community outreach, but our main event, Get Outside Nevada Day (run by others) was, unfortunately, canceled by the organizers this fall. We look forward to a re-start in 2019.



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## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018**

---

### **COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Communications**

The Chapter publishes a newsletter for members and friends several times a year. These newsletters are ordinarily emailed to members and friends on our email distribution list but are also available for viewing on our website and Facebook pages. These website and Facebook pages are our primary medium for member communications.

#### **Web Presence**

The Chapter maintains an Internet web presence in, essentially, two forms: our website, <https://www.bchnvb.com/> and our Facebook pages. Readers are encouraged to visit both.

There are actually two Facebook pages – one that is “open to the public” and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/BristleconeChapterBackCountryHorsemen/> . This page is currently under re-development and, unfortunately, is not up-to-date. The other Facebook page is conducted as a Facebook “private group” which requires approved membership. This is the place to go! [Anyone interested in joining the private group should contact our Facebook manager, Sherry Jensen, either via the private group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bristleconechnv/> or by email at [sherry@soundplumbinglv.com](mailto:sherry@soundplumbinglv.com) .

#### **Accounting & Finance**

Accounting The Chapter suffered some growing pains during the year as it replaced its former accounting system. The new system is now in place and we look forward to more meaningful, more timely financial reports in the coming year. Financial statements for 2018 are available on request from the Chapter treasurer.

Grants During the year, the Chapter was grateful to receive significant financial support in the form of grants from three outside entities. We received almost \$23 thousand from the Mount Charleston License Plate Fund (funded through the fees for DMV-issued Mount Charleston vanity license plates). These funds were used exclusively for the Bonanza Switchbacks project. We received \$7 thousand dollars from Friends of Nevada Wilderness to help offset Chapter and volunteer out-of-pocket expenses in connection with FoNW’s Griffith Peak Trail and Bonanza Peak Trail projects. Finally, REI provided a \$5 thousand grant to help fund our Blue Tree Trail System Signage project. These REI funds will be spent in 2019.

Financial Condition The Chapter ended the year in very stable financial condition with a net worth of about \$18 thousand and about \$10 thousand of unrestricted cash in our bank account.



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### **Officers & Directors**

Following are the 2019 Chapter officers and directors. Please feel free to contact any of them for any BCH-related matter.

President .....Don G. Davis .....[DonDavis@mvdsl.com](mailto:DonDavis@mvdsl.com)  
Vice President.....John B. Allen .....[Jcabinboot@gmail.com](mailto:Jcabinboot@gmail.com)  
Secretary.....Karen G. Harry.....[KarenGHarry@hotmail.com](mailto:KarenGHarry@hotmail.com)  
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Director-at-Large.....James P. Sage.....[BigJim@CowboyTrailRides.com](mailto:BigJim@CowboyTrailRides.com)  
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