

The Trailhead News

Vol. 47 Issue 6

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

November/December 2022



www.bchw.org



OFFICERS:

President Dana Chambers president@bchw.org.....	206.498.6952
Vice President Bob Iddins vice_pres@bchw.org.....	804.695.4170
Secretary Kathy Iddins secretary@bchw.org.....	360.632.9700
Treasurer Teri Starke treasurer@bchw.org.....	253.709.5052
BCHA Director - Pos 1 - Kathy Young bcha_dir1@bchw.org.....	206.551.7824
BCHA Director - Pos 2 - Doug Stewart bcha_dir2@bchw.org.....	951.264.6283
Alternate Tom Connor bcha_altdir@bcha.org.....	360.269.3804

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Awards Susan Sundahl awards@bchw.org.....	253.380.0343
Education Kim Merrick education@bchw.org.....	253.261.6188
Governance & By-Laws Ken Carmichael gov_and_bylaws@bchw.org.....	509.466.2225
Grant Administration Jen Bond bchwgranthelp@bchw.org.....	360.461.9588
Historian Vacant	
Leave No Trace Education Jane Byram LNT@bchw.org.....	509.997.7407
Legislative Vacant legislative@bchw.org.....	
Membership Dana Chambers membership@bchw.org.....	206.498.6952
Membership Development Ken Carmichael kcarmichael2225@gmail.com.....	509.466.2225
Photography Jim Thode jim@jimthode.net.....	360.978.5336
Public Lands Kathy Young public_land@bchw.org.....	206.551.7824
Safety Chuck Regimbal safetychair@bchw.org.....	360.871.5295
Saw Program Tony Karniss tkarniss@gmail.com.....	360.748.8640
BCHW Store Lori Lennox llennox82@gmail.com.....	360.482.2742
Special Projects Coordinator Vacant	
Volunteer Copy Editor/Proof Reader Sondra Johnston sgjohn1234@aol.com.....	253.376.7946
THN Editor Michele McGehee thn@bchw.org.....	360.870.9038
Volunteer Hours Chair Deb Wesselius volunteerhours@bchw.org.....	360.736.6106
Ways & Means Teri Starke ways_means@bchw.org.....	253.709.5052
Calendar Editor Terri Crawford calendarpix@bchw.org.....	
Webmaster webboss@bchw.org.....	

STAFF:

Lobbyist Joyce Willms joyce@wamedia.com.....	360.754.4543
THN Managing Editor/Publisher, Creative Dir. Adriane Goodwin bchw@wamedia.com.....	360.754.4543

Inside this Issue..	www.bchw.org
Chapter Locations & Directors	1
Optional Members	2
President's Corner	3
Leadership Quote	3
2022 BCHW Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest.	4-5
Emergency Plans.	6
Air Ambulance Insurance..	6
Sawyer Advanced Skills Training	7
Great Meetings	8
Out On The Trails	
Peninsula Chapter Prize Ride	9
North Summit Horse Camp	10
USDA Forest Service Regional Forester's Appreciation Award.	11
Now Is The Time To Make Your Really Big Riding Plans For 2023!..	12
Trail Work	
Soda Springs Regional Work Party	13
To Be Fair.	14
2023 BCHW Awards Program	15-16
Calendar of Events.	Outside Back Cover

Cover Photo: First Place Costume Winner of the 2022 BCHW Winery Ride. Photo by Jim Thode

Disclaimer

Articles which appear in The Trailhead News (THN) do not necessarily reflect the position, opinion or endorsement of Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), its officers, committee chairs, staff or Washington Media Services, Inc. (WMS). BCHW and WMS are not responsible for the accuracy of all material and advertisements. Appearance of an advertisement in the THN does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by BCHW of goods or services offered therein. Prices subject to change without warning. BCHW, WMS and its management shall not be held responsible for any typing errors or omissions other than a correction in the next available issue. The THN shall not be reproduced in any form or manner without prior written agreement. This includes reproduction of articles, photos, and the BCHW logo.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Back Country Horsemen of Washington has enacted the following policy: Back Country Horsemen of Washington does not endorse or oppose any political candidate, donate or contribute to any political candidate's campaign, participate or engage in political fundraising events, distribute statements for or against particular political candidates, nor engage in any other activity that may constitute favoring or opposing a political candidate. The forgoing applies to the official position of BCHW it does not restrict or discourage individual members from representing themselves in support of a candidate.

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

BUCKHORN RANGE:			
Director: Bob Hoyle	P.O. Box 845 • Chimacum, WA 98325	360-531-2337	bobhoyle@usa.net
CAPITOL RIDERS:			
Director: Sue Davis	10214 Gate Rd SW • Olympia, WA 98512		capitolriders22@gmail.com
CASCADE HORSE CLUB:			
Director: Scott Lee	P.O. Box 1359 • Lake Stevens WA 98258	360-481-3066	scottle@fairpoint.net
CRAB CREEK RIDERS:			
Director: Jim Craghead	P.O. Box 519 • Moses Lake, WA 98837	509-707-3151	masterhunter@sosmail.us
ELLENSBURG:			
Director: Teri Letcher	421 North Main • Ellensburg, WA 98926	206-478-9908	tlecher9@gmail.com
FERRY COUNTY:			
Director: Emalee Baptiste	P.O. Box 1124 • Republic, WA 99166	509-486-2248	equine@singingpines.com
GRAYS HARBOR:			
Director: Lori Lennox	P.O. Box 52 • Satsop, WA 98583	360-482-2742	llennox82@gmail.com
INDEPENDENTS			
Director: Teri Starke	P.O. Box 1132 • Ellensburg, WA 98926	253-709-5052	tstrk21@msn.com
ISLAND COUNTY:			
Director: Sally Garratt	P.O. Box 1241 • Coupeville, WA 98239	206-914-1482	sallygarratt@gmail.com
LEWIS COUNTY:			
Director: Tom Conner	1673 S. Market BLVD #88 • Chehalis, WA 98532	360-269 3804	tkranch@toledotel.com
METHOW VALLEY:			
Director: DK Williams	P.O. Box 902 • Twisp, WA 98856	360-676-1319	dkwilliams49@gmail.com
MOUNT ADAMS:			
Director: Terri Crawford	510 Dalles Mountain Rd • Centerville, WA 98613	509-250-0944	rktbar@gmail.com
MT. OLYMPUS:			
Director: Dave Seibel	PO Box 1951 • Port Angeles, WA 98362	360-640-9472	daveseibel@sbcglobal.net
MOUNT SAINT HELENS:			
Director: Jim Anderson	P.O. Box 418 • Brush Prairie, WA 98606	360-835-5719	muleman1951@gmail.com
NISQUALLY:			
Director: Andrea Cotey	P.O. Box 652 • Yelm, WA 98597	360-923-2394	cotey@reachone.com
NORTHEAST:			
Director: Doug Stewart	P.O. Box 3094 • Deer Park, WA 99006	951-264-6283	dougstewart55@gmail.com
OAKLAND BAY:			
Director: Traci Koch	61 SE Craddick Rd • Shelton, WA 98584	206-930-3887	ctracgo@aol.com
OKANOGAN VALLEY:			
Director: Ken Bailey	P.O. Box 812 • Tonasket, WA 98855	509 670-4219	Kenbailey1947@gmail.com
OLYMPIC:			
Director: Chuck Regimbal	P.O. Box 223 • Manchester, WA 98528	360-871-5295	cnbregimbal@q.com
PENINSULA:			
Director: Theresa Percy	P.O. Box 451 • Carlsborg, WA 98324	360-301-6238	teopercy@gmail.com
PIERCE COUNTY:			
Director: Louise Caywood	21818 Mountain Hwy. E, #52 • Spanaway, WA 98387	253-732-8105	saddledupw@aol.com
PONDEROSA:			
Director: Ken Carmichael	P.O. Box 1184 • Airway Heights, WA 99001	509-466-2225	kcarmichael2225@gmail.com
PURPLE SAGE RIDERS:			
Director: Heather Moorman	25206 S Finley Rd • Kennewick, WA 99337	509-585-4001	bchwmembership@gmail.com
RATTLESNAKE RIDGE RIDERS:			
Director: Danny Chappel	P.O. Box 63 • Benton City, WA 99320	509-588-4342	chapchar05@bentonrea.com
SCATTER CREEK RIDERS:			
Director: Ron Spalding	14749 Tilley Rd • Tenino, WA 98589	360-789-5684	rocknronni@aol.com
SKAGIT:			
Director: Rob DeBoer	P.O. Box 188 • Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	360-770-5082	skagitbchw@gmail.com
TAHOMA:			
Director: Becca Morgan	P.O. Box 365 • Ravensdale, WA 98051	253-732-5931	littlebeemorgan@gmail.com
TRAIL DUSTERS:			
Acting Director: Cathy Nelson	526 N West Ave. PMB 54 • Arlington, WA 98223	425-231-2148	tripleenfarm@gmail.com
WENAS VALLEY:			
Director: Marcy Norrbom	191 Alfalfa Rd • Selah, WA 98942	206-930-8855	4feathersranch@gmail.com
WENATCHEE VALLEY:			
Director: Mike Walcker	4330 Eels Rd • Cashmere, WA 98815	509-679-6286	empirebuilder747@gmail.com
WHATCOM COUNTY:			
Director: Bill McKenna	P.O. Box 28607 • Bellingham, WA 98228	360-599-2526	wintercreek10@gmail.com

Chapter Directors: This list is taken from the
BCHW Directory located online at bchw.org.

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

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

Doc Wesselius

BettyRae Shonka

Trygve Culp

Jim Murphy

Teunis Wyers

Marianne Finrow

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance

Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW

Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.



President's Corner



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

By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

Our 21st Annual Winery Ride was held this year on October 28-30; it was an awesome weekend. This year's event was held in honor of two amazing volunteers we lost this past year. Danny Stineback and "Doc" Wesselius. We had great participation with riders and the many volunteers that helped make the event successful. The weather was absolutely beautiful; we were lucky looking at the current weather.

This year we split our camp areas because Velen Winery offered to let us camp on a nice flat piece of property a mile from Base Camp. Those camping at the new site had nice large flat sites, and those at base camp had slightly larger sites as well.

I would like to personally thank Barb Thomas and Nancy Rust of our Mt. St Helen's Chapter for being the Co-Chairs of our Winery Ride again this year. This event would not be possible without them and the amazing volunteers who come and work hard each year. It takes a village to put on these events!

I would also like to thank all the participants who registered to ride. This ride is one of two state-wide fundraising events that we hold to help fund our trail work projects. In the next column is our mission statement, and yes, we work hard to keep our public lands open to stock use, but we also have fun rides out on our trails in this beautiful state!

2022 Winery Ride Costume Contest Winner!



The Mission Of This Organization Shall Be:

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

I would like to also ask that if you have never gotten involved within your chapter and held a volunteer position, that you consider doing so in 2023. We all have fun working on our trails, having fun events and making a difference in both the back country as well as the front country.

As we head into the holiday season, I would like to say Happy Holidays and ask that you take the time to enjoy your families. 🐾

Your Leadership Quote of the Month

“

“It's okay to admit what you don't know. It's okay to ask for help. And it's more than okay to listen to the people you lead-in fact, it's essential.”

~ Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors



2022 BCHW Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest



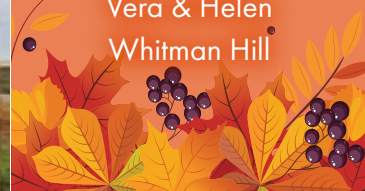
Best Group Costume





Thank You to the Participating Wineries:

Bonair Winery & Vineyards
Dineen Vineyards
Hyatt Vineyards
Knight Hill Winery
Paradisos Del Sol Winery
Severino Cellars
Silver Lake Winery
Two Mountain Winery
Tanjuli Winery
Van Arnam Vineyards
Velen Winery
"A Tribute To Our Mothers"
Vera & Helen
Whitman Hill



Emergency Plans

By Ken Carmichael

Campfires are a great place to share war stories and exciting adventures. One story we do not like to hear is when someone experiences a tragedy that could have been avoided.

We have just gone through a season where we have seen excessive heat, wildfires and flooding across the country. Hopefully, no one in BCHW has had to experience these events beyond just being uncomfortable or inconvenienced.

Recently I had the opportunity to help another BCH member evacuate stock as they were within the Area 3 designation for immediate evacuation. Fortunately, the fire went the other way, and all ended well.

However, it really brings to mind the need for a good plan. I have always had a list of items to take in an evacuation. It is taped to the inside of a kitchen cabinet, and I have evacuated twice. But this experience pointed out the need to expand my plan and to be able to evacuate the property when I am not there.

This is not a “how to” article but instead just a reminder that we all need to make a plan. Some considerations include:

- “Personal Emergency Plan” as provided on the BCHW website with information about where you are, how to find you or contact you, left with family or friends.
- List of items to take and their location – in priority order. The inside of the kitchen cabinet is an excellent place to put it.
- “Go bag” for those things that can be prepacked.



- “Go bag” for the animals or list of items they need
- Easy access to horse containment equipment such as halters.
- Arrangements for stock beyond your trailering capacity
- Identification on the stock
- Contact lists – Family, horse help, veterinarian, doctor, fire department.
- Evacuation routes – consider possible law enforcement barricades.
- Emergency meeting locations that can accommodate horses and other stock.
- Water shut-offs and alarm systems.

I carry the chapter membership list in both vehicles for help on the road. During fire season, I leave the trailer hitched to the pickup.

When my kids were small, it was a policy that if there was a fire, I wanted them to touch the power pole across the street so I could see them and know they were out of the house and safe. There is nothing worse than not knowing where your kids are.

There are many types of emergencies to plan for, including natural, house fires and being on the road. The message here is to talk about it and develop a plan with those that will be affected.

Chapters can consider having a chapter program on emergency procedures. Fire department personnel may be guest speakers. 🐾

Air Ambulance Insurance

By Lori Lennox

Most of you know that my late husband required air transportation from Aberdeen Hospital to Tacoma General. The bill was \$37,600. Yep, you read that correctly! Many of us have had Life Flight for emergency air transport service for years. They offer a special rate for BCHW members (you must call and ask for that). Initially, a reciprocity agreement would also cover expenses if Airlift Northwest, another emergency air transport company, did the flying. That ended four years ago. To have full coverage, you must have insurance with BOTH companies.

You might be lucky if you live in an area with a military helicopter and they are willing to use your rescue as a training exercise or have Medicare (see below). In that case, you might not be burdened with a HUGE transport bill if you need emergency air service. But that is risky!

Traffic on the interstate is something to consider for those living in rural areas. Air transport is often your only option if you need transportation between hospitals or time is of the essence in

getting the appropriate care.

Luckily for us, my husband had Medicare Part B, which “does cover emergency air ambulance transportation in an airplane or helicopter if your health condition requires immediate and rapid transportation that ground transportation cannot provide.” If you have Medicare Advantage (Part C), their plans “also cover air ambulance transportation when medically necessary. The costs and coverage rules may vary depending on your Medicare Advantage plan.”

You don’t have to be injured in an off-the-grid trail riding accident. It could be a vehicle collision, a fall off a roof or ladder, or an at-home medical emergency to need an air ambulance. One member had a ride from a rural medical clinic to a city hospital when she had a heart attack.

Ground transport insurance is also available – the two and a half mile ambulance ride cost over \$1200! Check to see what areas are covered. What works in Washington will not work in Arizona. 🐾

Sawyer Advanced Skills Training



Back Country Horsemen and Evergreen Mountain Bike.

By Tony Karniss, Saw Program

From July 29-31, the BCHW Saw Program held an Advanced Skills and Certification on Chainsaws on the West Fork of the Humptulips Trail number 806. We had 13 folks counting pack stock support and crew along with A, B and C sawyers.

It was a collaboration of sawyers from BCHW, Evergreen Mountain Bike Association (EMBA), Northwest Motorcycle Association (NWMA), Tread and an ocean-going tug boat captain. It was a very interesting group of folks, but all good, hard-working sawyers with the same thing in mind – keeping all trails open to all users.

The upper end of the three and a half mile portion of the trail had not been worked on for five or six years. It was over-

grown with brush and 60 blown-down trees across the trail varying in size from 16 inches to five feet in diameter, with the average size 32-inch diameter on very steep ground and with binds from minor to very complex situations.

The pack stock crew was vital in helping pack saws and tools into the different cutting sites, and when not packing, they played a critical role in cutting lots of brush and five-foot salmon berries to find the tread.

A lot of good sawing skills were taught and learned in those three days. It is also vital to the saw training and trail maintenance that these collaborative outings continue working well into the future. 🐾



Captain Mike Forsyth and Tom Mix, Captain Mike – independent, Tom Mix Backcountry horsemen.



Karl Kaiyala, Back Country Horsemen and Evergreen Mountain Bike.



Great Meetings

By Ken Carmichael

What makes for a great membership meeting? That depends on what you are looking for. Everyone has a different idea. That is why it is important to look at our meetings from many different points of view.

Meetings can, and should, be an attraction to BCH membership. I have always felt that being at the meetings and participating in the group is a major plus for BCH. I understand that some people do not want to attend another meeting no matter what is offered and that is okay. But I think we should try to make our meetings as welcoming as possible.

Promotion. It all starts with promotion. We need to tell people, members, and prospective members, what will be happening and what they will miss by not attending.

Newsletter. One of our best communication tools is our newsletters.

Facebook. Some people also rely heavily on Facebook.

Personal calls. Another option is to make personal calls, especially to new members or those you think may be interested. This can be time consuming but broken up between just a few members, and with quick calls, can be done effectively.

At the door. The word “clickish” is a death call for a meeting.

We must be inclusive.

Greeter. Be sure to have someone near the door to greet people. This even includes during the social, business or program portion of the meeting to meet late comers.

Name tags. I like name tags, no matter how small the group. When that unexpected guest or infrequent member comes it makes a difference to them. Also, to us with poor memories.

Introductions. Make sure that people are introduced. First introduce them around the room to your friends so that they may join in the conversations. Second have someone that has met the guest introduce them to the group at the beginning of the meeting telling a little about them.

BCH material. Have information about BCH available, including how to become a member.

Meeting content. There has to be a reason for people to make coming to the meeting a priority for that night.

Food. Food attracts more people than ants. It does not have to be a large potluck each meeting. Maybe an ice cream social in the summer, a favorite soup night, cookies or salad night. This does not even have to happen every time.

Programs. Programs can draw people if the subject is of interest. This can be guest speakers or a member. It is a good idea to have a reserve program in your back pocket if a program falls through. Make it a topic that would be easy to put on with short notice. Maybe a roundtable discussion on a subject.

Chapter activities. This is a good time to promote chapter activities such as rides, work parties and fundraisers.

Involvement. People are more likely to come if they participate in a project. Do they have a responsibility that makes them part of the group?

Follow up. Thank the people that came and highlight what was done. I call it rubbing it in to those that made the mistake of missing a great meeting and giving them the idea that they do not want to miss the next one.

Guest contact information. Getting guest's contact information so that you can follow up with an invitation to the next meeting or an event

Contacts. Make that contact to encourage them to come back.

Newsletter/Facebook. Tell people what happened so they know that they missed something, include pictures and brag about the event. Make them want to come next time.

Those are just a few ideas for holding great meetings. Maybe you cannot do all of them or are doing a great job on some of them. Try choosing a few more and see what results you get. 🐾

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 through the Horsemanship, Obstacle and Despooring clinics he puts on all year. He is based in Rochester, WA, out of Rainbow Meadow Farm. He will be the guest clinician and put 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. Riding spots are limited; contact Tom by calling or texting him at 253-341-6506. Spectators are free, no need to reserve a seat. More information about Tom will be coming in the next Trailhead News and see his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TomReedHorsemans> 🐾

Peninsula Chapter Prize Ride



By Kim Merrick

On September 10, Peninsula Chapter had a prize ride at Layton Hill Horse Camp. It was the first one in many years. We had many participants from other parts of the state take advantage of the great camping facility and a Dutch Oven dinner on Saturday night. The ride was about 8 miles long, with a snack stop along the way. Riders were promised a great view of Discovery Bay and Mount Baker, but smokey skies in the area prevented it.

The first prize winner of a \$300 VISA card was Greg Ross, of Pierce County Chapter. Over 40 prizes included gas cards, winery concert tickets, a Stihl 4 inch chain saw trimmer, a watercolor painting by



Catherine Mix, and a Chuck Wagon Dinner for 4. All Prizes were donated by local businesses. We also received two sponsorships, from Seven Cedars and First Federal Bank.

We asked the local United States Pony Club, Ranahan, to provide our lunches as a fund raiser. They earned enough money for 5 months of lessons for all their members. Together we are now we are planning a "Regional Pony Club Trails Clinic" for 2023, as well as another prize ride. Thanks to volunteers Theresa, Judy S, Joan, Suzanne, Rick, Del, Anna, Laurel, Teresa, Buff, Juelie, Helen, Larry, Jeff, Judy D, Stephanie, Linda and Pat. 🌱



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

North Summit Horse Camp



By Cindy Kinney

I want to give a big shout-out to the Methow Valley BCHW Chapter and their President, Cathy Upper, for the guided rides and dinner. We can't say enough about the wonderful new North Summit horse camp. It is absolutely beautiful!

The camp is amazingly set up: highlines already done for you, hitching posts and nice and level pull-through parking, and large sites. It has permanent bathrooms, water available for your animals, group covered picnic area and picnic tables at each site, manure bin structures already built and wheelbarrows available for your use. It is a gorgeous area, and it is not too extreme to ride with lots of trees, low underbrush and amazing viewpoints. They are working on developing more trails, so let's support, enjoy and utilize this great Eastern Washington horse camp!

I thank the Methow Valley BCHW Chapter for all they have done and are doing! Our group represented four members of the Ellensburg chapter, the Johnson families, six members of the Traildusters chapter, the Churchill families, the Kinney families and two ride leaders from the Methow chapter. Din-

ner was provided by other members of the Methow chapter as well. This ride will make you happy to be out on the trails and camping with your horses. Best regards, Cindy Kinney 🐾



BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expired on December 31, 2022. Please go to [BCHW.org](https://www.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

USDA Forest Service Regional Forester's Appreciation Award



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

The Enduring Service award recognizes sustained volunteerism, service support and engagement with the Forest Service. Nominees exemplify excellence in their work and commitment to the Forest Service mission. This year, 27 nominations were received in the Enduring Service category—the most in any category—demonstrating the incredible longevity and commitment so many volunteers make to the Agency and our environment.

I had the honor of being present at the presentation of this award to the BCHW Grays Harbor Chapter. Kevin Heikkila and Kelly Lawrence of the USFS were at the chapter meeting and did the presentation.

Submitted Information for Award Consideration

Back Country Horsemen Grays Harbor Chapter, formed in 1999, has 123 active members in Elma, Washington, southern gateway to the Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park. In addition to adopting and continuously maintaining the 20-mile West Fork Humptulips Trail system since 2007, the Chapter worked with Region-6 Forest Service staff to develop a new safety program which is now implemented nationally.

Here is the Nomination Letter That was Submitted

The Back Country Horseman of America is a volunteer non-profit organization formed in 1964 by Montana horsemen. They promote backcountry access on public lands, maintain trails, recreation facilities, and insure trails remain open to recreational stock use. BCHA has affiliates in 32 states. The Grays Harbor Chapter, formed in 1999, is one of 31 chapters in the Washington state organization. The Chapter has 123 active members and is located in Elma, Washington, southern gateway to the Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park.

The Grays Harbor Chapter adopted the 20-mile West Fork Humptulips River trail system on the Olympic National Forest and has continually maintained it since 2007. This trail, which is open to hikers, horses and mountain bikes, is in the Quinault Rain Forest. Keeping this trail open for the various user groups is a real challenge due to the lush, jungle-like vegetation, mas-

sive trees and over 20 river crossings. Chapter members clear the trail of blown down logs, brush, clean trail tread, maintain trail bridges, and improve water drainage along the trail corridor. They utilize pack and saddle stock to transport tools and equipment and lumber and other materials to construct and maintain bridges and trail puncheons. Members also construct and maintain trailhead bulletin boards, horse mounting blocks and trail signage.

In 2016, the Grays Harbor Chapter secured funding through a trail maintenance grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. The Chapter has successfully obtained three additional fund grants to purchase hand tools, power saws and other equipment, lumber for trail bridges and other structures, radios and safety items. Grant funds assist with volunteer vehicle mileage and defer costs for pack stock use.

In 2021, 185 volunteers contributed a total of 1176 hours of volunteer time, donated tools and materials for trail work, and 129 stock days valued at \$45,080. The years accomplishments include logout and brushing of 17.5 miles of trail, cleaned eight miles of trail tread, reconstruction on six and a quarter miles of trail, and construction of one mile of new trail. Members constructed and repaired 42 feet of trail puncheon, maintained 12 puncheon bridges, constructed one trail head bulletin board, repaired and reset two hitch rails, and constructed four horse mounting blocks.

In addition to the emphasis on maintaining public access, several Chapter members worked with the Region-6 Forest Service staff to develop a new saw safety program which is now implemented nationally. They train and certify sawyers from various volunteer groups around the state of Washington who assist in maintaining trails on US Forest Service, National Park Service, and state and county lands.

The Grays Harbor Horsemen promote equine use on public lands, are sensitive to accessibility needs and trail use of backcountry areas by day hikers, backpackers and mountain bikers. "What is good for horseback riders is good for other trail users." said Grays Harbor Chapter member Pete Erben. "We promote cooperation between user groups to support public access, responsible backcountry use and better understanding of shared trail use".

Now Is The Time To Make Your Really Big Riding Plans For 2023!

By Lori Lennox

With Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok, you have seen the wonderful places that friends and other riders have explored and worked on this year, both in and out of state and country. You have probably thought to yourself, “I want to go there”! So why not? Just do it! Start your 2023 plans now for most destinations. Get some dates and reservations set so you don’t find yourself a year from now saying, “why didn’t I plan a trip there?”. Once those reservations are in place, there will be time to get the details worked out.

Decide what you are looking for: a new horse camp with day-riding area for you and your horse or mule? Or bring your camping accommodations and stay at the trailhead? Make sure you research well before heading out: What are the road conditions? Is there still snow? Have the trails been cleared yet? Are the trails for very experienced horses and riders only or safe for most levels of riders? Get some hard-copy maps to help plan, don’t just rely on what you find on the apps. Often GPS maps will take you where you don’t want to go with a trailer. Check the websites of the land managers for detailed, correct and safer routes.

There are many things to think about when planning trips. Do you need access permits, or is it run for a fee by a concessionaire? Do you need reservations and how far in advance? Are your vehicles and tires up for a trip like this? Consider how you would deal with a flat tire or other mechanical issues. There will often be no cell reception—research your options for roadside assistance. Often there are hills and less-than-desirable unpaved roads. How are your trailer backing skills to get in and out of camping spots? How big is your rig? Not all roads and camps can accommodate really big, long rigs.

Plan for feed. Is certified weed-seed-free feed required? Where will you find feed along our route if you need to? It helps to call ahead to check availability and even pre-order hay or feed.

Is your horse or mule fit enough for several days of riding, often at altitudes higher than where you live? Do you and your mount know how to safely highline and hobble? Training your-

selves at home will be much safer, and you will sleep better, too, knowing your partner in this adventure is relaxed and comfortable.

Are you going out of state to camp? Make sure you have all the veterinary work and papers in order ahead of time for that specific state and the ones you are traveling through. Proper timing for completing this travel paperwork is essential. Talk with your vet about your plans early and check state veterinary websites for any updates in requirements. You may need to take a couple of days to get to your destination, so plan any overnight accommodations you and your four-legged partner will need while traveling before and after your ultimate destination. The websites Horsetrip.com and Horsemotel.com are great resources.

Maybe you really want to see some new country and pack in somewhere and be away from the crowds. You don’t pack? No problem – there are people for that! Experienced licensed outfitters offer several trip opportunities, such as a basic drop camp where they pack in and drop all your equipment at a pre-planned location and return later to bring it all out for you. You and your friends ride your own stock in and camp, cook and care for your animals by yourselves. Another option is to hire them for the full meal deal: a deluxe trip complete with them doing all the work: packing, cooking and using their trained and experienced stock – and they take care of them! Shoe comes off? They fix it. Feed? They deal with it. Some companies offer trip options in between these two. Decide on the state and area you want to experience – maybe one of the places you have heard about is where BCHW’s State-Wide Work Parties or BCHW HotShots have done trail work? For in-state, go to the Washington Outfitters and Guides website www.woga.org to find a licensed company that will fit your needs.

Other states have their own organizations and companies; a simple internet search can find them. Do your research about the companies by asking friends and checking them out on social media to see what others say about them. And you also may have a chance to talk to them in person at spring Sportsmen’s Shows; some companies have booths at them.

Are you looking at some extremely popular riding adventures, like the Red Rock Ride, Grand Canyon Mule Ride and Banff Trail Riders, to name a few? You may already be too late for next year, so start researching when and how to book for 2024. 🐾



Soda Springs Regional Work Party



Before brushing



After brushing



Ann Lindh in front with Sherry Brown

By Tony Karniss, Lewis County Chapter BCHW, Trail Crew Leader/Saw Program

On August 10th – 14th Lewis County chapter of Back Country Horsemen held a regional work party out of Soda Springs and Jug Lake area out of Packwood, Washington.

We had eight members from Gary Zink's WTA crew and 13 members of BCHW from 4 different chapters: Lewis County, Grays Harbor, Mt. Saint Helens and Pierce County.

It seems, as always, there was a large log across the trail, a 58-inch Douglas fir right out of the get-go. That created some problems, but with a crew of Tom Conner, Leonard and Sherri Wright and Cassie King never giving up, they succeeded as always in getting the trail open.

Barb Talbot and Tom Faubion worked on the Summit Creek crossing repairing a major bad spot and sawing out a few logs along the way during a lot of serious tread work that was needed. Marsha O'Neil, McKinsey Lindh, Eric Brown and I worked on brushing and tread work and four different creek crossings.

Al Mardock, Sherri Brown, Ann Lindh, Ken Evans and Mario Porras took care of pack support, getting crews to work and camp areas. Once done, they worked on cutting out trails and tread work.

Carrie Heltemes and Carolyn Kruckenberg rode in and did lopping on the trails.

Gary Zink's WTA crew camped at Jug Lake and worked from the bucking logs and 550-foot trail repair on the 43 trail that was a total rebuild and logged on out to the PCT trail.

Despite having a small crew of very hard-working folks, we still got 10 miles of trail bucked out, brush cut and a lot of serious tread work done.

The 42, 44, 44A, 43, 41 and 47 trails are now open for hikers and stock. Thank you to a great team of hard-working folks for accomplishing a lot of work! 🍀



Tom Conner



McKinsey Lindh

To Be Fair



Submitted by Kris Lenke, Buckhorn Range Chapter

As with so many activities across the State, the Jefferson County Fair returned this last August. Our Buckhorn Range Chapter decided to pay the modest fee to have a booth once again. We were so fortunate to have Kim Merrick, our chapter Secretary, step up to organize the event.

We utilized the customary setup of the chapter banner, maps, tools, pack and riding saddles, handouts, a slide show, stickers and the ever-popular candy. Kim came up with the idea of tying candy to answering a question, of which the answer was visible somewhere on our display. We learned from Kim, who used her humorous retired teacher skills to lure kids and their parents into interacting with us.

Our Takeaway – We educated fairgoers on who we are and how much work we do to keep trails open for all. We recruited new members. And we had a fun time doing it!

Our Recommendation – To be fair, it does take work to set it up and staff the booth, but it's worth it: we're doing it again next year! How about you? 🍬



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



You shop. Amazon gives.

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



community rewards

Where shopping & giving unite

2023 BCHW Awards Program

Never too early to start the list

By Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Start the process of gathering information for the nomination packet now. Nominations are due by February 1, 2023, and will be awarded at Rendezvous in March. There are so many deserving BCHW members that should receive one of these awards. If your chapter does not have a nominating committee for Awards, please put it on the agenda for your next meeting. I am more than happy to assist you with your nominations. In addition, BCHW appreciates donations from individuals and Chapters for these awards. For more information and to see past award winners, please visit the Awards page at bchw.org/programs/awards.

BCHW AWARDS CATEGORIES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT This award is for the BCHW member or couple who has shown a lifetime of dedication to BCHW by actively pursuing and promoting the organization and the BCHW Mission Statement in various ways. This award is for recognition, not a contest.

Lifetime = 1, max 2 awarded

LOPPER AWARD This award is for a BCHW member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to their chapter or BCHW by participating and promoting what the BCHW Mission Statement stands for. This is an “all-around” award, with the nominee being active in several aspects of the many things that make up BCHW.

Lopper = 3, max 4 awarded

CAMP COOK This award is for the BCHW member who willingly keeps the campfires burning and the kettles hot and full of delicious food to share with others. Whether at meetings, work parties or social functions, they are in the kitchen ensuring all are well fed.

Camp Cook = 1 awarded

TRAIL WARRIOR This person may not make all the chapter functions or even own a computer, but they are out rain or shine, day in and day out, working on the trails.

Trail Warrior = 3, max 4 awarded

DESK JOCKEY This person is one of the behind-the-scenes people, always at a computer or running from meeting to meeting. They keep the wheels of our organization turning.

Desk Jockey = 2, max 3 awarded



JUNIOR BCHW Our future! Who stands out in your chapter?

This person would participate in chapter events such as work parties, fundraisers, LNT/education, training or BCHW promotion such as parades.

Junior BCH = 1, max 2 awarded

BACKBONE This award is to recognize that special member who is always there when needed, ready and willing to do some special job that no one else can or will do, sometimes at the last minute. This member is very important in keeping the chapter, organization or event operating smoothly.

Backbone = 2, max 3 awarded

CINCH AWARD The BCHW Board of Directors nominates this award, and the President nominates five directors to make the selection. It was created to recognize those hard-working BCHW members who have consistently and competently carried out jobs at the state level year after year. Recipients shall be Volunteer Committee Chairmen, Volunteer Committee member or an UN-ELECTED state officer - they keep the wheels of this great organization running smoothly. They may or may not be very visible - they may be quietly working in the background, reliably doing their jobs. They may or may not be active, hold an office in a chapter or even be a chapter member, but they are invaluable at the state level.

Cinch Award = 1, max 2 awarded

PRESIDENT'S DIAMOND AWARD The BCHW President awards a person or persons “In recognition of outstanding dedication, passion and commitment to the BCHW mission.” The President's Diamond Award is decided autonomously by the BCHW Awards Program.

President's Diamond Award = 1, max 2 awarded

SPONSORSHIPS Last year, eight different BCHW chapters and one business-sponsored BCHW awards. Thanks to Ponderosa, Pierce County, Capitol Riders, Scatter Creek, Methow Valley, Tahoma, Buckhorn Chapters and Harbor Saw for your sponsorships. These sponsorships, partnered with the BCHW award budget, resulted in thirteen volunteers being recognized in eight categories. Please encourage you, your chapter or businesses to support the BCHW Award Program for one or more of the award categories. Also, remember that with our 501(c3), there is a tax advantage for award donations. 🐾

2022 BCHW Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)

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

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

Content Deadline for the January/February 2023 Digital Newsletter is December 1, 2022

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

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
BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

4th QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Special Via Zoom/If needed
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206.498.6952

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 _____