



Back Country Horsemen of Washington members Linda Morin, left, Ray and Rochelle Sutherland had a grand time leading the equine entries in the parade as a part of the Joyce Daze Wild Blackberry Festival. Members from three Olympic Peninsula chapters participated. (Photo by Denise Hupfer/Peninsula chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington)

## **HORSEPLAY: Summer full of blackberry joy and wildfire fears**

- by [Karen Griffiths](#)
- Sunday, August 22, 2021 1:30am
- [LifeClallam CountyJefferson County](#)

**WHO DOESN'T ENJOY** a parade? Especially one centered on fresh wild blackberries and homemade blackberry pie? This year marked the 38th annual Joyce Daze Parade, and, as always, both spectators and participants had fun taking part.

Members from three chapters of Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) — Peninsula, Mount Olympus and Buckhorn Range — were excited to take part in their first parade since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Donna Hollatz, a member of the Peninsula chapter, recalled how wonderful the entire Joyce Daze Wild Blackberry Festival was, with its booths featuring arts and crafts and abundant homemade blackberry pies.

“Lots of people lined the streets to watch the parade, and the mood was festive,” Hollatz said.

Despite most of summer being hot and dry, she said, “On that day was the first rain we’ve had in weeks, and we all ended up wet. The forests appreciated it, but the human spirits were somewhat dampened.”

Hollatz said it took lots of preparation to get their group of 10 people and seven stock animals ready.

“We lined up early at the high school with six rigs, seven animals, a horse cart and tool trailer,” she said. “Our parade unit consisted of four saddle horses, a horse pulling a cart and a miniature horse and donkey as pack animals.”

Linda Morin, Peninsula chapter events chair, organized the parade unit and rode her horse. Other riders were Peninsula’s Kat Sample and Ray and Rochelle Sutherland from Mount Olympus. Peninsula’s tool trailer, with displays of all of the chapter’s landowner partner decals was pulled by Don Gonder. Kandy Mulrony and Jim Morin — Linda’s brother-in-law — led the miniature pack animals, Murphy the donkey and Harley the horse. Honey bucket duties were provided by Buckhorn Range members Jeff Chapman, wielding the scoop, and Juelie Dalzell, whose horse pulled the cart with the bucket. Denise Hupfer of the Peninsula chapter documented the escapades with her camera.

“We were awarded second place in the miscellaneous category,” said Hollatz, adding it was an appropriate title. “We certainly were a miscellaneous group.”

Anyone interested in learning more about BCHW or how to become a member of a local chapter can visit the group’s website at [pbchw.org](http://pbchw.org) or call Hollatz at 360-457-6694.