

# The Trailhead News

Vol. 50 Issue 4

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

July/August 2025

## Crow Lake Way Horse Camp

See Story on Pages 12-13



[www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org)





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The Trailhead News

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Valley Chapter BCHW**Disclaimer**

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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](mailto:membership@bchw.org).**

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Samantha Sandford .....	MSH	Darrell & Kristy Wallace .....	NEC		
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Bob Shonka .....	IND	Bob & Lyriss Wooldridge .....	MAC		
Teri Starke .....	IND	JoAnn Yost .....	GHC		
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Danny & Jeanie Chappel .....	RRR	Robert Humes .....	PCC		
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### Ken Wilcox BCHW

#### *In-Memoriam*

BettyRae Shonka

Carol Wilcox

Doc Wesselius

Jim Murphy

Laarin Lee Barber

Marianne Finrow

Teunis Wyers

Trygve Culp

### 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. ↶

### 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](mailto:tstrk21@msn.com).

# President's Corner



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

**H**ello BCHW Members!! What a crazy busy couple of months. Your State Leadership has been busy working on some Bylaw and Executive Committee Standing Rule revisions and a new Standing Rule for Director Responsibilities. The Bylaws with the changes in red are at the end of this edition, please take a look. If you have any questions, PLEASE reach out to me at [president@bchw.org](mailto:president@bchw.org); and I would be happy to answer those questions. Also, all our governing documents are posted on the Members Only page of our website under the Members Info Tab; it is always a good idea to review them. You can also review all of the Committee Reports to see what is happening in other areas.

Another big announcement...Rendezvous 2026 will be held on April 24-25. This change was made for several reasons, mostly because of the challenges with the weather. We

have several team members working hard to make next year's event fun and informative!!

We are looking for someone interested in becoming the next BCHW President. My term ends in June of 2026. There is a President Position Description posted on the website. If you or someone you know would make a good President, take a look at that Position Description. Let your chapter Director know if you are interested. You need not be an officer in your chapter to run for this position.

Lastly the BCHW Winery Ride is happening! The date is October 25 in Zillah. You should have received an email announcing that registration is open. This is a fun event to either ride in or volunteer at. If you don't want to ride, please consider volunteering as it takes a village to put on the event. We hope to see you there, or out on the trails! 🐾

## 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 ensure 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.

## Did You Know

BCHW has an approved Records Retention Policy and Schedule? This helps chapters retain and destroy governing documents on a timely basis.

Find the information at POLICY 2023-3 on the website.



# Vice President's Corner



## Volunteer Opportunities

By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Vice President

There are many opportunities to volunteer at BCHW. It is important that volunteers understand their responsibilities prior to accepting the position. Therefore, we use Position Descriptions to document position responsibilities.

Two important volunteer opportunities are available. They include:

### Publicity Chair:

#### Mission:

To develop and manage an information program directed at individuals and organizations outside of BCHW.

#### Why:

1. To promote a visible profile and maximize favorable recognition of BCH.
2. To inform the public about BCH activities and positions on a variety of issues.
3. To promote public support for the BCH mission and other activities.
4. To contribute to the BCHW leadership.

*continued on page 5*

## BCHW Sponsorships Program

### We are now offering annual sponsorships!

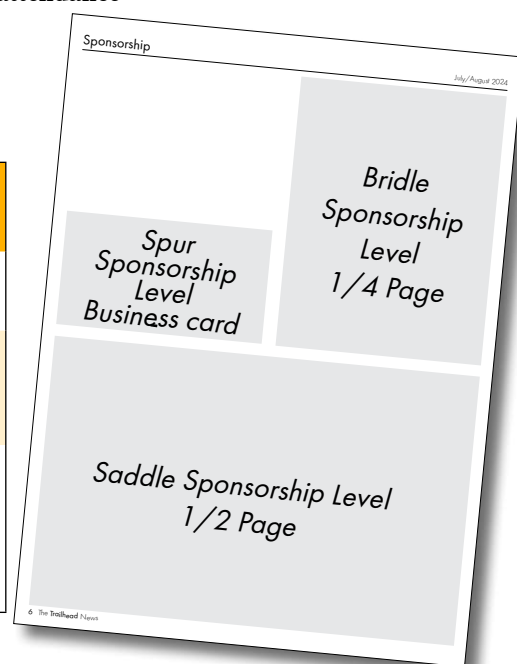
Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

All levels of sponsors will be listed on the Sponsors page of our website.

- **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Facebook page has 8.6K Followers**

- **The Trailhead News publication goes to 2100+ members**
- **Rendezvous Three-day event gathers 400+ members and 100+ public attendance**

Sponsorship Level	Benefits
<b>Spur</b> \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business card-size listing in all 6 editions of our Trailhead News</li> <li>• Your banner displayed at our statewide events</li> </ul>
<b>Bridle</b> \$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter-page listing in our 6 editions of The Trailhead News</li> <li>• Your banner displayed at our statewide events.</li> <li>• Booth at our statewide events (if desired)</li> </ul>
<b>Saddle</b> \$5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half-page listing in all 6 editions of The Trailhead News</li> <li>• Your banner displayed at our statewide events.</li> <li>• Booth at our statewide events (if desired)</li> <li>• Posts on BCHW Facebook page</li> </ul>



Contact [president@bchw.org](mailto:president@bchw.org) for more information

## Volunteer Opportunities

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### Leave No Trace Chair:

#### Mission:

To develop and manage an education program pertaining to the "Leave No Trace" and "Light on the Land" principals, herein referred to as "Programs",

#### Why:

1. To fulfill part of the BCH mission of keeping trails open.
2. To educate and inform all interested users of public lands in the principals of the Programs and other related topics.
3. To promote responsible horse handling and horse camping practices.
4. To enhance public awareness of BCH educational efforts.
5. To minimize impact on our resources.

6. To contribute to the BCHW leadership.

Please refer to the Position Descriptions for details of what the Duties are.

The following is a General Description that applies to all Position Descriptions.

BCHW Position Descriptions describe the duties of the BCHW officers, chairpersons or key person responsible for accomplishing each activity. It is understood that many positions will require more than one individual. The leaders, in some cases, will need to recruit additional volunteers to complete the activity. In addition, the successful completion of many activities requires coordination with, and the help of, other committees. The areas requiring coordination between committees have not been identified in the individual BCHW Position Descriptions.

These Position Descriptions are purposely general in nature. **They provide:**

- Guidelines for the President in appointing leadership positions
- Information to prospective leaders so that they may understand what is expected of them in accepting the position
- Continuity in the changing of leadership roles
- Gauge by which success can be measured

They are not written in stone and are expected to be modified, based on the individual interests, skills and talent available for the positions and changing knowledge and needs of BCHW. Leaders will need to expand on them to include whom, when, where and how specific work will be accomplished.

Those positions that require expenses must develop a budget. Where a position or committee spends money, approval of expenses by the committee leader is limited to the amount of the budget approved by the BCHW Board. The BCHW Board must approve unusual expenses prior to the expense being incurred. Requests for funds and deposits must follow procedures developed by the BCHW Chief Financial Officer.

While many decisions are delegated to committee leaders, it is understood that some decisions may be reviewed and/or approved by the BCHW Board.

**While we have highlighted two volunteer opportunities here, there are many in BCHW. Please contact President Dana Chambers for information on how you can benefit by taking an active role in BCHW. 🐾**



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

## Confidence Builder June 14, 2025



By Sharon Hoofnagle

**W**ow! It was just about perfect. Twenty-two rigs, most with multiple horses, fitted easily in the parking areas, plus about 10 passenger vehicles. The weather was great, and the obstacles were well-planned and spaced. Horses and humans dealt with different obstacles like pros. Obstacles like gates, poles, car wash, and bikes were in the large arena. Pulling a tire was a good experience. The llama and pony were in adjacent pens at the far end. There were water obstacles and logs out in the eventing area, plus a short trail system through the woods.

Our thanks to trainer Tessa Shelton for assisting with the participants. Our 2nd trainer, Jessi Bergsma Rockenbach, was waylaid by an emergency, but we thank her for planning to be with us.

It was wonderful seeing so many kids. A thanks to Mitzie Walker for bringing her 4-H group. It was good advertising for programs like 4-H and Pony Club to see the kids expertly handling their horses and to observe the high level of training the

horses received. Even meeting a llama for the first time went well. The bridge was similar to the puncheon that horses will encounter on trails. However, It could be switched between solid and tilting. Hopefully, on a real trail, the bridge won't tilt, but if it does, they are ready for it.

Thanks to Sonja Wingard and the equine-assisted learning and therapy group "Unbridled Spirit" for bringing the llama and pony.

The event was co-sponsored by Friends of Sunset Farm and the Whatcom chapter of Back Country Horsemen. Sunset Farm is a beautiful facility donated by an Arabian breeder, Kay Lowery, to Whatcom County Parks.

Thanks to Roger Edmonds, Cindy Piccolo, Melinda Smull, and Robbie Harris for planning. Marie Tiermersma, Verna and Andy McLeod, Robbie Harris, and Sharon Hoofnagle for assisting where needed. 🌿





# Whidbey Island Roundup



By Sally Garratt, Paula Keohane, Whidbey Island Trail Riders

This Spring, after we dusted off our saddles and put away our soggy horse blankets and getting ready to get back to riding, Whidbey Island Trail Riders held a really fun event. Last fall, the idea of holding a good old-fashioned "Roundup" percolated up in our monthly meetings, so we formed a committee and started planning. The idea was that the 'Roundup' would energize our horse community and get us ready to hit the trails again in the good weather. But we don't have cattle drives on our beautiful Island, so we did something different.

Whidbey Island has a vibrant horse community. We have beautiful riding trails on state, county and private lands. We also have many riders who enjoy other activities with their horses. Whidbey Western Games holds regular events, two Pony Clubs and 4-H clubs are very active, and many private barns organize lessons, shows and other activities. Then, of course, horses live in backyards and pastures all over the 45-mile-long island. But...we rarely get together or even acknowledge each other's existence! So...we thought... let's all get together to celebrate our love of horses and maybe even get some new members for our club.

Whidbey Island Trail Riders is a little bit different from other BCHW groups. We live on an Island...and that geographical truth has consequences. We have a very limited landmass, and it's not getting any bigger. We have a lot of competition for riding space from developers, private individuals and groups, as well as other interest groups. We also face pressure from land management interests that continu-

ally attempt to impose restrictions on the use of land for horse ownership and riding. So, our brilliant idea with the "Roundup" was to let all riders and horse lovers on the island know that our BCHW group is there for them, too. Our advocacy in Olympia and nationwide, our strong working relationship with government regulators, and our ongoing upkeep, management, and creation of new trails on the island are for the benefit of all of us.

With this mission in mind, we contacted all the trainers, clubs, businesses, barns, and individuals who might be interested in a free event focused on horses and asked them if they would like to make a short presentation about their group or activities. Returns from those inquiries resulted in a format of a dozen or so short presentations, each scheduled at a specific time during the day, conducted at individual tables, with a couple of longer presentations designed for larger audiences. We stayed focused on getting horse folks from all perspectives to start talking to each other. We did not include commercial interests (no sales of any kind), but we did secure many businesses to contribute to our large cache of door prizes, which were distributed throughout the event via free raffle tickets handed out at the entrance. We held the event at a community center in the middle of the island, and over 150 people showed up!

*continued on page 8*

## Whidbey Island Roundup

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In addition to the presentations, we addressed the whole group and emphasized the advantages of being a member of Whidbey Island Trail Riders and BCHW. And people listened! We gained many new members for our organization, and we raised awareness of all the amazing things we do for the horse community on the Island and throughout Washington State. We also created a voluntary list of horse owners and enthusiasts on the Island, allowing us to communicate directly with individuals interested in horse-related issues. But best of all, we created the beginning of a Horse Community on the island that we hope can encourage, promote and preserve horse ownership and use on Whidbey Island for many years to come. 🐾



## Content Deadline for the September/October 2025 Print Newsletter is August 1, 2025

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](mailto:thn@bchw.org) as soon as possible.

**ATTENTION!**



## 2024 Olympic Spirit Prize Ride



By Kim Merrick

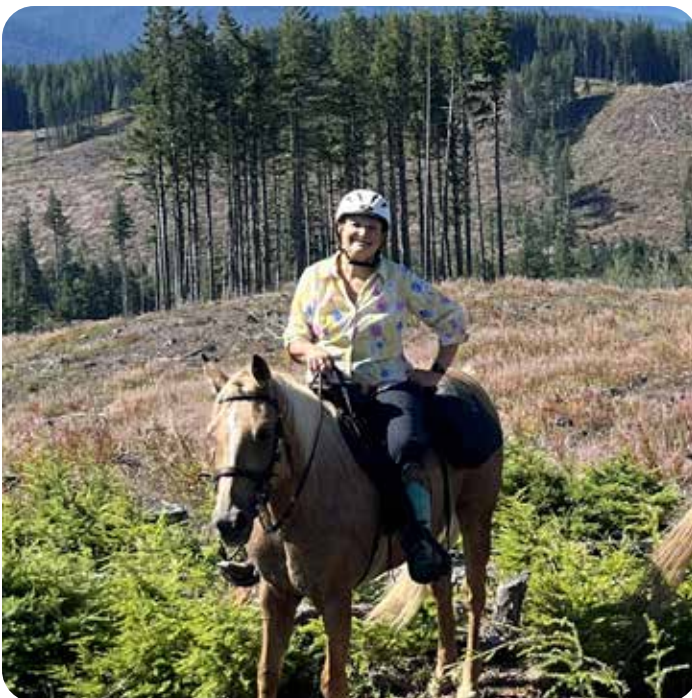
Last September, about 65 riders participated in the 2nd annual Olympic Spirit Prize Ride at Sage Horse Camp near Sequim. The ride was held on September 7; the weather was beautiful, so the views of Discovery Bay at the top of the ride were spectacular. The ride took about 3 hours, and we had a snack stop partway through. Riders were able to choose a shorter or longer loop. Each year, the trail is improved by adding sections away from the local gravel roads in the area.

When everyone got back to camp, we had some Happy Hour snacks, and then we had the drawing for 64 prizes,

including a \$300 gift card, a full dental float, a Stihl mini-saw, and a massage session for your horse with Michael McCaffrey. Then we all had a BBQ Rib Dinner, including ribs, coleslaw, onion shortcake, Dick's buckaroo beans, and apple crisp.

Sage Horse Camp is located about 30 minutes east of Sequim, quite close to Highway 101. It's also only about 30 minutes west of the Hood Canal bridge. There are 15 campsites, each with corrals. There is a round pen for warming up, as well as an arena and obstacles for practice. Trails can be accessed right from camp, or Miller Peninsula State Park property is about a 10-minute drive. There, you can ride miles of well-maintained trails, even to the beach. Anyone can book camping at Sage Horse Camp through HipCamp. Why not come over and stay a few days? Ride LeBar Horse Camp, the Duckabush, Littleton Horse Camp, and Lower Dungeness trails, all on the slightly cooler Olympic Peninsula!

This year's ride will be held on Saturday, September 13. You can register at [www.bchw.org/events](http://www.bchw.org/events). ➡



## Grays Harbor Fund Ride: A Resounding Success!



By Michele McGehee, THN Editor

**T**he Grays Harbor Chapter celebrated another successful annual Fund Ride on June 21, drawing riders from near and far for a day of camaraderie, scenic trails, and community spirit.

With more than 18 miles of beautifully maintained trails—offering both an 11-mile long ride and a 7-mile short ride—participants had options to match their pace and preferences. This event wouldn't have been possible without the tireless dedication of our volunteers, who spent countless hours clearing brush, marking routes with signs and ribbons, and ensuring every rider stayed on course. Their behind-the-scenes work made for a smooth and enjoyable experience for all.

Festivities kicked off Friday night with event setup and a hearty potluck dinner. As tents were pitched and tables arranged, volunteers and early arrivals enjoyed a relaxing evening, sharing stories and laughter before the big day.

Saturday morning began with a light drizzle—par for the course in the Pacific Northwest—but spirits remained high. Volunteers welcomed riders as they arrived, and registration tables buzzed with activity, handing out wristbands, maps, and raffle tickets. The energy was contagious as rigs rolled in and horses were saddled up.

Fueling the day was Dale's Mobile Kitchen, serving up crowd-pleasers like biscuits and gravy, breakfast burritos, and hot coffee to start the morning right. Upon returning from the ride, participants were treated to hearty lunch options including pulled pork sandwiches, burgers, and the ever-popular Texas Twinkies—bacon-wrapped jalapeño poppers that disappeared quickly!

The first group of riders hit the trail at 9:15 a.m., with others setting off throughout the morning. The rain lifted just in time,

*continued on page 11*

## BCHW Membership Announcement

**B**CHW memberships expire on December 31, 2024 and the renewal season starts on October 1st. Please go to [BCHW.org](http://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](mailto:membership.bchw@gmail.com) or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR SINGLE AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ARE INCREASING.

*In Addition To Chapter Dues*

Single .....	\$45.00
Family .....	\$60.00
Contributing .....	\$75.00
Sustaining .....	\$125.00
Patron .....	\$250.00
Benefactor .....	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single) .....	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2) .....	\$2,000.00



## Grays Harbor Fund Ride: A Resounding Success!

*continued from page 10*



leaving cool, pleasant weather—ideal for a trail ride. Riders returned to camp with wide smiles and happy horses, grateful for the scenic journey and well-marked trails.

Despite a modest goal of 30 participants due to the morning rain, the event exceeded all expectations, with 47 riders in attendance—a testament to the community's passion and dedication.

This year's raffle was a highlight, featuring an impressive selection of prizes donated by generous local businesses and sponsors. Items included original artwork, equine care services like teeth floating and shoeing, trail obstacle course certificates, gift cards for local seafood, and much more. We're deeply grateful to our sponsors for their contributions, which truly elevated the experience.

Thanks to the incredible turnout and generous support, the Grays Harbor Chapter raised over \$2,000—funds that will directly support trail maintenance and land lease efforts, ensuring these beautiful trails remain accessible for years to come.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participat-



ed, donated, volunteered, or simply came to cheer us on. The Fund Ride remains a highlight of our chapter's calendar because of the wonderful community that surrounds it. Until next year—happy trails 🐾!





## Crow Lake Way Horse Camp



By Jill Breeze, President, Wenas Valley Chapter BCHW

The Wenas Valley Chapter of BCHW, in partnership with the Naches Ranger District, did a complete overhaul of the Crow Lake Way Horse Camp on Hwy 410, the north side of the Pleasant Valley Loop on Chinook Pass, June 3 – 8, 2025. Initially, we applied for a RAC Title II grant and were awarded the grant; however, all grants were subsequently frozen, leaving us unfunded while our plans were already in full swing. Instead of pausing the project, Jim Breeze, the Wenas Valley chapter director and project manager, saw the big picture and knew that we could still complete this project.

At the director's meeting at Rendezvous, with Dana Chamber's help, we reached out to other chapters in the state for financial help. We were overwhelmed with the donations we received from 10 of our fellow chapters (Okanagan, Ellensburg, Whatcom, Olympic, Wenatchee, Peninsula, Oakland Bay, Purple Sage Riders, Skagit, and Crab Creek chapters). Additionally, we had an average of 30–35 volunteers from five chapters (Tahoma, Ellensburg, Purple Sage Riders, Rattlesnake Ridge Riders, and, of course, the Wenas Valley chapters) who worked on this project with us daily, contributing over 1,000 volunteer hours.

We had a local, semi-retired contractor donate his time and equipment (excavator, bulldozer, and skid steer) for two days to do the road work and remove several large tree stumps at just the cost of his fuel. We also rented a mini excavator and brought up our small tractor to assist around camp. I reached out to Home Depot in Yakima, where we received a grant for over \$1,300.00 worth of building materials, and they sent 13 volunteers to work for one day as part of their grant program. One of the Home De-

pot employees and his wife even camped with us and worked three long days.

Included in the project was rebuilding the road going into camp that was very narrow and full of potholes, widening it and adding day stock parking on both the north and south sides of the entrance, giving ample parking for those coming up to ride just for the day and keeping the six campsites available for those camping with their stock. We also relocated two steel hitching rails to the north side of the day parking area, which were in poor locations in the campground. The entire loop road in the camp was widened by about 4 feet to make it easier for larger rigs to navigate, and we extended the parking pads in all the campsites and graveled them for longer rigs. The entrance, loop road, and parking pads took seven loads of gravel.

The inside of the loop had a great spot to create a picnic/potluck/group area. We installed two 10-foot picnic tables (provided by the Naches Ranger District) and a large fire ring for people to gather around. We added a couple logs for additional seating and put large boulders around the perimeter to keep traffic off. There is still plenty of room around the fire ring for lawn chairs. The two outhouses were repaired and painted inside and out. Highline poles were installed around the campsites. There were five original wood hitching rails, all of which had lost their top rails. We cut and debarked new top rails for all of them. Campsite #6 had 10 loads of fill dirt in it, making it totally unusable. We used that fill dirt to widen the loop road, cleaned out the site and reclaimed it. The

*continued on page 13*



## Crow Lake Way Horse Camp

continued from page 12



bridge just west of camp on the Pleasant Valley Loop (trail #999) was too narrow for stock and was rotten with broken planks. We completely rebuilt it, widening it to 5 feet, making it usable for stock.

The entire camp was covered in brush and dead branches. Our volunteers worked hard for three days cleaning it out. We even had a wilderness crew that logged out the entire wilderness side (south side) of the Pleasant Valley loop, the first time that was accomplished in years by June. The road leading into the dispersed camp on the other side of Miner Creek was almost washed out in the flood years ago, so we built up the bank to prevent continued erosion.

In preparation for the work party, we had two one-day work parties at our home, where we painted highline poles, cut bridge planks, and sanded, sealed, and assembled the picnic tables. Additionally, a week before we began work on the campground, the Wenatchee Valley Chapter facilitated a saw certification program, which removed 32 hazardous trees in and around the camp and

certified 14 new sawyers. Janie Pardo, the Naches Ranger district's recreational manager, was great to work with. She saw our vision and fully supported it. She and Aaron Stockton, the head ranger at Naches, came up and toured our project during our work party and were very excited to see Crow Lake Way horse camp come back to life.

We do plan to do a little more work this fall in the camp, including picnic tables and fire rings for the campsites (provided by Naches Ranger district), installing three more hitching rails and another large picnic table in the day stock parking area, and bring in a few more loads of gravel where still needed.

We are incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our chapter. We ended up with over \$54,000.00 in labor matching, but it wouldn't have been possible without the support of other chapters that stepped up when we needed them. We want to thank everyone who contributed to the Crow Lake Way horse camp project from the bottom of our hearts! 🌲



# Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Text in blue is being added and the strike throughs in red are being removed. Some of what is being removed

has been added to the Standing Rules for Directors and Executive Committee.

## BYLAWS BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON (herein referred to as BCHW), and it shall be incorporated as a non-profit organization with local chapters (hereinafter referred to as chapters) without the issuance of stock. Except as provided herein, the corporation shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act.

### ARTICLE II. 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 ensure 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 backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.



## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 14

### ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

#### Section 1. Qualifications

A. Any adult person, who subscribes to the mission of BCHW by application and payment of current annual BCHW dues, may become a member, either as an independent member, or through membership in a chapter. Memberships may be individual or family. For purposes of this rule, an individual must have reached his/her 18th birthday and a family includes a person, his or her spouse or partner, and the children in their household. "Children in the household" includes children residing in the home under age 18, and children age 18 to 23 who are residents of the household, dependent upon the family for support, and actively enrolled in a formal education program. ~~All household members 18 years of age or older shall sign the BCHW membership application.~~

B. Any individual or family may choose to purchase a lifetime membership, by paying a one-time membership dues for BCHA and BCHW in accordance with the appropriate Standing Rule.

C. A youth group may qualify for an individual membership through a chapter by making application and paying dues in accordance with the appropriate Standing Rule.

~~D. The Board may establish and modify classes of membership, with appropriate rules governing such classifications and relative annual BCHW dues.~~

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 15

### Section 2. Local Chapter Formation

Local chapters may be formed in any area of the State of Washington by making application to the Board as described in the appropriate BCHW Standing Rule.

### Section 3. Revoking a Chapter's Affiliation

The Board may revoke a chapter's affiliation with BCHW upon receipt of substantial and credible evidence of conduct by the chapter or its members on behalf of the chapter that is contrary to the mission of BCHW or adversely reflects on the integrity of BCHW. Revocation may be ordered if it is deemed to be in the best interest of BCHW and is ratified by a vote of three-fourths of the Board members present and voting at a regular or special meeting. A revoked chapter will be required to promptly return any and all BCHW property, literature, and promotional materials of all types, and said chapter's right to the further use of the Back Country Horsemen name or any similar name in any way will terminate. See the standing rule "Dissolving a BCHW Chapter."

## ARTICLE IV. BCHW OFFICERS

### Section 1. List of Officers.

The officers of BCHW shall be elected (or approved) by the Board of Directors, and shall include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, two BCHA Directors, and an Alternate BCHA Director. Officers (except the President) shall be ex-officio (non-voting) members of the Board of Directors.



## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 16

### Section 2. Standards of Conduct for Officers.

An officer with discretionary authority shall discharge his or her duties under that authority: (a) in good faith, (b) with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances; and (c) in a manner the officer reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation.

### Section 32. President.

A. The President shall be elected for a term of two years or until a successor has been elected. The President shall chair all Membership, Executive Committee, and Board meetings. In addition, the President is the chief executive and administrative officer of BCHW and will exercise supervision over BCHW and all its activities in accordance with the position description.

B. The President shall perform such duties as described in the President Position Description. ~~appoint such committees as may be necessary and appropriate to the conduct of business of BCHW, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees. Each committee chair shall present a written report to the President for distribution to the Board members, at least one week prior to each Board meeting.~~

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

*continued from page 17*

### Section 43. Vice President.

The Vice President shall be elected for a term of two years, or until a successor has been elected, and in the absence of the President shall chair Membership, Executive Committee, and Board meetings. In addition, at the President's discretion, the Vice President will act in place of the President in all matters of BCHW. When acting in the place of the President, the Vice President shall have all the powers, duties, responsibilities, and privileges of the President.

### Section 54. Secretary.

The President, subject to Board approval, shall appoint the Secretary for a two-year term or until a successor has been selected. The primary duties of the Secretary shall include taking careful and authentic notes of all the proceedings of the Board, Executive Committee, and Membership meetings as a basis for preparing the minutes of BCHW and maintain the official corporate records of BCHW. In addition, the Secretary shall perform tasks as needed under the direction of the President.



## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 18

Section ~~65~~. Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~.

The President, subject to Board approval, shall appoint the Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~ for a two-year term or until a successor has been selected. The Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer is the financial officer of BCHW and~~ shall maintain the financial records of BCHW, including the income and expenses, and will make these records available for review at the request of the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board. The Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~ shall provide a current financial statement for each Board and Membership meeting, and as needed by the President. The Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~ shall also serve as financial officer for BCHW functions involving the handling of significant funds, such as, but not limited to, BCHW membership meetings and BCHW fundraisers. The Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~ may, subject to the President's approval, appoint a BCHW member to serve as Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~ Pro Tem at any major function the Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~ cannot attend. The Chief Financial Officer ~~Treasurer~~ shall produce a financial report for each major event or fundraiser.

Section ~~76~~. Back Country Horsemen of America Directors.

- A. The Board shall elect two BCHA Directors for alternating two-year terms, so that only one position becomes open each year. The BCHA Directors are to represent the interests of BCHW on the BCHA Board, and report BCHA Board actions to the BCHW Board, President, and Executive Committee. The BCHA Directors shall attend the BCHW Board meetings unless excused by the President.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 19

- B. The Board shall also elect one Alternate BCHA Director for a term of two years. The Alternate Director shall fill in for either BCHA Director in ~~his or her~~their absence, and if the absence of a Director becomes permanent the Alternate Director will complete that Director's term.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~~Section 7. Executive Committee~~  
~~An~~The Executive Committee (EC) ~~will be formed for BCHW consisting~~  
 consists of eight (8) members: President, Vice President, ~~Treasurer~~Chief  
 Financial Officer, and five (5) member positions consisting of five (5) BCHW  
 Directors. Only Directors on the Executive Committee ~~will be~~are voting  
 members, provided however, that the President can vote when the vote is by  
 ballot (secret) and shall be entitled to vote (but is not obligated to) in the  
 case of a tie or if the President's vote would change the outcome of the vote,  
~~except in the instance of the President breaking a tie vote,~~ per *Robert's Rules*  
*of Order*. A quorum consists of four (4) voting Directors. The Executive  
 Committee serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. The BOD may  
 remove an Executive Committee Member. If a position becomes vacant for  
 any reason, the President notifies the BOD and nominates a replacement to  
 be elected by the BOD at a Special Meeting or next Scheduled BOD  
 meeting.

~~The EC Director-Members will be elected for a term of two years, starting on~~  
~~July 1<sup>st</sup>, or until a successor has been elected. Commencing on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022,~~  
~~all BCHW Officers and Director-Members of the EC will be elected in June~~  
~~and take office on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This changes the elections cycle from a January 1<sup>st</sup>~~  
~~basis to a July 1<sup>st</sup> basis. The EC Director-Members are elected by the BCHW~~  
~~BOD on a bi-annual basis, as noted below.~~



## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 20

~~A.-The five (5) Directors will serve on staggered terms such that some continuity between Executive Committees is maintained. For the 2022 (initial) elections only, three (3) BCHW Directors will be elected for two-year terms. Two (2) BCHW Director will be elected for one-year terms. After the initial election, all positions will be for the full two-year term.~~

~~B.-A nomination committee will be appointed by the President in March of each year, consisting of three BCHW Directors not running for a seat on the EC, to establish the slate of nominations for each election. All BCHW elections will be held in June each year.~~

A. The BCHW President will preside over the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have delegated authority from the Board of Directors as defined in BCHW Standing Rules. The President will hold monthly meetings with the Executive Committee to conduct this business, either remotely or in person. **The EC has the discretion to cancel or postpone a meeting of the EC.** ~~The President will also conduct at least two (2) in person Board of Directors meetings a year for the purpose of reporting the progress of the Executive Committee and discuss any open topics with the Chapter Directors. The President may vote on the Executive Committee in the event of a tie or if the President's vote would change the outcome of the vote, even if he or she is not a BCHW Director.~~

B. The Committee Chairs will liaise with the President and the Executive Committee as needed to conduct the business of the organization.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 21

- C. The Board of Directors ~~will continue to have~~has oversight for running the organization and the activities of the Executive Committee. ~~and will be updated monthly by the President on all actions taken (or future actions to be taken) by the Executive Committee.~~

### ARTICLE VI. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

The Executive Committee may hire, ~~with the advice and consent of the BOD,~~ such independent contractors as it sees fit to perform management and technical functions that benefit BCHW. Written contracts describing the independent contractor's authorities and responsibilities will be approved by the Executive Committee. Supervision of the independent contractor will be specified in the contract.

### ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Section 1. Membership; Directors.

- A. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the BCHW President and a BCHW Director representing each chapter in good standing and one BCHW Director representing the Independent Members.
- B. Each chapter shall elect a BCHW Director, and an Alternate Director to serve in the Director's absence, as that chapter's representative on the BCHW Board. ~~In addition to serving on the Board, each~~ Directors shall act as a general liaison between BCHW and ~~his or her~~their chapter.



## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 22

C. The BCHW Director and BCHW Alternate Director representing the Independent Members shall be appointed by the President subject to BCHW Board approval. The term of office shall coincide with the term of the BCHW President. The BCHW Director positions shall be published in the Trailhead News and be available for input by an Independent Member. The BCHW Director will communicate to Independent Members individually or as a group, depending on the circumstances.

D. All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the board of directors, and the activities and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by or under the direction, and subject to the oversight, of the board of directors, subject only to any powers expressly reserved to the corporation's membership or other persons in the articles or bylaws.

### Section 2. Guidelines.

#### A. Duties:

- Handle BCHW business with the care an ordinary and prudent person would use
- Act in the best interests of BCHW, even if it means forfeiting an opportunity that would benefit them personally
- Work to ensure that BCHW follows all applicable laws, complies with all reporting requirements, and follows the BCHW bylaws, standing rules and policies

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 23

B. Standards of Conduct for Directors, which can be found in  
RCW 24.03A.495

### Section 3. Responsibilities.

The responsibilities of the Board are described in Standing Rule 2025-1. ~~The Board is responsible for the election of officers, the creation and administration of the policies and programs of BCHW, the bonding of the Treasurer, hiring of independent contractors, and preparation of any formal report to the membership. The Board shall adopt an annual BCHW budget, based upon a fiscal year ending December 31. The Board shall establish, and amend from time to time as appropriate, the guidelines for the collection, administration, and disbursement of the funds of BCHW.~~

### Section 34. Removal of ~~an~~ a BCHW Officer.

~~An~~ BCHW Officer may be removed from office for inattention to duties or responsibilities, failure to attend meetings, conduct that may adversely reflect on the integrity of BCHW, or for other reasonable cause as determined by the Board. Removal requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the voting members of the Board in attendance and voting at a regular or special meeting.



## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 24

Section ~~4~~5. Removal of a Chapter Director.

The Board may, if it has reasonably determined by a vote of three-quarters of the Board in attendance and voting at a regular or special meeting, that a Chapter Director has engaged in inattention to duties or responsibilities, failure to attend three or more consecutive board meetings without excuse, or conduct that adversely reflects on the integrity of BCHW, deliver a written request that said Director's chapter declare his or her position vacant, and elect a replacement. If the chapter is unwilling to comply with the request, the matter will be referred to a recognized community-based mediation program, and if that does not result in an agreement, to binding arbitration as provided in RCW Chapter 7.04, except that the decision of the arbitrator shall be binding and non-appealable.

~~Section 5. Removal of an Independent Director, Committee Chair, or Independent Contractor:~~

~~Persons holding these positions may be removed from that position for inattention to duties or responsibilities, failure to attend meetings, conduct that may adversely reflect on the integrity of BCHW, or for other reasonable cause as determined by the Board. Removal requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the voting members of the Board in attendance and voting at a regular or special meeting.~~

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 25

### ARTICLE VIII. BCHW MEETINGS; VOTING

#### Section 1. Membership Meetings.

- A. The annual meeting ~~Meetings~~ of the Membership shall be held upon such dates and at such locations as the ~~Board shall~~ President determines. Notice of a Membership meeting and the nature of the business to be conducted shall be published in The Trailhead News at least 30 days prior to the meeting. ~~Upon receipt of written petitions containing verified signatures of not less than ten percent of the current members of record, the Board shall call a Membership meeting, subject only to the 30-day notice requirement, to be held on the date of the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.~~
- B. The President, or BCHW Board, may call a special membership meeting by giving at least 30 days written notice of the time, place, and the nature of the business to be conducted. The notice may be published in the Trailhead News, and/or sent by regular mail, and/or e-mail to the current addresses of the members on record.
- C. Upon receipt of written petitions containing verified signatures of not less than ten percent of the current members of record, the Board shall call a Membership meeting, subject only to the 30-day notice requirement, to be held on the date of the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 26

D. Each adult member in good standing and present shall be entitled to 1 vote on any issue that comes before the membership. ~~Children~~ **Dependents** ages 18 through 23 included in a Family membership are not eligible to vote. Each Youth Group Organization shall be entitled to one vote.

### Section 2, Board Meetings.

A. The Board shall meet at least ~~2-3~~ times per year, upon such dates and in such locations as the Board shall determine. ~~Per RCW 24.03A.110 440 Quorum of Directors~~ requires thirty-three (33) percent of the voting board membership shall constitute a quorum except in the case of amending or repealing the bylaws, see Article ~~I~~X.

B. The President may call a special meeting of the Board by giving a minimum of 10 days' notice of the time, place, and subject matter to be discussed. The notice may be given by regular mail or e-mail. Thirty-three (33) percent of the voting board membership shall constitute a quorum in a special meeting, except in the case of amending or repealing the bylaws, see Article ~~I~~X.



## Proposed Bylaw Changes

*continued from page 27*

- C. Each BCHW Director shall have one vote at a meeting or special meeting of the Board. If a member will be attending as a substitute BCHW Director, written authorization shall be delivered to the President or Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting. Only BCHW Directors (or their substitutes) may vote at Board meetings, provided however, that the President can vote as any other member when the vote is by ballot (secret) and shall be entitled to vote (but is not obligated to) in the case of a tie or if the President's vote would change the outcome of the vote, even if he or she is not a BCHW Director.
- D. The Board may conduct its meetings by electronic or other remote access means as reasonably necessary. The Board shall use its best efforts to implement any such virtual meetings with full regard for the need to maintain, as much as possible, accessibility for all members, including those with disabilities and those who lack access to sophisticated technology tools. Any action that could be taken at an in-person meeting, including bylaws amendments, may also be taken at a virtual meeting held pursuant to this clause. Virtual meetings shall comply with the requirements of paragraphs A, B, and C above.

### ARTICLE ~~IX~~<sup>VIII</sup>. THE TRAILHEAD NEWS

The Trailhead News shall be the official publication of BCHW, and communication link between the membership and the Board. The Editor shall oversee the publishing of the Trailhead News per the guidelines and editorial policies set by the Board.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

continued from page 28

### ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

BCHW bylaws may be amended or repealed by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the entire board of Directors. Notification of ~~A~~any proposed change to the bylaws shall be ~~distributed~~provided to each Director; and to the general membership via the Trailhead News at least 30 days prior to the meeting that addresses the issue. The notification will include either the full text of the changes or directions for accessing the full text of the changes for review.

### ARTICLE XI. MISCELLANEOUS

#### Section 1. Robert's Rules.

Except as otherwise provided in the BCHW Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the official procedural guideline for BCHW meetings and affairs. The President may serve as Parliamentarian or may appoint a Parliamentarian. The decision of the Parliamentarian shall be final in all questions of procedure.

#### Section 2. Gender.

Wherever the masculine gender is used herein the feminine shall be deemed included. Wherever the singular form is used herein the plural shall be deemed included to aid in the interpretation of the sense intended.

#### Section 3. Savings Clause.

If any provision of these Bylaws is determined to be unlawful or unenforceable by any court, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

*continued from page 29*

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~~June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022~~  
Month ##, 2025.



## 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](mailto:thn@bchw.org).

### Peninsula Chapter Olympic Spirit Prize Ride

Saturday September 13, 2025

Olympic Peninsula: Sage Horse Camp, 2514

Chicken Coop Road, Sequim, WA

Registration limited to 100 Riders - 8 mile scenic loop trail

No Pass Required

Cost: \$30 (includes 4 raffle tickets, extras @ \$5 each) First Prize \$300 Visa Card

Limited Camping Available @ \$25 per night, includes 2 corrals (extras @ \$5/night)

BBQ Rib Dinner Available @ \$18 per person

Contact for Questions: 251-261-6188

Chapter Website: [pbchw.org](http://pbchw.org)

Register on-line: [bchw.org/Events](http://bchw.org/Events)

### 3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9:00am, Armory

Kittitas Valley Event Center

901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA

BCHW President Dana Chambers

[president@bchw.org](mailto:president@bchw.org) • 206-498-6952

### The Golden Harvest Prize Ride

Cascade Horse Club

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Pilchuck Tree Farm in Arlington via Lake

Armstrong Gate

From Hwy 9, turn East on Harvey Creek

Road - Follow the signs.

Susie Spencer • [susiecompost@gmail.com](mailto:susiecompost@gmail.com) •

360-520-4509 OR Meshawn Zinn •

[mommabear781@gmail.com](mailto:mommabear781@gmail.com) • 425-359-5292

### 24th Annual Winery Ride & Halloween Costume Contest

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Zillah, WA

[BCHWwineryride@gmail.com](mailto:BCHWwineryride@gmail.com)

for Sign-up and additional information, visit:

[https://www.bchw.org/bchw\\_2025\\_winery Ride\\_info.php](https://www.bchw.org/bchw_2025_winery Ride_info.php)

### 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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Free Entrance Days in the National Parks



Aug. 9 — *Smokey Bear's Birthday*  
Sept. 27 — *National Public Lands Day*  
Oct. 10 — *World Mental Health Day*  
Nov. 11 — *Veterans Day*