

The Trailhead News

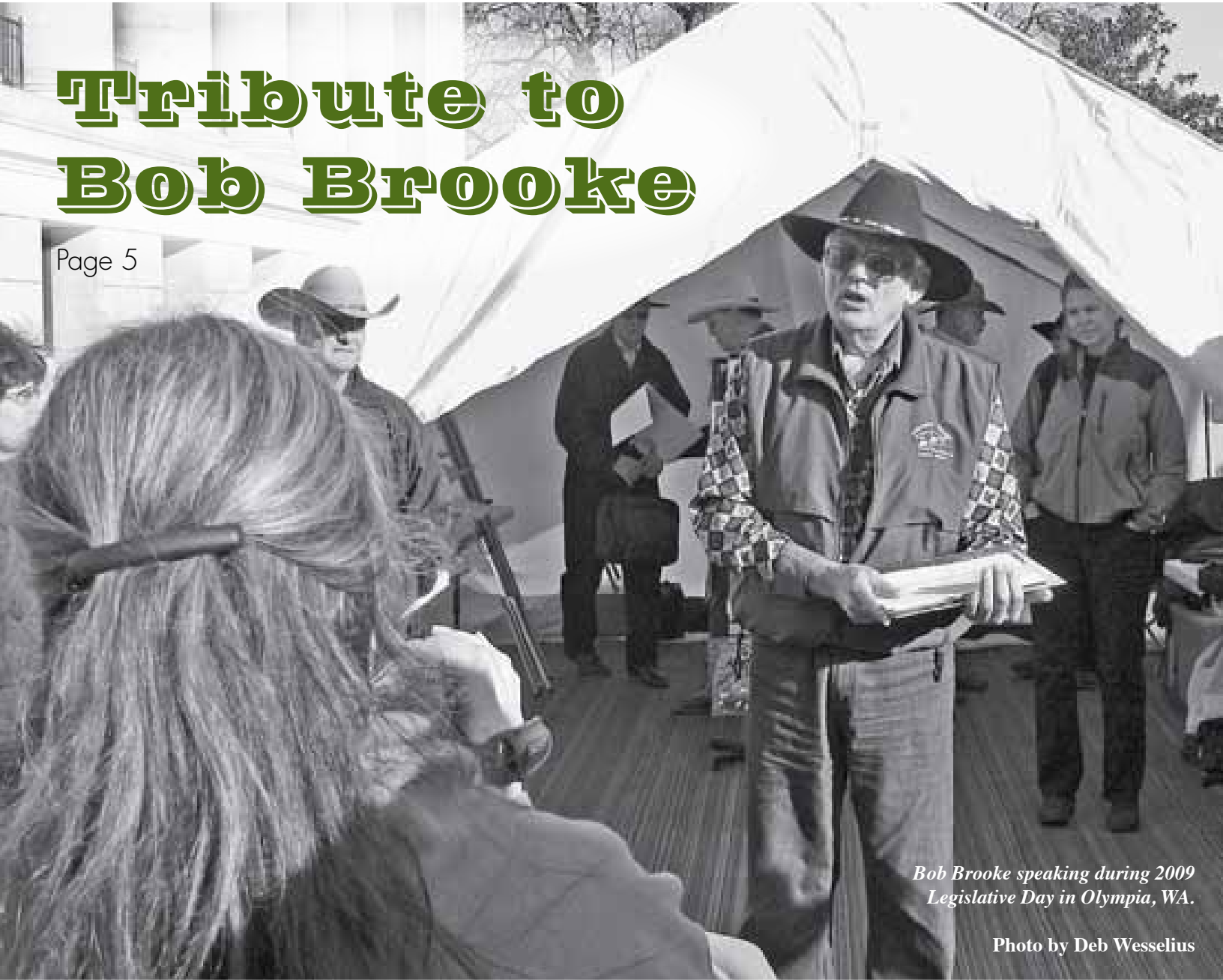
Vol. 36 Issue 5

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

September/October 2011

Tribute to Bob Brooke

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*Bob Brooke speaking during 2009
Legislative Day in Olympia, WA.*

Photo by Deb Wesselius



National Trails Day

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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.

Trailhead News

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Editorial: Article word count maximum is 600 words plus two (2) photos as space is limited. Photos must be accompanied by the location, name(s) of person(s) in photo and the name of the photographer. Please submit to Crissy at bchw@wamedia.com 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
February 1	Mar/April
April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

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Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your 2011 taxes.



Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

By Darrell Wallace, BCHW President

“Been doing any riding?” That’s the usual question I hear from all my BCHW friends when I see them or talk with them on the phone, and this time of year I can usually say. “Sure!”, and brag about the beautiful scenery and wild game I saw, and even tell a story or two about the dumb things my horse tried to do to me. Having moved to the dry side of the state last year, now I can include snake stories, dust stories and marmot stories from my day rides. However, I don’t seem to tell the pouring-rain, jungle trail and mud bog stories much anymore.

It seems like the BCHW stories revolve around trail work, fun rides, and potlucks this time of year, and I am getting really spoiled by my friends who like to test out their Dutch-oven recipes on me. However, I am also hearing stories about our usual concerns. Planning efforts by land managers MUST receive feedback from trail riders, or they will surely leave us out of the recreational plan. We must all be good stewards, or land owners will lock us out. We must all represent trail riders as trustworthy people, or liability concerns will lock us out. We must avoid spreading noxious weed seeds, or we will be

finned and locked out. But, if we can sustain our eye-popping volunteer hours on public lands, we will retain our credibility with most of the folks who really count.

Last month I spent several hours helping a couple of long-riders navigate through eastern Washington (watch for a story next issue). They started in Maine a few years ago, and left the Missoula area in July. They got permits to use the John Wayne Trail part of the way, but there are trestles missing from that old railroad grade, so they had to detour. Most of the detours aren’t too bad, but one is nearly 30 miles out of the way. Why? Because the surrounding landowner is concerned about liability issues and won’t allow trespassing. I wonder what (and who) made him feel that way...

As we work our way into autumn, enjoy your trail rides, but give a kind word to those who are packing in trail crews, spreading the word about LNT, logging and brushing out our trails, responding to public lands issues, and keeping our organization vigorous. Without them, we can all look forward to riding in arenas and small parks.

Happy Trails! 🐾

WANTED: BCHW Legislative Chair

Responsible for coordinating Legislative Day in Olympia (with help), working with Public Lands/Legislative Steering Committee, supervising lobbyist contract, and making quarterly reports to Board of Directors.

Interested parties contact: president@bchw.org.

Public Lands/Leg Report



Forest Plan Update Underway For Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests

By Jeff Chapman, BCHW Public Lands Committee Chair

Approximately every 15 years, each National Forest undergoes an updating process of their forest plan under the requirements of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Currently the Colville, Okanogan, and Wenatchee Forests are undergoing such an update. Six primary decisions are made in forest plans:

1. Forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives (as required by 36 CFR 219.11[b])
2. Forest-wide management requirements (as required by 36 CFR 219.27)
3. Management area direction (36 CFR 219.11[c])
4. Lands suited and not suited for timber management (36 CFR 219.14, 219.16, 219.21)
5. Monitoring and evaluation requirements (36 CFR 219.11[d])
6. Recommendations to Congress (if any) (36 CFR 219.17)

Plans set the direction and guide the decisions made on a National Forest. While many aspects of a plan have consequences for recreation, often the most attention given by the public in this regard is to changes in land management designations (such as with the recommendation of new wilderness) or changes in recreation use.

The Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forests have released a "Proposed Action for Plan Revision", which portrays a staff framework for what they envision as elements in a preferred alternative in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement, as well as the ultimate core of the updated plan. This is now released to the public for comment through September 28th, 2011. Topics being covered include Vegetation Systems, Plant Habitats, Wildlife, Access System (roads), Livestock Grazing, Recreation, Renewable Forest Products, Scenery, Management Areas, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, and Wilderness Recommendations.

(Continued on page 5)

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Tribute to Bob Brooke

By Dick Yarboro, BCHW Trailhead News Publicity Chair & Editor

This issue of THN is dedicated to Bob Brooke. Bob recently retired as BCHW Parliamentarian and Legislative Chair, but continues to actively serve the Pierce County Chapter.

Observers seem to recall that Bob joined the BCHW Board sometime prior to 2001. He served under President Mitch Baird as a member of Executive Director Committee. During Rick Johnson's term, he served as Election Chair as well. He represented BCHW on the NOVA committee from 2003 through 2009 and gained great knowledge that continues to serve BCHW well.

Bob served under President Dave Jackson in 2005-07 on the By-Laws and Ethics Committee, then stayed on the Governance and By-Laws Committee until recently. During Bob Shonka's term, he joined the Legislative Committee (2005) and became Legislative Chair in 2006. That year, he was officially appointed BCHW Parliamentarian.

Throughout Bob's BCHW tenure, he has served as Pierce County Chapter (PCC) President two different times, once for

Photo by Jim Thode



Bob Brooke addressing attendees at the 2008 BCHW Jubilee/General meeting.

multiple years. He was PCC Legislative Chair and sat on most of the committees including rewriting the chapter by-laws. He has chaired PCC's annual Christmas Party/Auction and served as auctioneer multiple times. He has also been elected President of the Western Washington LongEars Club.

Dave Jackson said, "Until Bob straightened us out as Parliamentarian, we sure had our problems running board meetings." Bob Gish and Darrell Wallace similarly complimented Bob, stating that Bob "prevented chaos and promoted efficiency". Bob Gish also praised Brooke highly as Legislative Chair, saying, "Bob did a great job with Legislative, and always told it like it is." Darrell added, "I don't know what I would have done without him. I always thought we should thank Joy for letting us have him!"

A huge "thank you" to Bob Brooke for his many years of service to the equestrian community. His hard work and dedication is admired and appreciated by all! 🐾

Forest Plan Update Underway For Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests

(Continued from page 4)

BCHW is focusing in this update on issues affecting stock use. These include road access and ability to maintain roads that lead to trailheads, any changes in trail use or maintenance for saddle and pack animals, availability of camping, safe travel and the continuation of providing quality outdoor experiences. Some or all of these items can be affected by changes in land management designations. Forests are expected to evaluate their lands, particularly their inventoried roadless areas for suitability to be "recommended" as wilderness areas. "Recommended" areas may eventually be designated by Congress as wilderness; but in the meantime, they are managed for their wilderness characteristics. It is important to know what this means as to our ability to maintain access. At this point, the right to use chainsaws to clear trails is not proposed to be limited from current allowances in recommended wilderness areas. Most existing uses would also continue there. Recommended wilderness areas include enlarging existing wilder-

ness areas in the Teanaway, near Salmon La Sac, the Chiwawa drainage, and other places in the Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest. Entirely new wilderness areas are being recommended in the Colville National Forest.

We strongly encourage members to evaluate the materials and give comments to the planning team as well as to BCHW while we prepare our state-level comments. There is no expectation that all of our members will agree on the multitude of policy decisions. However, we will certainly have a common voice in our need to ensure the continuation of stock use on our public lands trail systems. Regardless of any visitor counting method, BCHW members are the last out of the woods in the fall, pushed out by snow, and we are the first in the woods in the spring, following the snow melt. As the Forests plan for the next 15 years, they should plan for us being there. For commenting, visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision> 🐾



West Fork Trail Repairs Done in Honor of National Trails Day

By Lori Lennox, BCHW Grays Harbor Chapter

Once again, National Trails Day found the Grays Harbor Chapter members spending their weekend working on the West Fork Trail (WFT) #806 and its access trails, located in the Olympic National Forest (ONF) and in the Quinault/Pacific District South. One of the heaviest used and a main access trail, the Lower Pete's Creek #858, had a puncheon that needed replacing; a horse had gone thru the old decking. Since this trail is mainly maintained by stock users, getting this puncheon replaced was a priority.


Thanks to the 09-1054 RTP Grant, the Grays Harbor members had the funds available to fix this puncheon, one of five puncheon projects on the WFT for this year; the other four are all new structures going into much needed spots on this 17 mile rain forest trail.



The work site was only about a quarter mile from the trailhead, so tools and materials were brought in by wheelbarrow. It was a relief to find out that after tearing off the old decking, two of the three stringers were still in great shape. New treated lumber was used this time with a wearing surface of untreated wood put down on the decking to protect the expensive treated planks. That material was donated by our local Mary's River Lumber Company for the WFT projects.

Under the leadership of ONF's Recreation Planner and BCHW member, Pete Erben, a crew of about eight had the job done in one day. In addition, several members of the group brushed the trail out down to the river. Two more members had brought their horses and rode up Pete's Creek trail in the Colonel Bob Wilderness to scout the snow level and blowdown situation for Pete. Afterwards they joined the puncheon crew to help with packing out the equipment and to test the finished product with their horses.

After a great potluck and camp fire in the Elk Creek Pit that night, several members rode their horses in on Sunday to do more brush clearing. Using the Stihl Kombi-system with hedge trimmer – purchased with RTP funds the previous year – made short work of getting the salmon berries and ferns cut back from the trail, allowing it to dry out faster. The two-piece unit is easy to carry in on any well trained saddle horse or mule as well.

The 17-mile non-motorized trail, which crosses the West Fork of the Humptulips River over 20 times, is all bucked out for the year. But thanks to an incredibly wet spring and early summer, the brushing and puncheon construction has not gone as planned. Come visit and bring your fishing pole! For more info go to: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsb-dev3_053526.pdf 

Winery Ride Anyone?

Purple Sage Riders Chapter of BCHW invites you to attend our 10th Annual Winery and Halloween Costume Prize Ride in Zillah, WA on Saturday, October 29, 2011

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2 new wineries added!

Camping available for \$5 per night, Fri & Sat
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We hope to see you there!

The Anderson Lake State Park Mini Gravel Pack In

By Judith Hoyle, BCHW Buckhorn Range Chapter

For this year's National Trails Day, the Buckhorn Range Chapter organized what we were calling the "Mini Gravel Pack-In" of Anderson Lake State Park (ALSP). ALSP is

one of a handful of Washington State Parks that allows horseback riders. It is poised as a possible link along the Olympic Discovery Trail and the 1,200-mile Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, a non-motorized trail running from the Continental Divide in Montana to Washington's Pacific coast. Extremely wet conditions this past year, coupled with a culvert issue and an active beaver colony at the lake's southern outlet, led to closure of the Savage Memorial Trail within the Park to stock use.

Buckhorn has been involved at ALSP for many years, having built a bridge over the southern outlet, allowing circumnavigation of the lake. By March there was water up to the bridge stringers, water over the trail in many places, and a portion of the trail was being referred to as the "Trampoline Section" – water under the surface was causing a mat of cedar and fir roots to "float." Riding or walking across it would result in the ground and trees swaying up to 50 feet away. The potential of a horse and rider punching through the root mat and resulting injury made for the very real possibility of a permanent trail closure.

Buckhorn Range used BCHW-RTP grant funds to purchase gravel and Geo plastics. Curb rails for the trail were salvaged from trees that had fallen in the Park.

At 9:00 AM, a core group of ten volunteers arrived. Half went up the trail and started setting out the reroute that would bring the trail away from the lake shore to higher ground and out of the worst of the water issues. The rest of us started filling


buckets and wheel barrows and moving the gravel from the only area the gravel truck could access to dump some 300' up the trail to the reroute. We certainly were no match to Capitol Forest's

annual Great Gravel Pack-In in terms of number of volunteers, volume of materials, or pack mules, however, what we did have were shovels, 5-gallon buckets, wheelbarrows and a crew of horse and trail enthusiasts. The Buckhorn Range Chapter was joined by members of Equitease Pony Club, Jefferson Equestrian Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Jefferson Trail Coalition and individuals who answered the call for help issued by email from Chapter Director, Jeff Chapman, and in-person by member Juelie Dalzell who encouraged that "even an hour's worth of work will make a difference."

The weather cooperated and stayed dry, but not too warm. It was a good thing because my pedometer

registered four miles before the day was over. Load, wheel, dump, repeat.

By lunch break, a few of us over-50 year olds were just about done for. And there was still more gravel to move. As I was nursing a last cup of coffee, a smiling face came down the path from the road and with a cheery,

"Hi! What can we do to help?" eight new volunteers appeared. Chris Cerna, a local farrier and martial arts instructor had brought family, friends and fellow martial arts practitioners to, as he said, "get a workout and help out" with the trail. What a shot in the arm that was! With Chris and company working for another hour we were able to put the finishing touches on the trail reroute. Some warmer weather should dry out the last of the boggy areas, and the Savage Memorial Trail will again be open for equestrians, hikers and birders to enjoy. 

Photos by Jeff Chapman



Before



After

Okanogan Valley Chapter National Trails Day Work Party

By Dave Swanberg, BCHW Okanogan Valley Chapter

On June 4th, our National Trails Day (NTD) project was cancelled due to excess snow on the trails at the 4th of July Trailhead on Bonaparte Mountain. However, on Saturday, July 9th we held our NTD project in the Loomis Forest with a small but very organized work party at the Disappointment and Cold Springs Trailheads as well as the Cold Springs Campground.

For the past several months, we had been prefabricating three large (6' wide X 7' high) trail signs for the trailheads and the campground. The signboards were preassembled in a shop for sanding, layout and to route the trails, names, creeks, footbridges and mileage of each trail. The trails were then painted a different color to identify each separate trail. After all the wording and trails were painted, the sign boards had several coats of sealer applied.

On July 9th all the materials were transported to the trailheads and the signs were assembled one piece at a time by stacking each successive board onto a post

Photos by Dave Swanberg



Back Row; left to right; Dave Sunde, Gail Sunde, Cheryl Bower, Barb McKinney, Peggy Swanberg. Front row; left to right; Ken Breuel, Tom Windsor, Steve McKinney, Trygve Culp.

and bracket. Ten members worked at assembling the signs. In addition, sealer was applied to three DNR kiosks and a stock-loading ramp at the Disappointment Trailhead was repaired.

By noon, we had completed the installation of the Disappointment trail sign. Then we drove 12 miles to the Cold Springs Campground and installed the second sign. We were a well-oiled machine by the time we drove to the Cold Springs Trailhead and installed the third sign in record time. It turned out to be a long day, but everyone was impressed and pleased with the final product.

If you are ever up this way, be sure to go up to the Loomis Forest and enjoy riding in the area. Take your digital camera or phone and snap a photo of the sign so you can refer to it as you ride the trails. Don't forget your Discover Pass. 🐾



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Wenas Valley Chapter National Trails Day Work Party at Pleasant Valley Loop, June 17-19th

By Susie Drougas, BCHW Wenas Valley Chapter

We missed our proposed work date of June 4th and 5th due to the snow at Pleasant Valley; fortunately we were able to get in on the third weekend of June. In preparation for the bridge last fall, we hauled gravel all day and packed in planks. Our gravel and planks were there waiting for us when we got in this spring. There were a few more planks left to haul, along with tools, and we were ready to work. We stayed in the Naches Ranger District's gravel area, so it wasn't too far to our work site, about two miles. We rode in early and left late on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We had a good turnout, approximately 17 counting the Forest Service. Our daughter, Katie

Photo by Susie Drougas



Sue Peterson, Lou Ann Matches, Al Norrbom, Janet Meyers, Jeff Leisy, Mike Drougas, and Rex McMullen at Pleasant Valley Loop Trail, Chinook Pass Washington.

Moore-Drougas, who is on fire crew for Naches this year, and our younger daughter, Michaela Drougas, age 14, both donated their time to help out with their dad on the project, Mike Drougas, since it was Father's Day!

The bridge had to be carefully laid out and planned. A group came in on Friday to do that. There was a huge fallen tree that had to be removed before we could start. The Forest Service already had fallen trees that we could use for sills and stringers. We just had to peel them, drag them and cut them to size. The areas for the sills had to be dug out and gravel placed beneath, then the sills cut and carefully laid in the holes, and measured and leveled.

After that was done, the stringers were placed over the top. It took a concerted effort to pick the logs up; they were an average of 25-feet-long and 13 inches in diameter. We had at least eight people on it and the log would be drug a couple feet at a time until it reached the correct position. The stringers were secured in place with rebar, then planks laid across and those were pounded in with nails. It was a pretty detailed process.

So to sum it up, we dug holes, skinned logs, drug logs, chopped roots, drilled holes, pounded in rebar, hauled gravel, pulled rocks out of the ground and put them back in again – quite the exercise. We had Jeff Leisy from the Naches Ranger District and Mark Reiss, Wenas BCHW (Experienced Bridge Builder) direct our efforts. We also had Stu Fritas, Marissa Forman, Shawn Stillwell and Katie Moore-Drougas, from the Naches Ranger District working with us. Thanks to all who made this a successful work project! 🐾

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Thanks to Hard Work by Back Country Horsemen, It's Happy Trails to Packwood Lake

Gifford Pinchot National Forest:
Trail Is Clear and Open for Hikers, Bikers and Riders

By Kimberly Mason, For The Chronicle, Centralia/Chehalis

The parking lot at the Packwood Lake Trail 78 trailhead in the Cowlitz Valley vicinity of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest was packed with the cars and trucks of wilderness trails enthusiasts Saturday morning. They were there to celebrate

National Trails Day, the nationwide premier event of the American Hiking Society and the kick-off to the summer season of hiking, biking and riding. The Lewis County Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington usually tries to beat the public to the trail, "But we couldn't even get into the parking lot until this week," said Doc Wesselius, President of the local BCHW chapter. "There was still too much snow. They usually like for us to get the trail open before Memorial Day, but not this year." The "they" of which Doc speaks

is the U.S. Forest Service – Cowlitz Valley Ranger District. The LCC-BCHW partners with the USFS to help maintain trails in the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District.

The group works to clear the trails of fallen logs, obstructions and trim the trails throughout the Cowlitz Valley. "You know how they always say 'Somebody's gotta do it,'" said LCC – BCHW member Sherri Wright, Silver Creek, "Well, we're that somebody."

Clearing Trails

Saturday morning the LCC-BCHW members met at the Packwood Lake trailhead with horses, mules and packs loaded down with chainsaws, hand saws and hard hats.

Safety was such an important part of this group's day; they didn't mount up until they gathered together for a safety meeting, led by trail boss Lance Holdt of Winlock. Lance warned the crews that the trails were still holding snow and the trails would be filled with hikers and bikers.

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The horsemen split up into two crews, each heading down the trail in a different direction, working through 4.5 miles of trail and meeting somewhere in the middle. Doc and Deb Wesselius had scouted the trail the day before and knew the state of the

trails. "The biggest blow-down we've got is only 20 inches," said Holdt, "so it shouldn't be too bad."

Outside of the designated wilderness area, the crews were able to use chainsaws to cut through logs. Inside of the wilderness area, the work suddenly got tougher – hand saws and axes only. "But it's nothing like we had to cut out last year," said Jim Thode, Onalaska. "We used two 6-foot long crosscut saws on a 40-inch log." Last year, the LCC-BCHW cleared 11 miles of trails from March

through September. "We stay busy," said Deb Wesselius.

"We have adopted two horse camps – Cody Horse Camp and the Green River Horse Camp. We've hauled in supplies and resources for trail builders and we help maintain the surrounding trails." Deb said the group also sponsors training classes for would-be packers and supports the Leave No Trace Basic Skills classes in Randle each year. The group also sponsors day rides and overnight campouts throughout the year, and enjoys meeting together for potlucks and other events. "We also have a lot of fun," Deb said.

And that is something to which this Chronicle freelance reporter can testify – they are a lot of fun. Thank you Doc and Deb for the day and thank you, Lacy, for the ride.

If you enjoy riding trails, are interested in joining Back Country Horsemen of Washington and would like more information, go to www.bchw.org to learn more about the organization. 🐾

Reprinted with permission from Kimberly Mason, For the Chronicle, Centralia/Chehalis

Photo by Jim Thode



Joe and Cindy Chenier working on a windfall with the two-man crosscut saw.



Featured Trail

Indian Heaven Wilderness

By Robert Eversole, BCHW Tahoma Chapter

From my vantage point it appears that this is the summer that wasn't. Writing this near the end of July, I haven't yet given up on the sweater, and though I hear reports of a bright orb in the sky, I haven't seen it on the west side of the mountains in quite a long time. Nor have we been able to make it into the high country, yet, this year.

So with that in mind, let's head south to Mount Rainier's somewhat smaller littler brother, Mount Adams, and visit an off-the-path horse camp next to the Indian Heaven Wilderness.

If you haven't been to the Indian Heaven Wilderness area, you're in for quite a treat. Lakes, scenic views, forests and huckleberries – visit at the right time and you'll understand the "heaven" part of the name.

Horse camping here is from the Falls Creek Horse Camp north of the town of Carson and it's nothing like the positively palatial experience you get at the Kalama Horse Camp to the west or the view festival at the Mount Adams Horse Camp to the east. Falls Creek is small, only six or so spots and the camp drive is tight – tight as in, "I'd be very wary of taking an LQ rig into the camp." If you have such an outfit, it may be best to disperse camp along the access road in one of several meadows north of the horse camp proper.

Riders with rigs capable of the tight turns in the horse campground will find highlines pre-strung with cables, picnic tables, fire pits, and a centrally located vault toilet in camp. Water in camp is limited to that found in the eponymous creek, an easy walk just south of camp.


Once you've arrived and settled in, it's time to ride, and the riding is good. The Indian Racetrack Trail (#171) is located on the opposite side of Forest Service Road 65 just a bit north of the horse camp entrance. Indian Racetrack will take

you into the Indian Heaven Wilderness (remember to sign in) and proceeds through a rather rough and rocky trail to a broad meadow and the Indian Racetrack.

The Indian Heaven, and particularly the Indian Racetrack, have some great history behind them. For centuries, local native tribes would gather here each summer to partake of the area's bounty of deer, fish and huckleberries. When not hunting, fishing, or berry picking, they raced their horses so frequently and with such vigor that the track drummed into the dirt still exists today as a bare depression that runs straight as an arrow for about a quarter of a mile. This is the Indian Racetrack. When we visited, we thundered down the racetrack ourselves...at a trot.

A notable viewpoint quite near the Indian Racetrack is Red Mountain located southeast of the Racetrack on the opposite end of trail #171 that you started your trek on. From the top of Red Mountain you'll have a wonderful (if not windblown) vista of many of the volcanoes forming our side of the Pacific ring of fire. To the north, Mounts Baker and Rainier are clearly visible; to the northwest is Mount St. Helen's broken cone, which is mirrored to the northeast by Mount Adams. A glance to the south will bring Mount Hood as well as California's Mount Shasta in view.

With summer's late start this year, hopefully we'll have a longer fall season to ride. If that's the case, a trip to the Falls Creek Horse Camp

will certainly not disappoint. This area requires a Forest Service pass, and remember to practice LNT. As always, for more information about this and many more horse camping and riding areas in Washington, and beyond, visit www.TrailMeister.com. 

Photos by Robert Eversole



Celeste Eversole, BCHW Tahoma Chapter member, at Indian Racetrack trail.



Mountains to Sound Greenway Trek

By Joan Burlingame, BCHW Tahoma Chapter

BCHW is partnering with other trail users and the Mountains to Sound Greenway to create a unified trail plan across public land ownership along the Interstate 90 corridor. On July 2-10 the Greenway celebrated their 20th anniversary by sponsoring a 130-mile “trek” for equestrians, bike riders and hikers. The Tahoma Chapter, partnering with John Wayne Pioneer Trail Riders, provided stock and horse-drawn wagons for the first 50 miles of the Iron Horse Trail. We provided “stock powered” transportation for dozens of VIPs including Shawn Bills (Senator Murray’s Legislative Director), Tim Schmidt (Ranger, Iron Horse State Park), Julie Stangell (Manager, Hancock Timber), and many others. We started in Ellensburg and rode through to Olallie State Park.

On the evening of July 4th, members of the Tahoma Chapter provided a “Cowboy” experience with rave reviews of their Dutch oven apple dumpling dessert. The dessert was so popular that many trekkers agreed to “perform” for seconds including singing and dancing. The trekkers loved the work of Kim Merrick, Al Norrbom, Mary Kane, Linda McAskill, Gene Brent, Tairi Becker, Colleen Buckley and Dodge Marshall. At the large bonfire some of the trekkers tried to start a sing-along with limited success. Kim saved the night by picking up the pace with more “modern” camp songs (at least half of the trekkers were under the age of 25).

There were a few notable moments along the ride. The first day we had 35 mph winds hitting us in the face for the entire ride (and you know how “calm” horses are in strong wind!).

The last day had two challenges: the tunnel and rock climbers. The tunnel at Hyak takes 50 minutes to ride through.

It is almost 2.5 miles long with no lighting, cool temperatures (around 45 degrees) and water dripping from the ceiling. Because we did not want to have inexperienced riders going through the tunnel, almost half of our riders ponied stock while convincing their horse that it was going to survive the tunnel. We all made it through with half of the group wanting to do it again and the other half swearing never again! We encountered many bridges that were a hundred or more feet above the ground. The ones that proved the most challenging were the two bridges with rock climbers on the cliffs above the bridges with their ropes hanging down over the trail. That was quite fun!

Kenny Schultz provided most of the “guest” saddles (four extra mules). The “scary” challenges on the trail seemed to be less scary for the mules then for the “been-there/done-that horses.” Riders included Missy Day, Mary Kane, Sue McLain, Kim Merrick, Al Norrbom, Chrissy Blaschko, Jon Banks (John Wayne Riders) and Joan Burlingame. On July 5th we were joined by BCHW President Darrell Wallace and Public Lands Chair Jeff Chapman and

his wife Juelie Dalzell. Robert and Celeste Eversole provided daily on-the-ground support. Peggy Wolf’s brother, Keith, and niece, Kelby, practiced “Leave No Trace” by picking manure in the tunnel.

We succeeded in helping those on the trek enjoy the experience. While the stock left the trek on July 5th, the trek continued to the Seattle waterfront, ending on July 10th. It was a great experience, wonderful scenery, and good camaraderie. **2**

Photo by Ray Lapine



Doug Schindler, Deputy Director, Mountains to Sound Greenway and Missy Day, Tahoma Chapter member.

Horse Camps in Washington State

By Chris Enrico, BCHW Capitol Riders Chapter

Where can we go riding this weekend? Where is a good place to camp with my horse? Do I have to bring my own drinking water? What about water for the horses? Is there room for my rig? Now you have a statewide resource to help answer those questions.

Creating a list of horse camps in Washington State started as an effort to locate camps using Google Maps. Google had just come out with a new tool called Map Maker, which allows users like you and I to enter locations such as parks, businesses, roads or trails so you can find them in either Google Map or Google Earth.

Initially it was a process of finding the location and then entering it in Map Maker, finding the next location and entering it. It was a tedious process. I then decided to find all locations, and then come back to entering them into Map Maker. Thus the web page was born. You can find it at www.capitolriders.org/gps.htm. Jim Thode has added a link which you will find on the BCHW links page.

I found no other single source of camps throughout the state. There are partial lists from which I gleaned information. I also verified the existence of camps, having found some that didn't appear to exist any longer but were still shown on other websites. The list includes private and commercial operations such as bed and breakfasts or RV camps as well for those who don't want to "rough it".

The page lists camp locations for campgrounds, dispersed camps, or trailheads where camping is allowed. Each has latitude and longitude in decimal degrees and the corresponding UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator Geographic Coordinate System) coordinates as well as a link to Google Maps.

The camp name is linked to a second page with information about the camp, some with directions. You can use the Google Map link as well, but know that it's not perfect with directions. If you have ever been lost while using a GPS, you understand. Information included is the landowner, fees required (if any), water availability, number of sites, parking; everything I could find about the camp.

It is presumed that the reader is aware of the certified weed-seed-free hay requirement on all USFS lands. Most, but not all, USFS camps have this note. Most horse owners advocate the use of weed-seed-free hay anywhere one is traveling with horses anyway.

A variety of sources were used: phone conversations with DNR or USFS staff, websites including other chapters, topographic maps and even books online showing campground location and information. I used Google a lot to find any information that is available on the Internet.

I invite you to visit the website, pick a destination and experience this beautiful state by horseback! So saddle up and go see this beautiful state of ours. Might I recommend Cold Springs? At 6,330 feet in elevation, it has a very nice view. Or even better is Bonaparte Mountain. At 7,200 feet, you can practically see forever. Mount Muller west of Port Angeles has some gorgeous views and you can stay at Littleton camp, riding the trails. Or perhaps you prefer the ocean, or are cool pine forests more to your liking?

The page will continue to evolve as new information is obtained. Any feedback to make the list better is welcome. Send that feedback to ocirne.c@gmail.com

Editor's Note:

Articles: 600-word max with two (2) photos, WMS will edit for grammar and spelling (not rewrite). Must submit article in 600 words or less.

Grants: Grant work articles have first priority in The Trailhead News. Please type "Grant Article" in subject line when emailing the article to us.

To promote the use of grant money, remember to include:

- What the project grant money was used for, including details of project (location, date).
- Where the grant came from and the amount.
- A list of volunteers/volunteer groups.
- The total number of hours worked on project.

Other Content: Legislative issues, land issues, trail work parties, VIP rides, fundraiser rides and riding in the back country to include involvement of more than one chapter or large organized group.

Photos: Please send two photos with your article, and capture the front of your subject (NO BEHINDS, PLEASE). Photos need to include name of person(s) in the photo from left to right, location of photo, and person who took the photo. Please do not embed the photos in the article. Send photos as separate files. Remember to double-check the spelling of all names.

To Submit Articles, Photos and Events for the Calendar or for Questions, Contact: Crissy at bchw@wamedia.com, (360) 754-4543

Wenas Valley Chapter William O'Douglas Trail Work Party

By Susie Drougas, BCHW Wenas Valley Chapter

The Wenas Chapter had a speaker at our May general meeting, Ray Paoella, from the Nature Conservancy. He is spearheading a trail that will start at Rocky Top in Cowiche, go 80 miles and end up at Mount Rainier. We volunteered to work on the trail, and then the equine flu virus hit. We were forced to cancel our work party, but reset it for June 26th. Ray met us out at Cowiche at 10 a.m.; he had his mountain bike. Mike Drougas brought our packhorse, Whiteman, along with his handy packboard that Mark Reiss made for him. Mike put the weed whacker on the board. Mark was pretty amused; he hadn't exactly figured the board for that use – but what the heck! And things actually went pretty well with the weed whacker, right up to the point where we were going to start our work – then Whiteman noticed the weed whacker. He wasn't impressed and he sure didn't feel like carrying it around – so he quickly unloaded himself, all the tools and the weed whacker at just about where we wanted them. Everything worked out perfectly!

It was a really hot day. If you want to ride up there in the summer, it would probably be a good idea to bring some water for your horse! We had a good number show up, and with Ray in the lead, we tromped and weed whacked the trail. We went up and down it a few times. There were approximately 16 horsemen there. There are really nice territorial views of the valley and also the snowy peaks in the distance. Ray said it takes about four days to complete the trail to Mount Rainier (he has done it). They still have a few easements to figure out, but so far so good. The trail will be for backcountry horsemen,

Photo by Susie Drougas



Mike Drougas and Whiteman with his weed whacker.

hikers and mountain bikers. The mountain bikers we encountered were very courteous, and with no trees, it was pretty easy to spot them. It's a good idea to get your horses used to bikes anyway, if they are not already. It's just the silence coming up from behind on a steep drop off trail that's a little tough for them to deal with!

For more information on the William O'Douglas Trail, or WOD, please visit <http://www.wta.org/magazine/1197.pdf>

BCHW 501c3 at Work

By Jeff Chapman, BCHW Buckhorn Range Chapter

The Buckhorn Range Chapter was recently, pleasantly surprised to receive a donation of new plastic geo-grid blocks for trail hardening, worth \$5,000 from private equestrian donors. Our work with the equestrian at-large community on trails led to these benefactors being made aware of our need for materials, and they happened to have a rather significant supply of paddock/arena stabilizing material that was not going to be used for their original project but were quite adaptable to the trail work our chapter is accomplishing.

Our status as a 501(c)(3) made this transaction possible. There are many ways to contribute to the efforts of volunteers engaged in trail maintenance with BCHW. While mon-



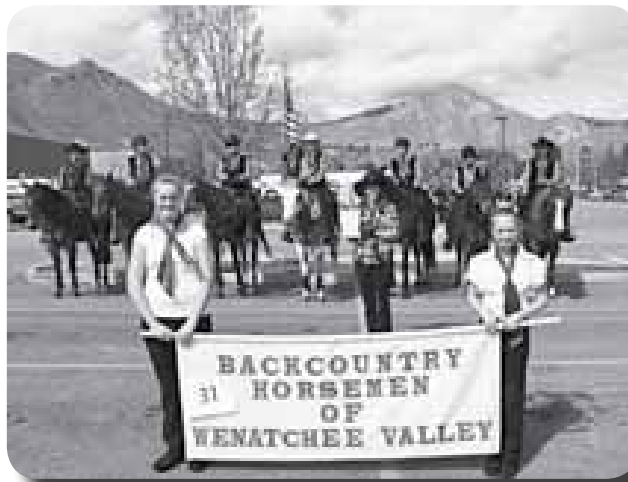
etary or material donations are not always within the immediate means of members and equestrians, they are graciously welcomed when the opportunity presents itself. We want to thank the donors for their gracious gift to our mission. 🐾

BCHW Wenatchee Chapter Drill Team

By Sue Copner, BCHW Wenatchee Chapter

The drill team from the Wenatchee Chapter of BCHW won first place in the equestrian division of the 2011 Apple Blossom Parade, and last year won first place in the novelty equestrian division with an 'outback' motif. Our group performs a routine called the 'crowd pleaser' which the parade-goers really enjoy. We are proud that our riders and horses are all neatly attired and well-mannered, creating a positive image for Back Country Horsemen of Washington. The Wenatchee Chapter is an active group, most recently participating in an annual clean-up of Haney

Photo by Dale Lambert



Meadows. We also accomplish a twice yearly clean-up of a two-mile section of the Blewett Pass Highway. For the past two Christmases, we have made donations to our local animal shelter, as well as to a horse rescue organization. We have invited a number of speakers covering a variety of topics to our monthly meetings resulting in a positive impact on member attendance and participation. The group as a whole enjoys the diverse activities the Chapter offers throughout the year, which helps us stay strong. 🐾

Have You Talked With Your Family, Friends and Riding Partners About Joining BCHW? Now's the Time to Do It!

Encourage someone you know to join BCHW and we will print your name and the new member's name in the next issue of the Trailhead News. Email or call Crissy at bchw@wamedia.com or 360-754-4543 for details.

2011 BCHW

Membership Application

All adult members need to sign the form. Chapter Members: Turn in to chapter treasurer.

Independent Members mail to: BCHW ATTN: Membership, 110 W. 6th Ave., PMB 393, Ellensburg, WA 98926

I would like to help preserve the Horsemen's rights to use horses on public lands.

New Member Renewal/Past Member Mmbr #: _____ County _____ Legislative District _____

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Do you want to be a Volunteer? Yes No What would you like to volunteer for? _____

State membership for 2011 calendar year

Family Membership \$ 49 _____

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Additional State Donation \$ _____

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Benefactor Member \$ 500 _____

Lifetime (Single) Member \$1200 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Liability Release & Notices

All ADULT members MUST sign! Adult's signature covers minor children. Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders, and spectators, and also recognizing the fact that Back Country Horsemen of Washington, including chapters, officers, directors, or members cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in Trail Rides or other BCHW functions, I do hereby release the above named from any claim or right for damages, which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Signed _____ Dated _____

Signed _____ Dated _____

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.



Please clip out and mail



Trail Challenge on Edd's Mountain Loop

By Lu Young, BCHW Ferry County Chapter

When it comes to challenging trails, we got em'. As for riders and horses, we got em' too! Thirteen riders took the challenge and rode up our Edd's Mountain Trail. We were all prepared with gear for rain or shine. Okanogan Chapter members took on the mountain with determination. This "gutsy" group, combined with riders from our Ferry County Chapter, showed what backcountry riding is all about! Riders from Okanogan Chapter who finished the ride were: Peggy Swanberg, Charlotte Bower, Steve McKinney, Nonnie Judd, Teresa Naylor and Trygve Culp.

Our own riders from Ferry County Chapter were: George Young leading the way uphill, Amy White and Aemi and Matt

Miller on their Arabian endurance horses that also did the whole loop! Our trail boss, Terry Fralic, took up the rear leading his young mule, Jessie, to keep her trail-ready. Gail Downs rode her young Rocky Mountain gelding, Elvis. Both are new to this type of mountain riding but proved themselves game and finished the ride with flying colors!

The first two miles of this trail are very rocky and fairly steep. Rock slabs make any horse and rider apprehensive, but we had no problem with any of them crossing these areas. In years past, we have tried to "rock blast" the slab rock so the footing would be more horse friendly.

Some of the most spectacular views of the surrounding hills and valleys, as well as the wildflowers in bloom, made

this ride well worth the climb. This was a six-hour ride up Edd's across Baldy and down to the Kettle Crest, and another five miles down Snow Peak Trail and Nick's Loop Trail. At the top of Edd's Mountain we were greeted by a small rain cloud and some wind, but soon the sun prevailed for the rest of the ride. A stop at "Kicking Mule Meadow" for lunch and we continued on to Snow Peak Shelter, where we met up with some folks who had hiked in to the cabin. As hikers, they were impressed with our ride and horses and we scored some points with them. After a twenty-minute stop we were on our way down Snow Peak Trail's switchbacks and across two creeks back to our destination at the Edd's Mountain Trail head where we started. I can

tell you these folks are truly backcountry riders!

As we headed back across Nick's Loop Trail, I thought of the hours we spent on this trail fixing it up and making it passable. I looked back at Trail Boss Terry and said, "I never thought I would see this day." He nodded in agreement because we had many volunteer hours and miles on this "super trail", and it was just a dream five years ago when we adopted this trail and made it OURS. If you look under Recreation Opportunities in the Colville Forest Map you will see under Edd's Mountain trail these words that make us proud:


"This trail is in the process of being relocated and reconstructed by the Ferry County Back Country Horsemen." AND that's what it's all about! 

Photo by Lu Young



Riders at the Windswept Meadows on Edd's Mountain.

End of the Year Recap!

Everyone wants to hear about what fantastic adventures and riding experiences you've had this summer! Please email your summer ride stories (600 word maximum) and photos to Crissy at bchw@wamedia.com by October 1, 2011, for the November/December issue of the Trailhead News.

Members!

Remember that nominations for BCHW Awards are coming up! Look around and see who among your peers is deserving. All categories and info are at www.bchw.org. Thank you! – Lori Lennox, Awards Chair



The Trailhead News
BCHW
110 W 6th Ave. PMB 393
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

2011 Calendar of Events

- Check with the ride host on whether or not weed-seed-free feed is required by law.
- Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event.
- Practice LNT so the ride host will be able to use the land again.

Please send us your events. There is a **9-line maximum** to include: name of event, sponsoring chapters, date of event, cost (if any), register by date, location, contact person, phone number, and email address or website.

Tahoma Chapter Prize Ride

September 10, 2011, Maple Valley, Wa
\$750 Cash Prizes & Loads of Other Prizes
\$20/Rider inc. lunch & tickets to win
Nancy Lee: (206) 786-3726
Nancyomax@aol.com
www.tahomabchw.org

LNT Train The Trainer

September 16-18, 2011
Indian Camp – Middle Fork Teanaway
Cost: \$90.00, limited space
Jane Byram: (509) 997-7407
LNTJANE_3@hotmail.com

Cascade Horse Club Prize Ride

September 17, 2011
Pilchuck Tree Farm, Arlington, WA
Riders out 9-11am, \$7 1st hand/\$5 addtn'l
Lunch available for purchase. Great prizes!
Wendy Kondo: (425) 478-9789
kondoqueen@windermere.com
www.cascadehorseclub.org

Island County Chapter Annual Russell Maugan's Raffle Ride, Treasure Hunt and Chili Cook-Off

September 17, 2011, Whidbey Island
Kerry Graves: (360) 544-8406
kerry53@comcast.net
Diana Putney: (360) 321-5631
glputney@whidbey.com

BCHW 3rd Quarter Board of Director's Meeting

September 24, 2011
Kittitas Valley Event Center
Ellensburg, WA

Traildusters Chapter Annual Halloween Prize Ride

October 22, 2011, Pilchuck Tree Farm
Lake Armstrong entrance, Arlington
Costume Classes, Raffles & great prizes
Lunch available for purchase
Audrey Gunderson: (360) 435-3910
cascadetrailrider@gmail.com

Purple Sage Riders Chapter 10th Annual Winery & Halloween Costume Prize Ride

October 29, 2011, Zillah, WA
Camping avail. for \$5/night, Fri. & Sat.
Cowboy breakfast & BBQ dinner avail. Sat.
Llorene Bezanson: (509) 627-2397
Daren Moorman: (509) 585-4001
psrwineryride@gmail.com

Pierce County Chapter Holiday Auction

November 12, 2011 (Reserv. deadline Nov. 1)
Dryer's Masonic Center, Spanaway
Silent Auction, Bucket Raffle & Live Auction
Tickets \$20 each incl. Prime Rib Dinner
Pat Long: (253) 732-6988 or
(253) 847-6315; homstd@peoplepc.com
Lorraine Stillwell: (253) 539-4041

BCHW, USFS & State Land Managers Meeting

December 2, 2011
Kittitas Valley Event Center
Ellensburg, WA

BCHW 4th Quarter Board of Director's Meeting

December 3, 2011
Kittitas Valley Event Center
Ellensburg, WA

Are You Feeling Like a Winner?

The 2012 BCHW Raffle Calendars can now be ordered from the BCHW Store (if your chapter isn't selling them)!

- Eleven monthly chances to win \$300 each month PLUS one Grand Prize drawing of \$3000 total to be held December, 2012!
- Only \$20 for 12 chances to be a winner AND you get the beautiful BCHW calendar!
- Calendars only (no raffle tickets) are also available for \$12 each.
- Please add \$3 to each calendar for shipping and handling, or they may be combined with other BCHW Store merchandise at regular S&H prices shown on the BCHW Store order form on page 12 of this issue.