

# EAST VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF ARIZONA



## KEEPING TRAILS OPEN FOR ALL!

EV BCH Membership ~ 06/01/2021

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Topic	Page
Message from Board of Directors	2
What We Do	3
How We Got Here	4
Big, Bigger, Biggest Challenges	5
Leave No Trace (LNT)	6
Safety & Etiquette Guidelines	7
Trail Rules	8
Membership Benefits ~ ARG & Equisure	9
Membership Questionnaire	10

# East Valley Back Country Horsemen of Arizona

## Message from the Board of Directors

The East Valley Back Country Horsemen (EVBCH) located in Apache Junction, AZ., is a chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA). EVBCH has 125 members. In addition to Arizona residents, many members visit Arizona during the winter season from as far East as Maine and as far North as Canada. The EVBCH chapter consists of experienced horsemen with a passion for keeping trails open and accessible to equines. Members who no longer ride remain active by supporting our volunteer activities. On any day, particularly in the Fall and Winter seasons, we have members riding U.S. Forest System (USFS) trails in the Mesa and Globe Ranger districts. EVBCH members go on Reconnaissance Rides to *assess* the trails for safety and condition. The members clear trails and remove debris. There are times an area requires more “*boots on the ground*” and a Work Party is scheduled to address the need. If trail *reconstruction* is required, pictures are taken, coordinates recorded, and the USFS is notified.

Trail etiquette is emphasized as we share the non-motorized trail system with hikers and bikers. EVBCH has maintained many U.S. Forest system trails and facilities under a Voluntary Agreement. The volunteer activities are primarily located in the Mesa and Globe Ranger districts. For work farther back in the trail system, pack stock can be used to haul equipment and supplies to support volunteer groups and partners in the national forest and wilderness areas.

In addition to volunteer efforts, education is a priority. EVBCH offers many educational opportunities which include but are not limited to the following: Trail Etiquette, Leave No Trace (LNT), CPR/first aid, Trail Safety, Survival Training, Search and Rescue, Packing Clinic, GPS/Land Navigation and many others. EVBCH supports the American heritage of the recreational horse culture for present and future generations.

The East Valley Back Country Horsemen recognize BCHA and LNT values, and work to ensure access to public trails and lands now and in the future. We know our volunteer efforts help the U.S. Forest Service and other land managers and know this is a very worthwhile effort.

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.evbch.org](http://www.evbch.org).

## WHAT WE DO

### OUR MISSION

- **TO PERPETUATE** the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas.
- **TO WORK** to ensure that the public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- **TO ASSIST** the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- **TO EDUCATE**, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country.
- **TO FOSTER** and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

**To put it more simply, we keep trails open for everyone.**

### WE KEEP AMERICA'S TRAIL OPEN IN THREE WAYS

#### 1. Hooves and Boots on the Ground

- Clearing trails of deadfall and debris, repairing eroded areas
- Trail maintenance and design
- Maintaining trail heads
- Packing in equipment and supplies
- And so much more...

#### 2. Education

- Leave No Trace (LNT)
- Trail maintenance safety
- Trail maintenance and design
- Chainsaw and crosscut saw certifications
- Packing with horses and mules

#### 3. Advocacy

- Working with federal, state, and local agencies
  - U.S. Forest Management Plans
  - Wilderness Stewardship Plans
  - Court Actions, i.e., E-Bikes

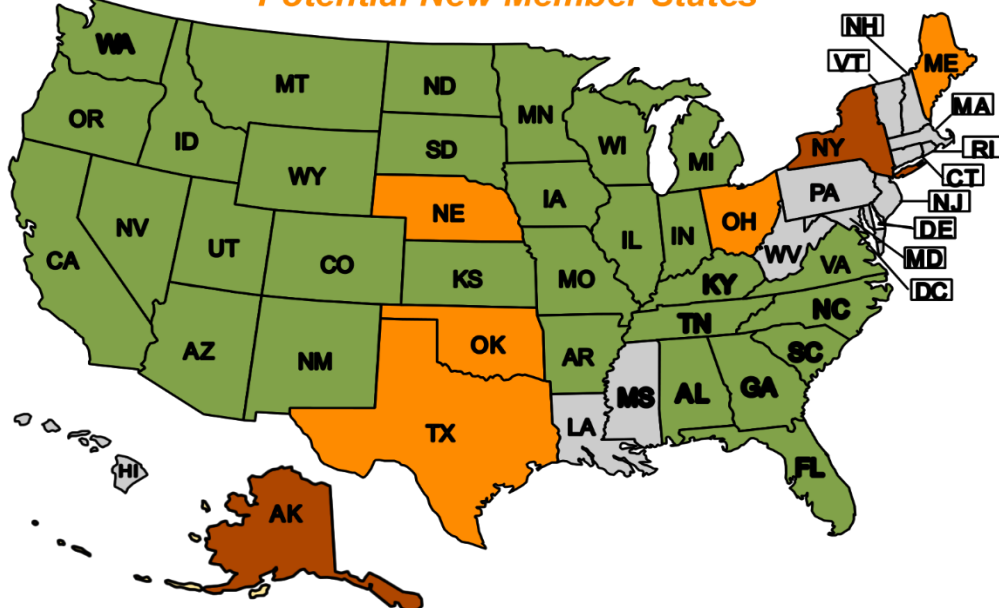
In 2018, Back Country Horsemen of America volunteers spent 322,125 hours working to maintain trails on public lands. That equates to a value of \$12.1 million dollars in trail work for the benefit of local and federal land management agencies.

\*In 47 years, BCHA members have contributed a value equal to \$150 million in volunteer hours.

## HOW WE GOT HERE

- BCHA formation took place in Montana's Flathead Valley in January of 1973 by Ken Ausk, Dulane Fulton, Dennis Swift, and Roland Cheek. They used their specialized knowledge of stock and the back country to bring about changes and modifications to the restrictive stock management by public officials. They began by participating in agency meetings about land use planning and regulations. Thus, the organization became a strong voice for responsible equestrian use and continued access in our back country. These four men and their supporters never dreamed that they would become the initial developers of programs like Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace for stock.
- By 2020 there are 32 states with 204 active BCHA chapters consisting of roughly 13,000 members who are dedicated to keeping trails open for all on our public lands. Our chapters work closely with trail partners and local land management agencies to clear and maintain trails.

**BCHA Current and Affiliate Members**  
*Potential New Member States*



## THE BIG, BIGGER AND BIGGEST CHALLENGES

**The Big Challenge...**Helping All Trail Users Get Along



**The Bigger Challenge...**Management of Public Land Budgets, Rules, and Regulations

- Memorandums of Understanding (The “MOU”)
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- The Wilderness Society
- American Horse Council
- Numerous local agreements

**The Biggest Challenge...**The Land and The Trails, Lots of Land and Lots of Trails

- Lots of Land in Acres
  - BLM 245 million
  - USFS 193 million
  - NPS 84 million
  - State Parks 14 million
- Lots of Trails in Miles
  - USFS 158,000
  - State Parks 42,000
  - NPS 18,000
  - BLM 16,000

## WE WELCOME YOU TO BE A PART OF A BIGGER CAUSE

**Because BCHA...**

- Keeps the trails open for all.
- Brings over 47 years of experience.
- Has been there and done that.
- Helps to resolve some of the challenges.

**Be part of a larger national movement to save the trails for the horses and riders.**

Reference: <http://www.bcha.org/about/>



Leave No Trace (LNT) was created by the U.S. Forest Service in the 1960's, when recreation on public lands increased significantly, with a corresponding level of damage to these wild places. Then in the early 1990s, the Forest Service worked with the National Outdoor Leadership School to develop hands-on, science-based minimum impact education for non-motorized recreational activities. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resources by horsemen and the general public.

This statement is the basis for the BCHA LNT Stock Users Education Program. The BCHA Board has directed that we become the primary trainer of stock users in LNT principles and practices nationally. The program is a partnership between BCHA, State and Affiliate Members, the U.S. Forest Service and LNT Inc.

BCHA coordinates, manages, and monitors the program in cooperation with State and Affiliate memberships. Qualified BCH members are selected to become LNT Master Educators.

### **THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF LEAVE NO TRACE:**

1. Plan and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

Reference: <https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>

## EVBCH SAFETY & ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES

<p><b>Trail Etiquette</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride in small groups of 8 – 10, as per LNT guidelines.</li> <li>• Register at the Trailhead, when appropriate</li> <li>• Be kind and courteous to hikers and bikers. Educate gently.</li> <li>• Avoid confrontation – use situational awareness, know when and how to escape an unsafe situation.</li> <li>• Keep noise to a minimum.</li> <li>• Do not tie up in the trail or block the trail.</li> <li>• Horses moving downhill give way to horses moving uphill.</li> <li>• Avoid campsites when possible.</li> <li>• Keep horse moving when it poops.</li> <li>• Clean manure from parking areas</li> <li>• Pack in/pack out, including toilet paper.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pack and Carry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snacks and plenty of water</li> <li>• Personal medications</li> <li>• Rain gear and/or coat</li> <li>• Benadryl</li> <li>• Comb and needle nose pliers (cactus removal)</li> <li>• First Aid Kit to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wrap, Antiseptic, Tape, Bute, Banamine</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Horse boots for lost shoes.</li> <li>• Whistle</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPS Tracking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GPS Tracking route preferred.</li> <li>○ Identify GPS users.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Have fully charged phone (turn locator on)</li> <li>• Bring an extra battery charger</li> <li>• Call USFS Dispatcher “IN and OUT” (recon/work party)</li> <li>• Report Accidents ASAP!</li> <li>• Stay alert and warn other riders of: dangers, obstacles, holes, outcrops, and branches.</li> <li>• If splitting a work group, arrange meeting time and place.</li> <li>• Use hand signals for verbal and non-verbal communication.</li> <li>• If lost ~ whistle ~ 3 short blasts, repeat seconds apart</li> </ul>	<p><b>Protect from Environmental Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be alert for bees, wild animals, snakes and scorpions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special precautions in shady areas, under logs, rocks, debris</li> <li>○ Do not confront but make your presence known (no surprises)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wear and carry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leather gloves</li> <li>○ Wide brim hat or helmet</li> <li>○ UVA/UVB clothing or long-sleeved shirt</li> <li>○ Sunglasses</li> <li>○ Neckerchief</li> <li>○ Sunscreen and lip protection (apply often)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Mounting/Dismounting/Stopping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold safety briefings BEFORE mounting.</li> <li>• Ride with halter under the bridle.</li> <li>• Check cinch before mounting each time.</li> <li>• Riders must be able to mount/dismount unassisted.</li> <li>• Mount on the high side.</li> <li>• When mounting grab the horse’s mane not the horn.</li> <li>• After mounting, move out together.</li> <li>• Only stop and dismount in safe areas.</li> <li>• Wait for rider opening/closing the gate.</li> <li>• Tie up with halter and lead rope, never reins.</li> <li>• Reduce impact to trees and vegetation when tying up.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Safety Considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry on the rider’s person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medical Information Card</li> <li>○ Identification (name, phone #, address)</li> <li>○ Emergency Contact</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In cante bag keep owner’s contact information</li> <li>• On horse (leg band/tags) owner’s name &amp; number</li> <li>• Alert leader to health concerns (personal choice)</li> <li>• Assess rider and horse hydration.</li> <li>• Increase fluid intake (consider electrolyte additives)</li> <li>• Rest when you or your horse are fatigued.</li> <li>• Keep sharp equipment in shields or sheaths when not in use.</li> </ul>



## **EVBCH TRAIL RIDE RULES**

**EVBCH** members practice safe, sensible, LNT behavior; consequently, all rides are limited to 10 riders or less. When participating in a sanctioned ride, all riders must adhere to the following Ride Rules:

1. The Trail Boss oversees all ride activities and can delegate responsibilities.
2. A walk is the only gait allowed in camp or in an assembly area.
3. Horses with a tendency to kick must have a red ribbon on their tail.
4. The Trail Boss will set the gait/pace with consideration to all riders.
5. Remain on the trail behind the Trail Boss and in front of the Drag Rider for the entire ride.
6. Maintain a consistent speed and keep a horse-length between horses.
7. Notify the Trail Boss or Drag Rider if you need to stop; wait until all are mounted before moving out.
8. Do not leave the group without notifying the Trail Boss.
9. Riders under 18 years of age must wear a helmet and be accompanied by a parent.
10. The Trail Boss may remove a disruptive rider or horse from the group. (Accompanied by the Drag Rider or appointed rider)

No...

- alcoholic beverages on the ride
- stallions or dogs
- swearing or profane language
- riding bareback, with a bareback pad, or double (unless in emergency)
- cantering or racing

Reference: Safety Guidelines and Trail Ride Rules please refer to EVBCH Education Committee

## EV BCH MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



BCHA is a member of the Association Resource Group (ARG). ARG offers discounts on products and services to their members. They also provide information on topics applicable to affiliate organizations and their membership. EVBCH members in good standing qualify for ARG's many benefits.



The Back Country Horsemen of American has added another benefit for members by offering Excess Equestrian Liability Insurance through Equisure. The liability policy is available to BCHA individual and family members in good standing and covers excess personal liability up to \$1 million. Cost for the policy is \$20 for individual and \$40 for family BCHA members. **You must be a member in good standing (dues paid) to purchase.** If you purchase and are not a paid member, you will be invoiced for membership dues and must pay the membership invoice prior to receiving the policy.

For more information about the Equisure Equestrian Liability check out the FAQ and sample policy at the link below:

<https://bcha.site-ym.com/store/ViewProduct.aspx?id=8380563&hhSearchTerms=%2522equisure%2522>

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

**Please detach, complete, and return to Membership Committee Chair.**

Email to: [membership@evbch.org](mailto:membership@evbch.org) or mail to: EVBCH – Membership, P.O. Box 2928, Apache Junction, AZ 85117

Member Name and Email \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for joining East Valley Back Country Horsemen of Arizona. We appreciate your support and look forward to getting to know you and working towards our common goals. We are interviewing new and current members so that EVBCH can better understand how you and your family wish to participate in our activities. We realize your preferences may change over time, so answer for the present situation (and looking into the future).

Please tell us about yourself and your experiences with horses, packing, and trail maintenance.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

I am interested in helping with the following committee(s):

- Membership and Retention
- Social
- Education
- Trails and Packing
- Fundraising and Special Events
- Public Affairs
- Not interested now, maybe later.

EVBCH thanks you for your membership.



Your skills and talents are a great addition to our team!