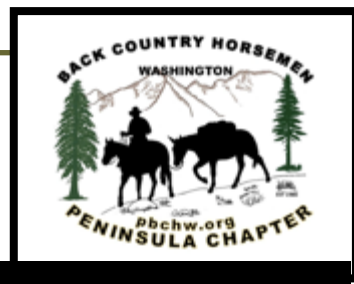


Spring 2023

Trail Crafters News

Olympic Peninsula, Washington



Root Wad Lifted
Trail on Manzanita
March 2023

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501

(c)(3) organization with 31 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.

Special Interest Articles

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PENINSULA CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

PO Box 451, Carlsborg, WA 98324 visit us on FB peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com

Peninsula Chapter's New Website: www.pbchw.org (New photos, maps, past Newsletters, Calendar, and other information are being added frequently.)

Upcoming Events: Apr. 19 In-Person Mtg & Program; May 21 "Rhody Ride"

(There is a new Calendar on the website. Click the date of any event to see more.)

Newsletter Editor: Donna Hollatz jdhollatz@gmail.com

President's Message - April 2023

"Spring Forward" is the phrase used when we move our clocks forward in the spring. While we may lose an hour's sleep, we gain an hour of daylight. The longer days herald the start of our monthly in-person chapter meetings. Your leadership team is working hard to construct a meeting format that balances chapter business with programs. An informed membership builds a strong organization. A strong organization means sustainability and sustainability requires participation. Once again, I am asking you to consider participating at any level that fits your needs and ability.

Come to the meetings (3rd Wednesday of the month, Gardiner Community Center at 7 pm) and get to know your fellow members and find out how you can help your chapter.

Come and enjoy the full range of entertaining, informative, and educational programs that are offered. Check out the calendar on the chapter website (www.pbchw.org) for an updated list of programs, events, work parties, and trail rides.

Finally, thank you for renewing your membership and I personally embrace the opportunity to "spring forward" with all you this year at our chapter meetings and on the trail.

Happy Trails,

Theresa

President

Monthly Group Trail Rides by Betsy Traeger

Cherry Pie Ride:

Saturday, February 18, was clear and chilly - a perfect winter day. We had 2 riders and 1 gal who walked her horse west from my house, along the Olympic Discovery Trail until they turned around and returned. The original idea for the ride was to go to Robin Hill Farm Park, loop those trails and return, but the park was still closed due to substantial storm damage. There were 6 folks who dropped by to visit and enjoy the fire I had built in my shop. After the ride, a lovely volunteer went to Sunny Farms and purchased small cherry pies that were enjoyed with coffee.

Rides of March:

Saturday, March 18, was another spectacular day in the great Pacific Northwest. The Rides of March on the Lower Dungeness Trail system was enjoyed by 4 riders. We had cupcakes and cookies with our coffee prior to the ride, along with carrots for the ponies. Prior to the ride, we had 1 helper for parking and 1 person who dropped by to visit.

April 16th (Name?)

Our next ride is scheduled for SUNDAY, April 16 - check the flyer for times - it doesn't have a name yet, but we are once again going to ride out from my house, head west on the Olympic Discovery Trail to Robin Hill Farm Park, loop those trails and return to a cozy fire in my shop and goodies yet to be determined.



Photos
of
Betsy's
Home

by

Kim
Merrick



Betsy's Property is near the ODT, has ample parking for horse trailers, and a warm gathering area!



Community Service Events

by Donna Hollatz

Frosty Moss Relay — April 1, 2023

Every year, Peninsula Chapter hosts an “exchange station” to support the Frosty Moss Relay. This is an 80-mile relay/marathon held on the Olympic Adventure Route and Olympic Discovery Trail. It starts in the Sol Duc Valley and goes to 7 Cedars Casino. Runners come from all over the state to participate. It was planned for February 25, but postponed because of bad weather. We set up a wall tent, complete with wood stove, and had healthy snacks available to participants, who enjoyed the tent to get warmed up. Saturday was rather cold, with a hail storm, some sporadic heavy rain, and some times of sunshine! About a dozen chapter members were there to set up and take down the tent, serve refreshments, greet runners, check them in from the first leg of the relay, and cheer them on. Peninsula Adventure Sports donated \$250 to Peninsula Chapter for our efforts.



Many hands make light work as the tent and rain fly are set up for the day!

Healthy snacks are available for participants and team members.



Thank You to the Volunteers!

Kim Merrick, Judy Sarles, Joan Wildman, Juelie Dalzell, Tom Mix, Sandy Harwood, Linda Morin, Laurel Cripe, and Jim & Donna Hollatz

Volunteers will again set up the wall tent at Dan Kelly Trailhead on April 15th to accommodate runners doing the Olympic Adventure Trail “OAT Run” 50K, half-marathon and 12K that will be held on the Kelly Ridge between the Elwha River and Joyce. That day we don’t have to “man” the tent, just set it up in the morning and take it down late in the day.



Chainsaw Instruction/Evaluation & Certification

by Donna Hollatz

The U.S. Forest Service is making some big changes to the Chainsaw Training and Certification program that our Instructor/Evaluators have been involved with for training sawyers. Tom Mix, Jim Hollatz, Rebecca Wanagel, and Martin Knowles have attended new training which is ongoing.

On January 23rd, Tom and Jim led a training class at Robin Hill County Park. The severe wind damage that closed the park for 3 months, provided an excellent “classroom” for sawyers, and the county gave us permission to spend the day certifying trainees. The individuals who took part got some wonderful, guided practice which will make their work much safer.



LeBar Camp Out & Work Party – May 19-21, 2023

Buckhorn Chapter is sponsoring the weekend clean-up of the campground and trails around LeBar Campground. Members who register ahead of time will have a wonderful dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. You must pre-register by April 30.

Go to <http://form.jotform.com/2234164148874155> for registration form. Call Bob Hoyle 360-531-2337 or email at bobhoyle@usa.net if you have questions or need more info.

Photos from LeBar 2021



Trail Reports:

Miller Peninsula:

BCHW was asked by State Parks if we could assist with another WCC crew that was going to be working at the Park on March 20-23. In order to have the crew make the best use of their time, a Peninsula Chapter group (Jim & Donna Hollatz, Joan Wildman, and Rick & Suzanne King) spent the day of March 16 clearing large debris and removing it from the edges of Manzanita Trail so the WCC crew would be able to run brush cutters through the salal without hitting obstacles. The following week, Jim, Donna, Rick, and Tom Mix worked with the crew, continuing to clear hazard trees and other big stuff. The WCC workers did an excellent job of widening Manzanita and removing all the material that they cut away. You will certainly notice the difference next time you ride that trail!

Here are some pictures of a place where a tree had tipped over, taking a big section of the trail with the root wad. Once the tree was cut off, the root wad fell back into the hole and the trail was repaired!



Before & After Photos of Trail Damage



Before and After WCC Crew Trail Clearing

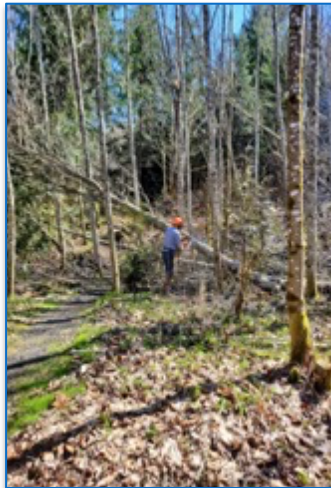


Trail Reports (continued)

Siebert Creek (North Olympic Land Trust):

A quick and easy sawyer project was done on March 27th at the western entrance to the trail near Old Olympic Highway. A dead alder tree was leaning over the trail and tangled up with some other trees. Jim and Donna walked in and cleaned up the mess in less than an hour. It would be pleasant if all the clean-up situations were that easy!

This is a handy little trail segment to ride from the ODT near Fox Bell Farm so it is important to keep it open for horses.



RCO Grant Application: In March it was announced that our grant application has received a preliminary ranking of #2 out of 36 applications. The final award will not happen for a few months, but the ranking is not likely to change. Jeff Chapman says this is the highest ranking he has ever seen a BCHW application receive. Our grant application was written by Denise Hupfer with input from our trail bosses, volunteer hours chair, and Jen Bond. Our chapter receives letters of support from most of the agencies that we partner with (DNR, NOLT, WA State Parks, ONF, and ONP) which are very valuable to our application. The grant amount of \$124,564 (and requires a match of \$256,562) is for a two-year period (2024-25). Having to meet the match requirement is the reason it is so important to keep track of our volunteer hours. Thank you to Denise for all her hard work on the Grant Application!

Fun Photos of Past Trail Projects



Miller "Trailer Parking Only"



NOLT – Removing Elk Creek Footlog



Siebert Creek Trail

There Will Be Cookies!

by Kim Merrick

Peninsula BCHW is a great chapter. No other chapter in Washington does the amount of trail work we do. Rides are well-planned, and really take advantage of all the wonderful areas we have to ride in. Peninsula chapter is very visible in the community; we participate in events like parades and fairs. Our chapter events are in great venues with high participation. But meetings are not well-attended. We have more than 100 members, yet less than 20 come to meetings; half of those are board members. And we miss you!

The purpose of a chapter meeting is two-fold: members should be informed of local, state, and national BCH issues, and have the opportunity to weigh in on these issues. Also, attending meetings keeps people in touch with each other - we feel our likeness, and gel together around our shared interest of horses, keeping trails open and using them.

To make the monthly business meeting more valuable to our members, we have added informative programs to meetings. We want to inform you about what's happening in the BCH world, but we also want you to feel the meeting is worth your time. We want to entertain you and educate you.

Some programs we've had in the last year:

- Mark Rashid - nationally known trainer from Colorado
- Janet Jones - "Horse Brain, Human Brain", also from Colorado
- Aarene Storms - planning for getting your horse in shape - conditioning
- Tom Mix - Favorite Trails on the Peninsula
- Robert Eversole, Trailmeister - "The ABCs of Trail Riding & Horse Camping"
- Claire Smith, DVM - trail emergencies
- Trail Apps Slide Show

A lot of effort goes into getting these great speakers; officers and board welcome your input or ideas for future topics. We are trying to avoid sending a bunch of emails every month, but we are keeping the website up to date. So, if you forget what's happening or lose the email, just check the calendar on our website:

<https://www.pbchw.org/calendar.php>

And please try to attend. Meetings only last about 90 minutes, and there will be cookies!

Rendezvous

by Jeff Chapman, Director for Peninsula Chapter

Peninsula Chapter Director's Report April 2023

BCHW held an in-person Directors' meeting in Ellensburg on Friday March 17th in conjunction with the annual BCHW Rendezvous that took place March 17th-19th. Directors from most all chapters were in attendance. At the beginning of the meeting, BCHW President Dana Chambers summarized the recent Executive Committee meeting during which their duties were discussed.

Dana also covered the BCHW website (bchw.org) setup and content. Most all documents dealing with BCHW and Chapter organization are posted on the site. There is a separate "Members Only" section where many of the documents can be located. She has strived to organize the files posted on the site in a logical fashion that can be located relatively easily (there are a lot of them).

The committee reports for the March State Directors' meeting are posted on the website in the Directors' section. Some samples of information from the reports:

There will be a BCHA Chairman letter for donations that will be coming to all members soon. The organization has not done any fundraising for the past year. Current thinking is that BCHA dues should be at the level to cover operational costs (which may possibly mean raising BCHA dues since they are 20,000 short).

Texas will officially join as a BCHA state at the National Board meeting in Kalispell April 2023.

The BCHA Youth program's survey response reported 33 youth projects nationally, with 320 youth participating.

BCHA is continuing to develop "Light on the Land" as a proprietary equestrian leave-no-trace program. They have researched and received the ok to trademark LIGHT ON THE LAND. A preliminary outline has been created. This program will be targeted to stock use and is intended to be available to share with other equestrian organizations.

-----Kathy Young, BCHA Director

I want to thank the Chapters that made monetary donations towards the Awards program as well as the vendors we use: Olympic Chapter, Buckhorn Range, Mt Olympus, Whatcom, Methow, Tahoma, and Peninsula Chapters, Harbor Saw, Panattoni Leather Shop, Olympic Embroidery and Trophies2go.

-----Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Chair

Now is the time for chapters to think about supporting this event (BCHW Wine Ride) with donations, either items for prizes, cash contributions or volunteers. We have had great support from chapters in the past and hope that we can count on your support for 2023.

-----Barbara Thomas, BCHW Wine Ride Chair

We must provide and support opportunities for future leaders who will lead with passion.

-----Ken Carmichael, BCHW Membership Development Chair

*Chapters: if you purchase \$100 in retail merchandise **at one time** to sell at your meetings or for prizes, I give 10% off. Having decals, some caps and other small items available to members who can't make the public outings helps to advertise the organization, especially when it's on the back of a truck or trailer going down the highway!*

-----Lori Lennox, BCHW Store Chair

Finally, Peninsula Chapter and many others were unhappy with the Executive Committee (EC) passing a Policy that lowered the grant reimbursement for stock from \$100/day to \$75/day. At the State Board meeting, Larry Baysinger made a motion to raise the rate back to \$100, which we seconded. Bob Hoyle (Buckhorn Range), Larry (Mt Olympus), and I (Peninsula) then expressed why it was important to return the rate to what it was. The Board overwhelmingly voted to reverse the reduction and amend the policy back to \$100/day. This vote included some members on the Executive Committee who were themselves Chapter Directors. It is important to recognize that the EC itself is comprised in part by Chapter Directors.

-----Jeff Chapman, Peninsula Chapter Director

GO PNC! Be Proud of Your Volunteer Trail Work!!!

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU TURN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS BY THE 5TH OF EACH MONTH. Don't hesitate to send Suzanne an email, rkingandsking@gmail.com , as soon as you do volunteer work of any kind related to trails, events, education, or anything tied to our Mission Statement.

Here are our latest numbers and comparison from last few years:

2017 year end

Total VH 5165 Total Value \$165,492

2018 year end

Total VH 6,150.5 Total Value \$205,265.50

2019 year end

Total VH 6,380 Total Value \$240,919.75

2020 year end

Total VH 9,688.5 Total Value \$326,224.00

2021 year end

Total VH 9,636 Total Value \$333,531.06

Oct. 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2022

Total Basic Hours	3,710.5	\$111,129.48
Total Skilled Hours	1,735.5	77,976.02
LNT & Educ.	943	28,242.85
Admin. & Plc Mtgs.	1,428.5	42,783.58
Travel Time	1,536	46,003.20
Total Hours	9,353.5	\$306,135.12
Vehicle Mileage	27,262 miles	34,077.50
Total Stock Days	146	14,500.00

Grand Total \$354,812.62

VOLUNTEERING: IT'S WHO WE ARE - MAKE YOUR HOURS COUNT – REPORT THEM

October 1, 2022 thru April 8, 2023

Total Basic Hours	2329 hours	\$69,753.55
Total Skilled Hours	581.5 hours	26,126.80
LNT and Education	65 hours	1,946.75
Admin & Public Mtgs.	558 hours	16,712.10
Travel Time	822 hours	24,618.91
Total Hours	4355.5	\$139,158.11
Vehicle Mileage	4660.5 Miles	16,390.01
Stock Days	26	2,600.00

Grand Total \$158,148.10

As You Can See—This is going to be Another Great Year!

We should be very proud of our accomplishments!

The January-February **Trailhead News** reported Volunteer Hours from all Chapters for the year. If you did not look closely at that chart, it would be enlightening for you to check it again. Peninsula had the highest total hours of any state chapter! 9,353.5 hours (3,900 more than the next closest) \$354,737.72 total dollar value (\$132,361.26 more than next closest)

Report Trail Hazards

Please Report Trail Hazards on Website: www.pbchw.org

If you encounter downed trees or other trail hazards while riding, please report them so our trail crews can address and correct the problem.

- Go to the website.
- Click on “contact”
- Give a description of the problem and where it is located. Be specific: date, which trail, approximately where along trail, size of tree or explain problem. Leave contact information if possible.

The website is monitored daily and this information will allow us to get the information to the necessary workers in a timely manner.

Thank You!

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

April 16, 2023 (Sunday) Ride to Robin Hill: Meet at Betsy Traeger's

April 19, 2023 (Wednesday) General Membership Meeting: 7pm Gardiner Community Center
Guest Speakers: Kris Lemke & Molly Erickson, “The Story of LeBar & Littleton Horse Camps”

May 6-8, 2023 (Saturday): USPC & Youth Trail Education: There are young riders from ages 9-17 signed up to camp and ride. They will learn to navigate trail obstacles, use trail building tools, learn 3S trail safety, and LNT recreation. It is important that we help raise another generation of equestrians.

May 13, 2023 (Saturday): Irrigation Festival Parade

May 17, 2023 (Wednesday) General Membership Meeting: 7pm Gardiner Community Center
Jen Bond will present the program, “All Hay is Not Created Equal”

May 19-21, 2023 LeBar Horse Camp Work Party: Bob Hoyle in charge of camp area; Rebecca Wanagel in charge of trail work.

May 21, 2023 (Sunday) Rhody Ride: Ride from Don Tucker property through trails at Miller Peninsula State Park

June 17-18, 2023 Salt Creek Spaghetti Ride

June 21, 2022 (Wednesday) General Membership Meeting: 7pm Gardiner Community Center
Dr. Melissa Board, DVM “The Not Over the Hill Horse”

July 15-16, 2023 LeBar Campout with Buckhorn Range Chapter

July 19, 2023 General Chapter Meeting: 7pm Gardner Community Center, Author Josie Rusho

July 29, 2023 Summer Picnic at Dan & Debbie Dosey's

Your 2023 Peninsula Chapter Officers & Chairs

Take the time to note that this list of Chapter members continues to step up and be your Board Directors and Chairs. They do an outstanding job. We are a very successful BCHW Chapter because of the work they do for you. You can support them in many ways: attend your General Meetings, do volunteer event and trail work, attend our ride events, join every year, bring in new members, and send them a thank you now and then. As with all organizations, burn out is a given. Consider shadowing the person who holds one of these positions so that you can step up to take their place in the near future. Your Chapter's future depends on you!

President – Theresa Percy	teopercy@gmail.com
Vice President – Kim Merrick	eloise55@gmail.com
Secretary – Joan Wildman	joanwildman5745@gmail.com
Treasurer – Nancy Scott	nescottcpa@hotmail.com
State Director – Jeff Chapman	bbbranch@olympus.net
Alternate State Director – Judy Sarles	jw94507@yahoo.com
Trail Project Coord. – Rebecca Wanagel	rwanagel@gmail.com
Membership Chair – Patricia Cosner	haffyluv106@gmail.com
Events/Trail Rides – Betsy Trager	trailrider1028@gmail.com
Volunteer Hours Chair – Suzanne James-King	rkingandsking@gmail.com
Publicity Chair – Donna Hollatz	jdholatz@gmail.com
Web Manager – Ben Wildman	bwildman57@gmail.com
Social Media Manager – Mandy Biles	EquestriansAcademy@gmail.com
LNT Education – Juelie Dalzell	gobi@olympus.net
Email for the Chapter:	peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com

Membership 2023

Currently, we have 70 memberships, 98 total members.

If you have not sent in your 2023 renewal, this would be a perfect time!

Membership is for one year, beginning on January 1st. We welcome new members at any time and always enjoy meeting new people. We have a lot of fun while working to keep trails open to everyone. You don't need a horse to belong and contribute or work with us. If you have friends who are interested in joining, please have them follow these directions:

Go to www.pbchw.org. Click or tap the JOIN tab. Click or tap on the Back Country Horsemen logo. Complete the form. Online payment is at the bottom of the form. It is very simple.

If a paper form is desired, go to our website, www.pbchw.org, click or tap on the JOIN tab, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click or tap on the image of the paper form. It will populate and can be printed from there. Follow the instructions on the form for mailing and payment.

Thank You to the businesses who support our efforts!

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