

The Trailhead News

Vol. 48 Issue 5

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

September/October 2023



www.bchw.org



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Inside this Issue www.bchw.org

Chapter Locations & Directors... 1
Optional Members ... 2
President’s Corner... 3-5
Knowing How Scammers Pose as the IRS
Can Help Taxpayers Protect Themselves ... 4
Out On The Trails
Trail Ambassador, My First Assignment... 5
Trail Work
Trail Crew Notes from the Peninsula Chapter ... 6-7
2023 Haney Meadows Regional Work Party ... 8-9
Volunteers Needed for the 2023 BCHW Winery Ride!... 9
Lost and Found in the Kettle ... 10
We Need to Thank These Dedicated Trail Warriors! ... 11-12
Black Pine Work Party ... 13
Calendar of Events ... Outside Back Cover

Cover Photos: Sometimes we need to take a break, relax and bond with our stock after working hard....
“Al Norrbom” resting and bonding with his Gypsy Vanner, “Patch.”
Photo submitted by Marcy N.

Disclaimer

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "Lifetime," "Contributing," "Sustaining," and "Patron" members.

The Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page is provided by the BCHW Membership Committee. **If you have any corrections or questions, please e-mail membership@bchw.org.**

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2022 Annual Meeting Head Table					
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		Dean & Susan Hartman	CPR		
		Butch & Jaima Havens	IND		

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In-Memoriam

Carol Wilcox
 Doc Wesselius
 BettyRae Shonka
 Trygve Culp
 Jim Murphy
 Teunis Wyers
 Marianne Finrow

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance
 Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.

Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a "trade or business" and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this "trade or business"). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your taxes. ↗

President's Corner



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

The history of Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) began with one man: Ken Wilcox. Ken didn't just dream a dream, and he didn't just see a vision. Ken just heard of a need and went out to meet it. In 1976, a new horsemen organization called Back Country Horsemen of America was formed in Montana and Idaho. Since the objectives were the same, the new organization, Back Country Horsemen of Washington, was started.

With the help of his wife, Carol Wilcox, and many friends, you and I enjoy the reality of backcountry recreational horse trails throughout the beautiful state of Washington. While Ken met with Forest Service representatives, Carol stayed home to do the many chores.



Carol Wilcox receiving the BCHW Lifetime Achievement Award.

It took time and energy. It paid off then and still does today. BCHW continues this effort for tomorrow's generation.

Ken Wilcox passed away following heart surgery in 1995. His spirit continues today to charge us to always ask, "What will this do to or for the recreational horse user?" I usually like to write about things that help this organization. However, today I must write with a heavy heart. Ken's wife, Carol Wilcox, passed away just before midnight on August 6, 2023. I had never met her, but I know that she and Ken were BCHW! Up until about five years ago, Carol drove over the pass in her old truck

and camper to attend the Traildusters meetings.

Cathy Nelson, Director of the Traildusters chapter, shared a story with me.

Cathy went to a birthday party for a gal named June, and Carol was there. Those two ladies were very independent women. Cathy told me about when June and Carol headed up to Haney Meadow. Anyone who has been there knows just how difficult that drive is. Carol sat in the passenger seat, giving June all her support and encouragement.

Janet Danielson, another BCHW member, sent me the following:

"Carol was independent, compassionate, humble, smart and a strong leader. She was a person you admired. We horse camped together many times over the years. When we would get to a camp like Haney Meadow, everyone picked their camp spot.

Carol would do her own parking and set up. You did not go to help her to park, etc. She would soon let you know if help was needed, she would ask.

BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter "BCHA") and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows: The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

continued on page 4



Knowing How Scammers Pose as the IRS Can Help Taxpayers Protect Themselves

By Ken Carmichael

I subscribe to an IRS newsletter. The following information was recently included. I feel it is good information for everyone. Remember, there are all types of scams, not just involving the IRS. Please share this with members of your family.

Crooks are always looking for new ways to scam unsuspecting taxpayers. Scammers impersonate the IRS by phone or email, in person, or by mail or delivery service – and cost people their time and money. By staying vigilant against schemes and scams, taxpayers can protect themselves.

Scammers can pose as the IRS by mail – taxpayers should know the facts

One of the newest and more devious schemes involves mail coming in a cardboard envelope from either a delivery service or the United States Postal Service (USPS). The enclosed letter includes the IRS masthead and wording that the notice is “in relation to your unclaimed refund.” The contact information does not belong to the IRS, but the mailing looks official. This scheme seeks sensitive personal information from taxpayers – including driver’s license photos – that can be used by identity thieves to steal the taxpayer’s refund and other sensitive financial information.

It’s now easier to spot when it’s a scammer at the door and not the IRS

Scam artists may also appear at the door posing as IRS agents, creating confusion for not just the taxpayers but also local law enforcement agencies. As this scam has grown, taxpayer confusion about home visits by IRS revenue officers has increased.

To help combat these scams, the IRS recently announced that it is ending most unannounced visits to taxpayers by agency revenue officers. In place of the unannounced visits, revenue officers will instead contact taxpayers through an appointment letter, known as a 725-B Letter, and schedule a follow-up meeting. This will help taxpayers feel more prepared when it is time to meet.

Taxpayers who receive a request from IRS in the mail or by phone can always contact IRS customer service to authenticate it.

Scammers may also contact taxpayers electronically

Taxpayers should be on the lookout for a summer surge of tax scams as identity thieves continue sending email and text messages promising tax refunds or offers to help ‘fix’ tax problems. They may pose as the IRS or tax professionals, urging the taxpayer to click fraudulent links so the identity thieves can steal valuable personal information.

Taxpayers should remember: the IRS never initiates contact regarding a bill or tax refund by email, text or social media. 🍀

President’s Corner

continued from page 3



Occasionally I would help with the High line, and there’s the independence. Carol did not want to be babysat. Those who have driven that road to Haney Meadow will know it was a challenge, apparently not for Carol. Carol drove a stick shift truck pulling a horse trailer, no problem, or so she never mentioned any.

On one trip to Haney, her truck died halfway on that steep spot going uphill. She couldn’t get the truck started, so she unloaded both horses and rode one up the hill bareback and ponied the other one to the top of the hill. She had left the keys in the truck, and someone came along, started it up, and drove it up the hill. After that experience, many would have thrown in the towel. To Carol, it was just another horse camping experience.

On one return trip from the Twisp area, Carol drove out ahead of us. We always stop at a fruit stand in Orondo. When we pulled into the lot, Carol was there. She had a big smile on her face and said to me you’re not checking on me, are you? (No, Carol, I wouldn’t do that.) I’m sure many of you have heard the saying the buck stops here, (President Harry Truman), but with Carol, it was an account of how the buck was spent--every penny.

I never met anybody who didn’t like or respect Carol. A GOOD PERSON, and A GOOD FRIEND, SHE WILL BE MISSED.”

Mike McGlenn shared his favorite story with me as well.

“Sometime after Ken’s passing, Carol arrived at the BCHW Rendezvous. She brought Ken’s license Plate, an early vanity plate, BCHW, and the paperwork to transfer the plate to someone else. She put it into the live auction. David Jackson and I got our heads together, along with several others and put together a plan to bid the plate up high and give it to Carol to have. The bidding was hot as many wanted the plate. Dave and I and the others in the group got the plate. If memory serves correctly, the amount was about \$1,500.00, which we split among us equally. We got Carol up on stage and presented the plate to her, which brought the house down.

continued on page 5

Trail Ambassador, My First Assignment

By Barb Penniston

Participation in the East Cascade recreation partnership (ECRP) put me in contact with the Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG) staff, WTA members, and Forest Service staff. These connections and more have taught me much about our recreators and the land managers working together for our trail use. I wanted to know more, and I also wanted to give my time to support the use of our trails. I'm having health challenges, so I wondered what I could do since playing in the dirt (trail maintenance work) was not possible for me.

The Trail Ambassador (TA) program was mentioned several times during our ECRP meetings. It was a new program that was started before the pandemic restrictions and was now being restored to activation. Trail Ambassador is two ambassadors at the busiest trailheads that are available to greet and welcome visitors, answer questions, and educate trail users. Tread Lightly is part of education. I wanted to join this program for Kittitas Valleys recreation because my want for Tread Lightly awareness is strong.

The Forest Service (FS) is struggling with insufficient staff, and they requested volunteers. Mountains to Sound Greenway was there to help. I participated in online training through (MTSG) and was on the FS volunteer list.

On June 10, I was up early and met up with my TA partner, Eva. We drove up the Teanaway Valley to the very busy Esmerelda Basin trailhead. Our third team member and trainer, Kay, was already there to help.

We set up our canopy, table, and chairs and brought out maps, trail condition information, and user tally sheets the USFS asked us to do. There were already over 20 parked cars at 7:30 am. Many of these were overnight campers already in the basin. More cars quickly rolled in, and we counted hikers entering the trailhead. Recreators wanted to know who we were and why we were there. Some new hikers approached us looking for and asking about the routes to the individual lakes. Some users were returning to the

area for their favorite hike. We asked if they had the correct forest pass, invited them to take pictures of the maps, and informed them of the current trail conditions, which had many bugs.

I enjoyed using skills and knowledge to guess the breeds of visiting dogs. I also used my foreign language skills. It was fun asking people where they hailed from. So many Seattlites came to our valley. I spoke Seattlese too.

Most hikers arrived between 8 and 9 am. At noon we gathered our data, packed up our supplies, and headed out. The parking lot was more than full, with 20-30 cars lining the road below the official and provided parking area. I really enjoyed working with my team and learning more. 🌿

President's Corner

continued from page 4

Time passed. Carol aged. Her kids finally decided she shouldn't be driving anymore. I was sitting in my office working one day when the phone rang. It was Carol on the line. She told me the story of not being allowed to drive any longer. She then asked if I was going to Rendezvous, which was a month or so away. I said yes, I was. She told me she had all the paperwork to transfer the license plate, BCHW, to a new owner and wanted me to have it. I was stunned and an emotional wreck. I gave her a big hug at the Rendezvous and accepted the plate and the paperwork. The BCHW plate has been proudly displayed on my truck ever since. A daily reminder of Ken, Carol and BCHW."

There will not be any services for Carol per her final request. Donations can be made in her name to your favorite horse rescue! She will be missed! 🐾

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expired on December 31, 2022. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR MEMBERSHIPS

In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$41.00
Family	\$54.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

Trail Crew Notes from the Peninsula Chapter



Our first project, 20 yards past



South horse gate out of Elkhorn.



Detached rootball means great sliding potential

By Rebecca Wanagel, BCHW Peninsula Chapter

The crew members' hours are camp to camp or camp to trailhead (or reverse). This trip required us to hike an average of approximately 100 miles, many loaded with either camp, tools, gas/oil, or some of both. The packers put in approximately 55 miles over three days.

This back country trip up the Elwha was nine, eight or six days long, depending on the crew member. Rebecca made the decision early on to allow flexibility – no one crew member had to commit to all or nothing.

Our goal was to clear the Elwha trail – a stock trail – from Elkhorn to Low Divide. The Olympic National Park (ONP) crew had cleared to Elkhorn, including some amazing tread and drainage work and bridge repair. They are doing a major roof restoration project at Elkhorn all summer, so they needed the trail in good, clear, repaired condition to Elkhorn.

This trip was preceded by umpteen dozens of hours of prep and organization including coordinating with the Trails Supervisor, Larry Lack, and the ONP packers who hauled our gear into Elkhorn before the start of our trip, and the BCH volunteer packers who hauled our gear out from Wilder at the end of the trip. Rebecca did all the communication, emailing, planning, scheduling, and coordination. Various crew members drove to Port Angeles to bring their gear for mule packing. Martin ran all the gear over in two different trips to the ONP packer mule corral. Many folks, including the packers, drove long miles to get to the trailhead. The packers came the day before to Sequim to spend the night getting closer to the entry point of Madison Falls.

Every single one of us spent an untold number of hours packing and prepping to get the gear right. Everything the crew brought had to be carried on our backs past Elkhorn. Then there are the untold number of hours post-trip for Re-

becca to write this summary, report the work and hours to ONP, complete the picture album, retrieve the gear from the packers, etc.

Just know that these many dozens of hours are NOT included in the actual work hours listed above. Sometimes folks might not realize just how many extra hours are behind every hour listed as actual work hours of volunteering.

Some backstory: Martin and Rebecca did a major log clear from one-point-five miles north of Hayes to just before the first Elwha crossing (approx. nine-point-five miles) last summer. The logs were dense, but we cleared those, and an ONP crew cleared over Low Divide and down to Chicago Camp from the other direction (The North Fork Quinault side). That left about two miles between the first fjord and Chicago Camp, which hadn't been touched in many years.

continued on page 7



The top (bigger) tree slid a bit into the lower tree, (We expected that from the lay of the tree) Which poked the lower tree into the ground and stopped any more movement from either tree. Trimmed it up and it's good to go.

Trail Crew Notes from the Peninsula Chapter

continued from page 6

Last year we cleared 120 logs (I'm sure the ONP crew also cleared a lot). This year, with the larger crew, we cleared approx. 85 logs. But that cleared more miles and used more gas, meaning there were larger logs than last year. But this explains why we had sections that were far more hiking than cutting. 🐾

For details, visit https://www.bchw.org/trail_crew_reports.php



This was the five-log mess about three miles south of Hayes.



TRAIL CREW NOTES

6/23-7/1 (trail crew) and 7/2-7/4 (packers)

Location: Elwha, Olympic National Park

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel	Martin Knowles
Paul Kamps	Bernt Ericson
Randy Kraxberger	David Graves

Packers:

Rachael Tuller	Matthew Tuller
----------------	----------------

Animals:

Woody	Possie
Noomie	Maize
Biscuit	Blue

Hours: 446 (crew) + 60 (packers) = 506

The crew members' hours are camp to camp or camp to trailhead (or reversed). This trip required us to hike an average of approximately 100 miles, many of them loaded with either camp, tools plus gas/oil, or some of both. The packers put in approximately 55 miles over three days.

We used two saws on this five-log project. The 462 with a 36" bar. The 261 with a 28" bar. Then we swapped the bars back to 28" and 20" for proper transport in the sheaths.

✂ Please clip out and mail ✂



Permanent or Temporary Address Change Form

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

New Address: _____

Temporary Address for Snow Birds: _____

Start date: _____ Return Date: _____

Mail to: Dana Chambers, State Membership Chair, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391
Email to: membership.bchw@gmail.com

2023 Haney Meadows Regional Work Party



By Barbara Thomas

In 2012, the Table Mountain Fire swept through 65 square miles of forest in the area we know as Haney Meadows or the Ken Wilcox Horse Camp. While the fire spared most of the campground, the trees around the camp were compromised, and acres of dead trees lining most trails have resulted in years of downed timber and damage.

In 2022, Ed Letcher, at the suggestion of Ken Evans, started plans for a regional work party for 2023. A regional work party for BCHW calls on volunteers across the state to join together for a multiple-day camping and work party. The call went out for sawyers, swampers, packers, loppers, cooks, and anyone else that would assist in clearing trails and repairing the campgrounds. Approximately 50 volunteers around the state answered this call and, in five days, did an amazing amount of work.

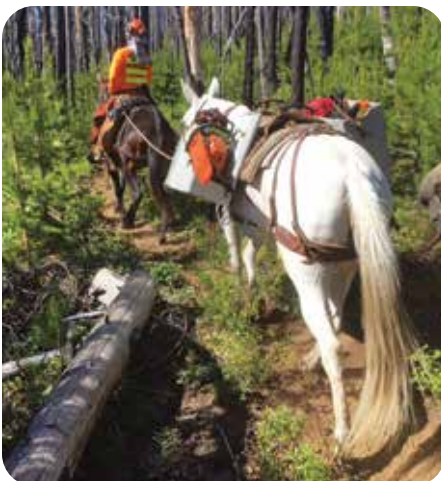
Ed's goal for this work party was to log out the most popular loop trails out of camp, clean up the campsites and repair the fencing around the meadows. The work started a day or two before the official work party as those volunteers arriving on Wednesday or

Thursday found campsites clogged with downed trees and debris. So out came the chainsaws and the excavator to start the camp clean up so volunteers could find a place to park their rigs.

The official start of the work party was Friday, June 30th. Ed broke the trail crew into teams, each taking a part of the trail system to clear. Most volunteers were on foot that first day because the downed trees were right out of camp. In all, 16 certified sawyers were working on the trails at any given time. About six members were certified or re-certified at this work party, thanks to Tony Karniss. Behind the sawyers were the swampers and loppers who cleaned up the trails behind the sawyers so that they could go onto the next tree across the trail. In all, around 15 miles of trails were logged out and cleared.

After feeding the volunteers breakfast and packing their lunches, the kitchen crew, led by Ranae Stevens, planned and

continued on page 9



2023 Haney Meadows Regional Work Party

continued from page 8

prepared the dinner for the hungry volunteers. Other camp volunteers replaced or repaired about 400 ft of the fencing around the meadow, repaired or replaced three hitching rails in campsites, kept stock water tanks around camp full, cleaned out manure bins, repaired solar-powered stock water troughs, and improved all of the campsites.

With the work done by so many volunteers, there are still trails in this system that still need to be logged out. There is still work to do and efforts to preserve the trails and the camp for future users.

Some say it takes a village. We say it takes volunteers of all skill sets who have the heart and give their time to join together for the good of others. On that note, we would like to thank the Tahoma chapter for the funds to feed volunteers for five days and the USFS for their cooperation and help, including all hardware, the front load tractor, the dump trailer, and the excavator that made our job so much easier. We also thank the cooks who started the coffee at 6 AM and fed the volunteers breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



This work could not have been done without BCHW chapters supporting our mission statement of keeping our trails open for all users. We would like to recognize the following chapters whose members joined us:

EVC 8 Vol, MSH 5 Vol, TAH 6 Vol, TDC 8 Vol, LCC 2 Vol, WEN 4 Vol, OLY 2 Vol, CCR 3 Vol, GHC 2 Vol, OKA 1 Vol, WVC 5 Vol, IND 2 Vol 🍀



Volunteers Needed for the 2023 BCHW Winery Ride!

By Barbara Thomas, BCHW Winery Ride Chairman

It usually takes 80-100 volunteers to make this event successful. We have about 45 signed up, and it's only a little more than two months away. We know that there are a lot of procrastinators out there that are planning on coming and helping but just haven't gotten around to signing up.

When you sign up early, it helps us plan what we can or can't do. It also gives our fabulous volunteer cooks time to plan their shopping.

It usually takes 80-100 volunteers to make this event successful. We have about 45 signed up, and it's only a little more than two months away.



Title of art is Red Rider. Designed by Jill Haney Neal

Volunteers do various things to make this event a wonderful experience for our paying customers. There are winery hosts, a parking team, a prize team, registration, wine pick up, wine distribution, trail safety crew, manure managers, and lots more. Plus, this event is fun to watch.

So if you haven't done so already, please go to Volunteer Registration.

If you would like more information about the event, please go to bchw.org and check out the Winery Ride page on our website. 🍷

Lost and Found in the Kettle



Finding signs hidden deep in the vegetation



Mark Reese entering Kettles County Park from adjacent Ft Ebey State Park

By Mark Reese, Vice President, Island County Chapter BCHW

Many who travel the back or front country of our glorious state have experienced, at some time, a sense of not knowing for certain which direction to turn when meeting a crossroad. Sometimes the trail has never been marked, or the remnants of any signage have been lost to the elements and time.

Whidbey Island in western Washington has one location that has seen its share of lost souls wandering in the woods. Over the past two years, Island County Chapter BCHW has taken the initiative to map out the trails within Kettles County Park in Coupeville, WA, and install new trail intersection signs. Mapping out the trails was daunting, with over 35 miles of multi-use trails within the park. Volunteers spent many hours hiking, documenting trail locations, and determining where signs were needed while ensuring consistency with existing county and state maps.

Lumber, materials, and signs were financed through donations from Island County Parks and Trails, Island County Trails Council, local businesses, and our generous supporters. Island County Chapter members provided labor. Signage was designed to maintain a natural appearance and be consistent with the adjacent Fort Ebey State Park trail signs. The park is closed to motorized vehicles, so all materials were transported into the forest by hand and cart. The wood posts were installed manually using hand tools – spud bar, post hole digger, shovel, and sometimes pulling rocks out by hand!

Anyone who has hiked the Kettles Trails System (named after the geological feature known as kettles, glacial depres-

sions left in the landscape from the receding Vashon Glacier) knows the park terrain has many steep ravines and is heavily forested. For the project, 180 new signs and 65 new wood posts were placed throughout the county park and will provide visitors with an improved system of trail connectivity. Thanks to everyone that made this project a success! 🌲



Mark Reese installing new signs in Kettles County Park



Tools of the trade

We Need to Thank These Dedicated Trail Warriors!



Hot Shot Crew



Black Piner Photos.

BCHW Hotshots led by Jason Ridlon!

I just returned from another BCHW Hotshot trip clearing trails in the Pasayten Wilderness (the focus of this trip was on the part of Chewuch Trail). Some of you may not know how these work parties got started. In 2014, Trgve Culp planted a seed that inspired me to figure out how BCHW could leverage its stock, saw skill abilities, and started going into the wilderness areas to clear trails. I started leading these events in 2016, and it has only gotten better over time. It is amazing how small conversations in a person's life influence them to take on large tasks. Today in 2023, this work continues. This trip took on a special meaning for me.



Ken Elliott significantly influenced my involvement in BCHW, leading these work parties. He was truly a remarkable man by all measures and participated in many of these events. I could not have been more pleased on day two when our two teams joined in the middle of the #510 Chewuch Trail. Opening it back up to stock and allowing my team to pay tribute to Ken on Cathedral Pass the next day. Thank you, Erin Elliott Haney and her family, for leading the way! I wish to leave you with this quote of backcountry wisdom.

"It's better to ride a skinny horse than follow the tracks of a fat horse" Words to live by when grazing the backcountry!"

BCHW Hotshots, led by Tom Janes and Tina Short!

Our group's 4th of July Hotshot Work Party 2023 had us leave the Thirty-mile trailhead (out of Winthrop, WA) on Thursday, June 29, and return to the trailhead on Wednesday, July 5.

Our directive was to log out Chewuch Trail #510 and meet up with the Jason Ridlon team coming in the opposite direction on July 2. We were extremely lucky our log load was better than predicted. It allowed us to focus time on brushing and clearing some drainage areas that needed TLC. On July 3, our small team of six started up the Four Point Lake #505 trail, which had a heavy log load. Monday, we logged approximately 140 logs, and Tuesday, 160. Jason Ridlon's team came in the afternoon of Tuesday to help

continued on page 12

We Need to Thank These Dedicated Trail Warriors

continued from page 11

assist and see if we could finish. We made it to within a quarter mile of the lake. The last bit of the Four Point Lake trail at the end reminded me of Billy Goat Hot Shot Work Party last year, with a wall of trees between us and the lake. Hopefully, another group will be able to remove the remaining logs so the trail will again be accessible to stock and easier for hikers to use. Thank you to all who volunteer at these work parties and those that support us.

Our Black Piners, led by Barb Talbot!

A Big "Thanks" to all who participated in the "Pack In" work party at the Hunter Camp on Meadow Creek. Icicle Outfitters packed in some camp gear for trail runners Roger Johnson and Zak and Tara Steigmeyer's family on one pack animal. Kaleb, the lead wrangler, stayed for a bit to help us cut out logs in the camp on Sunday. Diane, Greg, Rachel, and I packed in camp gear, tools, and saws. The trail runner/packer combination got a lot of trail work done! The Snowall/Cradle Trail is logged from Meadow Creek Trail to the saddle/pass just beyond Cradle Lake. That should make the WTA Backcountry crew working Snowall Cradle from French Creek very happy in August! We also got Meadow Creek logged to about 1/3 mile before Paddy Go Easy Junction. Oh boy, that last 1/3 mile got pummeled by a nasty storm burst. A cluster of big live trees came down. This used to be dark woods; now, you can get a sunburn in there. Finding the trail will be a problem; once you do, logging out will take several days. This will take some thought about how we will get this done this year. One option would be approaching the Paddy-Go-Easy pass and going down to the junction. This option depends on trail condition of the PGE trail. We have seen that trail with lots of logs as well. A discussion with the Cle Elum district might be helpful. Big thanks to Diane, Greg, Tim, and Leanne for getting French



Creek Trail logged out to Snowall/Cradle Junction on the French Creekside before the work party. Thanks to Tim for helping us pack all our gear out on July 5.

The Forest Service invited BCHW representatives Tim Van Beek and Barb Talbot to accompany them to the failed old bridge site on the Icicle trail while engineers evaluated it for replacement. This work is exciting- one step closer to getting our bridge back! Barb will keep us posted!

The week of July 15 – 21, the Black Piners once again headed up to the Black Pine Horse Camp. There will be more to come after that work party concludes.

On behalf of BCHW, I would like to thank the BCHW Hotshots, led by Jason Ridlon, and the Black Piners, led by Barb Talbot, for all their dedication to our wilderness trails. 🌲



Black Pine Work Party



An under-bucker holds up the saw so the log can be cut from underneath.



A high-lift jack is used to hold the log up so it doesn't pinch the saw or helps lift it clear of an obstacle so it can be rolled off the trail.



Barb and her awesome mules, Ruby and Annie.

By Sue Davis, BCHW Capitol Riders Chapter Director

Over the years of riding in the PNW, I have learned that mother nature reclaims the trails without regular maintenance, and they quickly become impassable. While I regularly put in time working on local trails, I figured it was time to help at a regional work party in the high country where so many of us escape to in summer.

So I drove to Black Pine Horse Camp up Icicle Creek out of Leavenworth in mid-June to participate in my first regional work party. Barb Talbott and a few other dedicated folks have been working since 2016 to re-open this Alpine Lakes Wilderness trail system, which had needed maintenance for about four years due to bridge washouts and slides. Before this experience, I would have said I was fairly capable and prepared in the backcountry. Well, this handful of BCHW and WTA members showed me a whole new level of knowledge and capability when it comes to clearing trails and traveling in the backcountry! They used terms and talked about tools that I had never heard of or seen used, like “under-buckers,” “Katana Boy,” and “high-lift jacks.” I am admitting my ignorance and have to laugh at myself now for previously writing an article about saws for the Trailhead News. But you don't know what you don't know, and it's never too late to learn.

Trail clearing in wilderness areas must be done with hand tools since mechanized tools are prohibited. This crew of eight, counting me, had an astounding arsenal of saws. There were six-foot, five-foot, and four-foot crosscut saws for cutting the large downed logs, some over three feet in diameter. There were Silky saws of various lengths, including one called a Katana Boy that was occasionally used to finish the cuts on the large logs. Numerous sharp small hand saws were needed to cut branches from the logs before they could be sawed and rolled off the trail. There also were pulling straps, axes, wedges, bars, under-buckers, and loppers.

Before the sawing began, we assessed every situation. It had to be determined what tools were best suited, which way the log could be rolled to get it off the trail if there was any danger of the log springing up or sideways when a cut was made, what angle the cut should be so it would roll free, was a jack needed to prevent the

log from dropping down and pinching the saw and did we need to put rolling logs under the log to help roll it over an obstacle once cut.

And here's a surprising bit of information you cannot buy a “new” functional crosscut saw; they don't make them anymore! The crosscut saws we used on this work party were 80-100 years old! When I think of all the saws that end up on someone's wall with paintings or laser art, I wonder how trails will be cleared in the future after all the good ones are made into art or rust away. So don't pass up an opportunity to buy a good crosscut saw if one is discovered at a yard sale or antique store, and try to get it back into service clearing trails.

In three days, this small band of committed, strong, hard-working folks cut well over 80 logs to clear one-point-six miles of trail! All these trees came down in one winter season! Many thanks to the people that stayed in camp and fed us when we returned each night after 10-hour and 12-hour work days. Three more work parties are scheduled for this summer, and Barb, Diane, Greg, Jeff, Rachel, and Roger need all the help they can get.

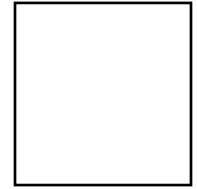
As for me, I plan on upping the quality of my tools, practicing packing on my saddle horse, and coming better prepared next summer. And I will only ride down another wilderness trail and see a cutout log if I recognize and appreciate the effort and skill of some dedicated individuals who work tirelessly so that everyone can enjoy these amazing places! 🌲

Add Back Country Horsemen of Washington to your awards account. See the Donate page at BCHW.org for more information.





The Trailhead News BCHW
P.O. Box 1132
Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event. • Check to see if dogs are welcome.

Note: The BCHW Trailhead News represents as many events as possible; however, it makes no guarantees an event will be published. The calendar of events is subject to change. Please check with ride contact for most updated information. Please send calendar corrections to: thn@bchw.org.

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting
Saturday, September 16, 2023
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

22nd Annual Winery Ride
Saturday, October 28, 2023
Zillah, WA
BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks



September 23 – National Public Lands Day
October 10 – World Mental Health Day
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 24 – Autumn Day

**Content Deadline
for the November/
December 2023
Online Newsletter is
October 1, 2023**

ATTENTION!

Cover Photos can be sent anytime, 8x10 Vertical orientation is best (300 dpi).

You can send articles, photos and calendar of events early!

Please email your articles (700 word maximum) and 3 or 4 photos with caption and photo byline to thn@bchw.org as soon as possible.

Example

Your Chapter Ride or Event Must Be Open To All BCHW Members To Have A FREE Listing

Lines in the listing have a maximum character count of 32, including spaces. Please keep this in mind.

Please submit the following information with your event listing to thn@bchw.org.

Chapter Name _____

Name of Ride _____

Date _____

First Rider Out _____

Location _____

Register _____

Lunch _____

Name of Pass Required (if needed) _____

Weed-Seed-Free Feed Required _____

Camping (if available) _____

Cost to Member _____

Cost to Non-member _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____