

HOOFBEATS

EDITED BY HEIDI YOUNG, ENTRIES FROM ...

TALES FROM THE TRAIL: PART 1

In late July, several club members made the trek over to eastern Idaho and rode in the Teton mountain range. We were lucky that member Suzanne Paisley used to live there. A friend of hers, Elaine Johnson, runs a horse motel just outside of Teton.

Suzanne and her husband Charles, Anne Martin, Heidi Young, and eventually, Jennifer and her 2 daughters, dry camped at Elaine's "Ears The Place" homestead with large corrals and a phenomenal view.



We rode each day, trailering 15-25 minutes on good roads to the trailheads. But to ride here: good shoes are a must, and a trail-savvy horse too. While most portions of the trails were fine, there were plenty of places where your horse needed both confidence and

Next Meeting:
Sunday, August
16th at Wilson
Creek trailhead
Ride: 9 am
Meeting: 11 am ISH

Website:

Membership forms available, previous newsletters, articles and pictures:
www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Facebook:

Search for "Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club" or click <https://www.facebook.com/groups/173300099742934/> and request to be added. That is our PUBLIC group and has a nationwide coverage with over 225 followers. We also have a separate PRIVATE page, solely for members.

competence. When the trail is steeply sloped down to a creek, your horse better be able to place his hooves properly and deal with a very narrow trail. Or cross a boggy creek and haul himself up out of the muck that threatens to suck him into who-knows-where.



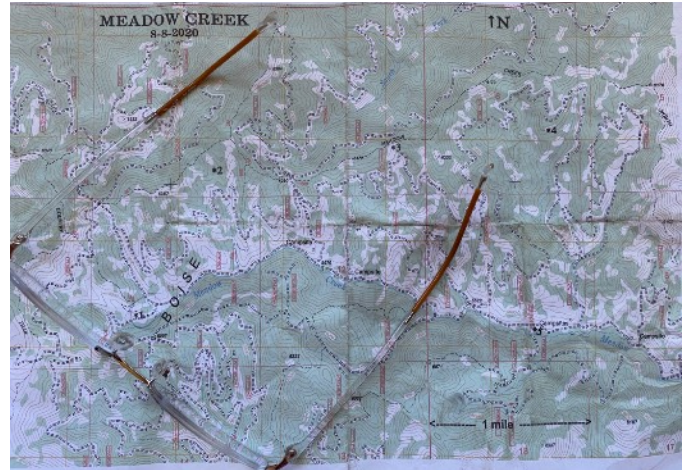
And trail-savvy riders often carry quite an inventory of 'spare parts' in their saddle bag. When Anne pulled this out of her bag; we kinda laughed. We might carry **some** duct tape — but not an entire roll ! But then we proceeded to use about half of roll trying to keep a shoe on. Kudos to Anne.

And lets not forget the 'lost child' story. Jennifer's non-riding daughter hiked out some along our trails each day. On one trip, she thought she was taking a shorter route back to the trailhead. (not) With a little thought, and luckily cellular coverage, we found her many miles away after she had hiked down a different ridge. But that adventure let them to see this critter!



TALES FROM THE TRAIL: PART 2

Several club members have been participating in the Idaho Mounted Orienteering club's rides, held all around the general Treasure Valley. We've done several of these monthly rides and are improving our topographic map-reading skills. There was one past Mountain Home, another up near High Valley/Dry Buck, and this one just beyond Idaho City. We may not always find the required 5 markers, but we always have a good time.



The latest ride was on Saturday the 8th, and after leaving Hwy 21 just past Cowboy Campground, you drove about 9 miles back forest service roads. Most were OK but the further you got, the narrower the road was until it was barely one lane wide. If someone came the other way — somebody backed up.

The map shown above is what you get when you show up at your chosen departure time. Each team then decides how to find the 5 markers. And those reading glasses? Very necessary for us seniors — and no wimpy 1.25 cheaters either!



Teams return several hours later and 'clock in'. A potluck commences (main dish provided) and riders sit around and visit until all teams return and winners are announced. As a new team; we are very welcomed by the many experienced teams in this club. At this last event; 1st and 2nd place, and then 4th and 5th (US) were just 5 minutes apart. HEY: NOT BAD!

What we gaited folks get to do on these rides is **MOVE OUT** when the trail is good. Now that we are improving our map skills (the compass part is easy), we are gonna **ROCK THIS**. Next ride is August 29th, up at Ola Summit and some of us are going to camp out there again. The access looks very easy. **If you and your horse are capable of riding for 4 hours straight, willing to MOVE OUT and do at least 15 miles, join us!** (Aleve highly recommended)



WHO LEFT THIS CHAIR AT THE EAGLE ISLAND MEETING LAST MONTH?