



Get to Know Ken Carmichael (BCHW Membership Development Chair & Governance and Bylaws Chair)

I had several false starts getting into horses starting in eighth grade, none lasting more than 6 months. In 1984 we moved onto land next to Riverside State Park and I got Sasha in 1985. I have always had at least one horse ever since.

Monte Robertson and I joined BCH in 1988. I do not remember why, it just seemed like a good idea at the time. Boy did that change my life. I started my “career” as the chapter librarian and progressed up through the ranks to chapter President and Director learning every step of the way. I have always enjoyed working at the chapter level where we are close to the ground. It is a well-known fact that I am not the one to run the chainsaw (I make a good helper) but am the one to do the paper pushing and organization to get the job started, and I attend a whole bunch of meetings representing equestrians. I believe that if we want to have trails for horses we better be at the table when the input and decisions are made. I spend most of my time representing equestrians (and BCH) at state parks, Bureau of Land Management and county meetings. It is my contention that there are 54 volunteer opportunities in a chapter, so there is something that fits everyone’s interest, talent, skills, ambition, time and abilities. Sometimes you just need to ask.

I am active at the BCHW level which has been very rewarding. It is great working with dedicated people, and besides the paperwork fits my interest and skills. I also spent a few years as Alternate National Director. Holding all these positions has given me a real appreciation of what it takes in the background to make BCH a great organization.

My “elevator speech” when I meet people and want to tell them QUICKLY what BCH is, I say **“BCH preserves and enhances the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land. We do this through EDUCATION, ADVOCACY and MOVING DIRT (trail work), plus some administration and we have fun doing it.”**

What has BCH brought to me? Education, friendships, feeling that I am contributing to a good cause, understanding about how the system works to keep trails open and participation in some fun events.

As for riding, I have taken my stab at packing, camping at trailheads and day riding. Living next door to Riverside State Park provides easy access for quick rides into about 9,000 acres. There are many places to camp overnight, the Escure Ranch (BLM) being our favorite. It seems sometimes that I can get lost in a closet, so it may be dangerous to follow me. However, I have become very adept at my favorite locations and enjoy leading those rides.

Every time I throw a saddle on a horse and swing into the saddle, I know I have made the right decision. Being part of BCH has been rewarding, educational, fun and interesting. It is a great family to belong to.

Feel free to contact me by emailing gov_and_bylaws@bchw.org