

Winter 2024

Trail Crafters News

Olympic Peninsula, Washington



Trails Advisory
Committee Volunteer
Judy Sarles & Chip

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

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

Special Interest Articles

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PENINSULA CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

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

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

Upcoming Events: Next General Meeting via ZOOM – February 24th at 7pm
(Program: "Demystifying Equine Cushings & Insulin Resistance: Dr. Beau Green)

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

Newsletter Editor: Donna Hollatz jdholatz@gmail.com

President's Message

January started out mild, but quickly turned to Winter with bone chilling days of weather in the teens. But fate smiled on us with January thaw temps in the 50s to close out the month. Winter is a time to regroup and make plans for the coming trail and riding season. Check out the 2024 calendar of events for all of our exciting programs, clinics, and riding opportunities. In addition, there are many trail work opportunities so check out our website for details on when and where. If you have never been to Rendezvous, the State's annual gathering of all 30 chapters in Ellensburg, this could be the year to go. And lastly, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so. Your membership allows Peninsula Chapter to continue to do its work in keeping trails open and providing educational programs for our membership.

Keep warm and I hope to see you at our monthly chapter meetings.

Theresa Percy
President

An insulated, black and white, zippered casserole carrier was left behind at the celebration of life for Del Sage. It measures about 9 x 13 x 4 inches.

Please contact Donna Hollatz if it belongs to you: 360-457-6694.

Peninsula Chapter needs a Treasurer! Our elected treasurer (Cincy Yeager) resigned. Sandy Ihly is graciously filling in temporarily. Please call Theresa Percy if you would like to do this job. You don't need to be an accountant! Thank you!

Peninsula Chapter Board Members for 2024

Elected:

Theresa Percy, President
Pat Cosner, Vice President
Joan Wildman, Secretary
Sandy Ihly, Interim/Temporary Treasurer
Jeff Chapman, Director
Judy Sarles, Alternate Director
Rebecca Wanagel, Trail Project Director

New Board Members for 2024

Nicole Witham, Volunteer Hours Chair
Joan Wildman, Membership Chair
Linda Morin, Trail Ride Organizer

Appointed:

Jeff Chapman, Legislative Chair
Donna Hollatz, Publicity
Volunteer Hours, Nicole Witham
Ways & Means, Kim Merrick
Leave No Trace, Juelie Dalzell
Membership, Joan Wildman
Trail Ride Coordinator, Linda Morin
Webmaster, Ben Wildman
Denise Hupfer, Grant Liaison
Social Media, Mandy Biles
Education, **Vacant**
Tool Manager, **Vacant**
Sunshine Greeter, Mary Craft

Dungeness Spit Trails -- Clallam County Parks -- January 2, 2024

The Clallam County Park at Dungeness Spit and Voice of America Campground have always been open to equestrian use. During the fall of 2023 the Park and Recreation Board began to consider prohibiting horses from this county park as there are plans under consideration to expand the campground and there were safety concerns about conflicts between dogs, hikers, bicycles, and equestrians if the area becomes more crowded.

At a meeting of the Parks Board on January 2, 2024 the topic was discussed. Judy Sarles, Judy Dupree, Juelie Dalzell, and Jeff Chapman attended the meeting to speak in favor of continuing use by equestrians. Tom Mix supported horse use via Zoom, and several members wrote letters of support to the County. The action taken at the meeting is to continue Equestrian use at this time and be open to further study. Our members plan to present our 3 S program and suggested "right of way" signage to county leaders to help them understand how all user groups can safely use/share the trails.

Celebration of Life for Del Sage, Nov. 4th

by Donna Hollatz

Our beloved, long time Peninsula Chapter member, Del Sage passed away on October 24th. His Celebration of Life was held at Sage Horse Camp on November 4th. Del had a huge family and many friends throughout the horse community from all over the state who came to honor him. There were over 350 people in attendance. Members of Peninsula Chapter served and helped provide food at this huge gathering. Del's riding horse (Willy) and his mule (Slim) were led by Tom Mix in a memorial group of over 20 riders and packers. A huge tent was set up and friends and family delivered messages of memories and love for more than an hour. Music was provided by Black Diamond Junction. Here are a few memorable photos from the celebration and also from Del's life with horses that many of you will enjoy seeing. Our world lost a wonderful man, and so much knowledge and many valuable skills. Del did his best to share his knowledge and skills generously, but both he and his expertise will be sorely missed. Thank you, Del. May you rest in peace until we meet again.



Del and Rocky



Del's riderless horse and mule being led by Tom Mix



Del and Pack String



Del and Willy

Holiday Dinner – December 2, 2023

by Donna Hollatz

The **2023 Holiday Dinner** was held at Gardiner Community Center with about 25 members in attendance. Our thanks go to Judy Sarles, for organization of the event. She cooked a turkey and a ham, while other members brought salads, side dishes, appetizers, and desserts for the enjoyment of everyone. The tables sported festive holiday decorations. Kim Merrick made a video slide show of the year's activities that played throughout the dinner to remind everyone of the work our volunteers do, even if they had been unable to attend some of them. An "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest was won by Rick Ramsey and Dean Fujioka, who shared the prize. About 15 people brought white elephant gifts to participate in the "Stolen Gift" exchange! The afternoon also included an opportunity for members to sign up for next season's activities that they want to help with. Gardiner Community Center provides dishes, cups, and silverware that we used for serving the dinner. That meets our effort to follow our "Leave No Trace" principles which discourage the use of disposable plastic that is so harmful to the environment.

Our social events are always great fun for members to catch up with old friends and meet new people. If you missed the Holiday Dinner, we hope you will be able to join us for one of the social events of 2024. We are planning for the Rhody Ride & Breakfast (May 18th) to be our official "**New Member Welcome**" event and the Summer Picnic (July 20th) will be at Pioneer Memorial Park in Sequim this year. You don't want to miss these gatherings.

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee --

Judy Sarles will become the BCHW representative on the Trails Advisory Committee beginning in January. This position was previously held by Kat Samples. The committee meets once a month to advise the county about needs of trails users. (ODT, OAT, Robin Hill, Dungeness Spit, Dungeness River Trails) It is very important that equestrians have a voice in this groups as we have helped build and maintain many of these trails, but horses are in the minority as users. There are also representatives from bicycle groups, marathon runners, dog walkers, and hikers.

Peninsula Chapter 2024 Calendar of Events by Joan Wildman

January

- 9 **Zoom** Board Meeting, 7pm
- 17 **Zoom** General Mtg. 7pm
Jeremy Reynolds "Conditioning to Win"

February

- 12 Legislative Day in Olympia
- 13 **Zoom** Board Meeting 7pm
- 21 **Zoom** Chapter Mtg. 7pm
Dr. Beau Green: Demystifying Cushings & Insulin Resistance"

March

- 12 **Zoom** Board Meeting 7pm
- 15-17 Rendezvous, Ellensburg
- 16 Frosty Moss Relay (we provide tent)
- 20 **In-Person** General Mtg. 7pm
Speaker: Dr. Mellissa Board, "The Truth About Teeth"
- 23 'Rides of March' Lower Dungeness River Trails

April

- 9 **Zoom** Board Mtg 7pm
- 13 OAT Run
- 17 **In Person** General Mtg. 7pm
Speaker: Adrienne Hendricks "The Root Of All Evil: Ill Fitting Tack"

May

- 4 Dutch Oven Cooking Clinic
- 11 Sequim Irrigation Festival Parade
- 14 **Zoom** Board Meeting 7pm
- 15 **In Person** General Mtg 7pm
Speaker: Sula Jacobs, Supt. ONP
- 18 Rhody Ride at Miller

June

- 1 Family/Youth Trail Clinic at Sage Camp
- 11 **Zoom** Board Mtg 7pm
- 19 **In Person** General Mtg. 7pm
Program: Horse Camps, Part 2
- 22 Dan Kelly Ride
- 22-23 Packing Clinic

July

- 9 **Zoom** Board Mtg 7pm
- 20 Summer Picnic 11 - 3
Pioneer Memorial Park
- 27 & 28 Chapter Campout at Sage Camp

August

- 3 & 4 Joyce Daze Parade & Campout
at Margaret Salstrom's Epona Ranch
- 13 **Zoom** Board Mtg 7pm
- 21 **In Person** Chapter Mtg 7pm
Program: "Ride Rally"
- 22-26 Humptulips Ride & Campout

September

- 7 Olympic Spirit Prize Ride
at Sage Horse Camp
- 7 Goat Run
- 10 **Zoom** Board Mtg 7pm
- 18 **In Person** General Mtg 7pm
Judy Sarles "Equine Emergency Preparedness"
- 27 Dungeness River Festival

October

- 8 **Zoom** Board Mtg 7pm
- 12 Salt Creek Spaghetti Ride
- 16 **In Person** General Mtg. 7
Heather McDonald, Psy. D.
"Fear Goblins & Anxiety Ghosts on Your Horse"

November

- 12 **Zoom** Board Mtg. 7pm
- 16 Fall Colors Ride
- 20 **Zoom** General Mtg 7pm
Speaker: Janet Jones, topic TBD

December

- 7 Holiday Party 1 - 4 pm
- 10 **Zoom** Board Mtg 7pm

Board Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month over Zoom. Members welcome!

In Person Meetings will be held at Gardiner Community Center unless otherwise noted.
980 Old Gardiner Road
Sequim, WA 98382

Report Trail Hazards

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

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

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

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

Thank You!

Trailhead Courtesy Reminder:

State Park personnel have complimented equestrians on the improved Parking Lot clean up, but everyone should be reminded to practice the **Leave No Trace** principles that we teach. Be sure to clean up any “deposits” you and your horses leave around your horse trailers or on the trails. If you cannot get your horse to move off the trail to “poop,” dismount and kick the stuff off the trail (especially the ADA section at Miller). Walkers and bicycle riders will appreciate your courtesy! This includes shavings and hay in the parking area! Park rangers use a “blower” to clean the parking lot, and some of that stuff just won’t move when damp! **(Do not comb winter hair from your mount and leave it in the parking area!)** We want to be sure that equestrians set a good example for other trail users.

New Request to All Members:

We are working toward having accurate information regarding **Trailhead Parking** on our Website.

Please: If you go to a trailhead, take a photo of your truck and trailer that shows the parking lot.

Send those photos to me and also report any unsatisfactory road conditions or problems with stock rig maneuvering space. This will be very helpful to people planning trips. (If we get multiple photos of the same lot, we’ll be able to choose the best one.) Send photos and information to Donna Hollatz jdhollatz@gmail.com 360-457-6694.

Photography Assistance Requested

One of the best ways to document all of our wonderful activities is through photos! We do not have an official photographer and it is difficult for one person to be at all of our events, so it would be extremely helpful if those of you in attendance would take some photos and send them to Newsletter editor, Donna Hollatz (jdhollatz@gmail.com). This documentation can then be used for posters, newsletters, state calendar, and other promotions. If you have a photo that you feel is worthy of submission to “Chapter Accomplishments” or “Calendar” at the state level, please send it to me “full size” as that is the format that is needed for submissions.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SENT PHOTOS IN THE PAST!

Your 2024 Peninsula Chapter Officers & Chairs

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

President – Theresa Percy	teopercy@gmail.com
Vice President – Pat Cosner	haffyluv106@gmail.com
Secretary – Joan Wildman	joanwildman5745@gmail.com
Treasurer – Sandra Ihly (temporary)	sihly58@gmail.com
State Director – Jeff Chapman	bbbranch@olympus.net
Alternate State Director – Judy Sarles	jw94507@yahoo.com
Trail Project Coord. – Rebecca Wanagel	rwanagel@gmail.com
Membership Chair – Joan Wildman	joanwildman5745@gmail.com
Trail Ride Organizer – Linda Morin	ehoyt3@gmail.com
Volunteer Hours Chair – Nicole Witham	witham.nicole@gmail.com
Publicity Chair – Donna Hollatz	jdholatz@gmail.com
Web Manager – Ben Wildman	bwildman57@gmail.com
Social Media Manager – Mandy Biles	EquestriansAcademy@gmail.com
LNT Education – Juelie Dalzell	gobi@olympus.net
Ways & Means – Kim Merrick	eloise55@gmail.com
Legislative – Jeff Chapman	bbbranch@olympus.net
Grant Liaison – Denise Hupfer	dhupfer1!outlook.com
Email for the Chapter:	peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com

Membership 2024

As of January 9th, we had 56 memberships (75 members). There are 15 brand new members. A number of folks have not renewed for 2023, so these numbers will probably increase.

If you have not sent in your 2024 renewal, this would be a perfect time!

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

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

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

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

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

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

2017 year end

Total VH 5165 Total Value \$165,492

2018 year end

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

2019 year end

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

2020 year end

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

2021 year end

Total VH 9,636 Total Value \$333,5331.06

Oct. 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2022

Total Basic Hours	3,710.5	\$111,129.48
Total Skilled Hours	1,735.5	77,976.02
LNT & Educ.	943	28,242.85
Admin. & Plc Mtgs.	1,428.5	42,783.58
Travel Time	1,563	46,003.20
Total Hours	9,353.5	306,135.12
Vehicle Mileage	27,262	34,077.50
Stock Days	146	14,600.00
Grand Total		\$354,812.62

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

October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2023

Total Basic Hours	4474 hours	\$133,996.30
Total Skilled Hours	2099.5 hours	94,330.54
LNT and Education	323 hours	9,673.85
Admin & Public Mtgs.	1068.5 hours	32,001.58
Travel Time	1535 hours	45,973.25
Total Hours	9500	\$315,975.51
Vehicle Mileage	23,347 Miles	29,183.75
Stock Days	62	6,200.00
Grand Total		\$351,359.26

As You Can See—This has been Another Great Year!

We should be very proud of our accomplishments!

There is a new VHs form you can print from the website!

Classified Ads

All BCHW members can post a free equine or farm related ad. 20 words or less. Must include contact info. Due by the 25th of the month by email: PeninsulaBCHWChapter@Gmail.Com

Thank You to the businesses who support our efforts!



These businesses support BCHW. Please take your business to them.

