

The Trailhead News

Vol. 48 Issue 1

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

January/February 2023



www.bchw.org



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Cover Photo: Jason Ridlon’s Hotshot crew in the Pasayten Wilderness in 2022. Photo by Cathy Upper

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The Trailhead News is the official publication of Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW). The Trailhead News is published bimonthly by Back Country Horsemen of Washington, PO Box 1132, Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132. Annual membership dues include a subscription to The Trailhead News.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Trailhead News, PO Box 1132, Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132. © 2010 Back Country Horsemen of Washington.

EDITORIAL: Printed Newsletter, maximum word count for articles is 700 plus two (2) photos as space is limited. Digital Newsletter does not have maximum word count plus more than two (2) photos can run with article. Photos must be accompanied by the location, name(s) of person(s) in photo and the name of the photographer. The Trailhead News is published bimonthly and delivered electronically with the exception of Mar/Apr and Sept/Oct issues, which are printed and mailed to members.

Please submit to: thn@bchw.org or mail to: PO Box 7184 • Olympia, WA 98507 • 360.754.4543

Article, Photo & Ad Deadline Dates	Publish Date of Newsletter
December 1	Jan/Feb
January 18	Mar/April
April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

BCHW Chapter Locations & Directors

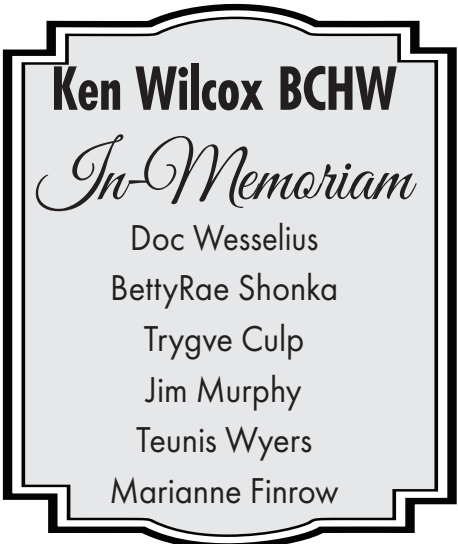
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Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "Lifetime," "Contributing," "Sustaining," and "Patron" members.

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.**

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Lifetime Members		Mike Celestres.....	TAH	Brian & Tammy Jansen.....	MSH
Mitch Baird.....	IND	Ron & Marty Celestres.....	TAH	Hillary Jones & Jim Johnston.....	GHC
Scott Bauer.....	CHC	Danny & Jeanie Chappel.....	RRR	Kathy & Bob Jones.....	TDC
Amanda Biles.....	TAH	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller.....	IND	Laurie Kallsen-George.....	PEN
Penelope Booker.....	IND	Gary & Kathy Collins.....	MSH	Cris Kantor.....	TAH
Karen Briskey.....	PCC	Patrick Dolan.....	MSH	Lorraine Karmen.....	CHC
Caleb Canby.....	MVC	Robert & Celeste Eversole.....	NEC	Tony Karniss.....	LCC
Janis Collett.....	PCC	Judith & Bob Hoyle.....	BHR	Maureen Kirk.....	TAH
Missy Day.....	TAH	David & Jill Lasher.....	PCC	Melody & Randy Lee.....	MSH
David Jackson.....	PSR	Robert Gish & Myrna McMain.....	NEC	Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson.....	BHR
Lori Lennox.....	GHC	KEVIN & Lisa Graese.....	NEC	Ed & Teri Letcher.....	WEN
Kim Merrick.....	NSC	Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty.....	MVC	Ali & Eric Maynard.....	TDC
Heather Moorman.....	PSR	Mary Kane.....	TAH	Paul Mellick.....	RRR
Jason Ridlon.....	IND	Burton & Caitly Karapostoles.....	MVC	Dale & Tina Merten.....	GHC
Kathy Russo.....	IND	Bill Kehner.....	IND	James Miller.....	IND
Dave Seibel.....	MOC	Edris Kenan.....	TAH	Kris Moran.....	GHC
Bob Shonka.....	IND	Mike & Chris McGlenn.....	WCC	Jeanette & John O'Keefe.....	MVC
Teri Starke.....	IND	Mary McIntyre-Lee.....	IND	Kathleen Parshall.....	TAH
Cathy Upper.....	MVC	Mary & Dennis Owens.....	GHC	Tom Reed & Michelle Cottone.....	PCC
Carol Wilcox.....	WVC	Gary & Janis Pegg.....	LCC	Angela Renniilo & Peter Hutter.....	PEN
Barbara Woo.....	CHC	Jan Rannow.....	PCC	Joyce Roberts.....	RRR
Pat Wyers.....	MAC	JoAnn Reider.....	TAH	June & Gary Robinson.....	RRR
2023 Annual Meeting Head Table		Jennifer Rueble.....	WCC	Leonard & Kathy Rolph.....	MTA
Kinney/Churchill.....	TDC	Nancy Scott.....	BHR	Nancy Rust.....	MSH
2022 Annual Meeting Head Table		Barb Talbot.....	PCC	Cheri & Craig Thompson.....	NEC
Dr. Jack Gillette.....	PIE	Michael Torok.....	MVC	Brian & Cindi Vance.....	NEC
2022 Benefactor Level		Darrell & Kristy Wallace.....	NEC	Craig Volosing & Karen Stevenson.....	PON
Terry & Suzanne Smith.....	IND	Louise & Peter Walton.....	NEC	Janice Williamson.....	CHC
2023 Patron Level		Jan Whitlow.....	MOC	Sonja Wingard & James Matthies.....	WHT
Donald Campbell & Christina Fritzingher.....	PCC	JoAnn Yost.....	GHC	Dick WOODFIN.....	MAC
Christina Cline.....	MVC	2023 Contributing Level		Bob & Lyris Wooldridge.....	MTA
Sherrie Elliott.....	NEC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth.....	CHC		
Dawn Graham.....	MOC	Jim & Terri Anderson.....	MSH		
William Hamlin & Anne Razzolini.....	RRR	Gene Brent.....	TAH		
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson.....	GHC	Heather & Fred Brown.....	TAH		
Cindy & Dean Kobetich.....	BHR	Jack Carr.....	WHT		
Al & Marcy Norrbom.....	WEN	Jan & Jim Craghead.....	CCR		
Bob Showalter.....	RRR	Sue Duffy.....	RRR		
Todd & Janet Wiebke.....	TAH	Ken & Pam Evans.....	MAC		
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Connie & Eugene Baugher.....	MAC	Kristin Gorum.....	CPR		
Robert & Sheila Blakely.....	NEC	Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley.....	PCC		
Sandra Boe.....	PCC	Deb Hall.....	CAP		
Sherry Brown.....	LCC	Kris & Don Hand.....	PSR		
		Dean & Susan Hartman.....	CAP		
		Butch & Jaima Havens.....	IND		
		Bruce & Gigi Heibert.....	TAH		



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. ➡



What a Huge Change to Our Weather... What Happened to Fall!!!

By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

Wow!!! I can't believe I have been President of BCHW for a whole year! What a crazy ride! Lots of stuff is being planned behind the scenes for 2023, but the big thing is the Pasayten Wilderness Project. The Grant application goes in this week, we will wait to hear if we will get it. After that, we will continue to plot and plan so that we can hit the ground running when we hear.

Please be sure to continually check out the State website Events Calendar because we will start adding information soon. Chapters will soon begin to submit their prize rides,

fun rides and work parties for 2023. In addition, we have our BCHW Members Training in January. Hopefully, we will have an in-person Legislative Day the first week of February, and Rendezvous is coming up in March.

I want to take a minute and say Thank You to all of our chapters outgoing officers and welcome in the newly elected ones. These volunteers work hard for their chapters.

I am also excited to announce that we have a new BCHW Legislative Chair, Vivian Eason, from our Nisqually Chapter!! 🐾

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.

Your Leadership Quote of the Month

“

"I have learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our disposition and not on our circumstances"

~ Former First Lady of the U.S.,
Martha Washington, 1732-1802



Winter Activities

By Ken Carmichael

As I sit here looking at over a foot of snow on the ground and little prospect of it melting soon, my mind goes to activities that can be done in the winter. Since I am a fair-weather rider, this does not include riding.

However, good riding also entails good planning. This time of year is when Patti and I sit down with a calendar, her on the cell phone and me with my dependable pocket calendar, to plan the next riding season. As with all planning, this is subject to change, but it gives us a framework. Patti still works; I feel so sorry for her, so she must put in for vacation time.

Another winter goal is to clean all the tack. Tack cleaning is a major project that occupies the laundry room for days. It also gives me a chance to look at all the tack for damage. I like to have repairs done in the winter, so it does not interfere with summer riding or result in a dangerous and sometimes serious accident. While I have the saddlebags in the house, I go through what I carry for first aid and survival. It gives me a chance to change outdated equipment and services as a reminder of what I carry. I also bring the first aid box from the trailer into the house. Again, I have an opportunity to go through it for changes and review what I have.



Also on the winter list is BCH planning. The Ponderosa chapter holds its Planning Meeting in January. This meeting gives us a chance to review what we want to accomplish in 2023 and beyond. We can prepare a chapter budget based on our plans. It also gives us a chance to review our mission and stay focused. This year the meeting includes pizza and door prizes. Sometimes incentives are necessary.

One of BCH's goals is to bring new people into leadership positions. Chapter elections have been held across the state, and new people are taking on responsibilities. We must ensure they have all the tools necessary to perform their jobs, including job descriptions and up-to-date information and mentor these new volunteers.

Last but not least, we will be attending the LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN ELLENSBURG SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023. This meeting is vital for the growth and sustainability of BCH.

If I squeeze in some football games, clean the house and do the taxes, it should fill up that time until I am back in the saddle. Happy Trails 🐾

Passionate Leadership

By Ken Carmichael

This is an invite for everyone to attend the 2023 BCHW LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN ELLENSBURG SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023.

I want to particularly invite you to the session on "Passionate Leadership." If we were to put BCH leadership into a pyramid, it would look something like this:

LEADERS

Willing to participate

Willing to join

Value BCH service (mission)

Understand the BCHW mission

Aware of BCH

Do you want to be at the top of the pyramid, part of the leadership and make a difference in equestrian access to trails?

I encourage everyone to be part of the solution, come to Leadership Training and attend the PASSIONATE LEADERSHIP session. Come find your place in BCH, ignite your passion, take action and pass it on to others. 🐾

BCHW Volunteer Hours Summary Report

By Deb Wesselius, BCHW Volunteer Hours Chair

The BCHW Volunteer Hours Summary Report covers the reporting period from October 1, 2021, thru September 30, 2022. These are the yearend totals and represent a job well done by chapter members, officers and your Volunteer Hours (VH) Coordinator. The Excel document represents the totals by Chapter and by Agency.

2022 BCHW VOLUNTEER HOURS = 61,236.5
(2021 - 52,556)
2022 TOTAL VALUE = \$2,459,121.83
(2021 - \$1,962,069.23)

BCHW volunteers put in a great effort in accumulating over 60-thousand volunteer hours. This is a time to give the entire BCHW volunteers a big thanks and hats off to everyone.

The success of the BCHW Volunteer Hours program is due to the assistance of your BCHW VH Regional Committee. Big thanks go out to Louise Caywood-PCC, JoAnn Yost-GHC and Barbara Vache'-CHC, who worked diligently on reviewing and

assuring accuracy in their chapters' quarterly and final VH. I couldn't get the volunteer hours reviewed and accurate without their help.

Throughout the year, we continued to collect and report the BCHW Volunteer Hours every quarter to assist chapters who needed help to complete the reports accurately. Quarterly reporting is also beneficial for chapters to keep up on the VH data entry and make it easier to meet the final yearend reporting deadline.

The BCHW Summary Report will also be provided to your chapter VHC for your records. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the volunteer hours report.

I will be working on another virtual Volunteer Hours Leadership Training (Zoom meeting) in lieu of in-person Leadership Training. Watch for details from the BCHW Education Chair, Kim Merrick and remember it's important that your chapter Volunteer Hours Coordinator attend or plan on sending a representative.

Finally, if you or someone you want to recommend would be interested in joining the BCHW Regional Volunteer Hours team, let me know. See the volunteer hours report on page 7. Thanks, Deb 🐾

2023 The Year of the Volunteer

By Ken Carmichael

Let's start with what Back Country Horsemen (BCHW) is. BCHW is a volunteer, nonprofit service organization with the goal of preserving the rights of responsible horse riders to use horses and mules on public land.

My interpretation of the BCHW vision is "To maintain a viable volunteer organization in support of our public lands with education, advocacy and physical labor so that public lands continue as a premier resource in natural resource protection and recreational opportunities for equestrians."

If we are to accomplish this goal and vision, we must take positive, affirmative actions. We do this in education, advocacy, moving dirt (work parties) and the many administrative tasks supporting these activities. Further, this is done at the chapter, state and national levels.

The number of members in BCHW makes a difference. But the real measure of our success comes with the active volunteers that pull all these activities together. Because of the diversity of these activities, it requires members with various skills, talents, interests and abilities.

The question is, what part are you playing in accomplishing our goal?

Being a member is appreciated but belonging to a service organization requires participation. There are many opportunities at the chapter and state levels.

What roles can we play?

- As a member, take the first step by talking to the chapter president and asking how you can help
- As leaders, be prepared to offer entry-level positions to the chapter membership
- As an experienced volunteer, search out the member that will be your replacement and offer to mentor that person
- Everyone attends Leadership Training

The BCHW goal and vision cannot be accomplished by just a few in BCHW. It takes many hands and hearts. As members of a service organization, we are all responsible for doing our part.

If you believe in our goal and vision, reach out and make a difference. Do not sit on the sidelines during this very important adventure. Please be part of the action and search out how you can contribute to keeping trails open. Let's make the year 2023 the year of the volunteer. 🐾

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

Volunteer Hours Report

State Summary

2022 ~ Final prepared by: Deb Wesselius, BCHW VH Chair



Washington State Chapter	Trail Work		L.N.T. Educ.	Admin		Total Volunteer Hours	Personal		Total Dollar Value
	Basic	Skilled		Public Service	Travel Time		Vehicle Miles	Total Stock Days	
	Trail	Trail							
Buckhorn Range Chapter	283	28	73.5	431.5	164	980	4311	0	35,159.19
Capitol Riders Chapter	148.5	12	46	250	117.5	574	3359	13	22,869.81
Cascade Horse Club	202.5	68.5	7	306	160	744	3494	24	30,076.43
Crab Creek Riders	111.5	0	29.5	119.5	103.5	364	2956	7	15,296.80
Ellensburg Valley Chapter	19.5	84.5	21.5	51.5	60	237	1284	19	11,868.96
Ferry County Chapter	153	67.5	25.5	396	183	825	3944	47	35,349.90
Grays Harbor Chapter	1116	699.5	557	1965	1116	5453.5	25652.5	165	222,376.46
Independent	6	90	95	2044	264.5	2499.5	13131	0	92,621.98
Island County Chapter	232	142	12	166.5	128	680.5	3778	0	27,230.64
Lewis County Chapter	933.5	1050	460.5	2175.5	851.5	5471	18127	163	218,544.20
Methow Valley Chapter	602	595.5	0	901.5	331.5	2430	10082	16	95,901.59
Mt Adams Chapter	34	127	7	35.5	75	278.5	2455	36	16,912.29
Mt Olympus Chapter	610	244	62	499.5	149	1564.5	3432	35	58,301.90
Mt St Helens Chapter	816.5	321	204	820	610	2771.5	17831	55	115,603.76
Nisqually Chapter	101	0	2	764.5	228	1095.5	4485.5	15	39,917.10
Northeast Chapter	156	96	59.5	483	287.5	1082	9025	59	51,025.23
Oakland Bay Chapter	16	5	82	331	27.5	461.5	960	2	15,296.83
Okanogan Valley Chapter	3	60	48.5	197	72.5	381	2158	20	17,007.25
Olympic Chapter	928.5	34	659.5	455	199.5	2276.5	5900	122	88,265.50
Peninsula Chapter	3717	1730.5	948	1422.5	1536	9353.5	27262	146	354,737.72
Pierce County Chapter	845	669.5	791	1728	869.5	4903	25877	118	201,019.59
Ponderosa Chapter	85.5	0	106	1695.5	307.5	2194.5	9787	15	79,459.03
Purple Sage Riders	468	16.5	101.5	872.5	243	1701.5	8160	18	63,207.10
Rattlesnake Ridge Riders	66	17	114	579	150.5	926.5	4807.5	22	36,212.71
Scatter Creek Riders	282	34.5	2	408.5	233.5	960.5	6681	32	40,835.04
Skagit Chapter	255.5	194.5	2.5	1260.5	462.5	2175.5	15064	22	89,099.84
Tahoma Chapter	421.5	597.5	132	1418.5	463.5	3033	13786.5	27	119,722.03
Traildusters Chapter	261	81	69	163	204.5	778.5	5457	29	34,250.71
Wenas Chapter	160.5	114.5	80.5	643	165	1163.5	4624	40	46,342.04
Wenatchee Valley Chapter	68.5	0	21	44.5	72	206	1433	2	8,160.95
Whatcom County Chapter	660.5	1267	127	1013	604	3671	17624.5	255	176,449.25
Totals	13763	8447	4947	23641	10440	61236.5	276928	1524	2,459,121.83
State Agency Report									
	Basic	Skilled	Edu	Admin	TT	Total Hours	POV	Stock	Total \$\$ Value
U.S.F.S. (A)	4859	4834	862	347	3072	13974	72320	656	646,934.62
State DNR (B)	3124	1033	24.5	115	1044	5340.5	27301	289	238,448.56
State Parks (C)	687.5	233	0	84	314	1318.5	7534	70	59,396.92
National Parks (D)	134	342.5	0	10	79	565.5	1825	24	26,748.63
Education & LNT (E)	0	0	3420	0	926	4346	27499	39	168,436.45
Dept. Fish & Wildlife (F)	140.5	69	0	5	62	276.5	1828	35	15,099.80
Administrative (G)	0	0	0	21866	3104	24970	98452	113	882,216.51
BLM (M)	7.5	0	0	0	6	13.5	204	0	659.34
NOLT (O)	209	11	0	0	39	259	412	0	8,436.83
Rendezvous (R)	0	0	0.5	860	210	1070.5	10494	0	45,178.99
Private Timber (T)	2069	1103	3.5	165	887	4227.5	18888	196	186,346.59
County (W)	2532	821	636	189	697	4875	10171	102	181,218.59
Totals	13763	8447	4947	23641	10440	61236.5	276928	1524	2,459,121.83

DON'T PUT IT OFF!

Nominate and give back to a deserving BCHW member with an award.

By Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Act now, nominate a member who is making a difference by contributing to the BCHW mission statement. Start the process of gathering information for the nomination packet now. February isn't far away and can sneak up quickly. Doing a little at a time makes it come together easily. Award categories, descriptions, list of past recipients and the nomination form at www.bchw.org. Award categories are given out only once to a volunteer BCHW member.

BCHW Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)



Lifetime Achievement _____	Desk Jockey _____
Lopper Award _____	Junior BCHW _____
Camp Cook _____	Backbone Award _____
Trail Warrior _____	

Please clip out and mail

Nominees Name _____

Chapter(s) _____

Submitted by _____

Chapter(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Information to include in your nomination presentation:



- In 75 words or less, give an opening statement telling why this person is deserving of special, statewide recognition for this specific award.
- Then separately, on as many pages as you need, create a presentation detailing WHY this person should receive this award.
- Chapters this person has belonged to and for how long.
- Positions or job titles this person has held.
- An estimate of their volunteer hours (Chapter Vol Hour Chairs can help with this).
- Awards this person has won.
- Trails or camps this person has worked on.
- A little family history.
- Include anything which will make your nominee stand out! (Letters of recommendation from land managers, news clippings, photos, etc.).

The presentation you submit will be given to the recipient.

Mail nomination forms with your presentation via the US Post Office to: BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Susan Sundahl
 15188 Stevens Rd. S.E. Olalla, WA 98359
 Questions: pappihorse@wavecable.com or 253-380-0343

Must be received before February 8, 2023

Rendezvous 2023 Is Just Around The Corner, And You Do Not Want To Miss It!

We have moved the annual BCHW Tack Sale to the Armory. Drop off and pick up items will be much easier for everyone, so get your gently used tack and household items together. We have double the space now!

Tom Reed is the clinician in the Bloom Friday and Saturday -a little about him and his program:

Tom Reed Horsemanship: "Helping You Become a Better Partner with Your Horse"

Tom's goal is to help people be more successful and safer with their horses thru the Horsemanship, Obstacle and De-spooking clinics he puts on all year long. He is based in Rochester, WA, out of Rainbow Meadow Farm. He will be the guest clinician and will be putting on two days of clinics at Rendezvous in March. On Friday, he is offering Horsemanship and obstacle groundwork in the morning and obstacle and desensitizing in the afternoon. Saturday will be a De-spooking clinic. These are two separate clinics, with a special price for BCHW members, \$150 per clinic or \$250 if you ride in both. Stabling is \$16 per night. Bring your own shavings. Space is limited; contact Tom for a spot by calling or texting him at 253-341-6506. Spectators are free. More information about Tom will be coming in the next Trailhead News, and see his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TomReedHorsemanship>

We are renting 20' by 40' canopies! One to set up in front of the old Frontier Village across from the Manastash that will feature different horse massage and care tips by London Alber. Check out BCHW.org for her schedule.

The other 20' by 40' canopy will be across from the Bloom in the grassy area by the Gazebo. We traditionally hold the cross-cut saw competition (yes, Wenas Chapter is hosting again in 2023!); this awning will have Karen Briskey demonstrating her two- and four-legged massage Friday 11 am-1 pm. It will also feature Ron Downing and saddle fitting dynamics and concepts on Saturday. Check BCHW.org to see what else we have scheduled there.

All day Friday and Saturday, the draft horse barn aisle will house defensive horsemanship and different packing presentations. Mickey Centeno and Jay Adams are coordinating that schedule. It will be on BCHW.org.

We have vendors in both the Umptanum and the Manastash. If you know a good vendor, tell them the sign-ups are on BCHW.org or tell them to give me a call (253-709-5052). Lori Lennox and the BCHW store are also in Manastash.

There are many presenters and clinicians in the classrooms throughout Kittitas Valley Event Center (the Ellensburg Fairgrounds). Unfortunately, there is not enough space to talk about them in this article. Go to BCHW.org to see the different presenters, and call me (253-709-5052) if you have an idea that would go well at BCHW's Rendezvous. We would love to get them to Ellensburg in March.

The Saturday Night Dinner and auction is in the Teanaway. This is our big annual fundraiser! The bar opens at 4 pm, and dinner is at 5:30 pm. The Bucket and Silent auction are in the Umptanum, and the Live auction is in the Teanaway. We look forward to seeing all of you there! 🍷

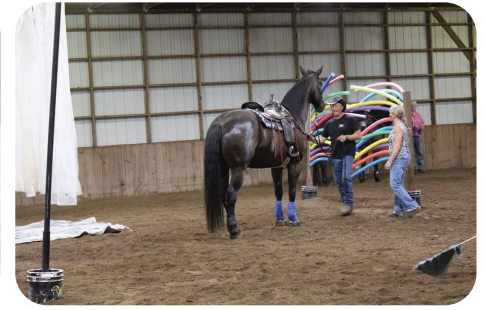
BCHW Membership Announcement

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

Rendezvous Clinician Announcement!



Tom Reed will be holding a two-day clinic at the big annual BCHW Rendezvous. March 17 & 18th! Tom Reed Horsemanship: "Helping You Become a Better Partner with Your Horse" Tom's goal is to help people be more successful and safer with their horses thru the Horsemanship, Obstacle, and De-spooking clinics that he puts on all year long. He is based in Rochester, WA out of Rainbow Meadow Farm. He will be the guest clinician and will be putting on two-days of clinics at Rendezvous in March.

Friday he is offering Horsemanship and obstacle groundwork in the morning and obstacle and desensitizing in the afternoon.

Saturday will be a De-spooking clinic. These are two separate clinics, with a special price for BCHW members, \$150 per clinic or \$250 if you ride in both. Stabling is \$16 per night, bring your own shavings.

Riding spots are limited, contact Tom for a spot by calling or texting him at 253-341-6506. *Spectators are free, no need to reserve a spot for watching.*

More information about Tom will be coming in the next Trailhead News and see his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TomReedHorsemanship>












MARCH 17 - 19, 2023
KITTITAS EVENT CENTER
ELLENSBURG

-  **Tack Sale (Fri & Sat)**
-  **Vendor Booths**
-  **Cross-Cut Saw Competition**



Classes & Demonstrations

-  **TrailMeister**
-  **2 & 4-legged Massage**
-  **London Alber - Calm Equine**
-  **Tom Reed Horsemanship Clinic**
-  **Camping with Solar, Batteries & Refrigerators**
-  **Healthy Hoof**
-  **Camp in non-LQ**
-  **Saddle Fitting**
-  **Disaster First Aid**

Open to the Public!
For details:
www.bchwh.org

Scatter Creek Riders Hold a Successful Christmas Wreath Fundraiser



By Kim Habel, Scatter Creek Riders

When November rolls around, most of us focus on cleaning tack, planning next year's camping trips and getting ready for Christmas. For Scatter Creek Riders, November means focusing on their annual fundraiser, making and selling Christmas wreaths.

Work to produce the wreaths started well before November. Shortly after Christmas, members shopped the sales for discounted ribbon and supplies. All the wreath bows are handmade and made throughout the year. During the summer camping season, pine cones for the wreaths were collected.

Early in November, Noble fir boughs were collected. A tree farmer donates trees that have grown too big and bottom branches that have been trimmed away. He received in-kind donation paperwork for his donation to BCHW. Members filled pickups and a dump trailer with boughs, hauled away all the scraps and cut up the trunks for firewood. A couple of members donated additional boughs from their tree farms.

Before the actual assembly, members worked to take orders so they knew how many wreaths to make. Because of the quality and price, return customers made up the bulk of the orders. This year the 24-inch wreaths sold for \$25, and the 18-inch wreaths sold for \$20. Even though prices were raised by \$5, this year's sales were up!

Wreath assembly took place for two days the weekend before Thanksgiving at the home of President Toni Stray. Their shop was transformed into a wreath-making factory assembly line. The line started with individuals who cut up the boughs. Then, on to the next group who made "fans" from the cuttings. The fans were sent to the next station, clamped into the wreath rings, along with as-

sorted greens collected from members' yards. The next station put a hanger and a bow on the wreath, then finally to the decorators who glued cones and assorted decorations to the wreaths. It was two long days of work, but time passed quickly with stories and conversations about our horses, rides, trips, accidents and more.

Members who took orders were charged with delivering their orders and collecting money. 2022 was the most successful year ever, with over 200 wreaths made and sold! 🐾



Saws, Saws, Saws!



By Sue Davis, Capitol Riders

This is the season for downed trees and branches! As a trail rider, you never know what obstacles you may encounter out on the trail. If you carry a good saw, you can cut your way through or around those downed trees most of the time. If you still need to purchase your favorite saw, choosing between the various styles and sizes can be challenging. Some features to consider include the following:

- **Blade Length** – The longer the blade, the larger the diameter of wood that can be cut.
- **Teeth Size and Teeth/Inch** - The number and shape of teeth on the blade determines the speed, type and finish of the cut. Blades with fewer teeth cut faster, while those with more teeth create a finer finish (NOT important on the trail).
- **Ease of Transport** – Folding vs. non-folding blade; Available scabbard designed to transport safely; easy to attach to a saddle or fit in a saddlebag; and easy to access on the trail.
- **Durability and Cost** – Consider the materials for the handle and blade, whether it is designed to hold up to heavy use, and if there is a warranty for breakage.

My personal favorite saw for trail clearing is the #24 Fanno Saw with leather scabbard. This saw is a cut-on-the-pull curved trail pack saw. The 22.5" curved blade and self-feeding and self-cleaning tooth design (4.5 teeth/inch) make it cut fast and efficiently and can tackle bigger diameter logs. The scabbard easily attaches to the saddle and makes the saw easy to access on the trail. Fanno also offers a smaller saw with a 19" blade. The cost for the #24 Fanno is \$132.95 through Outfitters Supply, Columbia Falls, MT.

Another saw I used for many years is the Sven Saw. It is a lightweight 15" saw that breaks down very small into itself and can easily be slipped into a pack or tied to a saddle. It is very sharp, cuts fast, and is amazingly durable. Disadvantages are that it has to be assembled before each use, and the design limits the

log size that can be cut to 6-8" diameter. It is a good saw to carry for emergency use if you are not anticipating the need for a lot of sawing. It saved me from having to backtrack many times out on the trail. Sven Saw also offers a bigger version with a 21" blade. The cost for the 15" Sven is ~\$40 through Amazon.



A good saw that I have seen in action by chapter members is the Silky Professional BIGBOY 2000 Folding Saw with XL Teeth. The blade is 14.5" long with 5.5 teeth per inch, cutting through wood very efficiently. It has a double-fist rubber easy-to-grip handle. The blade itself can be folded down for safe transport. It is well made and designed to be durable and easy to use. A hard carrying case is also available for purchase for ~\$30.

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Saws, Saws, Saws!

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The cost for the Silky BigBoy 2000 saw is \$75 through REI or Amazon.

Another saw in my arsenal is the Fiskars 10" Powertooth Folding Saw. This saw is best for cutting thick branches, roots, or small-diameter trees. It has razor-sharp teeth that cut through

wood fast—the blade locks in two open positions, ideal for over-hand cuts or undercuts. The great thing about Fiskars saws and loppers is the lifetime warranty. If they fail, they can be returned to the local hardware store where you bought them for replacement. This saw, folded up, is 12" long, which will fit in most saddle bags.

The cost for the Fiskars 10" Powertooth Folding Saw is ~ \$20 at Lowes or Home Depot.

This information provides a sampling of the saw options available and a few retailers to get you started if you don't already have a tried and true trail saw. Having a saw with you can mean the difference between completing the ride you had planned or taking the long way back because you couldn't get through or around the blow-down. And if you take the time to clear a trail, you might save someone else's ride, AND you can log those volunteer hours for BCHW! 🐾



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

Fred Meyer
community rewards™
Where shopping & giving unite

amazon smile
amazon.com
You shop. Amazon gives.

Be sure to shop at Amazon Smile with Back Country Horsemen of Washington as your charity of choice!

Sequim Scout Troop 1498 Horsemanship Merit Badge Accomplishment October 24, 2021



PHOTO BY DONNA HOLLATZ

BCHW volunteers and Scouts on final day.

By Donna Hollatz, Peninsula Chapter

In the fall of 2021, Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Peninsula Chapter, offered to help the local Scout group members earn their Horsemanship Merit Badge. This began on September 25 and 26, 2021, with a weekend at Layton Hill Horse Camp where interested Scouts could be introduced to horses and begin learning all the information and skills needed to earn this badge. Sixteen Scouts and four leaders gathered with 24 members of BCHW PNC and 21 equines of 13 different breeds (including gaited, ungaited, mule, draft, mini, and donkey). In two days, the Scouts were introduced to the basic horse handling skills: how to approach, halter, lead, groom, and tie with a safety knot. They were introduced to different breeds, colors, feed and nutrition, and equine vocabulary. An extensive tack display was shown, and they learned about English and Western gear. All of them had a chance to try riding.

On October 24, 2021, another learning session was held in a classroom setting at Ramblewood, in Sequim Bay State Park, with eight Chapter volunteers and 2 Scout leaders. This time, the Scouts

were divided into small groups to study some of the information they needed to learn. Posters and charts were used to teach about colors, markings, and conformation (and their importance to maintaining soundness). A PowerPoint presentation covered breeds and their characteristics. A large assortment of Western and English tack was displayed to help Scouts learn the names of parts of tack and their use and importance, as well as proper care of equipment.

The Scout's final training and evaluation for the Horsemanship Merit Badge took place on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at Layton Hill Horse Camp with seven Scouts participating along with 10 Peninsula Chapter volunteers who brought nine equines (eight horses and one riding mule) for the Scouts to ride and demonstrate the horsemanship and riding skills they had been learning. Each Scout had to properly catch and halter their mount, lead it to a trailer, tie it correctly, then groom and saddle it. During

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PHOTO BY DONNA HOLLATZ



Judy Sarles and her horse "Magic" help a Scout practice safety knots.

PHOTO BY DONNA HOLLATZ



Del Sage's horse and mule volunteer their services as mounts.

A Trip into the Pasayten

By Michelle Schmidtke

We were sitting around a picnic table at the North Summit Horse Camp when, after a few brews, the six of us, all Methow Valley Backcountry Horsemen members (Cathy Upper, Jill Calvert, Laurie Ulmer, Jill Kaley, Gina Johnston, Michelle Schmidtke) spontaneously and rather capriciously planned a trip into the Pasayten Wilderness.

Several of us were experienced backcountry riders with packing experience, some had gone on a few trips into the mountains, and a couple had no or limited experience in the high country. And all but one of us had mares. Great, I thought. I could think of at least a dozen things that could go wrong with that mix of people and horses.

But we pulled it off. Given the horrendous damage from wildfires in the Pasayten (one currently burning away in the northwestern Pasayten, closing off the PCT), our available routes were limited. Horses were borrowed, pack horses provided, and an itinerary was planned. Thanks to Cathy’s vast knowledge of the backcountry and knowing the right sources to consult on current trail conditions, we mapped out a five-day trip.

We started out of the thirty-mile trailhead at the end of the Chewach River Road. Everyone pitched in to tack up and load the two pack horses, and Cathy provided instruction in the fine art of creating and tying up manties. Most of us had already gone on rides together in the front country, so our horses were reasonably familiar and comfortable with each other, a big plus with such a large group. Still, we all had to be alert to trail hazards and cranky horses, particularly my cranky mare, who was on her first trip into the high country and really didn’t like other horses. However, I discovered she could walk out like a freight train, leaving everyone far behind without any separation anxiety.

Our first camp was an easy eight-mile ride to a well-appointed forest camp at the junction to the trail to Rimmel Lakes. We tied

our horses to the hitching rails provided, pitched our tents and set up our “dining” area. We got through our first night without mishap.

We continued north along Tungsten Creek to the intersection with the Boundary Trail (now part of the Pacific Northwest Trail) at Tungsten mine and reined west for about a mile to our base camp for the next three nights. Available water and grass and exposure to wind dictated our choice of camps. Late in the summer, water and feed become scarce, and the Pasayten is notorious for its fierce winds.

The third day was so cold and smoky from the Pasayten fire, I was ready to pack it in. But, the rest of our days in the Pasayten Wilderness were sunny and clear, the trails good with recent tread work and puncheon construction on the Boundary Trail, and the scenery magnificent. For the next two days, we road west for 16 miles over Cathedral Pass, into the Cathedral Basin, and east for 16 miles to Teapot Dome overlooking the Horseshoe Basin. We explored Tungsten mine and took candid photos posing in the clawfoot tub in front of one of the old mine buildings, something everyone visiting this historic site must do.

In camp, we hobbled or free-grazed our horses and ate well. Cathy provided gourmet breakfasts and lunches, and the rest of us teamed up to make dinners of smoked salmon pasta, fresh vegetable curry, and roasted vegetable-beef-green curry on brown rice and quinoa. On an all-women pack trip, we didn’t stint on the quality or quantity of food.

We rode sixteen miles out on the last day, congratulating ourselves on how well everything turned out. Our horses got along and negotiated rough trails successfully, we had great camps with enough grass and water, and we all got to know each other a lot better.

And best of all, waiting at the trailhead at the end of our ride was a cooler full of cold beer brought by a thoughtful husband. 🍷

Mount St. Helens Chapter Regional Work Party

continued from page 13

this procedure, they also answered questions about horse breeds, parts of a horse, and names of parts of the bridle and saddle. They then rode their horse at a walk and trot to demonstrate their riding ability and control of the horse.

This was the fourth day that our members and Scouts worked

together on this skill set. Some of the Scouts also had done additional individual lessons with members. All seven Scouts were able to show the competency required to achieve their badge. Everyone involved had a great time, which means we may have developed a few more lifetime riders to fill our ranks when we retire. 🍷

PHOTO BY DONNA HOLLATZ



Juelie Dalzell helps a Scout with bridling her horse “Jack”.

PHOTO BY DONNA HOLLATZ



Linda Morin assists a Scout riding her horse “Cody”.

Haney Meadows/Ken Wilcox Horse Camp Update A Regional BCHW Work Party is 'in progress' for 2023 June 30 to July 5, 2023

Submitted by Ken Evans, Mt. St. Helens Chapter

A Short History of Ken Wilcox Horse Camp (KWHC), (post the Table Mtn Burn of 2012). Ten years of terrestrial healing...and BCHW...'working to restore the trails'... BCHW stepped in with substantial Work Parties for two years following the 2012 fire (headed by BCHW's enthusiastic member, Jason Ridlon), with smaller saw crews working to open trails each year thereafter. BCHW members have also been involved by keeping an ongoing interest in maintaining the camp. A recent winter's not altogether unusual blow...in the Haney Meadows area... was publicly announced to be a 100 mph event. Causing more 'dead-standing' and otherwise compromised trees to tip over.




It's difficult to say just how many more trees can "succumb to the elements",... but this sawyer might be tempted to speculate... now 10 years running... 'not very many.' (thinking and saying such...are, of course... two different things...yes?)

The saw and brushwork at KWHC are deliberate, while the terrain, with its random flattened trees, is not overly technical. The trails are relatively 'open to blue skies,' and the views and vegetation look quite green in all directions...plus... the creeks flow all summer long.

The Planning for this 2023 event is being headed up by Ed Letcher of the Ellensburg Chapter and Ken Evans of the Mt. St. Helens Chapter. The group size will be logistically limited; therefore, we will request

volunteer registrations with a suspense date, likely in April 2023.

Please check your BCHW Events Calendar(website) and the THN 'back pages' for updates on the upcoming event. 



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

Content Deadline for the March/April 2023 Print Newsletter is January 18, 2023

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.

ATTENTION!

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.

2023 Rendezvous

Friday-Sunday, March 17-19, 2023
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
Go to BCHW.org

1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, March 17, 2023
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President. Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206.498.6952

Ponderosa Chapter Poker Ride

Sunday, May 21, 2023
First rider out 9:00
Raffle
Pre-registration by May 9, 2023 \$25
Registration available online
Registration at ride \$30
Riverside State Park, Spokane
Camping available
Ken Carmichael 509-466-2225
Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com • www.pbchw.com

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, June 17, 2023
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President. Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206.498.6952

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
BCHWineryride@gmail.com

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks



January 1 – New Year's Day and First Day Hikes
January 16, – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
March 9 – Billy Frank Jr.'s Birthday
March 19 – Washington State Park's Birthday
April 22 – Earth Day
June 10 – National Get Outdoors Day
June 11 – Free Fishing Weekend
June 19 – Juneteenth
September 23 – National Public Lands Day
October 10 – World Mental Health Day
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 24 – Autumn Day

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 _____