

The Trailhead News

Vol. 49 Issue 1

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

January/February 2024



www.bchw.org



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Inside this Issue www.bchw.org

Chapter Locations & Directors 1

Optional Members 2

President’s Corner 3

2023 BCHW Awards Program 4-5

First Aid Equipment. 6

Three-Legged Stool.. 7

Volunteer Hours Report 8-9

Out On The Trails
 Montana Guiding 10-11

Just a Quick Note About BCHW’s Rendezvous 2024 10

Calendar of Events Outside Back Cover

Cover Photo: Beatrice Tiersma on her gelding Eli Photo was taken on the Park Butte Trail out of Deming, WA in the Mt Baker area. Photo by Tricia Morones

Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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

The Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page is provided by the BCHW Membership Committee. **If you have any corrections or questions, please e-mail membership@bchw.org.**

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Lifetime Members					
Mitch Baird	IND	Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR	Hillary Jones & Jim Johnston	GHC
Scott Bauer	CHC	Christina Cline	MVC	Kathy & Bob Jones	TDC
Amanda Biles	TAH	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller	IND	Laurie Kallsen-George	PNC
Penelope Booker	IND	Gary & Kathy Collins	MSH	Lorraine Karmen	CHC
Karen Briskey	PCC	Greg Cox	GHC	Tony Karniss	LCC
Caleb Canby	MVC	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Mary Krauss & Joe Berner	CHC
Janis Collett	PCC	Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NEC	Melody & Randy Lee	MSH
Missy Day	TAH	Robert Gish & Myrna McMain	NEC	Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson	BHR
David Jackson	PSR	KEVIN & Lisa Graese	NEC	Ed & Teri Letcher	WEN
Lori Lennox	GHC	Mary Kane	TAH	Paul Mellick	RRR
Kim Merrick	NSC	Burton & Caitly Karapostoles	MVC	Kris Moran	GHC
Heather Moorman	PSR	Bill Kehner	IND	Jeanette & John O'Keefe	MVC
Jason Ridlon	IND	Edris Kenan	TAH	Kathleen Parshall	TAH
Kathy Russo	IND	David & Hope Maltz	TAH	Bradley Peters	MVC
Dave Seibel	MOC	Mike & Chris McGlenn	WCC	Tom Reed & Michelle Cottone	PCC
Bob Shonka	IND	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Laurel Saville	WCC
Teri Starke	IND	James Miller	IND	Bennet Sizemore & Freya Sturmm	MAC
Cathy Upper	MVC	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC	Jane Storrs	TAH
Carol Wilcox	WVC	Gary & Janis Pegg	LCC	Brian & Cindi Vance	NEC
Barbara Woo	CHC	Drew & Rachel Scott	IND	Craig Volosing & Karen Stevenson	PON
Pat Wyers	MAC	Frank & Sandra Servine	NIS	Sonja Wingard & James Matthies	WCC
2024 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Jan Whitlow	MOC	Lynda Stafford	SCR	Doug Wood	SKT
2023 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Kinney/Churchill	TDC	Michael Torok	MVC	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge	MAC
2022 Benefactor Level					
Terry & Suzanne Smith	IND	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC		
2024 Patron Level					
Connie & Gene Baugher	MAC	Louise & Peter Walton	NEC		
Kathy & Bob Cole	MSH	Jan Whitlow	MOC		
Sherrie Elliott	NEC	JoAnn Yost	GHC		
Dawn Graham	MOC	Patricia Yust	WCC		
William Hamlin & Anne Razzolini	RRR	2024 Contributing Level			
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth	CHC		
Cindy & Dean Kobetich	BHR	Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH		
Joanne Lacy & Dale Bamford	NSC	Bart & Velma Bradshaw	MVC		
Dale & Tina Merten	GHC	Gene Brent	TAH		
Al & Marcy Norrbom	WEN	Heather & Fred Brown	TAH		
Bob Showalter	RRR	Jack Carr	WCC		
2024 Sustaining Level					
Robert & Sheila Blakely	NEC	Jan & Jim Craghead	CCR		
Sherry & Alex Brown	LCC	Ken & Pam Evans	MAC		
Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH	Michelle & Randy Fetters	EVC		
		Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC		
		Rich & Louise Guthrie	TDC		
		Jonathan Hamlin & Adriana Scott	PNC		
		Kris & Don Hand	PSR		
		Dean & Susan Hartman	CPR		
		Butch & Jaima Havens	IND		
		Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR		
		Diane Jaspers	EVC		

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

BettyRae Shonka

Carol Wilcox

Doc Wesselius

Jim Murphy

Laarin Lee Barber

Marianne Finrow

Teunis Wyers

Trygve Culp

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance

Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.

Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a "trade or business" and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this "trade or business"). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

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



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

I hope that your holidays with your families were enjoyable! We have been busy putting together a large virtual event for January 6th. If this issue gets to you before the 6th, please try to join us as our vision for 2024 is to get back to our roots and why BCHW was started. The link to the zoom event is on our website at bchw.org. Go to the Members Only page then to Leadership Resources. If you are not or did not join us, may I suggest you go to the website and watch the recording.

Usually in January we hold leadership training. They have been held in Ellensburg but as you know travel in January can be hit and miss over our passes. We have done them virtually all in one or two days, but people had to choose one or two training courses to attend so they could not attend all of what they wanted too. Also, the classes were geared towards leadership positions. So, on January 7th we will start having virtual classes on all sorts of topics from chapter leadership, trainings and informational. If you are interested in leadership or just want to learn about what we do, I hope you will take the time to attend one or more of the classes. Those that are teaching care about BCHW and are taking time out of their lives to share stuff with you. The schedule is

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.

on the website and the links to the first week of classes has been emailed out but can be accessed on our website, go to the Members Only page then to the Leadership tab.

Next, our membership renewals are in full swing, our membership year is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31st. If you do not renew by Jan. 15th, you will be removed from our roster. If you want to renew now, [click here](#).

Lastly, the 2024 Rendezvous weekend, one of our two State events that raise funds for our mission is coming up on March 15-17th, reservations are open for Dinner on Saturday night and camping. If you plan to attend, I recommend you register soon. Dinner on Saturday will be Prime Rib this year, so you won't want to miss that! We will have a Dessert Auction on Saturday afternoon before dinner starts. More info on that has been posted on the Rendezvous event page and sent to your chapter Presidents. Your Board of Directors will be holding their 1st Quarter BOD meeting on Friday evening, and then on Sunday morning we will have our annual Membership Meeting and Awards Presentations, so please plan to attend that as well. For the events, we will be having a Packing and Crosscut saw competition as well as the vendors, Land Managers, non-profits, speakers, educational classes and of course our Bucket, Silent and Live Auctions to name a few.

I hope to see you wandering around the Event grounds or out on the trails in 2024!! 🐾

Explore More in '24



Rendezvous
March 15-17, 2024

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, 2024, 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(c)3, there is a tax advantage for award donations. 🐾

2023 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 _____



Please clip out and mail



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, 2024



First Aid Equipment

By Ken Carmichael

The first snow stuck this morning in Spokane, DARN. This presents the opportunity to make progress inside.

We had moved the horse trailer under cover and drained all water from the tank. We had also brought in the first aid material so it would not freeze. When I talk about first aid, I also include first aid and survival equipment for horses and riders. To me, it is all one package.

Today is the day we sorted through our equipment.

Several objectives:

- Remind us of what we have
- Throw out what is out of date
- Decide what new items we want
- Re-sort materials for different storage locations



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



This last item deserves some more attention. We maintain first aid equipment in several locations. It is nice to have it available for a quick response. Here is where we maintain a supply:

- **Saddlebags** – Patti and I each carry some of it but only duplicate where we feel it is necessary, such as vet wrap. I will not share my survival blanket with her, so we each have one. First aid is always in the left saddlebag as this is the side of the horse I dismount from. When on the trail, everyone may need to pool their assets.
- **Trailer** – We have a large stash here, as the trailer is always where the horses are. This is broken down into three categories:
 - **Bandages**
 - **Medical supplies, equipment, and literature** – I cannot remember everything pounded into my head, so I have material to remind me. A summary of this is also in my saddlebags.
 - **First Responder Kit** – There is a lot of stuff in the trailer. Rather than sort through everything in the first aid box, this is the bag that is visible, and anyone can grab it in a hurry. Most of the supplies are in two totes. But this bag has the essentials that are easy to get to and transport.
- **Barn** – This is what we grab as we dial the vet. It is not behind a lock in the tack room but is available in the hay room.
- **Vehicles** – Each vehicle has a human first aid kit and survival equipment.

I am not saying what we have in each location. There are plenty of articles that describe this. You should think about what you may need and what you will use.

We cannot account for every accident that may happen, but we can be prepared to handle most of them. This also includes reviewing the first aid manual and taking that overdue first aid course.

After the new year, it will be time to bring all saddles and bridles into the laundry room, do a thorough cleaning, and check for repairs. But that is another project for another day. 🐾

Three-Legged Stool

By Ken Carmichael

When writing articles for The Trail Head News (THN) or just thinking about Back Country Horsemen (BCH), I always return to our Mission of primarily being a service organization for keeping trails open. I use a very abbreviated mission of “preserving the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land through education, advocacy and moving dirt.”

As chairman of the Governance and Bylaws Committee and Membership Development Committee, I recognize that these are support functions of our primary activities of education, advocacy and moving dirt. These three functions must take center stage.

My thoughts also drift to the fact that the best way to do these functions is as an effective organization. Individuals cannot be as effective as a group working together. My military background reminds me that for each foot soldier fulfilling the mission, there are many people helping them with their needed supplies and support.

All organizations, whether for-profit or nonprofit, all

function like a three-legged stool. The legs can be described as **MISSION, FUNDING** and **ADMINISTRATION**. All are important to the success of the organization. If one leg is short-changed, then the stool can become unstable or fall over. For the stool to become taller and more successful, all legs of the stool must be supported.



This brings me to the point that BCH has many opportunities to support our mission of keeping trails open. If you are not involved in education, advocacy or moving dirt, then look around your chapter and see how you can support these functions in funding or administration. Providing support for education, advocacy and moving dirt is essential to the success of BCH and accomplishing our mission. All the legs of the stool must be supported, or it will tip over. The more support we provide in all areas will make the stool taller, and we will be successful.

Please take this opportunity to ask your president how you can participate. It is more fun, and it is a good feeling when you are part of the success of BCHW. 🐾



SAVE THE DATE!

BCHW Legislative Day 2024 All Members Are Welcome!

Monday, February 19, 2024
Call Your Legislators to make appointments Now!
11 am to late afternoon would be best.

Legislator contact information: 1.800.562.6000, or
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder>, or call the toll free legislative
hotline to contact your legislator.

Questions? Contact Legislative Chair Jeff Chapman
legislative@bchw.org

BCHW-Volunteer Hours Report

By Deb Wesselius, BCHW Volunteer Hours Chair

The BCHW volunteer hour Summary Report covers the reporting period from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. These are the year-end totals, and they represent a job well done by chapter members, officers, and your Volunteer Hours Coordinator. The Excel document defines the totals by Chapter and by Agency.

2023 BCHW VOLUNTEER HOURS = 58,520
 (2022 – 61,236)
2023 TOTAL VALUE = \$2,385,134.60
 (2022 - \$2,459,121.83)

BCHW-Volunteers put in a great effort, accumulating over 58k volunteer hours; this is a time to give all BCHW Volunteers a big thanks and hats off to everyone.

Every year, we say this, and this year is no exception. The success of the BCHW Volunteer Hours program is due to the assistance of your BCHW VH Regional Committee; I couldn't get the volunteer hours reviewed and accurate without their help. Big thanks go out to Louise Caywood-PCC, JoAnn Yost-GHC & Barbara Vache'-CHC, who diligently reviewed and ensured accuracy in their chapters' quarterly and final VH.

Throughout the year, we collected and reported the BCHW Volunteer Hours every quarter to assist with chapters that struggled to complete the reports accurately. Quarterly reporting is also beneficial for chapters to keep up on the VH data entry, making it easier to meet the final year-end reporting deadline.

The BCHW Summary Report will also be provided to your Chapter VHC for your chapter records. If you have any questions regarding the volunteer hours report, please get in touch with me.

We will work on another virtual Volunteer Hours Training (scheduled Zoom Training courses) this year. Watch for details from the BCHW President, Dana Chambers, who will send out the vision for this year's Training. Please remember it's vital that your Chapter Volunteer Hours Coordinator attend or plan on sending a representative, especially if you have a new VHC.

Finally, if you or someone you want to recommend would be interested in joining the BCHW Regional Volunteer Hours team, let me know. I think it's important that we continue to look forward and embrace change, and new volunteers can help with that. 🐾

Just a Quick Note About BCHW's Rendezvous 2024

We have filled several jobs but are still looking for class/demo's, vendors and other helpers. We are looking for chapters or individuals to hold Dutch oven classes/competition, a truck/trailer demo and competition and someone to organize event signs, among other jobs. Please contact me if we have not spoken or have a great idea for BCHW's 2024 Rendezvous.

Teri Starke, 253-709-5052, tstrk21@msn.com. 🐾

Explore More in '24



Rendezvous
March 15-17, 2024

Back Country Horsemen of Washington
Volunteer Hours Report
State Summary
2023 ~ Final prepared by: Deb Wesselius, BCHW VH Chair



Washington State Chapter	Trail Work			Admin		Total Volunteer Hours	Personal		Total Dollar Value	
	Leg.	Basic	Skilled	L.N.T.	Public		Vehicle	Stock		
	Dist.	Trail	Trail	Educ.	Service		Miles	Days		
Buckhorn Range Chapter	24	231.5	38.5	160.5	245.5	217	893	7278	2	36,619.58
Capitol Riders Chapter	35	126.5	1.5	80.5	336.5	146	691	3067	37	28,251.67
Cascade Horse Club	44	270.5	92.5	28.5	313.5	178.5	883.5	3599	87	41,045.23
Crab Creek Riders	13	103	0	39.5	96.5	55.5	294.5	1994	0	11,312.78
Ellensburg Valley Chapter	13	284	325	164.5	481.5	241.5	1496.5	5641	65	63,239.93
Ferry County Chapter	7	205.5	28.5	14.5	488	160	896.5	5423	77	41,755.86
Grays Harbor Chapter	35	848.5	838.5	175	1003	1439.5	4304	18834.5	182	183,208.66
Independent	13	14.5	0	40	1881	93.5	2029	5446	0	67,576.05
Island County Chapter	10	368	87.5	49.5	339.5	140	984.5	3193	2	34,987.78
Lewis County Chapter	20	1022.5	895.5	275	1126.5	633	3952.5	14423	156	165,420.72
Methow Valley Chapter	12	213	175	32	46	138	603.5	3681	21	27,397.58
Mt Adams Chapter	14	106	32.5	0	31	51	220.5	1445	18	10,697.08
Mt Olympus Chapter	24	172.5	217	9	388	77	863.5	1483	30	33,966.24
Mt St Helens Chapter	17	837.5	474.5	68	963.5	575	2918.5	17547	106	127,050.84
Nisqually Chapter	2	106.5	0	0	745.5	216.5	1068.5	4132	29	40,066.58
Northeast Chapter	7	278.5	154	436	508	393	1769.5	10914	109	79,845.95
Oakland Bay Chapter	35	97	48.5	0	69	53	267.5	1569	16	12,299.41
Okanogan Valley Chapter	7	79.5	15	113	281	147.5	636	4935	20	27,441.65
Olympic Chapter	26	282	189	209.5	554.5	419	1654	7418	69	68,541.02
Peninsula Chapter	24	4474	2099.5	323	1068.5	1535	9500	23347	62	351,359.26
Pierce County Chapter	28	1208	1180	392	1524.5	989	5293.5	26716	312	240,811.10
Ponderosa Chapter	6	136.5	1	42.5	1285.5	232	1697.5	5950	5	58,792.61
Purple Sage Riders	16	291	0	320	1012	296	1919	10859	23	73,347.80
Rattlesnake Ridge Riders	16	64	113	351.5	453	232	1213.5	6795.5	18	48,331.44
Scatter Creek Riders	35	101.5	0	6.5	304	90	502	2907	17	20,368.65
Skagit Chapter	39	454.5	96	0	963.5	403.5	1917.5	11706	2	73,699.71
Tahoma Chapter	5	517	341	436	1940.5	569.0	3803.5	13018	40	139,295.51
Traildusters Chapter	39	183	28.5	16	300.5	134.5	662.5	2504	4	23,798.81
Wenas Chapter	13	367	0	33	1027.5	163.5	1591	4611	0	53,413.58
Wenatchee Valley Chapter	12	173.5	540	154.5	34.5	209.5	1112	4441	171	64,044.85
Whatcom County Chapter	42	234.5	1024	208	896.5	519	2882	15353	163	137,146.67
Totals		13851	9036	4178	20708	10748	58520.5	250229	1843	2,385,134.60
State Agency Report										
		Basic	Skilled	Edu	Admin	TT	Total Hours	POV	Stock	Total \$\$ Value
U.S.F.S. (A)		4795	5647	598	391	3403	14834	72199	1063	750,247.39
State DNR (B)		2213	403.5	94	163	892	3765.5	22196	173	163,866.16
State Parks (C)		975.5	233	0	89	351	1648.5	8088	141	77,072.92
National Parks (D)		693.5	946	0	98	251	1988.5	3772	27	81,141.66
Education & LNT (E)		0	0	3335	0	735	4070	20794	32	151,089.00
Dept. Fish & Wildlife (F)		130.5	7	133.5	27	82	380	1981	25	17,082.66
Administrative (G)		0	0	0	18552	2880	21432	82124	113	755,843.40
BLM (M)		4	0	0	0	1	5	24	0	179.75
NOLT (O)		99.5	0.5	0	0	36	136	11	0	4,094.45
Rendezvous (R)		0	0	0	1189	588	1777	9882	0	65,573.65
Private Timber (T)		2087	882.5	7	126	914	4016	20371	251	158,614.03
County (W)		2853	916.5	10.5	73	615	4468	8787	18	160,329.53
Totals		13851	9036	4178	20708	10748	58520.5	250229	1843	2,385,134.60

Montana Guiding



By Rocky Leavitt, Whatcom County Chapter

I got home last week after working for a month outside of Gardiner, Montana. The Yellowstone River heads north through here on its way out of Yellowstone Park. They call it the Paradise Valley. The ranch I work out of is in the Cinnabar basin. They have different sections, but it essentially borders the Gallatin National Forest.

The first week is preparing the horses and mules for the upcoming hunting season. I go through the saddles and ensure all the parts are there, including changing the stirrups for a wider hunting boot size. With the animals tied up, I like to try out the lengths of the cinches. A lot can change from the summertime. Most of the time, the cinches are too long, and you can't tighten the saddle enough. I have seen many people fall off due to a loose saddle. Under my watch, I like the cinches to be very tight. As it turns out, most of the guys I take out are

very marginal riders. A tight saddle helps to keep them on.

What also happens this first week is we load up and ride the property lines. The elk herds damage the fences every time they come through. Maintaining them is a never-ending project. Going up a steep mountain on a horse to fix fences is quite the thing. It makes me appreciate my flat pastures more.

I spend a day with the horseshoer watching him put new shoes on and putting a piece of hard plastic under the shoe. If you don't do this, your horse will be walking with the snow building up under their shoes. Your mount will be walking on snow stilts. He also puts toe and heel shoes on to help with traction. One of our more significant issues is coming down

continued on page 11



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

Montana Guiding

continued from page 10

off the mountains in the snow and ice. Very slippery. Very dangerous. At the right temperature, the old logging roads are like rivers of ice. For me, the only safe thing to do is ride as far off to the sides as I can.

When the hunting starts, it goes non-stop for their five-day hunt. We have four of these. They are mostly 12-hour days. Some of you know I don't like getting up too early. Somewhere between eight and ten is reasonable, but not in this camp. We wake at five am and drive to the main lodge for breakfast. It's hard for me to look at an egg at five thirty, but it's about six hours until the next meal, and you know I don't miss too many meals... If we are hunting out a few miles, we will start saddling the horses and mules at three thirty in the morning. You haven't lived until you have handled a completely frozen horse blanket. The pads never really dry out, so you have to put them on, and the weight of the saddle forms them to the back.

The animals here are very well-built, stocky, and pretty tame. They are used all summer long for tourist trail riding at a fee of \$125.00 per two-hour ride. They are basically used to following each other, so you must steer them even on the road. In the dark, I for sure use a headlight. On those long days, you ride a couple of hours in the dark, coming and going. You hunt until dark, then you head home. It is incredible how much colder it is when the sun goes down.

When the temperature drops below zero, you must dress for the weather. I have found it hardest to keep my feet warm while riding. The solution is to get to where you need to go and then walk a bit. It is only 32 degrees deep in the snow, so they usually warm up pretty fast.

Sometimes, we do stand or blind hunting. This is where you hike up to a particular spot and sit for 3-5 hours. That is quite the challenge in 18 inches of snow and 12 below zero. We had that for a couple of weeks this season. I wear a lot of



clothes for those days. This was my first year wearing Alpaca wool socks. I bought a couple of pairs at the BCH gathering in Ellensburg. I do recommend them.

The elk hunting in Montana is decreasing at an alarming rate in the areas where the wolves and grizzly bears are located. The wolves were introduced in 1996. At that time, this herd was estimated to be 20,000 animals. Now, it is plus or minus 4,000—an 80 percent drop in elk populations. Most folks are unaware of these numbers, and others do not care. They just want the wolves.

When we are on the carcass of a newly harvested elk, I post a person with a 12-gauge shotgun to protect us from the grizzlies. They have bear spray, and the shotgun is ready at all times. The bears make no noise when they come in. I've also had to go with the critters to pick up the elk the next day after it was shot. Very scary. I stay on high alert with the shotgun ready at a moment's notice. Sometimes, overnight, the bears will take possession of your kill. In a couple of basins, over two grizzlies were shot while they were attacking hunters this hunting season. One lady was killed in July on the other side of this same range.

This year, we packed into the Pasayten Wilderness here in Washington. It is located north of Winthrop. One of our trips was the trail Andrews Creek up past the Spanish Camp. I just recently saw a picture taken in September of a huge grizzly bear taken very close to the camp where we stay. Some of you will be very happy to know that our Federal government is bringing grizzlies and wolves into our area. They have promised us two hundred grizzlies in the Hannegan area over the next few years. I know that most of you do not ride the back-country, but if you do, I would suggest bear spray, a large-bore pistol, and a shotgun. If you are unwilling to carry these items, I recommend you stay away from the wilderness. 🐾

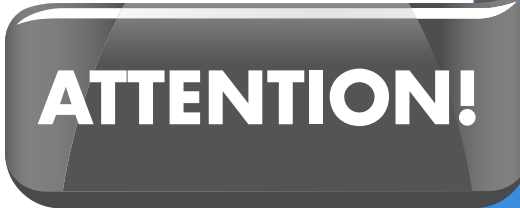


Content Deadline for the March/April 2024 Online Newsletter is January 18, 2023

Cover Photos can be sent anytime, 8x10 Vertical orientation is best (300 dpi).

You can send articles, photos and calendar of events early!

Please email your articles (700 word maximum) and 3 or 4 photos with caption and photo byline to thn@bchw.org as soon as possible.



BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2023. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR MEMBERSHIPS In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$41.00
Family.....	\$54.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

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.

2024 Rendezvous
Friday-Sunday, March 15-17, 2024
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
Go to BCHW.org

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting
Saturday, June 15, 2024
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 21, 2024
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org
206-498-6952

1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting
Friday, March 15, 2024
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

2024 Grays Harbor Fund Ride
Saturday, June 22, 2024
Schafer Grade near Matlock, WA
No permits needed. Limited camping avail.
2 Loops option w/ raffle and grand price.
Lunch will be avail. Lots of parking.
Contact Beth Branshaw:
bbranshaw@hotmail.com

23rd Annual Winery Ride
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Zillah, WA
BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

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 _____



January 15: Birthday of MLK, Jr.
April 20: First day of National Park Week
June 19: Juneteenth Nat. Ind. Day
August 4: Anniversary - Great American Outdoors Act
September 28: National Public Lands Day
November 11: Veterans Day