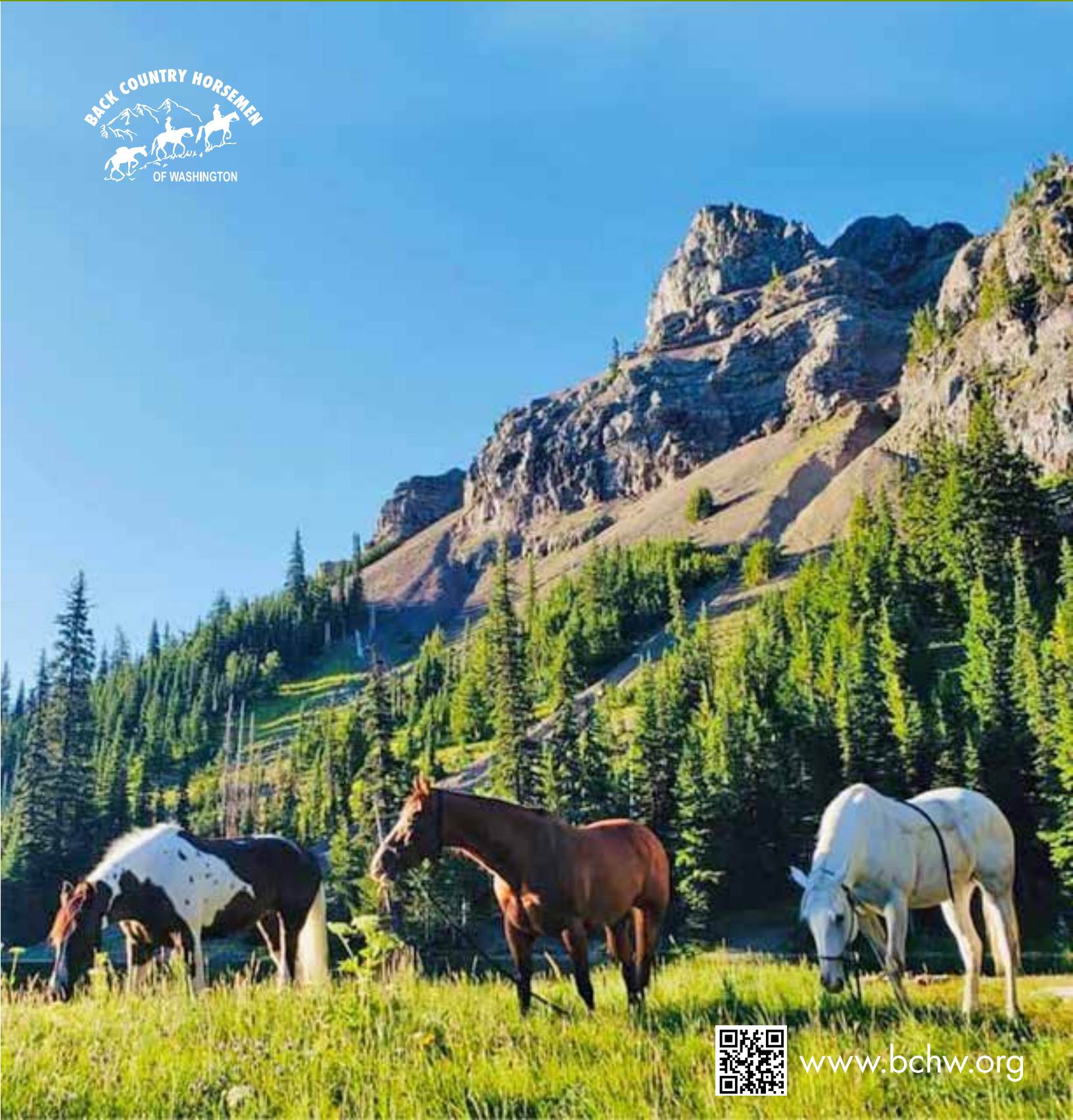


The Trailhead News

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington

March/April 2021



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May/June Trailhead News will be printed!
Please submit your projected rides so we can publish them on the event calendar. Submit your articles and photos too.

Cover Photo: Last summer at Basin Lake in Norse Peak Wilderness just off the PCT.
 Photo by Tony Longoria.

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April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "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					
Mitch Baird	IND	Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR	Thomas & Sandra Eddy	IND
Scott Bauer	CHC	Joe & Cindy Chenier	LCC	Joanna Ellington & Dennis Clifton	NEC
Amanda Biles	TAH	Christina Cline	MVC	Ken & Pam Evans	MAC
Penelope Booker	IND	Leslie Coey	IND	Carol Finney	MSH
Caleb Canby	MVC	Gary & Kathy Collins	MSH	Kevin & Lisa Graese	NEC
Janis Collett	PCC	Stephen & Michelle Cooper	TAH	Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC
Missy Day	TAH	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Rich Guthrie	CHC
Marianne Finrow	LCC	Robert & Celeste Eversole	NEC	Deb & Ron Hall	CPR
David Jackson	PSR	Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NEC	William Hamlin & Anne Razzolini	RRR
Lori Lennox	GHC	Margo Forstrom & Earl McNally	PCC	Kris & Don Hand	PSR
Kim Merrick	NSC	Robert Gish	NEC	Butch & Jaima Havens	IND
Heather Moorman	PSR	Dawn Graham	MOC	Carrie Heltemes & Carolyn Kruckenberg	LCC
Kathy Russo	IND	Kathy & Bob Jones	TDC	Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR
Dave Seibel	MOC	Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty	MVC	Diane Kamacho	CHC
Bob Shonka	IND	Mary Kane	TAH	Cris Kantor	TAH
Teri Starke	IND	Tony Karniss	LCC	Edris Kenan	TAH
Cathy Upper	MVC	Bill Kehner	IND	Scotte Kilby	MVC
Carol Wilcox	WVC	Rob & Barbara Lathrop	IND	Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson	BHR
Pat Wyers	MAC	Kathryn & Steve Lewandowsky	CHC	Ed & Teri Letcher	WEN
2019 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Dave & Gail Sunde	FER	Kay & Dan MacCready	MVC	Teren & Norman MacLeod	BHR
2020 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Dr. Jack Gillette	PIE	Gudrun Mahrt	MSH	Tim Main	IND
2021 Benefactor Level					
Terry & Suzanne Smith	IND	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Paul Mellick	RRR
2021 Patron Level					
David & Carrol Bainter	GHC	Al & Marcy Norrbom	TAH	Kris Moran	GHC
Kelly Bolen & Blake Madden	TAH	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC	Jeanette & John O'Keefe	MVC
Donald Campbell & Christina Fritzinger	PCC	Kendra Pardy	OPC	Sarah Pearl & Batty Sack	MOC
Lisa & Tom Cohen	TAH	Becky & Christopher Penoyar	OPC	Robert Powers	OPC
Sherrie Elliott	NEC	Elizabeth & Daniel Poore Jennings	NSC	Danielle & Carlos Ramos	TAH
Greg Johnston	GHC	JoAnn Reider	TAH	Jason & Heather Ridlon	IND
Joanne Lacy & Dale Bamford	PCC	Tanara Reynolds	PCC	Leonard & Kathy Rolph	MAC
Michael Torok	MVC	Nancy Rust	MSH	David Smith DVM	TAH
Barbara Woo	CHC	Laurel Saville	WCC	Lynda Stafford	SCR
2021 Sustaining Level					
Connie & Eugene Baugher	MAC	Boyd & Mikki Sharp	PNC	Danny & Karen Stineback	MSH
Cliff Benson	TDC	Bob Showalter	RRR	Dave & Gail Sunde	OVC
Sandi Berg	CCR	Jane & George Storrs	IND	Rachael & Matthew Tuller	CPR
Robert & Sheila Blakely	NEC	Barb Talbot	PCC	Linda & Bryant Tiffany	TAH
Sandra Boe	PCC	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC	Rick & Phoebe Trocano	MVC
Mark & Erin Borden	ICC	Louise & Peter Walton	NEC	Ann Van Duren-Molloy	WCC
Steve & Lynne Bridge	GHC	Brenda & Greg Wiebe	MAC	Craig Volosin & Karen Stevenson	PON
Mike Celestres	TAH	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge	MAC	Wendy Walsh	OPC
Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH	JoAnn Yost	GHC	Dolly Watkins	FRC
2021 Contributing Level					
		Earl & Dorothy Aalseth	CHC	Marlaine & Matt Watson	WEN
		Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH		
		Andy & Debbie Bales	TAH		
		Gene Brent	TAH		
		Greg Cox	GHC		
		Jan & Jim Craghead	CCR		

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. ➔

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

BettyRae Shonka

Trygve Culp

Jim Murphy

Teunis Wyers

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.



What Are Your Plans?

By Jason Ridlon, BCHW President

Many of us who follow Facebook or other social media platforms have seen the meme that says that 2021 doesn't need to do very much to look good following a year like 2020. I would disagree with this statement as I think 2021 will still need a lot of work to be done to be even recognized as any different than last year.

In 2020, Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) was forced into accepting and making many adjustments to the way we do our everyday business in our advocacy work, trail work, and fundraising. Anybody who truly knows the mind of an equine owner can easily recognize how truly difficult accepting or being forced to change must have been for us as individuals and as an organization. What I am talking about is observed if you attend most packing clinics. It's easy to recognize the person giving the class is doing it right and most everyone else is doing it wrong for several reasons.

Now as we move into 2021, what are your plans? Last year showed us all just how fragile our ability to recreate and visit in large groups was while sharing in our passion as a community of public land users. This change or threat seemed to drive many recreational users into a frenzy! Our trailheads and campgrounds saw record numbers as many more people went outdoors to escape their stay-at-home orders. Our partnering organizations have seen record growth in membership. The recreational community wants to get involved. For BCHW, I hope we can find it within ourselves as recreational equine

public land users to step up and help the year 2021 be recognized as the year that BCHW said enough! By fully engaging in the amazing recreational opportunities that await us as Washington residents and equine users, our BCHW membership has the chance to reach out and attract new members to our organization.

As a 13-year veteran of BCHW and life-long public land user, my plans to help 2021 be recognized as something exceptional will include my efforts as your BCHW President and Special Project Coordinator. I have the privilege to work with an amazing team of dedicated and passionate committees in and outside of BCHW. These committees and working groups are bringing forward new technology that may help us become more efficient and organized in the work we do. We have members looking at new ways to possibly re-organize or streamline BCHW as an organization. As your President, I do not feel we can afford to sit idle and not be open-minded to looking for new ways to do our business. We must set various courses of action to make 2021 the year BCHW looked closer at building a sustainable trail into the future.

I would like to envision the year 2021 ending much like the trails we clear. A trail that is resilient to changing conditions, sustainable, and welcoming to all users. If at the end of 2021 we start to see this trail take shape, it is then that we should thank the year 2020 for forcing us into the future and prepping us as Back Country Horsemen to be more accepting of change. 🐾

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.





BCHW Public Lands

By Kathy Young, BCHW Public Lands Committee Chairman

Greetings from WETern Washington. I hear from many of you that planning for the upcoming trail season is rolling right ahead; we all hope to have a more “normal” 2021 trail season of course. I want to thank all of you who participated in BCHW’s Leadership Training event on ZOOM. I have not heard much feedback, so I will take that as a good sign and consider that it was a valuable session. If you do have feedback please do not hesitate to contact a Public Lands Committee member. Their names and contact email can be found on the bchw.org Public Lands webpage.

My takeaway from Leadership was to make sure that the bchw.org webpage for Public Lands is updated more frequently. I’d be very interested to hear about what you would like to see shared on that page, which is under the Resources tab on bchw.org. Currently posted updates include the Public Lands Report to the BCHW Board of Directors.

In the meanwhile, keep planning and fingers crossed for a dynamite trail season in 2021. 🌟

Communications (Answer the call)

By Ken Carmichael

Communication is a wonderful tool. We have the spoken and written word and the intelligence to transmit our thoughts to each other. We are fortunate. Sometimes this can be carried to the extreme. For instance, I just got off a two-hour telephone call with Scott Lee, a Director. No, we did not solve the problems of the world, but it was good talking with Scott and yes, I think we made some headway.

In the modern world, our methods of communication have expanded. Think about the runner, pony express, telegraph, telephone, television, radio, signal fires, signal flags. Now we have the computers, and I cannot even start to list the many ways that have been developed.

But what I have been identifying are the tools we use to communicate, not the effort it takes to make use of these tools. No matter what the tool, we still must answer the call, listen, read, understand, and sometimes act upon that communication. This is where we sometimes fall down.

BCH is a multi-level organization. Think about BCHA, BCHW, chapters, and individuals. One of the most important tools we have to make this organization successful is communications. What is our link between these levels of the organization? Primarily, we depend upon our Directors and other leaders. We have BCHA Directors to communicate with our national organization. We have BCHW Directors to communicate between the State and chapters. Chapters communicate with members through meetings and newsletters. We cannot leave out the Trailhead News and national newsletter. In addition, we have many committees communicating important information between all levels of BCH.

But with all these tools it does not work if we do not answer the call, open the email, open the attachment, or attend the meeting. If this happens, the communications break down and the organization and our mission of keeping trails open, fails.

We are all in this organization to accomplish our mission. We cannot do this unless we communicate. So, I ask that the next time there is a phone call, email, report, call to action, etc., open it up, answer, or attend. It is important.

Footnote: I laugh at what I have learned to use for communication in my life including cell telephones, websites, Facebook, YouTube, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and now ZOOM. I know I am not up to speed, but I am depending on some of you to help me along. 🌟

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



Chapter Governing Documents

By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Governance & Bylaws Chair

While BCHW is one corporation with one EIN (Employer Identification Number), each chapter has some governing documents that guide the chapter in its operation. Some of these are unique to the chapter, while others are required by BCHW.

We should look at these documents periodically to ensure that they reflect what we are doing and should be doing. Changes should be made in our operations or our documents. These may be bylaws, standing rules, or some policies that have been created through motions at a meeting. Bylaws are typically more difficult to change so some rules should be in standing rules, which are more flexible.

As mentioned above, some chapter activities are required by BCHW. Therefore, chapters must be aware of what is happening at the state level. Recently BCHW made significant changes to the BCHW bylaws and created new standing rules. Some of these changes affect the chapters. These should be reviewed by chapters and incorporated into chapter policies.

This makes it an ideal time for chapter officers to review the BCHW bylaws and standing rules and take steps to update the chapter documents. There is a guide for chapter bylaws on the BCHW website. Of course, chapter bylaws should be developed for the specific needs of the chapter. However, those sentences in the bylaw guide that are in **BOLD** are required to be in the chapter

bylaws. Some additional requirements by BCHW may be incorporated in chapter standing rules.

Documents to review:

- Guidelines for Chapter Bylaws
- BCHW Bylaws
- BCHW Standing Rules

When you have a draft, please send them to me. I may be able to help you prior to approval by your chapter.

If you need clarification on any issues, please contact me. 🐾



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BCHW Nominations

By Ken Carmichael

Success and growth of any organization or project begins with good leadership backed by productive and willing participants. BCHW is built on the principle of volunteerism beginning with the person that brings cookies to the chapter meeting right up to the President of BCHW. We all play a part.

Now we are starting the process to select the next generation of officers to lead BCHW. Elections will be held at the December 2021 board meeting, but it is not too early to start this critical process. To help BCHW navigate through the process, President Jason Ridlon has appointed a Nominating Committee. This includes Ken Carmichael, Lori Lennox, Dave Jackson, and Barb Thomas.

And we want your help. We are looking for the very best individuals to lead BCHW. Our search is not limited. Individuals can come from the BCHW Board, chapter leaders, and outside of BCHW. We are looking for people who believe in the BCHW mission and are willing to work to accomplish it.

The elected positions in 2021 are:

- President
- Vice President
- BCHA Director Position # 1
- BCHA Alternate Director

In addition to these elected positions, the President is responsible for appointing key leaders. As a Nominating Committee, we want to help the new President find these dynamic individuals.

The positions include:

- Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Independent Member Director
 - In addition, there are 19 committee chairs listed in the THN
- As you can see, it takes many talented people to accomplish our mission of keeping trails open. It all starts with this search.

We have drafted job descriptions for all but the committee chairs. People interested in the positions, or who want to recommend someone, may ask for a job description from the committee. To start things off, the following is the draft job description for the BCHW President.

President of Back Country Horsemen of Washington Job Description

January 22, 2021
DRAFT

Mission:

To exercise supervision over Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) and all its activities and function as a member of the BCHW Board of Directors.

Activities:

- Exercise supervision over Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW)
 - Be a member of the BCHW Board of Directors
 - Chair all membership and board meetings
 - Appoint such committees as may be necessary and appropriate to the conduct of business of BCHW, subject to the approval of the Board
 - Serve as ex-officio member of all committees
 - Appoint, subject to Board approval, the Treasurer for a two-year term or until a successor has been selected
 - The Treasurer may, subject to the President's approval, appoint a BCHW member to serve as Treasurer Pro Tem at any major function the Treasurer cannot attend.
 - Appoint, subject to Board approval, the Secretary for a two-year term or until a successor has been elected
 - May appoint an Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) to serve at his or her pleasure to evaluate, consider and provide advice concerning issues that may need recommendation and action between Board meetings
 - Receive written quarterly reports from each committee for distribution to the Board members at least one week prior to each Board meeting
 - Chief executive and administrative officer of BCHW
- The search is on. We need to think outside the box and encourage your input and help. Please provide input or questions to Ken Carmichael at 509-466-2225 or kcarmichael2225@gmail.com. 🐾



Ponderosa Safety Chairman

By Ken Carmichael

Some time back I was reviewing another chapter's bylaws and saw the position of Safety Chairman. I like stealing other people's good ideas so finally got this done.

The Ponderosa Chapter is proud to introduce Doug Frederick as our new Safety Chair. Doug is not a rider, but his wife, Michelle, is. Doug comes along on many projects for the fun of it. He is a great asset on work parties and is BCHW chainsaw certified.

Doug comes to the position with a great deal of experience. His background includes many years with the Forest Service and Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife. He has been responsible for safety and has written Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) documents.

We have written a Job Description for Doug so it is clear how he will contribute to the success of the BCHW mission.

Ponderosa BCH Safety Chair Position Description

Mission: To ensure that chapter activities consistently and accurately comply with all safety regulations, guidelines, and good practices identified by BCH and appropriate government agencies and land managers.

Why:

1. To ensure the safety of the participants, animals, and bystanders.
2. To maintain the rights of BCH to have activities on public and private lands.

Work plan:

1. Be familiar with safety information provided by BCH on www.bchw.org and appropriate government agencies and land managers.
2. Document, and update, in a usable form the regulations and guidelines.
3. Train chapter members in the proper application of these regulations and guidelines and safe operation of the proper tools and equipment.
4. Provide for safety supervision at chapter events.
5. Complete all paperwork required to document safety practices including injury reports
6. Coordinate chainsaw and crosscut saw certifications.
7. Coordinate efforts with the BCHW Safety Chair when appropriate

Safety is a primary factor in the work done by BCH, and we are glad to have Doug performing this important job for Ponderosa. It is a good example of putting the round peg in the round hole. Besides, now we have that non-riding spouse playing an important part in our chapter. 🐾



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

Lakeview Ranch Ride

PHOTOS BY CAROL KLAR



Pacific Lake is across from the Lakeview Ranch Trailhead.

By Michelle Eames

During the mild winter weather in January, Carol Klar and I visited Lakeview Ranch on three different occasions; once hiking and twice riding with different members of the Ponderosa Chapter of BCHW. Lakeview Ranch is on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property, just north of Odessa, Washington. It is a great place for early spring riding (and sometimes in winter when conditions are good!). The area is usually warmer and drier than Spokane where we live, so it can be a good location when conditions are still wet and frozen at home. In the summer it can be hot, and it may have rattlesnakes. But if you are a sun worshiper, it is still a decent ride.

In our explorations, we went on three different routes. One was a loop of 7 miles that eventually ended up north of the trailhead and included a half-mile on the main (but lightly traveled)

PHOTOS BY CAROL KLAR



Carol Klar's horse Onyx looking out at Pacific Lake.

road and a short jaunt over to look at Pacific Lake. Our favorite loop was 10 miles out and through a barb-wire gate and around a picturesque loop on an ORV trail (there were no vehicles around). The third route, which we explored on foot, was a trail that we think eventually connects to Odessa, but we haven't been the full length of that 13-mile trail, yet. There are some other potential trails and areas that we still need to explore.

There is a dry-camping area at Lakeview Ranch but it is BYOB (bring your own bathroom). There are no toilet facilities at the trailhead and campground, although there is an outhouse a long walk or short drive away at the fishing area at Pacific Lake. You should bring your own water, too; there is seasonal non-potable water, but we have been there several times when it was not turned on. There are, however, fourteen strong and safe wooden corrals built by the Ponderosa Chapter of BCH in 2019. The camping area is big enough for several rigs.

Lakeview Ranch is about 1 hour and 40 minutes from Spokane, about 2 hours from Kennewick, and a bit over 2 hours from Ellensburg, just to give you an idea of drive times. Google Maps will get you there. From Spokane, the map directions include several miles of gravel road, but they were lightly traveled and were in good condition in January. A map of the Lakeview Recreation Area can be found here: https://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/files/brochures/lakeview_ranch_kiosk_0109.pdf.

The habitat includes sagebrush, grass, lakes and wetlands, and scenic basalt rock. The footing was dirt, with some gravel, and included a few easy climbs over rock. There are a few things to be cautious of: some of the two-track roads allow off-road vehicles, though we did not see any when we were there. Some of the two-tracks were slick when wet, so try to hit dry weather. Even in dry weather, stay away from the edges of any wet areas, ponds, or lakes. These can be boggy, and you should go around them. Rattlesnakes may be there in the summer; we recommend going around the rattlesnakes, too. 2

An Epic Women's Trip To National Parks, Part 3

PHOTOS BY HEIDI STAHELI



Turpin Meadows and Grand Teton National Park in front of the Grand Tetons, left to right, Geri Jo, Heidi, Mary Jo, Kathy and Brandi.



Rock stairs on the way to Holly Lake, Grand Tetons



Rock trail on the way down from Holly Lake, Grand Tetons.

By Heidi Staheli

This article is a three-part story and is continued from the last issue of The THN. Part Three.

Turpin Meadows

Another “short” drive under 100 miles to our last destination, and we were in Wyoming at Turpin Meadows Horse Camp on the east side of the Tetons. We had heard rumors that Turpin was crowded and it would be impossible to find camp spots for all 4 of our rigs. We pulled in and there it was, 3 sites, all together, that would fit 4 rigs. There was a water spigot and a vault toilet nearby and a bear box at each site. Corrals were across the camp, out of eyesight, so we set up high lines for the horses. It is important to state that traveling with Kathy Young is great. She is fun, easy-going, always up for anything, a very competent rider, embodies the BCHW Mission statement and knows A LOT of people. As we were getting settled in, Kathy had just taken a walk, a couple in a truck drove in and asked me where our group was from. When I said Washington state, they asked if I knew Kathy Young! I said yes and pointed to her rig. They were BCHA members from Georgia. What a small BCHA world! They tracked her down and had a nice chat. Shortly after getting settled, we were greeted by a friendly camp host who, once again, warned us about grizzlies being close to camp. Gathering that evening, maps, and GPSs in hand, we plotted our rides for the next few days.

Turpin Meadows offers miles of riding and many loop rides. We did two loop rides, one 17 miles and the other 19

miles. Both had similar views with the Grand Tetons off in the distance. The riding was not challenging, as there were no major climbs or difficult terrain to navigate although we did cut a couple of logs off the trail. It was easy on the horses and they

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PHOTOS BY HEIDI STAHELI



Crossing a bridge near Paintbrush Canyon, Grand Tetons, left to right, Mary Jo, Geri Jo and Kathy Young.

An Epic Women's Trip to National Parks, Part 3

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were due for a break. There is a good variety of open meadows and trees to ride through. It was pleasant and enjoyable.

Grand Teton National Park is only a few miles drive from Turpin Meadows, so we ventured into the park for our last long ride, a steady steep climb to Holly Lake at 9400 feet. Parked at the Cathedral lot, we were lucky to secure two of the three horse trailer parking spots. The base of the Grand Tetons literally jets up from Jenny and Leigh Lakes appearing

to spout from the water. The first part of the ride was an easy, wide-open trail along the shore of Leigh Lake with sweeping views of the Tetons. As we entered Paintbrush Canyon, the trail became steeper but had well-kept and wide switchbacks. We were rewarded with peekaboo views of the mountain tops and gradually climbed into the mountain and onto the rocks. The views opened to us spectacular scenery; rocky mountain tops, a view of Jackson Lake and glaciers so close we felt like we could touch them. It was gorgeous. Once we reached Holly Lake, we went to tie up our horses to hike the last half mile and met a group of hikers camped there. We said hello to a hiker who asked Mary Jo if her horse was a Tennessee Walker. She replied that he was and asked how he knew about horses. Well, once again, Kathy Young knew the hiker who happens to be a veterinarian she had met 8 years ago! Can't go anywhere, even up 9400 feet in the Tetons without running into someone she knows.

The last day of our adventure brought high winds, so we did a low-land wander around Turpin Meadows. It was time to clean up and get ready for the drive home. It was quite a memorable trip with great friends, wonderful horses, and epic riding. We spent that evening sharing our favorite experiences around the campfire (a little Fireball may have been involved) and in the morning parted ways for the long drive home. 🐾

PHOTOS BY HEIDI STAHELI



Kathy and Brandi watering horses at Leigh Lake, Grand Tetons.



Heidi in front of a glacier on the way to Holly Lake, Grand Tetons.

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW Memberships Expired on Dec. 31, 2020. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the "Members/join/renew" tab. You can take care of things online or print off a paper application for specific chapters. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Dana Chambers, your State Membership Chair at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952, She is there 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)	\$1200.00

Methow Valley Trails Collaborative



The MVTC was created in 2016 to build and strengthen relationships among trail managers, advocates, and user groups to support and enhance sustainable trail experiences throughout the entire Methow Valley. By bringing a diverse group of trail users, organizations, and agencies together, the MVTC can share resources, coordinate project development, assist with fundraising, and address issues that impact the Methow Valley trail user the most.

Trail Volunteer of the Year – Cathy Upper

Our trail volunteer of the year is the Back Country Horsemen's very own Cathy Upper. Cathy has been with the Methow Valley Chapter for nearly 40 years and is also the Chair of the MVTC. Cathy spends her summers running chainsaws and hauling cross cuts throughout the Pasayten Wilderness. Her amazing work ethic, grit, and dedication to the maintenance and preservation of trails in the Methow Valley are inspiring to be around. We are fortunate to have Cathy Upper and the rest of the BCHW (Back Country Horsemen of Washington) volunteers as active members of our trails community.

How long have you been with BCH?

I think I joined BHC in the 80s.

Can you tell us a little about the Methow Valley Chapter?

The Methow Valley chapter was started around 1985 by Ken Wilcox, Duane Kikendall, and Betty Wagoner. Since then, the chapter has held an annual spring ride, built two horse camps, helped build numerous bridges, and cleared thousands of miles of trails. Every year this small chapter of about 50-60 people puts in about 1,000-1,600 hours of volunteer labor.

What is one thing you would like people to know about the future of trails here in the Methow Valley?

BCHW organizes such great work parties that we even have a few members who do not own horses. The Forest Service has very little money for trail work. Most projects are paid for by funds from the state Recreation and Conservation Office, which means they are competing with everyone else (Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Methow Trails, etc.) for those funds. We need people who want to save trails. It feels so rewarding to work on them.

How can people get involved or contribute to the ongoing maintenance of trails?

Join any group or make your own pod of trail warriors. Just hiking with loppers or a small hand saw and spending 30 minutes is great.. 🐾

– Reprinted from *Methow Trails*

Winter Trail Work In "Wettern" Washington...So Fun!

PHOTO BY MIKE TOROK



Mark Your Calendars for the Fee-Free Days!

Saturday, April 3 — Springtime free day
Thursday, April 22 — Earth Day
Saturday, June 5 — National Trails Day
Saturday, June 12 — National Get Outdoors Day
Sunday, June 13 — Free Fishing Day
Wednesday, Aug. 25 — National Park Service Birthday
Saturday, Sept. 25 — National Public Lands Day
Thursday, Nov. 11 — Veterans Day
Friday, Nov. 26 — Autumn free day

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: bchw@wamedia.com.

1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, March 20, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting
BCHW President Jason Ridlon
president@bchw.org • 509.699.9927

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, June 19, 2021
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Jason Ridlon
president@bchw.org • 509.699.9927

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, September 18, 2021
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Jason Ridlon
president@bchw.org • 509.699.9927

Rattlesnake Ridge Riders' Surprise Ride

Saturday, May 1, 2021
Horn Rapids County Park
115803 US Reservation Road
Benton City, WA 99320
Registration opens at 8:00 am
First rider out at 10:00 am
\$20 for 4 tickets, \$3 each additional ticket
Due to Covid-19, bring your own lunch
Dispersed parking lot camping available
caroleaschuh@gmail.com

Our newsletter (Trailhead News) will be electronic to all members in 2021, with the exception of the May-June and Sept-Oct issues, which will be printed and mailed out to all memberships. This is due to the unforeseen reduction in revenue in 2020.

Starting in January 2021, please go to bchw.org, Trailhead News, to view your publications.

This decision was not made lightly, and we are sorry for any inconvenience it may cause.

As always, please continue to send all articles and/or event announcements to: bchw@wamedia.com.

Content Deadline for the May/June 2021 Printed Newsletter is April 1st

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!